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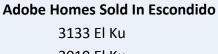
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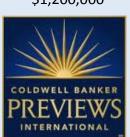


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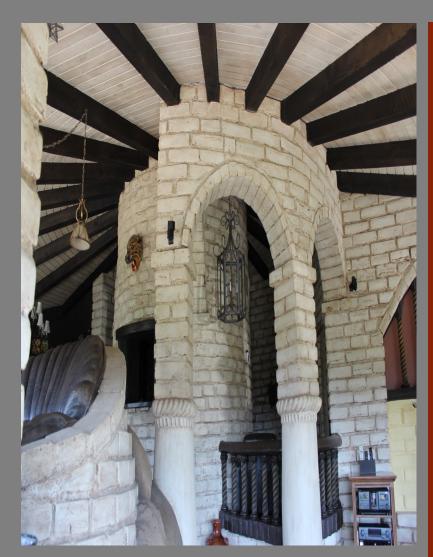
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2016

Adobe Home Tour

Sunday, March 6

11 am—4 pm

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The Escondido History Center hosts & sponsors many exciting activities

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The American Heritage

Car Show

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Movies in the Park

**Historic Walking Tours** 

**Rummage Sale** 

Victorian Christmas

Admission to the Museum is always *free*! A suggested donation of \$3/ person is appreciated!



Check our website or follow us on social media to hear about more exciting events all year long!



### Welcome

# to the Escondido History Center's 2016 Adobe Home Tour!

You may 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.

Additional thanks to:

The Adobe Home Tour Volunteer Committee

Photographer Jon Coffman & Our Program Sponsors



Proceeds benefit the Escondido History Center.

In Loving Memory

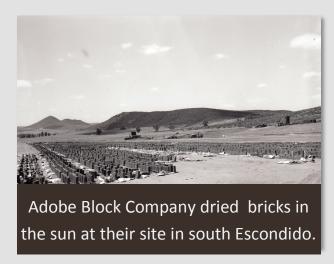
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#### **Adobe Home Construction Revival**

The Native American Kumeyaay and Luiseño people were first in the Escondido area to construct homes of adobe, after its introduction to the region by the Spanish. During California's Mexican rule, in 1835, a group of Kumeyaay families were relocated into an area southeast of Escondido. These artisans and farmers, who had been trained in adobe construction at the San Diego Mission, built their homes and a chapel in the newly formed *Pueblo de San Pasqual*. In 1843, Juan Bautista Alvarado was awarded a 12,653-acre Mexican land grant known as *Rancho El Rincon del Diablo*. Alvarado built several adobes and occupied the rancho for a decade. In 1853, Judge Oliver Witherby purchased the land and initiated the construction of several adobe ranch structures in the area of San Pasqual and Bear Valley roads. Over time the adobes fell into disrepair, and in 1927 they were demolished.

The more recent era of adobe construction experienced a revival which began in 1948, when a home builder from La Jolla, Charles



Paxton, joined forces with rancher and developer Lawrence R. (L.R.) Green to launch an adobe-only housing development in South Escondido. To further their aims, they established the Adobe Block Company (1948-1978). By the early 1950s, their adobe home development expanded into the Longview Acres construction project on L.R.'s citrus ranch. The build-out pro-

It's all about the details!

See how many of these design elements you notice during the tour.



Mexican tiled staircase



Wrought iron details



Face over front door



Hand-carved front door



Inset tiles in counter top



Recycled fireplace bricks



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gressed over several decades, retaining the requirement for adobe-only construction.

With ready access to bricks from the Adobe Block Company, and thanks to the growing popularity of rustic country living, adobe construction experienced a rich mid-century revival – though short-lived. The building of true adobe structures – as opposed to those with adobe brick facades – became cost prohibitive in the late 1980s due to the advent of new insulation and earth-quake building codes which effectively ended California's most recent era of adobe construction.

#### **Weir Brothers Adobe Home Design**

All five homes on the 2016 Tour were constructed by Larry Weir between 1954 and 1975. This year's tour provides a rare opportunity to experience the evolution of the Weir style of home craftsmanship over approximately 20 years. Signature features of a Weir adobe represent a fusion of the past with the contemporary style of the decade in which each was built. (After all, the client wanted to be in vogue!) Weir homes were primarily Ranch style, featuring single-story floorplans, exposed ceiling rafters, deep eave overhangs, low-pitched roofs, expansive picture windows and hints of Spanish Colonial Revival artistry.

Many Weir homes also incorporate unique and eclectic touches, including rotunda entries, exposed beams salvaged from old piers and buildings, an emphasis on outdoor living spaces, and whimsical design elements such as small towers, rounded walls, seemingly odd angles (that prove to be quite functional) and other surprises. You'll find additional history and information on the Adobe Home Tour website at adobehometour.com.



#### Jerome Myskier Adobe Built 1955

This is one of the earliest homes built in L.R. Green's Longview Acres development. Because the property title was granted to Larry Weir in 1953, it is assumed this adobe was one of his projects. Certain design features reinforce this, such as the style of the fireplace, which is similar to that of the fireplace built by Lar-



ry Weir in 1958 for the Justine Fenton adobe located in San Pasqual Valley (Bandy Canyon Ranch). While this home is a Western Ranch style, it evades the rigid lines of a rambler by the construction of a somewhat whimsical roofline, which gives the home the appearance of a storybook cottage.

'Whimsical' is a word often used to describe Larry Weir's work.

The first feature visitors will experience when entering the house is the stunning view from the living room. As with many Weir homes, this house was thoughtfully sited to take advantage of the vista while also creating privacy.

The fireplace features dual fireboxes with visible bricks marked "A.P. Green MEX-KO." These were only manufactured in Mexico, Missouri, between 1929 and 1942 and either transported to this

site or repurposed from an earlier project. Recycled building materials are another hallmark of Weir Brothers projects.



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# Julian and Kathryn Kaufman Adobe Built 1958

The Kaufman family owned and occupied this home from 1958 to 2012. The home was built by Weir Bros. for the Kaufmans, personal friends of Jack Weir. Mr. Kaufman was well known in San Diego as Channel 6 – XETV's first and longest running general



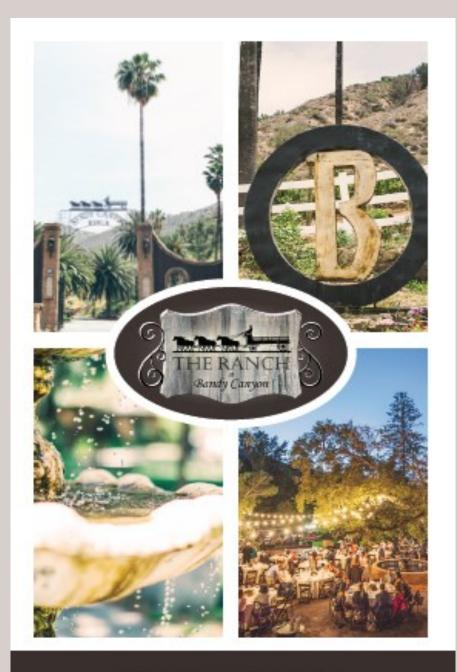
manager (1953-1985) and station consultant (1986-1996). A pioneer in the local TV industry, he was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Gold Circle in 2006 (others inducted the same year included

Merv Griffin and Jane Wyman). Kaufman passed away in 2012, and bequeathed the house to Scripps Health; it was sold the same year to its current owners.

This is considered by some to be the quintessential Larry Weir home, with its curved walls, wagon wheel ceiling and skylight, mosaic insets in the kitchen counter, indoor/outdoor flagstone flooring and unusual lighting fixtures of iron and fiberglass, several of which are still functional. The heavy carved front door, a



Madonna and child, was carved by Larry Weir. The home's second, current owners – she is a former editor at *San Diego Home/Garden* magazine – have replaced the original crumbling flat tile roof, reinforced the foundation's exterior adobe, replaced windows and doors and renovated the swimming pool, among other projects.



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#### Samuel R. Kroschell Adobe Built 1973

Designed by Larry Weir, this spec home was built by the families of Larry Weir and Milo Ott, with help from their combined 13 children. The home, completed in 1973, reflects a Spanish Colonial flavor as it simultaneously showcases the unique and original



architectural details favored by Larry Weir. More than 10,000 adobe bricks were used in the construction, which includes 16-inch-thick exterior walls. Three-inch diameter hemp rope accents surround several of the windows and doors. Many of the two-inch-thick wood doors have had the edges "scribed" to fit the contour of the adjacent walls.

Original to the design and construction, the home's wow factors include a wet bar hidden in the entry turret, the "rock sofa" in the living room that flows around granite boulders, and the original free-form mosaic tiled tub located in the master bathroom.

This spectacular adobe has had at least three owners, and each contributed tasteful upgrades without diminishing the original characteristics and primary features of the home. This is the most contemporary home on the tour and in many ways reflects a culmination of the eclectic and often whimsical style of Larry Weir. Be sure to look up above the front door—you might find a little face staring back at you!



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# Milo and Janice Ott Adobe Built 1968

This home was custom designed and built in 1968 by Larry Weir, with input from Milo and Janice Ott, to replace the original adobe on the property. In 1961, the Otts had visited the Escondido office of the Weir Bros to negotiate a contract for a custom adobe home. Two years later construction was completed.

On November 1, 1967, a devastating wildfire reached their property and destroyed their dream home, sparing the swimming pool, which had just been completed the week prior. Friends, neighbors and even Jack Weir assisted the Ott family in clear-



ing the way for their next adobe. Janice and the five Ott children took the opportunity to assist in design and work projects during the construction. Today the home is occupied by Larry (son of Janice and Milo) and Denise Ott.

The Ott home draws in the visitor with a large, eye-catching Gothic arch entryway, topped with an angular, modern-era gable roofline made of large lumber, and massive beam overhangs. The front view of the home includes a signature Weir circular window, and small exterior windows. The surrounding yard is a family-friendly space that has many charming as well as practical



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#### **Robert Weir: The Other Weir Brother**

According to those who knew him, Bob Weir was a builder, contractor and master wood carver. He played an important role in the Weir Brother's company. In addition to oversight on construction projects, he contributed much of the finished cabinetry work. He was known to be artistic, especially favoring wood carving. His kind nature was recalled in the following story: The Weir office located on South Escondido Boulevard was only a few blocks from the building site of the Consuelo Lodge No. 325 of the Free Masons. The new lodge, under construction in 1955, was being built from adobe. Bob Weir noticed that the lodge members were struggling with the construction, so he pitched in to assure that the building construction was off to a good start.

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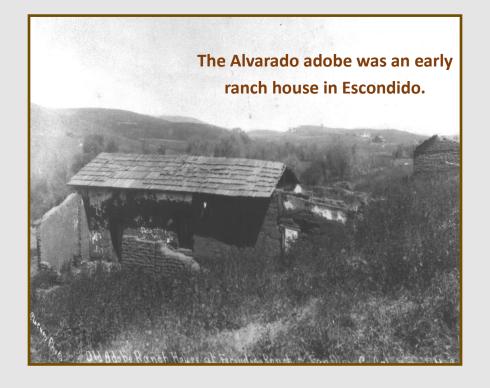


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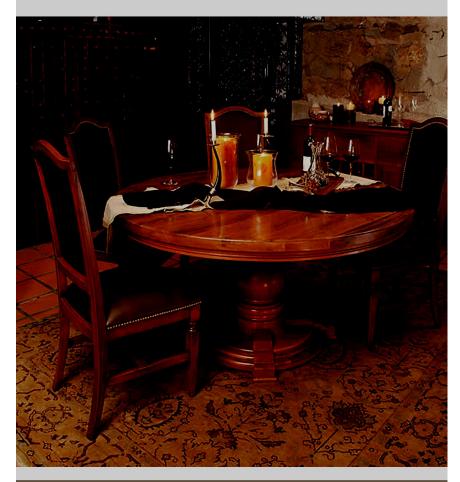
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## Howard and Jane Webb Adobe Built 1969

This home was designed by the Webbs, and custom built by Larry Weir, Escondido. Weir assigned the working drawings to Bob Minkler and Don Southers (his forman), who carried out the "dumbell-shaped" design, which consists of an oblong central entrance area with wings on each side.

In what is now the family room, the original sunroom featured a screened porch, which was later enclosed. Some changes were made to this original configuration in the 1990s when the home was enlarged. Additional garage space, the billiard room (with double fireplace), guest bathroom, new master bedroom, master bathroom and office were part of the remodel, which was done with care to preserve the integrity of the home.



The construction style of this home is

known as "post adobe." After the concrete foundation is poured, posts are set to frame the house. Once the header is placed, adobe blocks are filled in between the posts. Metal strips are built into the corners of the adobe to prevent gaps. Ornate ironwork on the entrance door, the chimney and other accents have



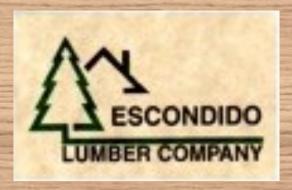
been added by the current owner, who designed and fabricated custom-forged elements to enhance this Mexican-inspired adobe home. By coincidence, the first owner had a small forge and made some of the home's original iron-

work details by hand.

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