



## **MT. WOODSON COUNTRY CLUB**

### **THE HISTORY OF MT. WOODSON**

Nestled in the picturesque foothills of Mount Woodson stands the 70-year-old Amy Strong Castle. Accepted in 1978 by the Register of Historical Landmarks of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the castle was built under the direct supervision of owner Amy Strong, a prominent San Diego-area dressmaker during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The estate was built from 1916-1921 at a cost of \$50,000 and incorporates an eclectic mix of architectural styles, including American craftsman, English cottage and Spanish mission.

Strong purchased the 120 acres of land near Mount Woodson from the sons of its namesake, Marshall C. Woodson, in 1901 for \$2,400. She bought adjacent properties as they became available, amassing her holdings to approximately 400 acres. Strong hired architects John T. Vawter and Emmor B. Weaver to design the castle and, after the plans were finished, they lived on the property for two years to ensure its architectural integrity. Strong also lived on the property during the final year of construction.

Strong lived at the castle until 1940, when she sold the estate and moved to San Diego because of her failing health. She died in 1950 at the age of 89.

Lawrence Hertlein subsequently bought the castle and raised turkey and cattle on the property before selling it to Dr. and Mrs. Ezra Tippits in 1957. The Tippets raised nine children in the castle before selling it approximately 20 years later to a group of investors. After changing hands a couple of times, the property was purchased in 1984 by a Summers Homes partnership, who proceeded to develop a specific plan for a golf course community.

It was on June 30, 1989, that Davidson Communities purchased the castle and its land, along with the Vesting Tentative Map and Major Use Permits for the project. Davidson retained Landmark Land, owner of the famous PGA West golf courses near Palm Springs, to design a Landmark Signature course.

Incorporating the mature oak and eucalyptus trees that abound at Mt. Woodson into the golf course, Landmark designed the fairways to wind around the natural habitat. Spectacular rock outcroppings, mounded bunkers, six lakes and undulating greens combine to make Mt. Woodson a very beautiful and unique course.