

321 Del Mar - Laura Crockett was the daughter of Allison Crockett



*Laura Crockett house at 321 Del Mar*

1890/11/18 - The history of the Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista is in direct correlation with the history of Chula Vista. It was the very first church of Chula Vista and for many years the only church in the city. The establishment of the church began in October of 1890 when a group of eleven people met, with a Reverend Ford as leader, to discuss the organization of a church. Chula Vista was then a new city, developed by the San Diego Land and Town Company. A month later on November 18, 1890, the First Congregational Church was organized. Members met in the Chula Vista school house until a sanctuary could be constructed. The Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State on March 26, 1892. On May 1, 1894, Allison C. Crockett, C. A. Whittemore, and John T. Judkins met to discuss building a church. The San Diego Land and Town Company deeded a church site on F Street east of Third Avenue, next to the school, on May 24, 1894. Mr. George W. Roberts, who had property both in National City and Chula Vista, was instrumental in organizing the church. He was an active member of the Congregational Church in National City and was eager to have a church of that denomination in Chula Vista. A month later building commenced. Carpenters were hired at \$2.50 a day. The church building was dedicated on September 9, 1894. The official incorporated name was First Congregational Church, but because of its location it became known as Community Congregational Church. There was a dramatic name change in the Articles of Incorporation in 1983 when the official name became Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Chula Vista. This congregation had voted to become part of a larger denomination: the United Church of Christ, a merger of Congregational-Christian Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches. The church has had a long history in Chula Vista and has made a great impact on the community and its citizens. Although the original church building was razed and a new sanctuary built in 1951, the Congregational Church has been designated as Historical Site Number 5 by the City of Chula Vista." ( Chula Vista, the Early Years. Vol. 6, p. 3. )

1893 - Allison Crockett House, 320 Second Avenue, Parcel number: 568-332-07, Architectural Style: Victorian, Legal: CV QS 137 por Lot 20, This Victorian house was built in 1893 for the Allison C. Crockett family. Allison Crockett, a native of Abbott, Maine passed away in Chula Vista on May 21, 1909 of complications from a Civil War gunshot wound that never healed. Allison Crockett, who was a carpenter, probably built this house for his family. In 1894, he constructed the Congregational Church, the first church built in the community. The Crockett House was moved to its current location from "F" Street. This house is significant as the home of the prominent pioneer Crockett family. Although ornamental details have been stripped from the house, the basic shape and structure remain the same. The home is one of the few remaining orchard homes. This 1 1/2 story Victorian features a high, complex cross gable roof with boxed and bracketed cornices, a frieze, and an interior brick chimney. Features include tall and narrow double hung windows placed individually or in pairs and one story box bays with shed roofs on the front and right sides. A one story porch with a shed roof and a pediment occupies the right front of this 19th century home. On this porch, turned posts supporting the roof and the stickwork in the railing are hidden by dense foliage. Ornamental details in this house include horizontal bands that extend around the house at the tops of the windows. On the second floor, the band on the left side has carved ornamentation. Asbestos shingles have replaced the former shiplap and wooden shingle siding. -- Sources: CVHS Bulletin -Sept 1985; NC Record - Aug 24, 1893 -- Historic Site 39 (8676 inventory) ( "Allison Crockett House," Historic Resources Inventory, City of Chula Vista, 1985. )

1893/08/22 - Father was Allison C. Crockett, born in Abbott, Maine on July 31, 1843 and passed away in Chula Vista on May 21, 1909 of complications following a gunshot wound in the Civil War that never healed. Mother was Mary Alice Sawyer, born in Greenville, Maine on August 14, 1854 and died in Chula Vista on July 5, 1945. Allison and Mary Alice were married in Monson, Maine on March 13, 1884. The oldest daughter of 4 children was Elsie E. Crockett born in Wayne, Nebraska on March 26, 1887 and died in Chula Vista in 1912 of erysipelas. Laura D. Crockett was born in Gothenberg, Nebraska on March 26, 1890. Note: The girls were born on the same month and day, three years apart. Emilie I. and Evan S. were the first twins born in Chula Vista. The date of birth was August 22, 1893. Laura and Emilie have been residents of Fredericka Manor since the early 60's. Because the Crockett twins were the first twins born in Chula Vista one of the prominent citizens asked the mother if they could be named Chula (for the boy) and Vista (for the girl). She said she could stand Vista for a name, but not Chula. One Sunday while father and the two older children had gone to church, the twins went for an unannounced walk. About the time church was out, mother missed them, so a neighbor man in his mule team and surrey went on a search and located them a quarter of a mile from home playing in a shallow lily pond. Fortunately they were smart enough to remove their clothing. The kind neighbor wrapped them in the buggy robe and took them home. (9664 bulletin) (photo of Crockett home 1893) ( Chula Vista Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. 3, Nov., 1984. )

1894 - p. 7 - A building committee of three men (John T. Judkins, C. A. Whittemore, and Allison Crockett) met to discuss building a church, and a month later, construction started. Mr. Crockett, a builder by trade, laid the bricks for the foundation. Other members hauled bricks and lumber in their spring wagon, contributing time, work, and money. Carpenters were hired for \$2.50 a day. The Crockett Family - Mr. Crockett was the father of Emilie and Laura Crockett. For many years Laura was the oldest member of the church, having joined on July 1, 1900. The Crockett family home was near the church property, and at one time they had a large fruit orchard. The girls were active in the church and Sunday school, and helped decorate the sanctuary each Sunday. Emilie had a twin brother named Evan, the first twins born in Chula Vista. An elderly man tried to convince their mother that her babies should be named "Chula" and "Vista", but Mr. Crockett politely declined. The corner stone of the present sanctuary was given by the Crockett sisters, in memory of their parents. p. 8 - The new building was dedicated on September 9, 1894, and THE NATIONAL CITY RECORD (first published in 1882) reported in its issue of September 13, 1894: "September 9, 1894 will be a red letter day in the annals of Chula Vista. On that day the first church in Chula Vista was opened to the

public. The place was packed with people standing all around. The choir consisted of a double quartet whose singing was very good. An invocation and scripture were read which were followed by an address delivered by Rev. A. K. Packard on 'The Pew'. The dedication address was by Rev. S. A. Norton who enlivened his words with several amusing anecdotes. The act of dedication was led by Rev. T. R. Earle, the Pastor of this new church. "With a good choir, organ and organist, and an energetic Pastor the new church starts out with every prospect for success in establishing the first church in Chula Vista." ( "Community Congregational Church, Chula Vista The First 100 Years," 93-963, p. 8. )

1894/09/09 - The spiritual needs of the community were also on the minds of some. Up to 1894, church services had been held on the second floor of the schoolhouse. The need for a church building was evident. The Ladies' Aid Society of the Congregational Church held numerous ice cream socials, box socials, watermelon socials and bazaars to raise funds for a sanctuary. The Land and Town Company donated a 123 by 290-foot plot of ground near the schoolhouse. On Sept. 9, 1894, the new Congregational Church was dedicated with Rev. T. R. Earle serving as the first minister. The new sanctuary at 276 "F" Street had been constructed by Allison C. Crockett, a carpenter and a veteran of the Civil War, who lived nearby. Although the original structure was razed and a new sanctuary built in 1951, the First Congregational Church remains at the same location today. The place where the original church stood has been designated Chula Vista Historical Site No. 5. Allison C. Crockett, who helped build the first Chula Vista church, had constructed his own house nearby in 1893 and planted orange and lemon trees on his five-acre lot. After his death in 1909 from the lingering effects of a gunshot wound he had sustained in Virginia, in 1864, during the Civil War Battle of the Wilderness, his widow, Mary, and children remained active in community affairs. The Crockett house, which originally faced "F" Street, was turned and moved to its present location at 320 Second Avenue. Although the original siding has been replaced by asbestos shingles, the house still retains much of its Victorian charm. The one-and-one-half-story home features a high, complex, cross-gable roof with boxed and bracketed cornices, horizontal bands above the windows and a wonderful front porch with turned posts, carved ornamentation, stickwork railing and a pediment. ( Webster, Karna. Chula Vista Heritage 1911-1986. City of Chula Vista, 1986. )

1897 - Crockett, Allison C, rancher ( City Directory, 1897-1901. )

1901 - The Chula Vista Yacht Club had been founded around 1898, and with the help of the San Diego Land and Town Company, a wharf had been built at the foot of "D" Street using railroad iron and heavy planking. (Sometime later, a second wharf at the foot of "F" Street replaced the original pier) In 1901, Club members constructed a clubhouse that was paid for by donations, and a fleet of 11 yachts sailed on weekends in 1902. The yachts, designed for bay and shallow-water sailing, were about 28 feet long. Many yacht club members were avid racers, and they competed with each other as well as with other yacht clubs around the bay. In 1902, the Club held a four-race regatta, known as the Montebello Cup Series. Joseph M. Cook of the Montebello Ranch provided the trophy. Allison C. Crockett owned one of the yachts and J. M. Cook another, possibly the Josephine, winner of several races. A second cup, donated by B. P. Cheney around 1911, was engraved with the names of the annual race winners from 1911 to 1915. Chester and Holly Sumners won the Club's last race in 1916, but their names, for some unknown reason, were never added to those on the trophy. This large sterling silver cup was kept in Santa Barbara until 1959, when a former Yacht Club member, Warner Edmonds brought it back and gave it to the Chula Vista Public Library. Today this treasured relic of Chula Vista's past remains in the library. The Chula Vista Yacht Club went into a decline soon after the 1916 flood filled the bay with debris and sailing became impossible. The 1920 city directory listed the Yacht Club for the last time, Greg Rogers was the commodore during the final year. ( Webster, Karna. Chula Vista Heritage 1911-1986. City of Chula Vista, 1986. )

1910 - Mary Crockett House - Electra Scott House, 314 Twin Oaks Avenue, Parcel number: 568-331-07, Construction date: estimated 1910, Architectural style: Folk House, Legal: CV Sub, QS

137, por Lot 20 , The early history of this house is unknown except that it was constructed for the Crockett family and once faced "F" Street. The house appears in a 1911 photograph. The design of the building suggests a construction date of 1900 to 1910. The Crocketts moved the house to its present location, and Mary Crockett had the water connected on Sept. 24, 1924. Various families rented the building. Keith and Gertrude Miller lived there in 1927, George Reinbach, a cattleman, and his wife, Martha, in 1928 and 1929, and Stuart Cargill, a carpenter, in 1930. Emilie and Laura Crockett lived at this address in 1933. The house is an example of a simple Folk House of the 1910 era and apparently retains integrity of design and materials. Some historical significance is gained by the relationship to the pioneer Crockett family. This modest, one story house features a medium, cross hipped roof with wide eaves and exposed rafter ends. An open porch is recessed under the house roof at the left front corner. A single post at the corner supports the roof. Other details include narrow, horizontal clapboard siding with wide corner boards, double hung windows placed individually, and an interior brick chimney. The home has a double door entrance. Sources; Information from: Evalyne Simmons and Art Day ( Webster, Karna. "Historic Resources Inventory," City of Chula Vista, 1985. )

1917 - Red Cross History - 1st in series by Laura Crockett - the man who founded the Red Cross was Henri Dunant after the bloody battle of Solferino in 1859, returned to Geneva and wrote a book, Red Cross formed in Geneva 1863. -- 2nd in series (Mar. 14) CV formed its branch in 1917 -- 3rd in series (Mar. 21) local chapter formation meeting was May 10, 1917, the headquarters was on Center Street where barber shop is today, sewed garments and refugee clothes, made surgical dressings. Mrs. A. J. Burnside (photo) to the job of delivering yarn to knitters in their homes, walked most of the time, carrying her Red Cross bag. "One day someone on 3rd Ave saw her and snapped the picture which is reproduced here." Mrs. John King, Sr., was one of the very few who knitted the helmets, using the German method. "For heaven's sake don't call it German, call it Continental." Mrs. Will Richards delivered items to Balboa Park as they were finished. -- 4th and last in series (Mar. 28) Red Cross needed to raise \$100m in 1917, and local board quota was \$500, and fund-raising activities were organized, movies shown at the F Street School, visiting lecturers, Mrs. J. E. Barrows in charge of salvage drives, old newspapers, tin foil, rubber, donations of rugs, silver buttons, melons, jewels, lemons. The first house-to-house canvass in CV was conducted on June 6 and 76 signed up, and another canvass in Dec by the CV Men's Club signed up 311 as Red Cross members, reached total of 638. In the fall of 1917 a carnival was held on 3rd ave, home-made cookies, doughnuts sold, art exhibit, street dance. This event collected \$1006, "an astonishing sum considering the size of the village." On Feb. 16, 1918, ten CV merchants held a Red Cross sales day, adding \$200 to the fund (of the 10, Helm Bros and Peters Feed Store still in business today). During the 1918 flu epidemic, the Red Cross made gauze masks by the millions. At the end of the war, CV had made 30,926 surgical dressings, 2681 garments sewed, 1732 items knitted, 946 pairs of socks made. 435 women volunteered. The total raised for the War Fund was \$3596 (Star, Mar. 7, 1957. )

1919/11/21 - Mary A. Crockett has made arrangements to pave that part of F st on which her 5-acre tract fronts. (Star, Nov. 25, 1932. )

1920 - Crockett, Mary A (wid A C), h old 4th av, sw cor F ( City Directory, 1920. )

1924/03/28 - Crockett residence at old 4th and F is damaged by fire. ( Chula Vista Star, Mar. 25, 1949. )

1925/11/05 - Emilie I. and Evan S. Crockett were the first twins born in CV on August 22, 1893, to Allison and Mary Crockett (were founders of the Congreg Church 1894) ( )

1932 - Laura Crockett House - Wilma Southworth House, 321 Del Mar Avenue, Parcel numf8r: 568-331-10, Construction date: Estimated 1932, Architectural Style: Bungalow, Legal: CV Sub, QS 137, Lot 20, S 55' of E 133' of W 163' , This house stands on a lot that was once part of the Allison

Crockett estate and apparently was constructed in 1931 or 1932, although it could have been built a year or two earlier. The title to this lot passed from Mary Crockett to her daughter, Laura, about the same time. In 1932, Ornar G. Gray and his wife, Sarah, rented the house. He was the manager of the Chula Vista Lumber Company. In 1938, Marguerite Stewart owned the house. This bungalow apparently retains integrity of design and materials and is an example of an early 1930s house. The building has some historical significance because of its relationship with the pioneer Crockett family. This one story, symmetrical bungalow features a low, front-facing gable roof with medium width eaves and exposed rafter ends. A matching, but smaller, street-facing gable roof shelters a small open entrance porch centered on the facade. Two large square pillars support the porch gable at the front corners. The front door is flanked on each side by a set of three double hung windows. Other details of this house include narrow, horizontal clapboard siding with corner boards and an exterior brick chimney that stands on the right side. Windows on the sides of this house are placed individually. ( Webster, Karna. "Historic Resources Inventory," City of Chula Vista, 1985. )

1945/07/13 - Mary Crockett died in home at 210 F St, CV resident for more than 50 yrs, survived by daughters Emilie I. Crockett, principal of Lilian Rice school, and Laura D. Crockett, librarian, and son Evan S. Crockett. (Star, July 13, 1945. )

1950 - Joanne Menzel Holderer - came from Iowa 1923, mother was Peters, uncle owned Peters Feed Store, cousin Roy Peters still lives in CV on Elm St, his father came 1913 (Joanne could contact him about a possible IV), my grandfathers house was on Hilltop and H, across street was Hamilton who had big lemon orchard, aunt lives in La Mesa remembers swimming on the Hamiltons, we lived on Church off F, then to Del Mar off F, then to Twin Oaks. Behind us was the Crockett house on 2nd (was moved) 2 daughters never married, Laura was librarian, Emily had best Halloween displays in front of her house, she dressed up in costumes, treats were apples, popcorn balls. Uncle Keith Menzel was also mayor. Mother and father met at Methodist church social. Joanne moved to El Cajon in 1957 and then La Mesa. Golf course has blowup of photo of mother on porch of Peters Feed Store. Joanne has little book talks about children of Tijuana, her aunt Menzel had girl friend in Tijuana, got a watermelon and would go to a park in Tijuana. Uncle Spencer Menzel did thesis on Sweetwater dam ( Holderer, Joanne Menzel interview Sept. 24, 2010 by Susan Walter. )

1951/08/09 - Laura Crockett retired as children's librarian, served 30 years, will receive pension from the city under the State Employees Retirement Plan inaugurated here several years ago. ( Chula Vista Star, Aug. 9, 1951. )

1973/10/18 - Emily Crockett recalls early history ( Chula Vista Star-News, Oct. 18, 1973. )

Sources:

Crockett, Laura D., "The Chula Vista Woman's Club: A Brief History," unpublished mss 93-841, Chula Vista Public Library, 1961.

# *Resident recalls 80 year history*

Emilie Crockett has witnessed 80 years of Chula Vista history and claims "the greatest change has been from lemon orchards to houses and more houses."

"The hills we roamed around as kids are all roofs now."

Her parents emigrated from Maine to Chula Vista in 1892, and bought a five acre lemon orchard in the vicinity of 2nd and F St. "Dad decided to come out and get rich, like everybody else."

**MISS CROCKETT**, her sister Laura, another sister and a brother used to chase tumble weeds and jack rabbits in

---

**'Greatest change has been from lemon orchards to houses and more houses.'**

---

a canyon where Asbury Towers is now. "We had a great neighborhood. You just had to make your own entertainment."

She's still making her own entertainment and is quick with a wry comment about life at Fredericka Manor. While relaxing in her comfortably furnished apartment she heard a thud in the building.

"I hope that isn't the lady across the hall," she commented as she started out

the door. "One of her pet tricks is falling down. Hope she didn't hurt anything."

Miss Crockett said she's less active than she used to be, but she bustles about the campus wearing a faded train engineer's type hat. She commented that she hates to wear a net to keep her gray hair ("I used to be a redhead") in place.

**FOR 37 YEARS** she taught seventh and eighth graders in the Chula Vista school system. One of her pupils was golfer Billy Casper. "I liked them big and sassy, because I knew how to get along with them."

She recalled that neighborhood youngsters in her day had to go to high school in National City. Following graduation in 1912, she trained to be a teacher at the normal school in San Diego.

"Back then we had the same problem people are facing today — three teachers for every job." She couldn't get a job in Chula Vista, so she got a degree from Berkley while the war was on in Europe.

Miss Crockett's mother used to hitch up the horse and buggy once a month to go to the store, which was in San Diego. People bought a lot of things through catalogues then, she added.

Early Chula Vista residents did a lot of walking and Miss Crockett

## orchards to houses and more houses.'

a canyon where Asbury Towers is now. "We had a great neighborhood. You just had to make your own entertainment."

She's still making her own entertainment and is quick with a wry comment about life at Fredericka Manor. While relaxing in her comfortably furnished apartment she heard a thud in the building.

"I hope that isn't the lady across the hall," she commented as she started out

teacher at the normal school in San Diego.

"Back then we had the same problem people are facing today — three teachers for every job." She couldn't get a job in Chula Vista, so she got a degree from Berkley while the war was on in Europe.

Miss Crockett's mother used to hitch up the horse and buggy once a month to go to the store, which was in San Diego. People bought a lot of things through catalogues then, she added.

Early Chula Vista residents did a lot of walking and Miss Crockett remembers riding in one of the first automobiles in the city when she was a teenager. "I guess it was quite a swanky car."

NOW, SHE says she's dodging motorists at 3rd and F St. and trying to stay out of the way of some Fredericka

## 'I'm already living longer than I'm supposed to.'

residents. "They won't admit it," she said, "but some of them are just as fast as these kids."

Emilie Crockett followed her sister Laura to Fredericka Manor in 1961 and paid \$4000 for lifetime occupancy in her apartment. "The smartest thing we ever did was to come here," she commented, "We have all we need right here."

Her general health is all right, she said, but she takes medicine for her circulation. "One of the tragedies of getting older is that you forget things.

"I'm afraid I've got to put in about 10 years yet. We're from a long-line race." Then she laughed, "I'm already living longer than I'm supposed to according to the statistics."



# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ NR \_\_\_\_\_ SHL \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A 492800 B 3611350  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

- IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Wilma Southworth House
  2. Historic name: Laura Crockett House
  3. Street or rural address: 321 Del Mar Avenue  
City Chula Vista Zip 92010 County San Diego
  4. Parcel number: 568-331-10
  5. Present Owner: Wilma Southworth Address: 321 Del Mar Avenue  
City Chula Vista Zip 92010 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
  6. Present Use: residential Original use: residential

## DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Bungalow
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Legal: CV Sub, QS 137, Lot 20, S 55' of E 133' of W 163' of  
This one story, symmetrical bungalow features a low, front-facing gable roof with medium width eaves and exposed rafter ends. A matching, but smaller, street-facing gable roof shelters a small open entrance porch centered on the facade. Two large square pillars support the porch gable at the front corners. The front door is flanked on each side by a set of three double hung windows. Other details of this house include narrow, horizontal clapboard siding with corner boards and an exterior brick chimney that stands on the right side. Windows on the sides of this house are placed individually.



8. Construction date:  
Estimated 1932 Factual \_\_\_\_\_
9. Architect unknown
10. Builder unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 55 Depth 133  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
1985

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good  Fair \_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_
14. Alterations: none apparent
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_ Densely built-up   
Residential  Industrial \_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Threats to site: None known  Private development \_\_\_ Zoning \_\_\_ Vandalism \_\_\_  
Public Works project \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site?  Moved? \_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_
18. Related features: garage, flowers

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

This house stands on a lot that was once part of the Allison Crockett estate and apparently was constructed in 1931 or 1932, although it could have been built a year or two earlier. The title to this lot passed from Mary Crockett to her daughter, Laura, about the same time. In 1932, Omar G. Gray and his wife, Sarah, rented the house. He was the manager of the Chula Vista Lumber Company. In 1938, Marguerite Stewart owned the house. This bungalow apparently retains integrity of design and materials and is an example of an early 1930s house. The building has some historical significance because of its relationship with the pioneer Crockett family.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)  
Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure \_\_\_\_\_  
Economic/Industrial \_\_\_ Exploration/Settlement 2  
Government \_\_\_\_\_ Military \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_\_\_

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).  
City directories  
CV Tax Assessment Rolls  
Assessor's Records

22. Date form prepared 9-10-1985  
By (name) K Webster  
Organization City of Chula Vista  
Address: P.O.Box 1087  
City Chula Vista Zip 92012  
Phone: 691-5101

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

