

01. 539 E Street The Cronin Home

compiled by John Lofland

- Built 1939, an “English Cottage Revival” home.
- Home of Dr. Leo Cronin, the leading Davis physician for 43 years from 1934 to 1977.
- Residence of Carolyn Hamel (of the prominent Hamel family) in the 60s-70s. She willed it to the adjacent Christian Science Church that at first planned to demolish it to make a parking lot but then decided it sell it to raise money for the new church now see at 6th and D.
- Sold to Joan Poulos, 1723 Oak Ave. Davis, who still owns it. Ms. Poulos is a Davis attorney who was elected to the Davis City Council in 1972 as part of the “progressive revolution” of that year. She was the first woman major of Davis (1974-75).

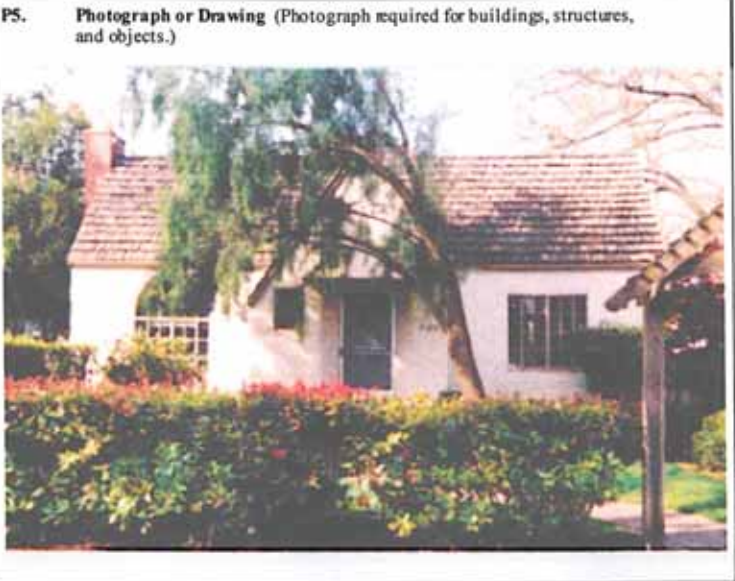


539 E, Cronin Home



2003 Historical survey photo

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<p>State of California — The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRIMARY RECORD</p>	<p>Primary #: _____ HRI # _____ Trinomial _____ NRHP Status Code: <u>3D/3CD</u> Other Listings _____ Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____</p>
<p>*Resource Name or Address 539 E Street P1. Other Identifier: None *P2. Location: *a. County Yolo b. Address 539 E Street *c. City Davis Zip 95616 d. UTM: N/A e. USGS Quad: Davis Quadrangle *f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 070-184-014 *P3a. Description: This small rectangular plan English Cottage Revival is similar in plan and appearance to one of the popular small house plans of the 1930's which was widely circulated and is found in a number of Revival Style developments. There are several houses of this design in the Curtis Park area of Sacramento. Constructed with a moderately pitched side gable roof, the focal point of the building is the steeply gabled, projecting front entry centered on the front façade. This entry features a recessed doorway, an asymmetrical exaggerated gable, sometimes known as a "cat slide," with a small, decorative vestibule window set to one side. The door is paneled Fenestration is arranged on either side of the door and is metal casement. The window on the south side of the façade is arched and has a transom in the arch. An exterior brick chimney rises on the south façade. The roof is clad with wood shingle that add to the house's rustic appearance. The walls are stucco. The house retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling and association. It appears to be unaltered and it contributes to a district eligible for the California Register. *P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2 *P4. Resources Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Element of District P5b. Description of Photo:</p>	
<p>P5. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)</p> 	<p>View west *P6. Date Constructed/Age: 1938 65 years old documented <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Both *P7. Owner and Address: Joan Poulos PO Box 1241 Bodega Bay, CA 94923 *P8. Recorded by: Carol Roland Roland-Nawi Associates 4829 Crestwood Way Sacramento, CA 95822 *P9. Date Recorded: 04/07-10/2003 *P10. Type of Survey: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance <input type="checkbox"/> Other Describe: Determination of Local District Eligibility *P11. Report Citation: none *Attachments: <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> Map Sheet <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building, Structure, and Object Record <input type="checkbox"/> Linear Resource Record <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Record <input type="checkbox"/> District Record <input type="checkbox"/> Milling Station Record <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Art Record <input type="checkbox"/> Artifact Record <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph</p>
<p>Record <input type="checkbox"/> Other (List):</p>	

2003 historical survey write up



Two views under construction. Sign reads James Duthie the builder. Duthie lived in the next block up E Street.

- 1942 register of voters reports Della Hamerick, housewife and Paul Hamerick barber, both Democrats, residing at 539 E.
- 1940 Davis Property Map shows them as owners.

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- 1936 voter registration reports Leon a. Cronan, Democrat living at the Terminal Hotel.
- 1949 phone book: Leo Cronan, 539 E.
- 1955 phone book: Leon Cronan, 539 E.



Mrs. Cronin, year unknown



The Cronins and other unknown people



LEO CRONAN, M.D.

Physician combined medicine with activism

By JENNIFER NEWTON
Enterprise staff writer

One of Davis' first physicians, Leo Arthur Cronan, delivered hundreds of babies throughout his 43 years in private practice. In fact, he brought many of them into the world along the Yolo Causeway as he tried to rush his pregnant patients to Sacramento for deliveries.

Cronan was completing his residency at Mercy Hospital in Sacramento and came to Davis in 1934 when he learned there was a need for more doctors.

He set up his practice at Second and G streets and was among the first full-time general practice physicians in Davis.

A native of Rose Creek, Minn., Cronan was the son of a grain elevator businessman. He attended Marquette University in Milwaukee and graduated from St. Louis University Medical School in 1931. He did his residencies at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., and at Mercy Sacramento.

He married Lillian LeBlanc, a Mercy surgical nurse, in 1936.

"Medicine — that was his first love," Lil Cronan said of her husband, whom she remembers as always reading about and studying medical care, hardly ever reading a novel instead.

He regularly attended medical conferences and seminars to further his education.

During the early years of his practice, Cronan was influential in the construction of Davis Binning Hospital and was a staunch supporter of the creation of a School of Medicine at UC Davis.

He was a member of the Yolo County Medical Society, the Prolotherapy Association, the American Academy of General Practice and the American Medical Association, and was honored as a Lions Club Man of the Year.

He also established Sutter Davis Hospital's medical library, which is now named after him. He was a zealous San Francisco 49er fan and loved baseball, but, ac-



ording to his wife, medicine always came first and "he was always patient with his patients."

Around the early 1940s, Cronan realized it was extremely dark at night on the Yolo Causeway, which then was a two-lane highway, and that it was the scene of many traffic accidents. He and

then-Enterprise editor C.A. Maghetti pooled their resources to persuade the state to install lights there, Lil Cronan said.

Cronan built a new office in 1951 at Third and E streets and soon added prolotherapy — a treatment for joint pain — to his practice.

He retired in 1977.

"It was very emotional," remembers Marietta Hamilton, who worked for Cronan as his front office receptionist during his final 10 years of practice. "The patients cried, we cried and he cried. ... I feel when he quit practicing they broke the mold."

Upon his retirement, the Cronans traveled together and enjoyed 49er games. Cronan also spent many happy hours in the garden of his home on Beech Lane.

Lil Cronan said the doctor never once regretted leaving his practice.

He received an award in 1986 from the American Association of Orthopedic Medicine for outstanding service and professionalism in his efforts to push prolotherapy into mainstream medicine.

On July 28, 1986, Cronan, then 84, was struck and killed by a truck while working in his yard.

"He was an outstanding physician and a great diagnostician," Hamilton said, remembering Cronan, who did house calls for his patients up until his retirement.

Leo A. Cronan

- Born in 1902 in Rose Creek, Minn.; died in 1986 in Davis.
- Married Lillian LeBlanc in 1936.
- No children.
- Davis resident for 52 years.
- Career highlights: Among the first general practice doctors in Davis.
- Contributions: Helped build the first hospital in Davis; strong supporter of the creation of the UC Davis School of Medicine; encouraged the state to install lights on the Yolo Causeway for safety; former Lions Club Man of the Year.

Profile of Cronin in the Enterprise's *Those Who Make Memories*

- 1970 Davis City Directory reports Lee Farrents living at 539

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- Caroline Hamel, a daughter of the prominent Hamel family lived at 539 in the 1970s and perhaps earlier. She was a Christian Scientist and willed the property to the church of that faith that stands directly to the west of this lot. She was born August 31, 1898 and died June 10, 1982.
- A member of that church interviewed in 1996 reported that for a time the church planned to demolish 539 E in order to create a parking lot for church members. But, a plan for a new church prompted it to sell the property in order to finance that construction.
- 539 was bought by Joan Poulos in 1986, She is a Davis attorney and historic Davis figure, having been one of the three "Revolution '72" people elected to the Davis City Council that turning point year. She was also the first woman to serve as the Mayor of Davis.

Davis Woman of the

Joan Poulos...wife, mother, lawyer - involved in women's rights movement

By SHARON RUCKLE

Unfortunately, in their fight against stereotypes, women involved in the women's liberation movement have themselves become stereotyped.

A women's liberber is frequently portrayed as a militant crusader, who rejects home, hearth and family for the "masculine" world of competition and career.

While, as in all stereotypes, the description may apply to some, it does not represent the major portion of women involved in the movement.

One woman for whom the dichotomy of "men's world" and "women's world" poses no conflict is Joan Poulos.

A lawyer, with a broad background in many types of

law, Joan is a wife and mother of two children. And, while an eloquent spokesman for and active worker toward the women's rights movement, Joan also loves her kids, her home, cooking . . . all the traditional things, and feels no guilt for not actively pursuing her law career at the moment.

However, her home interests in no way prevent her from pursuing the other aspects of life which are important to her—politics, art, community involvement and teaching a course on "The Legal Status of Women."

Joan sees women's lib as the assertion of individuality.

"Basically, what I am fighting for in women's rights, is that the fact that I'm a woman should not determine

my job, title, outlook . . . or what I wear."

"There is no easy answer to what women's lib is," Joan continues, ". . . there is no one spokesman, no one philosophy, no one organization. Women's Lib has as many voices as women speaking out on it. It is essentially a coalition."

The main thing they all agree upon is that women want to be treated as individuals, not as a class, Joan maintains. And because of this she feels there is a close relationship between the women's rights movement and minority movements.

All of Joan's Christmas cards will be addressed with the Ms. title for women (replacing the Mrs. or Miss distinction). She feels this address makes more sense, but allows that if a

woman prefers to use her husband's name (Mrs. John Jones rather than Sally Jones), that is her right.

"I personally am not threatened by it," Joan states, adding that many women feel insecure at not having their marital status indicated.

Joan feels that an important aspect of the women's movement is stressing the need for a woman to achieve something important to herself . . . and "not being a derivative person."

A woman who cannot find means of satisfying her needs for importance and recognition will do it vicariously through her husband or children. And this puts a tremendous amount of pressure on them.

"There is too much ego involvement of parents and grandparents in the development of children - pressures to succeed, to conform to a certain pattern."

"A lot of these problems would be less if each person was allowed to have her own kind of self-realization." If a woman feels satisfied in her own self-development, she will not exert pressures on her children and husband for her own gratification.

Joan feels one way people can learn their own potential is to be aware of their rights. In this regard, she is currently teaching a course on the "Legal Status of Women," through UC Extension. Last year she taught class on family rights through adult education, and next quarter she will teach "Legal Rights of Minors" through Extension.

"Many of the abuses and problems exist not only because people don't have rights but because they don't assert the rights they already have."

Women have suffered inequities in employment for a long time, Joan states, yet there are many vehicles that can be used for recourse—Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the National Labor Relations Board and various executive orders.

Even with these agencies, however, Joan supports passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (passed by the House but awaiting action by the Senate). While she notes progress in women's rights effected by court decisions, such as the Sally Reed case several weeks ago where the

Supreme Court applied the equal protection clause of the Constitution to strike down a discriminatory law in Idaho, Joan states that an Equal Rights Amendment would make the issue clear and "not subject to the vagaries of the Supreme Court."

Another view Joan holds is that people who are aware of their rights "will be less defensive . . . and more secure in what they will or will not accept."

"A person who knows her own rights is also treated differently," she adds.

Some interesting reports came out of her class on women's rights. Two elementary teachers in Winters did a study on sexism in the school, studying the responses of fourth and fifth graders.

The students reacted in stereotypical ways, even at that young age. When asked to draw a picture of "a successful person," only one of the students drew a female. When asked what they wanted to be when they grew up, girls cited teachers, waitresses, secretaries, stewardesses while boys wanted to be engineers, doctors, firemen, etc. And 78 per cent of the students stated they believed their father thinks that a woman will not become president of the U.S.

It is a breakdown of these stereotypes that the women's movement is seeking. And, not only for women but for men too. "Men are as much victims of stereotyping as women," states Joan, in the type of work they must do down to simple things such as who should drive the car.

Joan was born in Kansas and graduated from the University of Kansas with a language arts major. She held several jobs, including social work, newspaper reporting and teaching, before entering Hastings School of Law in San Francisco.

There she met John Poulos, a fellow student. They were married their first year of law school, went through school together and graduated together.

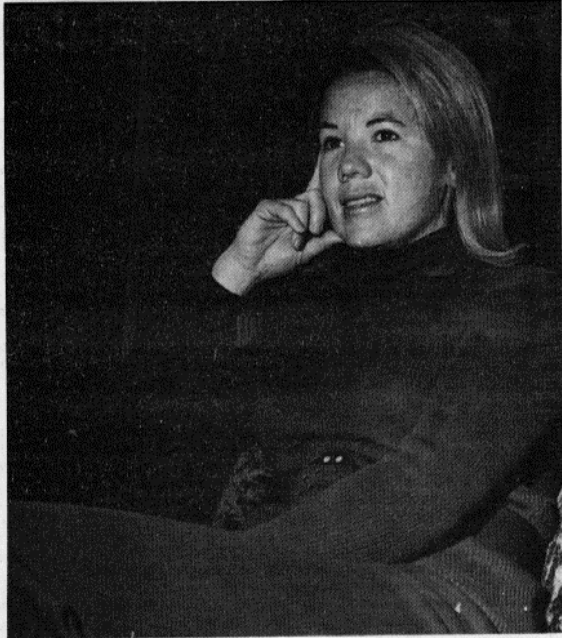
Joan feels that the ideal marriage is between students. Conditions are optimum for sharing, relaxed roles and flexibility . . . all of which are important to maintain in a marriage, she states.

"That doesn't mean a man should come home from a day's work and have to do the laun-



Joan with one of her paintings

Week



Joan: "Womens Lib is a plea for flexibility"

dry," she adds. Her point is that the roles and responsibilities in marriage should be flexible, and should respond to the realities and needs of each participant at the moment.

"What works for one family might not work for another - what works today might not work tomorrow."

"Marriage should be as individual as the people entering into it," she states.

Both John and Joan practiced law after graduation, and Joan had experience as a trial lawyer, did a lot of criminal defense, and family and civil law.

In 1969 the Pouloses came to Davis, when Joan's husband was offered a position with the UCD School of Law.

Joan's plans for the future are indefinite, but she is looking for "something innovative." At the moment, she is writing appellate court briefs.

She has always been interested in art, and began painting several years ago. A number of her paintings, many with women as the theme, adorn their home at 621 Cordova Place.

As the mother of John, age 6, and Alleka, age 4, Joan is a participating mother in the Davis Parent Nursery School and represents North Davis elementary on the cultural affairs committee of the PTA Council.

Active in Democratic politics, Joan is on the board of the Davis Democratic Club.

Joan also serves as president of the International Friendship Committee's Chatter Club, an organization for local and foreign women.

Joan has seen a change in the foreign women coming to Davis, corresponding to the changes in the status of women generally. Thanks to increased education, travel . . . and T.V., the women are now more familiar with American customs, Joan says.

They are also interested in comparative philosophies, as well as in social events. They realize that "a woman does not necessarily have to not be interested in traditional interests such as clothes, schools and children in order to also be interested in political philosophies and things like community health and other extra-home kinds of interests," Joan states.

This expanding, rather than changing, of roles is the essence of the women's movement everywhere, Joan feels.

It does not mean necessarily that a woman should work; it does not mean necessarily that she should stay home. It means she should make an individual choice of what is right for her. "Be sure inside yourself of what you really want to do," Joan counsels, "and keep in mind that decisions need not be made forever . . . a decision for today need not be a decision for tomorrow."

"After all," she states, "women have the stereotype of changing their minds."



Official Davis City Council photo with Poulos as mayor.



Poulos added a second unit behind 539 in 206-7. Here it is near completion.

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2009 "Davis Art" item by John Lofland,
titled "Two Corner Cottages, 1938-2008"