






Other things to consider:


 Purchase *Design Guidelines for Homeowners of Historic Resources* for \$8.00 at the City's Planning Department which discusses appropriate renovation materials, design standards and permit requirements applicable to all historic homes throughout the city.


 Explore designating your home on the City's Local Historic Register, and thereby becoming eligible for entering into a Mills Act Contract, a property tax reduction program.

 Use the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation when renovating your home.

 Be aware that a Certificate of Appropriateness is required for all exterior modifications. Contact the Planning Department for an application and more information.

 Research the style of your home. Books are available at the Escondido History Center and the public library.

 The Escondido History Center might have historic photographs of your home. If so, copies are available for purchase. Call the Historical Society to check with their photographic committee.

 Other sources of information include cemetery offices, churches, building department and public records.

Resources

Escondido History Center
Grape Day Park
321 N. Broadway
Escondido
760 743-8207
Office open M-F 8am-4pm
www.escondidohistoricalsociety.org

Pioneer Room
Next to the Escondido Public Library
247 S. Kalmia
Escondido
760 839-4315
T-Th. 1pm-5pm & Sat. 10am-2pm

City of Escondido Planning Department
201 N. Broadway
Escondido
760 839-4671
M-F 7:30am-5:30pm
closed every other Friday

North County Assessor's Office
141 E. Carmel
San Marcos
760 940-6868
M-F 8am-5pm

San Diego Assessor's Office
1600 Pacific Highway
Room 103
San Diego
619 531-5777
M-F 8am-5pm

HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR HISTORIC ESCONDIDO HOME



Researching Your Home

Researching your home can be challenging, but very worthwhile. The information you collect can be shared with others and added to the collective story of Escondido's history. In addition, this information is required in order to apply for designating your house on the City's Local Register of Historic Places and thereby becoming eligible for a Mills Act Contract (property tax abatement program).

To get started you will need to know 1) the name of the earliest owner possible, or at least the previous



owner's name and 2) your Tax Assessor's Parcel Number (lot-block-parcel number, EX 123-123-12) —this is listed on your deed and on tax records.

Once you've gathered this information, visit the County Assessor's Office. The North County branch is a good starting point but not all information is available there and you may need to go the San Diego main office. At the Assessor's office you will be researching ownership information for your property.

Be prepared to spend all day. Ask for help on how to use the Grantor/Grantee index. Start working by searching backward from the last owner, or if your home was built in the 19th century or early 20th century, you may want to start with the Escondido Land & Town Company and go forward. The index also includes assessed land and improved values for the property. The improved value can assist in determining when structures were built on the property.

The names you've gathered can now be researched for their role in Escondido's history. Use the Escondido Directories to confirm what you have found. Directories are located at the Escondido History Center and the Pioneer Room. (Note: an "r" after a name in the directory refers to a resident, an "h" refers to a homeowner.) The first directory with addresses is 1923. The 1952



and 1966 directories are particularly useful as you can check by address as well as by name. Be aware that many Escondido street names changed in the 1930s. A list of new/old names is available on the Historical Society's website and in their office.

Additional information about the families / individuals associated with your home can be researched in old editions of the *Times-Advocate* (T-A), the local newspaper, which



are archived at the Escondido Main Library. Parts, but not all, of the T-A are indexed. Check the indexed section for

the names of individuals associated with your home and then look up any mentions in the microfilm. You can also check the T-A around the time the home was built as new construction was reported in the paper. Once you have gathered information regarding previous owners, their roles in Escondido's history and any other noteworthy information, compile the info and SHARE, SHARE with your local historic resource agencies. If you would like to have your house listed on the City's Local Historic Register, this information will be need to be recorded on the appropriate California state forms and submitted with a Local Register application to the City's Planning Dept.