

Arthur J. Kelley House

539 W. Fern Drive

1923

Neoclassical Revival

Status: Local Landmark



Constructed for Arthur J. Kelley, who worked for the Brown-Dauser Lumber Company, the house was one of the earliest in the Golden Hill tract. In 1940, the property became the residence of the Hugh M. Warden family, who lived here for nearly 40 years. Hugh Warden owned and operated Service Roofing Company, a well-established business in Fullerton, and was Fullerton's Mayor from 1952 to 1954.

The residence is a unique example in Fullerton of this architectural style. This one-story residence exhibits neoclassical architectural elements with its nearly symmetrical design. The house is slightly elevated on a terraced lot to convey a platform base. Four Doric columns support a trellis of carved wood beams over a wide entry porch. With its flat roof, the house features a custom wood cornice that extends around the entire perimeter. The house was most likely designed by notable local builder Arthur M. Thompson, who had done previous work for Kelley.

In 2009, a new two-story detached building was constructed at the back of the property creating a second residential unit, but that construction does not affect the appearance of the house.