

8. CRESSEY MANOR
915 17TH Street (1917)



Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution:
Designated by City Council: November 13, 1990

Description: The rectangular two-story house has stucco walls, a tiled hip roof with molded boxed cornice, sloping soffit, flat modillions, bed molding and a frieze. The front of the house has a portico, with three Tuscan columns with abaci and plinths at each corner. Six horizontal beams with shaped ends protrude from the flat roof. One free standing Tuscan column is at each back corner, and a pair of Tuscan pilasters is behind each column. In the center of the back wall is a French door flanked by a narrow glass panels. A semicircular fanlight with radiating bars lies over the door. A conservatory is on each side of the house. At the back of the lot there is a stucco garage with a door not only at the front, but with a door facing the alley as well.

Historic Significance: George A. Cressey, the original owner of this house, was a member of one of Modesto's most prominent families. His father, Albert L. Cressey, was an early Central California pioneer and a strong advocate of irrigation in the San Joaquin Valley. Albert Cressey and his brother organized and opened the Modesto Bank, the first bank in Stanislaus County. Cressey was also instrumental in securing the right-of-way for the Southern Pacific Railroad which ran its first train to Modesto in the fall of 1870. In addition, Cressey built the first grain warehouses in Modesto and Merced. For many years he was president of the Stanislaus County Agricultural Association.

George Cressey continued his family's affiliation with the Modesto Bank as well as the tradition of civic involvement. Following the death of Cressey, Muriel Cressey married Dr. Richard Husband, son of John Husband, who owned the drug store in the Tynan Hotel. The house became known as the Husband Place.