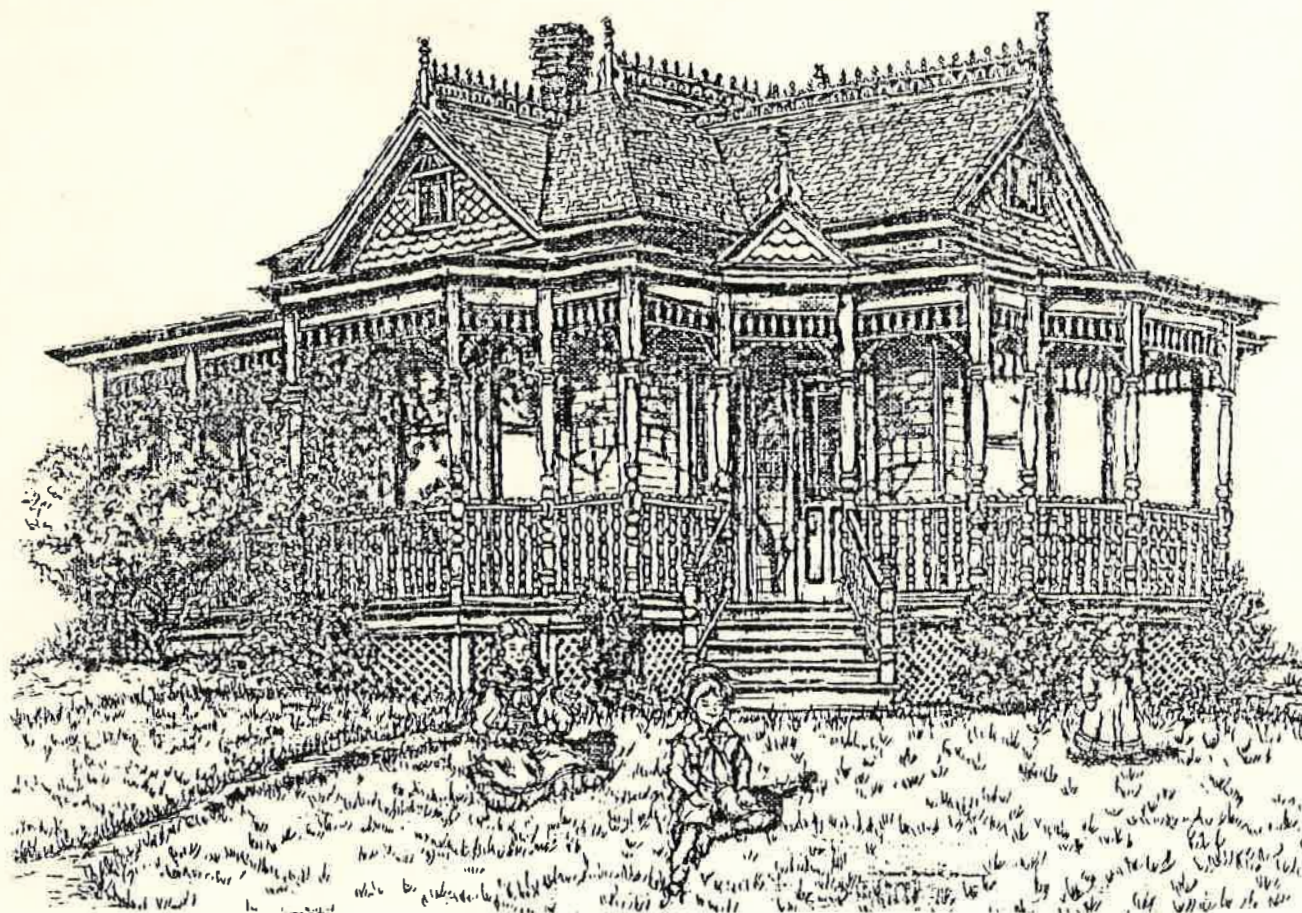




Albert W. Gray House

1891

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

LA MESA HISTORIC LANDMARK

NOMINATION FORM

1. Name

historic Albert W. Gray House

and/or common Albert W. Gray House

2. Location

street & number 8045 Culowee Street

city, town La Mesa

state CA 92041

county San Diego

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 Charles and Sharon Wooten

street & number 8045 Culowee Street

city, town La Mesa

state CA 92041

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Clerk's Office, City of La Mesa

street & number 8130 Allison Ave.

city, town La Mesa

state CA 92041

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic & Cultural Resources Inventory, Historic Preservation Element,
La Mesa General Plan

date June, 1984

depository for survey records La Mesa, City Planning Department

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 Nov. 29, 1988

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Legal Description: lot 22 and lot 23, University Tract
(Map 2017); parcel number 470-242-05.

This charming Queen Anne cottage was originally set in an 11.3-acre site planted in lemon trees. It was built facing east towards University Avenue, then called Chollas Road, to which it was connected by a long driveway. The house now stands sideways with its north side towards Culowee, a street created during subdivision of the property in 1927.

The one-story house features a medium pitch hip roof with lower cross gables. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is pierced by a brick chimney near the center. The gable ends display bands of decorative wooden shingles. The small windows in the east and south gable ends, each surmounted by a sunburst, have had their glass replaced by wooden louvers; a casement window has been added to the west gable. The house is clad in shiplap siding with a horizontal frieze and vertical corner boards. Windows in the home are double hung.

The east and south sides were designed with more detailing, including angular bay windows. A hip roof, supported by turned posts, shelters an angular porch extending around both sides. The original front door with a glass transom above is set into the southeast corner of the house.

Metal ridge cresting, turned balusters and spindlework on the porch and the original wooden porch steps are missing, but could be replicated as part of a restoration project. A portion of the porch on the south has been enclosed and a small addition approximately 8' by 8' has been made to the southwest corner. The entire house has been coated with texture paint.

A striking feature of the interior is a Craftsman-style fireplace built in the 1920s by Benjamin Burnette, his son, Clive Burnette, and son-in-law James Parker. The stones were brought from Bird Rock near La Jolla.

Today the house stands on two lots measuring '100' by 100'. At the rear is an early garage with overlapping siding and a gable roof. The house is surrounded by a lawn and foundation and perimeter shrubbery. The bay bush on the north has been identified as one there in the 1920s.

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	1891	Builder/Architect	unknown
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Statement of Significance

ALBERT W. GRAY HOUSE

The Albert W. Gray House, the home of La Mesa's first postmaster, probably was constructed in the spring of 1891. This charming and rare example of a Queen Anne cottage is one of only a few structures remaining from La Mesa's 19th century pioneer era. It is believed to be the oldest building in La Mesa still standing in its original location.

The house stands on land that was originally part of Lot 62, La Mesa Colony, a subdivision created in 1887. The San Diego Flume Company sold property in this subdivision to help finance the flume that brought water into the area from the Cuyamaca mountains. On Oct. 15, 1890, the San Diego Flume Company sold or transferred ownership of several La Mesa Colony lots, including the 11.30 acre Lot 62, to J. W. Sefton, the company president. Sefton was a prominent San Diegan, who was also the president of the San Diego Savings Bank. On Feb. 10, 1891, Sefton sold Lot 62 to Albert W. and Lizzie Gray for \$1050.

Albert Gray, a tall, blue-eyed, 36-year-old native of Wisconsin, and his wife apparently had this house built in the spring of 1891. Although the craftsmanship and fine design of the house suggest that an architect and expert builder were involved in the construction, their names have not been discovered as yet.

Albert W. Gray was appointed as La Mesa's first postmaster on June 17, 1891, the same day the La Mesa Postoffice was established. It is probable that the postoffice was located either in his home (as was common in rural areas) or in the nearby Cypress Hotel. The Gray house was situated near Chollas Road (now called University Avenue) along which stages carried mail from San Diego to El Cajon and beyond. Gray served as postmaster for only one year, until June 22, 1892, when Mrs. Rocena Young was appointed to the position.

The Grays lived in the house for six years and probably planted a lemon orchard. School census records reveal that they had two young sons, one of them old enough to attend Allison School in 1895. On Feb. 9, 1897, the Grays sold the property for \$6500 to John C. and Sarah E. Wildey of Eldora, Iowa. A severe drought in San Diego County beginning in 1895 might have influenced Gray's decision to sell.

John and Sarah Wildey soon moved into the cottage and were living there in 1900 with their two adult sons, Charles E. and Stephan E., and a 13-year-old daughter, Carrie E. On Nov. 2, 1901, Wildey, who later operated a real estate business in San Diego, sold Lot 62 to John and Lida Roberson, a brother and sister who lived in Abingdon, Illinois.

Over the next eighteen years, the property changed hands several times and was sold to the following persons: Hiram C. and Leila Rider (Sept. 6, 1904), James F. and Cordie E. Barnes (July 14, 1909), C. Stout and Margaret Stout (Nov. 5, 1910), W. W. Davis and Flora D. Davis (Nov. 11, 1911), G. J. and Viola Bennett (Nov. 18, 1919), and Roy and Kathryn Bleifuss (Nov. 18, 1919). During all of these transactions, lot 62 remained intact.

Roy Bleifuss, a real estate agent, was a partner of Sherman Grable, a major La Mesa subdivider. Bleifuss divided lot 62 and sold the eastern part with the house to Clive M. Burnette and his wife, Estellena on July 7, 1920. The portion purchased by Burnette, a carpenter, contained six or seven acres and was the same land later subdivided as University Tract in 1927.

Clive Burnette sold portions of the property to relatives: the eastern part, south of what is now Culowee Street and including the house, to his mother, Lucretia Burnette, on Apr. 7, 1921, and the section north of that to his sister, Nancy, and her husband, James Parker, on Sept. 21, 1922. Clive Burnette's parents, Benjamin and Lucretia ("Lutie") Burnette lived in the Gray House for a few years. Benjamin Burnette, a native of Missouri, had spent twenty years in Asheville, North Carolina in the vehicle and implement business before coming to San Diego in 1908. He worked in the real estate business in San Diego. From 1916 to 1929, he taught mechanical arts at San Diego High School; from 1929 to 1931, he was at Woodrow Wilson Junior High. Benjamin and Lucretia Burnette were well known in La Mesa. She was an active member of the La Mesa Woman's Club and a member of the Central Congregational Church. Benjamin Burnette had a lemon and guava orchard on the land around his house and also planted some berries there. During the 1920s, Benjamin Burnette, Clive Burnette, and James Parker constructed a Craftsman-style fireplace in the house, using stones they had hauled from an area near Bird Rock in La Jolla.

The University Tract subdivision map was filed with the County Recorder on Apr. 26, 1927. At that time, the following persons were listed as owning property within the subdivision: Benjamin and L. B. Burnette, Clive and Estellena Burnette, James and Nancy Parker, W. J. and Mary MacDonald, and H. H. and Sarah L. Hatheway. Benjamin Burnette is said to have named Culowee Street for an Indian tribe in Missouri.

On Aug. 15, 1928, Benjamin and Lucretia Burnette sold lots 22 and 23, University Tract, on which the historic house stood, to Harry E. Craigmile and his wife, Myrtle Mae Craigmile. The Burnettes moved into another house they had built nearby in 1925 or 1926 at 7927 El Capitan Drive. The Craigmiles sold lots 22 and 23 after only a year to the Southern Investment Company.

On Jan. 31, 1931, Ola and Mary Arnold acquired the house from the Bay City Building and Loan Association. Ola Arnold worked for the City of La Mesa in the City Street Department and as Superintendent of Streets. The Arnolds sold the house on Feb. 23, 1938 to Leonidas Harry Adair and Tessa V. Adair. The Adairs lived on Cacoctin Drive, and after her husband's death in 1939, Tessa rented the historic Gray House out to the Ehler family who lived there until about 1957. Willard Ehler followed a number of occupations and served as deputy county recorder in 1947 or 1948. In 1957 or 1958, Tessa Adair moved into the house and was living there at the time of her death at age 81 on Dec. 4, 1958. Her estate and the house passed to her daughter, Gertrude Roberge.

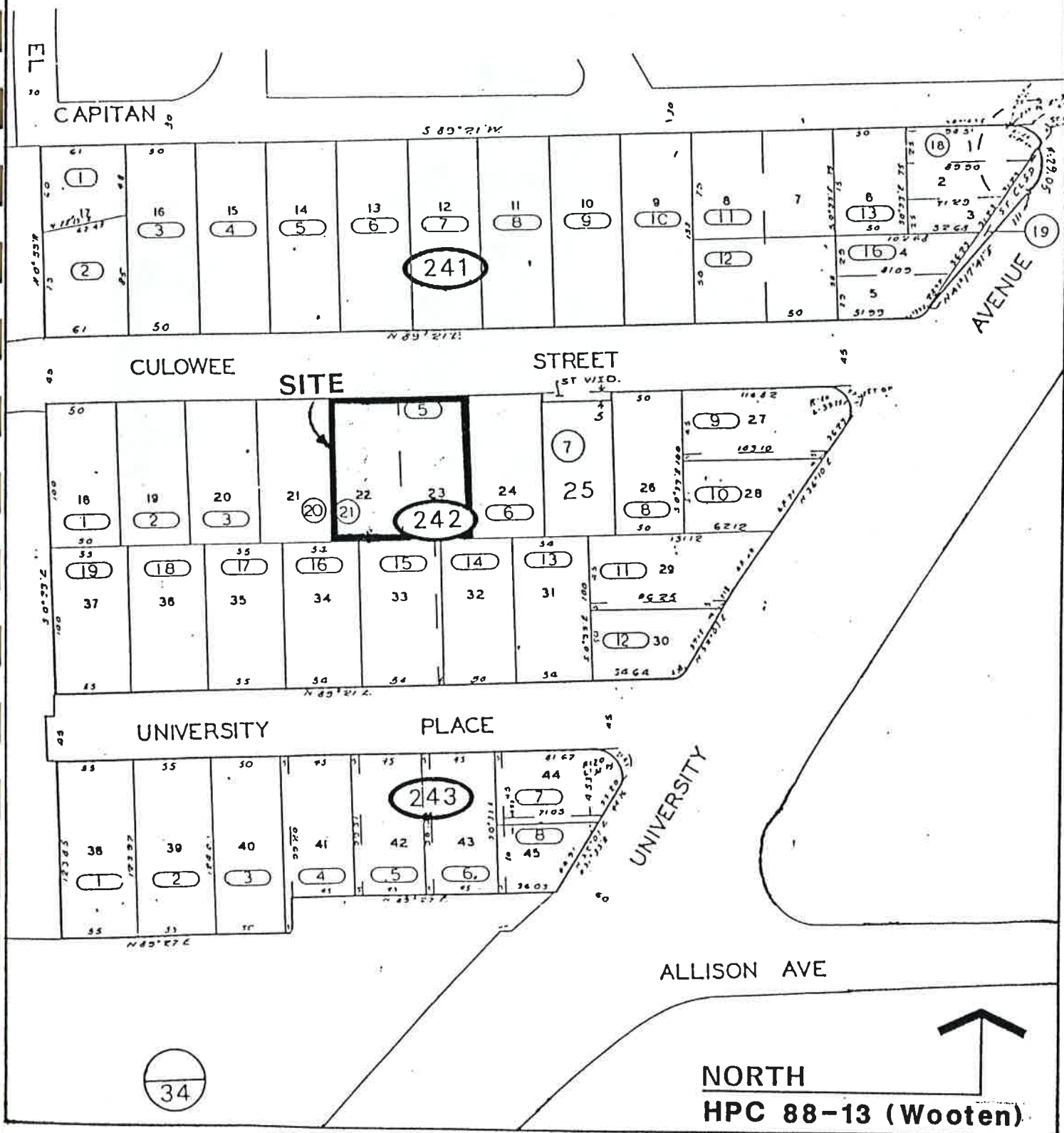
Gertrude Roberge sold the property in 1963 to Walter and Pamela Sternaman, and they sold it to Peter Barmasse in 1965. Peter and Joyce Barmasse lived in the house with their two little girls until 1974 when they sold it to Kevin Lee Satterfield, a single man. Charles and Sharon Wooten, the current owners, acquired the house in 1975.

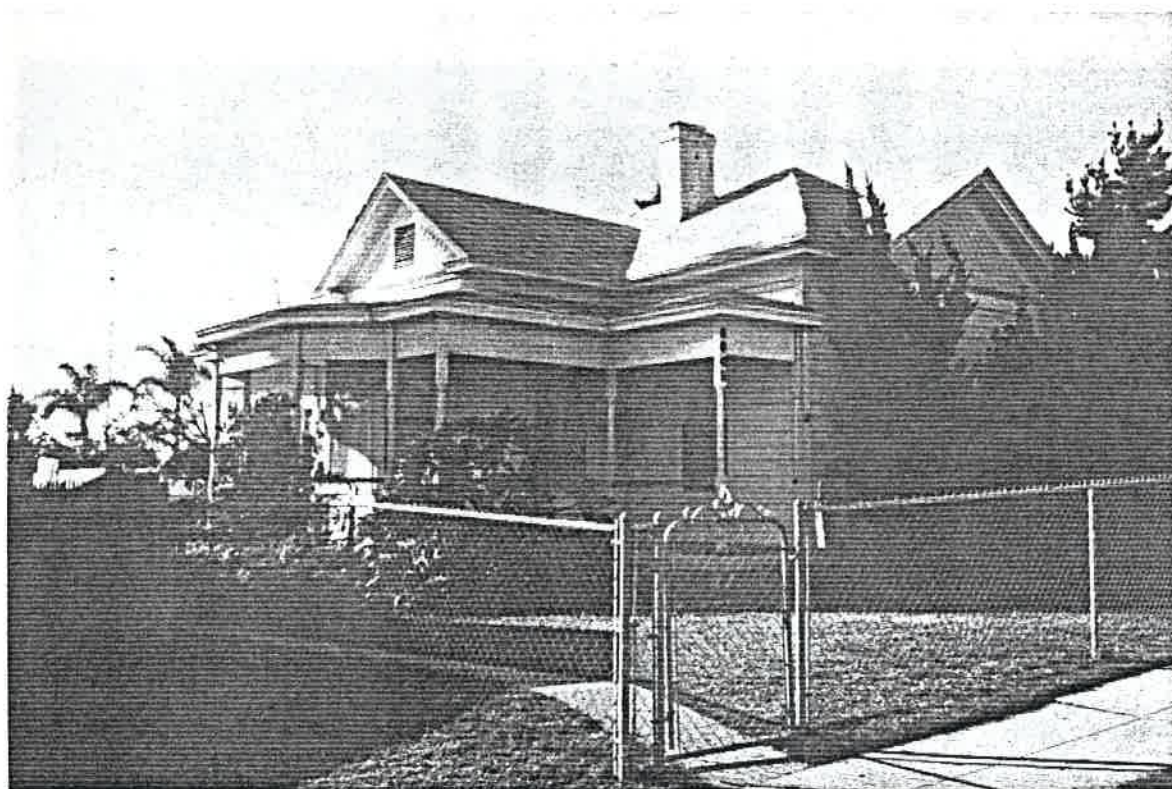
Today, the house stands as a visible reminder of La Mesa's pioneer days. It is a rare example of an 1890s La Mesa home and an important historic site.

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK L-88-01

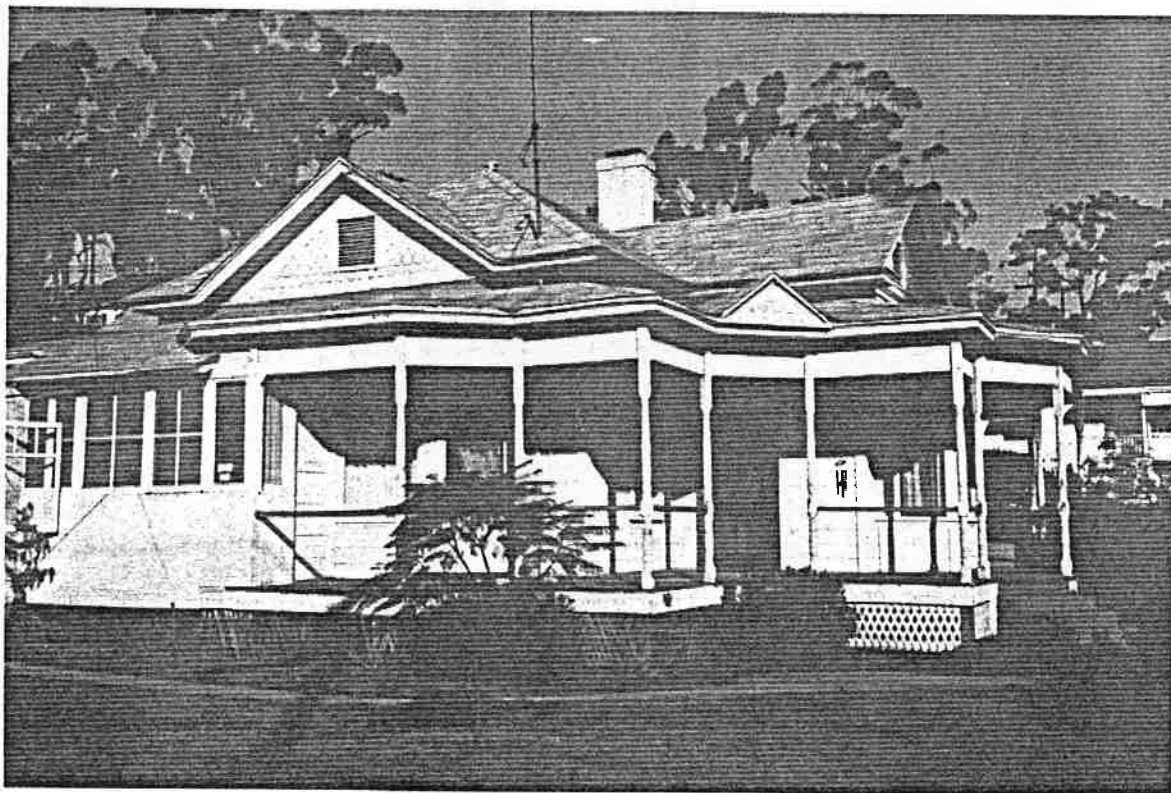
8045 Culowee Street

Albert W. Gray House

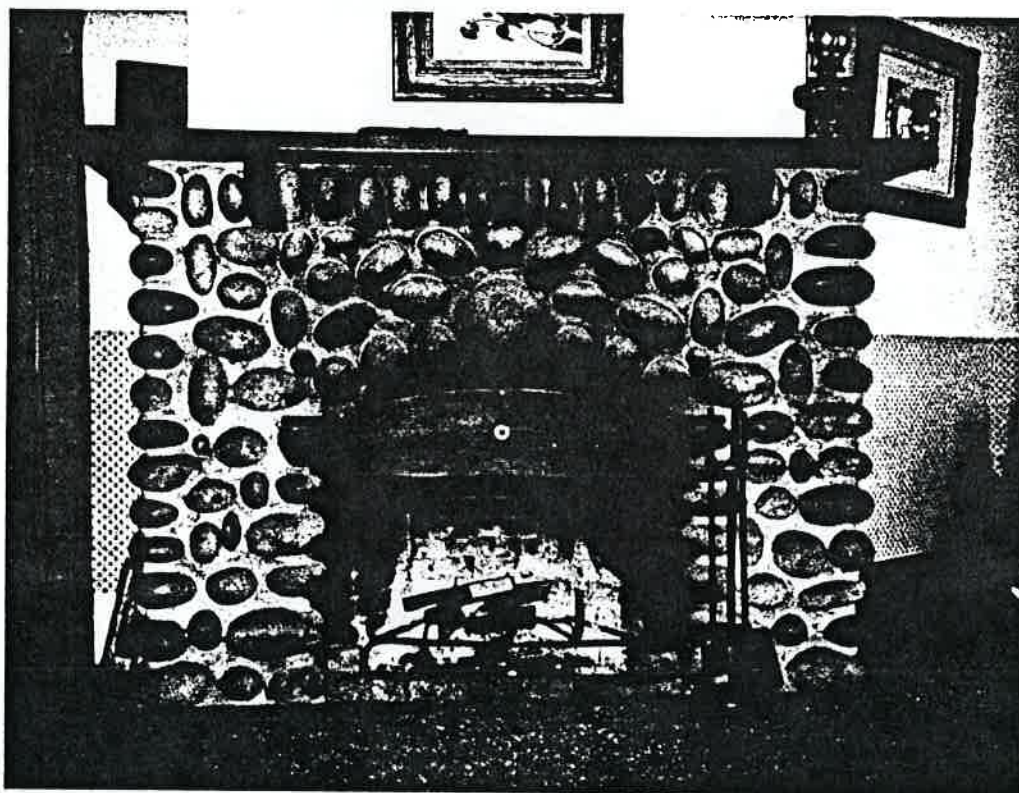




View of the Gray House from Culowee Street, showing the east and north sides, November, 1988.



The south and east sides of the Gray House, November, 1988.

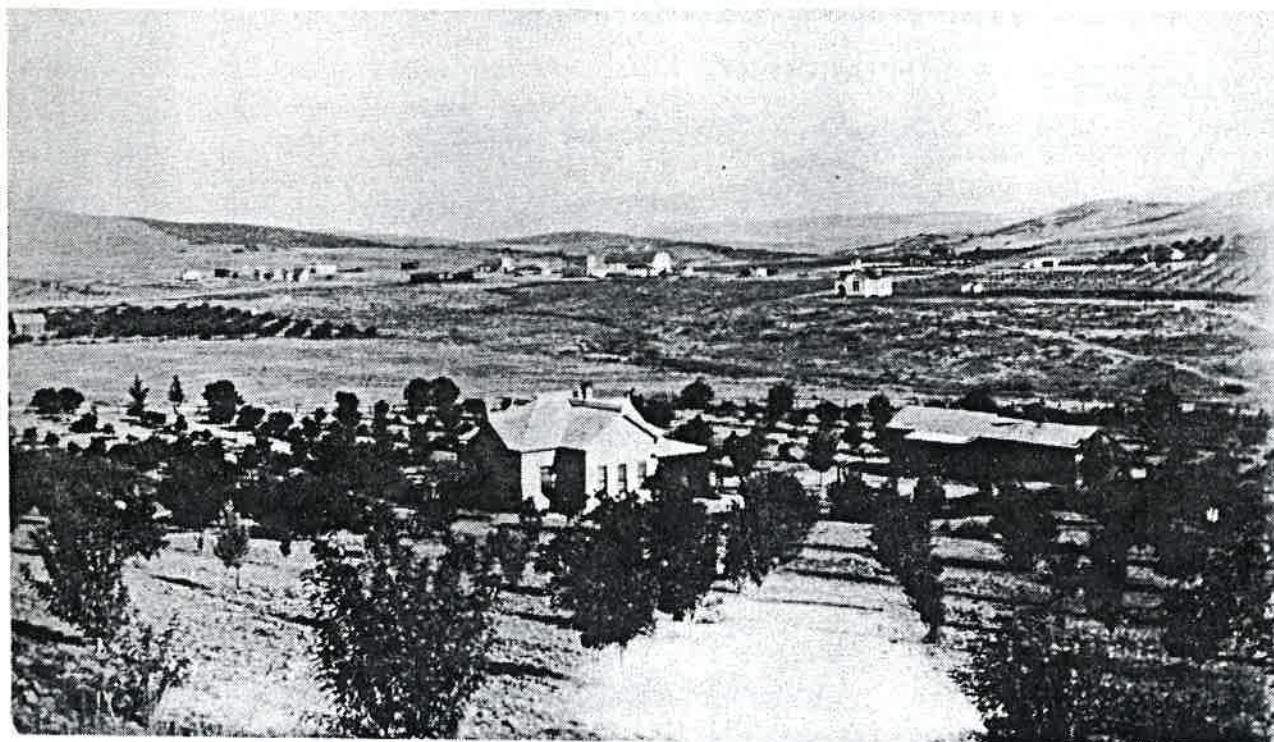


This Craftsman-style cobblestone fireplace was built in the 1920's by the Burnette family with stones gathered at Bird Rock in south La Jolla. (Photograph, November, 1988)



San Diego Historical Society - Ticor Collection

View of the south and east sides of the Albert W. Gray House, c. 1895, showing the spindlework on the porch, the corner front door and porch steps, and the ridge cresting on the roof.



San Diego Historical Society - Ticor Collection

View southeast toward the Albert W. Gray House, c. 1895, showing a portion of its 11.3-acre site, the orchard, and the barn to the south. In the distance is the center of the little community of La Mesa Springs. Directly above the Gray House are the two-story La Mesa Lemon Company Store, the lemon packing house, and the depot; to the right is the Allison School.

P.K.

(101.)

Post Office Department,

AUG 21

TOPOGRAPHER'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., July 31, 1891

Sir:

To enable the Topographer of this Department to determine, with as much accuracy as possible, the relative positions of Post Offices, so that they may be correctly delineated on its maps, the Postmaster General requests you to fill up the spaces below, and the diagram on fourth page, returning the same, verified by your signature and dated, under cover to this Office.

Respectfully, &c.,

TO POSTMASTER AT

La Mesa
San Diego Co.
California

E. Rosen
Topographer P. O. Dept

The (P. O. Dept.) name of my Office is *La Mesa**Its local name is *Allison* (a station on San Diego, Cuyamaca & Eastern R.R.)It is situated in the *North West* quarter of Section No. *19*, in Township

sixteen (north or south), Range *one* (east or west), County
of *San Diego*, State of *California*

The name of the most prominent river near it is *San Diego*The name of the nearest creek is *(no creek)*

This Office is *5* miles from said river, on the *South* side of it, and is
miles from said nearest creek, on the side of it.

The name of the nearest Office on route No. *76434* is *El Cajon*, and its
distance is *four* miles, by the traveled road, in a *North East* direction from this, my Office.

The name of the nearest Office, on the same route, on the other side, is *San Diego*
and its distance is *ten* miles in a *West* direction from this, my Office.

The name of the nearest Office off the route is *Helix*, and its
distance by the most direct road is *two* miles in a *South East* direction from this, my Office.

This Office is at a distance of *75 rods* from the *Allison* Station of
the *S. D. C. & Eastern* Railroad, on the *West* side of the railroad.

State, under this, the names of other Offices near your Office, in different directions from it, and their dis-
tances from it by the most direct roads.

* If the town, village, or site of the Post Office be known by another name than that of the Post Office, state that other
name here, that it may be identified on the map of the State (or Territory).

✓ A diagram of the township and sections (or, where the land is not so divided, a sketch map), showing the precise
location of your Office, together with the adjoining Post Offices, towns, or villages, the roads, railroads, and larger streams
or creeks, in addition to the above, will be useful, and is desired.—(See diagram blank accompanying this, to be filled up.)

(Signature of Postmaster.)

Albert W. Gray

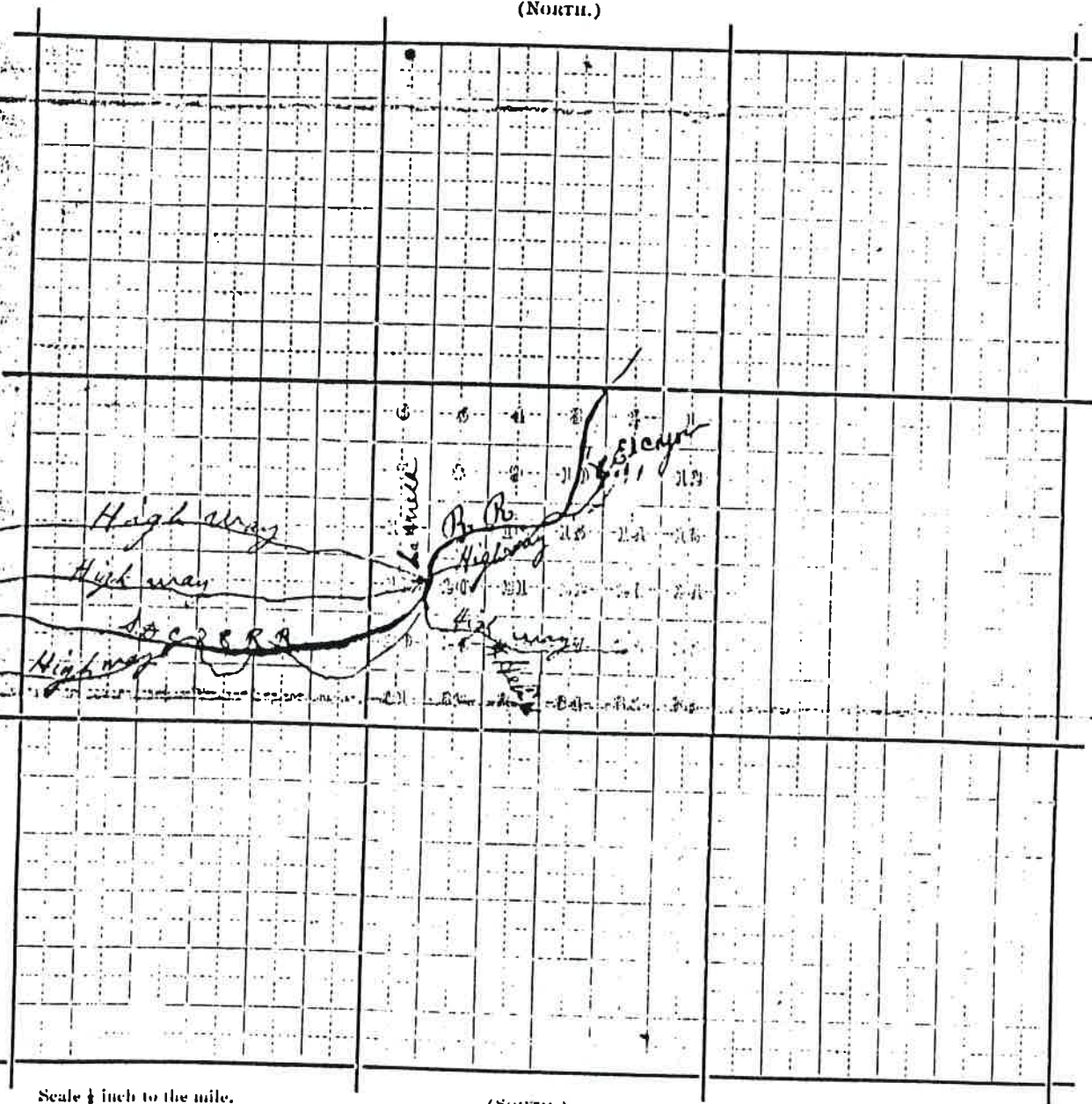
(Date.)

August 13th 1891

Diagram showing the site of the La Mesa Post Office
in Township sixteen, Range one of Principal
Meridian, County of San Diego, State
of California, with the adjacent Townships and Post
Offices.

It is requested that the exact site of the proposed, or existing Post Office, as also the roads to the adjoining Offices, and the larger streams or rivers, be marked on this diagram, to be returned as soon as possible to the Post Office Department. If on, or near a railroad, mark the railroad and adjacent Station accurately.

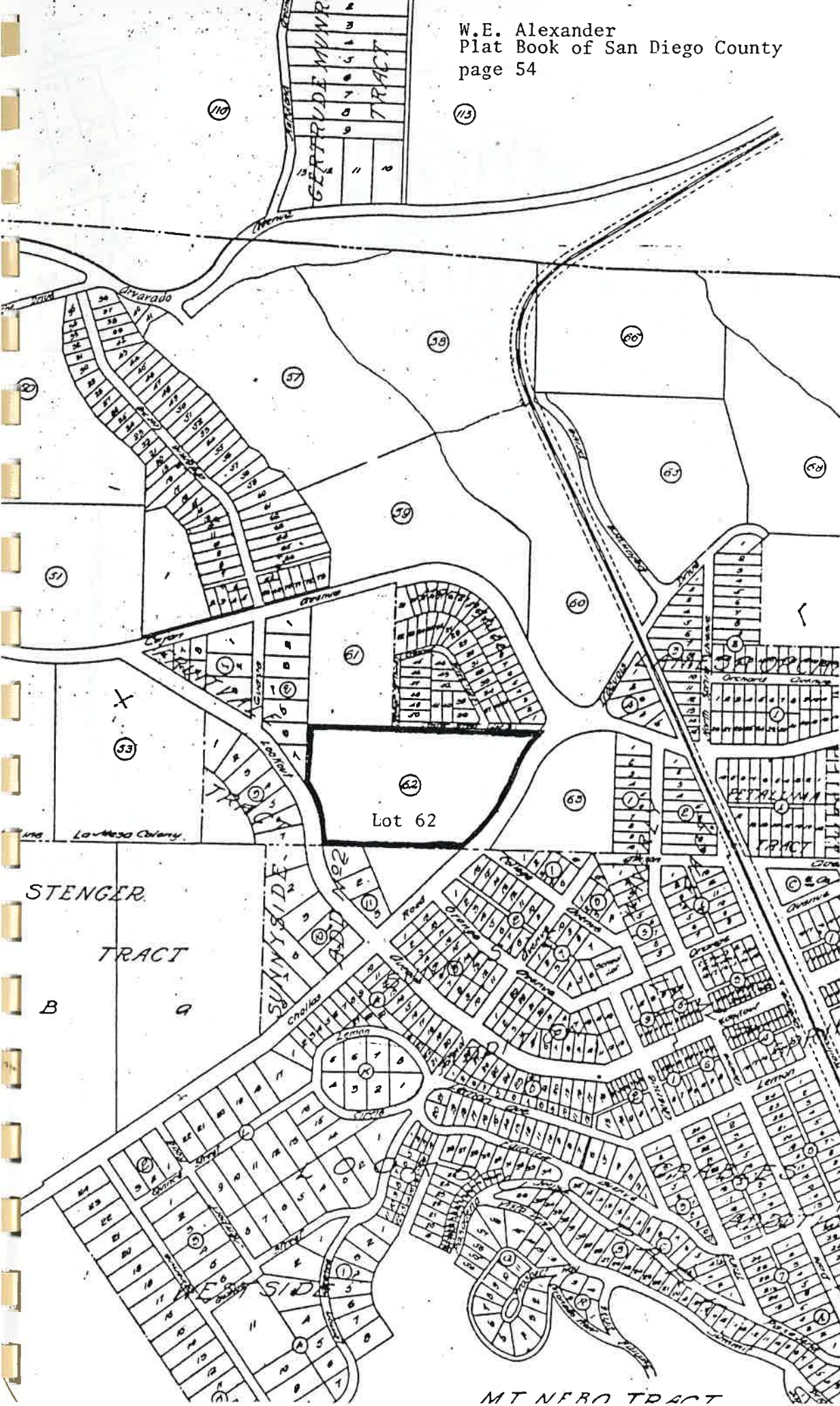
(NORTH.)

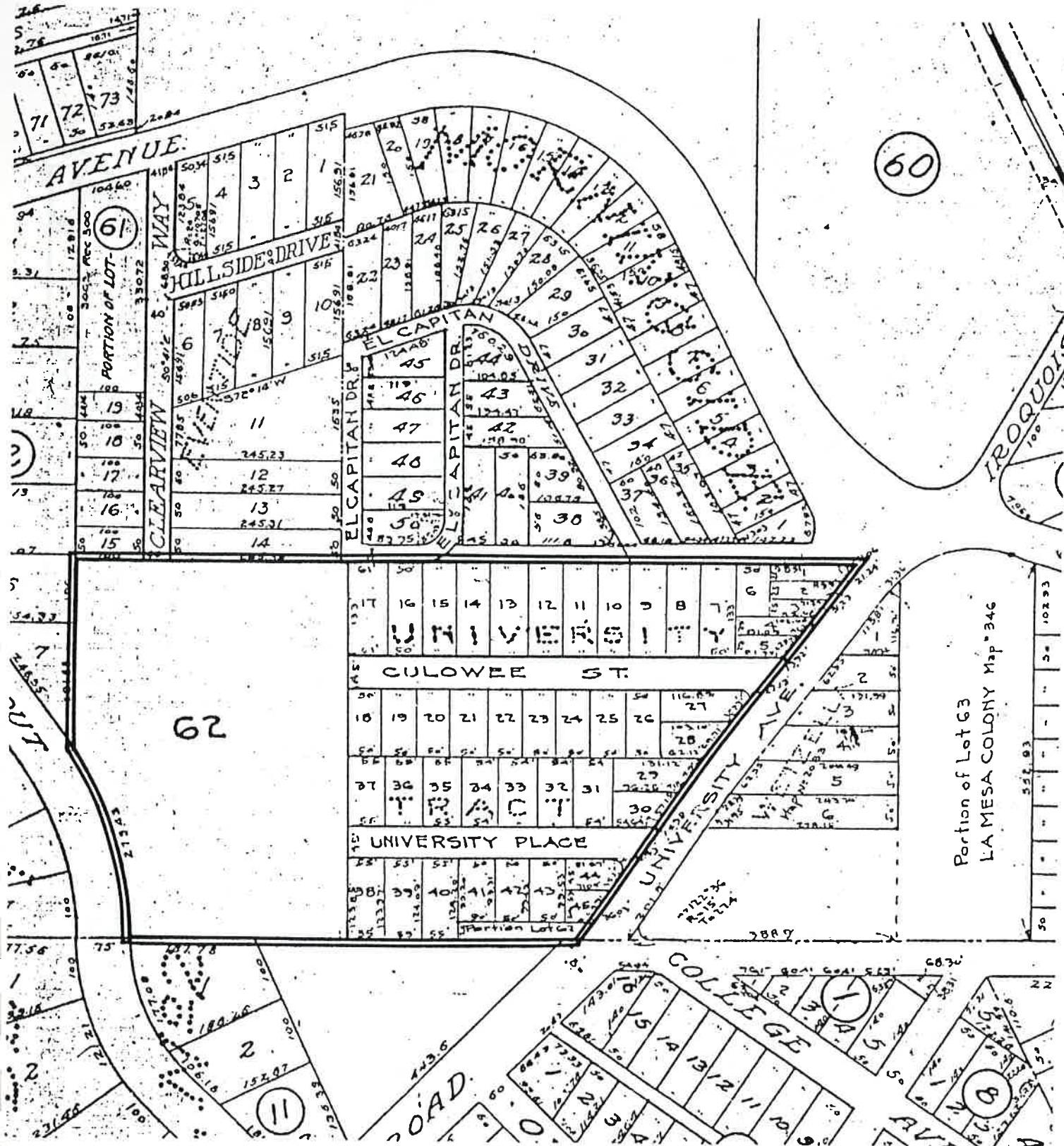


Scale 1/4 inch to the mile.

(SOUTH.)

City of La Mesa

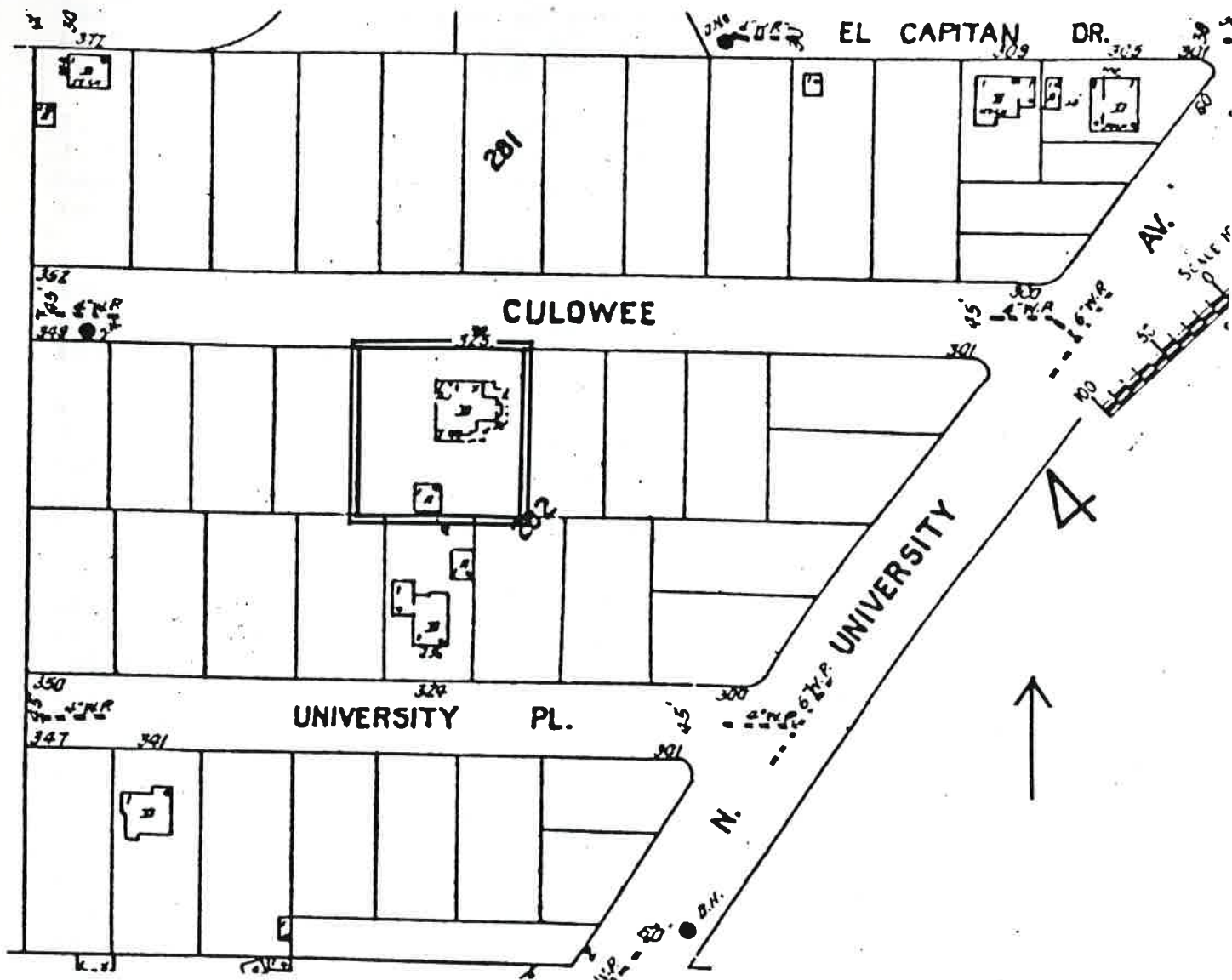




Map of La Mesa, c. 1930

== The original boundaries of Lot 62, La Mesa Colony - 11.3 acres

On July 7, 1920, Roy Bleifuss sold the eastern portion, approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres, to Clive and Estellena Burnette. This portion was subdivided as the University Tract on April 26, 1927. The Gray House sits on lot 22 and lot 23.



Sanborn Map of La Mesa - June, 1929

== Gray House property

The Gray House and the small garage to the rear are shown. The dotted line indicates the porch. A portion of the original porch on the south side of the house appears to have already been enclosed by this time.

Chain of Title

1. Deeds 170:119 Oct 15, 1890
San Diego Flume Company et al' grant to J. W. Sefton; several lots in La Mesa Colony including Lot 62; rights to 1 miner's inch of water, at an annual rental rate of \$30.00.
2. Deeds 172:472 Feb 10 1891
J. W. Sefton grants to Albert W. Gray and Lizzie A. Gray (h&w) of the County of San Diego for \$1050, Lot 62, La Mesa Colony 11.30 acres, inc. water rights.
3. Deeds 260:195 Feb 9 1897
Albert W. Gray and Lizzie A. Gray (h&w) of La Mesa grant to John C. Wildey and Sarah E. Wildey (h&w) of Eldora, Hardin County, Iowa for \$6500, Lot 62 La Mesa Colony 11.30 acres, inc. water rights.
4. Deeds 314:305 Nov 2, 1901
John C. Wildey and Sarah E. Wildey (h&w) of Moreno, San Diego County, Calif. grant to John Thomas Roberson and Lida Louisa May Roberson (brother and sister) of Abingdon, Illinois, Lot 62, La Mesa Colony, 11.30 acres, water rights. Subject to mortgage of \$1750.
5. Deeds 351:164 Sept 6, 1904
John Thomas Roberson and Lida Louisa May Roberson (brother and sister) of La Mesa grant to Hiram C. Rider and Lella Rider (h&w) of Denver, Colorado, Lot 62, La Mesa Colony, 11.30 acres, rights to 1 miner's inch of water at annual rent of \$30 per year.
6. Deeds 466:326 July 14, 1909 Hiram C. Rider and Lella Rider (h&w) grant to James F. Barnes and Cordie E. Barnes (h&w), property in La Mesa Springs: Lot 62, La Mesa Colony, 11.30 acres, rights to 1 miner's inch of water at annual rent of \$30 per year.
7. Deeds 504:376 Nov 5, 1910
James F. Barnes and Cordie E. Barnes (h&w) grant to C. Stout and Margaret Stout (h&w), Lot 62, La Mesa Colony, 11.30 acres, rights to 1 miner's inch of water at annual rate of \$30 per year.
8. Deeds 529:468 Nov 11, 1911
C. Stout and Margaret Stout (h&w) grant to Flora D. Davis, Lot 62, La Mesa Colony, 11.30 acres, water rights as above. Buyer assumes mortgage of \$4000 in favor of James F. Barnes.
9. Deeds 801:56 Nov 18, 1919
W. W. Davis and Flora D. Davis (h&w) grant to G. J. Bennett and Viola Bennett (h&w) of Denver, Colorado, all of lot 62, La Mesa Colony, 11.30 acres and water rights as above. Subject to existing mortgage \$3500.

(Note: at same time the Bennetts sold other property to W.W. and Flora Davis)

10. Deeds 806:179 Nov 18, 1919

G. J. Bennett and Violet Bennett (h&w) sold to Roy F. Bleifuss, Lot 62, La Mesa Colony with existing mortgage of \$3500.

11. Deeds 812:315-316 7 July 1920

Roy Bleifuss and Kathryn B. Bleifuss (h&w) sold to Clive M. Burnette and Estellena Burnette (h&w) por Lot 62, La Mesa Colony: Beginning at z point on the South line of said Lot 62 which is distant 325 feet Easterly from the Easterly line of Lookout Avenue, as said Lookout Avenue is shown on Map of Fruitvale Tract, No. 1112; thence at right angles north to the northerly line of said lot 62; thence East along the North line of said Lot 62 to the Northeast corner thereof (being also the westerly line of Chollas Road) thence in a Southerly direction along the Easterly line of said Lot 62 (being also the westerly line of Chollas Road) to the southeast corner of said lot 62; thence west along the south line of said lot 62, to the point of beginning. (Note - these boundaries are the same as those of University Tract.)

12A. Deeds 818:409 Apr 7, 1921

Clive M. Burnette and Estellena Burnette, husband and wife, grant to L. B. Burnette, as her sole and separate property: por lot 62 as follows: "Beginning at a point on the south line of said Lot 62, distant 490 feet easterly from the easterly line of Lookout Avenue, as said Lookout Avenue, is shown on Map of Fruitvale Tract No. 1112; thence at right angles north 371.5 feet thence east parallel to the south line of said lot 62, 422.25 feet to the easterly line thereof, thence southwesterly along said easterly line of said lot 62, 419 feet more or less to the southeast corner of said lot 62, thence west along the said south line of said lot 62, 170 feet to the place of beginning. Irrigation rights and restrictions. (Note-This portion of lot 62 contains the historic Gray House.)

12B. Deeds 899:318 Sept 21, 1922

Clive M. Burnette and Estellena Burnette (h&w) sold to James A. Parker and Nancy B. Parker (h&w), land in the City of La Mesa: por Lot 62 - 2 acres - La Mesa Colony. Subject to 1/2 blanket mortgage of \$3000; no water rights.

"Beg NE cor lot 62, thence SWly along SE line of lot 62 for 221 ft, thence westerly parallel to and 371.5 ft N of the southerly line of lot 62 for 426.2ft; then at right angles N 177ft more or less to the northerly line of lot 62; then E along N line of said lot 62, 558.2ft to the place of beginning."

Various restrictions; will take no water from pipeline. (Note-This portion of lot 62 is on the north side of Culowee and includes most of the right-of-way of Culowee.)

Portion of Lot 62 subdivided as University Tract, Map 2017 - Apr 26, 1927

This portion of Lot 62 is described as follows:

"Beginning at a point on the South line of said lot 62, said point being N89°22' E 325 ft from the intersection of solid line with the East line of Lookout Avenue, as said Avenue is shown on Map of

Sunnyside Addition No 2, according to map thereof No 1143; thence at right angles N 0°33'W 546.85 feet to a point on the North line of said Lot 62, thence N89°21'E along the said North line of said lot 62, 719.50 feet to the NE cor of said Lot; thence along the southeasterly line of said lot 62, S36°10'W 395.96 feet, and S32°07'W 244.35 ft to a point on said south easterly line of said Lot 62 which is N32°07'E 29.70 feet from the S.E. Cor of said Lot; thence S89°22'W 186.03 feet; thence S 0°33'E 25 feet to a point on the south line of said Lot 62; thence S 89°27'W along said south line 265 feet to place of beginning."

13. Deeds 1594:499 Aug 15, 1928
B. and L. B. Burnette (h&w) grant to Harry E. Craigmile and Myrtle Mae Craigmile (h&w): Lots 22 and 23, University Tract.
14. Deeds 1696:46 Aug 13, 1929
Harry E. Craigmile and Myrtle Mae Craigmile (h&w) grant to Southern Investment Company: Lots 22 and 23, University Tract.
15. Deeds 1861:359 Jan 31, 1931
Bay City Building and Loan grants to Ola and Mary Arnold (h&w) Lots 22 & 23, University Tract.
16. OR 751:278 Feb 23, 1938
Ola L. Arnold and Mary Agnes Arnold (h&w) grant to Leonidas Harry Adair and Tessa V. Adair (h&w) Lots 22 and 23, University Tract, exc. por. for Culowee St.
17. OR 278-279 July 12, 1939
Superior Court Order: Estate of Leonides H. Adair (died Feb 10, 1939) to widow Tessa V. Adair; estate includes Lots 22 and 23, University Tract, exc. por for Culowee St. Adairs lived at 4953 Cacoctin Dr.
18. OR 7091:253 May 21, 1958
Tessa Adair, a widow, grants to Tessa Adair and Gertrude Roberge, mother and daughter, as joint tenants: E 25' of Lot 22 and all of lot 23, University Tract.
19. OR 7606:313 59-74501 Apr 15, 1959
Tessa Adair died at 8045 Culowee St, age 81, on Dec 4, 1958. Tessa Adair estate gives various property to Gertrude Roberge (daughter) including E 25' of lot 22 and all of Lot 23, University Tract.
20. OR 63-148824 Oct 1, 1963
Gertrude Roberge grants to Walter Franklin Sternaman and Pamela Jean Sternaman (h&w): E 25' of Lot 22 and all of Lot 23, University Tract, exc. por of Culowee St. adj above property on north.
21. OR 65-079174 Apr 7, 1965
Walter Franklin Sternaman and Pamela Jean Sternaman (h&w) grant to Pete Barmasse, a single man: E 25' of Lot 22 and all of Lot 23, University Tract, except por of Culowee St. adj above described property on the north.

22. Official Records 73-031942

Jan 31, 1973

Declaration of Homestead by Joyce L. Barmasse (husband Arthur P. Barmasse, 2 minor children - Leah Marie age 4, Theodore James age 2) family residing at 8045 Culowee, a single family dwelling, 2 bedroom residence.

23. OR 74-182716 June 19, 1974

A. Peter Barmasse & Joyce L. Barmasse (h&w) sold to Kevin Lee Satterfield, a single man E 25' of Lot 22, all of Lot 23 University Tract (Map 2017, filed Apr 26, 1927) exc. por. of Culowee St.

OR 75-186289 July 14, 1975

Quitclaim deed for W. 25' Lot 22; A. Peter Barmasse and Joyce L. Barmasse to Kevin Lee Satterfield to correct error in deed above.

24. OR 75-279317 Oct 10, 1975

Kevin Lee Satterfield and Alma Margie Kay (son and mother) grant to Charles Lee Wooten and Sharon Carol Wooten (h&w): Lots 22 & 23, University Tract, Map 2017 filed Apr 26, 1927.

In November 1988, Charles and Sharon Wooten are the owners of this property.

8045 CULOWEE - DIRECTORY LISTINGS

- 1924 Burnette, Benj (Luty) tchr h W El Cajon Blvd
Burnette, Clive (Estellena) carp h W El Cajon Blvd
- 1925 Burnette Benj (Luty) tchr h N Chollas Rd
Burnette, Clive rancher h N Chollas Rd
- 1930 Arnold, Olla L street supt h 8045 Culowee
1931 Arnold, Olla L street supt h 8045 Culowee
1932 same as above
- 1933 Arnold, Ola L (Mary A) chauf h 8045 Culowee
1934 Arnold, Ole L street supt h 8045 Culowee
1935 Arnold, Olla L (Mary A) former City Street dept h 8045 Culowee
1936 Arnold, Olla L (Mary A) former City Street dept h 8045 Culowee
- 1942 Ehlers, Willard (Virginia N) aircraftwkr CA Corp
h 8045 Culowee
- 1943 Ehlers, Virginia N h 8045 Culowee
Ehlers, Willard shipyardworker h 8045 Culowee
- 1944-45 Ehlers, Virginia N h 8045 Culowee
Ehlers, Willard A Jr slsmn h 8045 Culowee
- 1948-49 Ehlers, Willard A Jr (Virginia N) h 8045 Culowee
dep County Recorder
Ehlers, Arth W stockman J L Helland r 8045 Culowee
- 1950 Ehlers, Willard A (Virginia N) h 8045 Culowee
Ehlers, Arth W clerk h 8045 Culowee
- 1952 Ehlers, William A Jr. (Virginia N) adv mgr La Mesa Scout
h 8045 Culowee
Ehlers, Wenel A photog h 8045 Culowee
Ehlers, Elaine ofcwrk r 8045 Culowee
- 1953-1954 Ehlers William A Jr (Sandra) emp Convair h 8045 Culowee
- 1958 Adair, Tessa h 8045 Culowee
- 1960 Rinks, Riley E (Colleen C) asst mgr Buy & Save Mkt
h 8045 Culowee
- 1961-1962 vacant
- 1963 Jackson, Lindley M (Margt) National Hotel (NC) h 8045 Culowee
- 1964 Sternaman, Walter F (Pamela J) pntr W F Sternaman
h 8045 Culowee
- 1965 same as above
1966 same as above
- 1967 Barmasse A Peter (Joyce) slsmn The Boardway h 8045 Culowee
1969 Barmasse A Peter (Joyce) slsmn Penneys h 8045 Culowee

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J. H. Sefton
Albert W. Gray

I J. H. Sefton of the City and
County of San Diego State of California

For and in consideration of the sum of One thousand and fifty (\$1050) Dollars

Do Hereby Grant to

Albert W. Gray of the County of San Diego State of California

All that Real Property situated in the "La Mesa Colony" County of San Diego,

State of California, bounded and described as follows: Lot numbered Sixty two (62) containing Eleven and thirty one hundredths (11 ³¹/₁₀₀) acres according to the official map of said La Mesa Colony, now on file the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County California, as surveyed and platted by William M. Fitzgerald Civil Engineer.

Together with the water right of one mince inch under a four inch pressure at an annual rental of (\$30) thirty dollars per annum water rates therefor payable to the San Diego Phone Company. This conveyance being subject to all the privileges, restrictions, rights & appurtenances contained in the deed of said lot 62 to me by Bryant Howard & R. A. Thomas Trustees of the San Diego Phone Co.

To Have and to Hold the above granted and described premises unto the said grantee, his heirs and assigns forever.

Witness my hand and seal this tenth day of February 1891

Signed and executed in the presence of

J. H. Sefton

Notary Public
Notary Public
Notary Public
Notary Public
Notary Public
Notary Public
Notary Public
Notary Public

STATE OF CALIFORNIA.
County of San Diego.

On this tenth day of February A. D. Eighteen Hundred and ninety one before me, L. F. Doolittle a Notary Public in and for said County residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared J. H. Sefton

known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and he acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at my office in the City and County of San Diego, State of California, the day and year in this Certificate first above written.



L. F. Doolittle Notary Public.

Received for record, Feb. 10 1891, at 47 minutes past 2 o'clock P. M., at request of

H. W. Stanton, - E. H. Miller, Deputy Recorder for A. P. Johnson Jr. Deputy
Recorded Feb. 17 1891 at 2 P. M. E. H. Miller County Recorder.
Fee \$1.00 By L. F. Horner Deputy.

Photographed by J. Miller, Deputy Recorder

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A.M. Gray et al

J.L. Miley

Me Albert M. Gray and Lizzie A. Gray
(Husband & Wife) of La Mesa, County of San Diego, State
of California

For and in consideration of the sum of Sixty Five Hundred (\$6500.00) Dollars,

DO HEREBY GRANT TO J.L. Miley of

Eldora County of Hardin and State of Iowa
ALL THAT REAL PROPERTY situated in The "La Mesa Colony"

County of San Diego,
State of California, bounded and described as follows:

Lot numbered Sixty-two (62) containing eleven and thirty
one hundredths (11 30/100) Acres according to the official map
of said "La Mesa Colony," now on file in the office of the County
Recorder of San Diego County, California, as surveyed and
platted by William H. Fitzhugh Civil Engineer; together with the
water right of one minor inch under a four inch pressure and
at an annual rental of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per annum,
water rates therefor payable to the San Diego Flume Company,
this conveyance being subject to all the privileges, restrictions,
rights and appurtenances contained in the deed of said Lot
62 to me by J.W. Defton, by Bryant Brown and R.A. Thomas
Trustees, and the San Diego Flume Company.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted and described premises unto the said grantee, his heirs
and assigns forever.

WITNESS Our hand and seal this

Signed and executed in the presence of

Samuel J. Agnew
Rose Edmund

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
County of San Diego. } ss.

Twelfth day of February 1897

Albert M. Gray
Lizzie A. Gray

SEAL
SEAL
SEAL

On this Twelfth day of February A. D. eighteen Hundred and
Ninety-seven before me, Samuel J. Agnew a Notary Public in and for said County, residing
therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Albert M. Gray and
Lizzie A. Gray his wife known to me to be
the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument, and they acknowledged to me that
they executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official seal,
at my office in La Mesa, in the County of San Diego, State of California, the
day and year in this certificate first above written.

Samuel J. Agnew Notary Public.
In and for the County of San Diego, California,
Recorded at request of L.L. Scott March 16/97 at 9 o'clock A.M.

File 900

J. F. Forward Recorder.
W. Howard Deputy Recorder.

B. F. Burnette



dies in La Mesa home

**BURNETTE RITES
SET FOR TODAY**

Funeral services for Benjamin F. Burnette, 74, former San Diego High school instructor who died Thursday in his La Mesa home, will be held today at 11 a. m. in the Bradley-Woolman chapel. Pallbearers will be Lawrence Carr, William P. Dunlevy, Clarence Swenson, Edward C. Taylor, Lee Bloomenshine and Percy H. Heron.

Mr. Burnette was a native of Missouri. He passed the early part of his life in Asheville, N. C., and came to San Diego in 1908. He joined the San Diego High school faculty in 1916 and was an instructor in the mechanical arts department until two years ago, when he retired because of ill health.

Mr. Burnette is survived by his widow, Mrs. Nancy Burnette; a son, Clive Burnette, Pacific Beach; three daughters, Mrs. Edith Entennamann of Vienna, Austria; Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock and Mrs. J. A. Parker, both of San Diego, and a brother, Steven Burnette of Seattle.

**FORMER TEACHER
IN S. D. SCHOOLS
DIES IN LA MESA**

Benjamin F. Burnette, 74, former instructor at San Diego High school, died yesterday morning in his home, 7927 El Capitan dr., La Mesa, of heart disease. Mr. Burnette had been in failing health several years and his death was not a surprise to his close friends.

Mr. Burnette was born in Missouri, and in 1888 he went to Asheville, N. C., where for 20 years he engaged in the vehicle and implement business. He came to San Diego in 1908 and for several years was a real estate operator.

However, in 1916 he accepted a position as instructor in the technical arts department at San Diego High school, where he taught for 13 years. The last two years of his school work, 1929-1931, were spent at Woodrow Wilson Junior High school, where he was in charge of study halls. He retired from school work two years ago because of ill health.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Nancy Burnette, La Mesa; a son, Clive Burnette, Pacific Beach; three daughters, Mrs. Edith Entennamann, Vienna, Austria; Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock and Mrs. J. A. Parker, both of La Mesa, and a brother, Steven Burnette, Seattle.

Funeral services will be announced by Bradley-Woolman mortuary.

Clive M. Burnette

Services for a 54-year resident of San Diego, Clive M. Burnette, 81, of 5706 Chelsea Ave., will be held tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Greenwood Mortuary. Entombment will be at Greenwood Mausoleum.

Burnette died Thursday at a hospital. He is a native of Missouri, and formerly was a contractor in this area.

He is survived by a sister-in-law and a nephew living in North Carolina.

Benjamin Burnette Is Called by Death

Death called Benjamin Burnette, husband of Mrs. Nancy L. Burnette, Thanksgiving morning. Although he had been suffering with an attack of indigestion and heart trouble for several days he seemed much recovered the night before, and his death came as a shock to the family.

Mr. Burnette came from Ashville, N. C., to San Diego in 1908, and in 1920 moved with his family to La Mesa where they had resided since. He had been a member of the faculty at San Diego High school.

He is survived by his wife, a son, Clive Burnette of Pacific Beach, three daughters, Mrs. Edith Entenmann of Vienna, Austria, and Mrs. Nan Parker and Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock, both of La Mesa, a brother, Stephen Burnette of Seattle, Wash., and several grandchildren. Funeral services were held in San Diego followed by interment at Greenwood Memorial park.

Long-Time Resident Called by Death

Mrs. Nancy Lucretia Burnette, who lived in San Diego county for 35 years, spending the last 22 years in La Mesa, died on May 23, after a short illness.

She is survived by two daughters in La Mesa, Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock, 7811 La Mesa boulevard, with whom she had made her home, and Mrs. James Parker. Another daughter, Mrs. Edith Entenman, lives in New York City. A son, Cleve Burnette, lives in Pacific Beach.

Mrs. Burnette was born August 19, 1862, in Sarcoxie, Missouri. She married Benjamin Burnette, who was a teacher in San Diego High school at the time of his death on Thanksgiving day of 1935. On February 7 of that year the couple had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Burnette was formerly an active member of the La Mesa Woman club and was a member of Central Congregational church.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday morning at the Erickson-Anderson chapel. Dr. Roy Campbell officiated. Cremation followed.

Mrs. Nancy L. Burnette

Services for Mrs. Nancy Lucretia Burnette, 81, who died Sunday in a local hospital, will be conducted tomorrow morning at 10 in the Erickson-Anderson mortuary, La Mesa, the Rev. Roy Campbell officiating. Cremation will follow.

A native of Curryville, Mo., she had lived in California 35 years, 22 in La Mesa. She was the mother of Mrs. James A. Parker and Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock of La Mesa; Mrs. Edith Entenman of New York City; and Cleve Burnette of Asheville, N. C.

Arnold Services Set

Private services for Ola L. Arnold, 72, a "retired" ranch foreman, will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Paris Mortuary, El Cajon. Burial will be at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Arnold, of 402 N. Chambers St., El Cajon, died Thursday in Descanso. A native of Mission Valley, he lived in the county all his life.

He was a member of Post 303 of the American Legion in El Cajon.

He leaves his widow, Mary; two daughters, including Mrs. Helen Flowers of Descanso; a son, Eugene L., of El Cajon, and 12 grandchildren.

L.M.SCOUT 2-4-1927

Word of the recent death of Mrs. Margaret Stout at the home of her niece, Mrs. George Williams, in Denison, Texas, was received here this week. Mrs. Stout was a well known La Mesan, having but recently removed from this city, and her passing is mourned by a large circle of friends.

S.D.U. 2-13-1939

Obituary

L. H. ADAIR

Leonidas Harry Adair, 64, retired Canadian farmer, who had been engaged in the poultry business here for the last 10 years, died Friday at his home, 4953 Catoclin dr. He had been ill three weeks.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Tessa Adair, San Diego; a daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Roberge, Coronado; his mother, Mrs. Mattie Adair, and a sister, Mrs. Sam Archibald, both of Ft. Worth, and a brother, Dolphus Adair, Portaransas, Tex.

Services will be conducted at Johnson Saum mortuary at 10 a.m. tomorrow, the Rev. Howard B. Bard officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood memorial cemetery.

S.D.U. 12-8-1958

Mrs. Tessa V. Adair

Mrs. Tessa V. Adair, 81, a resident here for 30 years, died Thursday at her home, 8045 Culowee Ave., La Mesa.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Roberge; a sister, Mrs. May Zetzsche of Missouri; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at Greenwood Mortuary with burial in Greenwood Memorial Park..

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

HABS _____		HAER _____	NR _____	SHA _____	Loc _____
UTM:	A	3625300	B	497780	
	C		D		

IDENTIFICATION:

1. COMMON NAME: Alvin W. Gray House
2. HISTORIC NAME: Alvin W. Gray House
3. ADDRESS: 8045 Culowee CITY: La Mesa
ZIP: 92041 COUNTY: San Diego 4. PARCEL #: 470-245-05
5. PRESENT OWNER: Charles and S. Wooten
ADDRESS: 8045 Culowee CITY: La Mesa
ZIP: 92041 OWNERSHIP IS: PUBLIC: PRIVATE: xx
6. PRESENT USE: Residence
ORIGINAL USE: Residence

DESCRIPTION:

- 7A. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Victorian Farmhouse
- 7B. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF
STRUCTURE AND DESCRIBE ANY MAJOR ALTERATIONS FROM
ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION.

Legal Description: University Tract, E. 25', lot 22, all lot 23.

This Victorian Farmhouse, one of the earliest remaining in La Mesa, has shiplap siding, decorative shingles in the gable ends, and an angular porch with turned posts which extends around two sides of the building. The house stands sideways to the present street due to the subdivision of the early farm area. The complex hip and gable roof has asphalt shingles and is pierced by a brick chimney near the center. Windows in the home are double hung with an angular bay at the former front of the residence. Metal ridge cresting, gingerbread spindles on the porch and original wooden steps to the porch are missing. The entire house has been sprayed with texture paint. The current owner plans to completely restore this house.



8. CONST. DATE:
EST: 1891 FACT:
9. ARCHITECT:
Unknown
10. BUILDER:
Unknown
11. APPROX. PROP. SIZE(FT):
FRONT. 100 DEPTH. 100
OR APPROX. ACREAGE:
12. DATE(S) OF PHOTO(S):
1982

13. CONDITION: EXCELL..... GOOD..x.. FAIR..... DETERIORATED.....
NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE.....
14. ALTERATIONS: Small addition at rear, texture paint.
15. SURROUNDINGS: (CHECK MORE THAN ONE IF NECESSARY)
OPEN LAND..... SCATTERED BLDGS..... DENSELY BUILT-UP..x..
RESID..x.. INDUST..... COM'L..... OTHER.....
16. THREAT TO SITE: NONE KNOWN..x.. PVT DEVEL..... ZONING.....
VANDALISM..... PUBLIC WORK PROJECT..... OTHER.....
17. IS STRUCTURE: ON ITS ORIG SITE?..x.. MOVED?..... UNKNOWN?.....
18. RELATED FEATURES: Garage, trees and shrubs.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL
IMPORTANCE (INCLUDING DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON
ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE).

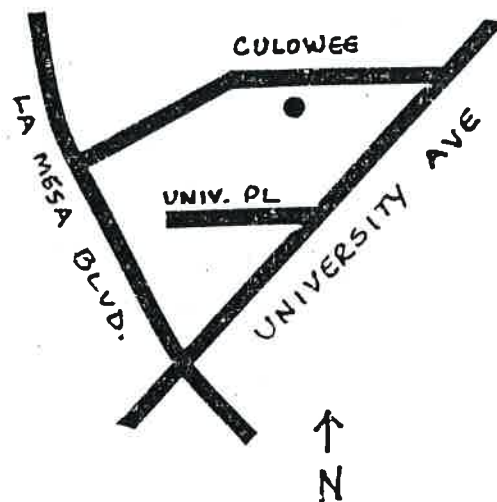
This house is one of the earliest homes remaining in La Mesa. A. W. Gray, La Mesa's first postmaster, probably had the house constructed in 1891. Mr. Gray and his wife, Lizzie, lived in this dwelling, and since it stands near the old wagon road to El Cajon, the possibility exists that the post office was located in the house. The Grays owned this property until 1897 when they sold to J. C. Widley. A number of families have owned this house including several ranchers; James Parker, a salesman, in the 1920's; Benjamin Burnette, a teacher at San Diego High School; and Ola and Mary Arnold in the 1930's. Mr. Arnold was the Superintendent of City Streets in 1932. This house retains much of the original design and materials, and the alterations can be reversed. Mr. Wooten, the current owner intends to completely restore this house. The A. W. Gray House is a one-of-a-kind example of a Victorian farmhouse.

20. MAIN THEME OF THE HISTORIC
RESOURCE: (IF MORE THAN ONE
IS CHECKED, NUMBER IN ORDER
OF IMPORTANCE).
ARCHITECT..x..ARTS & LEISURE.....
ECONOMIC/INDUSTRIAL.....
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT..x..
GOVT.....MILITARY.....RELIG.....
SOCIAL/EDUCATION.....
21. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS
PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, AND
THEIR DATES).

City and County Directories
County Assessors and Recorders
La Mesa Hist. Soc. photograph
Interview: Mr. Wooten, 6/25/82.

22. DATE FORM PREPARED: June 1982
BY(NAME): Dr. Ray Brandes
ORGANIZATION: SANDAG
ADDRESS: 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 524
CITY: San Diego ZIP: 92101
PHONE: (619) 236-5300

LOCATIONAL SKETCH MAP
(DRAW AND LABEL SITE AND
SURROUNDING STREETS,
ROADS, AND PROMINENT
LANDMARKS):



9. Major Bibliographical References

Newspapers

San Diego Union: Nov. 30, 1934, Dec. 1, 1934,
Feb. 13, 1939, May 25, 1943, Dec. 8, 1958,
May 3, 1964, and Dec. 12, 1965.

La Mesa Scout: Feb. 4, 1927, Dec. 7, 1934, and
May 28, 1943.

Public Records

San Diego County Recorder - deed books, official records,
University Tract Map 2017.

San Diego County Assessor - assessment records and maps
School Census Records, 1890s, Allison School District,
La Mesa School District.

Great Register of Voters, San Diego County,
1888-1892; 1892-1894

Federal Population Census, San Diego County, 1900

Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, City of La Mesa
Alvin (sic) W. Gray House (June 1984)

Benjamin & Nancy Burnette House (11/24/87)

Books

Alexander, W.E. Plat Book of San Diego County, California
[1913?], p.54.

Frickstad, Walter N. A Century of California Post Offices,
1848 to 1954. 1955.

(continued next page)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Property size - 100' by 100' (10,000 sq ft)

11. Form Prepared By

Historic Preservation Commission, City of La Mesa
Karna Webster, Commissioner
Donna Regan, Commissioner
Dennis Tuttle, Commissioner

Nov. 29, 1988

Bibliographical References continued -

Gilbert, Anna M. La Mesa Yesterday and Today, 1924.
Smythe, William E. History of San Diego 1542-1908, 1908.
Wolin, Rita. La Mesa-A Brief History, 1976.

City and County directories 1891-1970

Miscellaneous

"Photocopies of U. S. Post Office Dept. records
concerning San Diego, California."

Historic Photographs - courtesy San Diego Historical Society,
Ticor Collection

Interviews:

Charles and Sharon Wooten
Anne Parker
Notes from interview with Jim Parker
Tom Cox