

# Pomona Apartments

**320 N. Pomona Avenue**

**1923**

**Spanish Colonial Revival**

**Status: Local Landmark;  
Listed on the National Register**



Constructed in 1923, this two-story Spanish Colonial Revival building, situated on the southeast corner of Pomona and Whiting Avenues, consists of two units on each floor. The box-like fourplex was designed to appear like a private residence in size and scale, and from the street, the Pomona Apartments look very much like a two-story home with a central front entrance and a second-story balcony.

Of wood-frame and stucco construction, the apartment house retains nearly all of its original features characteristic of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Although the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural elements are apparent, it is a somewhat simplified version of the style. Historic exterior features include a low pitched, stepped pantile roof, smooth stucco walls, plaster window sills, arched entryways, and the use of decorative iron work on balcony railings, air vent grilles, and a gate.

Nearly all of the apartment house's exterior details, including doors, windows, and trim have been retained. The only change, made in 1987, was the removal of the stairs on the south side of the structure, along with two plain wooden doors on the upper level which provided delivery access for the blocks of ice.

The apartment was built as a second phase of development on a .45-acre lot that also comprise the 10-unit Pomona Court to the south. The Pomona Court was constructed first in 1922. Both developments were the product of the Fullerton Improvement Company, an organization composed of prominent businessmen whose mission was to finance the construction of a host of needed buildings in the city to foster its well-being and progress.

The residential development was a response to the pent-up demand for housing after World War I. The Fullerton Improvement Company commissioned Frank Benchley to design both the Pomona Court and

Pomona Apartments. Benchley's use of Spanish Colonial Revival features in the Pomona Apartments was in response to a pledge made by various city groups in 1919 that future community buildings would be designed with this architectural style. Local builder, Herbert Coon, was hired by Benchley to construct the 4-unit building as well as the adjacent Pomona Court.



**Pomona Apartments, 1927**