

Otto House

126 N. Balcom Avenue

1925

Craftsman Bungalow

Status: Local Landmark



This two-story house sits in the middle of a one-acre parcel that still contains many of the original orange trees. In addition to the 3,450-square-foot house, the site contains the original two-car garage, matching the house in overall appearance. The house is an outstanding example of the Craftsman bungalow design with some unique features not present with others of similar vintage.

A covered porch extends around the west and south sides. The porch columns and walls are brick with a stucco finish – very unusual for a Craftsman bungalow. The roof is multi-gabled and massive in design with composition shingles and wide overhangs. The gutters are incorporated into the roof design and are invisible from the ground. There are the typical Craftsman touches in the interior: hardwood floors, wood trim and paneling, built-in shelving and counters, wood sliding doors between the main rooms, and a tiled fireplace and hearth. All of these features have been well preserved.

The house was constructed by Anaheim building contractor James Guy, at a cost of \$15,000, for Herman Otto and his wife, Mary. The Ottos had lived in different areas of Anaheim, Orange, and Fullerton before purchasing the lot for \$10,000. Herman and Mary Otto lived here for decades, raising one son and four daughters.

The house and garage are unaltered from its original construction; a shade structure has been added over the driveway, connecting to the garage.

The Otto family still retains ownership of the property.