

Heritage Hill Historical Park
Important Dates in the History of the Harvey Bennett Ranch House

- 1897 Charles Bennett of Tustin purchases 15 acres in El Toro
- 1901 Bennett acquires an additional 15 acres (30 total)
- 1902 Bennett acquires an additional 25 acres (55 total)
- 1903 Bennett acquires 5 town lots in El Toro; plants oranges, prunes, and apricots
- 1908 Charles Bennett builds the Bennett Ranch House at Cherry Avenue and Second Street
- 1910 Harvey Bennett, Charles' son, becomes foreman after Charles contracts pneumonia
- 1913 Harvey Bennett marries Frances McDonnell of Santa Ana and they move into the Bennett Ranch House where they raise 6 children and farm citrus; Frances' father builds the kitchen cabinets
- 1915 Indoor plumbing added to the kitchen and bath; cold water only
- 1917 Harvey acquires an additional 10 acres and Charles acquires an additional 2 (77 total)
- 1918 Harvey Bennett and Will Woodhouse pioneer use of deep (80-1000') wells for irrigation
- 1920 Bennett porch converted to sleeping porch
- 1928 Electricity, water heater, refrigerator, and electric stove added; two bedrooms and a service porch added and the bathroom and fireplace relocated
- 1934 Harvey Bennett acquires an additional 8 acres (85 total)
- 1950s Brick and glass walls added to front porch
- 1963 Harvey Bennett and Ray Prothero bring in the Metropolitan Water District
- 1971 Harvey Bennett died
- 1978 Mrs Francis Bennett sells the Bennett Ranch to the William Lyon Company which cooperates with the Historical Society in moving the Bennett Ranch House to the Heritage Hill site
- 1985 Francis Bennett died
- 1985 Restoration of Bennett Ranch House completed and dedicated May 19