

Mills House

511 W. Fern Drive

1937

Spanish Colonial Revival

Status: Local Landmark



This expansive “renaissance villa” with its deep setback on a large, elevated corner lot makes the property a major component to the neighborhood. The architecture is really a mixture of Revival styles. The use of stucco, a low-pitched tiled roof with modest overhang, and the extenuation of one-story wings from the central structure reflects the Spanish Colonial style. The massive two-story portion, formal and balanced in design, is reminiscent of the Colonial Revival, with the use of Georgian elements like its large multi-paned windows, centrally located entrance and spare detailing. The elevated site adds stature to the residence. The total effect provides an impressive statement, which must have been especially so when the house was built in the mid-1930s.

The house was built for W. Arlee Mills, part owner of the McCoy Mills auto dealership in Fullerton. The Mills family lived in the house until 1973.

The property’s corner location makes the residence a prime landmark within the Upper Golden Hill neighborhood.