

## 44. THE M.D. HARRIS HOME 230 Sycamore Avenue (1934)



**Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution:** April 20, 1998  
**Designated by City Council:** May 19, 1998

**Description:** This is a Mission Revival two-story residence with a red tile gable roof. The front porch is covered by a simple shed roof that leads to a tile-trimmed entry arch. Windows are steel casement with multiple panes. Exterior walls are painted stucco, with vertical wooden siding on the second floor. The residence is across the street from Modesto's first public park – Graceada Park. It is on a lovely Sycamore tree-lined street.

**Historical Significance:** This lot is part of one of Modesto's first subdivisions. Carved from a wheat field in 1908 by Floyd L. Wisecarver, the subdivision consists of three, three-block long streets on either side of Graceada Park. Wisecarver along with T.K Beard donated some of the land for the park. M.D. Harris, the owner of Plato's Men's Store, built the house. The house is currently owned by Judge John and Carol Whiteside. Mrs. Whiteside is a former Mayor of Modesto.

**Architectural Significance:** The home is an excellent example of the Mission architectural style. One characteristic of the Mission style is simplicity of form. Key characteristics are the use of arches, red tile roofs, and stucco siding. The only surface ornamentation is usually a plain string course that outlines arches and, occasionally, gables and balconies.