

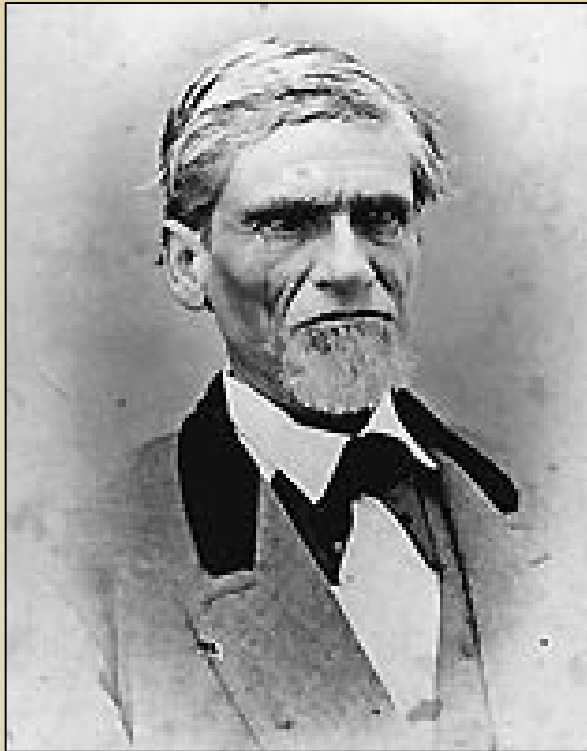


Heritage Hill Historical Park Annual Update

OC Historical Commission — April 5, 2022



History



- Serrano Adobe 1863
- El Toro Grammar School 1890
- St. George’s Episcopal Mission 1891
- Harvey Bennett Ranch House 1908
- County Acquires Adobe 1974
- Moving Buildings 1976-78
- Heritage Hill Historical Park 1982
(rededicated 1985; restoration complete on Ranch House)

Fun Facts

- Designations for Serrano Adobe
 - National Register of Historic Places
 - California State Landmark
- Interpretation
 - Human habitation in the Saddleback Valley
 - Changes in OC lifestyle



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Hours of Operation

- Open Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Guided Tours
– Wed., Thurs. & Sat at 11 a.m.



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By the Numbers

- Programs Conducted
 - 2019 = 241
 - 2020 = 62
 - 2021 = 114
- Visitor Attendance
 - 2019 = 30,902
 - 2020 = 9,712
 - 2021 = 27,593



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Special Events

- Saddleback Area Historical Society Tea – April
- Rancho Days Fiesta – May
- Fall-O-Ween– October
- Pioneer Days – October
- Candlelight Walk – December
- Holiday Lights – December



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Fall-O-Ween

- Inaugural event in 2021
- Variety of fall & Halloween-themed photo opportunities, hay maze and scavenger hunt
- 10,000 visitors over 6 evenings – the highest ever event attendance at Heritage Hill



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Saddleback Area Historical Society

- **Background**

- Formed in 1973 to save historic structures in El Toro
- Saved 3 El Toro buildings, and transferred them to County



- **Volunteers**

- Operates SAHS Reference Library (by appointment only)

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Docents: Amigos de la Colina

- 20 active docents
 - Leads ~100 school programs annually
 - 3 school programs and scheduled guided tours
- 68 members
 - Staff support at special events
 - Advisory and project committees



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School Programs: Hands On

- Available Wednesdays or Thursdays
- This tour allows children to delve into history first hand by participating in an activity at each historic site
 - e.g., pumping water, grinding corn, manually washing clothes



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School Programs: Native American

- Available Tuesdays or Fridays
- Students experience a day in the lives of the Acjachemen, inhabitants of the Saddleback Valley before the Spanish



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School Programs: Living History

- Available Tuesdays or Fridays
- Program led by a docent “schoolmarm”
- Children experience what would have been a typical school day in 1890
 - Wear period costumes
 - Write on slates
 - Given period lessons



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12

Completed: Entrance Visibility

- New signage at main gate of Heritage Hill in design process
- Sign on Serrano Road replaced
- Granary tower relocated to front entrance
- Removed vegetation



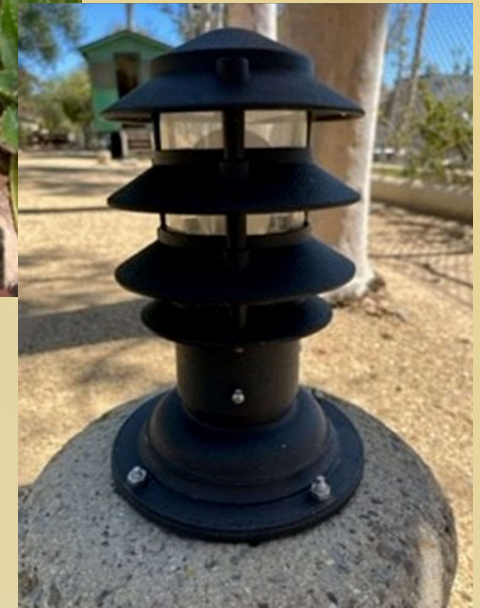
Completed: Planter – Phase One

- To utilize more drought tolerant plants
- New drip line irrigation system installed
- Removal of overgrown vegetation for better facility visibility
- Mulch added to help retain moisture and weed abatement



Completed: Electrical Upgrades

- Replaced pathway lighting with LED fixtures throughout the park
- Upgraded all exterior outlets with GFI receptacles
- Installed new LED spotlighting to historic buildings



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Completed: Holiday Lighting

- Phased incorporation programmable lighting as technology improves
- Reduce workload on staff
- Create “Instagram-able” spots



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Future: Slope Stabilization

- Wagon Wheel Corral
- Increased soil erosion noted during recent rains
- Assessment requested to evaluate and stabilize slope before failure



Future: Sewer Upgrades

- Aged sewer line infrastructure causing blockage issues
- Eliminates the need for frequent costly sewer line service
- Prevents event disruptions



Future: Public Wi-Fi

- Investigate feasibility to provide public Wi-Fi
- Encourage visitation
- Opportunity to incorporate smart devices in interpretation and special events



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And more.....

- Wagon Restoration
- Irrigation Repair and Landscaping Maintenance
- Storage Organization
- Improved Docent Training Program





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