

# Mary Spencer House

**1520 W. Orangethorpe Avenue**

**1917**

**Craftsman Bungalow**

**Status: Significant Property**



This imposing two-story Craftsman style bungalow was one of several grove houses that once formed the community called Orangethorpe. In 1917, builder Edward Schenik constructed the house for Mary Ann Rogers Spencer, the widow of Dr. Thomas Spencer. The house was initially situated on 20 acres that Mary Spenser bought in 1906. In 1915, Mary Spenser sold five acres of the property to her third son, Clarence, for \$10, who constructed his own house at what is now the southwest corner of Commonwealth and Basque Avenues. Mary Spenser remained living at the residence until her death in 1945.

For many years the 4,260-sq.-ft. house and property was used as a preschool. The preschool is no longer in business, despite the existence of the sign over the entrance.

The arrangement of the upper story, the particularly deep front porch, the use of stonework, and the integrated design of the porte-cochere make this house unique to Fullerton. The structure is essentially unaltered from its original construction and setting, and the interior woodworking remains intact. The original wood exterior, however, is now covered with a well-crafted metal siding.