

City of Long Beach
MILLS ACT PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Property Name and Address: _____

Item No.: _____ Building Feature: _____ Completion Year: 20 _____	Detailed description of work:
Plan to Use Long Beach Vendors For Materials/Labor: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If Yes, specify/list) <input type="checkbox"/> No	Specify/list:
Item No.: _____ Building Feature: _____ Completion Year: 20 _____	Detailed description of work:
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NOTE: Please ensure that the current condition of all building features proposed for rehabilitation/restoration/maintenance as part of this work plan are clearly photographed or otherwise documented and labelled as required, and submitted with the Mills Act Application (see Application Guide page 10).

This form is available in alternative format by request at 562.570.3807. For an electronic version, visit our website at www.lbds.info.

Based on historical research, photos from Miner Smith books and discussions with historical experts in Long Beach, it is reasonable to conclude that Miner Smith was employed as a contractor for this house.

3053 E. 1st Street was built in 1920, the year after Miner Smith started work in Long Beach. Images shown on the following pages and based on Miner Smith's area of work in Long Beach, we are confident that to conclude that Miner Smith contributed to the stone and foundational stonework of 3053 E. 1st Street.

On the exterior, many of Miner's houses are local architectural icons that are easily recognizable by the niches in the porch columns, where he placed concrete planters shaped to resemble tree trunks. He had made porch rails to resemble tree trunks as well. Some had porte-cocheres above the driveway, although today sometimes only the pedestals may remain on either side of the driveway. If he did not do the tree trunk design, often the pedestals of the porch and porte-cocheres will have scalloped leaf design on all four corners.

Text Excerpt from Miner Smith Expert, Norbert Schurer

Miner Smith was an artisan builder of bungalows in Long Beach, California in the 1920's. He specialized in custom, high quality bungalows for well to-do clients, and called them bungalow mansions. He built over 23 bungalow mansions in Long Beach, most of which still remain in good condition.

Miner Smith was known for constructing his bungalows with elaborate architectural detail such as ornamental concrete porches and fireplaces that looked like logs or trees, and porte-cocheres over the driveway. The interior décor always exceeded that of an the average bungalow. He would include wonderful built-ins as buffets, desks, tables, shelving and cabinetry. Miner also included beautiful lighting and fixtures, ornate moldings, intricate fireplaces, and even plein air paintings installed on the walls. Some of the homes were sold fully furnished, including baby grand pianos!

A Brief History of Miner Smith's Life

Miner Smith Photo
Miner Robert Smith was born in 1877 in Eastern Ohio. His father was a stonecutter, who moved the family to Tennessee and later to Philadelphia. Miner became a stonecutter also, and lived in New Jersey prior to moving to Los Angeles in 1904. Sometime in 1908-1909, Miner formed the M.R. Smith Stone and Mantel Company in Los Angeles. He advertised his business as "Designer and Builder of Artistic Natural Stone Mantels." During this time, Miner designed and built fireplaces, porches, etc. around the greater Los Angeles area.

After working in Long Beach during World War I, Miner relocated his family to Long Beach in 1919. Long Beach underwent rapid growth in the 1920s and by November of 1920, Miner Smith was building houses. From 1922-1924, he was advertising his custom bungalows as "bungalow mansions." A simple bungalow during this era may cost from \$629-\$4,909. Miner's least expensive bungalow cost \$10,750. (data courtesy of Norbert Schurer)

Sometime between 1926-1928, Miner moved the family out of Long Beach. It seemed that his house building business(es) had failed, although no one is exactly sure what happened. This was also right before the Great Depression. Miner went on to do artificial stone work (and even owned some restaurants) in Los Angeles, San Jose, and then came back to Long Beach for a short time in 1948. Miner Smith and his wife retired in Yucaipa, and Miner passed away there in 1965.

The family of Miner Smith remembers him as a businessman, an artisan, a developer, and a family man. As a person he



The Miner Smith Archives – Part 1

Posted by Steffie Hands in [Belmont Heights](#), [Bungalow Style](#), [Long Beach](#), [Miner Smith](#)

As you have driven or walked through Long Beach, you may have noticed certain bungalows with unique tree trunk features. One that we have all been by is at the corner of Ximeno and Broadway, which used to have a unique fountain as well. Turns out they are one of the 23 “bungalow mansions” built by the infamous Miner R. Smith. I was intrigued not only by the detail of these homes, but also by the reputation and eccentricity of the builder. Who was this guy? What inspired him? Why did he build only 23 homes? It has become a quest of mine to find out more information about these homes, and their eccentric builder.



Who Was Miner R. Smith?

Miner Smith was born in Ohio in 1877. He learned stonecutting in New Jersey, and at age 19 while working for a New York stone company, Miner was charged with turning the giant granite columns used in the construction of a building at Columbia University in NYC. He moved to Los Angeles in 1904 where he founded a stone art business called M.R. Smith Stone and Mantle Co. It is believed that he did the famous fireplaces and mantles in Clifton's Cafeteria in downtown Los Angeles. (We are still trying to confirm this with Clifton's, which is currently under renovation.) **Miner came to Long Beach during the housing boom to be a building contractor, and was here from 1919 to 1926.** He lived in East Los Angeles thereafter and died in San Bernadino County in 1965 at

If any
Miner Smith, they can contact the author of the present study at nschurer@csulb.edu.

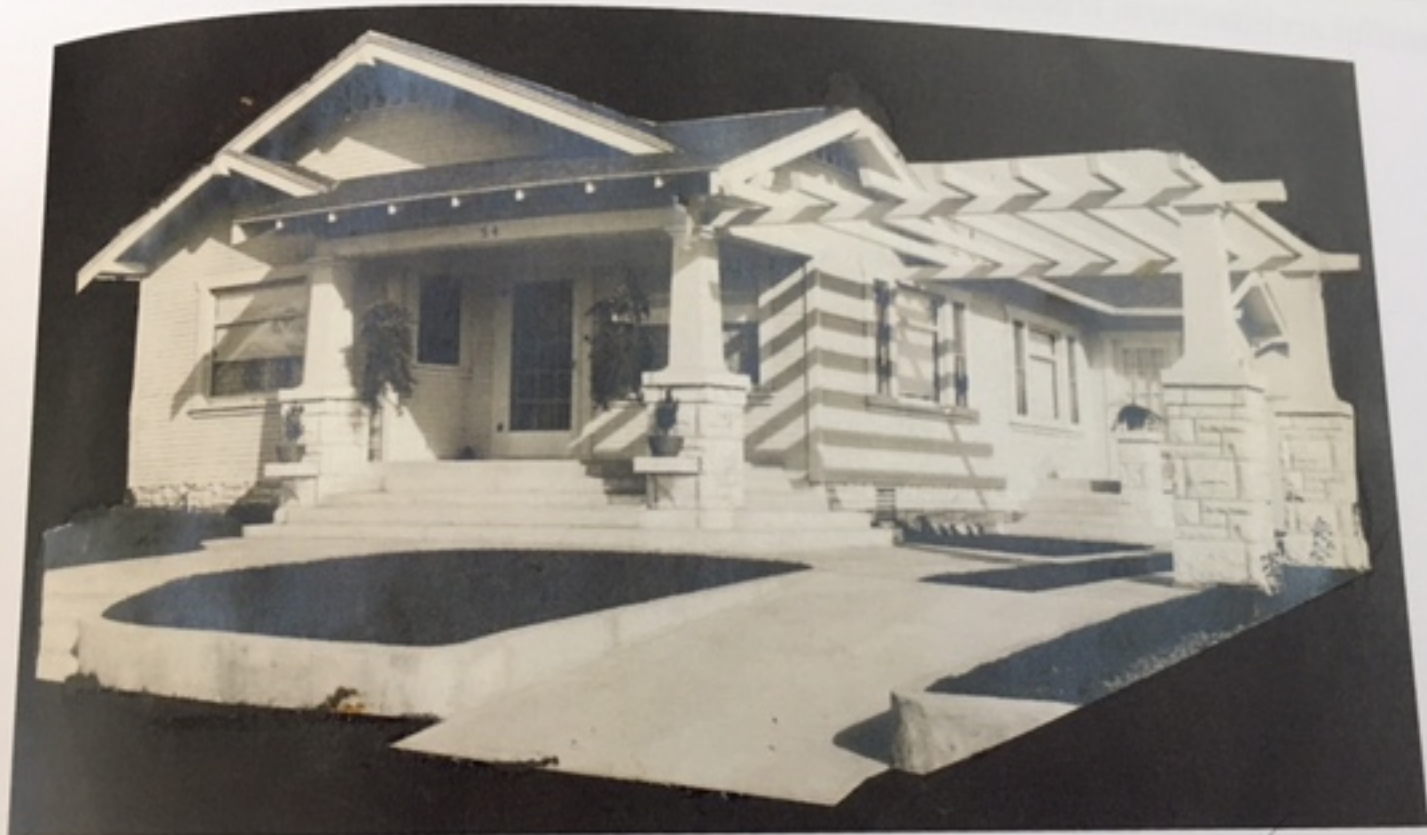


Fig. 202 Unidentified house #2 from Miner Smith's Long Beach portfolio album

Miner Smith craftsman bungalow with porte-cochere



Miner Smith Belmont home with similar roof line, foundational stone, etc.



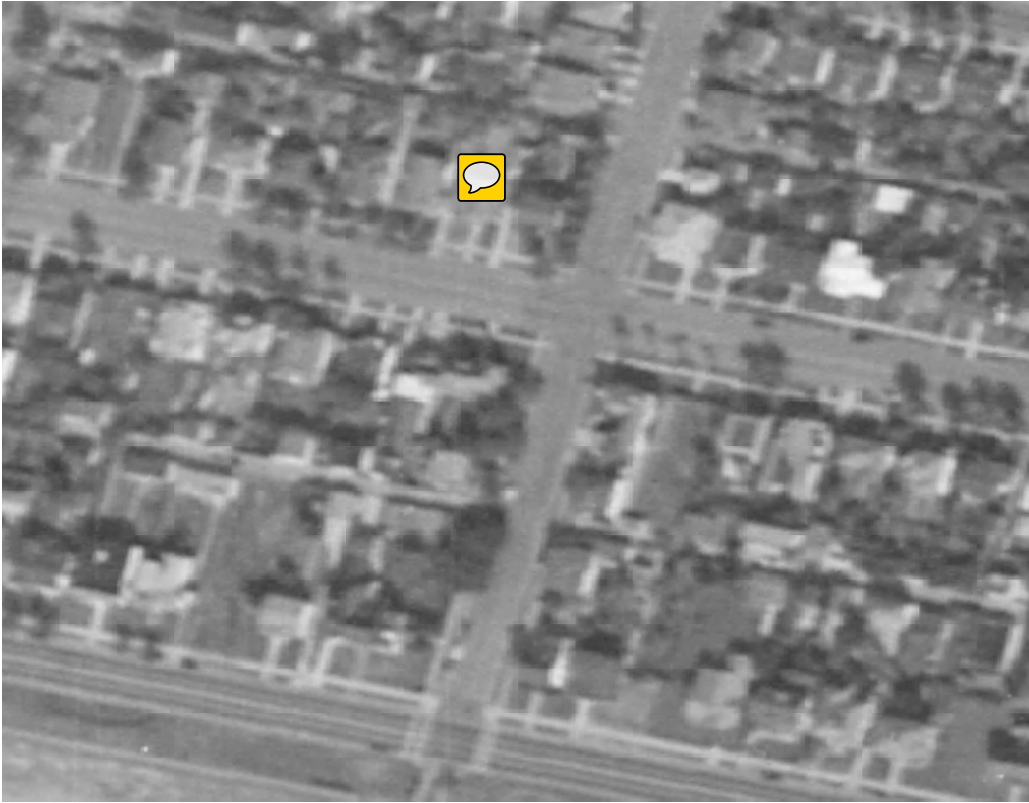
Miner Smith Craftsman Bungalow in Rose Park South - 2924 E 5th Street
Similar missing porte-cochere, house elements and foundational stonework



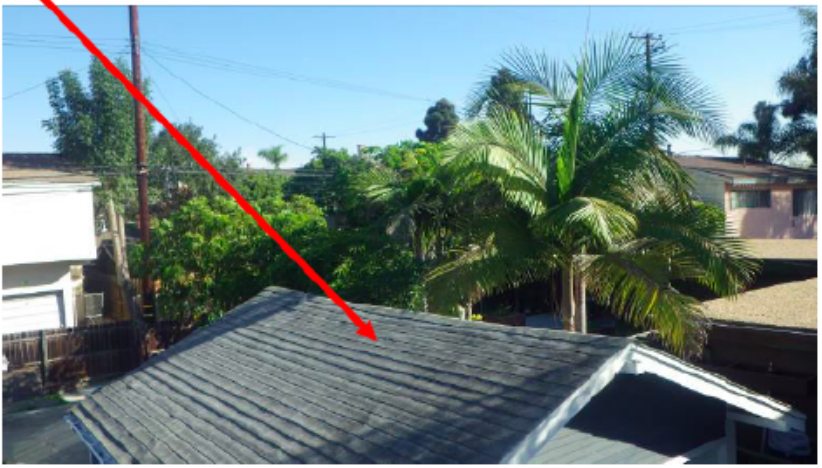
Item #6: Porte-Cochere (Removed)
Image is taken from 1952 Historic Aerial,
red arrow points to original porte-cochere at 3053 E. 1st Street



1953 Historical Aerial;
3053 E. 1st St. with porte-cochere



***Sagging at the garage roof support structure**



Items # 2 & 13: House & Garage Roof - Replace

***Wear/granulation deterioration at the roof shingles**



***Wear/granulation deterioration at the roof shingles**

