

# Albert Sitton Automobile Showroom and Sales Building

201 W. Commonwealth Avenue

1923

Brick Commercial

Status: Unrecognized  
Significant Property



Located at the northwest corner of Commonwealth and Malden Avenues, the brown-painted brick commercial building is a fine representative example of an early 20th-century automobile dealership; constructed in 1923, the dealership was one of the earliest in Fullerton. It was designed by an unidentified local builder with input from Albert H. Sitton, who most likely received architectural guidelines from Willys-Overland Motors, a company that was in the process of building new dealerships across the country. The first automotive dealerships and showrooms in Fullerton were converted repair shops, and Sitton's Automobile Sales was one of the first buildings in the city to be constructed solely as a dealership.

Sitton actually constructed two brick buildings designed for different purposes. The front building, located on the northwest corner at 201 W. Commonwealth Avenue, was to be used as a showroom, sales room and offices for Willys-Knight and Sterns-Knight motor cars. A rear structure (205 W. Commonwealth Avenue) was built at the same time for the sales of automobile parts and the maintenance and repair of cars. For that reason, the showroom features architectural details, such as large display windows that extend across the front (south), while the rear service building, partially hidden from the street, is plain and functional, lacking the brick detailing of the building along Commonwealth Avenue.

The former automobile showroom retains a high degree of historic integrity. The transoms have been covered with easily removable material and awnings have been added to the south and east sides of the structure. The original tiled floors are covered with carpet. At some point, the connecting doorway between the showroom and automobile repair building was blocked off. The building was seismically retrofitted in 1994.