

Raymond Starbuck House

834 N. Woods Avenue

1927

Cottage Style

Status: Local Landmark



This 1927 home is described as an Irish country manor. Set on a one-quarter acre lot, the house is set back more than 80 ft. from the street. The two-story house is rich in careful details and craftsmanship. The graceful counter-curves of the building's façade typify the overall fine design. A flag drive and imported street lamp contribute to the ambience. Fine interior details include hand rubbed wood and hammered copper fireplace hood, as well as hand crafted hinges and metal work which were the products of Fullerton's first blacksmith.

The house was built for Raymond Starbuck, the son of William Starbuck. It replaced an earlier, smaller house built in 1922, and owned by the same family. Raymond Starbuck worked as an agricultural inspector for Orange County. The house remained in the Starbuck family until 1974.

The Starbuck family made significant contributions to the development of early Fullerton. Shortly after arriving in 1888, William Starbuck opened the first drug store, initially at Spadra Road (now Harbor Boulevard) and Santa Fe Avenue and finally in the Chadbourne Building at the northwest corner of Harbor Boulevard and Commonwealth Avenue. The Gem Pharmacy became the center of many downtown activities because of William Starbuck's enterprising nature. In addition to housing the drug store, the Gem Pharmacy was at various times the site of the post office with Starbuck as postmaster, the headquarters of Fullerton's first fire department, the first undertaker office, the first telephone exchange, and the first lending library. William Starbuck later successfully petitioned for a Carnegie library for Fullerton, and he helped establish the Fullerton Union High School, serving as Trustee for 15 years.