

Gamble House

1313 N. Raymond Avenue

1940

Streamline Moderne

Status: Significant Property



This two-story Streamline Modern house near the top of Raymond Hill is unique in Fullerton. Built for Ethel and Robert G. Gamble and their two sons, the design relies almost exclusively on curved lines on the interior and the exterior corners. Robert Gamble worked for the Quality Fruit Company in Fullerton, and later during World War II, he was employed with the Douglas Aircraft Company.

Construction was done by the Jewett Brothers, a long-established building company, between March and September of 1940, at a cost of \$16,000. Progress was reported frequently in the Fullerton News Tribune, in which the house was often referred to as “the castle.” At the time of house’s construction, Raymond Avenue was minimally constructed and terminated at the property, so the house was situated alone near the top of the hill.

Ethel Gamble, a former professional flower arranger, worked closely with local interior designer Cecil Randall to ensure that the interior had the latest Art Deco features. Special features of the residence include rounded windows, panels of glass brick, skylights, and steel-sash windows which open outward. The interior features a terrazzo entrance hall, a sunken living room and a solarium. The Gambles remained in the home until 1962, moving to a residence on the Orange County coast.

The house, which had deteriorated over the years, is slowly being restored. The round pilasters of the fence along Raymond Avenue are not original but are in keeping with the architectural style of the residence.