

# Royer House

1230 W. Orangethorpe Avenue

1923

Dutch Colonial Revival

Status: Local Landmark



This two-story house is one of several examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Fullerton, but the only one featuring the gambrel roof in the design. In addition to the typical features of the Dutch Colonial Revival style (a front portico with classical detailing; a balanced placement of multi-paned windows with decorative shutters; brick chimneys at both ends), the gambrel roof in this instance provides the illusion of a continuous dormer element for nearly the full length of the structure. The single-story solarium on the east end appears added but, in fact, is part of the original construction.

The house was designed by notable architect M. Eugene Durfee and built by local contractor George Pickering in 1923; it is one of the several houses that made up the community of Orangethorpe. Max Royer, for whom the house was built, was considered the unofficial “mayor” of this small community, which for a short time was an incorporated city in the 1920s. The Royer family lived in the house until the 1950s.

Other housing along Orangethorpe Avenue is associated with the Lovering family, which owned much of the land in this area during the early 1900s. When the area was annexed to Fullerton in the 1950s, and the land subdivided into tracts of single-family residences, two of the residential streets were named Royer and Lovering Avenues to honor the legacy of these families.