

Richman House

**538 W. Amerige Avenue;
Initially 541 W. Commonwealth
Avenue**

1898

Victorian

**Status: Unrecognized
Significant Property**



A large Victorian cottage initially, this structure has been significantly altered. It is now part of an apartment development from the 1960s, and is partially hidden from public view. When the residence was constructed at the turn of the century, it faced southward and was situated at the back of a five-acre property that had its frontage along Commonwealth Avenue.

The house was built for Evert S. Richman, who was a botanist and horticulturist. In 1898, he bought the five-acre P. A. Schumacher Nursery in Fullerton and built the residence. He continued operating the business as the Orange County Nursery and Land Company until the 1920s, eventually owning more than 400 acres of land in different localities. A very successful business man, Richman served on the City Council and was president of the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce.

By 1927, the front portion of the property had been sold and several lots were created and developed as single-family residences (now commercial uses), all of which now block a view of the Richman House from Commonwealth Avenue. Although the residence is intact, a major second story addition and alterations to the original front side have changed its appearance. Also, in the 1950s, the house was converted to create four small apartments.