

West Wilshire Avenue

Status: city-recognized potential Historic District

The dozen residences on the south side of the 600 block of West Wilshire Avenue may be rightfully identified as the first planned development in Fullerton. Constructed in 1922-23, these small houses were on postage-stamp lots, originally no more than 2,250 square feet in area. Ernest Gregory, the builder, constructed the houses in response to the very real housing shortage that quickly materialized after World War I. The residences were no more than 1,000 square feet and sold for around \$2,000. Their construction is the first documented example in Fullerton of an entire tract of houses being built at one time and in accordance with a few basic designs. Gregory used a simple cubical shape for these houses, alternating between what is now defined as a Minimal Traditional style and the Spanish Colonial Revival. The exception to this pattern is the house at 622 West Wilshire Avenue, where a later residence was built after the abandonment of the Marwood Avenue right-of-way.

There has been very little in the way of alterations or additions to these modest residences except for the addition of garages at the back of these properties along the public alley.

