

# CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

## HISTORIC LANDMARKS DISTRICTS & POINTS OF INTEREST

Landmark Number: 109

Historic Landmark Name: The Frederick Neill & Ida Foster Baker Residence

Address: 1093 Poli Street

Designated: May 8, 2017

Description: Located at the northwest corner of Poli and Ann Streets, The Frederick Neill & Ida Foster Baker Residence is a 4,045-square foot two-story residence constructed in 1912-1913. The home is best described as a Shingle Style (A simple type of Victorian), with the following character defining features: wall cladding and roofing of continuous wood shingles, asymmetrical façade with irregular, steeply pitched roof lines, roofs with intersecting cross gables and multi-level eaves. Documentation exists showing that the residence at 1093 Poli Street has been continually altered since the mid 1940's. Alterations include second story additions, deck and stairway replacement, interior remodels and demolition of original garage structures.

Frederick Neill Baker was born on March 15, 1884, in Ventura and grew up on Ventura Avenue. He and his brother George attended UC Berkeley, where they became well known tennis champions. In 1908 he married Ida Foster, daughter of Eugene Preston and Orpha Woods Foster. He began his professional life as a civil engineer for the County and was integral in the design and layout of Seaside Park. In 1915 he went to work for his father-in-law, E.P. Foster, as a cashier and teller for the National Bank of Ventura. In 1929, he became chief clerk for the City's Water Department.

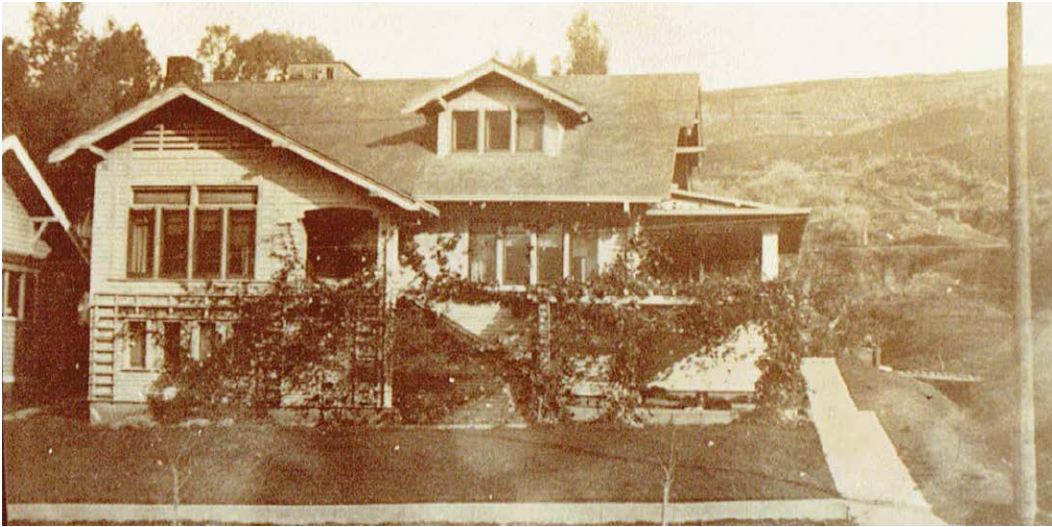
Additionally, he served on several committees and volunteer organizations. In 1930, he was a member of the committee that oversaw the building and funding of the hospital, which eventually was named E.P. Foster Memorial Hospital and which would become Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) 30 years later. In 1932, he was appointed trustee and treasurer of the hospital where he was instrumental in transforming it into a not-for-profit corporation. He was elected Financial Director and Secretary of the hospital in 1962, and retired one month after the construction of CMH.

### Ida Foster Baker

Ida Foster Baker was born in the Foster House, located on the Avenue, on May 31, 1885. She was one of ten children born to E.P. and Orpha Woods Foster.

Ida Foster were very involved in The Big Sister's League, a philanthropic organization devoted to raising money for Bard Hospital (which then became the Big Sister's Hospital and eventually CMH). She served on the board of CMH from its early days and at various times and participated in various women's that raised money through community activities that influenced the growth of Ventura.

She had married Frederick Neill Baker in 1908, and was an active partner with her husband in the design of the residence to accommodate community events. She was a locally recognized gracious hostess to many community leaders in the home, and attended and helped plan functions there that raised capital for needed City programs. Ida was described as someone "who loved to entertain," and her home was known as the center of her social generosity on behalf of the community.



The Frederick Neill & Ida Foster Baker Residence, early 1900's



The Frederick Neill & Ida Foster Baker Residence, 2015