

# ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME C. P. Mullen House		COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. 194
COMMON PROPERTY NAME D. R. Van Petten House		QUAD/COUNTY MAP	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 918 Mill Ave.			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Tempe		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 132-42-50	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Leora Van Petten		PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 913 Mill Avenue			
CITY, TOWN Tempe		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85281
FORM PREPARED BY Janus Associates		DATE 1/83	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 2121 S. Priest Suite 127		PHONE 967-7117	
CITY, TOWN Tempe		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85282
PHOTO BY Tempe Historical Society		DATE 1982	
VIEW looking southwest			
HISTORIC USE residence			
PRESENT USE residence		ACREAGE less/one	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Built 1924			



## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Mullen/Van Petten House is a Period Revival single-story frame house with a shingled pitched roof and is rectangular in plan. Georgian Revival style characteristics include the symmetry of the facade, a portico with pedimented gable covering the single leaf central door, and gable returns. The pedimented gable of the portico features embossed scrollwork and is underscored with brackets. The portico has two sets of triplet square pillars rising from the floor to a frieze framing the three sides of the portico. Decorative crosspieces link the pillars in each triplet. Gable ends of the house are characterized by boxed eaves, louvered vents, and gable returns. The siding covering the house rises to the roof line. Casement windows are in triplets on the front facade and in pairs on other facades. Contemporary awnings cover front facade windows.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY**

The Mullen/Van Petten House was built for C. P. Mullen in 1924 by the Pacific Ready Cut Company, and is probably a pre-fabricated house. Built in October, 1924, the house is one of the most outstanding residential structures constructed during the revival of Period architecture in Tempe. Its fine architectural detailing and workmanship, executed in a Georgian Revival format, exemplify the national trend to return to styles of the past, popular during the late 1920s and 1930s. It is noteworthy also for being the first such Period Revival residence to be built in Tempe.

C. P. Mullen was a stockman and rancher in the Kyrene District from approximately 1905 through 1921. The Mullen family occupied the house from its construction in 1924 until the mid-1930s.

The house was later acquired by Donald R. Van Petten, a Tempe educator and politician. Van Petten served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1928 to 1930 and taught at ASU from 1942 to 1961 in the history and political science departments. During this period, he wrote several editions of government texts used in Arizona schools. His widow still lives in the house.

**SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Tempe News 10/4/24, 3:3  
3/4/34, 3:3

Tempe City Directories 1923-1932

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1927

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lot 15, Block 28, Gage Addition  
Tempe Quad  
Z-12, E-412660, N-3698015

**GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY**