

1947-1970: RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

In post WWII, new housing was constructed in a new way: large tracts of land were developed all at once with houses in those tracts constructed with a limited number of plans and architectural features. Custom housing took place but was far outnumbered by “model home” construction where neighborhoods were composed of like-looking housing. Various “styles” of design for the tract housing are seen within this time frame: Minimalist bungalows in the late 1940s and early 1950s; the Ranch style and its more flamboyant off-shoot, the Story-book Ranch, in the later part of the 1950s and early 1960s; and the Mid-Century Modern style of the 1950s and 1960s. Large apartment complexes incorporating many units on one property started to be built in the city.

Fullerton evolved from an agricultural town with a population of 12,500 in 1946, to a suburban community of 86,000 people in 1970. The city’s boundaries increased with the annexation of property to the south, west and north. Countless commercial centers were created and manufacturing businesses, large and small, were founded within the city’s sizeable areas of industrially-zoned property. Numerous public schools were built throughout the city to accommodate the influx of families.

From this era there are several non-residential buildings that have architectural and cultural significance. Exceptional examples of residential architecture of this period are few, but there are many pristine houses that could be representative of a particular style of residential architecture.

List of Properties

Baughman and Rayne Lincoln and Mercury Dealership, 1947
Breedlove Restaurant, 1948
Commonwealth Apartments, 1948
Herman Hiltcher House, 1949
Beckman Instruments Administration Building, 1954
Keneley House, 1955
Arcadia Metal Products Headquarters Building, 1955
Stolle “Forever” House, 1956
Leo Fender House, 1960
American Electronics Building, 1960
Fullerton Savings and Loan Headquarters Building, 1961
Hunt-Wesson Foods, Inc. Headquarters Building, 1962
Hunt Library, 1962
YMCA Neon Sign, 1962
Hope International University campus buildings, 1964
Hope International University dormitories, 1965
Gibraltar Savings and Loan Building, 1966
Brashears Center, 1968