



390 Olive Tree Lane Blumer House 1887

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2014**

Photo: Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society

The house at 390 Olive Tree Lane currently sits on a secluded 1.81-acre parcel of land at the end of a private drive, just north of Grand View. It recently became re-listed as an historic landmark in Sierra Madre and was named the Blumer Farmhouse. The original house was oriented to the east with the entry facing Auburn, and the address being 185 Auburn Ave. The street address later changed to Grand View and finally to 390 Olive Tree. It's one of the few homes still standing which are pictured in the Bird's Eye View of Sierra Madre.

Amos D. Trussel purchased the original 22-acre parcel in 1883 from N.C. Carter. He moved his family to Sierra Madre for his wife's health because of its mild climate. The family stayed in a two-room building that had been used for beekeeping while Amos, a skilled carpenter, and four of his sons quickly built a 17' x 34' two story home.

A.D Trussel subdivided the land retaining the northern part of the land and selling the southern 13-acre parcel to John G. Blumer for \$7,200 in 1887. Blumer made significant changes to the home, adding a third story and widening the home. These changes almost tripled its original size. He also widened the home and added a covered second floor porch that wrapped around three sides.

Blumer was a native of England and was also searching for a milder climate. He was interested in local affairs and was elected mayor at the incorporation of Sierra Madre in 1907. He helped reorganize the Sierra Madre Water Company that Trussel helped establish and he was involved in the sometimes-contentious water rights negotiations with "Lucky" Baldwin. He also helped start the library society, and was a major contributor in the efforts to bring the Pacific Electric Railroad to Sierra Madre.

In 1926 the property was sold to John H. Brice who established a private boarding school for boys named Brice Academy. Brice sold off the Southern portion of the land in a desperate attempt to delay the financial effects of the Great Depression. The school eventually closed its doors in 1931 and the property was lost in foreclosure.

In 1936, the property was deeded to Vard B. Wallace who made a number of significant changes to the interior of the house, leaving it much like it stands today. In 1944 the Bromleys purchased the property and owned it until 2013 when they sold to the current owners. Changes to the house made by the Bromley family were few and for the purpose of making it more comfortable and usable.

The current owners are renovating and upgrading their home while keeping its historic integrity. Part of their restoration plan includes reconstructing the railing and covered balcony on the second floor, bringing it back to its original appearance in 1887 as shown in the Bird's Eye View of Sierra Madre.