

The Woodbury House, built in 1882, is one of the few remaining grand mansions built during the boom of the '80s. It is also the only existing example of Italianate Victorian architecture in Altadena.

It was built for Frederick J. Woodbury, a captain under General U.S. Grant during the Civil War. In 1882 Frederick and his brother John purchased 937 acres (at \$5.00 an acre) which they subdivided, calling the tract Altadena. The property extended from Lake Avenue to the Arroyo Seco and from Altadena Drive to Woodbury Road. Their plan included wide north-south avenues named after female saints—Santa Rosa and Santa Anita—and east-west streets named after California counties such as Mariposa and Calaveras. The real estate boom collapsed in 1888 and much of the land remained unsold but the name Altadena remained. John Woodbury was responsible for planting the deodar trees on Santa Rosa Avenue, now known as Christmas Tree Lane. These trees lined the entrance to the Woodbury property and are now a State Historical Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The house was purchased in 1895 by Hampton Story who was prominent in the music business in Chicago. After purchasing this house, he hired architect Frederick Roehrig to design an addition that would serve as a music room and house his large pipe organ. Mr. Story hosted many musical events and the house was the social center of the community for many years. He lived in the house the longest of any owner, from 1895 to 1926. The house has had five owners since then and for a time was used as a restaurant and tea room. So it is appropriate that it is being used as our tea room today.

Because of the tea room traffic you will enter the house through the sun room. This room was added in 1920. The modern painting over the fireplace is by Sylvia Glass. The large bronze and gold vase is by Steven Friedman.



2606 North Madison

We next enter the Yellow Parlor. The large portrait was painted by Sir Thomas Beach, a pupil of Joshua Reynolds. The light fixture is from the French Empire period. The settee, two chairs and the fireplace screen are 18th century. There are seven fireplaces throughout the house and each is different.

In the reception hall the painting of Lady Dunmore Napier

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and her infant daughter was done by Sir George Hayter. He also painted Queen Victoria's coronation portrait as well as her state portrait, for which he was knighted. The light fixture was made in 1902 and came from a silver baron's home in Denver. The 18th century English table pulls apart and may be used as two tables.

The dining room is a mirror image of the reception hall. Deceptive, isn't it? The prints on the wall are 19th century English and part of the homeowner's collection that you will see throughout the house. The chairs are 18th

century American in the Chippendale style and are from the Hudson Valley of New York. The light fixture is from the 1920s.

Upstairs, in the master bedroom note the large European armoire. The landscape painting was done by Edwin Henry Boddington in 1861. When you look at the bronze light fixture be sure to notice the gargoyles.

The next room is the Lilac Bedroom. There are many things to see here including the matching country French bed and armoire. The charming Currier and Ives print is titled "Pride of the South". Note the unusual geometric moldings.

The children's bedroom is our next stop. The walls are glazed and there is a hand stenciled border. The Art Deco furniture is inlaid with ivory.

The guest suite is part of the 1920 addition. In the first room note the art glass light fixture as well as the English prints. Attractive features in the second room are the marble fireplace and the interesting mirror above it. The Victorian rocker is the only original piece of furniture from the Woodburys.

In the upstairs hall you will see two pictures of the house, one from 1882 and the other from 1885. The rocker on the front porch is the one you just saw.

The staircase and entry are done in tiger eye oak, probably before 1898 when the music room was added. The music room was carefully designed by Frederick Roehrig to blend with the rest of the Italianate style but it is in the Colonial Revival style which was very popular at the turn of the century. Look in at this large 26 x 40 foot room and be sure to return for your tea and pastry later in the day. In the entry, note the beautiful tooled screen on the staircase and the old oil lamp fixture, now electrified.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour of the oldest house in Altadena. □