

W THE HISTORIC ELLIOTT HOUSE

hen Harry T. Ball and Allison C. Honer first developed Floral Park, they started with a plot of land that stretched from the west side of Flower to the West side of Greenleaf, from the north side of 17th Street to the north side of Heliotrope, plus an additional 5 lots on either side of Flower. In addition to being realtors, Ball & Honer were also builders. They would go on to build the 1935 Art Deco Santa Ana City Hall building, the El Toro Marine Base and the Honer Shopping Plaza.

To kick off the development, and to show off their design and building skills, they constructed four distinct showcase homes on the four corners of Heliotrope and 19th Street, each home built in a different architectural style. They were to serve as examples of the superior craftsmanship and construction they offered in the popular home designs of the times. It was a decidedly optimistic move for Ball & Honer in the middle of the Great Depression, but their business record was successful enough to allow them to move forward.

They started with a Spanish Colonial Revival home followed by an English Tudor Revival home in 1930. They would complete the four corners with an Art Deco home in 1937.

But by far, the most elaborate home is the third house built on the northwest corner in 1931. It is a distinctive 4,149 square foot, 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom home in the Italian Renaissance style and features an elegant reception hall, vaulted living room with beamed ceiling, carved stone fire place and private library. Each of the upstairs bedrooms has its own tiled bathroom and balcony. In addition to the grand magnesite staircase, there is a back staircase for staff and maid's quarters on the lower level. Construction costs were said to be \$20,000, a significant sum at the time.

The home, which sold for \$35,000, first became the residence of a wealthy widow, Mrs. Marie Turley. The Turleys, who lived in Huntington Beach, had purchased nine lots in the city's oil district in 1913 which they leased to the West Whittier Oil Company and Standard Oil. Her husband Stephen passed away in 1923.

She immediately set to work having the home detailed to her liking. A crew of artists were brought in from Italy to create an elaborate mural in the library (each wall depicting a different season), and paint designs on the ceilings in the



reception hall, breakfast room, dining room, on the beams in the living room and details on the bathroom walls.

Prominent in Santa Ana society, her trips to Hollywood and San Francisco as well as her voyage through the canal to Europe were noted in the Santa Ana Register. The newspaper even makes special mention of the lovely sound of her chime doorbells.

The Register reports that she later leased 160 acres of her land holdings in Costa Mesa to the government for a bomb making operation in 1941.

Marie's daughter, Helen, graduated from Santa Ana Polytechnic High School in 1933. She went on to marry and move to Hollywood, where she was sued in 1937 for \$145 by the Madden Pharmacy for "certain necessities of life and other goods, wares and merchandise" for which she failed to pay.

The home became the residence of Dr. Arthur C. Elliott in the 1940s. Dr. Elliott maintained a practice in Anaheim. He reportedly built an office on Los Angeles Street across from Union Station for his ear, eye, nose and throat practice in 1941. Mrs. Elliott was active in the Orange County Assistance League, founded in Santa Ana in 1935 by Mrs. James Irvine. The Elliotts lived there for more than 50 years until 2001 when their trust sold it to the third owners, the Paddocks.

In 2003, the home was listed on the Santa Ana Register of Historic Places as a historic landmark and in 2014, the home was purchased by the Ness family who have painstakingly restored it to its original grandeur. The kitchen, remodeled several times over the decades, now reflects its classic 1930s roots. Original crystal chandeliers still hang in the dining room and hallway. Elaborate lighting fixtures were carefully hand-crafted to duplicate the originals that hung in the grand reception hall. The original tile bathrooms are still intact, and the beautiful hand-painted murals still adorn the walls and ceilings.

One of Floral Park's iconic estate homes, the historic Elliott House is as stately and grand today as it was in 1931! *For more photos and information, go to FloralPark.com/homes.*

