

121 Amethyst Avenue Erika & Mitch Sigband

- Built in 1939 and has had only 3 owners to date.
- Current owner, Mitch and Erika Sigband, bought house in 1995.
- Originally 5 bedrooms & separate apt (eventually converted to master bedroom).
- Sigbands made minor improvements including adding slate flooring to downstairs, upgrading kitchen and remodeled bathrooms, keeping with the original vintage design.
- Large glass sliding doors in living and family rooms replaced with French doors.
- Most all double hung windows, light fixtures, doors, hardware and interior woodwork are original to the home.

121 Amethyst was built in 1939 and has had only has three owners to date. The home was built by **Lloyd Eason** of Friendly Hills, near Whittier. Lloyd had a daughter, Mildred and she married George Stauffer. George served in WWII and after graduating from Stanford Law School, he and Mildred moved to her parent's Amethyst home while he was studying for the Bar Exam. After passing the bar, George and Mildred moved back to Whittier because the drive was too long.

In the late 1940's, Mr. Eason sold the home to **Frances Shaw Guenther** from Pasadena. Her father was an executive with Union Oil Company. Francis, also known as "Quita", raised three children, Betty Jean, Allen and Charles. In the early 1950's, Quita added a large one-bedroom "grandmother's" unit above a new garage and connected the new building to the original via a dining room off the kitchen. Shortly thereafter, the family was living there full time.

In the early 1970's, Frances' daughter, Betty Jean, moved to the house. She raised three children there and when Quita passed on, Betty Jean decided to list the house for sale.

In September 1995, **Mitch and Erika Sigband** purchased the house. They had been living in a quaint 1927 cottage at 117 Sapphire and Erika heard about a vacant house on Amethyst from Vivian Hadley, a family friend living on Amethyst. After "scouting out the house", Mitch wrote a letter to the owner, Betty Jean Laird, to see if she would be willing to sell. There was no response, but he would often drive down Amethyst on his way home after work to see if he could catch Betty in the front yard to talk to her about the house. One Friday afternoon, Mitch saw a "for sale" sign in front and told Erika they needed to see it that afternoon. An offer was made on the house that weekend and after several rounds of negotiations the house was theirs. (Soon after, they heard David Stauffer, the grandson of George Stauffer, also put an offer in, but was not accepted.)

The house had 5 bedrooms, a separate apartment they could rent, large patio, oversized garage and on-shore mooring. The Sigbands made minor improvements including adding slate flooring to the downstairs area and upgrading the kitchen by removing a wall and adding a small dining area and have remodeled the bathrooms in keeping with the original vintage design. The large glass sliding doors in the living and family rooms were replaced with French doors. Although improvements have been made over the years, most all of the double hung windows, light fixtures, doors, hardware and interior woodwork are original to the home. Eventually the apartment was converted to a master bedroom and the upstairs family room expanded as a result.