

# TOURING HISTORIC LA JOLLA



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Save Our Heritage Organisation  
and  
The La Jolla Historical Society

present

A TOUR OF HISTORIC LA JOLLA

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La Jolla began in 1887 as a tiny community with little more than its isolated seacoast beauty. Many came to admire and some stayed. As cottages appeared along Prospect Street and fingered out into the neighboring streets, the mystique of the village grew. While many of the early cottages bearing such enchanting names as the "Sunnycrest", "House That Jack Built", "Blarney Castle", and the "Humpty Dumpty" are only memories now, some still remain. Examples of such historic structures will be seen on today's tour as SOHO and the La Jolla Historical Society provide a unique opportunity to view the architectural evolution of La Jolla.

Different parts of La Jolla reflect the varying aspirations of La Jollans who settled and built the seaside community. First there came those who built along Coast Boulevard - the wealthy vacationers who came to build country retreats. One of the houses on the tour, the Carey Crest, is an example of such a structure originally designed to be a comfortable, cliffside home for a wealthy family. Cottages

were also designed to be seasonal rentals. Another group consisted of year around residents who settled on the outskirts of the resort area. The Hannay House on Virginia Way is an example of such a home.

Buildings open for the tour include the La Jolla Woman's Club, the Hannay House, the Ullrich House, the Muir Gardens and the Carey Crest House.

The La Jolla Woman's Club, the tour's starting point, was designed by Irving Gill and built through the generous contributions of Ellen Browning Scripps. The 1913 structure is an example of Gill's tilt slab concrete construction. The Woman's Club was first known as the Reading Club and began in 1894. It was designed for "profitable study and discussion", not just the usual social club. The first meetings were held in the Reading Room which later became La Jolla's first Library. It is now located at 7590 Draper Avenue, having been moved there from Girard and Wall when the new Library was built in 1921.

The Carey Crest House commands an overwhelming view of La Jolla Cove and the Coastline. Professor Joseph and Hettie Carey were prominent La Jolla



residents who lived in the well-known Christian House, now relocated in Heritage Park, before they built their La Jolla home in the summer of 1900. Hettie Carey started a San Diego Free Industrial School for "poor children of the waterfront" with the assistance of city leaders. She was the third president of the La Jolla Woman's Club.

An impressive succession of owners, such as Arthur G. Merriam, dictionary publisher, and Josephine Seaman brought much remodeling of the brown shingle structure. Josephine Seaman was responsible for the construction of a seawall, garage and second-story additions. Her gardens surrounding Carey Crest were extensive and well-known. Philanthropic and well-traveled, Miss Seaman rivaled Ellen Browning Scripps in social position in La Jolla. She served as a missionary in China before coming to La Jolla. Bill Brown, Josephine Seaman's chauffeur from the 1920's to the 1960's, will be one of the hosts at the current owner's showing of antique Rolls Royces in the Carey Crest driveway during the tour.

The Colonel John Hannay House on Virginia Way was built between 1905 and 1910. It is a good example of the transition from what was strictly a beach cottage to the more substantial residence structure. It is of single-wall, board-and-batten construction (wide vertical boards with the joints covered by narrow strips or battens). This lovely two-story cottage with diamond-paned lead glass windows has gone through many structural additions to accommodate growing families. In fact, one can still see part of a shingled roof in one of the added bedrooms.

Colonel Hannay, one of La Jolla's earliest pioneers, was a retired U.S. Army officer who had apparently served in the Indian Wars on the plains. He was one of the Charter

members of the Chamber of Commerce, organized in 1912, and gave the opening address. Hannay's son served in World War I, also as a colonel, and his son-in-law served as a general. Hannay died in 1923, but the house remained in the family for many years.

The spacious, three-story Ullrich House has evolved from the one-story English Tudor structure which architect Edgar Ullrich designed as his own residence in 1926. Ullrich was active as an architect in the 1920's and 1930's designing several other La Jolla houses and the Spanish-style Casa de Manana. In building the house, Edgar Ullrich included an elaborate relief of the von Ullrich family crest over the front doorway. He also designed and built the English Tudor-style playhouse in the family courtyard. A few years after it was constructed the house was bought by Philip Barber, the developer of the Barber Tract. In 1928, Barber had Ullrich add a second story with a winding stairway. The three-story section at the rear was added five years ago by the present owners. The additions, which is also Tudor to correspond with the rest of the house, features a large living room with a massive fireplace. Each owner has subsequently left his creative imprint on the house while maintaining the distinctive English Tudor style of the original structure.

Refreshments will be served in the elegant Harold J. Muir Gardens. The extensive gardens surround Muir's magnificent Spanish mansion which was built in the late 1920's and was one of the first houses of the Muirlands. Muir built this house as a promotional attempt to further the development of the Muirlands, which was not going well at the time. Apparently, the promotional attempt proved fruitful, as the area is now filled with beautiful homes.

Historic buildings and landmarks will be pointed out on the tour route.





