

Abbott House

705 N. Richman Avenue

1929

Cottage Style

Status: Local Landmark



This house was constructed by Clinton F. Abbott, who was the local authorized dealer for Los Angeles-based Pacific Ready-Cut Homes, one of six major companies in the early 1900s that sold pre-cut houses. In span of five years between 1926 to 1931, Clinton sold and had built over 20 pre-cut houses in Fullerton. Residents interested in purchasing a Pacific Ready-Cut home could visit Abbott's office at 112 E. Amerige Avenue and select a house from 1,800 different designs – the majority of which were the quintessential one-story California bungalow, but plans offering Spanish, English Tudor, and Cottage style architecture were also available. Homebuyers could customize the pre-cut house design, and it is estimated that at least 50% of the buyers enlarged, reduced, or modified the plans to suit their individual needs or income.

An outstanding example of a Cottage style, this large, pre-cut house features a high-pitched gable roof with shingles applied in an imitation of thatching. The spaces above the main windows are decorated with stucco relief, most notably over the northern window in the front façade. The house has not been altered from its original construction. A detached two-story garage with an upstairs living area at the rear of the lot was built at the same time as the house.

The house was built with no buyer in place. It was opened to the public in April 1929, for inspection and sale, complete with furnishings. When no quick sale was made, Mr. Abbott took up residency in the house, staying there until 1934.