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Adobe

Home Tour



Sunday Oct. 5, 2014

11am - 4pm

the
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legacy

Who we are:

60 years ago the Weir family created the "Gold Standard" for adobe homes in Southern California. In an effort to maintain the legacy, Bob Weir Sr. and Rob Weir Jr. have created a firm aimed at catering to the needs of those who love adobe. Our goal is to provide adobe homeowners with the expertise and resources they require.

What we do:

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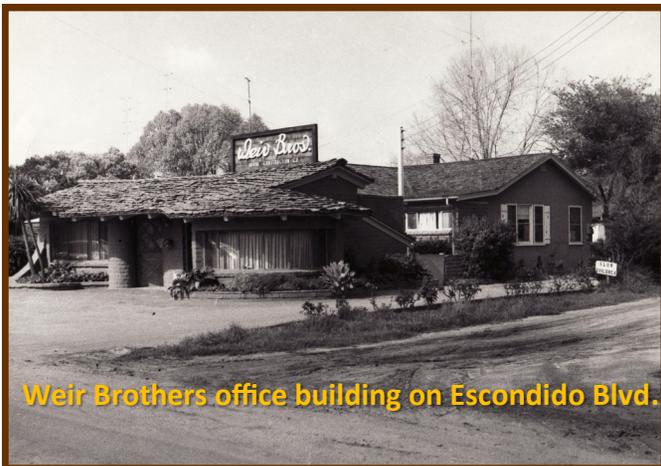
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Escondido Adobe Timeline

- 1843** Juan Bautista Alvarado is granted 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 and several adobe outbuildings.
- 1870** Zenas Sikes builds adobe home that eventually becomes Sikes Adobe Farmstead museum.
- 1886** Escondido established, becomes city two years later.
- 1920** First City Hall is built on Grand Ave.
- 1938** Second City Hall is built of adobe as a WPA project.
- 1930s** Adobe home built on S. Escondido Blvd. (Today's Hacienda de Vega restaurant).
- 1949** L. R. Green opens Adobe Block Company, inspired by So. Escondido Blvd. house.
- 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 prohibit traditional adobe construction, ending an era.
- 1988** Adobe City Hall demolished.



Weir Brothers office building on Escondido Blvd.

Welcome

to the Escondido History Center's 2014 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 is allowed inside homes.

Homes close promptly at 4pm., except

The Ranch at Bandy Canyon, which closes at 2pm

Special thanks to our homeowners:

Cathie and Tom Fields

Laura and Mike Jones

Joanne and Tom Shappard

Hacienda de Vega Restaurant and Bar

The Ranch at Bandy Canyon

Additional thanks to:

The Adobe Home Tour Volunteer Committee

&

Our Program Sponsors



Proceeds benefit the Escondido History Center

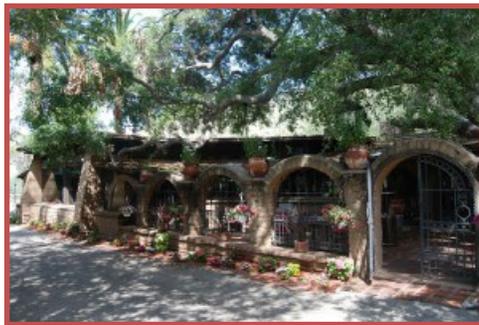
The Ranch at Bandy Canyon The Justine Fenton Adobe Open from 11am—2pm only

Justine Fenton, widow of ranch owner Henry Fenton, loved to spend time and entertain at her working ranch. Henry had purchased the original acreage in 1916 for \$25,000. He later added 1,000 acres more at \$3/acre. Part of the ranch was deeded to the city of San Diego after his death in 1951. Much of that acreage is today's San Diego Zoo Safari Park.



The adobe lodge on today's tour was built in 1958 for Justine to create a country retreat and entertainment venue with "ultra-modern conveniences" as well as rustic touches. In 1970, the Weir Brothers were brought in to enhance the lodge, adding touches such as wagon wheels (a Weir signature touch) and installing a chuck wagon in the kitchen! Fifty-eight deep wells provide the ranch with water, allowing for the lush grounds.

Upgrades included a new bath house, brick paved patio, seven-foot round terrazzo dining table and a tiled entry designed by Larry Weir. Notice the heavy wood beams, once the old San Diego Pier, and the base of the dining table, fashioned from a wine barrel.



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**Hacienda de Vega Bar and Restaurant
The Charles Paxton House**

The familiar pond of Hacienda de Vega restaurant was once the swimming pool in the expansive backyard of the then-home of Charles Paxton, adobe home contractor from La Jolla. He and real estate developer Lawrence R. Green had earlier laid out sections of land among nearby orange and avocado groves for a large adobe housing development. By 1948, Paxton completed construction of his model home, thus marking the birth of mid-century modern adobe revival for the Escondido area. Many original features of the adobe can be viewed amid the romantic setting of the Hacienda de Vega restaurant—the former living room with open beam ceilings, a large fireplace; the restored fountain, outdoor bar and swimming pool, now a lily pond.

In 1962, the structure was adapted for Pat Brillo's Adobe Hacienda Mexican restaurant. Ten years later, Benjamin Cueva, Sr., owner of two small eateries in Escondido, purchased Pat Brillo's and opened Los Amigos. Upon his passing in 1974, his son, Ben, operated the restaurant until closure of Highway 395 made it no longer profitable to remain in business. Hacienda de Vega Bar and Restaurant opened in 2003.



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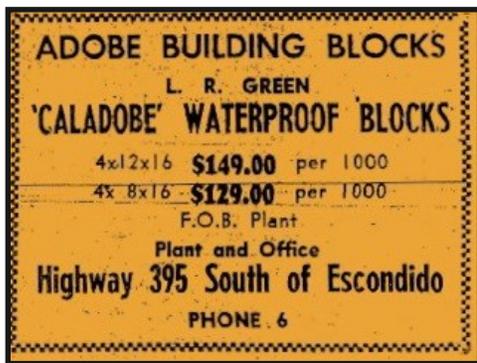


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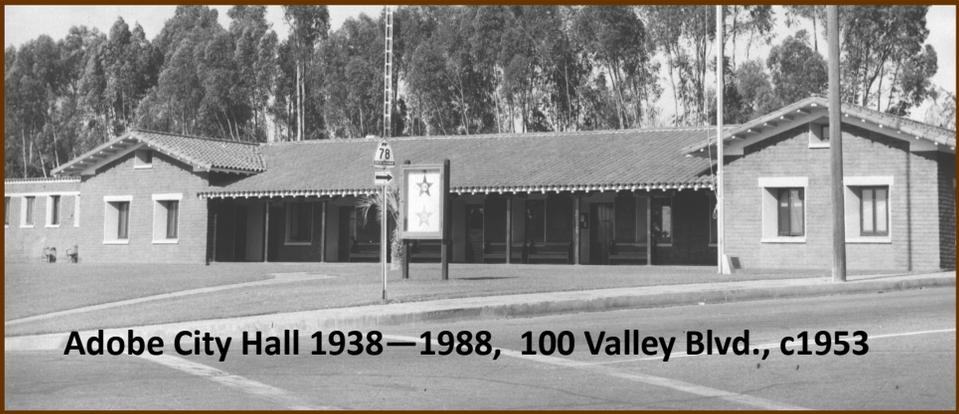
**The History of the Escondido
 Adobe Home**

What we call Escondido today was long the home of the Kumeyaay and Luiseno – Native American people who used adobe construction after its introduction by the Spanish settlers of Upper California. After the change from Spanish to Mexican rule, in 1835, a small group of Kumeyaay, freed from servitude at the San Diego Mission, was brought to San Pasqual valley. The *Pueblo of San Pasqual* marked the first known use of adobe for home building material in the Escondido area.

During California’s Mexican era, Juan Bautista Alvarado received a 12,653-acre land grant in 1843, *El Rincon del Diablo*, where he constructed one of several adobe homes located southeast of what we know as Bear Valley Parkway and San Pasqual Road. In time, the homes fell victim to the destructive flood in 1916 and were demolished in 1927. No remnants of the adobe structures remain today.

Fast forward to 1951 when the Weir Brothers Adobe Construction Company moved to Escondido, and soon became one of the most sought-after adobe homebuilders in the region. Their rustic and fashionable designs, especially appealing to gentleman farmers, became identified by their robust construction using thick adobe brick walls and heavy recycled timbers.

With the area’s access to large amounts of adobe blocks, other local contractors also built beautiful homes made of adobe, contributing to Escondido’s rich adobe heritage. These construction techniques became cost prohibitive in the 1980s with the advent of stricter earthquake codes and solid adobe homes are no longer built in California. Adobe facades are not uncommon, and adobe bricks are still available, though not easy to find!



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

The Jackson “Castle” House



The Weir Brothers constructed this adobe home in 1964, in the “adobe only” neighborhood of Las Palmas. James V. Jackson and his wife, Gretchen, retired cherry growers from Oregon, sold the home by 1975 to John W. and Elizabeth Stevens.

Twenty years later, owner John Stires undertook the newer upgrades and remodels after 1991. Stires explained that because of the tall turret at the home entrance, the neighbors named

it The Castle. When Stires purchased the property, it had a grove of 153 orange trees.

Although changes have been made to the home, much of the original architecture remains. Features such as the curved-wall turret, the airy living room, brick fireplace, true parquet flooring and heavy ceiling beams are strong contributors to the Weir construction style. Be sure to ask a docent to point out the “horno” clay oven outside.

The patio facing the front of the house was added later outside the master bedroom. Notice the wrought iron work done by local Mexican artisans. This wing of the house was originally an attached garage .



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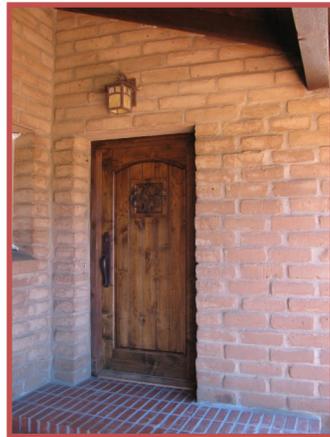
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Walseth Adobe

Jack, Bob and Larry Weir built this adobe home in 1964 for Harvey and Eugenia Walseth. Among its distinguishing features are the “Weir” fireplace, deep outdoor eaves of heavy timber, and hallways that don’t follow a standard straight line.

Current owners have undertaken several remodeling projects to add to its natural beauty and to improve energy efficiency, including ongoing upgrades to doors and windows. (You’ll see several original aluminum casement windows, as well.)

This adobe home seems to have been carved out of the hillside, a distinct element of the California ranch style. Notice the back porch, which invites the feel of an extended indoor living space.



Do you have an adobe home?

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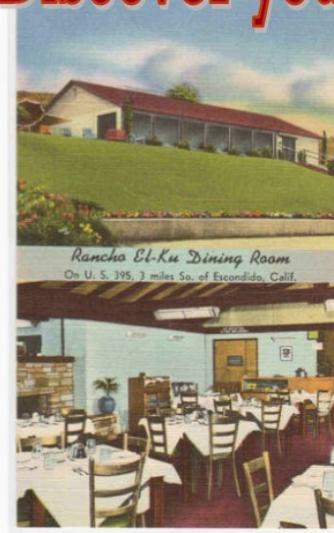
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The Weir Brothers often used recycled elements such as wagon wheels to add interest to their homes.



Discover your neighborhood...



Pioneer Room Postcard Collection

The Pioneer Room of the Escondido Public Library is the starting place for your local history research.

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Dunn Division

This is a more contemporary style located within a subdivision made for Gertrude Dunn in 1966. The land was carved out of the L. R. Green Oak Tract of Longview Acres. This adobe home was built in 1973, on the newly created road named Paseo del Sol.



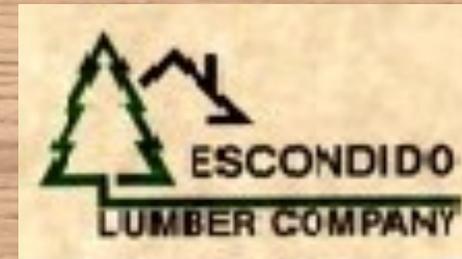
Current owners have enlarged and opened up rooms to complement the indoor-outdoor living style of California. Visitors will appreciate the beautifully updated kitchen, larger master bedroom and the impressive outdoor kitchen and dining areas. Many original features remain, making this an excellent example of late adobe revival architecture that features both solid adobe wall construction and integrates beautiful adobe-faced walls.



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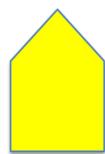
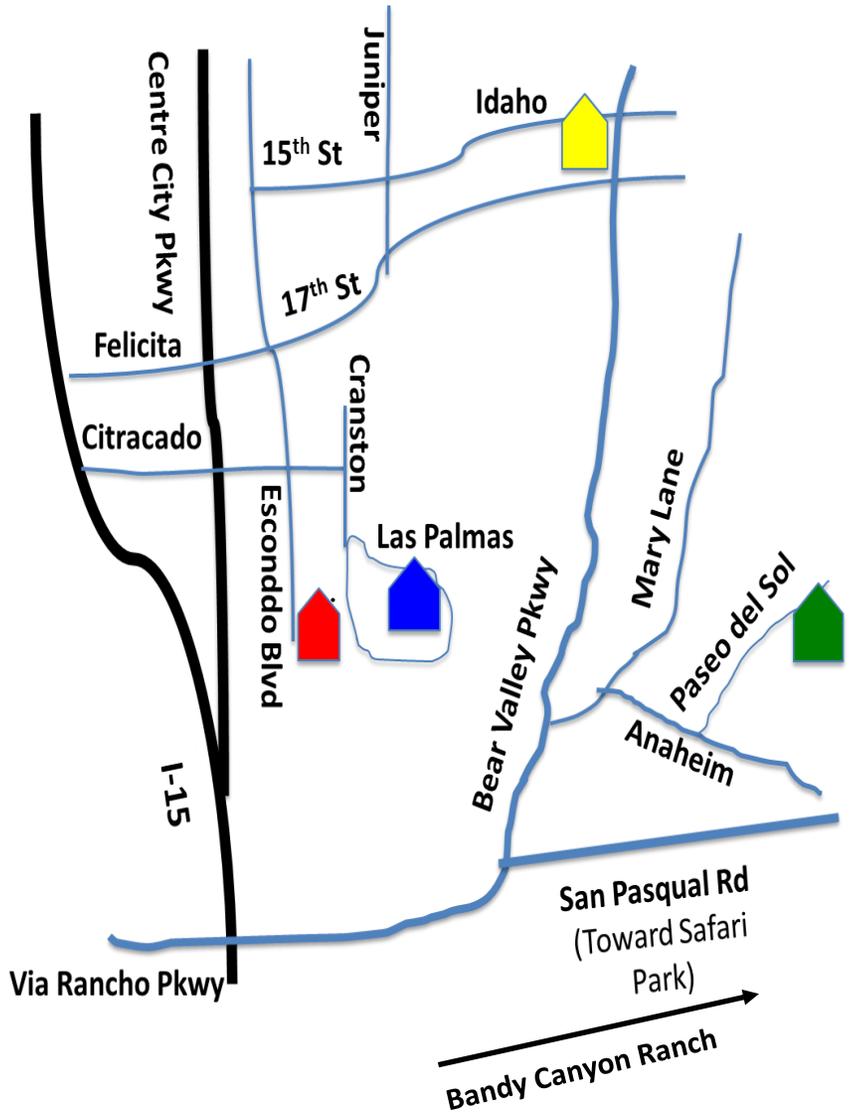


Established 1934

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Map of Homes



The "Castle" House

Hacienda de Vega Restaurant & Bar
After 2 pm only

Please note you will be parking on a hill.

The Ranch at Bandy Canyon

(not shown on map)
Take the I-78 E/San Pasqual Valley Rd. past the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.
Turn right onto Bandy Canyon Rd. Continue about 2 miles to the ranch.