

# Burdorf House

**247 E. Valencia Drive**

**1915**

**Victorian / Craftsman**

**Status: Local Landmark**



This was a ranch house for the son of one of the community's early settlers, Henry Burdorf. Henry Burdorf, a German immigrant who came to the area in the 1870s, first maintained a ranch and farmed land in the Orangethorpe district. His oldest son, Henry Jr., built this house in 1915, as part of a 20-acre ranch that included land where Maple School and Lemon Park are now situated. The Burdorf family lived in this house until the 1950s.

This one-and-a-half story house exhibits traits of both Craftsman and Victorian architecture, as is commonly seen with early 20th century grove houses in Orange County. The steep gable roof that extends the entire length of the house, along with the front-facing gable dormer, is Victorian in nature; the broad front porch, with its multi-post supports at either end, reflects the Craftsman style that was so popular in the first two decades of the 20th century. The incorporation of multi-sectional, ganged windows, triangular wood brackets under the eaves, and the back-facing, large shed dormer in the design also shows a Craftsman influence.

The separate two-car garage to the west and the two-story duplex along the alley to the north were constructed in 2007-2010. With these two structures, a modest attempt was made to match the architecture of the main house. In 2012, the new owner of the property completely restored the house, including a reworking of the poorly-constructed porch area on the back (north) side of the house.

The property initially had 20 additional feet of frontage along Valencia Drive east of its present property line at Lemon Street. When Lemon Street was widened in the 1950s, the six-foot-high cinderblock wall was constructed along the property's east side – a feature that compromises the appearance of the property.