

HISTORIC HOMES
of
HERCULES

FEATURES

HISTORIC HOMES OF HERCULES OFFER YOU turn-of-the-century ambience combined with modern amenities, in a beautiful, yet affordable, bayside setting.

General features:

Front porches with turn-of-the-century railings and bannisters
 Wooden floors
 Picket fences, fully fenced rear gardens
 Bay views
 Prewired for telephone and cable television
 Traditional steel gutters
 Handmade Victorian front doors with glass panels
 Interior laundry room
 Detached garage
 Cedar exterior shingles
 Elegant period light fixtures
 Designer decor
 Formal dining room
 Fire retardant roof
 Deep baseboards with custom molded redwood trim
 Color coordinated interiors
 Double hung wooden sash windows with counterweights and pulleys

Generous closet spaces
 French doors opening to rear views
 Rear decks adjoining family dining areas
 Low maintenance full landscaping
 Automatic irrigation systems
 Historic streetscapes and streetlights
 Gas forced air furnaces
 Pedestal lavatories
 Tiled bathtubs with showers
 Recessed kitchen lighting
 Automatic garage door openers
 Brass toilet fittings
 Countertops
 Community/pool club membership
Kitchens planned for warmth and efficiency:
 Counter space
 Stainless steel sinks
 Storage space
 Gas range with black glass fronts
 Matching dishwashers
 Open and bright
 Disposals
 Characteristic old style floor coverings
 Old fashioned wooden cabinets
 Outside views

Added Colonial Revival features:

Open balustrade staircase
 Old fashioned coat closets

Added Queen Anne features:

Full sized basements
 Attic storage spaces
 Skylights
 Intimate second story master bedroom
 Study/3rd bedroom options
 Bay windows
 Ten foot ceilings
 Overscale windows
 Country kitchen atmosphere
 Cooking islands
 Unique exterior with fishscale shingles, finials, and scroll work

*All features not available in all houses



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OUR PAST

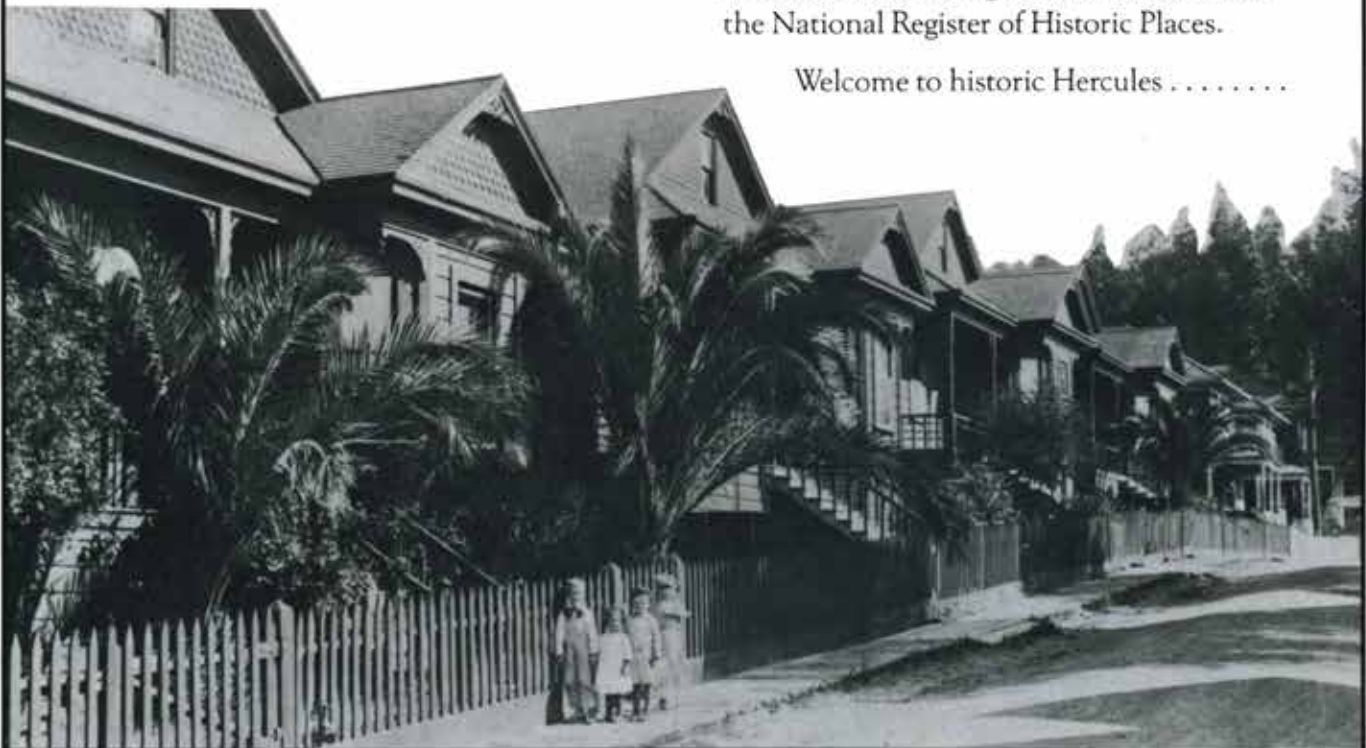
The Town of Hercules was established when the California Powder Works Company moved here in 1879, after the area around their Golden Gate Park facility had become too heavily populated to continue operations there. The town, and eventually the company itself, adopted the name of a potent black powder manufactured by the firm—HERCULES. The company built both the plant and its homes, as well as recreational and health facilities. The scenic, rolling hills overlooking San Pablo Bay proved to be an idyllic setting for what was to become a close knit company town.

In its first decades of operation, the plant became the largest producer of dynamite in the world. It supplied powder to Admiral Dewey's fleet for his defeat of the Spanish at Manila Bay in 1898, and during World War I manufactured more TNT than any other plant in the country.

The Queen Anne style cottages built by the company from about 1890 to 1900 and simpler Colonial Revival style homes built during the following decade lined the few streets. Sheep roamed the surrounding landscape, continually trimming the grass to minimize the threat of grass fires near the dynamite plant.

The twenty Queen Anne and Colonial Revival cottages remaining from the turn of the century have now been restored by AEGIS Corporation in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. Thirteen of the twenty homes were moved from Santa Fe and Hercules Avenues and Park Street in order to recapture the original pattern of development on Bay and Pinole Streets. The resulting neighborhood of homes and the historic district of parks and public buildings which surrounds it are now recorded on the nation's official listing of cultural resources, the National Register of Historic Places.

Welcome to historic Hercules



Pinole Street, circa 1920