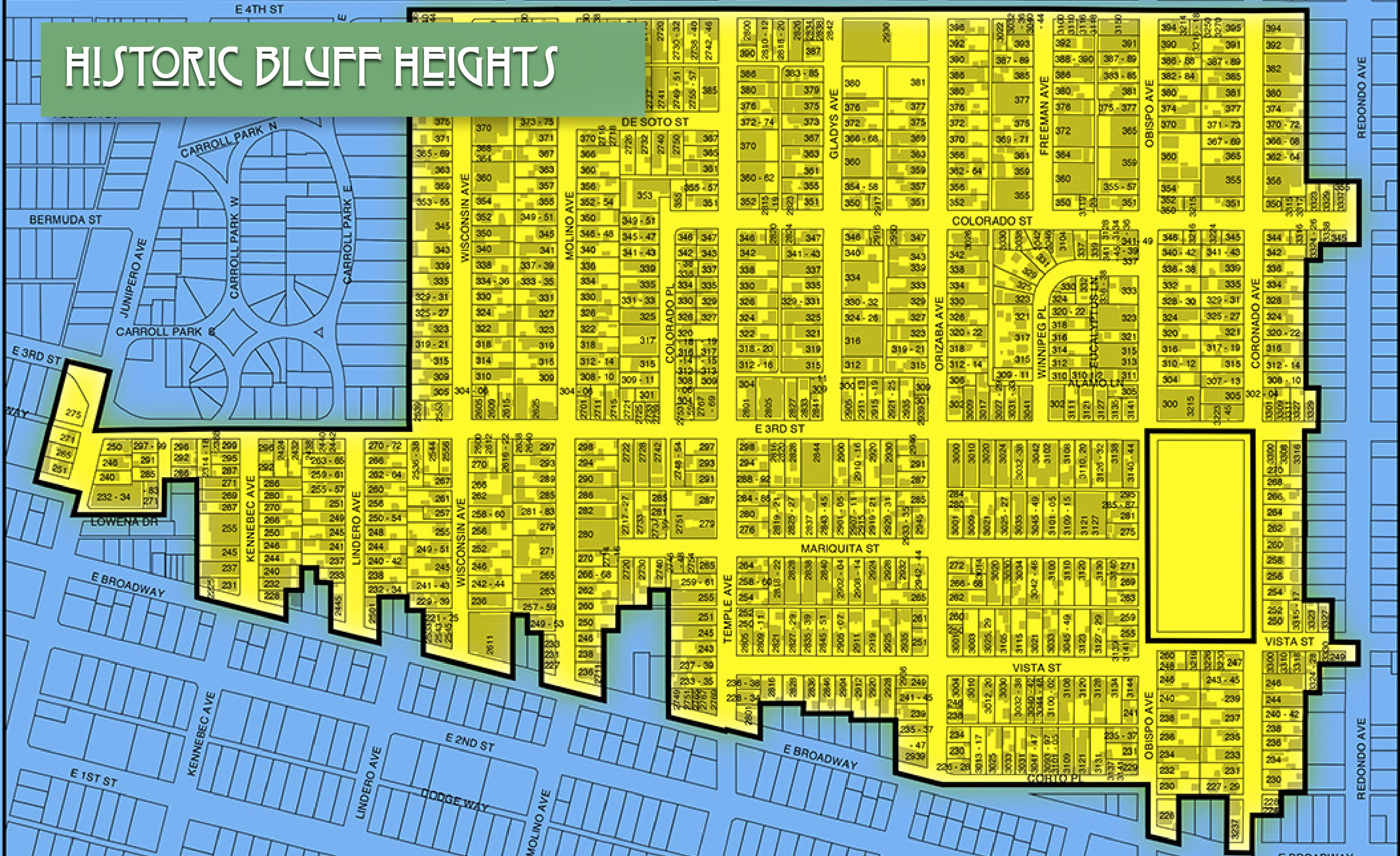


HISTORIC BLUFF HEIGHTS



The Birth of the Wonderful Historic Bluff Heights District

By John Thomas

The Bluff Heights Historic Landmark District is a residential area that includes homes generally situated east of Junipero Avenue, west of Redondo Avenue, south of 4th Street, and north of Broadway. It became an official Historic Landmark District on July 13, 2004, by action and ordinance of the Long Beach City Council.

The Bluff Heights community dates back to the early twentieth century. The district is part of the Alamitos Beach Townsite, which was originally planned by John W. Bixby in 1886 and was annexed to the city of Long Beach in 1905. The character of the district retains the building types and architectural styles that were part of the early history of Long Beach. The land was then subdivided into the Tichenor Track, Cedar Rapids Track, Graves Track, Alamitos Track, and Ocean Villa Track. There was a substantial growth of structures in 1914, which led to a population growth within the district. The period of significance for the historic district is between 1905 and 1950.

The predominant architectural style of homes in our area is the Craftsman Bungalow style. More than 50% of the existing contributing homes today are Craftsman Bungalows. The earliest type of architecture in the area is Victorian, exemplifying the first homes built in the neighborhood. There are also a number of Prairie, Mediterranean, and Spanish Revival Homes in the district, as well as a few Tudor Revival and Neo-Traditional homes. Although the homes in the historic Bluff Heights district are architecturally similar to those found in historic Bluff Park, homes built in Bluff Heights are slightly smaller than those found in Bluff Park.

In future articles, we will be looking at the different architectural styles found in Bluff Heights and the character-defining features that make them unique, historical, and vintage.

John Thomas is an art deco historian, author, and lecturer. He owns Art Deco Dimensions (artdecodimensions.com), which provides historic preservation consulting services. John is also past president of BHNA, Long Beach Heritage, and the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles.