

# Lilburn Gardiner House

**1155 W. Orangethorpe Avenue**

**1923**

**Colonial Revival**

**Status: Local Landmark**



This elegant Colonial Revival house was the second residence for one of the area's pioneer families. The house sits on what remains of a 40-acre parcel that was bought by Alexander Gardiner, a Scotsman, who came to the area in the late 1860s. The family's one-story wood framed ranch house, that was first constructed on this property, was demolished soon after this two-story house was built in 1923 for Lilburn Gardiner and his wife, Anna. Lilburn was one of the five sons of Alexander Gardiner.

The Gardiner family was instrumental in the city's early years. Alexander Gardiner was held in high regard as a walnut rancher, and he helped establish the Fullerton Walnut Growers' Association. John Gardiner, one of his five sons, was elected to Fullerton's first City Council after its incorporation in 1904. The house remained in the Gardiner family until 1973.

The Colonial Revival style for this residence is patterned after a house in Tennessee where the Gardiners lived before coming to California. Joseph Blick, a well-regarded architect in Pasadena, designed the residence. The house is oriented with its front facing eastward, overlooking an entry driveway. Careful detailing, a balanced form, and the disposition of architectural elements characterize this style of house. The defining feature is the centrally located entrance, where a large sheltered porch is topped with an impressive balcony enclosed by wrought iron railing. The residence was constructed with a pump house on its north side. Both structures have been well maintained, and no major exterior alterations have been made to either one. The grounds are carefully landscaped and feature many Valencia orange trees.