

2011 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

William C. Masson Residence Historic Structure Report



The front of the William C. Masson Residence

In 2009 the City of Calabasas hired Historic Resources Group to complete a Historic Structure Report for the city's only privately-owned local historic landmark, the William C. Masson House homestead. The house was built during the "Homesteading Days" in the late 1890s/early 1900s when settlers rushed to file claims to acquire 160 acres of land by means of the Homestead Acts. William C. Masson received a land patent in 1904 for his 160 acres.

Some particularly interesting findings of the HSR are that the original room was slightly more than 12 feet by 14 feet, the minimum size for a homestead home. This early section was built of "plank" framing without vertical support frames. Portions of the house have no foundation, and oak tree trunks were used to support the floor in several locations. The Masson House is the only remaining homestead in the city and one of the few remaining in southern California. The Historic Structure Report will aid the City in adaptively reusing the house as an environmental education center as part of the headwaters of the Los Angeles River and Headwaters Master Plan.

Learn more about the William C. Masson Residence:

<http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/pdf/documents/historic/MassonHouse.pdf>