

# John Menges House

**224 W. Malvern Avenue**

**1920**

**Craftsman Bungalow**

**Status: Local Landmark**



Built for Fullerton dentist John Menges, this modest house represents a distinct phase in the development of local master architect Frank K. Benchley, where his designs evolved from Craftsman-style bungalows to a more simplified style devoid of any period revival elements. The transitional dwellings – which would influence other building contractors – are unique to Fullerton and easily distinguished by their characteristic style and quality from other homes constructed during this era. Other Benchley designed residences of this style are at 132 W. Brookdale Place; 708 N. Harbor Boulevard; and 126 W. Malvern Avenue.

The wood-framed house was designed in a transitional style that bridges the Craftsman era, especially visible on the rear (south) side, and the more simplified forms of the Minimal Traditional style popular in the 1930s. The modest porch is the focal feature of the front façade, which has minimal ornamentation. The exterior of the bungalow retains a high degree of historic integrity. All original windows are in place; only the two French doors at the rear of the house are replacements of the original ones. Two small additions to the exterior of the house are minor and do not detract from the historic character of the building: the display of two incompatible Victorian-style lights, with globe glass shades, on the opposite sides of the front door, and a Victorian-styled five-lamp post light near the front walkway. Both are easily removable.

The house is situated in the Malvern-Jacaranda neighborhood which is composed primarily of modest, single-story residences built in the 1920s. Although not built by Benchley, there are other similarly designed residences located elsewhere in this older neighborhood: 216, 222, 315, 320 and 410 W. Malvern Avenue; 433 W. Jacaranda Place; 515 W. Union Avenue; and 331 and 339 W. Wilshire Avenue.