

Dreyfus Building

417-427 S. Harbor Boulevard

1924

Brick Commercial

Status: Local Landmark



This “L”-shaped brick building effectively dominates the surrounding streetscape. In a departure from the traditional format, the Cottage style was used for a multi-tenant commercial structure. The structure’s gable roof is primarily one story, except for the prominent corner section where second story casement windows are featured under a steep compound gable, giving the building a Midwestern flavor.

The part of the building that fronts Harbor Boulevard was constructed at a cost of \$21,000 in the mid-1920s for Emil Dreyfus – the son of Benjamin Dreyfus, who was a prominent Anaheim-based businessman and instrumental in that city’s development. In continuing his father’s business ventures, Emil Dreyfus constructed this building as a real estate investment upon observing the growing prosperity of mid-1920s Fullerton.

The back portion that fronts along Valencia Drive was added in 1948. The corner portion of the building was first used for an auto dealership in 1953, and the garage in the back, constructed by Charles R. Young and Son in 1945, was used to service cars. The back addition features a roof constructed with exposed wood trusses and wire glass skylights.

Over the years the front building has served a variety of commercial purposes, most recently as a furniture store. With these uses, exterior changes have taken place. The original transom windows are intact, but other portions of the building’s long storefront have been reworked many times, including the installation of the brick veneer to the bulkhead. The improvements made in the 1990s partially restored the building to its original appearance.