

Cowles Apartments

437-441 W. Malvern Avenue

1941

Moderne Style

Status: Unrecognized
Significant Property



This residence has Moderne Style architecture and was constructed as a triplex – both unusual aspects for this neighborhood of traditional bungalow houses. Perched on a pad high above the street grade, this structure seems to be a combination of architectural styles with a melding of Moderne, Minimal Traditional, and International design themes of the 1930s. Unaltered from its original construction, the structure's banks of metal casement windows on the second story is the distinguishing feature. The hillside setting and mature landscaping on a corner lot make this property a major component in the neighborhood.

The triplex was constructed for Dr. and Mrs. Danforth Cowles; George Pickering was the contractor. While under construction, Dr. Cowles, a physician and surgeon for 22 years in Fullerton, died unexpectedly at age 66 from a heart attack. His wife, Anna, lived in one of the units until 1952.