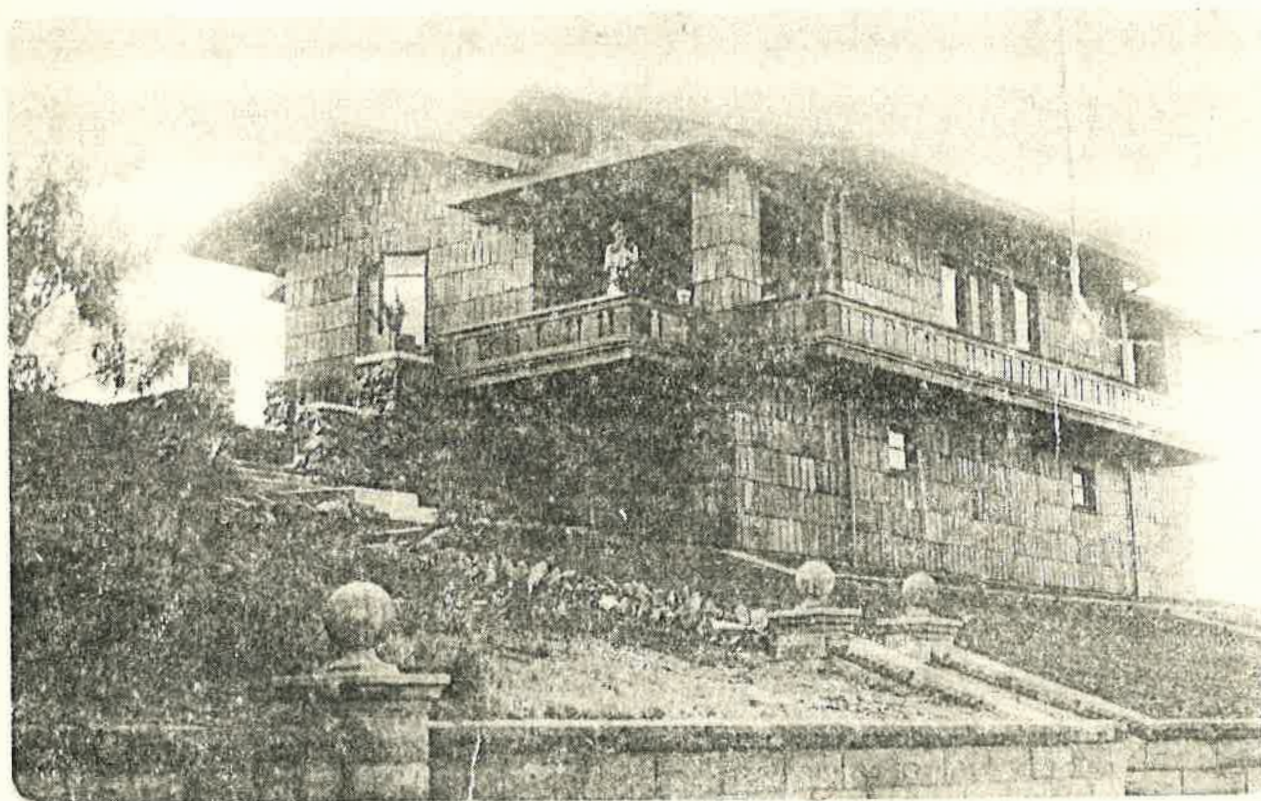


#4



HARRY PARK HOUSE

1911

La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882
La Mesa, CA 91944

HARRY PARK HOUSE
8065-69 Lemon Avenue
La Mesa, California

LA MESA HISTORIC LANDMARK
NOMINATION FORM

1. Name

historic Harry Park House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8065-69 Lemon Avenue

not for publication

city, town La Mesa vicinity of

state CA code 06 county San Diego code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☒ private residence
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ religious
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ scientific
		☐ no	☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jessie E and Marian E Bailey

street & number 8080 La Mesa Boulevard #116

city, town La Mesa vicinity of

state CA 92041

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Recorder, San Diego County

street & number 1600 Pacific Highway

city, town San Diego

state CA 92101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic & Cultural Resources Inventory

La Mesa Historic Preservation Element, has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

La Mesa General Plan

date June, 1984 federal state county ☒ local

depository for survey records Office of the La Mesa City Clerk

city, town La Mesa

state CA 92041

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This large, two-story, Craftsman house with some Prairie influence in its design stands on the north slope of Mt. Nebo. The complex roof features low gables, some nearly flat roof sections, and wide eaves with exposed rafter ends and support beams. The exterior of this rectangular home is surfaced with four-foot-long redwood shingles, and a distinctive second floor balcony extends around two sides. The balcony railing features cross-shaped decorative cutouts. Two large knee braces support the balcony. The home has a stone chimney, and the original stone-faced concrete block wall has been retained along the sidewalk and steps leading to the house. Room additions at each end of the house, alteration of some windows and doors on the facade, and conversion of the lower level to a second living unit are the major alterations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☐ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☒ commerce	☒ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1911 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance

This house is significant as the former home of Harry C. Park, an important La Mesa businessman, banker, lumberman, and officer of the Park Grable Investment Company.

Harry C. Park purchased the lots on which this house stands from Mrs. Jane Harris, a widow: lot 10 on Dec. 24, 1910 and a portion of lot 9 on Aug. 25, 1911. He probably had this house constructed soon thereafter, since it appears in a photograph taken around 1914. The home was designed in the Craftsman style with some Prairie influence in its strong horizontal lines. The names of the designer and contractor are unknown. The exterior featured four-foot-long redwood shingle siding, a balcony with decorative sawn balusters, and low gable roofs. These features can still be seen today.

Harry Park was the son of C. C. Park, who is regarded as one of the major developers of La Mesa. With a partner Sherman C. Grable, C. C. Park helped subdivide 200 acres of land into hundreds of "town lots" in the heart of what is now the City of La Mesa. The rapid increase of population caused by this development led to incorporation of the city in 1912.

Harry C. Park came to La Mesa around 1908 to assist his father in various family enterprises. He was an organizer and cashier of the Bank of La Mesa and served as secretary of the Park Lumber Company, a family business in which he later became a partner. (This pioneer business is known as the La Mesa Lumber Company today.) He was also the secretary-treasurer of the Park-Grable Investment Company.

H. C. Park became a leader in community activities and organizations which included the La Mesa Masonic Lodge and the La Mesa Methodist Church. When he passed away in 1928 at the age of 43, he was mourned by the entire city.

Harry Park sold this house in 1920 to H. H. Balthis, and many different owners and renters have lived there since that time. Over the years, the structure has undergone some alteration including room additions and conversion of the ground level into a second living unit. Nevertheless, the redwood shingles and the distinctive balcony remain, a reflection of the original charm of the Harry Park House, the former home of one of La Mesa's best known citizens.

9. Major Bibliographical References

La Mesa Scout Dec. 21, 1928; July 9, 1920
La Mesa Historic Site Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References

Quadrangle scale _____

A

--	--

 Zone

4	9	7	7	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

 Easting

3	6	2	4	8	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Northing

B

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

C

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

D

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

E

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

F

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

G

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

H

--	--

 Zone

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Easting

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 10 and por. Lot 9, Blk D, Map 1085 Lookout Park Amended

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state CA code 06 county San Diego code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Karna Webster, La Mesa Historic Preservation Commission

VICINITY MAP

LANDMARK DESIGNATION L-87-1

NORTH



LA MESA MOURNS SUDDEN DEATH OF HARRY C. PARK

Harry C. Park, 43, of La Mesa, was called by death following a brief heart attack last Saturday night, and is mourned this week by hundreds of friends throughout San Diego county.

At the time of his funeral Tuesday afternoon almost without exception La Mesa business establishments voluntarily closed their doors.

The floral offerings were banked clear across the pulpit of the La Mesa Methodist church, along the organ above the pulpit and across both the west and north sides of the church auditorium, while a number more were received in the vestibule during the service. The main auditorium and most of the overflow auditorium were filled by those who gathered to pay final respects to the young business man who had proved himself a real friend to all with whom he came in contact.

The La Mesa Masonic lodge, of which he was a past master, attended in a body, approximately 75 strong, with a large additional delegation from the Eastern Star, of which he also was a member.

Rev. James W. Mahood delivered a brief eulogy, telling of the upright character and sterling worth of Mr. Park, who was a trustee in that church. Dr. Mahood seemed to be deeply affected, and had to pause several times to control his own voice.

After the services at La Mesa, under auspices of the Erickson Funeral parlors, private Masonic services were held at the chapel in Greenwood cemetery. Cremation followed.

In La Mesa Sunday and Monday Mr. Park's death was the foremost topic of discussion, and the most glowing tributes were paid his sterling character on every hand.

It was related by his friends that he had been financial advisor to a number of elderly women, handling all of their investment affairs for them. He also had given sound advice on their business problems to most of the merchants in the city, and to many

La Mesans Mourn Death of Harry Park

(Continued from Page 1)

more residents on their personal questions of finance.

In business he was quietly conservative, but ever alert, and he had prospered accordingly. His charities, according to his friends who became acquainted with the facts through connection with the various cases, were generous but always were handled as quietly as possible.

"A true friend to everyone" was the general expression of those who knew him.

Mr. Park had been a resident of La Mesa for 20 years, coming here from Illinois, where he had been in the lumber business with an uncle. He was a native of Pleasanton, Kans.

He was married 18 years ago, and is survived by his wife, Harriet J. Park, his father, C. C. Park, and his brother, Dr. Frank Park, all of La Mesa.

In addition to membership in the Masons, Eastern Star and Methodist church, he was a member of La Mesa Rotary club and La Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

The death of his brother, Earl Park of La Mesa, following an automobile accident Christmas Day 20 years ago, caused Harry Park to come here to assist his father in caring for his local business interests, particularly the Park-Grable Investment Co.

Harry Park was an organizer of the Bank of La Mesa, and was its cashier when it was sold to the Bank of Italy. After that he became a director of the Bank of Southern California. His business activities were wide, and at the time of his death he was secretary of no less than six local organizations, including La Mesa Building and Loan association, Park Investment Co., Park Lumber Co., Malesa Development Co., La Mesa Finance Co., and La Mesa Masonic Temple association.

The pallbearers at the funeral were all pastmasters of La Mesa lodge. They were Reuben M. Levy, Harry H. Hill, William E. Lyon, Homer W. Hurlburt, John D. Haslam and Byron Q. R. Cannon.

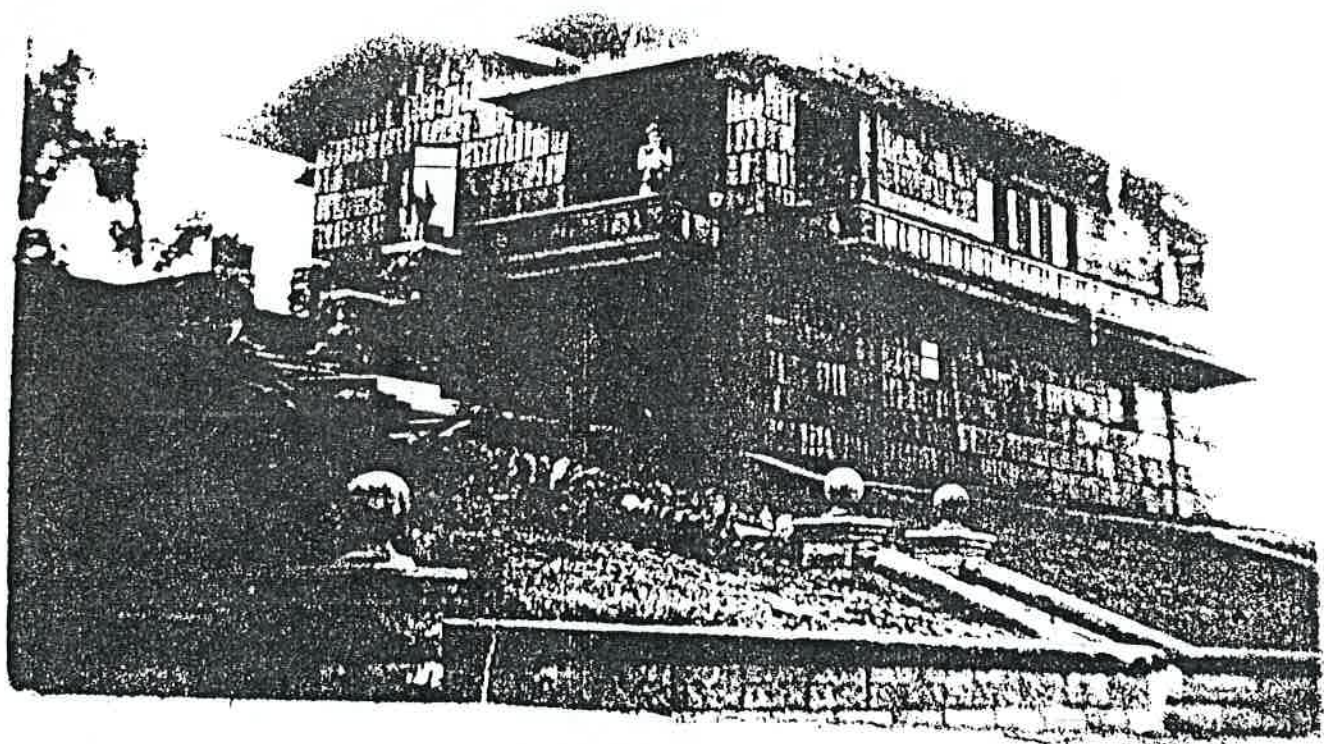
H. C. PARK'S HOME SOLD

Mr. H. C. Park last week sold his home on Lemon avenue to Paymaster H. H. Balthis, U. S. N., retired, of Washington, D. C.

The property sold includes a modern well-improved six-room house and a big lot 80x150 feet.

Possession of the property will be given within the next two weeks to Mr. and Mrs. Balthis, who plan to make it their permanent home.

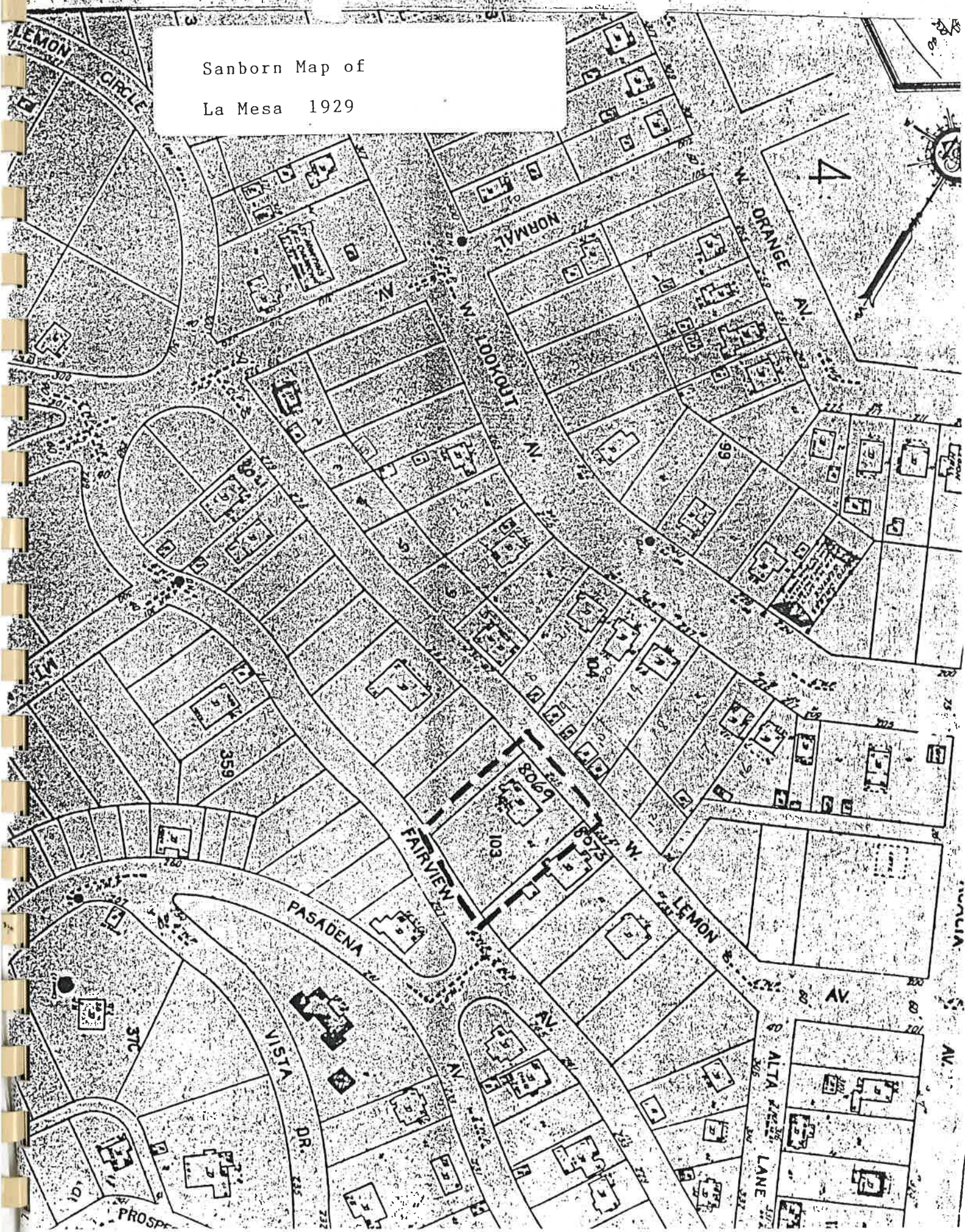
Mr. and Mrs. Park are undecided just at present where they will relocate. Mr. Park intends to either buy another home or build.



Early photograph of Harry Park House

(courtesy La Mesa Historical Society)

Sanborn Map of
La Mesa 1929



OWNERS OF PROPERTY AT 8069 LEMON AVE

In 1909, C C Park and S C Grable, the original subdividers of Lookout Park sold lots 9 and 10 to Walter B. and Ethylwyne Hinson of San Diego. The Hinsons apparently were in the area only a short time and did not live in La Mesa.

In April, 1910, the Hinsons sold the lots to Mrs. Jane L. W. Harris, the widow of Thomas L. Harris. She lived in La Mesa in 1909 and 1910 and then moved to San Diego where she resided at 3133 Front Street until at least 1916. She apparently did not build this house either.

On Dec. 24, 1910, Jane Harris sold Lot 10 to Harry C. Park, the son of C. C. Park. Harry Park and his wife, Harriet, apparently built this house around 1911 and lived there until they sold it in 1920 to H. H. Balthis and his wife, Independence. Harry C Park was a prominent La Mesan and served as cashier of the Bank of La Mesa, the secretary-treasurer of the Park Grable Investment Company, and the secretary of the La Mesa Lumber Company.

H. H. Balthis was referred to in the La Mesa Scout as "Paymaster H. H. Balthis U.S.N. retired" at the time he purchased the house. He owned the property only one year and then sold it to Edward Miller on July 20, 1921.

Edward D. Miller and his wife, Florence, first appeared in the San Diego City directories in 1916. At that time he was the president of the White Star Motor Company and the vice president of the U.S. National Bank. He purchased the Harry Park House in 1921 but apparently rented it out. By 1926 he was living next door at 8073 Lemon Avenue. Edward Miller lived in La Mesa for 25 years and was a prominent businessman. In 1949, when he died at the age of 83, he owned a hotel and other commercial property in La Mesa.

In 1927, Edward Miller and his wife sold the house at 8069 Lemon Avenue to Harriette Grant, the widow of Lewis Grant. Mrs. Grant lived there with her son Lewis Grant Jr until 1933 when she sold the house to Mrs. Fay N. Wilson and her husband Wilbur F. Wilson.

CHAIN OF TITLE

8065-69 Lemon Avenue, La Mesa

Deed Book 453, page 188

C C Park and Fannie B Park (husband and wife) and S C Grable and Lillian Grable (husband and wife) - for \$10 - grant to Walter B. Hinson, Lot 9, Blk D, Lookout Park.
Feb 4, 1909.

Deed Book 453, page 188

C C Park and Fannie B Park (husband and wife) and S C Grable and Lillian Grable (husband and wife) - for \$10 - grant to Walter B. Hinson, Lot 10, Blk D, Lookout Park.
Feb 4, 1909.

Deed Book 486, page 278

Walter B. Hinson and Ethylwyne Hinson (husband and wife) of the City of San Diego - for \$10 - grant to Jane L. W. Harris of La Mesa, Lots 9 and 10, Blk D, Lookout Park.
Apr 19, 1910.

Deed Book 512, page 121

Jane L. W. Harris (widow) grants to H. C. Park - for \$10 - Lot 10, Blk D, Lookout Park.
Dec 24, 1910.

Deed Book 521, page 399

Jane L. W. Harris, a widow, grants to H. C. Park - for \$10 - por of Lot 9, Blk D, Lookout Park as follows: commencing at a point on the northerly line of said Lot 9 which is 25 feet from the northwest corner of said lot, thence southerly, parallel with the westerly line of said lot to the southerly line thereof, thence easterly along said southerly line five feet more or less to a point, thence northerly parallel with said westerly line of said Lot 9 and thirty feet distant therefrom to the northerly line of said lot; thence westerly along said northerly line to the point of commencement.
Aug 25, 1911.

Deed Book 851, page 406

Harry C Park and Harriet J Park (husband and wife) grant to H H Balthis - for \$10 - Lot 10, Blk D, Lookout Park and all of Lot 9 lying west of a line parallel with and 30 ft distant from the easterly line of Lot 10; also Lots 9 and 10, Blk 5, Sunnyside Sub.
July 22, 1920.

Deed Book 851, page 406 (adjacent property)

Arthur I Inwood and Stella Inwood (husband and wife) of Minneapolis grant to H H Balthis for sum of \$600, Lot 11, Blk D, Lookout Park.
July 10, 1920.

32 77
Deed Book 857, pages 80-81

H. H. Balthis and Independence Balthis (husband and wife) grant to Edward D. Miller - for \$10 - Lots 10 and 11, Blk D, Lookout Park and all por of Lot 9 lying west of a line parallel with and 30 ft distant from the easterly line of Lot 10; also Lots 9 and 10, Blk 5, Sunnyside Sub.
July 20, 1921.

Deed Book 1306, pages 441-2

Edward D and Florence V Miller (husband and wife) grant to Harriette H Grant - for \$10 - Lot 10 and all por of Lot 9 lying west of a line parallel with and 30 ft distant from the easterly line of Lot 10, Blk D, Lookout Park and also por Lot 9, Blk 5, Sunnyside Sub.
March 7, 1927.

Official Records Book 209, page 60

Harriette H Grant grants to Fay N. Wilson, a married woman, - for \$10 - Lot 10 and all por of Lot 9 lying west of a line parallel with and 30 ft distant from the easterly line of Lot 10, Blk D, Lookout Park.
June 20, 1933.

Directory Listings

- 1909 - Mrs. J L W Harris
Harry C Park
- 1910 - Mrs. L W Harris
Harry C Park
- 1914 - Harry C Park (Harriet J) r ss Lemon av 4 e of Normal Ave
- 1921 - H H Balthis
- 1926 - Edw D Miller (Florence) h 237 W Lemon Ave
- 1927 - Harriette Grant (wid Louis) r 245 W Lemon Ave
Edw D Miller (Florence) h 237 W Lemon Ave
- 1929 - Harriette Grant (wid Louis) h 245 W Lemon Ave
Edw D Miller (Florence) h 237 W Lemon Ave
- 1930 - Harriette Grant (wid Lewis) h 245 W Lemon Ave
Lewis Grant jr r 245 W Lemon Ave
Edw D Miller (Florence) h 237 W Lemon Ave
- 1931 - Mrs Lewis Grant h 8069 Lemon Ave
Edward D Miller h 8073 Lemon Ave
- 1935 - Wilbur F (Fay) Wilson h 8069 Lemon Ave