

Carrie Earl McFadden Ford House

800 N. Grandview Avenue

1927

Colonial Revival

Status: Local Landmark



This one and half-story house was one of the first to be constructed in the Golden Hill area after a 25-acre property was subdivided into 27 large parcels in 1921. The structure is set back more than 60 feet from Grandview Avenue, with its front entrance facing the side street, Union Avenue, having only a modest setback.

The house was designed and built by Arthur M. Thompson, a well-known Fullerton builder and contractor. The architecture is an eclectic mix of Colonial Revival and California bungalow styles. The house's initial symmetrical front that faces Union Avenue, together with the use of a relatively steep 10/12-compound gable roof with its minimal overhang, reflects a Colonial Revival style; the grouped use of windows on various sides suggests a California bungalow design, as does the lack of ornamentation or shutters for the many windows of the house.

The house was built for Carrie Earl McFadden Ford, a prominent pioneer known not only for her ranching efforts but also for her social, civic, and business enterprise. Throughout her lifetime, Mrs. Ford was one of Fullerton's most philanthropic residents. She was extremely active in church, social, and civic affairs, serving as a pioneer and founder of many Fullerton organizations. In 1912, shortly after the state of California granted women the right to vote, Mrs. Ford, along with Mrs. Joan Hale, ran for the Board of Trustees (now the Fullerton City Council), becoming the first women to run for public office in Fullerton. After the Fullerton Union High School burned down in 1919 – a fire she saw from her on West Commonwealth Avenue – she worked to turn the land into Commonwealth Park (now Amerige Park), the city's first public park.

Mrs. Ford lived in the dwelling from 1927 to 1953, when it was purchased by its second owners, the Spree family. The property's third and current owners since 2014, have made substantial improvements to the .40-acre lot along with a sensitive restoration of the house.