Heritage County Park
2454 Heritage Park Row
San Diego, CA 92110
Park Office: (619) 260-6401
Reservations: (877) 565-3600

RULES AND REGULATIONS

COMMERCIAL VENDING: No commercial transactions, vending or advertising without written authorization.

DRONES: Remotely piloted aircraft and drones are prohibited.

FIREARMS & WEAPONS: No firearms or weapons are permitted in any County park.

FIRES: No fires or cooking in the park.

GLASS: No glass containers are allowed.

LITTER: No littering. Place litter and recyclable materials in the containers provided by the park.

NATURAL & CULTURAL FEATURES: All plants, animals, natural and cultural features are fully protected and may not be harmed or removed.

PARK HOURS: The park is open sunrise to sunset. It is unlawful to remain in the park after closing hours.

PETS: Pets must be kept on a maximum 6-foot leash. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pet.

SMOKING: No smoking, including the use of vaporizing products and e-cigarettes.

SOUND: No amplified or excessive sound.

TREES: Do not tie or hang anything to trees, including piñatas, hammocks, decorations and tents. Do not drive nails, screws and staples into trees.

COMMERCIAL VENDING: No commercial transactions, vending or advertising without written authorization.

DRONES: Remotely piloted aircraft and drones are prohibited.

FIREARMS & WEAPONS: No firearms or weapons are permitted in any County park.

FIRES: No fires or cooking in the park.

GLASS: No glass containers are allowed.

LITTER: No littering. Place litter and recyclable materials in the containers provided by the park.

NATURAL & CULTURAL FEATURES: All plants, animals, natural and cultural features are fully protected and may not be harmed or removed.

PARK HOURS: The park is open sunrise to sunset. It is unlawful to remain in the park after closing hours.

PETS: Pets must be kept on a maximum 6-foot leash. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pet.

SMOKING: No smoking, including the use of vaporizing products and e-cigarettes.

SOUND: No amplified or excessive sound.

TREES: Do not tie or hang anything to trees, including piñatas, hammocks, decorations and tents. Do not drive nails, screws and staples into trees.

INFORMATION
County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
5500 Overland Ave., Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123
Reservations & Information
(877) 565-3600 • (858) 565-3600

Visit us at sd-parks.org
Heritage County Park is a 7.8-acre urban park in the heart of historic Old Town San Diego. Presidio Park, the site of the first Spanish Mission, overlooks the park. Just below the park is the Mormon Battalion Historic Site. It borders Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and is near the Sheriff’s Museum.

The Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO), founded in 1969, worked with the County in this preservation effort. SOHO asked Mary Ward, later County Parks’ first historian, to join in fundraising activities. Private and public funds were used to acquire, move and restore these endangered Victorian structures. The County Board of Supervisors budgeted $1.2 million over a 10-year period to aid in moving and exterior renovation of the first five threatened structures. A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Open-Space Land Grant paid for paving, grading and landscape improvements.

In this 1976 photo, the Christian House is being moved down Juan Street to Heritage County Park.

**History of Heritage County Park**

The County of San Diego authorized the purchase of the land for Heritage County Park in 1970 after concerned citizens realized that downtown San Diego’s rapid growth threatened the many fine Victorian homes with destruction. In 1971, the County purchased the site at the corner of Juan and Harney Streets for the purpose of creating an 1880s-style Victorian Reserve. The park highlights this era and serves as a monument to the transition between the Spanish-Mexican-early American periods and the modern City of San Diego. The Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO), founded in 1969, worked with the County in this preservation effort. SOHO asked Mary Ward, later County Parks’ first historian, to join in fundraising activities. Private and public funds were used to acquire, move and restore these endangered Victorian structures. The County Board of Supervisors budgeted $1.2 million over a 10-year period to aid in moving and exterior renovation of the first five threatened structures. A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Open-Space Land Grant paid for paving, grading and landscape improvements.

**The Historic Buildings at Heritage County Park**

### Senlis Cottage

Former address: 1536 Second Avenue

A modest cottage built in 1896 for Eugene Senlis, an employee of pioneer horticulturalist Kate Sessions, this 19th Century Vernacular style residence was without amenities. With the help of SOHO and Mary Ward, the cost of $6,250 was raised to move the Senlis Cottage to the park on March 1, 1978. The house was rehabilitated in 1979 and contains public restrooms for park visitors.

### Sherman-Gilbert House

Former address: 139 Fir Street

San Diego City Historical Site #8, designated Aug 7, 1969

John Sherman, considered a Master Builder by the City of San Diego, built the home in 1887. It was purchased by Auguste E. Gilbert, a widow, in 1897. The widow’s walk and circular window are key elements of this Stick Eastlake style home, the first structure moved to the park in 1971. The home’s location was slated to be a downtown parking lot for the new Centre City Hospital. In January 1969, a developer offered to sell the structure to SOHO for $500, giving them 2 months to clean and remove the house.

### Christian House

Former address: 1940 Third Avenue

This house was built in 1889 by Harfield Timberlake Christian for his wife Myrtle and daughter Anna. This home was built in the Queen Anne style, a popular late Victorian era style characterized by a variety of chimneys, shingles, corner tower, and encircling veranda. Christian was founder and president of the San Diego Title Insurance Guarantee and Trust Company. He was also a commissioner for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, held at Balboa Park.

### Bushyhead House

Former address: 232 Cedar Street

Built by early San Diego County Sheriff and newspaper owner Edward Wilkerson (Ned) Bushyhead, this 1887 Italianate style house combines double doors with glass panels, tall protruding bay windows, regularly spaced brackets, and a low-pitched roof. He and his wife Helen were active community leaders. Besides being County Sheriff, Bushyhead was also Chief of Police. Helen held community meetings in the home.

### McConaughy House

Former address: 1569 Union Street

City of San Diego Historic Site #114, designated Nov 5, 1976

Featuring decorative Eastlake brackets, a low-pitched roof and a bay window, this house was built in 1887 by John McConaughy. Born in 1809, he came to San Diego in 1882. He died in 1889. He spent much of his life in Northern California, running a large ranch there. The Keating family acquired the home in 1888. Fanny Keating offered the home for temporary use as the Hospital of the Good Samaritan, a favorite charity of her late husband. The house was moved to the park in January 1981.

### Why Save These Buildings?

Heritage County Park arose from County Parks’ commitment to the preservation of San Diego’s cultural as well as natural resources. The park is a joint project with the Save Our Heritage Organisation. SOHO can be reached at 619-297-9327 or sohosandiego.org.