

# Mariola Apartments

**520 E. Commonwealth Avenue  
1929**

**Spanish Colonial Revival**

**Status: Significant Property**



The Spanish Colonial style has seldom been used to such good effect as it is here in this small, intimate bungalow court. Six detached one-story units are grouped around an ensemble of palm trees and other landscaping with two small fountains. The court is entered from Commonwealth Avenue through an arched gate.

The apartments were constructed a unit at a time, over a one-year period. Initially, ownership rested with two families: the Fosters and the Blocks. In 1932, Albert Foster obtained full ownership, and the complex was known as the Foster Apartments until 1946, when the property was sold. The Mariola family purchased the property in 1970, and renamed the complex the Mariola Apartments. The property remains under that family's ownership.

No major alterations are apparent, and the property has been maintained in excellent condition. One significant restoration to an exterior feature took place in 2015: the two large arched windows facing Commonwealth Avenue were replaced.