

1931 – 1946: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Fullerton, like most of Orange County, experienced very limited growth in the 15-year period that ended with the conclusion of World War II. Few houses were erected, and only after 1940 does building activity resume in a significant way. One truly remarkable house was constructed at this time in the Streamline Moderne style.

Residential subdivisions such as those of the 1920s, in which houses were built one at a time and had their own personality, were no longer being created.

List of Properties

Mills House, 1937
George Amerige House, 1938
Gamble House, 1940
Rawlins, House, 1941

**Mills House
511 W. Fern Drive
Spanish Colonial Revival
1937**

This expansive “renaissance villa” with its deep setback on a large corner lot makes the property a major component to the neighborhood. The architecture is really a mixture of Revival styles. The use of stucco, a low-pitched tiled roof with modest overhang, and the extenuation of one-story wings from the central structure reflects the Spanish Colonial style. The massive two-story portion, formal and balanced in design, is reminiscent of the Colonial Revival, with the use of Georgian elements like its large multi-paned windows, centrally located entrance and spare detailing. The elevated site adds stature to the residence. The total effect provides an impressive statement, which must have been especially so when the house was built in the mid-1930s.

The house was built for W. Arlee Mills, part owner of the McCoy Mills auto dealership in Fullerton. The Mills family lived in the house until 1973.

The property’s corner location makes the residence a prime landmark within the Golden Hills neighborhood.



Historical Landmark

**George Amerige House
616 N. Harbor Boulevard
Cottage / Moderne Styles
1938**



This house, which shows an uneasy alliance of the Cottage style and Streamline Moderne, was built for George Amerige in 1938. The curved, one-story extension with its glass block fenestration and overhead balcony seems out of place with the rest of the two-story structure.

The significance of the property lies with its original owner, George Amerige. Amerige was one of the founders of Fullerton, and for 50 years he was involved with the development of the community. He moved here after living on the second floor of the building he constructed at the northeast corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in 1920.

This two-story Streamline Modern house near the top of Raymond Hill is unique in Fullerton. Built for Robert C. Gamble, the design relies almost exclusively on curved lines on the interior and the exterior corners. Construction took place between March and September of 1940, at a cost of \$16,000. Progress was reported frequently in the Fullerton News Tribune, in which the house was often referred to as the castle. Special features of the house are a terrazzo entrance hall, a sunken living room and a solarium.

The current owner is in the process of restoring the house, which had deteriorated over the years. The round pilasters of the new fence are not original but are in keeping with the architectural style of the residence.



**Gamble House
1313 N. Raymond Avenue
Streamline Moderne
1940**

Rawlins House
Gamma Phi Beta Sorority
600 E. Chapman Avenue
English Manor
1941



Reminiscent of an English manor, this two-story house was constructed in 1941, for Freda and George Rawlins. The architectural style, which features a series of “boxed” dormer windows that rise above the roofline, is rare to Fullerton. The use of flagstone for the chimney and other trim work is another distinguishing feature. Well tended landscaping contribute to the overall appearance, and the structure’s prominent location on a major arterial street provides a key visual landmark for the community.

The house is essentially unaltered except that in the 1980s, when the structure was converted for use as a sorority, an exterior staircase was constructed at the rear.