American Electronics Building

1600 E. Valencia Drive 1960 Mid-Century Modern Status: Unrecognized Significant Property



Constructed in 1960, the former American Electronics, Inc. building was one of dozens of manufacturing companies that established facilities in Fullerton after World War II. A striking example of Mid-Century Modern industrial architecture, the front features a perforated treatment of a brick wall and a long canopy structure composed of a concrete accordion-like roof held up with a series slender metal posts.

The building was designed by notable architect Eugene Kinn Choy. He was the second Chinese-American to become a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) after I. M. Pei, and the first in California. This building is one of the few in Fullerton designed by a Chinese-American architect.

The building's original façade and exterior features are largely intact; only minor additions have taken place, all of which are able to be easily removed. In 1991, seismic safety improvements were completed, but they do not affect the exterior appearance of the building.

American Electronics occupied the building until 1999; the property is now the home of a screen printing business.