

## 59. Dr. John Kennedy "Doc" Ransom House 305 Magnolia Avenue



**Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution:** October 18, 2010  
**Designated by City Council:** March 22, 2011

**Description:** The 1910 home characterizes an architectural style associated with a particular era. It exhibits the distinctive characteristics of the Shingle architectural style that was used for domestic architecture during the period from late 1895 to 1915. The Shingle style was an unusually free form and variable style. Its details are strictly classic and firmly in the Colonial Revival tradition, with a raised first story and a recessed front porch. Its distinctive A-frame shape, shingle surfaces and gigantic gable twice as tall at its apex as the height of the first floor and as wide as the house that dominates the structure, lend it a distinctive and easily identifiable presence. The Shingle style remained primarily a "high fashion" architect's style rather than becoming widely adapted to vernacular housing.

**Historical Significance:** This 1910 residence is associated with the life of a person significant to Modesto's past. The connection with Dr. John (Jack) Kennedy "Doc" Ransom provides a link to Modesto's history. A prominent citizen, "Doc" Ransom was a leading member of the medical community in Modesto for several decades, 1920-1965, and served as County Coroner for over three of those decades. He owned and resided at 305 Magnolia Avenue from the early 1920s until his death in 1965. The current property owners are Aaron and Amy Vickery (2011).