



**ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARTLEY'S NORTH PARK
AN ORIGINAL 1890'S BARN STILL STANDS
BY BILL VIVIAN**

If you drive down the alley behind 3425 31st street, you'll stumble upon a Nineteenth Century Barn of Amos & Lizzie Richardson's home. The Richardson's moved from their previously owned orchard in Mission Valley in the late 1890's and built a new home in what was once part of the Hartley lemon tree ranch.

The Richardson's Barn most likely housed their mules, which worked the ploughs and cultivators for digging irrigation ditches in the lemon groves between 1905 and 1910. These groves were eventually cleared for the development of the North Park Tract.



When you look near the top section of the Barn, you will see a door that was probably used to store hay or other feed supplies in the upstairs portion of the structure. There would normally be a pulley attached to the beam coming out from the barn above that doorway. The pulley would be used to lift hay bales or sacks of feed up to the door entrance, where one would swing them inside for storage. Most barns had ladders rather than stairs going from the ground to the upper floor, so a pulley system made it easier to get these supplies upstairs.

When the lemon groves were finally cleared, Mrs. Richardson began teaching in the public school system, and Amos turned to selling Real Estate. After the death of Mr. Richardson, his widow and daughters continued to live in the property for a few more years, in an area that is now known as "Hartley's North Park".