

Tracy House

1021 N. Lemon Street

1919

Craftsman Bungalow

Status: Local Landmark



This two-story house is an impressive Craftsman bungalow that retains its original architectural features. It is one of the few Craftsman houses built adjacent to Hillcrest Park before Spanish Colonial Revival became the preferred architectural style in the neighborhood. Initially, the house was situated on a large half-acre lot at the southwest corner of Lemon Street and Hillcrest Drive. In 1980, the lot was split, reducing the dwelling's once large grounds. Even with its smaller parcel, the house retains its original ambience in its attractive setting overlooking Lemon Street.

There is no building permit on file with the city, but county records indicate that the house was built in 1919. The house was built for H. Harwood Tracy, a dedicated and admired science instructor at Fullerton Union High School and Fullerton College for over thirty years. Starting in 1913, he was head of the natural science department, responsible for instruction in botany, zoology, and physical geography.

Two other town pioneers owned this house after Tracy, albeit at different times: Emerson J. Marks and John R. Gardiner; both were prominent residents in the early 1900s and members of the powerful and influential Fullerton Board of Trade. In the early 1920s, Marks served as City Attorney for Fullerton. He was later a jurist, sitting on the 4th District Court of appeals, retiring in 1948. At the turn of the century, John Gardiner ran a blacksmith shop in Fullerton, then moved into selling farming implements, and finally established a very successful real estate business, eventually owning extensive land holdings throughout California. A lifelong resident of Fullerton, Gardiner was elected to the first City Council in 1904, receiving the most votes of any candidate.