

Escondido History Center

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Museum



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Oct. 13, 2013

12n-4pm



Adobe



Home



Tour



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Escondido Adobe Timeline

- 1843 Juan Bautista Alvarado obtains Rancho Rincon del Diablo from Mexican Governor & builds adobe home
- 1845 Joseph Snooks adobe built
- 1857 Judge Oliver Witherby, rancho Rincon del Diablo owner, builds adobe home
- 1870 Zenas Sikes builds adobe home that eventually becomes Sikes Adobe Farmstead museum
- 1886 Escondido established, becomes city 2 years later
- 1920 Escondido builds first City Hall on Grand Ave
- 1938 Escondido builds second City Hall of adobe
- 1930s Adobe home built on S. Escondido Blvd (eventually becomes Hacienda de Vega restaurant)
- 1940s L R Green inspired after visiting S. Escondido Blvd adobe
- 1949 L R Green opens Adobe Block Company
- 1951 Weir Bros. Construction moves to Escondido
- 1950s Green Ranch and Longview Acres, adjacent subdivisions, developed with exclusively custom adobe homes
- 1980s New California building codes make it impossible to build adobe homes
- 1988 City abandons adobe city hall

Welcome

to the Escondido History Center's 2013 Adobe Home Tour!

This program is your ticket. Show it at each home.

You can visit the homes in any order.

Please see map, along with parking notes, in the centerfold.

No photography or video taping allowed inside homes.

Homes close promptly at 4pm.

Special thanks to our homeowners:

Brad and Tao Dawson

Dale and Mary Delmege

Judy O'Boyle and Tim Johnston

Erik and Christine Zedelmayer

San Dieguito River Park

Additional thanks to:

Alexa Clauson

Tom McCoy

Greg Pearson

Linda Weir

Frazier Farms

Gretchen Pelletier

Diane Reardon

Our program sponsors



The original builder of this 1955 home is unknown. But in 1965 Weir Bros. Construction, (perhaps also the original builder) greatly expanded Martin and Carole Goldberg's home. A new kitchen, master suite and a TV room, were added. The living room fireplace appears to be a Weir Bros. design feature.

The current owners purchased it as eleven years ago and have loving added numerous features (fountain, pizza oven, fireplace, pergola) to the property, each sited to be easily viewed from inside the home.



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Sikes Adobe Farmstead

The Zenas Sikes adobe is a State Point of Interest. Owned by the San Dieguito Riverpark, it has been restored to look as it did during its most significant time period—1869 to 1899. It is adobe construction from the American era.

Originally restored in 2004, three years later the building burnt to the ground with the exception of the adobe walls. It was rebuilt, and reopened in 2010.



The Farmstead is open to the public several days every week, and hosts a weekly Farmers Market on Sunday.



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Homer Heller obtained the first franchise for bus service between Escondido and Oceanside in September 1945. Originally, this station wagon was used to transport auto parts between the two dealerships. As passenger-needs grew, so did the bus from a small school bus to a full-sized one. It made three daily runs, stopping in Vista and other points and meeting the train in Oceanside. Pictured from left are John R. Crenshaw, employee and part-time driver; Homer Heller, Fred Rich, driver; and Percy Evans, owner of Escondido Daily Times Advocate newspaper.



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Adobe City Hall 1938—1988, 100 Valley Blvd., photo c1953

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A Brief History of Escondido Adobe

Escondido began as Juan Batista Alvarado's rancho called Rincon del Diablo. His 1843 adobe home, and the 1857 home of a later owner of the rancho, Judge Oliver Witherby, were in close proximity to each other. Both were SE of Bear Valley Parkway at Hwy78. The Joseph Snooks adobe was built in 1845 on a hill N of Bear Valley middle school. Additional homes were Omer Oaks Adobe (in Kit Carson Park) and the Zenas Sikes Adobe, which is on our tour today. Originally within the Bernardo Township, today the Oaks and Sikes adobes would be considered Escondido homes.

Escondido was established in 1886. Last week the City celebrated 125 years since incorporation on October 8, 1888. The city's second City Hall, a WPA project, opened on the city's 50th anniversary in 1938. Referred to as the Adobe City Hall, it was located on Valley Blvd; Palomar hospital was built behind it in 1950.

Hacienda de Vega restaurant on S. Escondido Blvd began as an adobe home built in the 1930s. After visiting the home in the late



1940s, L R Green was inspired to form the Adobe Block Company in 1949. Located on 100 acres in what is today Kit Carson Park, the Adobe Block Company produced 3.5 to 4 million bricks using soil from

that location. It later moved to the San Pasqual High School site. Green used some blocks for his own home construction business. But most blocks were sold to other builders throughout San Diego, Riverside, Orange and Imperial counties.

The Weir Brothers Adobe Construction company moved to Escondido in 1951. They were the most well know adobe home builder in the area. Their office building on South Escondido Blvd still exists today. Because of the ready access to large amounts of adobe blocks, many other local contractors also built in adobe from time to time. Due to 1980s changes in the building code, adobe home can no longer be built in California.

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The original owners of this home, William Barend and his wife Mary Jo, had it built with an adobe façade in 1966 or 1967. Although it was built in the same era as the many all-adobe homes in the neighborhood, it has more conventional construction with an adobe skin, but blends in seamlessly due to similar features.

Current owners have made many changes to the home, but always with an eye to the appropriate look for this charming home.



On a two acre lot with organic orange trees below the house, a beautiful patio with several decks draws you outdoors.



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This home was built in 1980 by George C. Patterson for Roy Chambre. Patterson built a number of adobe homes, including one nearby where he still lives.

A beautiful Mexican hacienda-style home much in the Weir fashion, the home features heavy reclaimed timber beams, a whimsical chimney, wall niches, an outdoor kitchen and beautifully landscaped pool area in a courtyard with flagstone pavers.

Throughout the home you'll see unpainted adobe blocks which were made on site.



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This home was built in 1958 by John "Jack" Weir for his own family. He and his wife Carnella raised their children here. Jack typically served as contractor for the Weir Bros. Construction Company, with his Larry Weir as the designer. The company used recycled lumber decades before it became fashionable; they

would purchase old train trestles and piers, then use the large beams in their custom homes. This practice is visible in the living room of this home. The Weirs lived in the house until 1975.



Later owners include Dr.

James Bulen. He was a general, vascular and trauma surgeon at Palomar Hospital from 1960 through 1995 and was chief of staff at one time.

The homeowner is an expert woodworker and furniture builder. His work can be seen throughout the home.



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