

# Prather House

## 4171 Merritt Boulevard

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This Spanish Eclectic house at 4171 Merritt Boulevard dates to 1927. It has an “L” shaped footprint, low pitched roof and a porch across the front. The porch is accented with heavy redwood support posts, decorative details, and railings. Nearly all of the detailing, hardware, and wood-frame windows and doors are in original condition. The Prather House was one of the first to be built in the area known as La Mesa Highlands, a 1927 subdivision of the Merritt Ranch. Richard and Dottie Prather, who were both of German descent, built the “modern country home” and relocated from Kentucky.

Richard Prather was a journalist. The house was owned by the Prathers until 1942. Subsequent owners included Benton and Lorene Field (1946-1972), proprietors of an upholstery manufacturing company in North Park, and Harlin and Beulah Kermicle (1972-2003). Interestingly, the roof tiles on the house carry the stamp of the Junipero Company. These rare tiles were also used on the 1929 Junipero Serra Museum in Presidio Park. Junipero tiles are tapered Mexican Mission barrel tiles that were hand-made by laying a sheet of clay across one’s thigh.