

Compton House

202 W. Whiting Avenue

1916

Craftsman Bungalow

**Status: Unrecognized
Significant Property**



This one-and-a-half story house was the residence of Oliver Summerbell Compton, one of Fullerton’s first builders who established a reputation for constructing sturdy and comfortable bungalows, primarily for the working and middle class. Born in Waterford, Indiana, Compton and his wife, Ida, moved to Pasadena in 1905, then Fullerton in 1910. He built this house in 1916, featuring numerous details, including small stained-glass panels on the north side. Craftsman detailing is found in all window and door framing, as well as contributing masonry features.

A glazed Batchelder tile set in the chimney was placed there in recognition of the couple’s son, Fauntleroy Langstroth (“Bud”), the chief colorist and assistant to famed tile artist Ernest A. Batchelder. A leader in the Arts and Crafts Movement, Batchelder created tiles that are highly valued by collectors. Oliver did everything he could to promote the company where his son worked, often using the tile in homes he was building. Following Compton’s lead, other Fullerton building contractors – Arthur Thompson, Frank Benchley, Ernest Gregory, etc. – began to use Batchelder tiles in their new construction. Bud’s own home in Pasadena (745 East Rio Grande) has such a profusion of beautifully designed and colored tiles that it was designated a Pasadena local landmark.

Oliver was a life-long member of the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), and Ida was an equally active member of the Rebekahs, the female auxiliary of the IOOF. Compton volunteered to both design and construct the new Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple (now the Williams Building) at 112 E. Commonwealth Avenue in 1927-28. This two-story brick building is a designated Local Landmark and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.