

# HENRY H. GUTTERSON

Architect  
(1884-1954)

Henry Higby Gutterson was born in Owatonna, Minnesota, the son of Arthur Lincoln and Mary (Higby) Gutterson. He moved to the Bay Area with his family and graduated from Berkeley High in 1903. He enrolled at U.C. Berkeley, graduating in 1906. Bernard Maybeck, teaching at U.C., had become a positive influence on young architects such as Julia Morgan and others, encouraging them to attend the prestigious *École des Beaux-Arts* in Paris. After graduating from U.C., Henry went to Paris in 1906, entered the *atelier préparatoire* of Chiffot, and in 1907 was accepted into the *atelier* of Victor Laloux (following at least 5 other Bay Area architects before him, including John Galen Howard and George Applegarth). Gutterson completed his *École* studies in 1909.

Gutterson worked for a year in New York in the office of Grosvenor Atterbury and returned to California in 1910. Initially he became an instructor at U.C. Berkeley. He married Helen Arnett in 1911. His initial work experience in the Bay Area was as a draftsman in the San Francisco office of D. H. Burnham & Co., headed by Willis Polk. By 1913 he was working for John Galen Howard on designs for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Howard and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. had been hired in 1912 to lay out the garden community which became St. Francis Wood. Howard brought in Gutterson and together they designed the gates, terraces, and fountains. Gutterson and Mullgardt designed the model homes on San Benito Way and Gutterson's work was appreciated enough that he was soon appointed supervising architect for the entire development, a post he held until he died in 1954. Gutterson's St. Francis Wood homes include:

- On San Benito - #50 and #58 (2 of the 3 model homes) and #171 (all in 1914);
- On San Leandro - #163 (1914), #30 (1918), #11 (1920) and #20 (1922);
- On San Pablo - #80 and #101 (1919), #112 (1920), #141 (1926) and #175 (1937);
- On Santa Paula - #272 (1920), #200 and #262 (in 1922), and #240 (1924);
- Other homes - 76 San Rafael (1915), 75 San Lorenzo (1918), 80 San Fernando and 301 St. Francis Blvd. (1920), 1495 Monterey Blvd. (1924).

Gutterson designed many homes in the East Bay, as well as churches and schools. His first homes in Berkeley date from 1914 and his Rose Walk cottages there are a local landmark. Some of his other buildings in the City include a former church (now galleries) at 532-36 Sutter, the White Motor Company (now Goodwill Industries) building at 1500 Mission (1927), the Campfire Girls building at 325 Arguello (1929, now S. F. Landmark #169), and the Arden Wood Benevolent Association (1930). He designed many residences in other parts of the City, including in:

- Pacific Heights - 2411 Green (1925), **1854 Vallejo (7 apts, 1925, now condos)**,  
- 3070 & 3080 Pacific & 2330 Lyon (1926-28, 3 adjacent houses),  
- 2566 Vallejo (1928);
- Lake St./Sea Cliff - 835 Lake (1923), #1 21st Ave. (1932), 247 Sea Cliff Ave. (1952);
- Cow Hollow - 2440 Filbert (1925), 2658-60 Greenwich (1926);
- Presidio Heights - 3415 Pacific (1925), 3435 Jackson (1927), 313 Maple (1929);
- Marina - 181 Marina Blvd. (1936);
- Telegraph Hill - 350-56 Greenwich (1936, on the steps down from Coit Tower).

Gutterson was appointed to the State Board of Architecture 1924-27; V.P. of the Northern California Chapter of the AIA 1928-30 and its President 1931-32. In 1946 Gutterson was awarded a citation and made a Fellow of the AIA for his pioneering work on the unification of the profession.