



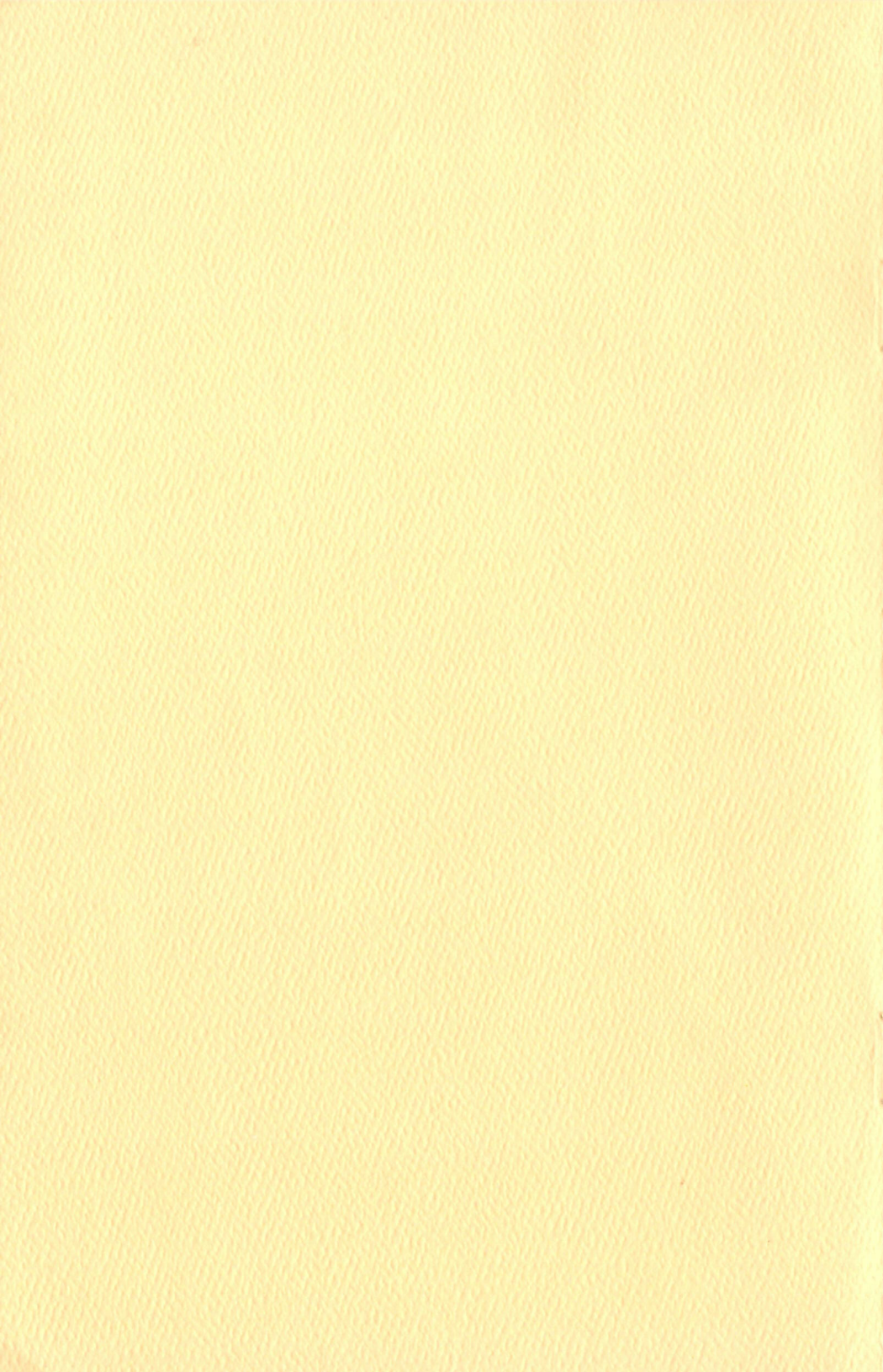
# Heritage Park

San Diego,  
California

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SOHO

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# Heritage Park: a Guide prepared by Save Our Heritage Organisation

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*SOHO extends its grateful appreciation to Eldon Anderson and Malcolm Blazer who generously gave permission for the use of their drawings and to all of the SOHO volunteers who have compiled information about the buildings in Heritage Park.*

## HERITAGE PARK

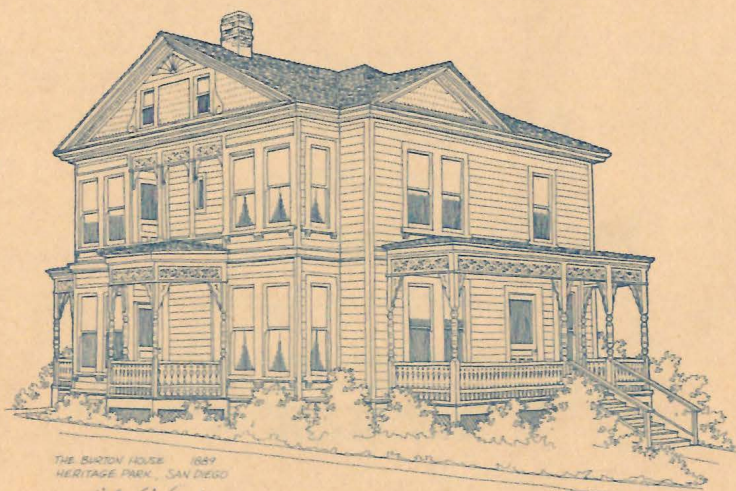
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**H**eritage Park is located adjacent to Old Town San Diego, the small settlement of 2,000 citizens which Alonzo E. Horton found when he came to San Diego in 1867.

A true visionary, Horton purchased 960 barren acres by the bay, the area which was to become downtown San Diego. Horton's "New Town" became the center of commerce and industry, growing dramatically after the arrival of the railroad in 1885. The Victorian homes in Heritage Park were all built in Horton's Addition, during the building boom of the 1880's.

San Diego's rapid growth during the 1960's threatened many of the city's fine Victorian homes, and citizens searched for ways to save them from destruction. Save Our Heritage Organisation was founded in 1969, and in 1970 the County Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of the land for Heritage Park.

Heritage Park is a Regional Park operated by the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department. Private and public funds have been used to acquire, move, and restore these Victorian structures which development had destined for demolition.



THE BURTON HOUSE 1893  
HERITAGE PARK, SAN DIEGO

## BURTON HOUSE

**T**his relatively plain Victorian was built in 1893 in the prestigious location of 1970 Third Ave. It enjoyed good views and wealthy neighbors, including Alonzo Horton.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry Gild Burton probably patterned this home after their family home in Rupert, Vermont, where Burton was born in 1846. His grandfather was among the patriots in the Revolutionary War and his father was a statesman. Dr. Burton was an ophthalmologist and was a Captain in the US Army when he was mustered out while attached to the San Diego Barracks in 1892.

The style is Classic revival, constructed of fir with balloon framing typical of the time. Studs of the exterior walls are continuous from first floor to roof. Note the use of scroll work by the windows and on the porch. The gables become pediments and the eaves are stylized classic cornices complete with dentils around the entire perimeter. The tympanums of the pediments are textured with ornamented cedar shingles. The largest pediment contains a pair of windows to light the attic, and has wood fan carving above.

The interior is in harmony with the exterior with neat, square corners and strong straight lines. The turnings of the balusters and massive newels of the stair are strongly linear.





THE BUSHYHEAD HOUSE 1887  
118 SOUTH STREET, SAN DIEGO

*Edna C. Conkern*

## **BUSHYHEAD HOUSE**

**T**he Bushyhead House was built in 1887 as a boardinghouse at the corner of Third and Cedar Streets. It is stick style with fir construction and balloon frame. It has attractive double doors with glass panels and bay windows.

The original owner, Edward Wilkerson Bushyhead, was born in Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1832. He was a descendant of John Stuart, a Scotsman, who came to America in the early 18th century in the service of the King. Stuart married Susan Emory whose mother was a Cherokee Indian. A son was born to John and Susan Stuart. Because his hair was full and red-brown, as his father's was, the Cherokee name of Oo-no-dota "Bushyhead" was given him. It remained the surname of the family.

When Edward was six years old, his father led a group of 1,000 Cherokees to the Territory of Oklahoma, the Cherokee "Trail of Tears." As a young adult Edward Bushyhead made another westward migration to California for the gold rush. His mining efforts yielded just enough money to reinvest in printing equipment. He and a business partner came to the sleepy, dusty town of early San Diego and published one of San Diego's earliest newspapers. Eventually Bushyhead and the newspaper were lured to Horton's "New Town," where Bushyhead held the positions of Sheriff and Chief of Police, and participated in the social life of the city as one of the early owners of the San Diego Union.



THE CHRISTIAN HOUSE 1889  
HERITAGE PARK SAN DIEGO, CALIF

## CHRISTIAN HOUSE

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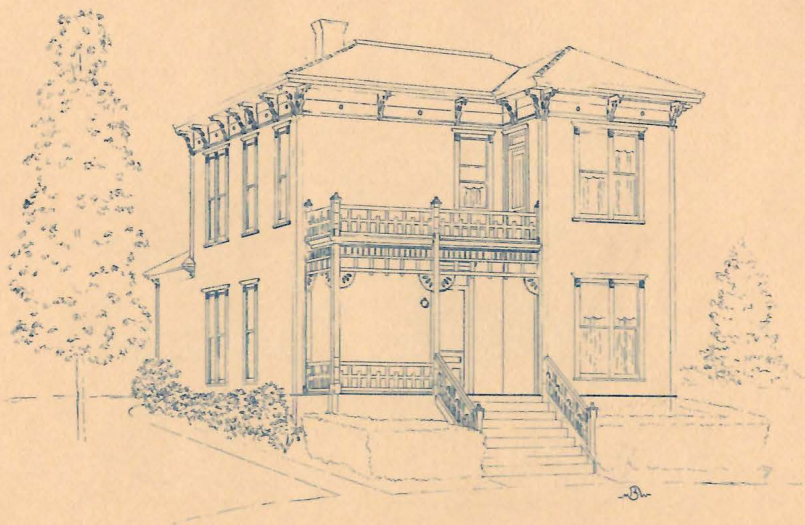
**T**he Christian House, so named for Harfield Timberlake Christian, its most noteworthy owner and resident, was built in the very late 1880's at 1940 Third Avenue.

Mr. Christian lived in Kentucky during the Civil War, subsequently studied law, and moved to San Diego in 1871. He was accustomed to an elegant Southern lifestyle and built this home for him and his wife. He was active in the political life of San Diego, was a member of the Board of Freeholders which formed the City Charter, and held a series of appointed and elected offices.

The Christian House is an example of simple Queen Anne as often found in California. Its exterior detailing includes a rounded corner tower, shingles, and interesting ornamentation. The interior boasts several original carved wood fireplaces, ornamented with colorful tiles, some with relief designs of figures. There are many stained glass windows in the house, including the tall vertical one on the stairs with not only colored glass but painted decorations of birds and flowers.

Like all of the structures in Heritage Park, the Christian House was built during the building boom of the 1880's, after the arrival of the railroad, and before the depression of the 1890's which brought economic ruin to many San Diego families, even to Alonzo Horton.





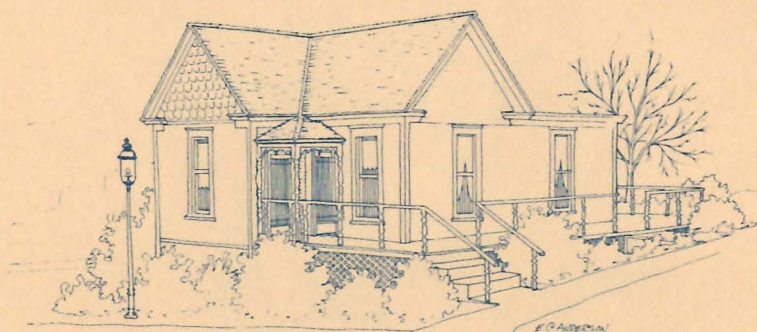
## MCCONAUGHY HOUSE

This Eastlake style Victorian was built in 1887 by John McConaughy and his son James at the corner of Union and Beech Streets. The lot was purchased for \$3000 the previous year.

John McConaughy was born in 1809 of New England heritage. He and his wife Susan moved to California and took up ranching in the Scott Valley of Siskiyou County. John introduced the cultivation of alfalfa hay in the area and built an extensive irrigation system with the help of Chinese labor.

In the early 1880's, the McConaughys moved to San Diego where John established the first scheduled passenger and freight services in San Diego County. His four-horse passenger stages and six-horse wagons operated between San Diego and Julian.

In 1888 the house was sold to the Keating family, a very extensive and wealthy clan. Fanny Keating gave the house to the Episcopal Church and it was remodeled to become the "Hospital of the Good Samaritans." Not only was the hospital to serve private patients who would pay, but the hospital also cared for charity cases through community contributions. Eventually other hospitals were established, and the name was changed to the "Good Samaritan House." It apparently served as a half-way house or rehabilitation center, and it remained a multiple unit dwelling.



SENLIS COTTAGE 1893  
HERITAGE TRAIL "SAN DIEGO"

## SENLIS COTTAGE

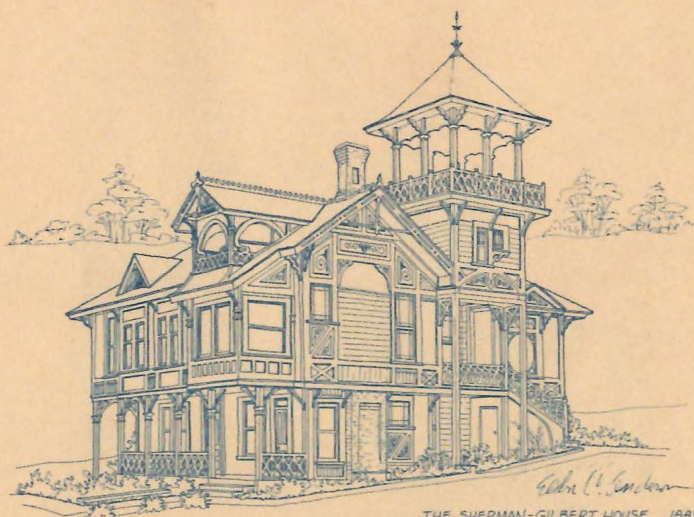
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**T**his typical Victorian Cottage was built in 1893 at 1536 Second Avenue where it enjoyed a beautiful view of San Diego Bay. The land was originally owned by Alonzo Horton and was purchased by Lena Senlis for \$1200. Lena's husband Eugene Senlis had come to San Diego from San Francisco in 1887. He was a skilled gardener who became an expert on soils while in the employ of Kate Sessions, the noted horticulturalist. Sadly, Lena Senlis was committed and in order to pay her bills Mr. Senlis left the cottage and began renting it in 1900. Records show that it was rented in 1901 for \$8.50 per month.

Senlis Cottage was a modest dwelling, with a distinct lack of trimmings. It was built without gas, electricity, water, or sewer. The Cottage was probably built from mail-order plans and was constructed directly on the ground, using no special foundation. It was constructed of redwood except for fir in the floor. It was a home for the working class: the window catches are cast-iron instead of brass, and there is no stained glass.

The small living quarters included a parlor, one bedroom, and a kitchen. A sense of spaciousness was achieved, however, from the nine foot high ceilings and the six foot high windows.





THE SHERMAN-GILBERT HOUSE 1889  
HERITAGE PARK SAN DIEGO, CALIF

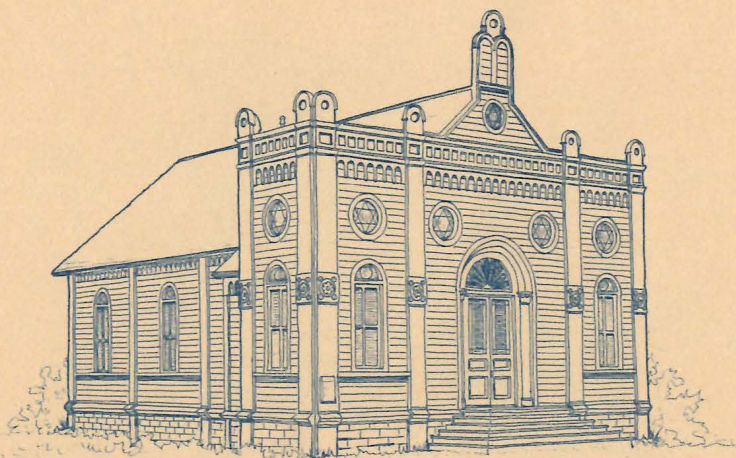
## SHERMAN-GILBERT HOUSE

The Sherman-Gilbert House was built by architects Comstock and Trotsche for John Sherman, in 1887-1889, at 139 Fir Street. Its style is eclectic Victorian, as evidenced by the labels attached to the house by various authorities—"Carpenter Gothic," "General Grant Gothic," "Swiss Chalet Gothic," "Cottage Victorian," and "Stick Eastlake."

John Sherman purchased the land in 1887 for \$9500 and built the house by the Spring of 1889 at which time it was sold to the Gilbert family which owned the property until 1965.

The Gilbert family, which traced its descendants to colonial Vermont, came to California in the 1860's. The Gilbert lumber business provided building materials for the frenzied growth of "New Town" inspired by Horton, when period newspapers announced the arrival of barks, brigs, and schooners loaded with pine from Puget Sound and redwood from Humboldt Bay.

Albert Gilbert was a prominent member of the community, helping to found the First Presbyterian Church and serving as Trustee of the Fourth Ward. His daughters Gertrude and Bess were lovers of music and the arts and contributed to the cultural life of San Diego. Bess was a concert pianist and Gertrude for 40 years was president of the Amphion Club which brought many great artists to San Diego, including Percy Grainger, Pavlova, Marian Anderson, Fritz Kreisler, Yehudi Menuhin, and Arthur Rubenstein. Many of these greats were entertained in this home and performed here.



TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL  
HERITAGE PARK

## TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

**T**emple Beth Israel, the second oldest synagogue structure still existing in the American West, was built at the northwest corner of Second and Beech. The first services in the temple were held September 25, 1889, at sundown at the beginning of the Jewish New Year, Erev Rosh Hashahah, 5650.

For the congregants, the temple was a dream fulfilled. Early Jewish settlers had used homes, halls, and churches, from the time of their arrival in 1850. The membership of Beth Israel doubled during 1887 and 1888, however, and the first full-time rabbi was secured. It was a time of great religious vitality.

The structure reflected contemporary church styles, resembling the small gabled first Unitarian Church of 1883. The Judaic symbols of the Star of David, the representation of the Ten Commandments on the pinnacle, and the non-supportive decorative pillars in the recessed doors, however, clearly identified the structure as a Jewish house of worship.

The small and intimate sanctuary was painted ethereal colors—French gray and sky blue. The round arch windows were stained yellow, blue, and rose. The Ark of the Covenant in the rear wall, facing East towards Jerusalem, was framed inside a wooden arch. Above it hung an eternal light.







# Save Our Heritage Organisation

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**SOHO** is a community based organization concerned with San Diego County's built environment. SOHO is committed to preserving historically and culturally significant aspects of our communities.

Save Our Heritage Organisation has a long and close association with Heritage Park. It was through the efforts of a group of citizens that the Sherman-Gilbert House was saved from demolition, the County of San Diego agreed to provide space for displaced Victorian structures, and Heritage Park was created. This same group of people formed Save Our Heritage Organisation.

In the 1960's, Heritage Park was considered an appropriate preservation alternative. Today, we see that moving houses is destructive to neighborhoods. SOHO now works to preserve our architectural and cultural heritage on site, in neighborhoods, and in historical context.

SOHO's goal is to educate to understand the value of our built environment, to formulate public policy to support historic preservation, and to help communities to implement these policies.

SOHO invites you to treasure San Diego's older buildings in all styles—Victorian, Craftsman, Mission Revival—and for all uses—recreational, residential, commercial, and industrial.

Join SOHO, San Diego County's historic preservation organization!

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*SOHO expresses its sincere appreciation to Central Graphics and to SOS Printing whose services made this brochure possible. Your purchase of this guide helps to support SOHO's activities throughout San Diego County.*

