

Lillie House

1530 E. Commonwealth Avenue

1930

Spanish Colonial Revival

Status: Significant Property



This large scale, two-story house portrays a more austere design than is normally seen in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Only two large windows and four small ones on the street side pierce the simple rectangle, and the slight setback of the façade at the door does not interfere seriously with the geometric lines. The hipped tile roof and generous porch are good visual accents. The house is essentially unaltered but detached structures have been built at the rear of the property: a guest house in 1959, and garages in 1982.

A. V. Van Tuyle constructed this house for rancher Orrin Lillie in 1930. The Lillie family owned considerable land between what is now Acacia Avenue and State College Boulevard, and a residential street in this area is named for the family. Upon Lillie's death in 1949, the house was sold to Judge Raymond Thompson. Mr. Thompson served as the City Attorney in the 1930s, and later he was appointed to and presided over the Superior Court of Orange County starting in 1945. The property continues to be owned by the Thompson family.