

Joseph Mennes House

432 W. Jacaranda Place

1928

Colonial Revival

Status: Local Landmark



This house is one of the few good examples of the Colonial Revival style in Fullerton. Typical of the style, the two-story house features a balanced placement of windows trimmed with shutters, the use of horizontal siding, and a centrally located portico entry defined by sets of two columns supporting a pedimented gable. The house is virtually unaltered from its original construction, as is the detached garage at the rear of the property.

The house was built for Joseph Mennes, a real estate agent and businessman involved in the construction industry. After moving from Wisconsin to Orange County, the four Mennes brothers – Joseph, John, Lawrence, and Gustave (Augustus) – were all involved in real estate ventures in Fullerton in the 1920s. Joseph was the most prominent of the brothers, co-owning the Reliance Lumber Company in 1926, and serving on various boards of directors for business concerns. Sometime after the 1929 stock market crash and the ensuing depression, Joseph sold the property and moved his family to Orange and, later, to Long Beach.

For many years this was the only two-story structure constructed in a neighborhood of 1920s California bungalows and modest Spanish Colonial Revival houses. Its contrasting architecture has always provided a strong landmark for the Jacaranda-Malvern area.