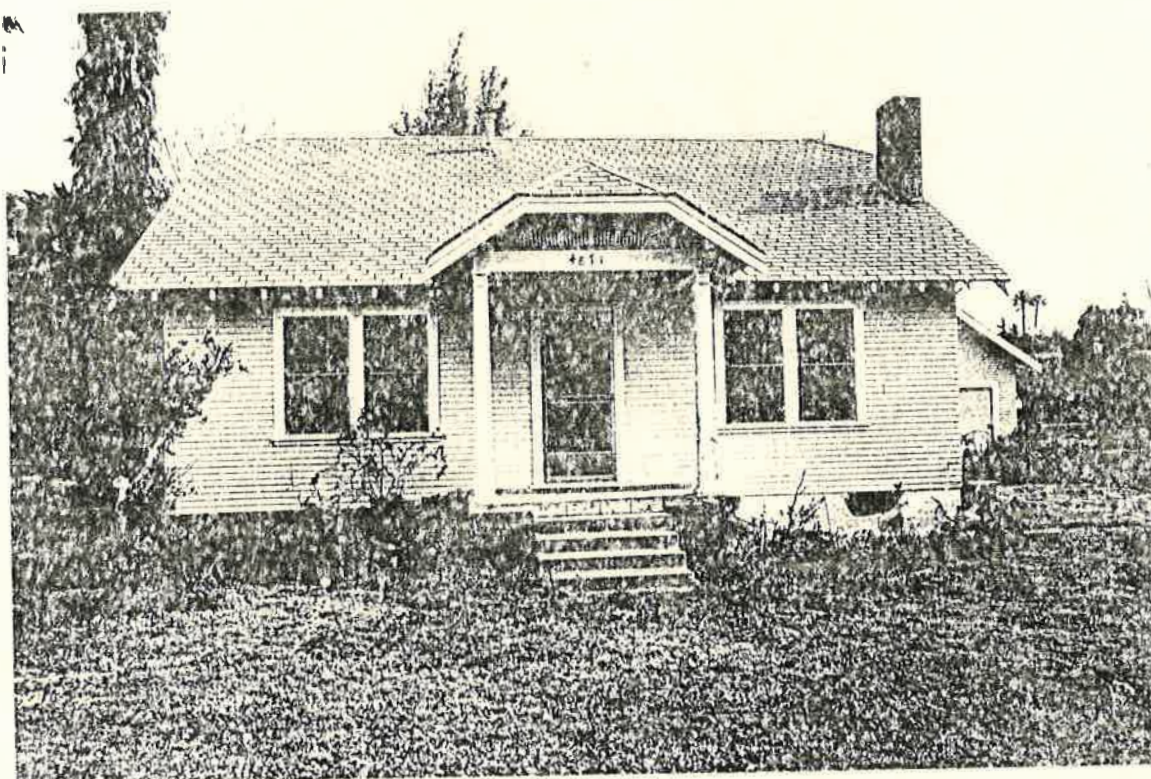




HENRY M. LYONS HOUSE
1935

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

HENRY M. LYONS HOUSE

4871 Bancroft Drive

La Mesa, California

LA MESA HISTORIC LANDMARK
NOMINATION FORM

1. Name

historic Henry M. Lyons House

and/or common Lyons House

2. Location

street & number 4871 Bancroft Drive _____ not for publication

city, town La Mesa _____ vicinity of

state California code _____ county San Diego code _____

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name John David Lienert

street & number 5515 Jackson Drive, #153

city, town La Mesa _____ vicinity of state California 92042

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
title 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 January 22, 1986

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This simple, handsome bungalow looks much as it did when built in 1935. The 1½-story structure, rectangular in shape, has wooden overlapping siding. The high-pitched clipped gable roof with side-facing gable ends is covered by asphalt shingles; the eaves have exposed rafter ends. The windows are of wood construction and are double hung. The front facade of the house exhibits a pleasing symmetry. Paired double-hung windows are on either side of the center front door and porch. The front windows consist of an upper sash with six panes and a lower sash with one. The door is also multi-paned with a wood frame. A clipped gable roof supported by two tapered square posts shelters the open entrance porch. Slanting wooden attic vents at the front of the porch roof add decorative texture. A brick chimney is located on the south side wall. The original detached garage, also rectangular in shape, has walls and roof to match the house.

As part of a historic preservation project performed by the property owner, the City of La Mesa, and CalTrans, the house was relocated on the site from the north to the south side of the existing garage. The garage itself was not moved. Following the relocation, some alterations were made to the interior and the unfinished attic was converted to living space with the addition of a shed-roofed dormer extending most of the length of the rear portion of the roof. Period interior features such as the hardwood floors, fireplace and mantle, bathroom fixtures, and the natural pine woodwork were preserved.

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) *	

*Part of relocation program to preserve structures within CalTrans

Specific dates	1935	Builder/Architect	improvements.
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Statement of Significance

The Henry M. Lyons House is significant as an excellent example of the Bungalow style of architecture, representative of many of the homes constructed as La Mesa expanded in the 1920's and 1930's. The house was built in 1935 for Henry and Maude Lyons, who lived there many years. The recent rescue of the Lyons House as part of a unique interagency historic preservation program has provided additional significance.

Henry Milliken Lyons was born in Oletha, Kansas, on July 10, 1901, the son of Isaac and Minnie Milliken Lyons. His wife, Maude Isabelle Naughton, was born in Kansas on January 12, 1901. They had one son, Irvin.

The Lyons family moved from Kansas to the city of San Diego about 1924. There Henry worked at a variety of jobs: for the San Diego Consolidated Gas & Electric Company, as a mechanic for the Savoy Garage, and as a salesman for Campbell Creamery ("A Square Deal in a Square Bottle").

By 1931 he had become a route salesman for Mrs. Conkling's Bakery ("Better Baked Goods"), where he would work for almost 30 years. The bakery, which was located at 3277 El Cajon Boulevard, sold retail baked goods to residential customers along regularly scheduled routes, providing home service. Henry's territory at first included Jamul and the back country. He later spent many years as route supervisor or manager.

On September 17, 1934, Henry and Maude Lyons purchased from Thomas L. and Sethena Thompson the property on Bancroft Drive where their house would be built. Their son, Irvin, remembered that his mother drew floor plans of what they wanted and that a builder or carpenter named Barnes, who also lived on Bancroft, built the house. The house was completed in time for Irvin to enter Grossmont High School in the fall of 1935.

Maude Lyons was an active member of La Mesa's Methodist Church, and Henry was a member of La Mesa Masonic Lodge 407.

Henry Lyons died March 17, 1962, at the age of 60. Maude continued to live in the house, later moving to a retirement home several years before her passing on August 8, 1981.

On August 20, 1977, Maude Lyons sold the house to Timothy W. Lea, a truck driver for Woodward Sand Company in Lakeside.

As part of a freeway expansion project for the I-8/SR-125 interchange, the Lyons property was acquired by CalTrans in June of 1985 for the realignment of Bancroft Drive. Normally the house would have faced demolition or relocation to another site. At this time, the City of La Mesa, in cooperation with Caltrans, developed an innovative plan to preserve the Lyons House and two other houses on the City's Historic Resources Inventory which were also threatened by the freeway expansion. The plan allowed the private individuals who purchased the houses at auction from CalTrans to relocate them on adjacent or nearby excess right-of-way property made available from CalTrans. Provisions were made to then permit the owners of these structures to purchase the excess right-of-way property from CalTrans, through the City, with the stipulation that the property would only be used for historic preservation purposes. The owners were required to preserve the houses and to allow the City to designate them as Historic Landmarks.

On January 22, 1986, the Lyons House became the first of the three houses to be moved. New owner John Lienert was able to relocate the house on a portion of the original property by moving it slightly to the south and east. Today this simple bungalow stands near its original site, preserved for the future.

9. Major Bibliographical References

La Mesa Cultural and Historical Resources Inventory, 1984.
Interview with K. Caratans.
Interview with Timothy Lea.
Interview with Irvin Lyons.
San Diego City and County Directories.
San Diego County Recorder's Office
 Death certificates
 Grant Deed, September 17, 1934, OR 332/175
San Diego Union, March 19, 1962, A-25.
San Diego Union, August 12, 1981, B-1.

Lyons House photographs by Jill Heistead.

10. Geographical Data

Por. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE, $\frac{1}{2}$ of sec. 20, T 165, R 1W

11. Form Prepared By

Donna Regan, La Mesa Historic Preservation Commission

Robert B. Malone, David E. Witt, City of La Mesa Planning
 Department

8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California, 92041

July, 1987

Henry M. Lyons

Henry M. Lyons, 60, of 4871 Bancroft Drive, La Mesa, a county resident 28 years, died Saturday at his home.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in La Mesa Methodist Church, with entombment in Greenwood Mausoleum. Erickson-Anderson Mortuary is in charge.

Lyons managed a bakery route. He was born in Oleta, Kan. He was a member of La Mesa Masonic Lodge 407.

Surviving are his widow, Maude, a son and three grandchildren.

San Diego Union, March 19, 1962, A-25.

Maude Lyons

Maude I. Lyons, 80, of Spring Valley, a county resident for 57 years, died Saturday in a hospital.

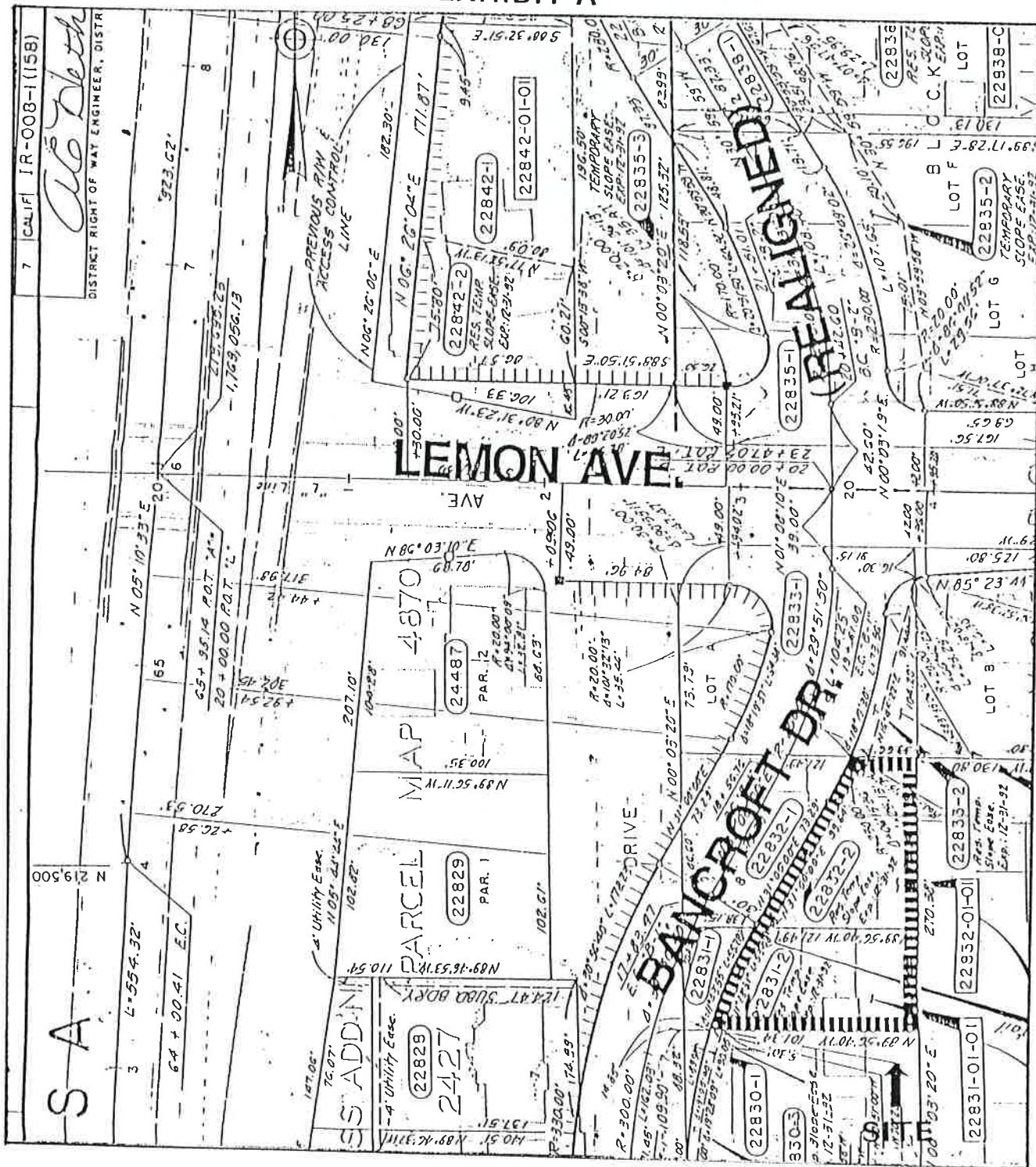
Memorial services will be held at 1:30 p.m. today at the First United Methodist Church of La Mesa. Private entombment will be at Greenwood Mausoleum.

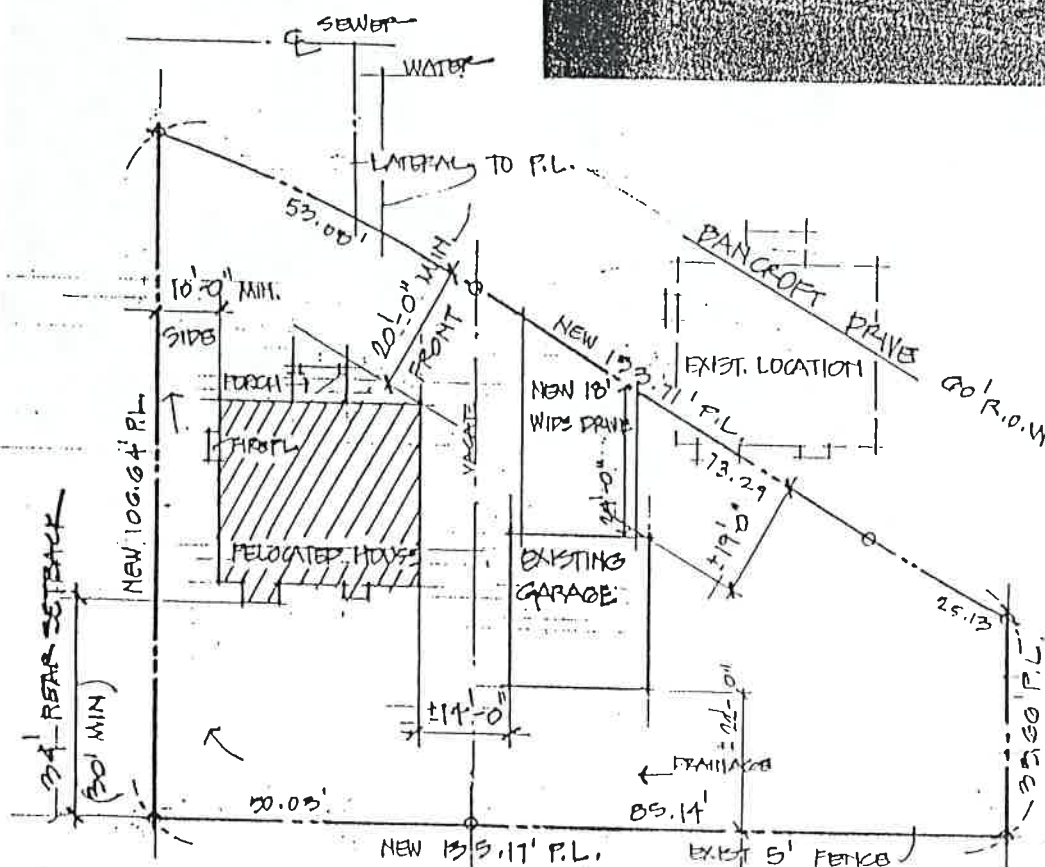
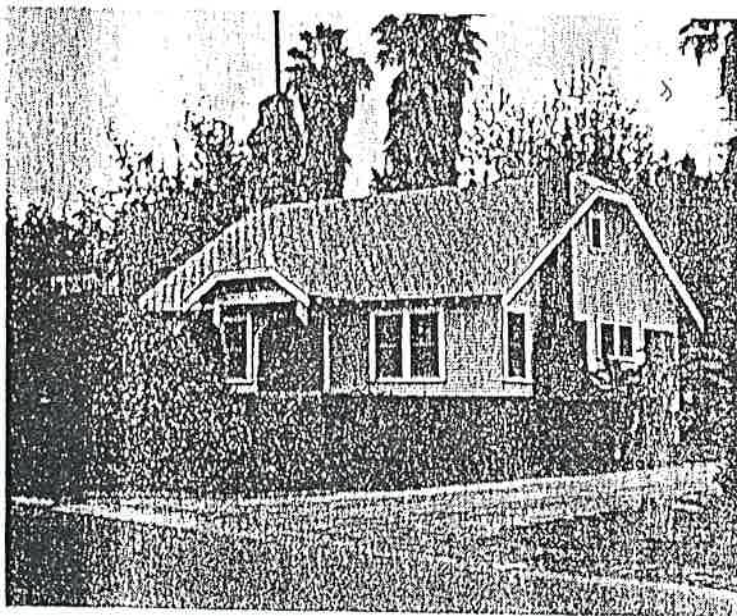
Mrs. Lyons was born in Kansas. She was a housewife.

She is survived by a son, Irvin Lyons of Glendale; a brother; a sister; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

San Diego Union, August 12, 1981, B-1.

EXHIBIT A





SITE PLAN

OWNER: JOHN LIENERT
 5515 JACKSON DR. #153
 LA MEESA, CAL. 92041 223-5566 X350
 PROPERTY ADDRESS: 4871 BANCROFT
 TAX ASS. NO. 495-232-01
 NO GRADING

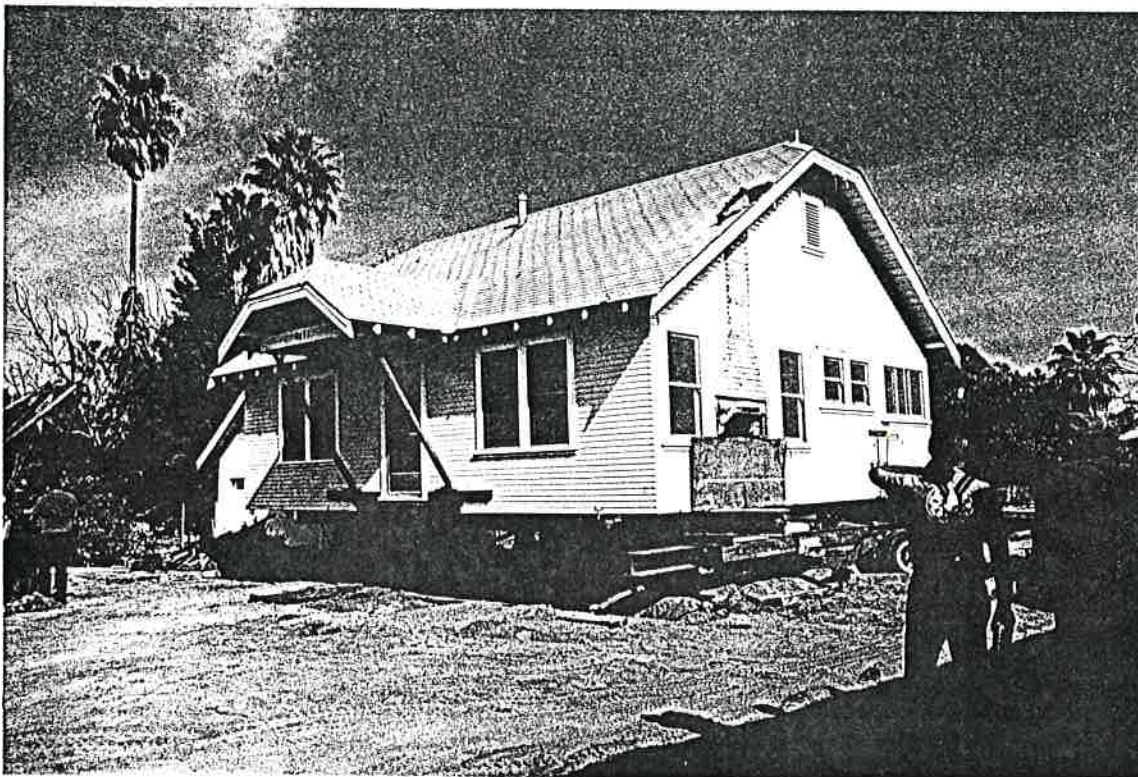
1"=20'-0"  NORTH



Lyons House, January, 1986. The shrubbery has been cleared away and holes broken in the foundation to prepare for the move.



Original foundation, garage, and new location.



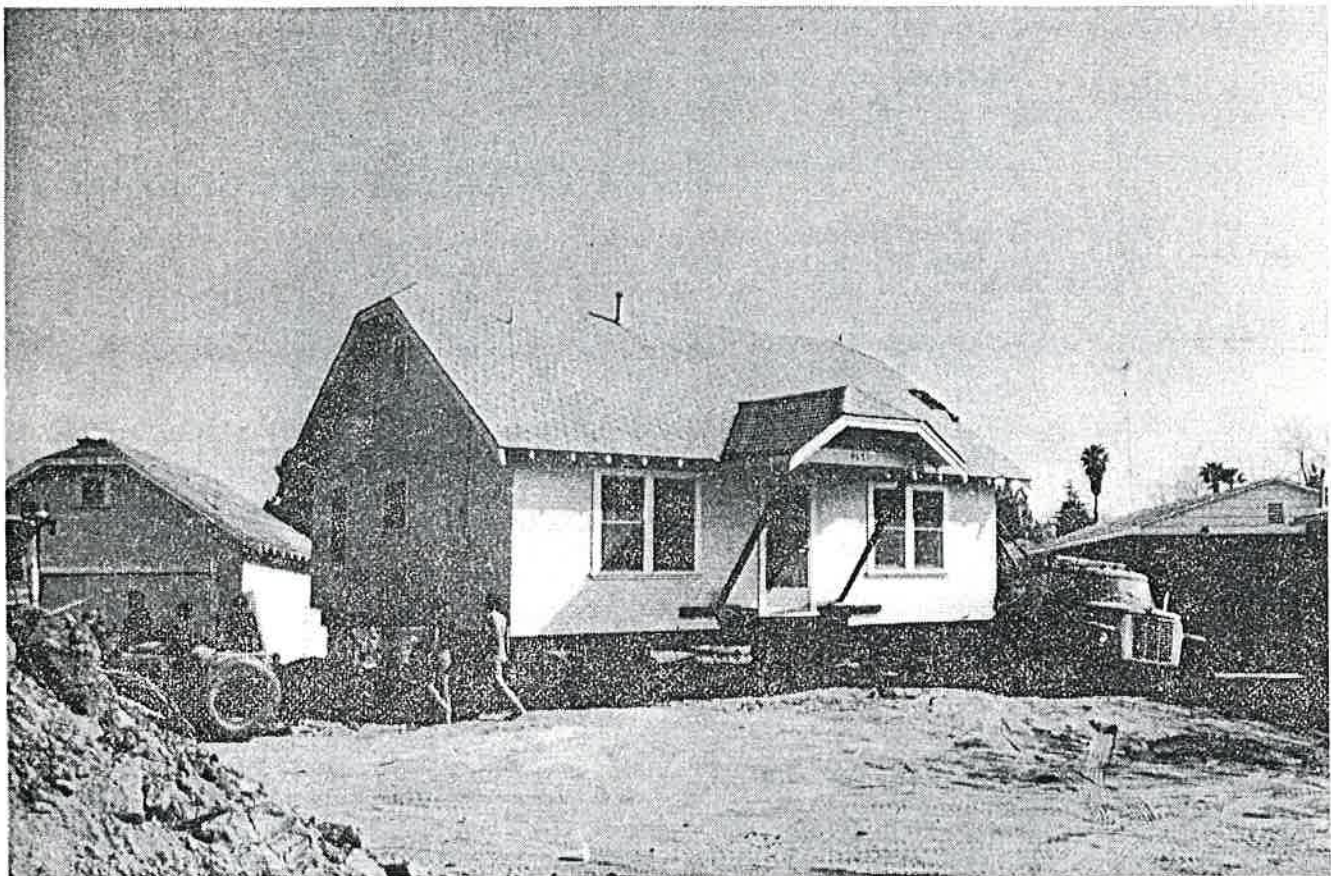
Front and south side.

LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1986



Lyons House Moved to Safety

On January 22, the Henry M. Lyons House was carefully moved on large wheeled dollies to its new location on the lot adjacent on the south to its original site. A few days prior to this, supported by heavy steel beams, it had been slowly lifted from the foundation where it had rested for over 50 years. Now further back from the street, out of the way of Bancroft Drive realignment, the house waited on blocks until its new foundation could be reconstructed beneath it. Due to the configuration of the newly created lot, the Lyons garage did not have to be moved from its original location.

The Lyons House is the first of three historic houses threatened by Caltrans construction to be moved to safety. The move is part of a plan in which the City of La Mesa is acting as an intermediary between Caltrans and the private citizens who have purchased the structures at public auction. This plan ensures that the owners will be able to buy adjacent or nearby excess right-of-way land for relocation purposes. The owners have agreed to preserve the architectural integrity of the houses and to allow the city to designate them as local landmarks.

(continued on next page)

Lookout Avenue, February, 1986, continued.

The Lyons House, built by Henry and Maude Lyons about 1935, is a small, charming bungalow which has remained remarkably intact over the years. Even the interior has escaped change: small white hexagonal tiles still cover the kitchen counter, the bathroom fixtures are original, and the honey pine woodwork has never been painted.

New owner John Lienert, President of Olde La Mesa Paint Company, plans to live in the house. He has been interested in the home for several years and once painted it while Mrs. Lyons was still living there. At present Mr. Lienert is acquiring furnishings of the late 1920s and early 1930s to complement the interior; he already has a beautifully restored 1937 Pontiac all set to roll into the garage.