

## Post Office, La Jolla RG005.39

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La Jolla Historical Society  
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La Jolla, California 92037  
(858) 459-5335  
<https://lajollahistory.org/>  
2023

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Post Office, La Jolla

**Dates:** 1900 to Present

**Collection Number:** RG005.39

**Creator/Collector:** La Jolla Historical Society

**Extent:** .5 linear feet

**Repository:** La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla, California 92037

**Abstract:** The La Jolla Post Office Collection is made up of photographs, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. This Collection includes information on preserving the Post Office as a designated landmark on the National Register of Historic Places (2013). The first Post Office was welcomed to La Jolla in 1894, moving into its current building in 1935. The structure has been a focal point and neighborly crossroads for several generations living in the "village." The attractive Spanish Colonial Revival building, built by the Federal Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression, also contains an art treasure in its lobby; a stunning mural of La Jolla Cove painted in 1939 by one of San Diego's most accomplished, early 20th-century women artists, Belle Baranceanu. The topics in this Collection pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

**Language of Material:** English

**Access:** The Collection is open for research

**Publication Rights:** The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials

**Preferred Citation:** Courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

**Acquisition Information:** RG005.39

**Biography/Administrative History:** The La Jolla Historical Society inspires and empowers the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

The La Jolla Historical Society's Collections encompass over 80 years of actively collecting archival material, books, maps, scrapbooks, ephemera, fine art, newspapers, street and land use files, business and personal documents and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Society boasts over 20,000 photographs, over 1000 postcards, 400-plus architectural drawings and approximately 200 oral history recordings.

Collecting was initiated by Howard Randolph and volunteers on the historical committee of the Library Association of La Jolla. The Collection began by gathering photographs and documentation in the late 1930s, which later became the nucleus of the La Jolla Historical Society's Collections. The Society was created in 1963.

Through many moves in location the Society continued collecting and expanding. Accumulated Collections took on its current construct in 2010 after the renovation of the La Jolla Historical Society's campus of structures in central La Jolla, which consists of the 1904 Wisteria Cottage and 1940s Balmer Annex used for exhibits and programming, and a 1909 cottage used for business and research offices. The late Ellen Browning Scripps' 1916 automobile garage was also

renovated and now houses the Collection in a modern collections storage facility. Materials are housed in archival boxes, sleeves, envelopes and other archival-safe materials and are cared for according to standards and best practices of the museum profession. In 2016, the Society initiated new PastPerfect Museum Software to manage and catalog its Collections and in 2018 started using the Online Archive of California to upload searchable information from its Collections to enable improved public access. The Society will continue these processes and look forward to utilizing new opportunities to collect, preserve and share the history of La Jolla.

**Scope and Content of Collection:** The La Jolla Post Office Collection is made up of photographs, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. This Collection includes information on preserving the Post Office as a designated landmark on the National Register of Historic Places (2013). The first Post Office was welcomed to La Jolla in 1894, moving into its current building in 1935. The structure has been a focal point and neighborly crossroads for several generations living in the "village." The attractive Spanish Colonial Revival building, built by the Federal Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression, also contains an art treasure in its lobby; a stunning mural of La Jolla Cove painted in 1939 by one of San Diego's most accomplished, early 20th-century women artists, Belle Baranceanu. The topics in this Collection pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

**Container List Below**

# Container List

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RG005 – Subject Files (Large)  
Box 39 – La Jolla Post Office

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**La Jolla Post  
Office: Save Our  
Post Office Task  
Force –  
Documents/Info**

Series of fliers. Series of fliers issued by the La Jolla Historical Society as part of an effort to save the La Jolla Post Office. Fliers provide the history of the post office and the contact information of those trying to preserve it. 2012.

**La Jolla Post  
Office: Save Our  
Post Office Task  
Force - Report**

Series of documents. Community planning report by the La Jolla Historical Society to preserve the La Jolla Post Office, as well as related photographs, letters, and legal documents. 2012.

**La Jolla Post  
Office: Save Our  
Post Office Task  
Force – Letter to  
the Mayor of SD**

Letter. Letter from LJHS executive director Heath Fox to then-mayor of San Diego Bob Filner regarding the destruction of Windemere Cottage. December 21, 2012 (four copies).

**La Jolla Post  
Office: Save Our  
Post Office Task  
Force – Petitions  
1/2**

Petition. Dozens of pages of signatures for the petition to preserve the LJ Post Office. Early 2012.

**La Jolla Post  
Office: Save Our  
Post Office Task  
Force – Petitions  
2/2**

Petition. Dozens of pages of signatures for the petition to preserve the LJ Post Office. 2012-2013.

**La Jolla Post  
Office: History**

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**and Postmasters  
- 1888-2000**

List. Handwritten list of postmasters of the La Jolla Post Office from 1898-1934.

List. Typed list of postmasters of the La Jolla Post Office from 1898-1998.

Timeline. Timeline of the history of the La Jolla Post Office with small annotations for each event. 1888-2000 (three copies).

**La Jolla Post  
Office: Lease  
Agreement -  
1931**

Lease agreement. Lease agreement regarding the LJ Jolla Post Office. Mentions Josephine T. Chase. November 1931.

**La Jolla Post  
Office:  
Photographs**

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Post Office at Wall and Ivanhoe. July 16, 1981.

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Post Office at 1140 Wall Street. January 1960.

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Post Office at Wall and Ivanhoe. December 1959.

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Post Office mailboxes. November 27, 1986.

Photograph. Photo of Nathan Rannells, George String, and H. Hardy inside the La Jolla Post Office. 1915 (two copies).

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Post Office during its dedication ceremony. September 13, 1935.

Photograph. Photo of a man in a Postal Service uniform sorting mail. "ANDY" is written beneath the photo.

Photographs. Series of eleven photos of the repairing of the mural *Scenic Views of the Village* inside the La Jolla Post Office. March 2000.

Photograph. Torn photo of George Shepherd at the La Jolla Post Office. 1973.

Photograph. Photo of George Shepherd and two others inside the La Jolla Post Office.

Photograph. Photo of George Shepherd inside his office in the La Jolla Post Office.

Photograph. Photo of George Shepherd mid-speech in the sorting room of the La Jolla Post Office.

Photograph. Photo of George Shepherd with his hands raised in the sorting room of the La Jolla Post Office.

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Photograph. Photo of the dedication ceremony at the La Jolla Post Office with a relevant page from *La Jolla Year-by-Year* included. September 13, 1935.

Photograph. Photo of a fan outside of the La Jolla Post Office titled "Fan Outside Building".

Photograph. Photo of a fan inside of the sorting room of the La Jolla Post Office titled "Carriers sort mail".

Photograph. Photo of the US Postal Annex in La Jolla. August 21, 1975.

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Post Office in 2010.

Photograph. Photo of the construction of the La Jolla Post Office in 1935.

Photographs. Photocopy of two photos of the La Jolla Post Office under construction at Wall and Ivanhoe. 1934-1935.

Newspaper photo. Photograph from the La Jolla Sun of the La Jolla Post Office under construction in 1934.

Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Post Office by Evans Photo.

Photograph. Photo of the Postal Annex in La Jolla. August 1975.

Photograph. Photo of the mural in the La Jolla Post Office.

## **La Jolla Post Office: Articles**

Article. "Change Made In La Jolla Mail Service". La Jolla Journal. September 10, 1942.

Article. "Post Office Makes Change In Mails" on wartime mail service. 1944.

Article. "Postoffice Nears First Class Rating In 1936". La Jolla Light. January 6, 1937.

Article. "Post Office In La Jolla To Be Moved". La Jolla Journal. January 28, 1932.

Article. "La Jolla Post Office Granted New Mail Delivery Service". La Jolla Light. November 19, 1936.

Article. "Post Office Building Dedicated At Impressive Ceremony". La Jolla Light. September 19, 1935.

Article. "Post Office to be Moved to Herschel". La Jolla Light. 1932.

Articles. Series of articles relating to the La Jolla Post Office and its relocation in 1932. La Jolla Journal. January 28 – March 17, 1932.

Article. "New System Speeds Mail Distribution". June 10, 1943.

Article. Brief article on the early-morning routine at the La Jolla Post Office. Includes two photos by Charles Schneider. 1959.

Article. "Postal annex awaits final approval". September 26, 1974.

Article. "Post office annex given OK". October 10, 1974.

Article. "Post Office Seeking Nautilus Station Site". La Jolla Light. April 24, 1969.

Article. "La Jolla to Have Single ZIP Coding".

Article. "Complete Analysis to be Made of Local Postoffice". La Jolla Journal. August 26, 1965.

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Article. "Local Post Office Enlargement Is Being Considered".

Article. "La Jolla Post Office Breaks Record in 1954". January 6, 1955.

Photograph. Newspaper photograph of Postmaster Nathan Rannells and various US military servicemen. La Jolla Light. February 14, 1946.

Article. "LA JOLLA POST OFFICE ASSURED". La Jolla Light. May 15, 1952.

Article. "Civil Service Announces Examination for Postmaster". La Jolla Light. February 7, 1952.

Article. "New postmaster named to local office". La Jolla Light. January 3, 1952.

Article. "Postmaster will be Named for La Jolla States McKinnon". La Jolla Light. December 27, 1951.

Article. "Postoffice Issue Expected to be Settled in the Near Future". La Jolla Light. December 20, 1951.

Article. "LA JOLLA FACES IMMEDIATE LOSS OF POST OFFICE UNLESS CITIZENS ACT NOW". La Jolla Light. December 13, 1951.

Article. "La Jolla to Keep Postoffice". La Jolla Light. February 8, 1951.

Article. "Residents Sign Petitions to Retain La Jolla's Postoffice". La Jolla Light. February 1, 1951.

Article. "La Jolla Postmen to Ring Only Once After June 14". La Jolla Light. June 8, 1950.

Article. "Increased Postal Receipts Show Growth of Community". La Jolla Light. December 29, 1949.

Article. "La Jolla Softball Association pennant flag will be raised over the La Jolla Post Office Building...". La Jolla Light.

Article. "Hillside District to Have Mail Service for First Time". La Jolla Journal. July 7, 1949.

Article. "Bids Solicited for Post Office Sub-Station in Bird Rock". La Jolla Light. July 1, 1948.

Article. "Post Office now has stamp vending machine". La Jolla Journal. August 26, 1948.

Article. "La Jolla to have more mail service".

Article. "Dedicate Post Office Friday". La Jolla Light. September 12, 1935.

Article. "Postmaster Gives New Local Mail Schedule". 1946.

Article. "Postoffice Gives New Schedule". 1944.

Article. "Postmaster Asks For Correct Addresses".

Article. "Post Office Now In Its New Location". 1932.

Article. "Corner Stone of New Post Office Laid Saturday". La Jolla Light. July 11, 1935.

Article. "To Celebrate Opening of New La Jolla Postoffice Next Saturday Evening". La Jolla Journal. March 17, 1932.

Photograph. Newspaper photo of the 1934 LJ Post Office construction. La Jolla Sun. April 1, 1981.

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Photograph. Newspaper copy of a 1915 photo of Nathan Rannells at the LJ Post Office (three copies).

Photograph. Newspaper photo of the LJ Post Office construction in 1934.

Photograph. Newspaper photo of the Dearborn House that was formerly the LJ Post Office. 1900.

Photographs. Two newspaper photos of the new staff hired at the La Jolla Post Office.

Photographs. Two newspaper photos of the new mail trucks and counter space at the La Jolla Post Office. 1949.

Photograph. Newspaper photo of the mail sorting room at the La Jolla Post Office in 1958.

Photographs. Two newspaper photos of the Belle Baranceanu mural at the LJ Post Office .

Photographs. Two newspaper photos of the LJ Post Office construction in June 1935.

Article. "New System Speeds Mail Distribution". June 10, 1943.

Article. "Parking problems seen at new postal annex". 1975.

Article. "The future looks bright for retiring postmaster". La Jolla Light. August 15, 1985.

Article. "Postmaster's Corner" on the addition of new pieces to the LJ Post Office. Includes photograph (two copies).

Article. "Post Office celebrates renovations". June 1, 2000.

Article. "La Jolla in Danger of Losing Postmark". La Jolla Light. August 26, 1965 (two copies).

Article. "Residents Sign Petitions to Retain La Jolla's Postoffice". La Jolla Light. February 1, 1951.

Article. "Council ponders postmark's fate". La Jolla Light. March 15, 1990 (two copies).

Photograph. Newspaper photo of the La Jolla Town Council presenting a plaque to Postmaster Marion S. Karrh. March 8, 1928.

Article. Article regarding the post office being moved. December 23, 1971.

Article. "LJ Post Office holds ceremony". La Jolla Light. May 3, 1973.

Article. "Future vendor is a Postal Buddy". January 7, 1993.

Article. "Mural restoration paints precarious picture". La Jolla Village News (three copies).

Article. "Postal parking poses problems". La Jolla Village. April 22, 1999.

Article. "Mail carriers brave new routes, not rain or sleet". September 29, 1983 (two copies).

Article. "Joe Hinds Retires Tomorrow After 35 Years' Postal Service". July 30, 1970 (two copies).

Article. "Postal staff shifts due". March 25, 1976.

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Article. "La Jolla's Post Office is a meeting place with personality". La Jolla Journal. November 10, 1960.

Article. "La Jolla postmaster tells". January 16, 1975.

Article. "La Jolla Postmaster George Shepherd retires...". August 20, 1981.

Article. "An analysis of La Jolla's mail problems". July 1, 1976.

Article. "Plans announced for Postal Week". La Jolla Light. April 19, 1973.

Article. "Mail service getting better here".

Article. "Renting prestige with a mailbox". La Jolla Light. June 11, 1981.

Article. "It wasn't the rain that held up the mail". September 23, 1982 (two copies).

Article. "The future looks bright for retiring postmaster". La Jolla Light. 1985.

Article. "La Jolla postmark attracts tourists, businessmen". La Jolla Village News. January 12, 1996 (two copies).

Article. "Retention of La Jolla's Post Office Becomes Election Issue". May 21, 1964.

Article. "La Jolla Postoffice to be Honored". January 21, 1965.

Article. "Will Start This Week on New Post Office".

Article. "Wants Post Office Kept on Girard Ave.". La Jolla Journal. December 3, 1931.

Article. "In 1921 Mail Service Came to La Jolla". April 17, 1952.

Article. "The Post Office Robbery".

Article. "La Jolla Post Office Dedication". Postal Press. November 1960.

Article. "Post office pickets due". April 1, 1976.

Article. "New routes may be delivered to mail carriers in La Jolla". January 12, 1983.

Article. "Here's way to get better mail service." 1975.

Article. "New stamps announced". 1973.

Article. "Council proposes transfers". June 17, 1976.

Article. Article on the new postal annex building with sketch.

Article. "A whole lot more than sort and stuff". La Jolla Light. July 26, 1979.

Article. "Local post office seeks outlets".

Article. "Post office weighs expansion". La Jolla Light. July 30, 1992.

Article. "Construction under way on postal annex". April 10, 1975.

Article. "Post annex building proposed for La Jolla". August 22, 1974.

Article. "La Jolla Assured of Keeping Own Postmark".

Article. "Postal management, not letter carriers, at fault here". January 2, 1975.

Article. "Staff additions address issue of La Jolla's heavy mail load". April 19, 1984.

Article. "Postal flap continues". April 29, 1976.

Article. "La Jolla Assured of Keeping Own Postmark". August 19, 1965.

# Container List

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## La Jolla Post Office: Letters & Telegrams

Letter. Letter to Rep. George Burnham from Assistant Postmaster General Silliman Evans regarding a post office location in La Jolla. March 5, 1934.

Letter. Letter to Dr. Sidney J. Smith from H.E. Rhoads regarding a list of items purchased for the post office. February 5, 1932.

Letter. Letter to Mr. R.C. Harbison from H.E. Rhoads regarding payment for essential post office items. February 5, 1932.

Telegram. Western Union telegram to Silliman Evans regarding the La Jolla Post Office. March 22, 1934.

Telegram. Postal Telegraph telegram on the decision on where to place the LJ Post Office from George Burnham to H.E. Rhoads. March 15, 1934.

Telegram. Postal Telegraph telegram regarding the need for an immediate choice of a site for the LJ Post Office from George Burnham to H.E. Rhoads. March 8, 1934.

Telegram. Postal Telegraph telegram from H.E. Rhoads to George Burnham regarding Rhoads' thoughts on the post office location. March 8, 1934.

Telegram. Postal Telegraph telegram from H.E. Rhoads to Rep. George Burnham on possible post office locations. March 8, 1934.

Telegram. Postal Telegraph telegram from H.E. Rhoads to George Burnham regarding the La Jolla Post Office location on Ivanhoe and Wall. March 10, 1934.

Letter. Letter to Edgar E. Hendee from Rep. Albert E. Vestal on the "secret" frontrunner for post office locations in La Jolla. January 7, 1932.

Letter. Letter to Josephine T. Chase from the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General outlining a proposal for a post office on Herschel Ave. February 4, 1932.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Rep. Phil D. Swing on Swing's agreement to take part in the post office debacle. December 14, 1931.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Rep. Phil D. Swing on a Point Loma post office location. December 12, 1931.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Rep. Phil D. Swing about Swing forwarding Rhoads request for a La Jolla post office site. December 12, 1931.

Letter. "New Postmaster for La Jolla" on Philip Repchinuck being sworn in as the La Jolla postmaster. December 23, 1935.

Letter. Letter to Edgar E. Hendee from Sen. James E. Watson on the selection of fixtures for the La Jolla Post Office. January 6, 1932.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from R.C. Harbison regarding pricing for post office equipment. January 28, 1932.

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Letter. Letter to Sen. James E. Watson from Postmaster Arch Coleman regarding a post office lease in La Jolla. December 18, 1931.

Notes. Typed notes on post office inventories in Southern California. 1930's.

Letter. Letter from H.E. Rhoads to J.C. Muehe on the purchase of steel and wood cabinets for the La Jolla Post Office. February 5, 1932.

Letter. Letter from George Burnham to H.E. Rhoads on the decision by the government to choose a location at Ivanhoe and Wall for the post office. March 23, 1934.

Letter. Letter from Silliman Evans to H.E. Rhoads thanking Rhoads for his twenty letters regarding a La Jolla post office site. February 28, 1934.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Sen. Robert M. LaFollette on his desire to not be involved in the La Jolla Post Office selection given that he was a senator from Wisconsin, not California. April 2, 1934.

Letter. Letter from Edgar E. Hendee to H.E. Rhoads stating that Hendee believes that Rhoads has exhausted all options in Washington D.C. regarding the La Jolla Post Office location. December 21, 1931.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Sen. James J. Davis expressing his desire to help with the La Jolla Post Office. December 12, 1931.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Rep Phil D. Swing on the possibility of a La Jolla post office location. December 10, 1931.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Rep. George Burnham on the receipt of Rhoads' letter about the La Jolla post office issue. January 15, 1934.

Letter. Letter to H.E. Rhoads from Rep. George Burnham about zoning details for the La Jolla Post Office. February 28, 1934.

Series of letters. Series of photocopied letters between H.E. Rhoads, Silliman Evans, Rep. George Burnham, Josephine T. Chase, Edgar E. Hendee, and Sen. James E. Watson.

**La Jolla Post  
Office:  
Miscellaneous  
Documents**

List. US Postal Service-issued list of former La Jolla postmasters. 1970's.

Postcard. Postcard by the La Jolla Historical Society depicting the current rendition of the La Jolla Post Office. 2010.

Series of documents. Series of eleven documents related to the dedication of the La Jolla Post Office in 1960.

Notice. Notice of approval for the relocation of the La Jolla Post Office. March 22, 2013.

Historical survey. US Postal Service property historic significance survey for the LJ Post Office. 1983.

Essay. College essay titled "How Did La Jolla Get Its Own Post Office?" by Michael J. Moore. June 5, 1967.

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Application. City of SD Special Event Permit Application for the LJ Post Office 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. September 2010.