

## **Beckstrom Architecture+ Interiors**

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July 14, 2024

**145 Tait Avenue**

### **Project Description**

The recent owners of 145 Tait Avenue want to breathe life into this house which was partly remodeled in 1996. This simple yet charming, 1920 house was used as a storage locker since 1996 as the previous owners did not live in it all those years. They added the back addition: partially 2-story and 1-story garage facing the alley.

This house lot is less built up than the majority of the lots. Most houses have additions of all varieties and a plethora of ADUs and garage facing the alley.

Tait, Massol and Wilder Avenues have back alleys with a high density and wide variety of secondary dwelling sizes and apartments. This neighborhood has evolved much since 1888 which is right after they totally clear cut enormous redwood forest with trees up to 2000 years old! Just like the railroad almost extinguished the buffalo, the railroad allowed wholesale clearing of every tree in the region in 10-20 years. When this house was built all the hills were covered with grass instead of 200-300' tall Redwoods. Some people became extremely wealthy tapping into this 2000-year old reserve of the best lumber in the world.

Los Gatos literally sits on the long gone, decaying stumps of gigantic redwoods that were here just 10-15 years before these streets were laid out in 1880. Context is always helpful when looking at Urban Design and a city's evolution.

### **The Project**

145 Tait was originally a simple 28' x 53' single story rectangle with a covered front porch and Kitchen gable on one side. The front porch is approximately 18.5' from the sidewalk and front property line. Some of the other houses nearby have similar forms and a few brackets, yet most have morphed very much since first built. The house is situated to the left side of the large lot which creates a large side yard for the future owners to enjoy. They will build a front picket fence in similar character to the other neighbors to keep in their dogs and provide separation.

They will fill in 2' of the Family Rm area behind the Kitchen Bay as the rooms are fairly narrow. This will connect to the side yard and breathe life and light into the house which it desperately needs.

The 1996 second floor will be adjusted to have the gable go through from right to left. As can be seen from the photos the back/left side looks like someone forgot to finish designing/building the addition as it looks wonky (which is more typical than people realize...it just happens). A 12' long Primary Bedroom addition will be built in some of the existing Garage Attic storage space. The new roof designs hopefully make the back look better with a small gable facing the Alley. The garage will get a third bay with a low slope/shed roof type addition. We have done scores of these Back East and here on barns, carriage barns, garages, etc.

Please call or email with any follow up questions. Thanks.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Beckstrom, Architect

