

The Dana/Barneberg House once sat on a large parcel that was owned by Charles William Dana on the north side of Dana Street. Currently, the property has two Master List houses; the Anderson House (532 Dana Street) and the Barneberg House (550 Dana Street). Barneberg moved his first house across the street to 531 Dana in 1914 and then constructed the large two-story house Master List property we see today at 550 Dana Street. Anderson built his home adjacent to Barneberg in 1898 on what was once vacant Dana land. John Wesley Barneberg married Anderson's sister, Sarah Elizabeth. Their son married William C. Dana's daughter, Emelinda Estella "Stella." The history of the people associated with the house involves three families that intermarried and have resided on Dana Street (Table 1). Research

was focused on the families up to 2005 - Dana, Barneberg and to a lesser extent on Anderson (through marriage).

**TABLE 1 - Dana/Barneberg House Addresses and Occupants**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Owner Occupant</b>
1867	550 Dana Street	Charles William Dana until sold to Phillip Biddle in 1881
1881	550 Dana Street	Phillip Biddle - resold to John Wesley Barneberg
1882	550 Dana Street	John Wesley Barneberg m. Sarah Anderson, son Harry m. C.W. Dana daughter, Stella - their son, Jack and daughter, Helen Maxine were raised by John and Sarah Barneberg.
1914	531 Dana Street	House was moved by John Barneberg and rented the house until granddaughter Helen Maxine Barneberg m. Eugene Van Schaick and lived there.
2005	531 Dana Street	Family ownership ends with Helen and Eugene's daughter Betty Maxine. Betty Maxine m. Norman Holt. House sold by their son, Robert Holt.

### Charles William Dana

Charles William Dana was born 1837 in Santa Barbara. Two years later he moved with his family to their Nipomo Rancho. Charles was the grandson of Gov. Carrillo and his parents were Captain William Goodwin Dana and Josefa Carrillo, the grantees of the Nipomo Rancho in 1837. Charles was educated both in Mexico and in eastern schools. In 1866, Charles married



**Figure 3: Charles W. Dana, wife Blandina and children c. 1875**

Blandina Refugio Esquer and was farming in San Luis Obispo. They had seven children reach adulthood (Figure 3). Charles had a career in San Luis Obispo that included serving in 1859 as

Clerk of the San Luis Obispo Board of Trustees for over twenty years, elected to the State Assembly 1863-1875 and Mayor of San Luis Obispo in 1881. His 1896 death in San Luis Obispo was reported in a long article in the San Francisco Newspaper headlined “San Luis Loses a Valued Citizen.” “The death of few men will be more widely lamented in the counties of Monterey, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo than that of Charles W. Dana .” (*San Francisco Call*, Feb 29, 1896)

Emelinda Estella “Stella” Dana Barneberg/Martin (1880-1938)

The Dana and Barneberg families came together when one of the Charles William Dana daughters married into the Barneberg family after Dana’s property on Dana Street was sold to John Wesley Barneberg. Stella Dana married Chester Harry Barneberg (1880-1944), the son of John Wesley and Sarah Barneberg in 1901. Harry and Stella had a daughter, Helen Maxine Barneberg (1901-1989), and a son, John Chester “Jack” Barneberg (1903-1977). The marriage didn’t last however. Soon in 1908, the two children were placed under the guardianship of John Wesley Barneberg, their grandfather, with the consent of their parents. The same year, Stella Barneberg relocated to San Francisco with her mother and Harry opened a cigar store in San Luis Obispo. Not long after Stella and Harry Barneberg divorced, Stella married Charles Edward Martin, a harness maker, and had two children, Letitia C. Martin (1909-1976) and Mary Fidelia “Dolly” Martin (1915-2002). In 1932, they had a home on Mill Street in San Luis Obispo.



**Figure 4: Helen Maxine, c. 1920**

Helen Maxine Barneberg Van Schaick (1901-1989)

Helen Maxine, under the guardianship of her grandfather, John Wesley Barneberg, grew up at 550 Dana Street before the house was moved in 1914 (Figure 4). She continued living at that location in the new Barneberg house. Later, Helen Maxine married Eugene Chester Van Schaick (1902-1973). They eventually settled across the street in the old Dana/Barneberg House at 531 Dana Street where they raised their daughter, Betty Maxine (1923-2006). Helen Maxine is the only representative of the Dana and Barneberg families that lived in the Dana/Barneberg House at both of its locations. City Directories list Helen and Eugene as residing at 531 Dana Street at the Barneberg House at 550 Dana Street during the last year of Eugene’s life. Their daughter Betty Maxine married Norman Holt in 1944 and had a son, Robert. Robert, was the last family member to have lived in the Dana/Barneberg House where he used the kitchen as a photography studio. The family retained the property until it was sold in 2005 by the Holt family. Betty Maxine became an active member of the Monday Club following the footsteps of her great aunt, Grace Barneberg.

## John Wesley Barneberg

John Wesley Barneberg (1851-1930) acquired the 550 Dana Street property in 1882. He was born in Iowa from parents who were originally from Germany. He was farming in Arroyo Grande in 1870 before he married Sarah Elizabeth Anderson (1857-1936) in 1873. Sarah was the sister of Jefferson "Jeff" Lee Anderson who built the house next door in 1898 (Appendix C). The Barnebergs had two sons, John Frederick (1874-1935), Chester Harry (1880-1944) (Appendix C) and a daughter, Grace Elizabeth (1877-1970) (Figure 5). Later in 1908, they also raised the two younger children of Stella (Dana) and their son, Chester Harry.



**Figure 5: Barneberg Family - Parents John Wesley and Sarah Seated; Standing Left to Right, Grace, John and Chester Harry. c. 1890**

In 1875, R. Philbrick and John Wesley Barneberg started a foundry and machine shop at the corner of Higuera and Broad Streets. Near the foundry they erected a two story building that had a store on the first floor and a large meeting hall above. John Wesley Barneberg also had the J. W. Hardware store. Becoming active in the community, John Wesley Barneberg was City Tax Collector in 1883 and served on many civic committees as the chair. John Wesley Barneberg later became president of the Commercial Bank and the San Luis Savings Bank. His major impact to the community was through his endeavors in banking, oil development and Democratic politics.

In 1879, John became interested in local politics serving as treasurer in the Working Man's Convention when it first organized. By 1894, he was appointed a member of the state Democratic committee and for many years served as chair of the Democratic Central Committee.

Always active in democratic politics, in 1912, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

John made a lot of money in the early exploration of oil in California serving as president of Brookshire Oil Company in Orcutt, San Luis Obispo and Carisa Oil Company near McKittrick, and as principle investor in Midland Oil Company. He made trips to Washington, D.C. to promote issues important to the oil industry. Great excitement took over the town when oil bubbled up in Stenner Creek behind his house. John Wesley was hoping for another oil strike. Unfortunately, the boom was short lived and both Barneberg and the town were disappointed (Black 1988).

In 1913, Ora E. Stockton deeded part of block 61 (south side of Dana Street) to John Wesley Barneberg. Perhaps it was in preparation for the following newspaper article regarding an event on Dana Street in 1914.

#### BANKER TO ERECT NEW HOUSE

J. W. Barneberg of Commercial Bank Will Build 12-Room House on Dana Street

"Preparatory to the laying of the foundations for a twelve-room dwelling on Dana Street for J. W. Barneberg of the Commercial Bank, on the site of the old house now being moved by Contractor J. J. Maino to a lot directly across the street, work of moving the old house is being rushed and it will be across the street this evening, weather permitting, the structure being in the middle of Dana Street at noon today.

The new home will be of the most modern type, twelve rooms, and is to be given the same outside finish that distinguishes the new Masonic Temple - a finish of plaster known as Stuttle work.

Plans and specifications for the new home have been prepared some time but commencement of the work has been delayed owing to the recent illness of the contractor." (*San Luis Obispo Daily Telegram*, Jan 13, 1914)

Unfortunately a rainy January ensued and the Barneberg family was actually living "in" Dana Street.

#### Move on Lot

"J. W. Barneberg and family, who started to move across Dana Street opposite the site of the new dwelling which will be erected there and who have been 'marooned' in the street the past few weeks of rainy weather, are now on the lot where they will remain until the new home is built." (*San Luis Obispo Daily Telegram*, Jan. 31, 1914)

The Barneberg family had many comings and goings to San Francisco often reported in the press. Both sons spent most of their life there (Appendix C). In 1922, the golden anniversary of John Wesley and Sarah Elizabeth was celebrated at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. The *San Francisco Call* wrote about the event and the lists of attendees which included family members, grandchildren, and the Anderson family. Eight years later, John Wesley died at age 79 and was followed by Sarah Elizabeth in 1936.

## Grace Barneberg

Grace Barneberg went off to Stanford University. After graduating in 1901, she returned to get her teaching credential at University of California, Berkeley. For many years she taught high school in San Luis Obispo until she retired. Grace became active in the town as one of the



**Figure 6: Grace Barneberg c. 1905**

founders of the Monday Club. As chairman of the building committee she was responsible for obtaining Architect Julia Morgan to design the building that is now on the National Register. Grace traveled around the world for a year and gave many lectures about her experiences when she returned. She spent most of the rest of her life promoting women's causes. Grace served on State Women's Prison Board, and California Hospital Libraries Board. She also spent her time lecturing around California for free public libraries. Local health availability issues were also a big concern for Grace. She worked to start the San Luis Obispo County Health and San Luis Obispo Dental clinics. While her father was raising money for the WW I war effort, Grace was serving in the Red Cross. Also, like her father, she was responsible for starting organizations and always serving in some Board capacity.

Grace was on hand to help her parents raise her brother's two children, Helen Maxine and Jack. Grace never married and lived in the house her father built at 550 Dana Street until she died. In her later years, with failing health and wheel chair bound, an elevator was added to the house (Taylor and Lees 2010). The Grace Barneberg Papers are in Special Collections at the Robert Kennedy Library at Cal Poly.

Charles W. Dana, John Wesley Barneberg and Grace Barneberg are the family members that specifically relate to local and statewide contributions to our history as noted above. They occupied the Dana/Barneberg House as well as other members of their families.

## 531 Dana Street Owners and Occupants

After the house was moved across the street in 1914, it had various renters until it became the home once again of Helen Maxine Barneberg. Known as Maxine, the girl raised by her grandparents, Wesley and Sarah Barneberg, married Eugene Van Schaick (1901-1989). Eugene and Helen Maxine had a daughter Betty Maxine (1925-2006) who married Norman E. Holt in 1944. In 1948 Betty and Norman had a son Robert Dana Holt. In 1993, and again in 1996, plans were proposed to add a second story and do a renovation, but it was not acted on. The last member of the family to live in the house was Robert Dana Holt. The family had the property until it was sold in 2005. Information regarding owners after 2005 is found in Table 2.



## Architecture

The Dana/Barneberg House reflects Victorian vernacular architecture and contains several elements that were popular in the 1880s that pertain to, but are not specific to, a particular style. The house also depicts an elaborate and well proportioned design.

The one story residence is clad in ten inch shiplap siding with hand wrought nails in evidence. The flat roof covering the bays in front surround the high gable, one of several roof lines in the unusual structure (Figure 16) (Appendix B). Two patterns of decorative shingles are used under the front facing gable that covers a recessed porch. Victorian flat sawn balusters support the railing with a post on either side at the top of the stairs leading onto the porch (Figure 16).

The two large rectangular square bays in the front are the primary features. The bays have slender columns in-set on the corners that add an elegance to the design. Each bay has two narrow windows on each side and three across the front. They are all the same size one-over-one double hung sash with a continuous sill that wraps around the bays above inset panels. The windows have screens that are hung from the top. Under the eaves and vertical board frieze, a saw cut border of circles wraps around the bays above the windows and continues across the porch entry (Figures 16 and 17).



Figure 16: Centered Front Entry

The two large square bays increased the size of the front rooms. Both rooms have transoms with two panes over the doors entering from the foyer inside the front door. The front rooms with very high ceilings are mirror images of each other (Figure 18).

The west side of the house has a wide bay with two fixed pane windows with a screened one-over-one double hung sash window on each side. A continuous sill wraps around the bay. The room contains a fireplace with a period appropriate mantle. Patterned picture moulding surrounds a portion of the large room. On the east side of the house, there is a room with a smaller bay consisting of three windows.



**Figure 17: East Corner Bay**



**Figure 18: East Corner Bay Interior**

The wide decking across the back wraps around one side of the kitchen leading to a door into the 2006 laundry room addition. Newer double glass doors open out from the kitchen to the deck and steps to the lower terrace formed from used bricks. The kitchen window that overlooks the creek has two vertical rows of lights on each side and is not original.

### **Comparison Properties**

The 1886 Sanborn Map depicted one other house with two front facing square bays where the IOOF Hall is currently located on Dana Street. However, some of the design elements found on the Dana/Barneberg House can still be seen on a few houses in San Luis Obispo. Examples noted below are on the Master List. Varied dates of construction are from the city records and other sources. They were not independently confirmed by this researcher.

A sample of remaining square bays can be found at the Mrs. V. L. Latimer's house at 858 Toro Street. The Latimer House was constructed in 1880. The bay has one window on each side and three facing front. A house at 571 Pismo Street next to the Biddle House has the same bay configuration.



The Lewin House, at 671 Pismo Street, has two of the elements found on the Dana/Barneberg residence. It has the same cut work trim with circles across the front under the fascia. The square bays are smaller with one window on each side and two across the front. Fish scale shingles appear under the centered dormer over the front entry. The frame house with “Carpenter Gothic influences” also described as a Queen Anne Cottage was dated in various studies as 1876, 1890 or 1900.

The Snyder House, at 1406 Morro Street, was constructed in 1885. It has the same cut work trim circles lining the house under the fascia as the Dana/Barneberg House.

Despite these similarities none of the above examples exhibit quite the same exuberance in detail and balanced design as the Dana/Barneberg House. It’s condition, after so many years, retains its elegance as befitting the bank president John Wesley Barneberg.

### **Grounds**

Used brick walkways surround the house that looks out across the street to the historic Anderson House. The ornate wrought iron fencing and gate are not original, but were installed by the previous owner (Figure 19). The restoration project in 2006 had used a white picket fence of the same style as shown in the early photograph. The wrought iron fencing, although not like the original white picket fence, is a reminder of the original business of John Wesley Barneberg, who started out in the 1870s with a foundry and machine business nearby.



**Figure 19: Wrought Iron Fencing**



**Figure 20: Garage at the End of the Driveway**

On the west side, a garage sits at the end of the brick driveway (Figure 20). The garage construction or relocation date is unknown. The siding is similar to the house under a low front facing gable roof. The doors have six fixed pane lights on top of three door sections. The garage has recently been converted into a casita with new entry from the back. The view of the Dana/Barneberg House from the street is unchanged.

There is a lemon tree by the garage that has an interesting history. According to local lore, it is from the old lemon grove that still exists on the side of Cerro San Luis Obispo where there is a spring. It is supposed to be a different variety that predates 1900. In 1996, Bill Cattaneo wrote that in 1901;

“Mr. G. W. Chandler lived in a little cabin on San Luis Mountain, where he had a yearlong supply of cool spring water. On a plateau overlooking downtown San Luis Obispo, Chandler raised three acres of lemons and oranges...” (SLO Century in *San Luis Obispo Journal* August 1996)

## **SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION**

The City of San Luis Obispo evaluation criteria for historic resources has been applied to the pertinent sections of the Ordinance for the Dana/Barneberg House.

### **City Guidelines for Architectural Criteria**

The City Guidelines for Architectural Criteria apply to the Dana/Barneberg House under (1) Style - a. purity of traditional style and c. traditional, vernacular and/or eclectic influences that represent a particular social milieu and period. It also applies under (2) Design - a. Notable attractiveness with aesthetic appeal.

The 1880s architectural style of the Dana/Barneberg House used an abundance of elements that were popular with the prominent citizens of San Luis Obispo at that time. Using elements found on Queen Anne cottages such as the squared bay, panels under the windows, and shingle work under the gables, it also represents a composite of borrowed elements. The saw cut balustrades and scroll sawn border under a narrow front facing gable behind a shed roof belie other aspects of design. The following elements are a part of the detailing still found on the house.

#### **(1) Style**

- Two large, rectangular square bays in front
- Saw cut balustrades on front porch
- Two designs of decorative shingles under front facing gable
- Decorative saw cut trim below the fascia
- Two bays - one on each side of the house
- Multi- gabled roof

#### **(2) Design**

The balance of design was well thought out for its period of significance. It still represents late 19th Century Residential Development at its best. Unchanged, the time it

was constructed reveals there must have been artistic presence involved in the planning whose name has been forgotten.

- Extensive detailing brings aesthetic appeal and cohesiveness to the design
- Exceptional craftsmanship produced the Victorian vernacular design.
- Fully restored by another master craftsman, Darryl Schauerman.

### **City Guidelines for Historic Criteria**

The City Guidelines for Historic Criteria applies to the Dana/Barneberg House under (1) History—Person. a. Significant to the community as a public leader; and b. As a public servant who made early and important contribution to the community.

The house reflects its significance from certain people connected with it. (1) Charles William Dana, and (2), John Wesley Barneberg were important public leaders. (3) Grace Barneberg is noteworthy for her contributions with women's rights and libraries. All three were well known for their work throughout California.

#### **(1) Charles William Dana - Civic Leader**

Clerk of the San Luis Obispo Board of Trustees - 1859 (for over twenty years)  
Elected to the State Assembly - 1861  
Board of Director for the San Luis Obispo Railroad Company - 1872  
Formed franchise to bring water to San Luis Obispo - 1872  
County Auditor - 1873/74  
Secretary of the Agricultural Society - 1875  
Supervisor - 1876/1877  
San Luis Obispo's Mayor - 1881

#### **(2) John Wesley Barneberg - Business Leader**

Co-owner of the early local foundry - 1875  
President of C. Reed Corporation  
City Tax Collector - 1883  
Served on the Board for the San Luis Gas Company - 1896  
Chairman for the Democratic Central Committee - 1898  
President of the Commercial Bank  
President of San Luis Savings Bank  
Vice President Security First National Bank  
President of the Pacific Southwest Trust and Savings Bank - Local Branch  
Major stakeholder in the oil development in central California  
Principle investor in Midland Oil Company  
President Brookshire Oil Company  
Principle in Obispo Oil Company  
Served on Committee to establish Cal Poly - 1901

Democratic representative to the National Convention - 1912  
Chairman of the Liberty Loan Drive - WWI

- (3) Grace Barneberg - Community Organizer  
Founder and President of the Monday Club - 1925  
Statewide Service  
    State Women's Prison Board  
    Promoted Free Public Libraries  
    California State Hospital Libraries  
San Luis Obispo Service  
    County Health Centers  
    San Luis Obispo Dental Clinic  
    Red Cross

The names Dana and Barneberg and their families have all been connected to the house, before and after it was moved to its current location.

### **City Guidelines for Integrity**

The City Guidelines for Integrity for the Dana/Barneberg House apply under; (2) Maintained its historic appearance and character; and (3) the degree to which the structure has retained its design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

- (2) For almost thirty years the Dana/Barneberg House was at 550 Dana Street exhibiting its historic appearance and character. Since 1914 it has been at 531 Dana Street with almost no change in its original design and footprint. Characteristics from its period of significance have not diminished and are the same as depicted in the old photograph when it was across the street from its current location.
- (3) Although it was once moved by the family that owned the house until 2005, it has been 107 years at its current location. Still in the same neighborhood, the Dana/Barneberg House displays the high degree of craftsmanship that makes it one of the most unaltered historic properties in the City of San Luis Obispo.

## CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

The Dana/Barneberg House is found to be significant under A. Architectural Criteria, B. Historic Criteria, and C. Integrity, in the city's "San Luis Obispo Historic Preservation Guidelines" for evaluating historic resources. As part of the Downtown Historic District, Dana Street is one of the oldest neighborhoods in town. The Dana/Barneberg House is currently one of ten properties on the Contributing List for the street that was last surveyed in 1987. As a result of this current study, the Dana/Barneberg House qualifies for its age, design, integrity, as well as, the people important to our history that were associated with the house. It is strongly recommended that the residence be upgraded and added to San Luis Obispo's Master List of Historic Properties.

## ADDENDUM



Darryl and Eleanor Schauerman

Special thanks to Eleanor Schauerman for providing information critical to this report. The efforts of the badly needed restoration of the house by 2006 was recorded in photographs taken over the two years the project took place and have been used in this report. It was due to the late Darryl Joseph Schauerman, the craftsman, and his family that we have the house today. The voices of Tim Olson and Sharon Kamm, both long time residents of Dana Street, also contributed to this report.