

# Foster House

**524 E. Commonwealth Avenue**

**1929**

**Spanish Colonial Revival**

**Status: Significant Property**



This charming Spanish style house is one of the most innovative examples of the type. A low gabled wing on the west has three attractive arched windows, one featuring stained glass showing a cowboy. Adjoining is a two-story section with a Monterey style balcony, while further east is a third section, distinguished by a round tower with a conical roof having four, evenly-spaced double hung windows. East of the residence is a separate building containing three small bungalow units, built in 1942.

Albert Foster, a prominent cement and gravel contractor in the 1920s, constructed both the residence and triplex apartment development. He maintained and operated his business, Foster Sand and Gravel, from this property from 1930 to 1948. Albert Foster was very active in the Orange County Builder's Exchange, eventually being named its president in 1932.

In 2002, Edwin Foster, Albert's son, substantially renovated the house and grounds to install modern amenities while preserving the historic character of the residence. As part of this renovation, fireplace tiles were restored to their original appearance; the aluminum framed windows, that had replaced the original ones in the conical tower, were removed and new wooden framed windows reinstalled; and the original brick wall between the main house and the triplex was recapped.

The Foster family continues to own property.