

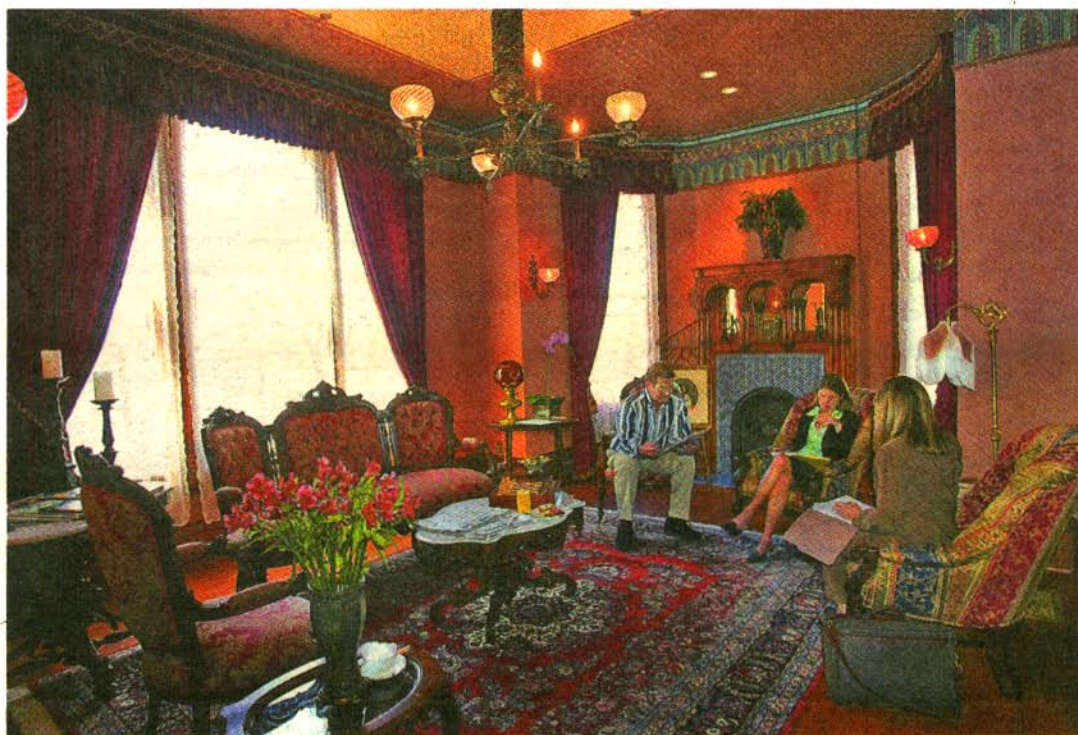
Venerable Victorian

The Britt Scripps Inn in Park West is a Victorian delicacy set for teatime. The bed-and-breakfast establishment reopened in 2005 after Gordon B. Hattersley III spent more than \$6 million to buy, restore and furnish it with antiques meant for touching.

The Queen Anne-style mansion, completed in 1887 at the height of one of San Diego's greatest real estate booms, was built for Eugene W. Britt, an attorney who in 1912 became president of the Los Angeles Bar Association. Its architect is unknown.

By 1896, publisher E.W. Scripps was living in the house, and two years later he bought it for \$16,000 while maintaining his primary residence at far-away Miramar Ranch in today's Scripps Ranch. Scripps died in 1926, but his family owned the home until 1944, records show.

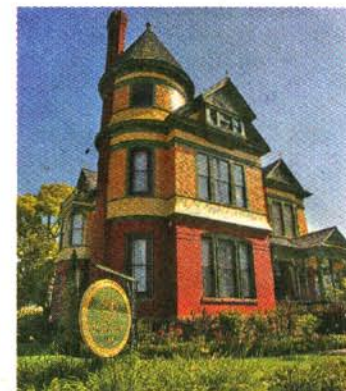
»» FOLLOWING A MAJOR RENOVATION, A **B&B** IS A CHARMING BLEND OF OLD AND NEW



The Britt Scripps Inn's parlor is a quiet refuge for guests. *Nelvin Cepeda / Union-Tribune photos*

Since then, it has been a doctor's office, teahouse, antique shop, boardinghouse and law office. It was also operated as a B&B in 1979.

A popular getaway for anniversaries, birthdays and corporate travelers, the two-story property offers guests a full breakfast in the dining room



and wine and hors d'oeuvres in the parlor in the evening. An 1883 Steinway piano beckons musically minded visitors to play a tune — or they can play their own DVDs on flat-panel TVs in their rooms.

The intricately carved white oak stairway and brilliant stained-glass windows are original, but the rest of the interior was gutted and reconstructed in high Victorian style.

There are eight rooms in the main house — three on the first floor, five on the second floor — and one in the former carriage house. The daily rate starts around \$265.

— ROGER M. SHOWLEY

BRITT SCRIPPS INN

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The 1887 Victorian is a romantic B&B two blocks from Balboa Park. Every guest room has a theme; this one is Gothic.