

Known as the Victorians and Cottages district of Pomona College, the west side of College Avenue from First Street to 4th Street retains significant historical integrity of the most notable Avenue in Claremont, College Avenue. The neighborhood contains three Victorian structures, Sumner House, built in 1887 and moved to its present site in 1901, the Cook House built in 1895, the Baldwin House, built in 1890, the latter two built on their present sites. The Renwick House, built in 1900, was not as grand a structure as the three Victorians, but was instrumental in the development of both Pomona College and the City of Claremont due to it's owner Helen Goodwin Renwick.

We are please to announce that at its regular quarterly meeting, held in San Francisco on April 18, 2016, after thorough discussion, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously approved the Helen Goodwin Renwick House National Register nomination for forwarding to the Keeper of the National Register.

The Helen Goodwin Renwick house is a two-story Queen Anne style foursquare home with Classical Revival elements, built in 1900. Character defining features include the prominent conical-roofed corner tower, a graceful porch carried by slender columns with composite capitals. The hipped roof of moderate pitch whose and eaves are detailed with modillions. A small guesthouse at the rear of the building complements the building with a simplified design and a pyramidal hipped roof.

The property is eligible under Criterion A for its role in the early residential development of its neighborhood in Claremont, California, and Criterion B for its association with community leader, poet and philanthropist Helen Goodwin Renwick. The property's period of significance is from 1900, when the building was constructed, until 1930, the year of Helen Goodwin Renwick's death.

The growth of early Claremont community and Pomona College was aided by the support of Helen Goodwin Renwick, one of Claremont's few early philanthropists. Her wealth came from her marriage to William Renwick, who had developed and owned a lumber mill in Davenport, Iowa, and died in 1889. Mrs. Renwick arrived in Claremont in 1895, and quickly became a patron of local arts, sponsoring social and cultural events at Pomona College. As an active member of the Rembrandt Club, organized in 1905, Helen enthusiastically participated in the various programs of the group. She was known for her interest in a variety of fields including writing and editing, college activities, church functions, and travel.

Her first philanthropic project in Claremont was the William Renwick Gymnasium at Pomona College, named for her late husband, it has since been demolished. Other projects funded by Mrs. Renwick included land for the public library, and a community house called "Su Casa" in the East Barrio Arbol Verde neighborhood that served the 1940's Intercultural Council housing development which was added to the National Register as a Historic District in 2015. Mrs. Renwick was also instrumental in giving land to Pilgrim Place and was active in many civic organizations. While some of the buildings funded by her philanthropy survive, the Renwick house was utilized in conjunction with many of her philanthropic endeavors. She held events and classes in her home, in conjunction with Pomona College and community churches, including art lectures, Sunday school and religious study groups. After the death of Mrs. Renwick, the house was used as student living quarters starting in 1948.

Currently, the house is used by Pomona College for offices under a conditional use agreement with the City of Claremont that recognizes its institutional use but intends to preserve the residential character of the west side of College Avenue.