

# Homes of Famous Carmelites

To see on Google Maps: <https://bit.ly/2XBf0Lx>

Numbers in parentheses refer to the map in Creating Carmel by Ann and Harold Gilliam (1992), pgs. 66-67.

- **Mary Hunter Austin House** (24) – Miss Austin moved to Carmel around 1907, after her participation in the legendary California Water Wars, and after living in the Mojave Desert for many years. An ardent feminist and human rights activist, the prolific poet, playwright and novelist built the serene and secluded “Rose Cottage” located at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Monte Verde Street. It sits on a flat spot on top of a steeply sloped property down in a gully, and there is a huge oak tree in front of it. Mary Austin did much of her writing in a tree house she called “Wick-i-up.” The cottage has extensive gardens and two gates with paths leading to it from each side of the intersection of Lincoln and Fourth.
- **George Sterling House** (12) – The handsome poet known to his friends as “The King of Bohemia” built a bungalow in the piney slopes above Carmel Mission, located on Torres Street. It is the third house south of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east side. The poet’s home featured a large living room with an oversized fireplace made of stones Sterling had hauled from Carmel Valley. Friends and fellow artists such as Upton Sinclair, Jack London and James Hopper gathered here to carouse, organize beach parties and tell tales. The house is surrounded by a high wire fence.
- **Arnold Genthe House** (32) – At the turn of the 20th century, Genthe’s photographs of San Francisco’s society matrons and the denizens of Chinatown earned him a living but it was his record of the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake that made him famous. However it also left him homeless. He moved to Carmel. Of his new residence, he wrote, “The cypresses and rocks of Point Lobos, the always varying sunsets and the intriguing shadows of the sand dunes offered a rich field for color experiments.” He was a Prussian with a doctorate and dueling scars, and cut a striking figure in Carmel society during his short time in this area. His home is located on Camino Real Street north of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east side. It is a large Craftsman-style house.
- **Don Blanding House** – Often described as “the poet laureate of Hawaii,” Blanding also worked as a journalist, cartoonist, author and speaker between the World Wars. His fame allowed him to own multiple residences. When in Carmel, he lived in a house located at Monte Verde Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He published multiple versions of a long poem called “Vagabond’s House” that begins with the words “When I have a house . . . as I sometime may . . . I’ll suit my fancy in every way...” The current home owners have borrowed the poem’s name for their Bed and Breakfast business.
- **Lincoln Steffens House** (34) The San-Francisco-born muckraking journalist of the Progressive Era specialized in investigating corruption in government and politics around the world and published a bestselling memoir in 1931. He and his wife Ella became controversial figures in the leftist politics of the Carmel region. When John O’Shea, a local artist and friend of the couple, exhibited his study of “Mr. Steffens’ soul,” an image which resembled a grotesque daemon, Lincoln took a certain cynical pride in the drawing and enjoyed the publicity it generated. His house is located on San Antonio Street off Ocean Avenue. The house is on the east side and was remodeled and enlarged in 1992.

· **Charles Sumner Greene House** – The nationally recognized architect had become famous, along with his brother Henry, for developing a distinctive style of Arts and Crafts bungalow architecture in Southern California. He moved to Carmel in 1916 and built a studio with bricks and tiles reused from other buildings and projects. It is located on the west side of Lincoln Street, the fourth house south of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

· **Vilhelm Moberg House** – Swedish author, journalist and public intellectual Vilhelm Moberg is most famous for his four novel cycle called “The Emigrants” about Swedish farmers moving to the United States, published between 1949 and 1959. The series was made into plays and movies multiple times. Frequently tormented by writer’s block, his suicide by self-inflicted drowning in 1973 drew much attention. His house is located near Isabella & Martin Way, on a corner at 2423 San Antonio Avenue (Carmel Point). Moberg also lived for a time in the guesthouse of his friend and translator Gustaf Lannestock, at 26085 Scenic Road.

· **General Joseph Stilwell House** – “Lianfair” is located at the end of south San Antonio Avenue at 26218 Inspiration Avenue. General Stilwell was known as “Vinegar Joe” during World War Two by his subordinates. However, after moving to this area, he got the nickname “Uncle Joe” from his troops for his compassionate leadership as commander of the Seventh Infantry Division at Fort Ord. Living in a large, two storey Spanish style house near the ocean in Carmel seems to have mellowed the general after his arduous duties in WWII serving as Deputy Commander of South East Asia Command. A small commemorative stone plaque can be found to the left of his house.

· **Zhang Daqian or Chang Dai-chien** ([Chinese](#): 張大千; [Wade–Giles](#): **Chang Ta-ch'ien**) known as the Picasso of China, moved to Carmel in 1967. He was renowned as a modern impressionist and expressionist painter. In addition, he is regarded as one of the most gifted master forgers of traditional Chinese painting of the twentieth century. He and his wife stayed at Thomas Chew’s Dolores Lodge (now called the Carmel Country Inn) located at Dolores Street at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue,. They occupied a special cabin with a suite of rooms. In 1968 they moved into their own home, which the artist gave the name ‘K’e-yi Chu’ (translated as “barely habitable’ or ‘just OK’.) This house was located on the west side of Crespi Avenue, 6 houses south of Mountain View Avenue.

· **Eric Berne House** – The world-renowned psychotherapist created the theory of transactional analysis and was the first doctor to apply game theory to the field of psychiatry. From 1949 and 1964, Berne had private practices in both Carmel and San Francisco and kept up a demanding pace of research and teaching, and getting married and divorced. The best-selling author of “Games People Play” lived on the east side of Carpenter Street, in the second house south from 2nd Avenue. The house is one of the oldest in town (built in 1888).

· **Perry Newberry House** – Carmel’s fifth mayor was an author, an actor and publisher of the local newspaper *The Carmel Pine Cone*. He was determined to preserve the “village” qualities that gave Carmel its unique character and fought hard against the paving of Ocean Avenue and the extension of Highway One into Carmel. He designed and built many cottages in Carmel during the 1920s and ‘30s. His “Sticks and Stones” house is located on the north side of Vista Avenue, the second house west of Junipero Avenue.

· **Jo Mora House** – Born in Uruguay, the charming Joseph Jacinto Mora was a proficient painter, sculpter, writer, illustrator and cartographer whose most popular works were colorful maps of Carmel and other California communities that feature historical and informative cartoons. He also designed the Father Junipero Serra Memorial Cenotaph at the Carmel Mission. In 1921, he designed and built his Craftsman-style home located on the west side of San Carlos Street, the third house south of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

(Updated by Margaret Pelikan (1983?) and added to by Lettie Bennett in 1993 and Lisa Walling in 2019.)

- **Francis Whitaker House** – Whitaker is a modern legend among artist blacksmiths. During his time in Carmel he lived in a house located on the west side of Mission Street, the second house north of Vista Avenue. He worked with John Catlin at the Forge in the Forest. For three decades from the late 1920s, Whitaker did much of the decorative ironwork and metalwork on homes and buildings in Carmel and Pebble Beach. He was a good friend of John Steinbeck, and also served on Carmel’s City Council. In later years, he became an artist-in-residence at the [Colorado Rocky Mountain School](#). In 1997, The National Endowment for the Arts awarded Dr. Whitaker a National Heritage Fellowship in the Traditional Arts.
- **Dene Denny & Hazel Watrous’ Harmony House** (13) – Dene Denny, the pianist with an interest in contemporary music, and Hazel Watrous, the painter, stage designer and interior decorator, created an artistic empire while living in Carmel. Starting in the 1920s, they built and decorated some 36 houses in Carmel. Their successful real estate ventures allowed the couple to fund many artistic endeavours. These include founding the Carmel Bach Festival, the Carmel Music Society, and Monterey’s First Theater; hosting musical concerts and lectures in their home; opening the Denny Watrous Gallery, and creating a musical series for the town of San Jose. Their home, appropriately called Harmony House, is located on the east side of Dolores Street, four houses north of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- **McGowan Cooke House** (36) – Two sisters, Alice MacGowan and Grace MacGowan Cooke, both successful magazine and novel writers, settled in Carmel in the early 1900s and called their home “Locksley Hall.” They hired Sinclair Lewis to serve as their secretary, but had to fire him because of his undue interest in Cooke’s daughter, Helen. Helen eventually married the Carmel Highlands-based writer Harry Leon Wilson, and they had a daughter who married famed photographer Edward Weston. The McGowan Cooke House is located on the north side of 13th Ave, the second house east of San Antonio Avenue.

### **OTHER HOUSE INFORMATION**

- The oldest house in Carmel is the **Murphy Homestead/Powers House**. It is located on the west side of San Antonio Ave, near the Pebble Beach gate, in the sand dunes area near some eucalyptus trees. The house and barn were built sometime near 1846 by a ranching family and was later lived in by Frank Powers, co-founder of Carmel. Frank Power’s wife, Jane Gallatin Powers, a European-trained painter, was a catalyst in promoting Carmel as an artists’ colony to San Francisco’s creative bohemian society.
- The second oldest house in Carmel is the **Duckworth House**, located at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Carpenter Street. It was built in 1888. Monterey realtors Santiago and Belisario Duckworth had subdivided the Las Manzanitas Rancho into 700 town lots. Their plan was to create Carmel City, intended to become the first Catholic summer resort colony in California. An unfavorable economy led to the abandonment of this venture.