Whitley Heights (1992)



Whitley Heights is located in Hollywood, East of the Hollywood Bowl, occupying an area of lush hilly terrain to the north of Franklin Avenue. H.W. Whitley, who also helped develop Reseda, Van Nuys, and Hollywood, always considered Whitley Heights his "crowning achievement." Employing architect A.S. Barnes, Whitley sent him to tour and study the architecture and landscaping of the Mediterranean. Barnes designed the majority of the residences in Whitley Heights between 1918-1928, re-creating the ambiance of a Mediterranean village.

The beauty and seclusion of Whitley Heights' architecture and terrain quickly made it the home of Hollywood's elite: Rudolph Valentino, Tyrone Power, Gloria Swanson, Rosalind Russell, Judy Garland, and Charlie Chaplin, among many other stars, called it home. Unfortunately, the construction of the Hollywood Freeway divided the original layout of the neighborhood and destroyed more than 40 homes. However, the use of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Whitley Heights led the way for the popularity of this architectural style throughout Los Angeles. The Whitley Heights Historic District is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Photos: Larry Underhill