

Berkeley Landmarks designated in 2022



Stocker-Ding House (photo: Daniella Thompson, 2021)

344.

James T. Stocker-Loni Ding House

James T. Stocker (1901)

1940 Hearst Avenue

Designated: 3 March 2022

This shingle-clad dwelling was built in 1901 by carpenter James T. Stocker for his own family residence. It is the only house of its type in the Sea View Tract and possibly in all of Berkeley, with a rarely encountered hybrid style that crosses Arts & Crafts with Colonial Revival elements. Among the distinguishing features of the Stocker-Ding House are a side-gabled roof with gable-end returns; twin gable rooflets over second-story boxed windows; elaborate scrolled wooden brackets under flaring overhangs; scrolled corbels under the boxed windows; and beadboard soffits edged with heavy molding. The street façade of the Stocker-Ding House retains virtually all its original character-defining features.

The Stocker-Ding House is a survivor on a block that has lost 70% of its historic fabric and that faces blocks to the north and south that lost, respectively, 50% and 100% of their historic fabric. The Landmarks Preservation Commission found that the house contributes exceptional architectural value to the neighborhood.

The house was further designated on the strength of its cultural value, having been the home and workplace of the late multiple-award-winning filmmaker, acclaimed social documentarian, university instructor, and mentor Loni Ding (1931–2010), who acquired it in 1965. Ding's work resulted in greater exposure and representation for Asians and Asian Americans in broadcast media as both the subjects and producers of content. Ding's students often gathered in the house, which also served as a production studio and a repository for tapes and archives used in the development of her films.

The house is still owned and inhabited by Ms. Ding's immediate family. With the help of architects Sandhya Sood and James Novosel, the house has recently undergone extensive rehabilitation and restoration that preserve its historic appearance and character.

The [landmark application and associated documents](#) are accessible online.