

Maria Bastanchury House

419 E. Las Palmas Drive

1921

Spanish Colonial Revival

Status: Significant Property



This impressive two-story Spanish Colonial style house with full basement was apparently the last of several ranch houses that were built by the pioneer Bastanchury family. The house was situated in the North Home Grove section of the San Juan Rancho. It was the residence of Maria Bastanchury.

Domingo Bastanchury and his wife, Maria, were Basque immigrants who came to this area in 1870, and immediately bought land in the Fullerton hills for sheep herding. The Bastanchury family acquired more land during the early 1900s, and at the peak of this family's success, land ownership covered over 12,000 acres in what is now parts of Fullerton, La Habra and Buena Park.

Due to the Great Depression and bad land management practices, the Bastanchury holdings went into receivership in 1931, having liabilities of more than two million dollars. In 1935, the Sunny Hills Ranch Company was formed to manage and sell off the land holdings. Over a period of years, various portions of the ranch were sold; in the mid-1940s this house with surrounding land was sold. Ownership changed hands again in 1953, when the Ellingson family bought the property and lived in the residence until 1963. The property was then acquired by the Kennedy family, and ownership continues to stay in this family to this day.

The property was outside the city's limits until the 1960s, when the area east of Harbor Boulevard and north of the present-day Fullerton Golf Course became part of the city of Fullerton through annexation.

The house and grounds remain essentially unaltered, and there is still a generous 70-foot setback from Las Palmas Drive which distinguishes the property from others along the street. A small addition to the detached garage at the back of the property, constructed in 1998, represents the only modification to this property.