

Russ House

845 N. Euclid Street

1929

Spanish Colonial Revival

Status: Significant Property



This large, 5,100-sq.-ft., two-story building in the Spanish Colonial Revival style was originally a grove house, located on Orangethorpe Avenue, about a half mile west of Euclid Street and surrounded by citrus trees. Local builders Robert Carey and William Potter constructed the house for pioneer citrus rancher and businessman Albert Russ and his wife, Kathryn. The house represents one of the few instances where this style was used for a grove house.

When Kathryn Russ sold the property on Orangethorpe Avenue in 1953, she had the house moved to what was at that time the terminus of Euclid Street, where she lived until her death in 1959. The First Presbyterian Church bought the property in 1963, and the house was used as a church facility and named Hunter House for Graham Hunter, an active minister of the church during the 1920s and 1930s. The Congregational Church of Fullerton acquired the property in 1982, and continued to use the building for its church services and meetings until 2020.

The building is solidly intact, and there is no hint that the structure was cut in half as part of its relocation. Local builder, Evan Herbert, managed the move and reconstruction of the house on its new foundation. The house's original interior features, including two fireplaces with Batchelder tiles, light fixtures, a tiled staircase, and fine woodwork, are untouched and remain in excellent condition. The exterior architecture, including a Monterey-style balcony on the north side, is also intact; in fact, all of the original exterior features of the house are in place (except for the two reconstructed chimneys), and no additions have altered the size or look of the house since its move in 1953.