



City of Alhambra

DRAFT HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT

December 13, 2021

**HISTORIC
RESOURCES
GROUP**

PREPARED FOR

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Cover Photo: Main Street, view looking southwest, circa 1906. *California State Library.*

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*Part I***INTRODUCTION**

View of early homesteads in Alhambra, circa 1884. *USC Digital Library.*

INTRODUCTION

This draft Citywide Historic Context Statement was prepared at the request of the City of Alhambra. In September 2020, the City contracted with Historic Resources Group (HRG) to prepare a citywide Historic Context Statement. This project will provide the City of Alhambra with a comprehensive historic context statement that will serve as a foundation for historic preservation planning efforts in the City going forward.

The Historic Context Statement is a compilation of existing information – including published histories and historical narratives about the city, as well as previous surveys and property evaluations – supplemented with new research and analysis, providing the City with a comprehensive development history of Alhambra’s built environment. The Historic Context Statement identifies important periods of development, historical trends and development patterns, and important persons in the history of Alhambra. The period of study for this project commences with the initial development of Alhambra in the late 19th century and ends in 1980, allowing for information about development patterns and properties dating to approximately 40 years in the past.

This document represents an update to the 50% draft of the Historic Context Statement that was published in Spring 2021. The draft includes updates to the narrative overview and the draft themes based on additional research, feedback from the community and City staff, and a windshield study of the built environment in Alhambra. Preliminary eligibility standards have been added for each theme, to illustrate in general the type of information that will be included in the final draft. The eligibility standards are intended to aid in the future evaluation of historic resources; they will be refined and updated to be more specific to Alhambra as research and data collection continues.

The upcoming final draft will include updated information obtained through ongoing research of the city’s history and revisions based on feedback from City staff and the community.

The project follows guidance and standards developed by the National Park Service and the California State Office of Historic Preservation for conducting historic resources studies; specifically, the project is being developed using the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) approach. Guiding documents for this method include:

- The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation Planning
- *National Register Bulletin No. 15: How to Apply the National Criteria for Evaluation*
- *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Nomination Form*
- *National Register Bulletin No. 16B: How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form*

- *National Register Bulletin No. 24: Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*
- The California Office of Historic Preservation’s *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources*

PURPOSE

In order to understand the significance of the historic and architectural resources in the City of Alhambra, it is necessary to examine those resources within a series of contexts. By placing built resources in the appropriate historic, social, and architectural context, the relationship between an area’s physical environment and its broader history can be established.

A historic context statement analyzes the historical development of a community according to guidelines written by the National Park Service and specified in *National Register Bulletin 16A*. The *Bulletin* describes a historic context as follows:

Historic context is information about historic trends and properties grouped by an important theme in pre-history or history of a community, state, or the nation during a particular period of time. Because historic contexts are organized by theme, place, and time, they link historic properties to important historic trends. In this way, they provide a framework for determining the significance of a property.¹

A historic context statement is linked with tangible built resources through the concept of “property types,” which are groupings of individual properties based on shared physical or associative characteristics. A historic context statement should identify the various historical factors that shaped the development of the area, which may include:

- Historical activities or events
- Historic personages
- Building types, architectural styles, and materials
- Patterns of physical development

A historic context statement is not a comprehensive history of an area. Rather, it is intended to highlight trends and patterns critical to the understanding of the built environment. This historic context statement is intended to inform planning and land use decisions for the built environment in the City of Alhambra. The historic context statement provides a framework for the continuing process of identifying historic, architectural, and

¹ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Nomination Form* (Washington, DC: 1997), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB16A-Complete.pdf> (accessed November 2020).

culturally, or socially significant resources important within the context of the development of Alhambra as well as the larger San Gabriel Valley region. It may also serve as a guide for citizens, planners, and stakeholders in their ongoing efforts to evaluate the relative significance and integrity of individual properties.

Contributors

This historic context was prepared by Historic Resources Group. Christine Lazzaretto, Managing Principal, served as the Principal-in-Charge. Heather Goers, Senior Architectural Historian, was the primary author of the historic context statement. Kari Fowler, Senior Architectural Historian, supervised the windshield study. Molly Iker-Johnson, Architectural Historian, conducted the windshield study, provided research support, and coordinated website and social media content. Research and mapping support was provided by Robby Aranguren, Planning Associate/GIS Specialist. Additional research and content review was undertaken by Alexandra Madsen, Senior Architectural Historian, and Ani Mnatsakanyan, Intern. All are qualified professionals who meet or exceed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards Professional Qualification Standards.

This section will be updated to include the contributions of community members, local archivists and institutions, and others who participated in the development of this study; and feedback received through upcoming outreach efforts for the project.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Description of the Study Area

The study area for the project reflects the current boundaries of the City of Alhambra. Alhambra is located in San Gabriel Valley region of Los Angeles County, to the northeast of the City of Los Angeles. The city shares its boundaries with the neighboring cities of South Pasadena and San Marino to the north, the City of San Gabriel to the east, the City of Monterey Park to the south, and the El Sereno and University Hills neighborhoods of Los Angeles to the west.

The geography and topography of the City of Alhambra are defined by its location within the western portion of the San Gabriel Valley, an alluvial plain created by the weathering of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains to the north, as well as drainage associated with the watersheds of the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers to the east. Topography is generally flat, with some hills in the western portion of the city.

Development within the City of Alhambra is characterized by areas of varying densities and uses. The northern half of the city, to the north of Mission Road, reflects higher-density development of varying types, including medium- to high-density residential development as well as commercial, business, and industrial uses. The southern portion of the city, to the south of Mission Road, is generally characterized by residential development and is largely composed of low- and medium-density residential properties.

Regional access to Alhambra is provided via the San Bernardino (I-10) Freeway and the Long Beach (SR/I-710) Freeway. Major thoroughfares within the city include the north-south corridors of Fremont Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard, and Garfield Avenue; and the east-west corridors of Huntington Drive, Alhambra Road, Main Street, Mission Road, Valley Boulevard, and Garvey Avenue.

Previous Studies

The City of Alhambra has been subject to two previous surveys; however, both efforts were limited in scope and do not represent a comprehensive inventory of the city's historic resources.

In 1980, the Alhambra City Council awarded a contract to Charles Hall Page and Associates to study the downtown redevelopment area.² Responding to a decline in the Central Business District, a program of revitalization through redevelopment and the addition of a major retail shopping center had been planned for the area. In conjunction with this redevelopment activity, the firm identified and mapped structures of potential historic significance in and around the Central Business District.³ This analysis was based on a windshield survey performed by the firm; no historical research was undertaken for the sites in question.⁴

In 1984, the City of Alhambra received a grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation to conduct a historic resources survey as part of the State Historic Survey Program. In response to recent development trends, there had been a growing consciousness in the city of the need to preserve the city's rich architectural and cultural heritage.⁵ Between 1910 and 1920, over 7,000 homes were built in Alhambra; by 1984 it was estimated that approximately 4,500 homes remained.⁶ Many of the structures were now located in multi-family residential zones and were being replaced with higher-density apartment and condominium buildings. Considerable development activity had been seen taking place in historically single-family residential areas within the city, and as a result the City was particularly interested in studying neighborhoods that were developed before 1920, especially those with at least 75% of the original structures intact, as well in the identification of locally significant structures throughout the city.⁷ To that end, the City of Alhambra engaged Johnson Heumann Research Associates to conduct a historic and cultural resources survey.

The consultants and two members of the City's evaluation committee undertook a windshield survey of the entire city, and also conducted an intensive-level survey of two single-family neighborhoods using volunteers. These neighborhoods were previously identified for their concentrations of pre-1920s housing stock and comprised the following areas: Area 1, bounded by Bushnell Avenue, Pine Street and Huntington Drive, Atlantic Boulevard, and Alhambra Road; and Area 2, bounded by Ninth Street, Norwood Place,

² "Council Contracts Redevelopment Study," *Los Angeles Times*, July 3, 1980.

³ "Alhambra Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, 1984-1985, Final Report," prepared by Johnson Heumann Research Associates, Consultants to the City of Alhambra, for the Office of Historic Preservation, State of California, 8.

⁴ "Alhambra Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, 1984-1985, Final Report," 8.

⁵ "Alhambra Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, 1984-1985, Final Report," 8.

⁶ "Alhambra Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, 1984-1985, Final Report," 9.

⁷ "Alhambra Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, 1984-1985, Final Report," 9.

Garfield Avenue, and Ramona Avenue. Along with buildings and structures within these areas, surveyors also identified shared planning features which contributed to the community's sense of time and place, including views and vistas, arroyos and parks, street trees, vintage streetlights, historic neon and commercial or rooftop signage, historic water towers, and other utilitarian structures. Over six hundred buildings in these areas were documented as part of the survey effort.

In addition to the two neighborhoods outlined above, the survey also identified thirty-four (34) individual “at-large” sites within the city limits which possessed historic, architectural, or cultural significance for documentation in the 1984-85 survey. These included twenty residences, four religious institutions, one educational facility, five institutional buildings, and four commercial and/or industrial structures.⁸

As part of the survey, a brief narrative overview of historic contexts related to the early development of Alhambra was prepared to inform the evaluations undertaken as part of the survey process. However, as this survey effort was focused primarily on single-family residential development dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the accompanying historic context statement is naturally limited in scope both chronologically and thematically and does not represent a comprehensive narrative of the City’s development throughout the 20th century.

Research Methodology

Sources consulted as part of this investigation included primary and secondary literature regarding the history and development of the City of Alhambra and the San Gabriel Valley region over time. Archival sources consulted included but were not limited to annexation records, city directories, census and voter registration records, contemporary historical accounts and memoirs, historical newspapers and periodicals, land patent records, secondary histories and biographies, and scholarly works including theses and journal articles. Visual records consulted included aerial photographs and historical photographs as well as a wide variety of historical maps including county assessor maps, fire insurance maps, irrigation maps, land ownership and patent maps, rail maps, and tract maps.⁹

Sanborn Insurance Company fire insurance maps, available online through the Library of Congress and the Los Angeles Public Library, were reviewed for the City of Alhambra for the following years: 1888, 1890, 1897, 1907, 1912, 1925, 1931, and 1950.

Tract maps associated with the City of Alhambra, available online through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, were reviewed for the years spanning from 1902, when the first tract was recorded, to 2019, the most recent year available. Additional

⁸ “Alhambra Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, 1984-1985, Final Report,” 30-31.

⁹ A comprehensive listing of the sources consulted for this project is included in the Bibliography.

miscellaneous records, which documented the earliest subdivisions of land in the area, and deed maps for original parcels were also reviewed.

It should be noted that this project was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic, which commenced in 2020 and continued into 2021, substantially impacting research efforts associated with the project. Stay-at-home orders were enforced in California during a majority of the period in which research and writing for the draft took place. As a result, institutional staffing at many research repositories as well as access to archival materials was restricted; as California begins lifting restrictions in 2021, additional archival research will be conducted as needed. HRG was able to access many research resources online, which included the following sites and organizations:

- Alhambra Preservation Group
- Ancestry.com
- Avery Index of Architectural Periodicals
- California Index
- California Office of Historic Preservation Built Environment Directory (BERD)
- California Office of Historic Preservation Los Angeles County Historic Resources Inventory (HRI)
- Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California
- HathiTrust
- Historical Alhambra City Directories
- Historical California newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Evening Express*, the *Los Angeles Herald*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *San Francisco Examiner*
- JSTOR
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Land Records Information
- Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor
- Online Archive of California
- Sanborn Insurance Company fire insurance maps
- U.S. Census records
- U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management General Land Office records

Historical photographs and maps were also obtained online from the following sites:

- California Historical Society
- California State Library
- California State University, Monterey Bay
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection
- Huntington Library
- Library of Congress

- Los Angeles Public Library
- Online Archive of California
- Pasadena Museum of History
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Southern California

HRG, along with City staff, was able to visit the Alhambra Historical Society Museum briefly on November 16, 2021, to observe the extent of the museum’s collections and exhibits. This section will be updated to include the consultation of additional sources pending followup research or further access to physical repositories. Any information gleaned from these archives will be reflected in the final draft of the Historic Context Statement.

Ongoing Research

Among the standard complement of early San Gabriel Valley histories, there are several sources specific to Alhambra that are of particular note: the *Alhambra Scrapbook*, a collection of contemporary ephemera related to the establishment and initial development of Alhambra; the *History of Alhambra California*, which was compiled by William M. Northrup in 1936 and contains accounts from many of the City’s pioneer residents; and the *Alhambra – San Gabriel – Monterey Park Community Book*, also published by Northrup in 1944 and again in 1949. All three of these sources are held (as hard copies) at the Alhambra Civic Center Library, which has been closed except for express in-person visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, these sources – as well as those available at the Alhambra Historical Society Museum – have not been consulted. HRG, along with City staff, was able to visit the museum briefly on November 16, 2021, but did not undertake an extensive review of the museum’s collections. Should it become possible to consult these repositories in person at a future date as the project continues, any additional information gleaned from these resources will be reflected in the final draft of this Historic Context Statement. As a substitute, the development of this draft narrative drew heavily from Margaret E. Lee’s 1935 master’s thesis, “The History of Alhambra to 1915,” and Robert P. Studer’s 1962 publication *The Historical Volume and Reference Works*; both sources note specifically that they have been largely derived from these three original works – Lee from the *Alhambra Scrapbook*, and Studer from the *History of Alhambra California* and the *Community Book* – and in some cases include specific citations and references to the original content and authors.

Areas of Focus

The current study represents the City of Alhambra’s first comprehensive citywide historic context statement. Therefore, a primary objective of this project was to compile existing historical accounts and supplement them with additional information as needed to better understand the history and patterns of development throughout the City of Alhambra. This comprehensive study will aid in the identification and evaluation of historic resources and provide guidance for planning and land use decisions in Alhambra.

The early history of Alhambra – particularly with regard to its initial development in the late 19th century – has been well-documented in both contemporary accounts as well as secondary published histories. Previous studies provide valuable information on the history of the city; therefore, in order to appropriately allocate resources for this study, existing narratives were used to lay the groundwork for this project and provide a starting point for additional research. For those early chronological periods for which there is plentiful documentation, reputable secondary accounts were utilized as the prevailing sources for developing narrative content related to those periods, with primary accounts such as newspapers and other records consulted only for the purposes of confirmation and/or clarification.

In addition, three issues for which existing research was particularly lacking were identified as areas of focus for research efforts undertaken as part of this study. These issues are discussed in greater detail below.

New primary-source research and content development focused primarily on the period beginning with World War II and continuing through the second half of the 20th century. This era – though given minimal attention in older studies – comprises some of the most dynamic and substantive large-scale development efforts in the history of Alhambra, including the subdivisions of the former sites of the Midwick Country Club and the Alhambra Airport in the immediate postwar period as well as the establishment of the Alhambra Redevelopment Agency in the late 1960s and its subsequent development activities throughout the later 20th century. Particular emphasis was given to reviewing annexation records and tract maps to analyze development patterns and areas of growth within the city throughout different periods of time.

Additional primary and secondary-source research was conducted to enhance the discussion of the role of ethnic and cultural groups within the larger history of the development of Alhambra and provide a more complete view of the City's history. As the historic context statement is intended to document the built environment, a thorough study of each group is beyond the scope of this project. However, the discussions included throughout the chronological narrative in this report is intended to further a more intersectional approach to documenting the city's history, provide a more thorough understanding of the local population, and inform future research efforts. The concept of intersectionality acknowledges the diverse voices and experiences present within a specific community, and attempts to address the disparity between the lived experiences of different segments of the population. By their very nature, thematic studies such as this historic context statement – which is focused solely on the built environment – do not adequately address cross-group connections and/or intersectional identities and experiences. Historians Donna Graves and Gail Dubrow, in discussing the documentation of potential historic resources in Southern California, have written that associating resources or buildings with one group of people over another "...runs the risk of denying the layering of history and the shared streets of the

present.”¹⁰ Indeed, as Graves and Dubrow go on to explain, “applying a single lens of gender, race or ethnicity, sexuality or any category of social analysis to the practice of historic preservation risks misrepresenting the layered histories of place and forecloses possibilities for political mobilization across identity lines in the interest of fostering greater social cohesion.”¹¹ As a result, resources identified in this document may possess a more complex and nuanced history that may be impractical to fully realize as part of this study. This is particularly true in a city like Alhambra, where the sites of early agricultural and industrial operations – which were often supported by ethnic or migrant labor – were later transformed into postwar suburban housing. These patterns of ethnic and cultural migration in Alhambra have been minimally documented in previous historical accounts and studies, and understanding these trends requires a more comprehensive research effort that extends beyond the scope of this document. However, a broad overview of available information has been included in this document in order to acknowledge the role of ethnic and cultural groups in the history and development of the City and provide prompts for further research.

Finally, new secondary-source research was also undertaken to inform the development of a more nuanced narrative for the historical periods associated with the area’s Native American inhabitants. In recent years, scholarship regarding the Native American experience in Southern California has evolved to reflect a more balanced view of exploration and colonization efforts not often found in earlier historical accounts. Most of the documentation related to European exploration and Spanish settlement and colonization originates from recollections provided by the Europeans who came to California beginning in the 16th century, and thus reflects a largely European perspective of the events and activities associated with the colonization of Native American lands. However, recent scholarship has endeavored to include the voices and perspectives of Native Americans as well as Europeans, primarily through the examination of previous ethnographic research efforts. A broad discussion of these activities and associated chronological periods is included in the following narrative in order to inform later discussions regarding the subsequent establishment and physical growth of the City of Alhambra. However, as there are no built resources within the City of Alhambra dating from these earliest periods of habitation, a comprehensive review of research associated with these periods falls outside the scope of this report, but could be undertaken as part of a future study. Current best practice suggests engaging both archaeologists as well as members of the Native American community to supplement the limited history included here.

A Note Regarding Language

As scholarship related to the Native American experience in Southern California has advanced, so has the understanding of how such experiences should be addressed with

¹⁰ Gail Dubrow and Donna Graves, “Taking Intersectionality Seriously: Learning from LGBTQ Heritage Initiatives for Historic Preservation,” *The Public Historian*, Vol. 41, No. 2 (May 2019), 310.

¹¹ Dubrow and Graves, 313.

respect to discussions of related historic resources and/or tribal cultural resources. As awareness of the unique significance of these resources evolves in concert with scholarship, a need has arisen to identify appropriate language that may be used to address the history of Native Americans as a marginalized and disenfranchised community in Southern California.

The City of Los Angeles has developed guidance to aid consultants in preparing technical reports and historic and cultural resource studies that may, by nature of their content, possess informational and/or educational value to the general public regarding Native American history and activities. The guidance notes that authors of such reports should “recognize Native American tribes as stewards of land within and beyond the boundaries of Los Angeles, and commit to an honest and true representation of the events that occurred and make no attempt to diminish or editorialize the very real events and impacts that have transpired.”¹² Although prepared for studies in Los Angeles, this guidance is applicable to discussion of Native American history throughout Southern California and beyond.

As part of this guidance, specific language is also proposed for the terms most commonly used when describing the history and contributions of Native Americans.¹³

Table 1: Guidance for Language Related to Tribal Cultural Resources¹⁴

Defer from using the following terms	Use the following terms
Encountered/Contacted	Colonized
Recruited	Enslaved
Organized	Displaced
Employed	Servitude/Forced labor
Participated	Disenfranchised
Cult	Religion

In order to accurately represent the “events, policies, and activities”¹⁵ that have impacted the Native American community in Southern California, acknowledge the lasting impacts of these policies and programs within the Native American community, and highlight the important contributions of Native Americans to the history and development of the City of Alhambra, the San Gabriel Valley, and Southern California as a whole, this historic context statement will utilize the language noted above in discussions related to Native American history and activities.

¹² Los Angeles City Planning, “Guidance for the Preparation of Technical Reports and Studies relating to the Tribal Cultural Resource,” https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/ab9e5647-1d96-4db7-aab1-2905984fbd1e/TechnicalReports_Studies-TribalCulturalResources.pdf (accessed November 2021), 1.

¹³ “Guidance for the Preparation of Technical Reports and Studies relating to the Tribal Cultural Resource,” 2.

¹⁴ The information in Table 1 has been reproduced from “Guidance for the Preparation of Technical Reports and Studies relating to the Tribal Cultural Resource,” 2.

¹⁵ “Guidance for the Preparation of Technical Reports and Studies relating to the Tribal Cultural Resource,” 2.

*Part II***HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Panoramic view of Alhambra, circa 1900. *Los Angeles Public Library.*

OVERVIEW

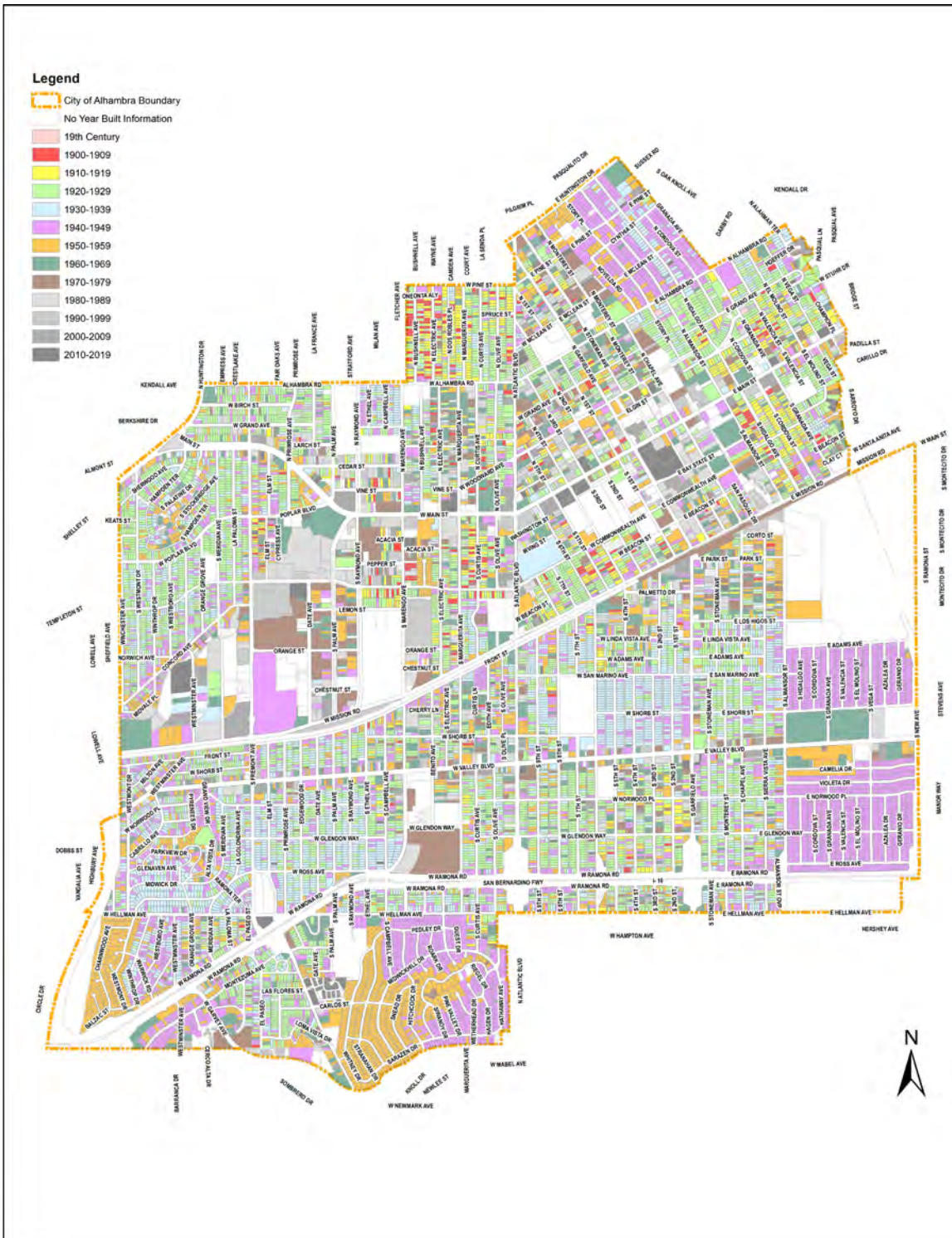
As noted in the Introduction, the period of study for this historic context statement dates from the development of Alhambra’s earliest extant resources in the late 19th century through 1980, representing a period approximately 40 years in the past. According to County of Los Angeles tax assessor data, there are approximately 19,600 parcels in the City of Alhambra; of those, approximately 15,100 parcels were developed – in other words, improved with buildings or structures – by 1980. This data provides a baseline for understanding overall development patterns in the city and identifying the comparative rarity of properties from each period. The following Table 1 and the map in Figure 1 illustrate the development by decade according to the tax assessor data.¹⁶

Table 2: Number of Parcels Developed by Decade

DECADE	# OF PARCELS
1880-1889	5
1890-1899	5
1900-1909	245
1910-1919	616
1920-1929	3761
1930-1939	2592
1940-1949	3484
1950-1959	1878
1960-1969	1260
1970-1979	878
1980-1989	2301
1990-1999	619
2000-2009	751
2010-2029	615
No Date	604
TOTAL	19,614

¹⁶ Although tax assessor data provides a valuable framework for examining development patterns, it should be noted that tax assessor data is not 100% accurate and may include missing or incomplete information. For example, sometimes the original construction date is replaced with an “effective date” if significant alterations or improvements are undertaken on a property. In addition, the tax assessor does not include data for parcels that are not subject to property taxes, including schools and other municipal properties.

Figure 1: Location of Parcels Developed by Decade



ORGANIZATION OF THE CONTEXT

This historic context statement addresses the development history of the land within the present-day city limits of Alhambra. The historic context statement provides a narrative historical overview of the broad patterns of events and trends that have shaped land use patterns and the development of the built environment in the City of Alhambra over time and addresses each significant phase of the city's development as it relates to the existing built environment from the late 19th century through 1980.

The historic context statement is a narrative development history organized by chronological periods. Discussion of the earliest periods – Native American Settlement, European Exploration, Spanish Rule, Mexican Rule, and Early California – are included here for reference purposes only, to provide historical background and context for the later development of the built environment. Later periods, beginning with the Early Development of Alhambra section, lay the groundwork for the growth and development of Alhambra beginning in the late 19th century and continuing throughout the 20th century. Each chronological period represents a different development context. Relevant associated themes and sub-themes based on extant built resources have also been identified within each chronological period. An outline of contexts and themes included in this historic context statement is included below.

The themes within each chronological period describe the historical development patterns, important events and/or activities, and important individuals and groups that influenced Alhambra's history and development during that period in order to provide guidance for evaluating the potential historic significance of properties associated with that theme. Each theme is then divided into a series of sub-themes, organized primarily by property or development type within each chronological period: civic and institutional development, commercial development, industrial development, and/or residential development. Sub-themes have only been developed for those property types for which there are extant and intact examples in the City of Alhambra today. Where appropriate, there are also sub-themes for properties associated with important people in Alhambra's history, and for properties that are notable for their architectural merit.

Each theme is followed by a set of preliminary eligibility standards that provides guidance for the future evaluation of each property type associated with that theme as a potential historic resource. The eligibility standards include an overview of eligibility criteria and integrity considerations for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources, followed by eligibility standards specific to each property type. Eligibility thresholds and integrity considerations follow guidance established by the National Park Service and have been developed specifically in relation to the existing conditions observed in Alhambra's built environment during the windshield study.

The last chronological period in the narrative brings the history of Alhambra to the present day. An additional context related to architectural design follows the narrative history; this

discussion addresses the various architectural styles currently represented in Alhambra's built environment, including their origins, influences, and character-defining features.

It should be noted that properties mentioned in the narrative are intended to illustrate development patterns and/or provide examples of specific property types; however, inclusion in the narrative does not necessarily indicate eligibility for designation. Properties that have been demolished are noted as such, when known.

Outline of Contexts and Themes

Chronological development periods and associated contexts and themes included in the historic context statement are outlined below.

- I. Native American Settlement**
- II. European Exploration (1542-1769)**
- III. Spanish Rule: Colonization and Mission Establishment (1769-1821)**
- IV. Mexican Rule: Secularization and Subsequent Land Grants (1821-1849)**
- V. Early California: American Statehood and Rancho Development (1850-1874)**
- VI. Early Development of Alhambra (1875-1902)**
- VII. City Incorporation and Civic Improvement (1903-1919)**
- VIII. City Expansion and Industrial Growth (1920-1940)**
- IX. Alhambra During World War II (1941-1945)**
- X. Postwar Growth and Prosperity (1946-1967)**
- XI. Postwar Decline and Redevelopment (1968-1980)**
- XII. Alhambra Today (1981-Present)**
- XIII. Architecture and Design (1875-1980)**



The Gabrieliño Indians at the Time of the Portolà Expedition, by cartographer Allen W. Welts, 1962. *Southwest Museum.*

I. NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT

The City of Alhambra is located within the San Gabriel Valley, which is the ancestral home of the Native American group known today as the Kizh, Tongva, or Gabrieliño. Although “Gabrieliño” is perhaps the name most commonly recognized today, the term is a comparatively recent one and is not indicative of how Indigenous people referred to themselves. The term “Gabrieliño” was assigned by the Spanish settlers who colonized the area and developed the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel to indicate Native Americans associated with the Mission;¹⁷ similarly, those Native Americans who were associated with the Mission San Fernando Rey de España were known as Fernandeseños.¹⁸ Anthropologists Lowell John Bean and Charles R. Smith note that the term “Gabrieliño” first appeared in a report published by Oscar Loew in 1876 and has been “intermittently applied” to the Indigenous population of the Los Angeles area ever since.¹⁹ Anthropologist Bernice Johnston notes that it was quite common for a tribe to refer to themselves in their own language simply as “people” or “men,” although they would have assigned names to other tribes.²⁰ Today, most descendants of the Gabrieliño and Fernandeseño tribes refer to themselves as either Tongva or Kizh because they are terms of native rather than Spanish origin.²¹ The name Tongva is used throughout the following historic context statement as it is the term most commonly used by present-day descendants.

The Tongva occupied a vast territory which represented “the most richly endowed coastal section in Southern California.”²² Their land comprised most of present-day Los Angeles County and half of Orange County, extending eastward from the Pacific Ocean to include the watersheds of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers, several smaller intermittent streams in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains, all of the Los Angeles basin, and the coastal area extending from Aliso Creek in the south to Topanga Creek in the north, as well as the islands of San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Catalina.²³ Surrounding Indigenous communities included the Chumash and the Tataviam/Alliklik to the north, the

¹⁷ As noted in the Introduction, terms such as “colonization” and similar language will be utilized in this historic context statement in discussions related to the history of the Native American community and their experiences in Southern California. For further information please refer to Los Angeles City Planning, “Guidance for the Preparation of Technical Reports and Studies relating to the Tribal Cultural Resource,” https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/ab9e5647-1d96-4db7-aab1-2905984fbd1e/TechnicalReports_Studies-TribalCulturalResources.pdf (accessed November 2021).

¹⁸ Lowell John Bean and Charles R. Smith, “Gabrieliño,” in *California*, ed. Robert F. Heizer, vol. 8, *Handbook of North American Indians*, ed. Robert F. Sturtevant (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1978): 538-549, 538.

¹⁹ Bean and Smith, 548.

²⁰ Bernice Eastman Johnston, *California's Gabrielino Indians* (Los Angeles: Southwest Museum, 1962), 15.

²¹ William McCawley, *The First Angelinos: The Gabrielino Indians of Los Angeles*. (Banning, CA: Malki Museum Press, 1996), 9-10.

²² Bean and Smith, 538.

²³ Bean and Smith, 538.

Serrano and Cahuilla to the east, and the Luiseño/Juaneño to the south.²⁴ Interactions between the Tongva and surrounding tribes were frequent and generally peaceful, occurring largely through the channels of intermarriage, matrilineal residence, and/or trade.²⁵ Trade currency consisted of shell beads and objects made from steatite, a type of soapstone found on Catalina Island.²⁶

With the possible exception of the Chumash, the Tongva were the “wealthiest, most populous, and most powerful ethnic nationality in aboriginal Southern California, their influence spreading as far north as the San Joaquin Valley Yokuts, as far east as the Colorado River, and south into Baja California.”²⁷ The Tongva territory was so expansive, in fact, that it occupied several ecological zones; consequently the tribe’s settlement and subsistence patterns varied slightly within each zone based on micro-environmental conditions, but on the whole thrived on hunting, gathering, and fishing activities. Like that of most Native Americans in California, acorns were the staple food, supplemented by the roots, leaves, seeds, and fruits of a variety of flora (e.g., islay, cactus, yucca, sages, and agave) as well as both large and small mammals.²⁸ The Tongva’s subsistence practices were mostly focused on local estuarine, coastal, and near-coastal resources.²⁹

Studies indicate that habitation sites were hierarchically organized around estuaries, and varied in size based on resource availability. While some estuaries supported large settlements, other estuaries supported linked but separated smaller habitation sites. Recent research implies that groups living near smaller estuaries practiced a strategy of mobility, employing foraging when resources were scarce.³⁰ While it is difficult to estimate the Tongva’s population over time, evidence suggests that at the time of European contact in the 1500s there may have been more than fifty to one hundred mainland villages reflecting a

²⁴ Terry L. Jones and Kathryn A. Klar, *California Prehistory: Colonization, Culture, and Complexity* (Plymouth, UK: AltaMira Press, 2007).

²⁵ John R. Johnson, “Social Responses to Climate Change Among the Chumash Indians of South-Central California,” in *The Way the Wind Blows: Climate, History, and Human Action*, ed. R. J. McIntosh, J. A. Tainter, and S. K. McIntosh (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000).

²⁶ Lynn H. Gamble, “Structural Transformation and Innovation in Emergent Political Economies of Southern California,” in *Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology as Historical Process*, ed. Kenneth E. Sassaman and Donald H. Holly Junior, (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2011), 242; Bean and Smith, 542.

²⁷ Bean and Smith, 538.

²⁸ Bean and Smith, 539; McCawley 119-123.

²⁹ David Maxwell, “Vertebrate Faunal Remains,” in *At the Base of the Bluff: Archeological Inventory and Evaluation Along Lower Centinela Creek, Marina del Rey, California*. Playa Vista Monograph Series Test Excavation Report 4, ed. J. H. Atschul, A. Q. Stoll, D. R. Grenda, and R. Ciolek-Torello (Tucson, AZ: Statistical Research, 2003).

³⁰ Donn R. Grenda and Jeffrey H. Altschul, “A Moveable Feast: Isolation and Mobility Among Southern California Hunter-Gatherers,” 128-129, in *Islanders and Mainlanders: Prehistoric Context for the Southern California Blight*, J. H. Atschul and D. R. Grenda, ed. (Tucson, AZ: SRI Press, 2002).

range in population sizes.³¹ Recent ethnohistoric work suggests that the total population was approximately 10,000 at the time of European contact.³²



Gabrielino Indians, 1883. *South Pasadena Public Library.*

Villages were politically autonomous and largely organized through shared kinship ties; each village was headed by a chief, who was usually descended from the prevailing lineage of the village. (Multiple villages were occasionally allied under the same chief if they were in close proximity.) The chief was charged with collecting taxes, settling disputes, and keeping safe the sacred bundle, a wrapped collection of sacred items that represented the spiritual philosophies of the tribe. In addition to the chief, shamans also held power and authority over the tribal community.³³ It appears that the Tongva also shared some rituals with the Chumash to the north, based on the distribution of similar stone effigies in the prehistoric period.³⁴

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Based on available archaeological studies of the area, the precise locations of Native American villages have been difficult for scholars to ascertain. There are several issues that contribute to this uncertainty: Native American villages were composed of both established larger settlements and smaller groups that practiced foraging and were mobile.³⁵ Settlements are also difficult to identify in part because their locations were influenced by natural

³¹ Bean and Smith, 540; Heather Valdez Singleton, “Surviving Urbanization: The Gabrieleno, 1850-1928,” *Wicazo Sa Review* 19, no. 2, Colonization/Decolonization, I (Autumn 2004): 49-59, 50.

³² Stephen O’Neil, “The Acjachemen in the Franciscan Mission System: Demographic Collapse and Social Change,” Master’s thesis, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Fullerton, 2002.

³³ Bean and Smith, 544.

³⁴ Lynn Hunter Gamble and Glenn S. Russell, “A View from the Mainland: Late Holocene Cultural Developments Among the Ventureño Chumash and the Tongva,” in *Catalysts to Complexity: Late Holocene Societies of the California Coast*, ed. J. M. Erlandson and T. L. Jones, (Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California, 2002).

³⁵ Grenda and Altschul, 128-129.

features, such as waterways, that changed over the decades. Additionally, by the time ethnographers, anthropologists, and historians attempted to document villages, they had since been long abandoned by their inhabitants, who were displaced during colonial rule. Alternative spellings and names of various villages also complicate identifying past settlement sites.³⁶

Despite these challenges, available information has been used by researchers throughout the 20th century to plot the location of some recorded village sites and placenames.³⁷ Several distinct Tongva village locations have been identified in the San Gabriel Valley. The names Shevaanga, Sonaanga, Weniinga, Sheshiikwanonga, Akuuronga, Aluupkenga, Ashuukshanga, and Ahwiinga have all been identified as communities along the watershed feeding the Rio Hondo River from the San Gabriel Mountains.³⁸ Ethnographic sources imply that the village of Shevaanga was located at the present site of the Mission San Gabriel.³⁹

The ethnographically documented Tongva community closest to the present-day City of Alhambra is called Otsungna, which may have been located within the area that now comprises the campus of California State University, Los Angeles in the nearby Los Angeles neighborhood of El Sereno.⁴⁰ According to José Zalvidea (1780–1846), a Spanish Franciscan missionary who worked with ethnographers, Otsungna was located approximately three miles from San Gabriel on the road to Los Angeles. The name is believed to reference the Tongva word for wild roses, ‘ochuur (also spelled otsur), which were cited by another Tongva informant, Felicitas Serrano Montaña, as growing in abundance; they were also the source of the Spanish name for the location, “Rosa de Castilla.” Also documented were Montaña’s other observations that “there is a big matanza (slaughterhouse) there now at the site of ‘otsuvit, about halfway between Los Angeles and San Gabriel. A railroad and wagon road pass by.”⁴¹

Alhambra is also situated between two notable Tongva settlements: the village of Yaanga,⁴² located approximately five miles to the southwest near the site of the former Pueblo de Los Angeles, and one of two important Tongva locations near the San Gabriel Mission, Sibangna⁴³ or Toviscangna,⁴⁴ which are located approximately three miles to the northwest. Yaanga is generally believed to have been located near the present-day site of Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, although the precise location of the village has been much

³⁶ McCawley, 32.

³⁷ McCawley, 32.

³⁸ McCawley, 42.

³⁹ McCawley, 41.

⁴⁰ Alternate spellings and references include Ochuunga and Otsunga. See “Villages,” Tongva People, http://www.tongvapeople.org/?page_id=696 (accessed December 2020).

⁴¹ McCawley, 57; Johnston, 144.

⁴² Alternate spellings and references include Yang-na, Yangna, and Yabit. See “Villages.”

⁴³ Alternative spellings and references include Shevaanga. See McCawley, 41-42.

⁴⁴ Alternate spellings and references include Toviseanga, Tobiscanga, and Tuvasak. See “Villages.”

disputed. The San Gabriel Mission is known to have been established near a Tongva village; although it is not known to researchers what this village was called, both Sibangna and Toviscangna are possibilities.

Travel between El Pueblo de Los Angeles and San Gabriel Mission took on increased significance during the Spanish and Mexican periods, after the establishment of El Pueblo as a civil settlement in 1781. The system of roads running between major Spanish settlements, including those between the San Gabriel Mission and the pueblo, were memorialized in the early 20th century as El Camino Real, or “Royal Road” – though the “road” was never a single route. Many of these early thoroughfares were likely established along the routes previously used by Native Americans for foraging, communication, travel, and trade. Though foot trails can be ephemeral and completely change course from year to year, such trails are known to have existed between significant Tongva settlements, and temporary camps or other types of Native American features (such as burial sites) would have been common along these paths, especially where they intersect water sources or are located near other natural resources and culturally significant landmarks, including favorable viewsheds. The earliest survey maps created after California’s annexation into the United States offer some indication of the trail system operating prior to this time. Unfortunately, maps of Native American trails were never drawn after Spanish contact and the routes described in ethnographic sources refer to more general routes. As a result, textual sources alone cannot definitively establish that a given trail or road was established by Native Americans.

Tongva settlements represented the prevailing improvements upon the Southern California landscape until well into the 18th century. Although European explorers began arriving in the area as early as 1542, their initial activities were largely confined to maritime explorations and their resultant impact on the land was minimal. It would be the arrival of Spanish settlers who came to colonize the region beginning in 1769 that would eventually transform the land and set the course for physical development upon it.

There are no extant built resources in the City of Alhambra dating from the period of Native American settlement. The study of archaeological resources is outside the scope of this project.



Detail, Map of the United States, showing routes of principal explorers and early roads and highways, 1937. *The Claremont Colleges Digital Library.*

II. EUROPEAN EXPLORATION (1542-1769)

Although the territory known today as California was already inhabited by Native Americans, by the 1500s Spain was motivated to take possession of the Pacific Coast amid concerns that if they failed to do so, the land might otherwise be claimed by competing foreign powers. To that end, in 1542 King Carlos dispatched Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo to explore the West Coast of North America on behalf of the Spanish Empire. Cabrillo set sail in June 1542 and arrived in what is now San Diego Bay in September that year. In doing so, Cabrillo became the first European to set foot on California soil, claiming the territory for the Spanish Empire by right of discovery.

Cabrillo sailed northward along the coast, eventually making contact with coastal Native American tribes at Catalina Island. Cabrillo later visited the Chumash village of *šišolop*, located in present-day Ventura, and provided the earliest written record of land use patterns established by the Native Americans in the area. Cabrillo continued his voyage north, laying claim to the Pacific Coast as far as the 42nd parallel before returning to Catalina Island for the winter. Cabrillo died unexpectedly in December 1542 as a result of complications from an injury he sustained during an altercation between his party and the Tongva. His deputy later returned the ship to Spain. The official report of Cabrillo's expedition was subsequently lost, and for many years his discoveries passed unnoticed.

In 1579, a competing claim of the Pacific Coast was made for England by Sir Francis Drake, which prompted two more expeditions to be dispatched by Spain: the first was headed by Sebastián Rodríguez Cermeño, who set sail in 1596 carrying Cabrillo's writings and revisited some of the same coastline. Another expedition was made by Sebastián Vizcaíno in 1602; this time, contact was made once more with the Chumash, but the party did not journey further inland. Instead, Vizcaíno continued to venture along the coast as far north as Monterey, mapping the coastline as he went and assigning place names to prominent geographical and ecological features such as San Pedro Bay, Santa Catalina Island, San Clemente Island, and Monterey Bay.⁴⁵ However, despite his efforts, no significant Spanish settlement was to follow, because none of the three Spanish explorers had been able to identify an ideal harbor from which Spain could facilitate its maritime trade with Japan and Mexico. As a result, the Spanish Empire made no further effort to explore the Pacific Coast for another 160 years.

By the 1760s, political and economic conditions – as well as leadership – had changed in Spain, which now faced a greater threat to its territory in America from Russia and England, both of whom had already claimed adjacent lands in present-day Alaska and Canada, respectively.⁴⁶ At the same time, Jesuit missionaries had begun to establish a series of

⁴⁵ Zoeth Skinner Eldredge, *The March of Portolà and the Discovery of the Bay of San Francisco* (San Francisco: The California Promotion Committee, 1909), 21-22.

⁴⁶ Eldredge, 23.

missions along the Baja California Peninsula and were actively working to forcefully evangelize Native Americans – another threat to Spain’s control of California. As part of a coordinated effort to suppress the Jesuit influence, in February 1767 King Carlos III of Spain issued a proclamation ordering all Jesuits to be expelled from Spanish territories. Gaspar de Portolá was named “Governor of the Californias” and dispatched to the Pacific Coast to dispossess the Jesuits and turn the California missions over to the Spanish Franciscans.⁴⁷ At the same time King Carlos, aware as well of the growing threat of Russian advancement, also ordered the viceroy of New Spain to “take effective measures to guard that part of his dominions from danger of invasion and insult.”⁴⁸



Composite detail showing Tongva settlements and European exploration routes in the San Gabriel Valley Mission Region, The Kirkman-Harriman Pictorial and Historical Map of Los Angeles County: 1860 AD., 1937. *Huntington Library.*

The Portolá expedition reached the San Gabriel Valley, which they called San Miguel, on July 30 and 31, 1769.⁴⁹ Portolá’s visit marked the beginning of Spain’s efforts to colonize the area, rather than merely explore it. These efforts also marked the beginning of a coordinated campaign by the Spanish to impose European religious beliefs and social and cultural ideals upon the existing Tongva population, leading to the widespread abuse of Native Americans through enslavement, forced religious conversion, and introduction of infectious diseases. Additionally, the introduction of domesticated animals had serious impacts on the land and

⁴⁷ Eldredge, 23.

⁴⁸ Eldredge, 23.

⁴⁹ Eldredge, 32.

Indigenous population. Livestock, such as cattle and sheep, introduced by colonizers competed with, and in some cases replaced, native animal species.

Two hundred years later, in reflecting upon the upcoming bicentennial of the settlement of Alta California in 1968, Carl Schaefer Dentzel would write, “It seems inconceivable that in little more a hundred years the original inhabitants of the area now comprising the city and the county of Los Angeles have had their age-old culture destroyed. The native Indians who welcomed the Spanish in 1769 were many in number, possessing a way of life suitable for themselves under the conditions they had been used to living. But they were forced to move from a primeval, naturalistic society, in which Nature was their greatest overlord, into the ill-contrived, dominating rule of an alien conqueror.”⁵⁰

Despite the hardships and brutalities endured under Spanish rule, the Tongva continued to reside in the San Gabriel Valley. However, their relationship with the land and the trajectory of its development would be drastically altered by the arrival of Spanish colonists.

There are no extant built resources in the City of Alhambra dating from the period of European exploration. The study of archaeological resources is outside the scope of this project.

⁵⁰ Carl Schaefer Dentzel, foreword to Hugo Reid and Robert F. Heizer, *The Indians of Los Angeles County: Hugo Reid's Letters of 1852*, Southwest Museum papers, no. 21 (Los Angeles: Southwest Museum, 1968).



El Camino Real; outline map of California showing missions and principal settlements prior to secularization of the missions in 1834, drawn by Mabel Emerton Prentiss, circa 1903.

Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

III. SPANISH RULE: COLONIZATION AND MISSION ESTABLISHMENT (1769-1821)

In 1769, the Spanish government dispatched an expedition led by Captain Gaspar de Portolá, the newly appointed governor of Baja California, to affirm Spain's claim of sovereignty through actual settlement – because, as archaeologist Robert Heizer has observed, “that claim, although supported by repeated performances of the Act of Sovereignty, rested on pretty slim evidence.”⁵¹

“What was needed,” writes Heizer, “was some concrete act of settlement to establish the Spanish claim of ownership to the lands north of Mexico.”⁵² To that end, Gaspar de Portolá was charged with establishing a presidio – otherwise known as a garrison – against Russian expansion in Alta California. Additionally, a system of Catholic missions was to be founded for the forcible conversion of the native people along the western coast. Portolá sailed into San Diego Bay on April 29, 1769, and soon set out on an overland expedition with Father Junípero Serra. Over the next several decades, various Franciscan missions, military presidios and pueblos would be established throughout Alta California, from San Diego to Sonoma.

Now charged with establishing Spanish control of both the religious colonization *and* the military fortification of Alta California, Gaspar de Portolá's first order of duty upon arriving in San Diego was to establish the Presidio of San Diego, a fortified military outpost, as the first Spanish settlement in Alta California on May 14, 1769.⁵³ Portolá then set out over land, leaving Father Junipero Serra to dedicate the Mission San Diego de Alcalá at Presidio Hill, the first of the twenty-one missions that would be established in Alta California by the Spanish and the Franciscan Order between 1769 and 1823.⁵⁴ Portolá's exploration continued northward, following the route which would later become known as El Camino Real.

Two missions would be founded in the Los Angeles area: the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, which was established in 1771; and the Mission San Fernando Rey de España, which was established in 1797. A civil settlement, *El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río de Porciúncula*, was also established in what is now downtown Los Angeles in 1781.

⁵¹ Robert Heizer, “Impact of Colonialization on the Native California Societies,” *The Journal of San Diego History San Diego Historical Society Quarterly* 24, no. 1 (Winter 1978), <https://sandiegohistory.org/journal/1978/january/impact/> (accessed November 2021).

⁵² Heizer, “Impact of Colonialization on the Native California Societies.”

⁵³ Theodore E. Treutlein, “The Portolá Expedition of 1769-1770,” *California Historical Society Quarterly* 47, no. 4 (University of California Press, 1968): 291-313, 291.

⁵⁴ Treutlein, 291.

SPANISH COLONIZATION EFFORTS AND IMPACTS ON NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

The Spanish colonization of Alta California was, without doubt, one of the most transformational events in California history. The history, character, and identity of the state has been imbued with the evocative ideas and imagery associated with pastoral mission life. Even California's built environment reflects the distinctive aesthetic of the missions with the evolution of Mission Revival-style architecture, now one of the most popular architectural styles in the region. Today, however, we know that the story of the Spanish colonization of California is far more complex, and that the proliferation of whitewashed arches and clay tile roofs does not account for the entirety of the impact upon the region or its people.

For many years, the documentation, interpretation, and portrayal of the Mission Era, as the period of Spanish colonization in California is often called, relied heavily upon firsthand accounts of the period authored by the explorers and Franciscan *padres* themselves, by other Spanish who accompanied them, or by contemporaries – who were usually also of European descent – who settled in the areas surrounding the missions around the same time. Perhaps not surprisingly, these accounts almost universally sought to portray the actions of the Spanish in a positive light. These characterizations – which frequently depicted the Spanish as heroic and benevolent saviors of a heathen Indigenous people – contributed greatly to the widespread misunderstanding of the Native American experience under Spanish rule. At the heart of the issue is the fact that these accounts present a distinctively singular European view: that of the settler, and not the settled; that of the conqueror, and not the conquered.

What we understand and acknowledge now is that these accounts ignored the very real and tragic impacts of Spanish colonization efforts on existing Native American communities, who represented the earliest inhabitants of Southern California. The Tongva had already resided in the region for hundreds of years, fostering the development of a number of economically successful and politically peaceful settlements that had grown to represent one of the most powerful and influential tribes of the western coast.

The efforts employed by the Spanish to colonize the region included the acculturation and widespread abuse of Native American populations across Southern California. Under Spanish rule, Native Americans endured enslavement, religious conversion, violence, and cultural genocide.⁵⁵ Converted Native Americans were also expected to speak Spanish and relinquish their native languages. Many historians now recognize the missions as sites of these human rights violations.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ Yve Barthelemy Chavez, "Indigenous Artists, Ingenuity, and Resistance at the California Missions After 1769," PhD diss., University of California, Los Angeles, 2017, <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/355609rf> (accessed November 2021), 3.

⁵⁶ Suggested additional reading includes *Testimonios: Early California Through the Eyes of Women, 1815-1848* by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz; *Converting California: Indians and Franciscans in the Missions* by James A. Sandos; *Indian Labor and the Economic Expansion of Southern California, 1771-1877* by George Harwood Phillips; and *City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771-1965* by Kelly Lytle Hernandez.

According to a 2009 National Park Service study:⁵⁷

The first Spanish Franciscans to enter...California had intended to turn the local hunter-gatherer people into farmers, ranchers, craftsmen, and faithful practicing Catholic Christians. From the Franciscan point of view, mission lands and other secular properties were being held in trust until such time as the Indians became “people of reason” and full citizens of the Spanish Empire. The promise that mission lands would be returned to the Indians was codified by decree of the Spanish Cortes in 1813. That promise was also implied in a number of laws passed by the Mexican government in the 1820s and 1830s. [However, ensuing laws, statutes, and practical events] ... left the Indians of the California missions landless by 1846.⁵⁸

The establishment of the nearby Mission San Gabriel is critical in understanding the physical and economic development of the San Gabriel Valley region in the 18th century, and the later founding and growth of the City of Alhambra. While a full re-telling of the story from the perspective of the area’s Native American inhabitants is outside the scope of this project, the impact that these events had on the Indigenous people who had lived in the area for centuries is acknowledged.

DEVELOPMENT OF MISSION SAN GABRIEL

Founded on September 8, 1771, the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel became the fourth in the chain of missions established along the California coast by Spanish Catholic Franciscans between 1769 and 1823. Mission San Gabriel was widely regarded as one of the largest and most productive missions, and its role as a center for trade and agriculture ultimately led to its reputation as the “Pride of the Missions.”⁵⁹

In August 1771, a group of Spanish soldiers escorting two Franciscan *padres* as part of Gaspar de Portolá’s second expedition set out from San Diego to select a site for a new mission, following a trail made during Portolá’s previous exploration. After considering and then rejecting at least one other location, the group eventually settled upon a site along the banks of the Rio Hondo near the Tongva village of Isantkanga,⁶⁰ at the site of the present-

⁵⁷ Randall Milliken, Lawrence H. Shoup, and Beverly R. Ortiz, “Chapter 8: Secularization and the Rancho Era, 1834-1846,” in *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today*, prepared for National Park Service Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, CA, June 2009, <https://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/historyculture/upload/Chapter-8.pdf> (accessed December 2020).

This study was prepared by the National Park Service to provide an analysis of the Ohlone/Costanoan tribal groups that inhabited [federal] parklands in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties prior to Spanish colonization. However, it includes a detailed discussion of the mission system, secularization, and the rancho system of the 1830s and 1840s that is relevant to the context of Mission San Gabriel.

⁵⁸ Milliken et al., 155.

⁵⁹ “History of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel,” California Missions Foundation, <https://californiamissionsfoundation.org/mission-san-gabriel/> (accessed December 2021).

⁶⁰ Alternate spellings and references for Isantkanga include Isankanga, Isankangna, Isanthcogna, Isantcanga, Isanthcagna, Isanchanga, et al. See “Villages.”

day intersection of North San Gabriel Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue in Montebello. Here, “a stockade of poles was built enclosing a square within which a church was erected, covered with boughs.”⁶¹ On September 8, 1771, the mission was formally founded and dedicated as the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel.

In 1776, five years after its initial founding, the Mission San Gabriel was relocated to its current site in the present-day City of San Gabriel.⁶² The move was undertaken after a series of rains that overflowed the Rio Hondo and periodically flooded the Mission. The new site of the Mission San Gabriel was a significant one, situated at the intersection of three major trade routes and near the site of the Tongva village of Sibanga.⁶³ A chapel was the first building to be constructed as part of the new mission. Architecturally, Mission San Gabriel is distinct among the California missions; its designer, Father Antonio Cruzado, derived his design from a prominent cathedral in Córdoba, Spain.⁶⁴

The mission’s construction, however, was the result of forced labor of the Tongva – who were now referred to as “Gabrieliños.” This included the physical development of the Mission San Gabriel, as well as the agricultural and ranching activities that led to its productive success. Over its active life, San Gabriel was far more productive than any other mission in California, harvesting over 353,000 bushels of wheat, barley, corn, beans, peas, lentils, and garbanzo beans.⁶⁵ The Mission San Gabriel became known in particular for its viticultural production; the mission introduced large-scale viticulture to the region, possessed the largest vineyard in Spanish California, and was the botanical source of many of the vines planted at other missions along the chain.⁶⁶ It was also credited with the largest grain crop raised at any mission, with the 1821 harvest amounting to 29,400 bushels.⁶⁷

⁶¹ J. M. Guinn, *A History of California and an Extended History of Los Angeles and Environs*, vol. 1 (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, 1915), 58.

⁶² The buildings at the site of the first Mission San Gabriel – which became known as “Misión Vieja” following the Mission’s relocation – were all made of wood, and no trace of them remains today. See Guinn, 58.

⁶³ Alternate spellings and references for Sibanga include Siba, Sibat, Sibapet, Sibap, Sibagna, Sibanga, Sibagua, et al. See “Villages.”

⁶⁴ “History of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel.”

⁶⁵ “San Gabriel Arcángel Key Facts,” California Missions, <https://missionscalifornia.com/san-gabriel-arcangel-mission/key-facts> (accessed December 2021).

⁶⁶ “San Gabriel Arcángel Key Facts.”

⁶⁷ Guinn, 58.



Indian House at the Mission San Gabriel, c. 1844. *USC Digital Library*.

By the late 1770s, when the Mission San Gabriel was re-established at its second location, seven other missions had also been founded. Maintaining the mission system became increasingly cost-prohibitive during this period as Spain's years-long wars with the English and French continued to drain resources. Additionally, Jesuit missions in Baja stopped providing supplies to California's missions, necessitating the shipment of needed materials from Mexico City.⁶⁸ As a result, any new or existing missions could not adequately yield the provisions needed by a floundering Spanish government under the current structure. Therefore, while geographically and strategically important, implementing the plans for establishing additional missions was put on hold.

King Carlos III's decision to hold off construction was also significantly influenced by Native American resistance to Spanish colonial rule across the newly-claimed Alta California, which covered Native American territory in the modern-day states of California, Nevada, and Utah, as well as parts of Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. It became increasingly clear that a mission system reliant on simply granting land to new European settlers was becoming unmanageable. Military Commander and Governor Felipe de Neve and Viceroy Martin de Mayorga therefore mandated that new missions could not be built

⁶⁸ Alastair Worden and Randy Leffingwell, *California Missions & Presidios* (St. Paul, MN: Voyageur Press, 2005), 55.

solely with Native American labor and would need to be self-supporting.⁶⁹ Mission San Gabriel, however, remained “far more productive” than any of the other missions; so much so that it supported the populations of several other missions.⁷⁰

After the secularization of Mission San Gabriel, scattered reports indicate that the forcibly displaced Gabrieliños pursued several options available to them. Some moved from the mission to the burgeoning El Pueblo de Los Angeles looking for work., while others intermarried with other tribes, leaving their traditional homeland.⁷¹ However, a core group of several families stayed in the township of San Gabriel, close to the mission, and formed the cultural and geographic center of the Gabrieliño community.⁷²

There are no extant built resources in the City of Alhambra dating from the period of Spanish rule. The study of archaeological resources is outside the scope of this project.

⁶⁹ Worden and Leffingwell, 55.

⁷⁰ “San Gabriel Arcángel Key Facts.”

⁷¹ Singleton, 50-51.

⁷² Singleton, 50-51.



A map of the United States of Mexico as organized and defined by the several acts of the Congress of that Republic, 1826. *California State University, Monterey Bay.*

IV. MEXICAN RULE: SECULARIZATION AND SUBSEQUENT LAND GRANTS (1821-1849)

In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain, and Alta California became a territory of Mexico. The territorial capital remained in Monterey, California, with a governor serving as the territory's executive official.

Mexico, however, paid little attention to Alta California, which was sparsely developed and yielded little to no tax revenue to the Mexican government – which was distracted by its own internal instability and constant threats to power. Within several years, however, Mexican officials became concerned about Spain's residual influence in Alta California through the continued operation of the mission system. Spain continued to pose a potential threat to Mexico's power in the territory as the former refused to recognize the latter's independence.

In an effort to curb any potential hostilities, the Governor of Alta California issued a "Proclamation of Emancipation" in 1826, which freed all Native Americans within the military districts of San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Monterey from mission rule and granted them eligibility to become Mexican citizens. Subsequent legislation enacted in Mexico in 1827 mandated the expulsion of Spaniards under the age of sixty from all Mexican territories. However, some Spanish-born Franciscan *padres* managed to escape deportation for a time, and the continuing concern over Spain's influence coupled with these initial efforts paved the way for more significant legislation that would dismantle the Spanish mission system completely.

MEXICAN SECULARIZATION ACT OF 1833

The secularization law directing the closure of the California missions was passed by the Congress of Mexico on August 17, 1833, with more specific regulations to guide implementation passed on August 9, 1834. According to the 2009 National Park Service study:

The [1833] law implied that each Indian mission community would become a town with its own government, much as the Indian pueblos of New Mexico were self-governing entities. Its 15 sections provided detailed directions for the establishment of parish churches, for the support of parish priests, and for the assignment of selected mission buildings "as an *ayuntamiento* house, primary schools, public establishments, and work-shops." But it was silent regarding rules for the distribution of other mission property.

Regulations guiding implementation of secularization were passed by the California departmental legislature and signed by Governor Figueroa on August 9, 1834. It was a surprisingly balanced document that, had it been

followed, would have guided the development of ejidos—communal landholding pueblos—for the Catholic Indians around each mission.⁷³

The regulations were intended to return the land to the Indigenous inhabitants, assigning one half of the mission lands and property to Native Americans in grants of thirty-three acres of arable land, along with common land sufficient to pasture their stock. In addition, one half of the mission herds were to be divided proportionately among the native families. The remaining lands were then available for dispersal by the Mexican government.

Had the final secularization law and its accompanying enabling regulations been followed to the letter, the Indians of central California would have received large allotments of lands around each mission in accordance with the ejido (lands in common) landholding system. Instead, Hispanic families received the land in large private blocks, following the haciendo system. The ejido and haciendo landholding systems had developed along two separate paths in Mexico over the centuries of Spanish occupation. Much of Mexico's farm and ranch lands were concentrated in the hands of a few upper-class families as large estates under the hacienda system; under it the landless classes, Indians, mestizo, and mulattos, depended upon the land-owning patrons for tools, supplies, and homes on estate lands. In other parts of Mexico, individual families worked lands assigned by community governments, the lands being held under collective ownership in the ejido system. The communal ejido system developed in many areas where Indians had an agricultural life way, such as among 19 Indian pueblos in New Mexico that are now within the United States.

The distribution of mission lands did not unfold in the way that the 1834 [regulations] foresaw. After the death of Governor Figueroa in September of 1835, a series of commissioners worked with a series of governors and provincial legislatures up through 1846 to distribute most mission lands to wellplaced [sic] Mexican citizens. Some Indian people did receive land titles in a few parts of California, but they were the exception and they seldom retained title for more than a few years.⁷⁴

Instead, the secularization and reallocation of mission lands and other property accelerated the spread of the rancho system that had begun with the land grants dispensed under Spanish rule.

⁷³ Milliken et al., 154.

⁷⁴ Milliken et al., 155.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEXICAN RANCHO SYSTEM

By the time Alta California was given over to Mexico, about thirty land grants throughout the territory had already been presented to Spanish soldiers and government officials by the King of Spain. However, no titles were actually transferred as part of this effort; Spanish governors were authorized to give concession to the individuals, which allowed them to run stock in certain areas without a formal deed.⁷⁵ The “rancho system” as it is known today was instead unique to California under Mexican rule in the 1830s and 1840s.

The majority of land grants were awarded under the rancho system were given to prominent *Californio* families⁷⁶ who accumulated great wealth during this period, largely through cattle ranching. The new hierarchy replaced the missionaries with the head of a *Californio* family. Native people, whose labor was originally exploited by the missionaries and soldiers stationed at the missions, became the labor source for the growing ranchos. The result was that instead of receiving significant land ownership as intended in the 1834 regulations, most Native Americans either labored on ranchos, went to live among other Native Americans in non-coastal areas, or had to fend for themselves with no assets.

Land in Alta California was considered especially valuable at this time, in part due to the successful agricultural enterprises and aqueduct systems established along the coast during the Mission Era. This was made evident when a U.S. minister in Mexico, Waddy Thompson, Jr., suggested that Mexico cede Alta California to the United States to settle existing debts.⁷⁷ However, it was the 1844 presidential election of James K. Polk, who campaigned on a promise of territorial expansion through peaceful means – or otherwise – and the annexation of Texas a year later that provoked Mexico to retaliate using armed forces, prompting the outbreak of the Mexican-American War in 1846. After failed attempts to broker a sale of land between both countries, battles between troops loyal to Mexico and opposing *Californio* rebels prompted the ouster of governors in territories such as the province of Alta California. This series of battles throughout the Alta California region came to be known as the California Campaign, which took place over the course of a year between 1846 and 1847. In January 1847, the Mexican forces capitulated to the United States Army, ending the Conquest of California. The Treaty of Cahuenga was signed on January 13, 1847, marking the surrender of the *Californios* and the end of armed resistance in Alta California.

Following the capture and occupation of Mexico City by U.S. forces in 1847, the war-weary Mexican government – also distracted by internal divisions and infighting – agreed to the

⁷⁵ “Orange County’s First Ranchos – Manuel Nieto and Juan Pueblo Grijalva,” OC Historyland, <https://www.ochistoryland.com/firstrancheros> (accessed March 2021).

⁷⁶ *Californio* refers to people of Hispanic descent who were born in what would become the state of California, generally between 1683 and 1848, when California became a U.S. territory. The *Californios* were powerful landholders, receiving large land grants from Spain and Mexico in the 1830s and 1840s.

⁷⁷ George L. Rives, *The United States and Mexico, 1821–1848: A History of the Relations Between the Two Countries from the Independence of Mexico to the Close of the War with the United States*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913), 45.

negotiation of a peace treaty. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848, marking the conclusion of the Mexican-American War. Under the terms of the treaty, Alta California was ceded to the United States government. Equally important in terms of the treaty's impact on the development of the territory were the terms it contained regarding existing ranchos and land grants, which confirmed that Spanish and Mexican landowners would retain possession of their land.

As Alta California continued under American governance, a discovery was made that would transform the landscape of the American West forever. Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California that same year, sparking a "gold rush" in 1849. The ensuing quest for gold saw hundreds of thousands of people descend upon Alta California between 1849 and 1855 to seek their fortune, including many immigrants from foreign countries. The discovery also gave rise to the mining industry in California, which brought scores of new settlers to the region. The once-rural landscape seized from the existing Native American population was now significantly more populated with enterprising settlers, necessitating the development of legitimate townsites under a new American government.

RANCHO HUERTA DE CUATI

The principal portion of the land comprising the present-day City of Alhambra was first developed under the Spanish mission system as part of Mission San Gabriel in 1771 and was later subdivided following the secularization of the missions in the 1830s. By the time the missions were secularized in 1833, the Mission San Gabriel controlled nearly all of the land in the present-day counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino.⁷⁸ In 1846, what remained of the mission estate was granted by Governor Pio Pico to Hugo Reid and William Workman on the condition that they pay all remaining claims to the mission creditors and support the mission's *padres* without obstructing community access to the church.⁷⁹ However, the title granted to Reid and Workman was deemed invalid by the U.S. Land Commission in 1855, and the property was subsequently returned to the Church in 1859.⁸⁰

Although much of the land comprising the initial extent of Alhambra belonged to the United States government by the time it was subdivided to develop the Alhambra Tract, a small portion of the land represented part of the holdings of a rancho that would come to have a significant impact on development in the area. This land represented part of a Spanish land concession awarded to Jose Manuel Perez Nieto in 1784 by Spanish Governor Pedro Fages.⁸¹ Nieto's concession – which was known as the Rancho Los Nietos – was immense,

⁷⁸ Harold D. Carew, *History of Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley California* [...], vol. 1 ([Chicago:] The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1930), 197.

⁷⁹ "San Gabriel Arcángel Key Facts;" Charles C. Baker, "Mexican Land Grants in California," *The Historical Society of Southern California* 9, no. 3 (University of California Press, 1914): 236-243, 240.

⁸⁰ "San Gabriel Arcángel Key Facts."

⁸¹ "Orange County's First Rancheros – Manuel Nieto and Juan Pablo Grijalva."

amounting to approximately 300,000 acres that comprised all of the land extending westward from the Mission San Gabriel between the Santa Ana River and the Los Angeles River. Nieto's vast holdings would later be challenged and eventually partitioned into six separate ranchos in 1834, but the part representing present-day Alhambra was divested separately at an earlier date, after Nieto had begun cultivating the portion of his land situated near the Mission San Gabriel following his retirement in 1795. Nieto's efforts interfered with the stock – and more importantly, the irrigated farmlands – of the Mission San Gabriel, which asked Governor Fages' successor, Diego de Borica, to limit Nieto's holdings. Governor Borica ordered Nieto to give up any land needed by the mission. This included the upper end of his rancho, but still left Nieto with about 150,000 acres which reached to the coast.⁸² The upper portion of the rancho was returned to the Mission San Gabriel and subdivided following the secularization of the mission in the 1830s.

One of these parcels represented a Mexican land grant that was claimed by Victoria Bartolomea Comicrabit (c.1802-1868), a Tongva woman descended from a prestigious line of tribal chiefs. (Born Bartolomea Comicrabit, she was given the name Victoria by her husband, Hugo Reid, following their marriage in 1837, and it is this name by which she is commonly known today.) Comicrabit was taken to the Mission San Gabriel at the age of six; while there, she caught the attention of Doña Eulalia Perez de Guillen Marine, wife of a Spanish army lieutenant and housemother of the Mission. Doña Eulalia brought Comicrabit home to live with her and her husband in San Pascual, where she educated her in the manners and traditions of a “fine Spanish lady.”⁸³ Following the secularization of the missions, Doña Eulalia used her husband's connections and influence to arrange for Comicrabit to claim a 128.26-acre parcel of land known as Rancho Huerta de Cuati.⁸⁴

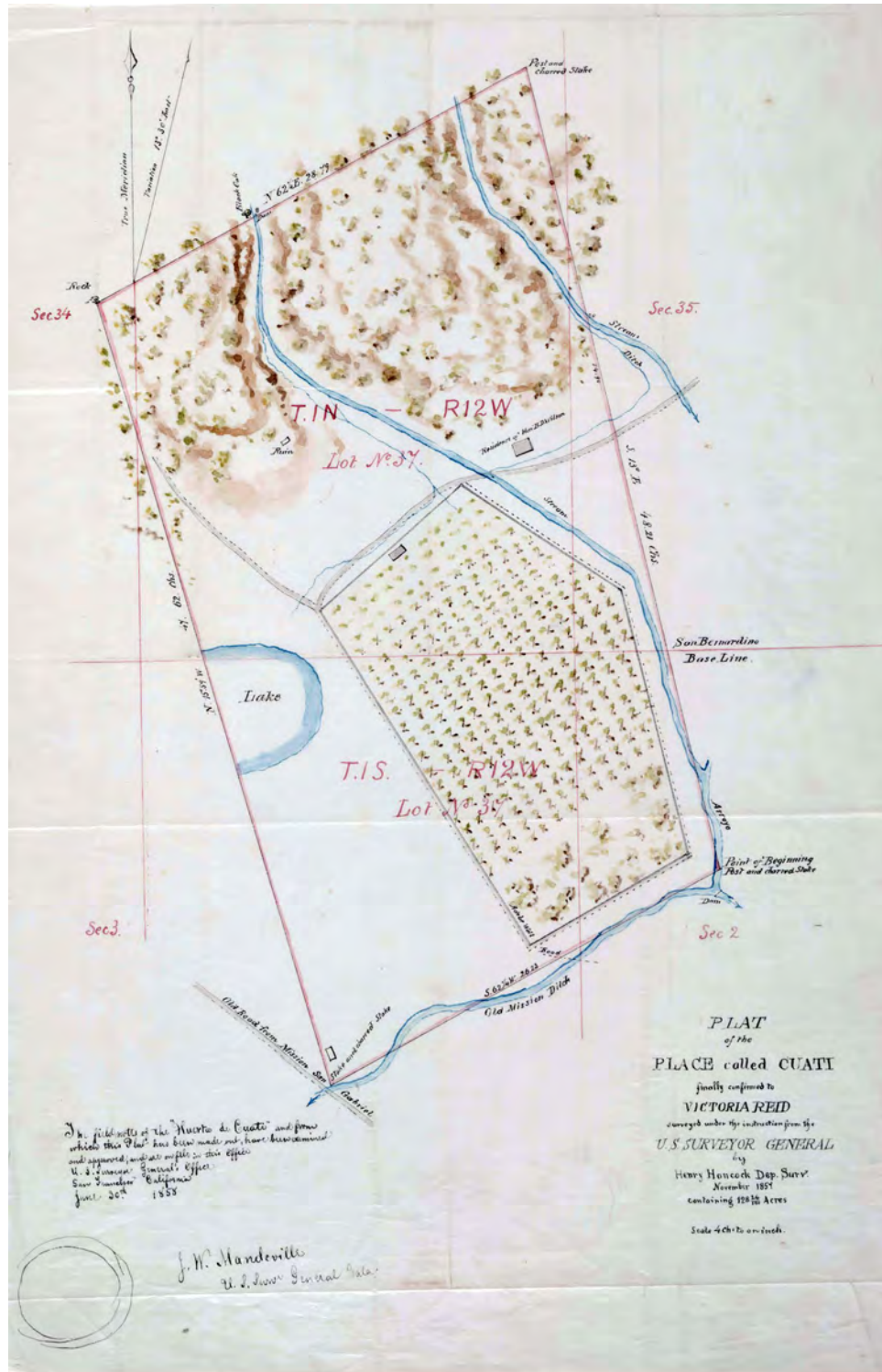
While the secularization of the missions did, in theory, allow for Indigenous people to make claims to the former mission land, such claims were not often honored, and it would have been exceptionally rare for a woman to make such a claim. However, Comicrabit occupied a unique space in the mission world during that time; as an Indigenous woman, she would normally have been marginalized in the eyes of society; yet, due to her prominent ancestry as well as the influential association she enjoyed with affluent Spanish society, she possessed real – yet complicated – social capital. Of particular note is that Comicrabit retained title to the property under her own name when the grant was awarded by Mexican Governor Juan

⁸² “Orange County's First Rancheros – Manuel Nieto and Juan Pablo Grijalva.”

⁸³ Janet Aird, “Dona Victoria Reid, Indian Princess,” *The Searcher* 48, no. 4 (Autumn 2011): 164-165, <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/genetii/media/2010/GENEii2010-%20Janet%20Aird%20Dona%20Victoria%20Reid.pdf> (accessed March 2021).

⁸⁴ Although many historical accounts also credit Victoria Comicrabit Reid with laying claim to the adjacent Rancho Santa Anita as well, conflicting records from the period indicate that Hugo Reid may have purchased Rancho Santa Anita from Henry Dalton himself. See Gloria Ricci Lothrop, “Rancheras and the Land: Women and Property Rights in Hispanic California,” *Southern California Quarterly* 76, no. 1, The W. P. Whitsett Distinguishing California Lectures (Spring 1994): 59-84, 80.

Alvarado in October 1838; although she had married Scottish merchant Hugo Reid the previous year, Reid could not claim the land himself as he was not yet a Mexican citizen.



Plat of the Place called Cuati, surveyed by Henry Hancock, November 1857. *Huntington Library.*

Hugo Reid and Victoria Comicrabit Reid made their home at the nearby Rancho Santa Anita, which they had also acquired, but continued to cultivate the Rancho Huerta de Cuati for fourteen years.⁸⁵ Hugo Reid prospered as a rancher until the changes which soon followed the American acquisition of California worked against his interests.⁸⁶ He eventually went bankrupt and was forced to sell off Rancho Santa Anita in 1846; however, Victoria Comicrabit Reid managed to retain the Rancho Huerta de Cuati despite the couple's reduced financial circumstances. In his final years, Hugo Reid rose to prominence as an early chronicler of his wife's Indigenous culture, and he became known for a series of letters documenting the history of "The Indians of Los Angeles County" that were published shortly before his death in 1852.

There are no extant built resources in the City of Alhambra dating from the period of Mexican rule. The study of archaeological resources is outside the scope of this project.

⁸⁵ "Huerta de Cuati, Diseño 455, GLO No. 421, Los Angeles County, and associated historical documents," (2018), *Los Angeles County*, 77, https://digitalcommons.csUMB.edu/hornbeck_usa_4_a_lac/77 (accessed January 2021). The name is also spelled on some records as the Rancho Huerta de Quati.

⁸⁶ Reid and Heizer.



The Old Spanish and Mexican Ranchos of Los Angeles County, by Leavitt Dudley, 1965.
David Rumsey Map Collection.

V. EARLY CALIFORNIA: AMERICAN STATEHOOD AND RANCHO DEVELOPMENT (1850-1874)

The Gold Rush of 1849 brought thousands of new settlers to California, as did the introduction of paddle steamer routes carrying passengers and cargo from Central American countries to the Pacific Coast in the late 1840s. People were arriving in such numbers that California could hardly cope; with few settlements dotting the vast swaths of undeveloped rancho land and almost no existing infrastructure – or even irrigation – the territory was wholly unprepared for the sudden influx of approximately 80,000 people that arrived in 1849 alone. Agricultural and ranching operations were accelerated to meet the food needs of the new settlers, but the problem of housing remained, as did the lack of community services such as banks, merchants, or even medical care – not to mention the lawlessness that reigned in an unsupervised territory now flush with money and gold. As a result, the pressure to open up the West began to mount.

THE CALIFORNIA LAND ACT

With the passage of the California Statehood Act on September 9, 1850, the former territory of Alta California became the thirty-first state in the Union. In theory, California's elevation to statehood should not have motivated any substantial physical changes to the landscape of the new state; the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo had made provisions for Spanish and Mexican landowners to retain their ranchos. However, the United States government was facing growing political pressure to open up lands in the west for settlement by Americans, and in 1851, the United States Congress passed the California Land Act – officially known as “An Act to ascertain and settle private Land Claims in the State of California.” The statute established a three-member board known as the Public Land Commission, which was charged with determining the validity – or lack thereof – of land grants previously assigned by both the Mexican and Spanish authorities under earlier periods of rule.

The terms of the California Land Act directly contradicted those previously set forth in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which had been signed only three years earlier. In signing the Treaty, the United States government had committed to honoring earlier land grants dispensed by the Spanish and Mexican governments, and certain articles of the statute specifically provided for the continued protection of existing property rights enjoyed by Mexican citizens residing in the territories at the time.

Under the California Land Act, however, all holders of Spanish and/or Mexican land grants were required to present their titles for verification by the Public Land Commission. Landowners were given two years to present sufficient evidence to support their claim to their land; if they could not do so, the property would automatically pass into the public domain and could then be dispensed by the United States government. And, perhaps not surprisingly, the requirements for proof of ownership generally surpassed those earlier records which had been used to document it. As Rachel Surls notes, “Boundaries of these

tracts of land were established with simple drawings that showed general boundaries of the property. Surveys were conducted, but were often approximate, using trees, streams, or boulders as boundary markers.”⁸⁷ Documentation, too, was limited, and compounded by conflicting claims and disputed boundaries. However, explains Surls, “this worked out okay in the Spanish and Mexican era because there was simply so much land and so few people. Exact boundaries were not so important.”⁸⁸

Spanish and Mexican landowners also faced other difficulties defending their claims. The claim hearings were all held in San Francisco, which required a lengthy, costly, and physically difficult journey. Further, the hearings were held in English – a challenge for the largely Spanish-speaking grantees – and often necessitated hiring translators as well as legal representation, an additional expense that was difficult to meet when the appeals process frequently took years or even decades to resolve. Some landowners spent their entire fortune defending their claim, only to be compelled to offer up the land to their lawyers as payment for services rendered.

While the outcome of the California Land Act was both personally and economically devastating for many of the families that owned ranchos in Southern California, enforcement of the law also motivated other, more far-reaching impacts on the development of the region. Rachel Surls explains that the statute “led in large part to the breakup of rancho lands that dominated the Los Angeles area landscape. Newfound availability of this land drew settlers who wanted to obtain smaller acreages for farming and helped to fuel a massive Los Angeles land boom in the 1880s. The law also sparked the transformation of Los Angeles from a rancho economy to the beginning of a more complex economy as land became available for other purposes.”⁸⁹

EARLY IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AND EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES

Although there was indeed pressure to open the American West for settlement, that didn’t mean that public sentiment favored opening up the region to just *anybody*. The Gold Rush had prompted the first significant influx of domestic as well as foreign immigrants to the state, including many Chinese and Latin American prospectors. Although relations between different ethnic groups in mining communities remained peaceful for a time, as more and more people flooded into California and the competition for gold became increasingly intense, those relations soured. Many white Americans shared the jingoist sentiments that had become widespread after the recently-concluded Mexican-American War, and now believed that “foreigners” – namely, Latino miners but also French, Chinese, and other non-citizens – were taking gold that they thought was rightfully theirs, “leaving little for ‘true

⁸⁷ Rachel Surls in Jeremy Rosenberg, “How Rancho Owners Lost Their Land And Why That Matters Today,” KCET, <https://www.kcet.org/history-society/how-rancho-owners-lost-their-land-and-why-that-matters-today> (accessed January 2021).

⁸⁸ “How Rancho Owners Lost Their Land And Why That Matters Today.”

⁸⁹ “How Rancho Owners Lost Their Land And Why That Matters Today.”

citizens' like themselves."⁹⁰ As Gary Kamiya explains, anti-Latino sentiment had already begun to run high in the mines, in part because many Mexican and Chilean miners arrived with more mining expertise than their white counterparts as a result of previous mining work in their home countries.⁹¹ Resentment soon spread toward other ethnic groups as well, like the Chinese, who were willing to accept lower wages than whites. Soon, organized programs of harassment and exclusionary tactics commenced, and eventually grew to include acts of violence, including lynchings, hangings, and "organized killing expeditions."⁹²

The Gold Rush ultimately gave rise to the first organized wave of white nationalism in the state of California and prompted the introduction of the United States' government's earliest exclusionary policies. These policies and their impacts on the landscape and population of California are discussed below.

Foreign Miners' Tax

In 1852, Chinese formed one-tenth of the state's population and nearly one-third of the mining population.⁹³ Chinese miners were often willing to take jobs – which were not without hazards – for less money than their white counterparts, and often earned a living working claims abandoned by other miners.⁹⁴ This spurred resentment amongst white miners, who felt the Chinese were completing unfairly for jobs – a complaint which soon overflowed into other fields of work as well. Soon, there was a call to limit foreign competition in mining. In response, Congress adopted the Foreign Miners' Tax Act of 1850, which imposed a tax on foreign miners of \$20 per month – the equivalent of over six hundred dollars a month in 2021 dollars. According to the law, the tax applied to all miners in the state of California who were not United States citizens and who had not become citizens as a result of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, effectively limiting the tax imposed to Chinese and Latino miners. Latino miners staged a series of violent revolts which ultimately saw Latino miners expelled; ten thousand Mexican miners returned home immediately, and by 1860, four-fifths of the state's Latino population had been driven out of the California mines.⁹⁵ The Chinese miners, however, remained – at least for a time.

⁹⁰ Gary Kamiya, "The Dark Side of the Gold Rush," SF Opera, <https://sfopera.com/seasons/1718season/201718-season/goldenwest/dark-side-of-the-gold-rush/> (accessed November 2021).

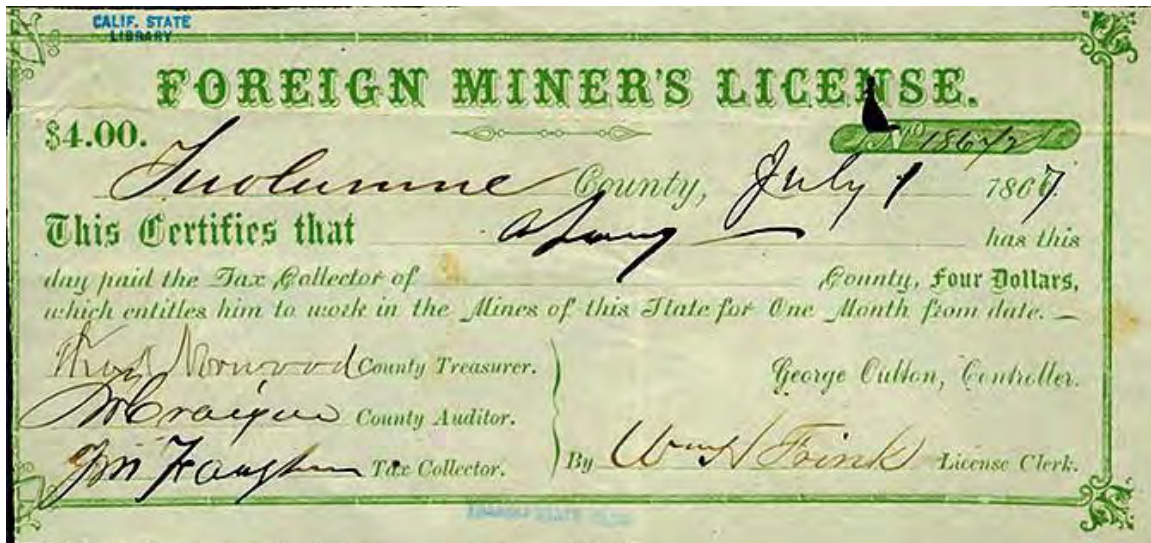
⁹¹ Kamiya, "The Dark Side of the Gold Rush."

⁹² Kamiya, "The Dark Side of the Gold Rush."

⁹³ Jean Pfaelzer, "Foreign Miners Tax," in *Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working Class History*, vol. 1: A-F, ed. Eric Arnesen (New York: Routledge, 2007): 468-469, 468.

⁹⁴ "Asian Americans: Gold Rush Era to 1890s," curated and written by the University of California, 2005, Calisphere, <https://calisphere.org/exhibitions/52/asian-americans-gold-rush-era-to-1890s/> (accessed November 2021).

⁹⁵ Pfaelzer, 468.



Foreign Miner's License, Tuolumne County, California, 1867. *California State Library.*

Although the Act was repealed in 1851 after only a year, a second Foreign Miners' Tax Act was adopted in 1852, which imposed a fee of three dollars per month – a tax that was quickly raised to four dollars per month in 1853, and then to six dollars in 1855. From the perspective of white settlers, the tax was a win-win situation – either the excessive fees would drive foreign miners out of the state, and if not, the state of California could at least profit off of their desire to remain. And they certainly profited: Between 1852 and 1870, years in which one billion dollars of *untaxed* gold was mined in California, Chinese miners paid a staggering \$58 million to the state, ranging from one fourth to one half of California's revenue.⁹⁶ By the time the tax was finally nullified in 1870, ninety-eight percent of the nearly five billion dollars collected as a result of the Tax Act came from Chinese miners.⁹⁷ While the tax ultimately did reduce the Chinese population for several years, the trend was temporary and numbers ultimately rebounded and even increased as additional work opportunities became available.

Act for the Government and Protection of Indians

The Chinese were not alone in their exclusion from society. As the ranchos were broken up following the implementation of the California Land Act, the new owners of smaller tracts – which were now populated in far greater numbers than earlier ranches – were often less tolerant of Native Americans, and these smaller ranchos were farmed and grazed more

⁹⁶ Pfaelzer, 469.

⁹⁷ Pfaelzer, 469.

intensively, a move which greatly diminished the Native Americans' natural food supply.⁹⁸ Skilled jobs once held by Native Americans were also now often filled by whites.

More significantly, only one week after signing the Foreign Miners' Tax into law in April 1850 – and four months before California was officially admitted to the Union – California Governor Peter Hardeman Burnett also approved the adoption of The Act for the Government and Protection of Indians. The Act – which was nicknamed the Indian Indenture Act – facilitated the removal of Native Americans in California from their traditional lands, separating children and adults from their families, languages, and cultures.⁹⁹ The law provided for the indenturing of Native Americans to white ranchers, and also punished “vagrant” Native Americans by “hiring” them out to the highest bidder at a public auction if the individual could not provide sufficient bond or bail.¹⁰⁰

More specifically, the Act allowed for the following:¹⁰¹

- The Justice of the Peace would have jurisdiction over all complaints between Native Americans and whites; "but in no case shall a white man be convicted of any offense upon the testimony of an Indian or Indians."
- Landowners would permit Native Americans who were peaceably residing on their land to continue to do so, but they could also apply to the Justice of the Peace for the removal of Native Americans from lands in the white person's possession.
- Any person could go before a Justice of the Peace to obtain Native American children for indenture. (This section would eventually be used to justify and provide for Native American slavery.)
- If any Native American was convicted of a crime, any white person could come before the court and contract for the individual's services, and in return, would pay that individual's fine.
- It would be illegal to sell or administer alcohol to Native Americans.
- Finally, any Native American found strolling, loitering where alcohol was sold, begging, or leading a profligate course of life would be liable for arrest. The justice, mayor, or recorder would make out a warrant. Within twenty-four hours, the services of the Native American in question could be sold to the highest bidder. The term of service would not exceed four months.

⁹⁸ “A History of American Indians in California: 1849-1879,” in California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation, *Five Views: An Ethnic History Site Survey for California*, December 1988, https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/5views/5views.htm (accessed November 2021).

⁹⁹ Kimberly Johnston-Dodds, “Early California Laws and Policies Related to California Indians,” prepared at the request of Senator John L. Burton, President Pro Tempore, by the California Research Bureau, Sacramento, CA, September 2002, <https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/IB.pdf> (accessed November 2021), 1.

¹⁰⁰ Johnston-Dodds, 1.

¹⁰¹ The following discussion has been excerpted and adapted from “A History of American Indians in California: 1849-1879,” and supplemented with additional information from Johnston-Dodds, 5-8.

While the Act did make provisions for Native Americans to reside on private land, it also created a legal framework that encouraged the widespread kidnapping, abuse, enslavement, and even elimination of Native Americans. Subsequent amendments only served to worsen the conditions resulting from the Act. In 1851 and 1852, the California State Legislature authorized payments for the “suppression of Indian hostilities,” prompting white settlers to conduct their own elimination campaigns.

In 1860, the law of 1850 was amended to state that Indian children and any vagrant Indian could be put under the custody of Whites for the purpose of employment and training. Under the law, it was possible to retain the service of Indians until 40 years of age for men and 35 years of age for women. This continued the practice of Indian slavery and made it legal for Indians to be retained for a longer period of time and be taken at a younger age.

The other practice that provided much of the labor force, especially in southern California, was to have city officials pick up Indians as vagrants. These officials would then turn the Indians over to the ranchers and other people who needed laborers. This was all done under the provisions of the 1850 law. After four months or some other term of service, the employer would return the Indians to the city, usually to a place where alcohol was served. Shortly after their return, the Indians would be picked up once again as vagrants, and returned to the labor force.

These types of activities occurred until 1866, when, to comply with the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution, the State Legislature repealed the law. However, the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians set the tone for relations between whites and Native Americans in the years to come.¹⁰²

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

Although California’s admission to the Union linked the state with the rest of the country legally and politically, it remained a geographically – and thus economically – isolated region. One of the earliest attempts to ameliorate the situation was the California Overland Mail Act, which was passed by Congress in 1857. The law authorized overland mail delivery service to California and promised government aid to any company that could reliably transport mail from St. Louis to San Francisco twice a week and guarantee its arrival within twenty-five days. As a result, a stagecoach line carrying both passengers as well as overland mail to and from California was established in 1858. Timely communication remained limited, however, until 1861, when the first transcontinental telegraph line was completed. Its construction eliminated gaps in transmission in Nevada and created a link between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, allowing telegrams to be transmitted between the East and West Coasts for the first time.

¹⁰² “A History of American Indians in California: 1849-1879.”



Travler's Map of the Central Pacific Railroad of California, 1869. *Claremont Colleges Digital Library.*

The transcontinental divide was effectively bridged – at least geographically – in 1869 with the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Its construction linked the lines of the Union Pacific Railroad in the east and the Central Pacific Railroad in the west and made overland transport possible between the East and West Coasts. Construction of the railroad signaled the first of many changes to the Southern California landscape that would take place in the coming decades; the tracks ran through a number of tribal territories, bringing into conflict cultures that held very different views.¹⁰³ Artist Herman Schuyler captured the struggle of this period in his painting *The First Train*, which depicts a group of Native Americans watching a train pass across the prairie in the distance, just beyond their settlement in the foreground.



The First Train*, Herman Schuyler, c. 1880. *Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

The construction of the railroad also brought new populations to California – not only as passengers, but as workers, too. Chinese immigrants – who had first migrated to the state during the Gold Rush in search of work – were now in demand for construction work. Railroad companies had previously hired Chinese workers for the construction of other

¹⁰³ “The Transcontinental Railroad,” curated and written by the University of California, 2005, Calisphere, <https://calisphere.org/exhibitions/18/the-transcontinental-railroad/> (accessed November 2021).

regional railroads throughout the state in the late 1850s, and they were now in demand for the dangerous, backbreaking work of building the transcontinental line after calls for workers garnered little response from white men.¹⁰⁴

In January 1864, the Central Pacific hired a crew of 21 Chinese workers and hired more during that year. In January 1865, convinced that Chinese workers were capable, the railroad hired fifty Chinese workers and then fifty more. But the demand for labor increased, and white workers were reluctant to do such backbreaking, hazardous work. As Leland Stanford reported to Congress in 1865, “A large majority of the white laboring class on the Pacific Coast find most profitable and congenial employment in mining and agricultural pursuits, than in railroad work. The greater portion of the laborers employed by us are Chinese, who constitute a large element of the population of California. Without them it would be impossible to complete the western portion of this great national enterprise, within the time required by the Acts of Congress.”

Soon the Chinese labor pool from California was exhausted, and the Central Pacific arranged with labor contractors to recruit large numbers of Chinese workers directly from China. By July 1865, the Chinese workforce on the CPRR was nearly 4,000. In February 1867, approximately 8,000 Chinese were working on the construction of tunnels and 3000 were laying track, representing ninety percent of the workforce. Historians estimate that at any one time as many as 10,000 to 15,000 Chinese were working on constructing the railroad. Most Chinese probably did not work for the entire duration of construction and others would take their place, particularly because the work was so difficult and dangerous. Consequently, the total number of Chinese was even greater.¹⁰⁵

The Chinese worked until the CPRR was linked to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) on May 10, 1869, and many continued to work on the CPRR and UPRR, as well as other railroads from California to New York.¹⁰⁶ Although some Chinese returned to their home country following the completion of the railroad, others remained in California and sought work in the cities and towns now growing up along the line they had labored to build, where common fields of employment included agriculture, mining, logging, or construction work.¹⁰⁷

The completion of the railroad and the subsequent release of Chinese workers to seek other employment occurred at an opportune moment in the history of development of the San

¹⁰⁴ “Key Questions,” Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project, <https://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/website/faqs/> (accessed November 2021).

¹⁰⁵ “Key Questions.”

¹⁰⁶ “Key Questions.”

¹⁰⁷ “Key Questions.”

Gabriel Valley, where they soon played a critical role in providing labor for the region's earliest attempts at agricultural and commercial development.

BENJAMIN DAVIS WILSON AND THE LAKE VINEYARD

Many of Southern California's rancho owners were impacted by the far-reaching consequences of the California Land Act. Among them were Hugo and Victoria Comicrabit Reid, who found Victoria's claim to the Rancho Huerta de Cuati called into question. Victoria Comicrabit Reid filed a claim for the land with the Public Land Commission on November 5, 1852.¹⁰⁸ Seven years and several appeals later, her patent for the land was issued on June 30, 1859.¹⁰⁹

Her victory arrived, however, about six years and ten months too late. Victoria Comicrabit Reid's husband, Hugo Reid, had died in December 1852, less than two months after her claim to the Rancho Huerta de Cuati was first filed. Having already been bankrupted in the last years of his life, Reid's death left his wife in reduced financial circumstances, and to make matters worse, the guardian Reid had hired to protect her assets after his death made off with what little money remained.¹¹⁰ Victoria Comicrabit Reid struggled to maintain the Rancho Huerta de Cuati for a year before selling the property to Benjamin Davis Wilson on February 6, 1854.¹¹¹

Lake Vineyard

Upon his purchase of the Rancho Huerta de Cuati, Benjamin Wilson named the ranch "Lake Vineyard" after the shallow natural lake that occupied a portion of the property. After contemplating a move back East, his new property induced him to stay in California, declaring Lake Vineyard "the prettiest and healthiest place in California."¹¹² He planted fruit of all kinds, especially large groves of oranges; he also brought in water, planted ornamental trees, laid out avenues, and "so adorned the property that it quickly became the unrivalled showplace of the region: no visit to Los Angeles was complete without a visit to Wilson and his Lake Vineyard."¹¹³

¹⁰⁸ "Huerta de Cuati, Diseño 455, GLO No. 421, Los Angeles County, and associated historical documents."

¹⁰⁹ "Huerta de Cuati, Diseño 455, GLO No. 421, Los Angeles County, and associated historical documents."

¹¹⁰ Susanna Bryant Dakin, *A Scotch Paisano in Old Los Angeles: Hugo Reid's Life in California, 1832-1852 Derived from His Correspondence* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1939), 199.

¹¹¹ Finding Aid, Benjamin Davis Wilson Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California, https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt6m3nf6s2/entire_text/ (accessed March 2021). Although some historians have disputed the year of Reid's death vis à vis Wilson's purchase of the Rancho Huerta de Cuati, the account of Reid's funeral provided in the previously-cited article ("A Mooted Historical Point," *Los Angeles Evening Express*, April 19, 1875) compared with deed records held in Wilson's own archives confirm that Reid died in 1852 and Wilson subsequently purchased the property in 1854.

¹¹² Much of the discussion of the development of Lake Vineyard and the establishment of the San Gabriel Winery has been derived from Thomas Pinney, *A History of Wine in America: From the Beginnings to Prohibition* (Berkeley, CA: University of California, 1989), 296.

¹¹³ Pinney, 296.

In addition to Lake Vineyard's beauty, the property intrigued Wilson for other reasons. He had begun to take an interest in viticulture, and Lake Vineyard offered an ample supply of mature grapevines. There were vines already present on the property when Wilson took possession of the land; his granddaughter would later recall the original Mission vines there as having trunks six feet high before they succumbed to the Anaheim disease in the 1880s and 1890s; they may have been planted as early as 1815, for the Lake Vineyard in 1876 was thought to contain vines as much as sixty years old.¹¹⁴

Wilson expanded beyond the inheritance of Mission vines, however, and made continuing experiments with new and superior varieties in the hope of discovering what the region would yield best; he is even credited with developing the first sparkling wine in California.¹¹⁵ He continued his experimentation throughout the 1860s and eventually saw the reputation of his wines extend outside California. He secured an agent in 1862, who helped facilitate the distribution of his wines as far away as Japan, although it was the East Coast market that was the most financially bountiful.



View from Lake Vineyard, circa 1880. Wilson's winery can be seen in the distance. *Huntington Library.*

Eventually, being a winemaker proved in the heady days of the late 19th century began to wear on Benjamin Wilson. The challenges of the industry during that period were numerous; chief among them was the spoilage of product in transit, price-gouging wars among competitors, and a growing American preference for hard liquor. Losing interest in the business, Wilson was only too happy to take on a more active business partner in the form of his son-in-law, James De Barth Shorb.

Although Wilson had been the first in the region to make a success of viticulture outside of the Mission San Gabriel, Shorb was the innovator who transformed the business and the region which contained it. With a San Francisco partner, he leased all of the Lake Vineyard and its cellars under the name of B. D. Wilson and Co., his father-in-law lending only his name to the firm.¹¹⁶ At first, Shorb took over personal

¹¹⁴ Pinney, 296.

¹¹⁵ Pinney, 296.

¹¹⁶ Pinney, 299.

direction of the firm's San Francisco agency, where, he informed his father-in-law, in one year he would "sell more wine than the whole of them put together."¹¹⁷ The expansion of the enterprise soon brought Shorb back to the Lake Vineyard, where new vineyards were being planted and large additions made to the cellars.¹¹⁸

In addition to expanding the vineyards, Shorb also expanded his labor force: in 1869, he became the first to employ Chinese laborers in Southern California.¹¹⁹ According to Thomas Pinney, at the time the labor population in the region consisted primarily of "Mission Indians or Sonorans from Mexico."¹²⁰ Following the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, however, many of the Chinese railroad workers responsible for its construction had remained in California, and some eventually found work at Shorb's winery.



Agricultural laborers at the J. De Barth Shorb Vineyards, San Marino, undated photograph. *California Historical Society.*

Although its beginnings had been modest, in the coming years the Lake Vineyard winery would evolve into a major commercial concern under Shorb's leadership. Its operation set the course for the earliest industrial development efforts in the region and established Alhambra's identity as a center for industrial activity.

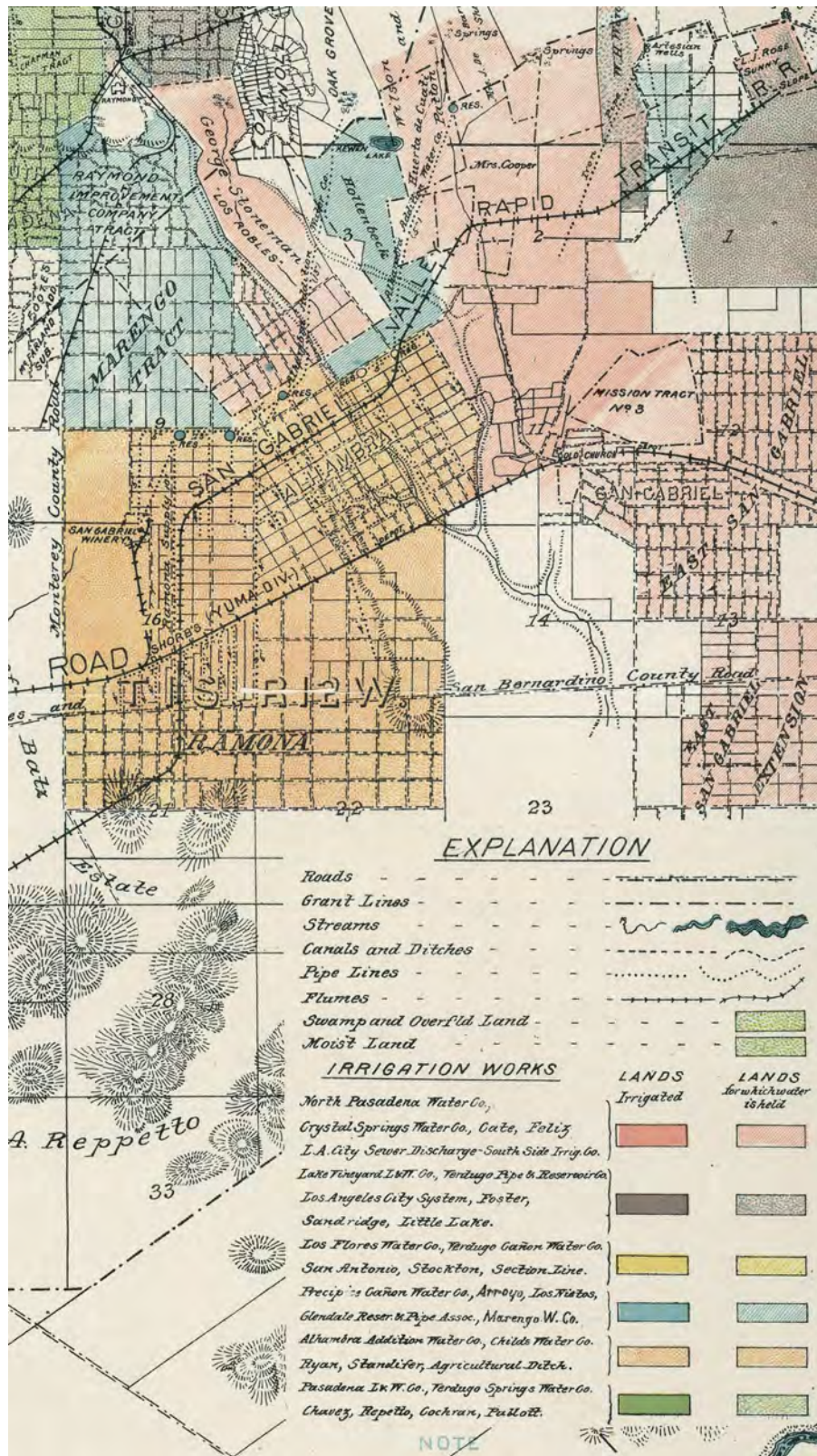
There are no extant built resources in the City of Alhambra dating from the Early California period.

¹¹⁷ Pinney, 299.

¹¹⁸ Pinney, 299.

¹¹⁹ Pinney, 299.

¹²⁰ Pinney, 299.



Detail of irrigation map showing water lines in Alhambra and the surrounding area, 1888. From California State Engineering Department, Detail Irrigation Map, Los Angeles Sheet, Irrigation Data, 1888. *David Rumsey Map Collection.*

VI. EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF ALHAMBRA (1875-1902)

The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 put California on the map – both literally and figuratively. Indeed, short of colonization, there are few historical influences that have resulted in a greater impact to the landscape of California than the construction of the railroad and all the associated development that followed. The railroad brought an end to the Golden State’s relative isolation and encouraged the spread of more civilized development, which could now be accomplished with ease thanks to improved transport. Settlements now sprang up around railroad junctions and depots, with many growing into larger towns and eventually full-fledged cities. The railroad also brought increased economic activity to the state, extending trade beyond the region to both national and international markets. Indeed, California’s particular charms were now playing to a much wider audience, and Southern California’s mild climate and ideal growing conditions – coupled with the rock-bottom ticket prices resulting from fare wars between the now-competing railroad companies that serviced California – brought an influx of curious prospectors, tourists, and settlers to the area, sparking Southern California’s first land boom in the 1880s.

The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad also “gave an impetus to railroad building in California” as a whole, writes James Miller Guinn.¹²¹ In 1870, the California State Legislature enacted a law authorizing any county in the state to bond itself to the amount of five percent of the assessed value of all properties in the county in order to aid in building a railroad.¹²² Now, regional rail lines were springing up across the state. Their location would contribute greatly to shaping patterns of development throughout California in the decades to come.

POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, AND EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY

The introduction of railroad lines both to and throughout the State of California brought scores of immigrants to the Pacific Coast. Many Chinese railroad workers who had played a critical role in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad remained in Southern California following the railroad’s completion, and found work in communities that had been established along the rail lines. However, many Chinese immigrants encountered antipathy due to their willingness to accept lower wages for more physically demanding jobs.

Many white laborers and politicians vocally complained about Chinese immigration and sometimes resorted to violence against Asians. Workers argued that an oversupply of Chinese laborers lowered wages and took jobs away from white workers. California labor leader Denis Kearney famously argued in the 1870s and 1880s that Chinese laborers were tools of wealthy

¹²¹ J. M. Guinn, “Pioneer Railroads of Southern California,” *Annual Publication of the Historical Society of Southern California* 8, no. 3 (1911): 188-192, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41168875> (accessed November 2021), 189.

¹²² Guinn, “Pioneer Railroads of Southern California,” 189.

capitalists who conspired to destroy working class laborers. He frequently ended his speeches by saying “and whatever happens, the Chinese must go.” Meanwhile, politicians opposed civil rights for Asian immigrants and engaged in fearmongering by claiming that Chinese people spread germs for which they were immune but white people were not.¹²³

Prior to 1875, states managed immigration, but that practice ended when the United States Supreme Court held it to be a federal matter.¹²⁴ Following that decision, federal lawmakers passed the Page Act.

The Page Act of 1875 was the product of many political factors, including concerns over involuntary servitude, declining wages in the labor market, prostitution, and popular racist stereotypes about people of Asian descent. The act established three different goals. First, it authorized the use of federal agents at immigration ports to search and question “any subject of China, Japan, or any Oriental country” to determine if that person had come “without their free and voluntary consent, for the purpose of holding them to a term of service.” If agents suspected that the person had come involuntarily to engage in “lewd and immoral purposes” while in the U.S., they could be expelled. Second, it effectively banned the immigration of Chinese women by portraying most of them as arriving in the U.S. solely to work as prostitutes. Finally, the act banned people who had been convicted of felonies in their home country from immigrating to the United States.¹²⁵

Seven years later, Congress went further and banned the entrance of Chinese laborers with the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which was enacted in response to labor agitation against Chinese immigrants in California and growing racism in the United States overall.¹²⁶ The Chinese Exclusion Act barred practically all Chinese immigrants from entering the United States for ten years, excepting only diplomats and their servants.¹²⁷ It was the first federal law ever passed banning a group of immigrants based solely on race or nationality. The law also prevented Chinese immigrants from becoming American citizens, making Chinese residents in the United States permanent aliens. The Chinese Exclusion Act

¹²³ National Park Service, “Ulysses S. Grant, Chinese Immigration, and the Page Act of 1875,” Ulysses S Grant National Historic Site, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/ulysses-s-grant-chinese-immigration-and-the-page-act-of-1875.htm> (accessed November 2021).

¹²⁴ The following discussion has been excerpted and adapted from David M. Reimers, “Johnson-Reed (Immigration Restriction) Act (1924),” in *Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working Class History*, vol. 1: A-F, ed. Eric Arnesen (New York: Routledge, 2007): 721-723, and supplemented with block quotes from additional sources.

¹²⁵ National Park Service, “Ulysses S. Grant, Chinese Immigration, and the Page Act of 1875.”

¹²⁶ “Johnson-Reed (Immigration Restriction) Act (1924),” 721-723.

¹²⁷ The following discussion has been excerpted and adapted from Andrew Gyory, “Chinese Exclusion Acts,” in *Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working Class History*, vol. 1: A-F, ed. Eric Arnesen (New York: Routledge, 2007): 240-241.

was subsequently renewed in 1892 and 1902, and made permanent in 1904. The law, which remained in effect for over sixty years before it was repealed, set a precedent for all future anti-immigration laws in the United States.¹²⁸

The Scott Act, which was subsequently enacted in 1888, expanded upon the Chinese Exclusion Act by barring reentry to the United States after leaving, making it virtually impossible for Chinese merchants who had settled in America to ever reunite with their families.

Although the bulk of the exclusionary policies enacted during this period were focused on barring Chinese immigrants, Native Americans also found themselves barred from their own land under a uniquely circular policy. The Dawes Act, which was passed in 1887, allowed the United States government to break up Native American tribal lands and return them to Native Americans under the guise of distributing the land as individual plots. It was hoped that such a distribution might encourage Native Americans to develop the land through agriculture or farming, and hopefully assimilating Western culture in the process. However, Native American tribes already controlled the land they were receiving – now at a fraction of its original acreage, and in a condition often unsuitable for farming.

Reformers saw the Dawes Act as the best solution for the “Indian Problem.” By “killing the Indian to save the man,” it was supposed to transform Indians into yeoman farmers and help them achieve a level of civilization (as defined by federal lawmakers) necessary for incorporation into American society. Some took advantage of this mandate and became successful farmers and ranchers. But for the most part, the Dawes Act dealt a decisive blow to their subsistence cultures, rendering many American Indians landless and homeless.¹²⁹

Although Native Americans controlled about 150 million acres of land before the Dawes Act, they lost the majority of it due to these allotment divisions and selling of surplus.¹³⁰

GROWTH IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, 1875-1902

For more than a century, development of the San Gabriel Valley had generated from the San Gabriel Mission, “the only significant structure amidst an almost entirely rural scene.”¹³¹ After the founding of El Pueblo de Los Angeles on September 4, 1781, increased traffic – such as it was – to and from Mission San Gabriel passed through the land which was to

¹²⁸ Gyory, “Chinese Exclusion Acts.”

¹²⁹ “Native Americans,” in *Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working Class History*, vol. 1: A-F, ed. Eric Arnesen (New York: Routledge, 2007): 988-991.

¹³⁰ National Park Service, “The Dawes Act,” <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/dawes-act.htm> (accessed November 2021).

¹³¹ Robert P. Studer, ed., *The Historical Volume and Reference Works*, vol. 1: *Los Angeles County* (Los Angeles: Historical Publishers, 1962), 49.

become the Alhambra Tract.¹³² There was, however, no widespread development activity until the 1870s. This was due in part to questions of land ownership around the mission, which “carried over into the period after California became part of the United States, and for a time this confusion prevented settlers from making their homes in the area,” writes Margaret Lee.¹³³ “Litigation as to the validity of the mission grant...prevented the land from being thrown open to settlement for a number of years.”¹³⁴

For most of that time, however, even if one had been able to develop land in the San Gabriel Valley, reaching it would have proved somewhat laborious. Prior to the introduction of the Butterfield stagecoach line in 1858, settlers had few options for transportation to and from Los Angeles. “Prior to the advent of the San Gabriel Valley Railroad, communication with Los Angeles was by stage, if one did not use his own equine,” wrote J. W. Wood.¹³⁵ The establishment of a stagecoach route increased access to the area, but it was the arrival of the railroad that made the region truly accessible for more comprehensive development efforts. The Southern Pacific Railroad was completed through the San Gabriel Valley in 1873,¹³⁶ paving the way for expanded agricultural activities as well as residential and commercial construction.

Development of the Alhambra Tract and the Alhambra Addition

Although he continued to maintain the Lake Vineyard, by the 1870s Benjamin Davis Wilson’s development interests had been diverted away from the San Gabriel Valley; he now spent much of his time in the South Bay, where he focused his efforts on developing the community Wilmington, as well as Wilmington’s Wilson College, which was to be named for (and funded by) Wilson.

Such endeavors had become a great deal more expensive in the twenty years since Wilson had begun developing real estate. Back then, taxes had been low and upkeep inexpensive, but following the arrival of the transcontinental railroad and its cars full of settlers, the population of Los Angeles County had grown – as had the cost of their government. Over the years, property taxes grew to ten cents and acre, then twenty-five cents an acre, and later even fifty cents an acre - a number which added up to no small amount for a man with as much land as Wilson. In fact, relieving his growing tax burden through the sale of more real estate became the principal motivation for his development of the Alhambra Tract.¹³⁷ In

¹³² Lee, 4-5. While Lee notes there were many paths through this area, the chief one was probably that which is now Main Street in present-day Alhambra.

¹³³ Lee, 6.

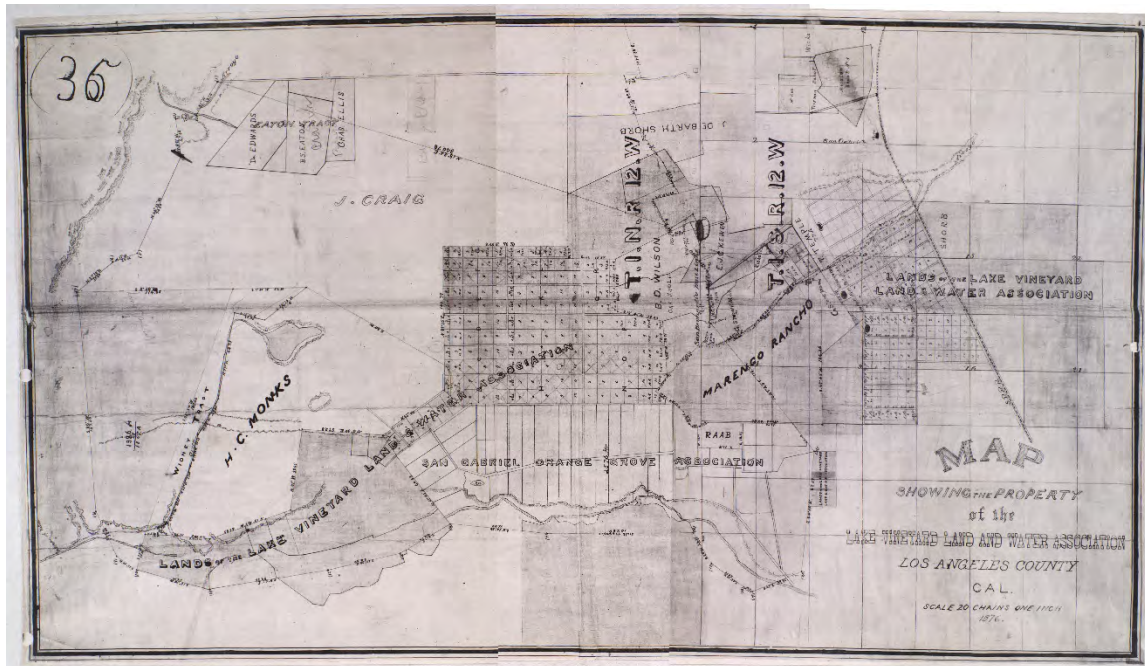
¹³⁴ Lee, 6.

¹³⁵ J. W. Wood, *Pasadena, California, Historical and Personal, A Complete History of the Organization of the Indiana Colony* [...], (printed by the author, 1917), 140.

¹³⁶ Margaret Lee, “The History of Alhambra to 1915” (master’s thesis, University of Southern California, 1935), 38.

¹³⁷ Studer, 49.

order to complete his anticipated development, Wilson and his son-in-law James De Barth Shorb established the Lake Vineyard Land and Water Association in 1875.¹³⁸



Composite map showing the property of the Lake Vineyard Land and Water Association, 1876. Land holdings are arranged from north to south as the map is read left to right; Alhambra is noted to the far right. *Huntington Library.*

One of the first activities of the Lake Vineyard Land and Water Association was the development of the Alhambra Tract. Adjacent to Wilson’s Lake Vineyard was a 275-acre plot of “dry, uncultivated land.”¹³⁹ This land, which was situated between the Mill Creek Wash to the east and the San Pasqual Wash to the west, belonged to the State of California and was believed to be of little value as no means of irrigation existed. However, Benjamin Wilson was undeterred, as he possessed an advantage available to few others – the services of his son-in-law, James De Barth Shorb. Shorb had previously been the first to introduce iron-piped water for irrigation purposes in California in 1864, when he was working in Camulos as superintendent of an oil operation, and now believed the same thing could be done “profitably on a large scale.”¹⁴⁰

Wilson purchased the land that would become the Alhambra Tract in 1871. Today, the tract’s original extent is bounded roughly by present-day Alhambra Road to the north, North Vega Street to the east, El Molino Street to the southeast, South Granada Avenue to the east, Mission Road to the south, and South Almansor Street and North Story Place to the west. However, due to other business interests that required his attention, Wilson did not set

¹³⁸ “Local Items,” *Los Angeles Evening Express*, May 7, 1875.

¹³⁹ Studer, 52.

¹⁴⁰ Reid, 337.

about developing the land until 1874.¹⁴¹ At that time, the two men commissioned a survey that divided the land into five- and ten-acre parcels and dubbed the area the Alhambra Tract. James De Barth Shorb's family had lately been reading Washington Irving's *Tales of the Alhambra*, and Shorb's daughter suggested the name for her father's new real estate development. Streets were consequently assigned names with Moorish origins.

The Alhambra Tract lots were opened for sale in April 1875, and for many years, represented the only area in Los Angeles County known to have an iron water pipe system.¹⁴² Alhambra's irrigation system was no doubt a deciding factor in elevating the tract over its competitors. One of the earliest families to settle in Alhambra, the Halsteads, was noted to have "studied Pasadena as a place to buy acreage...But the fine water system offered by the Alhambra Tract was a strong inducement and the fact that the Southern Pacific Railroad ran through San Gabriel with mail every day was the final incentive."¹⁴³ Indeed, the addition of the water rights alone meant that "land in the tract sold easily for around \$100 an acre while acreage on Mission Street in Los Angeles was selling for only \$60."¹⁴⁴ By 1877, all of the five- and ten-acre lots had been sold.¹⁴⁵ The first recorded purchase of land in the Alhambra Tract was made by A.G. Mappa;¹⁴⁶ the second recorded purchase of land in the tract was made by O.P. Ergenbright in late April 1875.¹⁴⁷

The Alhambra Addition Tract was subsequently developed in short order by Wilson and Shorb on land situated immediately to the west of the Alhambra Tract. The Alhambra Addition was much larger than the original Alhambra Tract; its extent was bounded roughly by Alhambra Road and East McLean Street to the north, North Story Place to the east, Mission Road to the south, and South Marengo Avenue and North Raymond Avenue to the west. Recorded in December 1875, the land was opened up for purchase once the "Alhambra Tract was entirely settled."¹⁴⁸

¹⁴¹ Hiram A. Reid, *History of Pasadena* [...] (Pasadena, CA: Pasadena History Company, 1895), correction slip.

¹⁴² Studer, 52.

¹⁴³ Studer, 66.

¹⁴⁴ Lee, 8.

¹⁴⁵ Studer, 53.

¹⁴⁶ "Real Estate Matters," *Los Angeles Evening Express*, May 10, 1875.

¹⁴⁷ "Real Estate Transactions," *Los Angeles Herald*, May 19, 1875. Transactions, though not reported until mid-May, are noted to have been recorded in the 48 hours ending April 30, 1875.

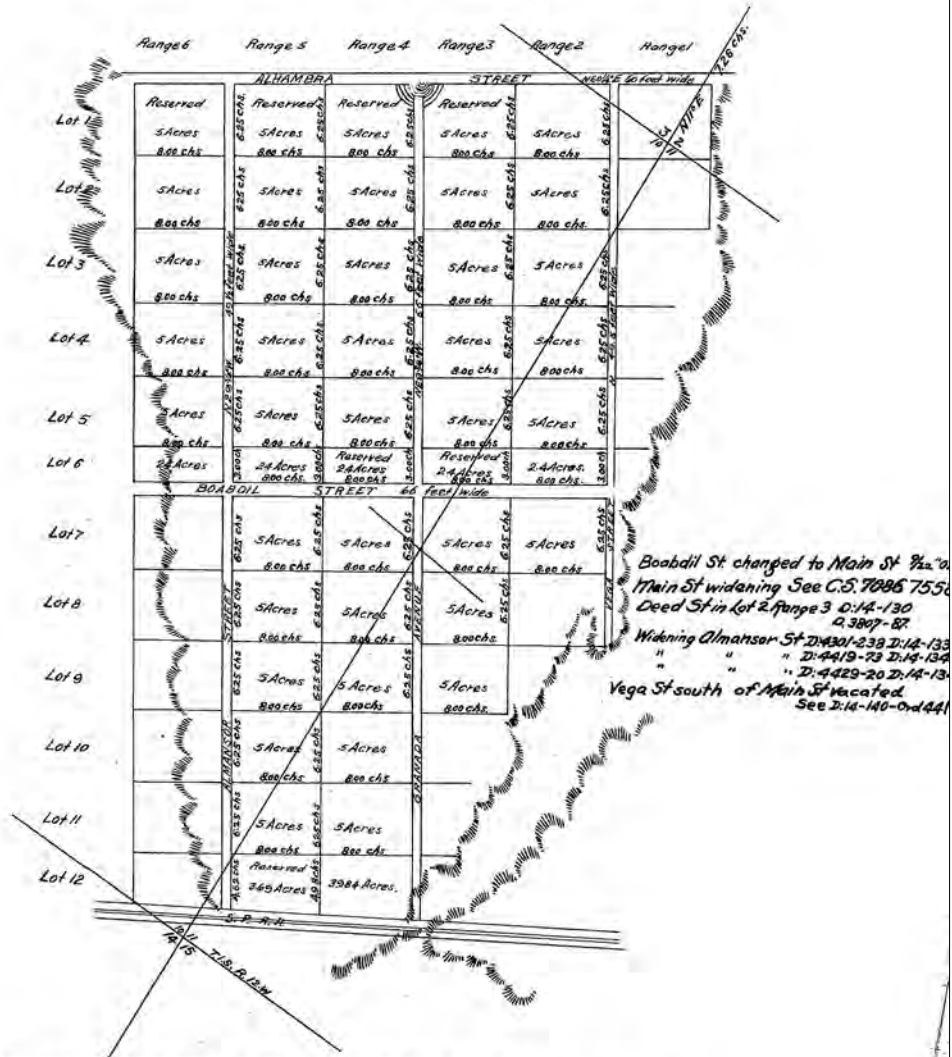
¹⁴⁸ Studer, 53.

MR003-266

266

Alhambra Tract

True Courses. Var 14°46'E
Surveyed June 1874- by G. Hanson.



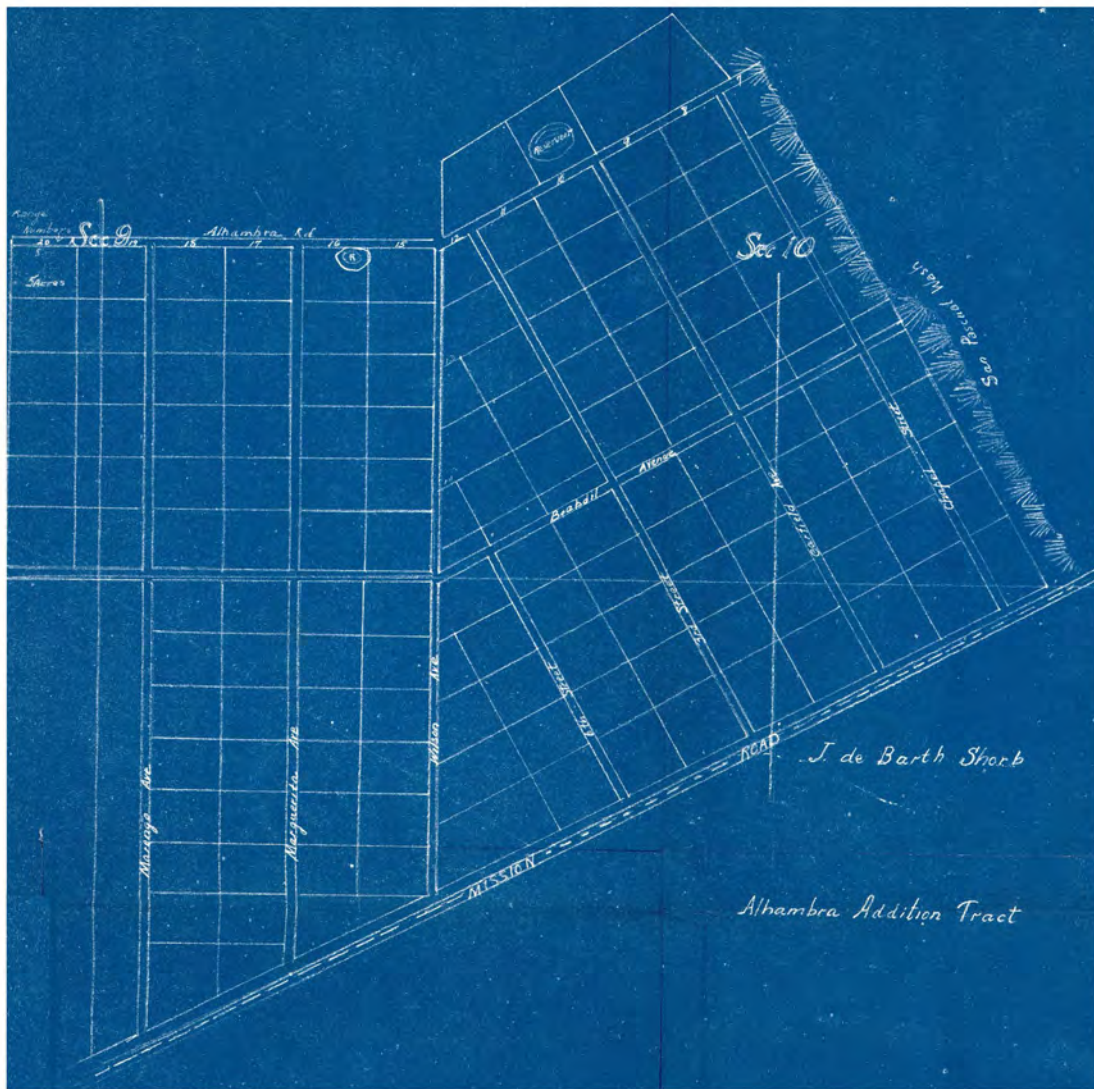
Boabdil St changed to Main St Pa. 0
Main St widened See C.S. 7086 755
Deed St in Lot 2 Range 3 D:14-130
2,3897-87
Widening Almansor St D:4301-238 D:14-133
" " " D:4419-73 D:14-134
" " " D:4429-20 D:14-134
Vega St south of Main St vacated
See D:14-140-Ord 441

Part in S.W. & S.W. 1/4 of Sec. 11, T.15. R.12W, por of lot 12 in Range 4, 5 & 6 D:25-241 D: 5735-61
Por. Range 6 for confining water of Arroyo de San Pasqual D:36-256 O.R. 2656-332
Por. lot 7 Range 6 Por St purp. D:38-156 O.R. 3062-87

Recorded at the request of J. de Barba
Sherb Sept 1 1876 at 11:25 AM.

G. Hanson

Alhambra Tract, MR003-266, recorded 1876. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.



Alhambra Addition Tract, MR003-298/299, recorded 1876. From *The History of Alhambra to 1915*.

Early Agricultural Activity in Alhambra



Orange crate label, Alhambra Orange Growers Association, circa 1890. *Huntington Library.*

Lots in the Alhambra Tract were divided into five- and ten-acre parcels so that landowners might have enough acreage to cultivate a small orchard on their property if they so desired. Benjamin Wilson had guaranteed to each buyer of a lot in Alhambra that all the water they needed would be delivered to their property for ten cents per 100 feet.¹⁴⁹ Aided by Shorb's irrigation, agriculture – particularly citrus farming – became the primary economic driver in the early years of Alhambra.

Fruit was the livelihood of most early settlers of Alhambra, with the orange being by far the favorite commodity, with an occasional grove being devoted to lemons. The first orchards were seedlings, but the newer ones gradually were transformed into Washington Navels and Valencias. For the most part, the early rancher attended to every part of his task from the raising of the fruit to the marketing and shipping of it. He found his own buyers, signed his own contracts, picked and packed his own fruit, and delivered it to the railroad. He even put together the boxes he shipped it in, and each grower tried to pick his time when the market was at its peak. This often resulted in an oversupply on the market, a disaster in those days before refrigeration.¹⁵⁰

To rectify some of the challenges faced by independent growers, the Alhambra Orange Growers Association was formed in 1896. The interests of many prominent pioneer businessmen were reflected in the group's leadership, which included Francis Q. Story, Jackson A. Graves, George B. Adams, and R.F. Bishop.

The growers found it to their advantage to pool their crops, and Alhambra built her own packing house along the Monrovia rail line on North Granada Avenue. The packing house supervised the picking of the crops and the hauling to the packing house, the shipping and marketing. Returns were

¹⁴⁹ Studer, 55. The irrigation system was financed by each consumer paying a dollar a month for domestic use and another dollar a day for irrigation. These water rights were later surrendered when the San Gabriel Water Company was organized.

¹⁵⁰ Studer, 56.

divided on a pro rata basis...In the busiest seasons, thousands of carloads were shipped.¹⁵¹

Working cooperatively helped Alhambra citrus growers compete on the open market; by 1900, Alhambra was shipping around 500 carloads of citrus, while Pasadena growers were shipping only fifty or sixty carloads.¹⁵² While the citrus ranchers waited for their young trees to mature, they often made a living planting other crops between the rows of citrus, including corn, beans, potatoes, cabbages, peanuts, strawberries, and blackberries.



House and orchards in Alhambra, circa 1884. *UCLA Library Special Collections.*

Alhambra and the Land Boom

By 1880, Alhambra had taken on the appearance of a pastoral agricultural settlement. As pioneer settler Rufus Fiske Bishop later recalled, by 1881 “south of the Southern Pacific tracks was neither house nor tree and no cross roads connecting Mission Road with San Bernardino Road.”¹⁵³ Yet the modest community was flourishing.

In four short years after Wilson and Shorb founded the Alhambra Tract, the 250 dry, brown acres had become an expanse of orchards and flowers. The fertile soil sprang into life with the first drops of water. Every street was lined with pepper trees and the orchards were outlined by hedges of cypress and

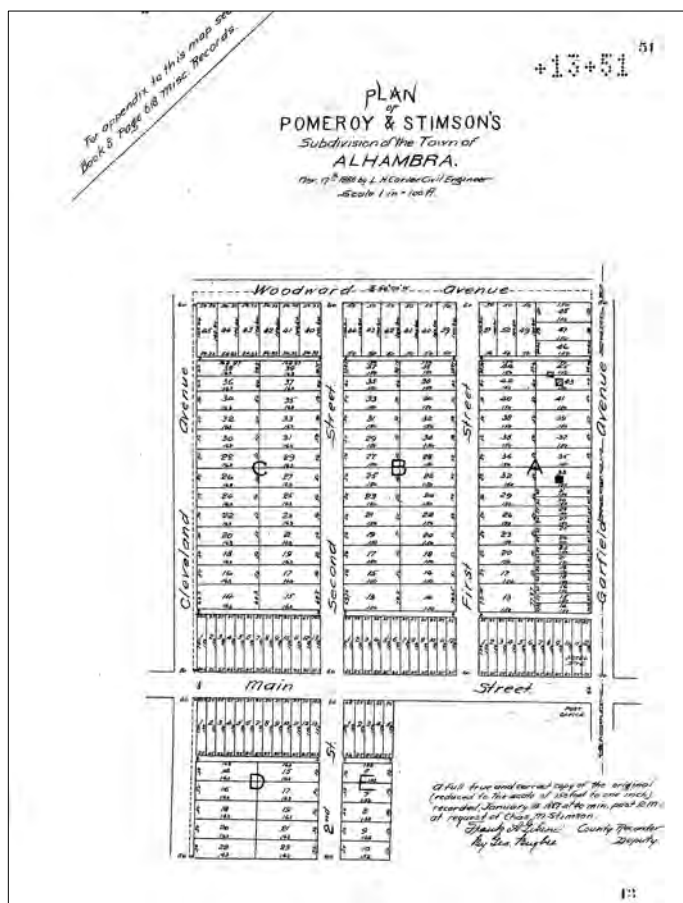
¹⁵¹ Studer, 57.

¹⁵² Lee, 23-24.

¹⁵³ Studer, 68.

pomegranate. Fruit clung to the branches of the young peach, pear and apple trees. Roses bloomed everywhere...varieties seldom heard of today.¹⁵⁴

That was all to change within a few short years with the arrival of the Southern California land boom of the 1880s, which was prompted by the promotional efforts of competing railroads. In 1885, the Santa Fe Railroad completed a second transcontinental rail line that terminated in Los Angeles, breaking the Southern Pacific Railroad's monopoly on the region. A fare war between the now-warring transcontinental railroad companies saw the price of railroad tickets drop to new lows, bringing thousands of tourists – and new residents – to Southern California. The demand for land during this period prompted the first subdivisions recorded in Alhambra; the first such tract was recorded in 1883, when G. B. Adams first divided six lots in the Alhambra Addition tract into twelve smaller parcels (MR005-121).



Another notable subdivision was Pomeroy & Stimson's Subdivision of the Town of Alhambra (MR013-051) in 1886, which appears to have been the one of the earliest recorded tracts to include commercial lots – including, most significantly, a site set aside for a hotel on Main Street – as well as over one hundred residential lots of approximately 50x150 feet each. This move signaled the beginning of Alhambra's evolution away from its agricultural roots towards a plan of greater density – an economic boon to the town when “fifty-foot lots sold for \$200 or \$300, several times more than acreage formerly would bring.”¹⁵⁵

Plan of Pomeroy & Stimson's Subdivision of the Town of Alhambra, MR 013-051, recorded 1887. *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.*

¹⁵⁴ Studer, 55.

¹⁵⁵ Studer, 78.

After the Boom

Thanks to the Southern California land boom, real estate development activity in Alhambra burned brightly for a brief period in the mid-1880s, only to flame out entirely within just a few short years:

Alhambra after the boom had a hundred new residents and a thousand vacant lots because most of the property that changed hands during the boom period went to speculators and few lots actually were occupied. Non-residents neglected their properties and what had been luxuriant orange groves became filled with dead trees and tangled undergrowth.¹⁵⁶

While Alhambra had built up a thriving business center during the boom – which now included three grocery and feed stores, a harness maker, a cobbler, two blacksmith shops, three churches, two commercial blocks, a dry goods store, and a drugstore that even had a telephone¹⁵⁷ – the commercial district, too displayed the ill effects of the boom.

The ornate Alhambra Hotel was only partially filled with guests who commuted to Los Angeles; tourist trade had dwindled away. The hotel dining room was closed.

The street car still ran from Boabdil and Garfield to meet the Southern Pacific trains and carry the mail but there were few passengers riding the cars...With little money for repairs, the cars degenerated, their wheels wore down flat and bumped along uncomfortably.¹⁵⁸

Finally, after what Robert P. Studer describes as “nearly a decade of shock,”¹⁵⁹ the community rallied. In 1901, leaders of the Wednesday Afternoon Club organized the Alhambra Improvement Association, which aimed to raise funds for public improvements.¹⁶⁰ The Association took up the task of removing the dead citrus groves, clearing neglected lots, and planting new street trees.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁶ Studer, 84.

¹⁵⁷ Studer, 83.

¹⁵⁸ Studer, 83-84.

¹⁵⁹ Studer, 84.

¹⁶⁰ “Alhambra Improvement Association,” *Los Angeles Times*, November 3, 1901; Lee. 84.

¹⁶¹ Studer, 84.

DEVELOPMENT IN ALHAMBRA, 1875-1902

Extant resources dating to the late-19th century in Alhambra are largely located east of Atlantic Boulevard; extant resources dating from the first decade of the 20th century are largely located north of Mission Road and east of Fremont Avenue. Single-family properties in the City of Alhambra constructed before 1902 are extremely rare. Residences from this period represent modest one- and two-story vernacular farmhouses as well as examples of prominent architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and American Foursquare. Commercial activity from the period was located along Main Street near present-day Garfield Avenue.

Infrastructural Improvements

Before the development of the Alhambra Tract, water delivery systems in the San Gabriel Valley had consisted of either open ditches called *zanjas* or wooden troughs. Wilson and Shorb developed a plan to irrigate the land, thereby making it more attractive to settlers, by supplying water to the property through an iron pipe originating at Wilson's Lake Vineyard ranch. Using this method, Wilson and Shorb could deliver water all the way to each colony settler's own front door.

Wilson and Shorb set about constructing the pipeline that would deliver water to the lots. The Los Angeles-based firm of Miles & Holbrook constructed the riveted sheet-iron piping which was laid down Garfield Avenue. Upon its completion, the pipeline was said to be the first aqueduct in Southern California which conveyed water under pressure for domestic and irrigation purposes in a tract of land opened for settlement.¹⁶²

The Alhambra Addition also offered irrigation, piped from a reservoir at Garfield Avenue and Alhambra Road and delivered through an iron water main laid down Garfield Avenue. Another reservoir was later built at Wilson (present-day Atlantic Boulevard) and Alhambra Road, and a similar pipe was laid down Wilson.¹⁶³

Late 19th Century Civic and Institutional Development

As the fledgling town of Alhambra grew, several institutions and social services were established to meet the needs of the growing community.

After several years of association with the San Gabriel School District, Alhambra residents petitioned for a division of the school district and opened their own school near the intersection of Chapel Avenue and Main Street. A few years later, a \$10,000 bond measure for a new school building was and a site at the corner of Garfield Avenue and Alhambra Road was purchased. A four-room, two-story frame schoolhouse known as Garfield School

¹⁶² Lee, 8.

¹⁶³ Studer, 53.

was constructed and was opened to twenty-seven elementary and high school pupils in September 1887.¹⁶⁴



Garfield School, circa 1887. *City of Alhambra Scrapbook.*

A second school, Ramona Convent, was opened during this period and remains the longest continuously operating educational facility in Alhambra.¹⁶⁵ Construction of the school was funded by James De Barth Shorb, whose daughter Edith became homesick while away at her Northern California boarding school and wanted to remain closer to home. The school, which was built on land donated by Shorb, opened on January 30, 1890. A public high school, the Alhambra High School, was also established in 1898.

¹⁶⁴ Alhambra Preservation Group, “Back to School, Back in Time,” The Prose of Preservation, July 22, 2017, <https://proseofpreservation.org/2017/07/22/back-to-school-and-back-in-history/> (accessed January 2021).

¹⁶⁵ Although the Ramona Convent School remains in operation, its physical facilities have been rebuilt and the site does not retain any extant examples of development from this early period.



Ramona Convent, undated photo. *Los Angeles Public Library.*

Several churches were also established during this period to meet the spiritual needs of the community, including the First Methodist Church (1878), the First Presbyterian Church (1887), and the First Baptist Church (1887). Alhambra's first social and fraternal organizations were also founded, including the Alhambra Woman's Club – also known as the Wednesday Afternoon Club, in 1893, and Masonic Lodge No. 322 in 1894.



St. James Chapel of the First Methodist Church, the first church to be constructed in Alhambra, circa 1878. *City of Alhambra Scrapbook.*

There are no known extant built resources related to civic and/or institutional development from this period in the City of Alhambra.

Late 19th Century Commercial Development

Before 1885, there was no community center in Alhambra; it was simply a collection of homesteads. At the time it was necessary for residents to make arduous wagon journeys to either Los Angeles or Pasadena to obtain supplies of any kind. However, pioneer settler H. W. Stanton – who served as the first schoolmaster, postmaster, storekeeper, and telephone agent – volunteered to build a store that would include a post office and also transport the mail so long as he was appointed postmaster. Stanton’s petition to the postal service was successful and he opened Alhambra’s first commercial storefront and post office at the southwest corner of present-day Main and Garfield. Alhambra’s first restaurant, Tilley’s Restaurant, and its first blacksmith, Charles Winter, both opened that same year. The most notable commercial operation of this period, however, was undoubtedly the Alhambra Hotel, which opened in early 1887, just in time for the land boom. By 1897, Alhambra’s Main Street included two liveryies; two commercial blocks, one with storage, a barber, and a grocer; the Alhambra Hotel; a dry goods store; two additional grocers; a bank; a harness maker; a post office; and a restaurant and boarding house.

By the turn of the century, Alhambra was swiftly becoming a center for commerce in the San Gabriel Valley. Commercial activity was greatly aided by the development of further rail transportation through the region; the Santa Fe Railroad was running on Pacific Electric’s tracks by 1885. At that time, there was a flag station at the intersection of present-day Date Street and Mission Road.¹⁶⁶ In 1887 the Southern Pacific Railroad also constructed a full-service depot at the southeast corner of Garfield Avenue and Marengo Road, which was serviced by a horse-drawn trolley line that commenced at the depot and ran north to the

¹⁶⁶ Bruce D. Risher, *Alhambra*, edited by Sharon Gibbs & Duley Jenkins (Alhambra, CA: The City of Alhambra, 2004), 24.

Raymond Depot of the Santa Fe Railroad in Pasadena, stopping at the Alhambra Hotel and other Main Street businesses along the way. The trolley line was later abandoned in 1893.



Alhambra Hotel, circa 1898. USC Digital Library.

The most significant addition, however, was the opening of the San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Railroad, an interurban route that connected Los Angeles to Monrovia via Alhambra. The San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Railroad Company was incorporated in 1887 – with James De Barth Shorb among its directors – with the aim of constructing a rail line to promote real estate development in Monrovia.¹⁶⁷ The line was completed in 1888 and operated as an independent rail line until 1893, when the rail company was bankrupted by the land boom and line was subsequently acquired by Southern Pacific.¹⁶⁸ After the Southern Pacific purchased the San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit line, a branch was built from the Raymond Hotel, up Broadway, to a depot on the southeast corner of Broadway and Colorado Street. Later the “Monrovia Branch” was connected with the main line of the

¹⁶⁷ “The San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Railroad,” Electric Railway Historical Association, <http://www.erha.org/sangabrielvalleyrapidtransit.html> (accessed March 2021).

¹⁶⁸ “The San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Railroad.”

Southern Pacific about half a mile east of Shorb, and the old San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit line through Boyle Heights was abandoned.¹⁶⁹

There are no known extant built resources related to commercial development from this period in the City of Alhambra.

Late 19th Century Industrial Development

Development of the San Gabriel Winery

Early industrial efforts centered around the formation of the San Gabriel Winery, which was considered to be the first industrial operation in the San Gabriel Valley. The San Gabriel Winery grew out of the early Lake Vineyard operations of B. D. Wilson and was incorporated by his son-in-law James De Barth Shorb in 1882.¹⁷⁰ For a time the San Gabriel Winery was thought to be the largest winery in the world; occupying the area bounded by Alhambra Road to the north, Raymond Avenue to the east, Mission Road to the south, and Fremont Avenue to the west. However, blight descended upon the vineyards in the 1890s, a disaster that nearly ruined Shorb financially, and he dedicated the last years of his life to seeking both a cause and a cure for the disease that had wiped out his harvest.

Shorb's employment of Chinese labor at the winery sparked a move toward employing more Chinese workers, with Robert P. Studer recounting how "in early Alhambra, the principal labor available was Chinese. Mexicans were accustomed to horses and drove the teams, but the hard, hand manual labor was done by Chinese."¹⁷¹ At the winery, "old-timers recall watching the Chinese men wade barefoot in the juice, stirring the liquid with a large ladle."¹⁷² However, the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was passed in 1882, prohibited the further immigration of all Chinese laborers, a move which significantly impacted the labor force. "After enactment of state legislation excluding the Chinese, the effect immediately was felt in Alhambra," writes Studer, "and Chinese labor became more and more scarce."¹⁷³

There are no known extant built resources related to industrial development from this period in the City of Alhambra.

¹⁶⁹ "The San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Railroad."

¹⁷⁰ "San Gabriel Wine Company," *Los Angeles Herald*, February 2, 1882.

¹⁷¹ Studer, 73.

¹⁷² Studer, 58.

¹⁷³ Studer, 73.

Theme: Late 19th Century Residential Development, 1875-1902

Although Alhambra would later become known for the character of its residential architecture, the earliest homes in the area – like that of George B. Adams – were more reflective of the community’s modest beginnings as an agricultural settlement, rather than the quality of design that would distinguish its later development. Alhambra’s earliest residences were modest one- and two-story vernacular farmhouses; Rufus Fiske Bishop later recounted that he could recall “no more than three plastered houses” in the town by 1881.¹⁷⁴ Farnsworth described the Adams residence – which was likely Alhambra’s earliest residence and may have been constructed by the previous owner of Adams’ property, O.P. Ergenbright – as “a rude little redwood cottage” and described the scene that greeted the family when they arrived in Alhambra:

No vision of vine-shaded porch and splashing fountain greeted the weary travelers as they climbed the steep bank of the *arroyo*, which runs between the Alhambra and the Mission, one warm September afternoon. A dusty brown plain lay before them, oppressive in the continuous glare, save where an occasional live-oak cast a friendly shade. A forlorn little house appeared, evidently the destination of these wanderers, for no other building was visible, exclusive of the distant roofs of the old residents. It was painted a melancholy blue, except at the rear, which was decorated with washed-out pink; the Mexican ponies, turned loose to forage for themselves, had gnawed the steps and window-frames; the windows had proved seductive targets for passing children, attested by the battered panes and floors strewn with stones; one of



Residence of George B. Adams, believed to be the first house constructed in Alhambra, circa 1878.
USC Digital Library.

¹⁷⁴ Studer, 68.

the doors had been carried off by someone who thought he could put it to a better use; the entire house and its immediate surroundings seemed to “despair droopingly”...A tiny Monterey cypress and a slender whip of a willow had been planted the previous summer, and a part of the land, ploughed by the former owner, was covered with a luxuriant crop of weeds. The one redeeming feature was a noble live-oak...¹⁷⁵

Following the advent of the land boom and increased economic growth in the citrus industry in the 1880s, new homes constructed at the close of the 19th century began to exhibit greater architectural detail. Many extant examples that remain today represent examples of variations of the Victorian and Period Revival styles.

Los Angeles County Assessor data indicates that the following properties in Alhambra were likely constructed during this period:¹⁷⁶

- 11 Halsted Circle (1878) – Samuel M. Halstead Residence
- 502 North Story Place (1883) - Francis Quarles Story Residence (subsequently altered)
- 420 North Story Place (1884)
- 132 South Hidalgo Avenue (1885)
- 117 North Stoneman Avenue (1886)
- 300 North Granada Avenue (1888) – James De Barth Shorb Residence
- 212 South 6th Street (1890)
- 125 North Marguerita Avenue (1890)
- 611 South Marguerita Avenue (1895)
- 1604 South Marguerita Avenue (1896)
- 204 East Beacon Street (1897)
- 123 South Marguerita Avenue (1900)
- 810 North Stoneman Avenue (1900)
- 228 South Marengo Avenue (1901)
- 208 East Beacon Street (1902)

¹⁷⁵ Farnsworth, 36. Later accounts credit these recollections to Adams’s daughter, Alice, but Farnsworth does not specify the origin of the

¹⁷⁶ For more detailed information on some of Alhambra’s earliest Victorian homes, please refer to lhabra Preservation Group, “Focus On: Alhambra’s Victorian Homes,” *The Prose of Preservation*, February 15, 2019, <https://proseofpreservation.org/2019/02/15/focus-on-alhambras-victorian-homes/> (accessed January 2021).

- 229 North Hidalgo Avenue (1902)
- 321 South Hidalgo Avenue (1902)
- 208 South Marengo Avenue (1902)
- 415 North Vega Street (1902)

Some properties that were originally improved in the late 19th century but were subsequently redeveloped may contain remnant landscape or hardscape features. One such example is the site of the former Jackson Graves residence (1888; no longer extant) at 320 East Huntington Drive; the original residence erected by Graves was subsequently demolished, but the property's original perimeter fence fronting Huntington Drive remains extant.



Jackson A. Graves Residence, Alhambra, undated photo. *Los Angeles Public Library.*

*Eligibility Standards***Summary Statement of Significance**

Resources significant under this theme include single-family residences constructed within the Alhambra Tract or Alhambra Addition Tract. Properties evaluated under this theme may be significant for their association with the earliest periods of residential development in Alhambra; for an association with a specific heritage group or a person important in local, state, or national history; or as the site of an important event in history.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1875-1902

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers the earliest period of residential development in Alhambra prior to the incorporation of the city in 1903.

Geographic Location

Extant resources dating to the 19th century are largely located east of Atlantic Boulevard; extant resources dating from the first decade of the 20th century are largely located north of Mission Road and east of Fremont Avenue.

Criteria

National Register: A, B California Register: 1, 2

Associated Property Types

Residential: Single Family Residence/Multi-Family Residence

Property Type Description

Significant property types are those representing important periods of early residential development in this part of Alhambra, including single-family residences, tract features and amenities including street trees/other significant landscape features and street lights, and historic districts.

Property Type Significance See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents an important pattern or trend in residential development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra residential development; or
- Represents a very early period of settlement/residential development in a neighborhood or community; or
- Has a proven association with a significant person's productive life, reflecting the time period when they achieved significance; or
- Has a proven association with a specific heritage group

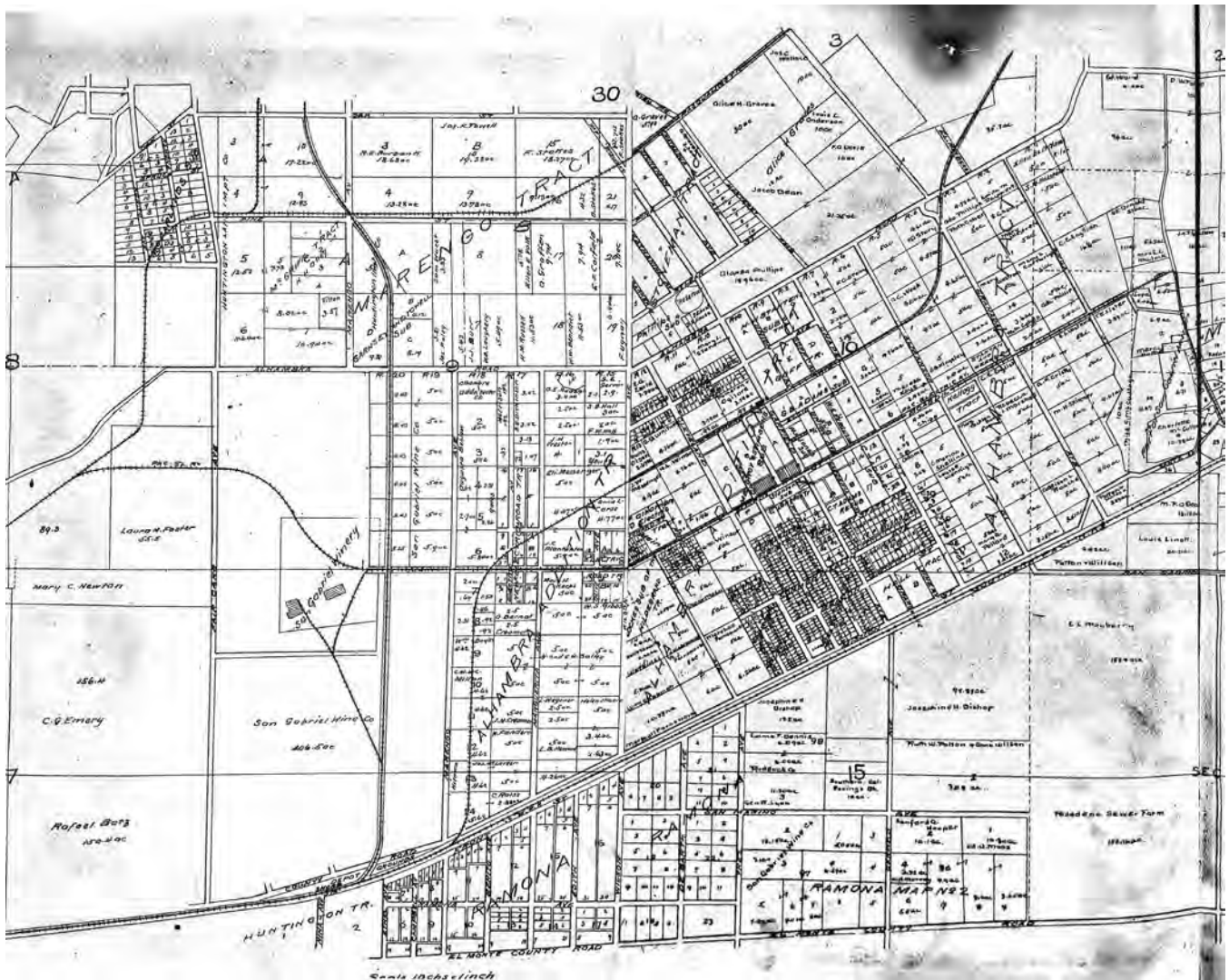
Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance
- Located within the Alhambra Tract or the Alhambra Addition Tract
- May also be significant for association with important early settlers or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Design, Workmanship, and Feeling
 - Properties eligible for association with an event, heritage group, or significant person should also retain integrity of Association.
- Some original materials may be altered or removed if the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation.
 - For very early examples, which are increasingly rare, there may be a greater degree of alterations or few extant features
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)

- For historic districts, the majority of the components that add to the district's historic character must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.
 - A contributing property must retain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association to adequately convey the significance of the historic district.
 - Some alterations to individual buildings, such as replacement roof materials, replacement garage doors, and replacement of windows within original openings may be acceptable as long as the district as a whole continues to convey its significance.
 - Original tract features may also be contributing features to a historic district under this theme.




Composite detail of Plates 25 and 30 showing the area comprising present-day Alhambra, *Rueger's Atlas showing country property of Los Angeles County, California, 1903. Ancestry.com.*

VII. CITY INCORPORATION AND CIVIC IMPROVEMENT (1903-1919)

POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Although the population of Alhambra had been counted as part of the United States Census as early as 1890, the 1910 Census was the first to record the City of Alhambra as an independent incorporated place. By that time, the seven-year-old city had welcomed over five thousand residents.

Table 3: Population in Alhambra by Decade, 1903-1919¹⁷⁷

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1910	4,970	—	18	(20)		(13)	33	5,021

The 1910 Census also represented the first time that detailed population breakdowns by race and ethnicity were provided for the City of Alhambra. Examining these statistics and their chronological changes over time – which are discussed in the following corresponding sections – within the context of broader immigration trends and policies provides insight into the changing population of Alhambra over time.

MUNICIPAL GROWTH IN ALHAMBRA, 1903-1919

By the dawn of the 20th century, the community of Alhambra had begun to emerge from the post-land boom economic slump of the 1890s. On July 11, 1903, Alhambra was incorporated as a city of the sixth class. Much of the Board of Trustees' early business was taken up by managing the grading and improvement of Main, Second, Stoneman, and Garfield Streets.¹⁷⁸ The first major bond election was held in 1907, when \$68,500 was approved for the construction of a new permanent city hall, a public library, a new bridge on Main Street, fire protection, and a better drainage system.¹⁷⁹ A second bond election, held in 1912, provided for further fire protection and library funding along with bridges, storm drains, and other improvements.¹⁸⁰

Development of Dolgevill

As the fledgling City of Alhambra began to flourish, a new community was developing immediately to the west that would come to play an important role in the development of Alhambra. In 1903, Henry Huntington acquired the Shorb San Marino Ranch along with a number of smaller parcels of land, thereby securing the bulk of the western San Gabriel

¹⁷⁷ Numbers in parentheses represent breakdowns of some races included in the “Other Races” category.

¹⁷⁸ Lee, 29.

¹⁷⁹ Lee, 31.

¹⁸⁰ Lee, 32.

Valley for residential development.¹⁸¹ Part of this acquisition included the site of the San Gabriel Winery, which had closed at the turn of the century. That same year Huntington was contacted by Alfred Dolge, a New York felt manufacturer who envisioned developing a felt mill on the Shorb property. Huntington agreed to form a partnership with Dolge to develop a manufacturing town centered around a felt concern on the site of the former winery. The town – named after both Dolge and his eponymous operations – would be known as Dolgeville.



Alfred Dolge Felt Company Publication, showing the factory at the former San Gabriel Winery Property, fronted by the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Electric Railroad, 1909. *Huntington Library.*

The Alfred Dolge Manufacturing Company (ADMC) was incorporated in 1903, as was the Dolgeville Land Company, which would oversee the development of the townsite. In 1904, Huntington directed the San Gabriel Wine Company to transfer its winery buildings and twenty acres of surrounding land to the ADMC.¹⁸² He then took further steps to ensure the town's success.

To diversify the community's economic base, Huntington attracted additional businesses to the factory town. The Tallerday Manufacturing Company opened in April 1904. Tallerday built steel tanks and pipes for a variety of uses with customers throughout the Pacific Coast and employed a few dozen men. In 1907 the Electric Heating and Manufacturing Company, a maker of home appliances, relocated from central Los Angeles. The factory employed over

¹⁸¹ Robert Phelps, "The Manufacturing Suburb of Los Angeles: Henry Huntington, Alfred Dolge, and the Building of Dolgeville, California, 1903-1910," *Southern California Quarterly* 80, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 145-172, 147.

¹⁸² Phelps, 152.

fifty men and women, and a number of workers followed their place of employment and relocated to Dolgeville.¹⁸³

Huntington also took charge of laying out the townsite, as its development played a fundamental role in the potential success of the enterprise.

Huntington's engineers settled on the gridiron for the layout of the town. Most subdividers utilized the grid because it simplified surveying and boundary settlements while maximizing the number of standardized lots available for sale. The felt factory was placed at the center of the development, with the residential lands surrounding the industrial sites. No consideration was given to the fact that placement of the manufacturing district at the center of the development would allow prevailing winds to push factory odors into homes on the east side of town. Tracks of the Pacific Electric's Pasadena Short line passed the front of ADMC to bring in commuters from other parts of Los Angeles County, and a spur of the Southern Pacific ran through the town to service the factory sites.¹⁸⁴

Huntington relied on transportation links, reduced land prices, subsidies to contractors, and employee recruitment programs to encourage mill workers to relocate to the town.¹⁸⁵

Workers from Dolgeville's New York operation were also recruited to relocate to Alhambra and help populate both the townsite and the factory. Over the next several years, Dolgeville developed its own complement of services and commercial operations, including a bank, fire station, drug store, bakery, barber, and billiard hall.

Within a few short years, however, both the Alfred Dolge Manufacturing Company and the Dolgeville Land Company were experiencing financial difficulties. While the felt concern would survive, Dolgeville did not. In spite of the impressive lot sales, the "Manufacturing Suburb of Los Angeles" failed to generate a viable community of working-class homeowners, because while up to 400 workers were employed in Dolgeville, few workers actually purchased land in town.¹⁸⁶ Lot sales began to decline after 1904, and the recession of 1908 dealt a fatal blow to the town. Between July 1904 and May 1909, only 150 lots were sold, less than half the number of lots sold in the beginning of 1904 alone.; by 1910 only 191 households, slightly less than 1,000 people, had relocated to Dolgeville.¹⁸⁷ The "Manufacturing Suburb of Los Angeles" was widely regarded as a failure.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸³ Phelps, 153.

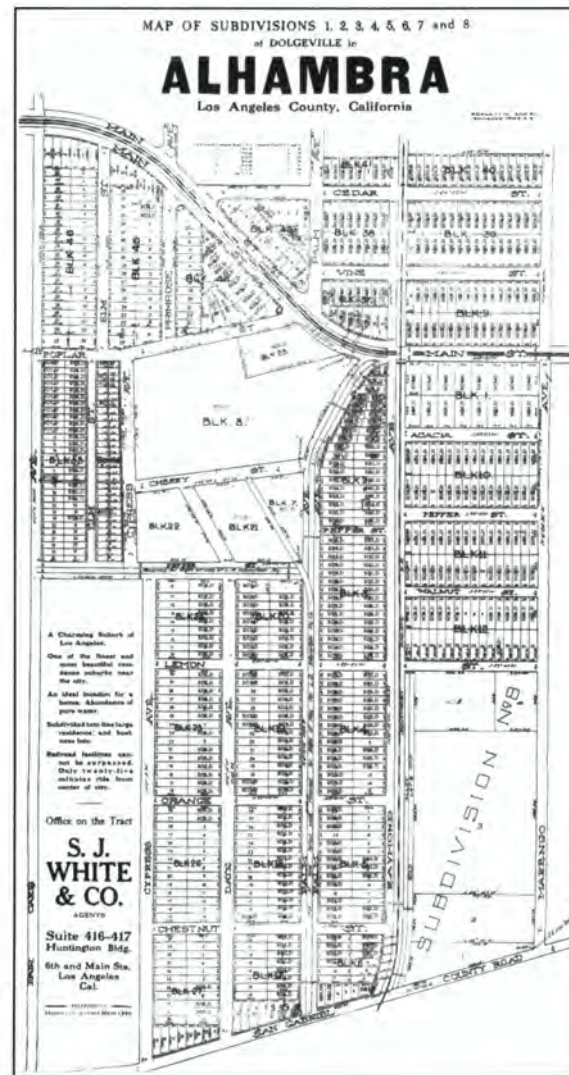
¹⁸⁴ Phelps, 158.

¹⁸⁵ Phelps, 159.

¹⁸⁶ Phelps, 164.

¹⁸⁷ Phelps, 164.

¹⁸⁸ Phelps, 164.



The Dolgeville Land Company's plan for Dolgeville.
Huntington Library.

In 1908, the neighboring City of Alhambra approved a bond measure funding a number of municipal improvements – improvements that Dolgeville could not afford to make on its own. C. W. Burdick, who owned a number of lots in Dolgeville, worked with a group of small property owners to apply for a special election to annex Dolgeville to Alhambra.¹⁸⁹ The measure was approved and the land comprising Dolgeville was annexed to the City of Alhambra that same year.

Alfred Dolge continued to oversee the felt mill – which subsequently operated as the Standard Felt Company – until 1910, when Henry Huntington forced his retirement.¹⁹⁰ The

¹⁸⁹ Phelps, 170.

¹⁹⁰ Phelps, 171.

manufacturing plant continued to operate and later expanded to 24-hour-a-day operation during World War I, manufacturing interlining and olive drab felts.¹⁹¹



Standard Felt Company building in Dolgeville, undated photo. From *Alhambra* (Images of America).

Annexations

Following the City of Alhambra's initial incorporation in 1903, two subsequent annexations brought additional land within the City boundaries. The first included the townsite of Dolgeville, which had been founded on the site of the former San Gabriel Winery, as well as the adjacent townsites of Ramona and Shorb. The second comprised Granada Park, an area to the southwest of Raymond Avenue and Hellman Avenue. These annexations represented the last substantial additions to the City's extent until the 1940s.

Table 4: Annexations, 1903-1919

Effective Date	Annexation Name
1/22/1908	Election of 01-22-08
10/23/1917	Granada Park

DEVELOPMENT IN ALHAMBRA, 1903-1919

Extant resources dating to this period are largely located east of Fremont Avenue. Single-family properties in the City of Alhambra constructed between 1903 and 1919 are

¹⁹¹ Risher, 31.

diminishing in number. Residences from this period represent modest one- and two-story vernacular residences as well as examples of prominent architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including Queen Anne, Craftsman, and American Foursquare. Commercial activity from the period continued to be located along Main Street near present-day Garfield Avenue.



Panoramic view of Alhambra, circa 1900. *Los Angeles Public Library.*

Theme: Civic and Institutional Development, 1903-1919

Once incorporated, the City of Alhambra was able to introduce bond measures, which allowed for the substantial expansion of municipal services in the early years following the City's founding. Two bonds were also passed in 1907 and 1912 respectively which allowed for the construction of several new municipal buildings, including two new fire stations as well as the purchase of new fire equipment. The bond measures also provided funding for the construction of the City's first city hall, completed in 1914; the first permanent library, which was designed by Frederick Louis Roehrig and completed in 1915 (not extant);¹⁹² and a new brick jailhouse was also constructed on North Second Street for the police department in 1908 using bond measure funding.

¹⁹² Frederick Louis Roehrig (1857-1948) was a prominent Southern California architect who was especially known for his work in Pasadena at the turn of the 20th century. Some of his most notable commissions included the designs for the Hotel Green and Castle Green in Pasadena, as well as a number of expansive homes along "Millionaire's Row" on South Orange Grove Avenue in the same city.



Alhambra Public Library (not extant), circa 1920. *California State Library.*

Many of Alhambra's first school buildings were also constructed in the early 1900s, though most of these facilities would later be improved with additional units. Both the Marengo School and Alhambra High School were constructed in 1905, followed by Ramona School in 1910, Granada School in 1911, Fremont School in 1914, and Ynez School in 1915. The existing wood-frame Garfield School was also replaced by a brick building in 1909.



Garfield School, existing school building (foreground) and new building under construction (background left), circa 1909. Alhambra Historical Society Museum.

There were several attempts to develop a permanent hospital in Alhambra during this time, although none of the facilities remained open for very long. The first hospital in Alhambra opened in a converted bungalow at the corner of present-day Main and Second Streets; the facility was operated by two Chicago Medical School graduates, Milbank Johnson and O.O. Wetherbee. Unfortunately for the residents of Alhambra, Doctors Johnson and Wetherbee soon became associated with a hospital in Los Angeles, and the Alhambra clinic ceased operations. Dr. Francis Corey opened a second hospital on the grounds of his residence at 129 South Second Street in 1909. In 1914 the Alhambra Medical Association was established, and the group took over Corey's equipment and relocated the hospital to the former home of Claude T. Adams at the southeast corner of Chapel Avenue and Main Street, but the hospital was subsequently moved to a remodeled house on South Third Street before ceasing operations.

New churches were also constructed during this period to meet the spiritual needs of the growing population, including the Immanuel Baptist Church, (1908), Marengo Avenue Methodist Church (1908), First Christian Church (1911), Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (1913), All Souls Catholic Church (1913), Church of the Nazarene (1916), Second Baptist Church (1919).

A number of social and fraternal organizations were also established during this period, including the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Lodge No. 217 (1906), San Gabriel Valley Chapter 100 Royal Arch Masons (1907), Alhambra Commandery 48 Knights Templar (1910), Alhambra Council 25 Royal and Select Masters (1912), Round Table Club (1912), Alhambra District Board of Realtors (1913), BPOE Lodge No. 1328 (1915), Alhambra Chapter American Red Cross (1917), and the American Legion John Howard Strain Post No. 139 (1919).

Development of the Midwick Country Club

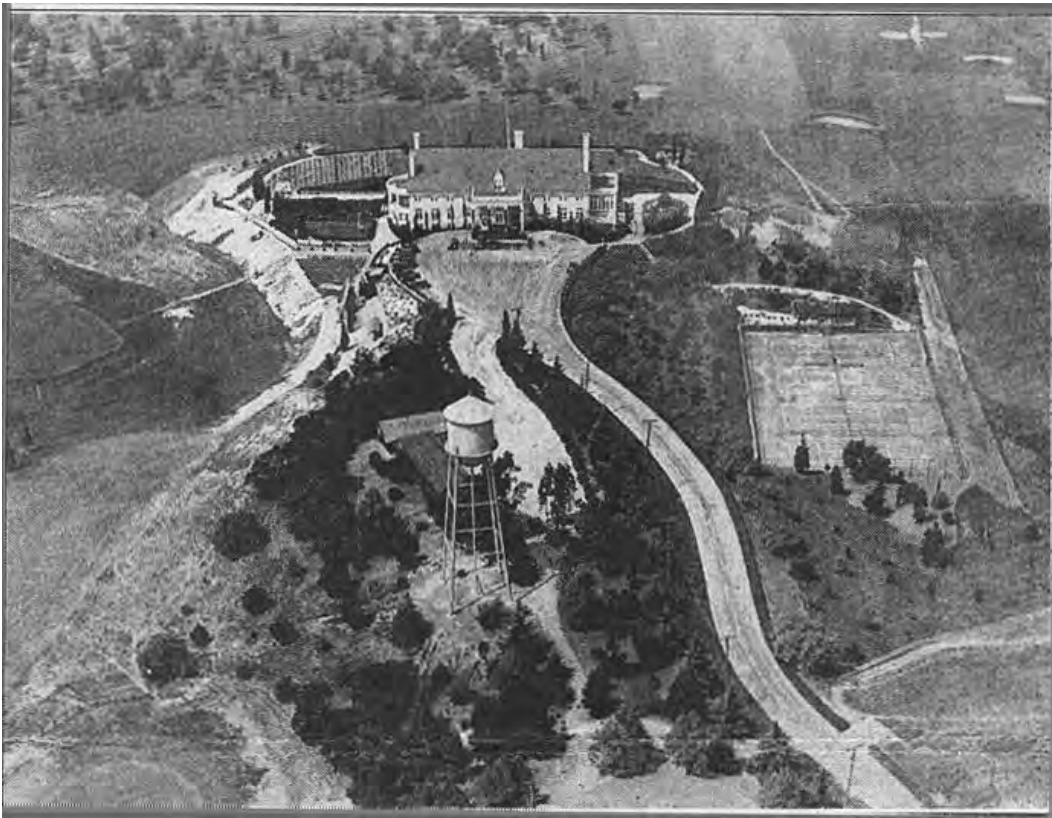
The most prominent institution to be developed during this period was undoubtedly the Midwick Country Club (not extant). Although Midwick's location technically fell outside the boundaries of Alhambra, its adjacent location nevertheless played an influential role in promoting the City's character and identity in the years to come.

The Midwick Country Club originated as the New Valley Country Club, which was established by Edison Electric Company president John S. Cravens in 1911.¹⁹³ Its name was subsequently changed to Midwick Country Club in 1912; with "midwick" meaning "midway" in British English, the name was thought to be an apt reflection of the club's location equidistant between Los Angeles and Pasadena, where most of its members resided.¹⁹⁴

¹⁹³ "The New Valley Country Club," *Los Angeles Times*, April 29, 1912.

¹⁹⁴ "It was the granddaddy of all Los Angeles' country clubs..." *Los Angeles Times*, July 19, 1993.

Midwick (which was pronounced Mid-dick) was located on an expansive tract that was generally bounded by present-day Midwickhill Drive to the north, North Atlantic Boulevard to the east, West Garvey Avenue to the south, and Whitney Drive and Fremont Avenue to the west. From its inception, Midwick was intended to serve as a prestige club with championship facilities that could host competitive events. Club president Henry M. Robinson declared that the social activities of the club “would be incidental to polo, tennis, and golf and that this new organization meant to hit the line hard for championship results.”¹⁹⁵ Initial improvements included two polo fields along with stables for polo ponies, four concrete tennis courts – one of which could be converted into a grandstand for the adjacent polo fields – a swimming pool, and an eighteen-hole golf course designed by Norman Macbeth, who was one of the Southern California Golf Association’s premiere golfers.¹⁹⁶ The course’s original greens were of sand, “as were most of them in arid Southern California in those days,” laid over stone foundations.¹⁹⁷



View looking west down the driveway (now Siwanoy Drive) toward the Midwick Country Club clubhouse, circa 1924. *Midwick Tract Development Project website.*

¹⁹⁵ “Midwick Country Club Opens House Informally,” *Los Angeles Times*, April 20, 1913.

¹⁹⁶ “SCGA History, Part 1: 1899-1919,” Southern California Golf Association, <https://www.scga.org/about/scga-history/part-1> (accessed March 2021). Robert Studer asserts that the course was originally laid out by William Watson; see Studer, 107.

¹⁹⁷ Studer, 107.

An elaborate clubhouse designed by architect J. Martyn Haencke¹⁹⁸ was the jewel in Midwick's crown, situated atop a knoll at the end of a long, curving drive. Today, Midwick's dramatic driveway is the only extant remnant of the country club's development on the site; it is represented by that portion of present-day Siwanoy Drive that extends westward from Hagen Drive to 1600 Siwanoy Drive, where a residence now occupies the site of the former clubhouse.



**Midwick Country Club clubhouse, 1928.
*Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library.***

Following its opening in 1913, Midwick quickly became the recreational home of such celebrities as Will Rogers, David Niven, Hal Roach, Spencer Tracy, Bing Crosby, and Walt Disney.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as an example of civic or institutional development representing the establishment and growth of Alhambra in the early 20th century.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

¹⁹⁸ "Midwick Country Club Opens House Informally," *Los Angeles Times*, April 20, 1913.

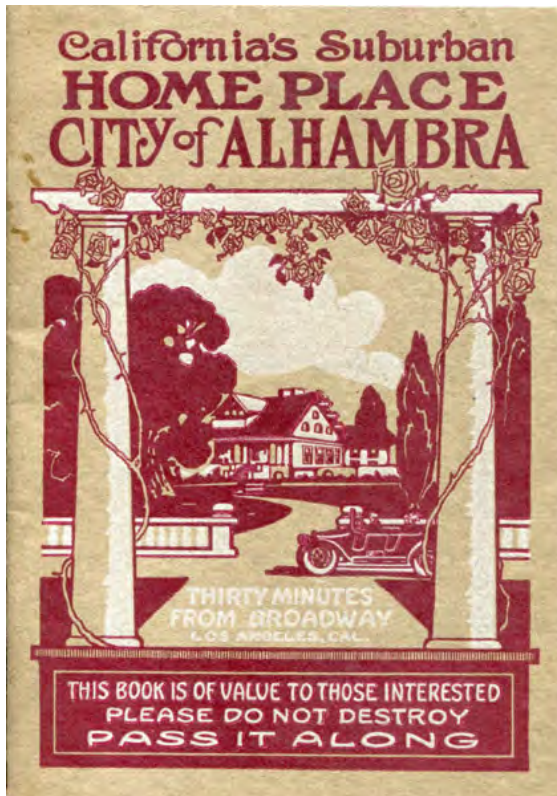
Period of Significance	1903-1919
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers institutional development in Alhambra from the incorporation of the city in 1903 through 1919, when widespread development changed the character of Alhambra.
Geographic Location	Extant resources from this period are largely located east of Fremont Avenue.
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Institutional: Post Office, Fire and Police Station, School, Library, Hospital, Religious Building, Social Club, Cultural Institution, Fraternal Organization, Park, Civic Building, Infrastructure Improvement, Civic Amenity
Property Type Description	Institutional property types include schools, hospitals, religious buildings (including churches, convents, rectories, and schools), clubhouses associated with social clubs or fraternal organizations, parks, civic buildings like post offices and police/fire stations, and civic amenities or infrastructure improvements like roadways and bridges.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.
Eligibility Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates from the period of significance; and • Is an example of civic or institutional development representing the establishment and growth of Alhambra in the early 20th century
Character-Defining/Associative Features:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance • Represents or reflects important civic or institutional development from the period • May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context

- May also be significant for association with a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Design, Workmanship, and Feeling
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- Original use may have changed
- Signage may have changed
- Should retain the majority of features that illustrate its style or type
 - For early or rare civic or institutional buildings, a greater degree of alteration may be acceptable.

Theme: Commercial Development, 1903-1919



California's Suburban Home Place, published by the Board of Trade in 1915. *Buckingham Books*.

Commercial development in Alhambra in the early 1900s was defined by the spirit of boosterism. A number of commercial booster organizations were established to help promote the economic operations of Alhambra, including the Alhambra San-Gabriel Farmers Club, and the Alhambra Board of Trade. The Alhambra-San Gabriel Farmers Club was organized in 1903 to promote the horticultural, agricultural, business, and social interests of the local area.¹⁹⁹ The Alhambra Board of Trade was established the following year to promote the business and social advantages of locating in Alhambra.”²⁰⁰ In 1913, the Board of Trade was renamed the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce continued many of the activities of the Board of Trade, which included the publication of such promotional pamphlets as “Alhambra, City of Homes,” and “California’s Suburban Home Place.”

Businesses operating in this period were primarily concentrated along Main Street, which continued to expand in influence as a commercial corridor. Early operations included the Fuetz Grocery Store, the Alhambra Hardware Company, the City Market Butcher Shop, Crow and Drake’s General Merchandise, Pethybridge Meat Market, the Alhambra Feed and Fuel Company, the Pence & Smith Grocery Store, and the Blue Ribbon Bakery. Alhambra’s first theater – the Alhambra Theatre (later known as the Superba Theatre) – also opened in 1912 and showed both motion pictures and vaudeville acts. A second theater, which was also called the Alhambra Theatre (later known as the Coronet Theatre and then the Capri Theatre), was designed by Harley S. Bradley and opened in 1917.

Rail service was also expanded during this period with the opening of the Alhambra Line, which was completed by the Los Angeles & Pasadena Electric Railway Company (a Pacific Electric predecessor) in 1902. This line ran on a 30-minute schedule from Los Angeles’ General Hospital to the San Gabriel Mission; the line was later extended to the Masonic Home. In 1904 the Dolgeville branch was built by the Los Angeles Inter-Urban (a Pacific

¹⁹⁹ Risher, 45.

²⁰⁰ Risher, 45.

Electric affiliate); it tapped the SP main line at Shorb and was intended to supply the large felt factory and model manufacturing town then being vigorously promoted by Huntington and Dolge.²⁰¹ This branch served to bridge Southern Pacific passengers from Pasadena to Shorb from 1912 until 1924 when bus service took over.²⁰²

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance	Resources that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history, or as a rare or remnant example of early commercial development in the City of Alhambra. While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).
Period of Significance	1903-1919
Period of Significance Justification	Opens with the incorporation of the City of Alhambra and closes in 1919, when widespread development changed the character of Alhambra.
Geographic Location	Commercial activity from the period was located along Main Street near present-day Garfield Avenue.
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Commercial: One-story Building; One-story Commercial Storefront Block; Mixed-use Building; Mixed-use Commercial Block; Retail store; Commercial Office; Bank; Restaurant; Theater; Hotel; Recreational Facility; Historic District
Property Type Description	Commercial property types include the one-story building, consisting of one or more storefronts, and the multi-story mixed-use building, consisting of

²⁰¹ "Alhambra-San Gabriel Line," Electric Railway Historical Association, <http://www.erha.org/pelines/penasg.htm> (accessed March 2021).

²⁰² "Alhambra-San Gabriel Line."

storefronts on the ground floor and offices, meeting spaces, or residential units above. One-story buildings were often called storefront blocks, while the multi-story mixed-use buildings were commonly known as commercial or business blocks. Buildings may be individual resources and/or contributing features to a historic district.

Property Type Significance See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in commercial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra’s commercial development

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with important early settlers or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Design, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Replacement of storefronts is a common and acceptable alteration
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- Original use may have changed
- Storefront signage may have changed

Theme: Industrial Development, 1903-1919

In 1912, the City's Board of Trustees repealed the ordinance which had created an industrial district for Alhambra.²⁰³ At the time, Margaret Lee writes, "There were not many factories here, and most town opinion seemed against it, hence the ordinance was repealed."²⁰⁴ As a result, industrial development in Alhambra proper was limited in the early decades of the 20th century. Most of the industrial activity in the area was located in Dolgeville, where a manufacturing hub had grown up around the former site of the San Gabriel Winery, which was now occupied by the Dolge Felt Company.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance	Industrial efforts in this period centered around the Dolge Felt Company, as industrial development in Alhambra itself was limited until the 1920s. Individual properties evaluated under this theme may be significant for their association with the Dolge Felt Company.
Period of Significance	1903-1919
Period of Significance Justification	Opens with the establishment of Dolge Felt Company on the former site of the San Gabriel Winery, and ends in 1919, before increased industrial development occurred in Alhambra.
Geographic Location	Bounded by Main Street and the north side of Cedar Street to the north, Marengo Avenue to the east, Mission Road to the south, and Cypress and Fair Oaks Avenues to the west.
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Remnants of the Dolge Felt Company factory
Property Type Description	Remnants of the Dolge Felt Company factory may consist of a factory building or associated outbuildings.
Property Type Significance	Remnants of the Dolge Felt Company factory may warrant special consideration in local planning.

²⁰³ Lee, 34.

²⁰⁴ Lee, 34.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Associated with the Dolge Felt Company

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

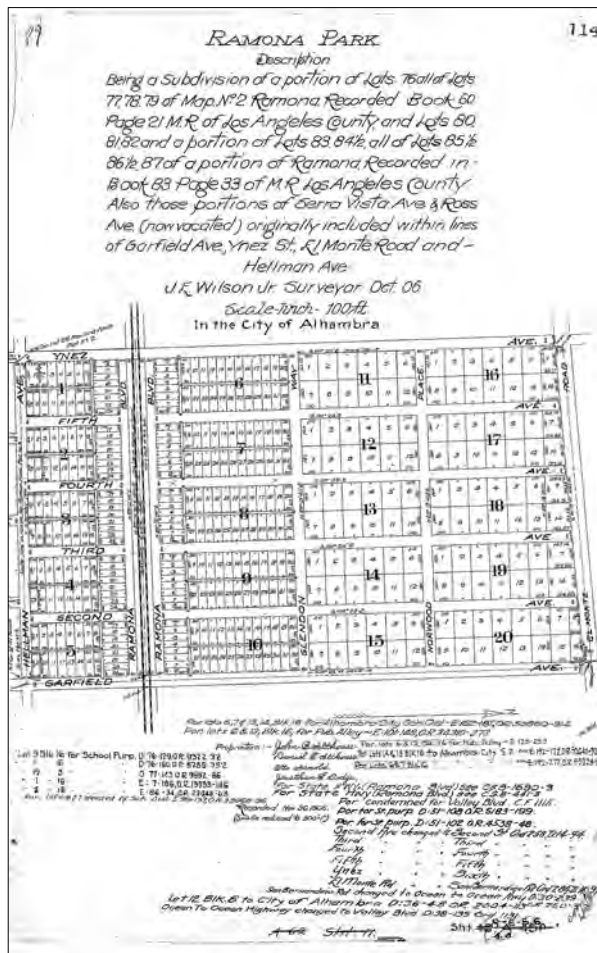
- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance
- Located within the boundaries of the former Dolge Felt Company property
- May also be significant for association with important early settlers or a specific heritage group
- May also be significant as an example of an architectural style

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Feeling, and Association
- Some original materials may be altered or removed
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)

Theme: Residential Development, 1903-1919

As Alhambra's economy was still largely focused on agricultural development, construction efforts during this period were largely characterized by residential development. These efforts were also motivated by an influx of new residents to Alhambra, whose population increased by over 80 percent between 1910 and 1920.



Ramona Park, MB 001-114a, recorded 1906. *Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.*

Ninety-one tracts were recorded between 1903 and 1919, and although the trend of small tracts of land subdivided by individual property owners largely continued, a growing number of tracts were subdivided by organized real estate development companies. One of the largest tracts recorded during this period was Ramona Park (MB011-114a), which was recorded in 1906 with approximately 450 residential lots.

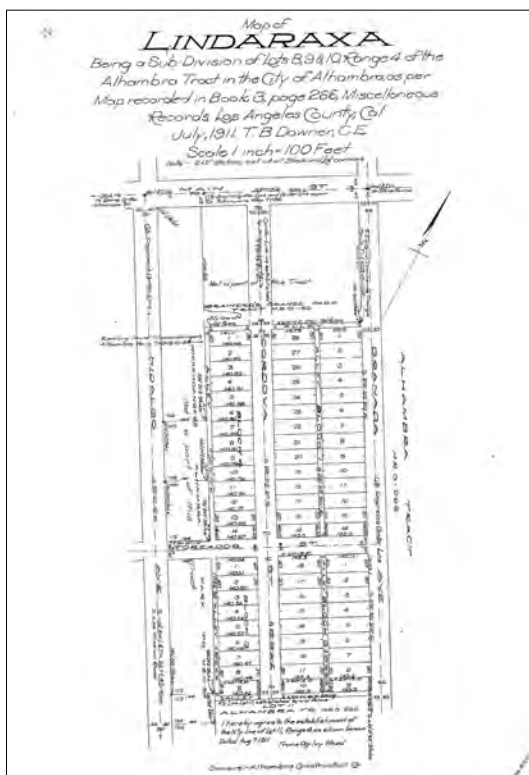


Los Angeles Times advertisement, April 13, 1907.

Ramona Park was developed by brothers John B. and Daniel T. Althouse – known professionally as the Althouse Brothers – in partnership with the firm of Arnold & Dodge, which was comprised of Otto Arnold and Jonathan S. Dodge. Historical documentation suggests that the men originally intended to develop Ramona Park as a separate townsite, distinct from that of Alhambra,²⁰⁵ but the land was subsequently annexed in 1908 and their plans did not come to fruition.

²⁰⁵ “Ramona Park,” *Los Angeles Times*, March 24, 1907.

Another notable tract to be developed during this period was the Lindaraxa Tract (MB 018-080a), which was recorded in 1911. The Lindaraxa Tract was developed by the Alhambra Construction Company as Lindaraxa Park, which was also known as Court Lindaraxa.²⁰⁶ The neighborhood's name capitalized on Alhambra's established Moorish inspirations; the Lindaraxa name also originated from Washington Irving's book *Tales of the Alhambra*.



Map of Lindaraxa, MB 018-080a, recorded 1911



Lindaraxa Park advertisement, 1912. *Alhambra Preservation Group*.

Other groupings of residences dating from this period can be found in the present-day La Marguerita-Souders Tracts neighborhood, the Alhambra Tract neighborhood, and the Alhambra Vista Tract neighborhood. All originated from subdivisions recorded during this period.

Two individual residences constructed during this period may be of particular note for their association with the Judson family, owners and operators of Judson Studios, a family-run fine arts studio located in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Known for their stained glass, Judson Studios has been in continuous operation since 1897. Two members of

²⁰⁶ "Focus On: Lindaraxa Park, Alhambra's Moorish Beauty," *The Prose of Preservation*. April 16, 2018, <https://proseofpreservation.org/2018/04/16/focus-on-lindaraxa-park-alhambras-moorish-beauty/> (accessed January 2021).

the Judson family, brothers Walter Horace Judson and Paul Judson, purchased homes in Alhambra. Walter Judson purchased the residence at 919 North Marguerita Avenue, which was erected in 1911. He appears to have resided at the home from around 1915 to around 1920. Paul Judson purchased the residence at 805 North Electric Avenue, which was erected in 1912. He appears to have resided there from around 1915 to around 1958. For a time he may have cohabitated with his brother, Donald Judson.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme include single-family residences constructed in the 91 tracts recorded between 1903 and 1919. Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; for an association with a specific heritage group or a person important in local, state, or national history; or for exemplifying an important trend or pattern of development (typically, as contributors to historic districts).

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1903-1919

Period of Significance Justification

Opens with the incorporation of the City of Alhambra, and closes in 1919, after which widespread development changed the character of Alhambra.

Geographic Location

Located throughout the City of Alhambra, primarily east of S. Fremont Avenue.

Criteria

National Register: A, B California Register: 1, 2

Associated Property Types

Residential: Single Family Residence, Tract Feature/Amenity, Historic District

Property Type Description

Significant property types are those representing important periods of early residential development

in this part of Alhambra, including single-family residences, tract features and amenities including street trees/other significant landscape features and street lights, and historic districts.

Property Type Significance See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents an important pattern or trend in residential development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra residential development; or
- Has a proven association with a significant person’s productive life, reflecting the time period when they achieved significance; or
- Has a proven association with a specific heritage group

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant for association with important early settlers or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Design, Workmanship, and Feeling
 - Properties eligible for association with an event, heritage group, or significant person should also retain integrity of Association.
- Some original materials may be altered or removed if the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation.
 - For very early examples, which are increasingly rare, there may be a greater degree of alterations or few extant features
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)

- For historic districts, the majority of the components that add to the district's historic character must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.
 - A contributing property must retain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association to adequately convey the significance of the historic district.
 - Some alterations to individual buildings, such as replacement roof materials, replacement garage doors, and replacement of windows within original openings may be acceptable as long as the district as a whole continues to convey its significance.
 - Original tract features may also be contributing features to a historic district under this theme.



Map of the City of Alhambra and Additions, Los Angeles Co., California, 1922. *Huntington Library.*

VIII. CITY EXPANSION AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH (1920-1940)

The two decades marking the intervening period between World War I and World War II represent some of the most dynamic years in United States history, and some of the most influential years in determining the patterns of growth and development throughout Southern California. The economic effects of national events such as the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing Great Depression naturally made their way to the region, but everyday life during this period was also shaped by events and trends unique to Southern California. As newcomers flocked to Los Angeles and the city's population exploded, the area began to exhibit the first signs of sprawl. At the same time, automobiles emerged as the prevailing form of transportation, a shift which influenced the development – and redevelopment – of many existing rail lines throughout the region as well as the design and construction of new residential neighborhoods and commercial centers that focused on catering to the car customer. New entertainment-related mediums such as radio and motion pictures began to flourish, motivating tourism as well as the development of further light industry for support services.

Events also impacted the built environment during this period; the 1933 Long Beach earthquake caused widespread damage and resulted in over one hundred fatalities, prompting a reexamination of construction methods and the implementation of new and more stringent safety standards for design.

POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, AND EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES OF THE 1920S AND 1930S

The United States passed some of its most significant – and damaging – immigration legislation in the 1920s, and the adoption of new laws regarding immigration during this period would have devastating impacts on minority communities in the United States for decades to come.

The U.S. Immigration Act of 1924, which launched what has come to be known as the National Origins System, was the apex of a restrictionist movement three decades in the making.²⁰⁷ Also known as the Johnson-Reed Act, after its congressional sponsors, the National Origins Act replaced a hastily-passed emergency immigration bill in 1921 that served as a stopgap measure to an anticipated massive immigration from Europe following World War I. This emergency bill limited the number of immigrants to 3% of the foreign-born population of a given nationality resident in the United States based on the 1910 census. Viewed as insufficient in stemming the immigrant tide and as discriminatory toward the U.S. native-born population, the 1924 National Origins Act addressed these perceived

²⁰⁷ The following discussion of the National Origins Act has been excerpted and adapted from Karen Manges Douglas, “National Origins Act,” <https://www.shsu.edu/~kmd007/documents/WinFSHD2Userskmd007ArticlesDouglas-NationalOriginsSystem-1.pdf> (accessed November 2021).

deficiencies. Using the 1890 census, the bill restricted the number of entrants to 2% of the U.S. native-born White population as determined by their national origins—a nebulous concept that required a series of adjustments.

Opposition to immigration from southern and eastern Europe had been heightened by economic recession, labor unrest, anti-Catholic sentiment, and the events surrounding World War I. Fears that southern and eastern Europeans were unassimilable were intensified by persistent ties to the “old world” among even the earliest immigrant groups during World War I. With the restrictionist sentiment building, efforts to restrict immigration ensued. To address this issue, the goal of the National Origins Act was to control both the quantity and quality of U.S. immigrants in an effort to prevent further erosion of the ethnic composition of U.S. society. The law accomplished this goal using three mechanisms: capping the overall number of immigrants allowed into the United States in a given month and year; favoring immigrants from certain countries; and screening out otherwise qualified immigrants as unsuitable to the United States during the visa screening process. The sorting mechanism heavily favored northern and western European countries. The temporary formula of 2% of the foreign-born of each nationality in the 1890 census gave 85% of the quotas to northern and western European nations. The national origins system fully implemented in 1929 continued the trend of both overall restriction and nation bias. Indeed, the act virtually halted all immigration from southern and eastern Europe. Thus, European immigration dropped from more than 800,000 in 1921 to less than 150,000 by the end of the decade. In addition to controlling the volume of immigration from Europe, the National Origins Act also allowed a mechanism for selection of immigrants as well. In its creation of consular offices abroad, the act provided a frontline screening mechanism for selecting out those deemed unsuitable for the United States.

The National Origins Act racialized the world and its inhabitants. While the act differentiated Europeans according to nationality and then ranked them along a hierarchy of desirability, the very act of their inclusion for immigration conferred upon them a designation of assimilability and the right to U.S. citizenship.²⁰⁸

At home in Alhambra, the effects of the country’s exclusionary policies were keenly felt by the city’s residents. While the overall population of Alhambra increased by over two hundred percent between 1920 and 1930, the population of certain ethnic and racial groups declined dramatically in the aftermath of exclusionary policies that targeted Native Americans and Asian immigrants.

²⁰⁸ Douglas, “National Origins Act.”

Table 5: Population in Alhambra by Decade, 1920-1940²⁰⁹

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1920	8,965	—	44	(21)		(65)	87	9,096
1930	28,793	(17)	96	(7)		(79)	583	29,472
1940	38,737	(7)	79	(10)		(63)	119	38,935

Table 6: Rate of Population Growth in Alhambra by Decade, 1920-1940

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1920	80.38%	—	144.44%	5.00%	—	400.00%	163.64%	81.16%
1930	221.17%	—	118.18%	-66.67%	—	21.54%	570.11%	224.01%
1940	34.53%	-58.82%	-17.71%	42.88%	—	-20.25%	-79.59%	32.11%

MUNICIPAL GROWTH IN ALHAMBRA, 1920-1940

With ideal agricultural conditions, abundant natural resources, and burgeoning industrial activity, Southern California offered a land of opportunity at the dawn of the 1920s, and the region witnessed a population boom throughout the decade as an exponential number of new residents flocked to the region. The City of Alhambra was no exception to this trend – the City’s population more than doubled over the course of the decade and comprised nearly 30,000 people by 1930. The resultant demand for housing prompted a real estate boom in the 1930s; a substantial portion of the City’s housing stock was constructed during this period, and commercial and institutional operations were also expanded to meet the needs of the growing community.

At the same time, the population boom brought support for Alhambra’s new industrial development efforts. Up until the 1920s, the city’s earliest industrial activities had been largely limited to the San Gabriel Winery or, subsequently, the Standard Felt Factory. As Robert Studer observes, “For many years, Alhambra industry lagged, partly because of the nearby manufacturing section of Los Angeles along the banks of the Los Angeles River, and partly because of a lack of initiative on the part of Alhambra’s citizens.”²¹⁰ A community-led effort to reinvigorate industrial activity in Alhambra in the 1920s ultimately helped define the character and identity of the city as a center for industrial development. As a result, the City

²⁰⁹ Numbers in parentheses represent breakdowns of some races included in the “Other Races” category.

²¹⁰ Studer, 122.

of Alhambra entered the Great Depression as a vastly more robust community than it had been ten years earlier.

The City's focus on developing industrial activities during the previous decade sustained the community throughout the economic decline of the Great Depression, and by 1940 production exceeded \$8,000,000 and employed nearly 4,000 people.²¹¹ Indeed, Alhambra continued to grow even despite the economic slump; the assessed valuation of the city jumped from about \$13 million in 1923 to over \$27 million in 1939-1940.²¹²

Annexations

In 1926, the City expanded its boundaries through the Midwick Addition, which added nine parcels from the Ramona Acres development at the southwest intersection of Hellman and Olive Avenues.

Table 7: Annexations, 1920-1940

Effective Date	Annexation Name
5/27/1926	Midwick Addition

DEVELOPMENT IN ALHAMBRA, 1920-1940

Extant resources dating to this period are located throughout the City. Single-family properties in the City of Alhambra constructed between 1920 and 1940 are among the most prevalent in the City. Residences from this period represent modest one- and two-story vernacular residences as well as modest and high style examples of prominent architectural styles of the period, including Craftsman, Spanish Colonial Revival, English Revival, and Tudor Revival. Commercial activity from the period continued to expand along Main Street and began to populate Valley Boulevard; institutional development was located throughout the City to cater to the growing population near their homes.

Theme: Civic and Institutional Development, 1920-1940

As Alhambra's population flourished throughout the 1920s and 1930s, so did the development of municipal services and private institutions formed to meet the needs of the growing community.

In 1920, Alhambra finally became home to a dedicated hospital when a group of doctors formed a medical corporation and constructed the Alhambra Hospital at the southeast corner of Garfield Avenue and Bay State Street. The City also established its first municipal parks during this period; Alhambra Park was opened in 1920 and the Alhambra Plunge was opened the following year.

²¹¹ Studer, 123.

²¹² Studer, 123.

Municipal services were expanded during this period with the approval of a bond measure, which passed in 1923 and provided for the construction of new fire department headquarters on Stoneman Avenue and a new fire station at Poplar Boulevard and Main Street to replace the station on Palm Avenue. (This station was later rebuilt on the same site following the Long Beach earthquake.) A third fire station was erected in 1929 to replace the existing station at the northeast corner of Sixth Street and Valley Boulevard, and fourth fire station was completed at the corner of Elm Street and Norwood Place.

A new city jail, constructed in 1925, also replaced the former jail with a new building housing both the police department and the police court on North Second Street.

Story Park, the city's second municipal park, was established in two phases during this period; the northern portion was donated to the City by F. Q. Story and opened in 1928, and the southern portion - the former home of the Alhambra Athletic Club - was purchased by the City, along with the Athletic Club's facilities, in 1931. Granada Park was established in 1934 with the aid of county and federal funding.

The number of churches in Alhambra also increased during this period to meet the more diverse spiritual needs of the growing community. Churches constructed during this period include the Church of Christ, (1921), Unity Church (1923), Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (1923), Emmaus First Lutheran Church (1923), St. Therese Catholic Church (1926), First Methodist Church (1926), and First Presbyterian Church (1927). All Souls Roman Catholic Church also constructed a new school building in 1936, and then a new church building in 1938. The Carmel of St. Teresa Monastery, designed by architect John C. Austin in 1923, is a notable example of religious institutional development designed by a prominent architect during this period.

Clubs and organizations also flourished during this period as Alhambra's population grew and the interests of the city's residents broadened. Organizations established during this period include the Alhambra American Legion Auxiliary (1920), Alhambra Community Sing (1922), Business and Professional Women's Club (1922), Kiwanis Club (1922), Knights of Columbus (1923), Camp Fire Girls (1924), Rotary Club (1924), Exchange Club (1925), Alhambra Lions Club (1927), South Alhambra Woman's Club (also known as the Tuesday Club, 1928), Granada Park Woman's Club (1929), Soroptomist Club (1933), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA, 1938), Girl Scouts Alhambra Council (1939), the Alhambra Day Nursery (1939), and the Optimist Club (1940).

School Construction and the Field Act

School construction comprised a great deal of the institutional development throughout the 1920s and 1930s and was largely motivated by two factors: the educational needs of the rapidly-expanding Alhambra community in the 1920s; and the requirements of the Field Act in the 1930s

The Alhambra High School was expanded with a commercial unit in 1921, an administration unit and auditorium in 1923, and a household arts unit in 1924. Central School opened in 1922 and was subsequently expanded in 1924. Park School opened in 1923 and was then expanded in 1937. Additions were also constructed at Garfield School, Granada School, and Ramona School in 1924; and at Garfield School, Park School, and Ynez School in 1927. By 1928, eighteen school plants were utilized to house the educational program for the Alhambra City High School District.²¹³

Marguerita School opened in 1930, and Emery Park School, which was designed by architect Richard Farrell, opened in 1931. Built in the center of a 400-acre tract of land owned by New York tobacco tycoon Charles Goodwin Emery, Emery Park Elementary School was constructed to accommodate the school-aged children of families who had purchased homes in Emery Park during the 1920s, a boom time for real estate in Alhambra.²¹⁴

The Field Act, which was enacted in 1933 following the Long Beach earthquake, was one of the first pieces of legislation to mandate earthquake-resistant construction in the United States. After the Long Beach Earthquake effectively destroyed over 230 school buildings in Southern California, lawmakers adopted the Field Act to establish safety standards for the construction of new public school buildings. The law also required school officials to inspect any existing school buildings that predated the Long Beach earthquake and renovate the buildings (if necessary) to ensure they met the new safety standards. A number of Alhambra's public schools underwent extensive renovations beginning in the 1930s as a result of Field Act requirements. This work – which often included rebuilding either a portion of or all of each existing facility – continued within the district well into the 1960s.

Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Project Administration (WPA) Projects

Institutional development slowed as the Great Depression took hold; however, some construction continued in Alhambra, funded by the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Although both programs operated under the umbrella of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, they differed in scope and funding. The PWA was established in 1933 as part of the National Industrial Recovery Act; the agency focused on large-scale infrastructure development projects such as dams, bridges, tunnels, and schools.

The WPA was established in 1935 as part of Roosevelt's Second New Deal; while the agency also focused much of its efforts on the construction of public infrastructure, WPA projects were often smaller in scope and focused at least in part on creating jobs for unemployed

²¹³ Osman R. Hull and Willard S. Ford, *Survey of the Alhambra Public Schools: Housing, Finance, Business Management*, University of Southern California Studies, second series, number 5 (Los Angeles: University of Southern California, 1928), 35.

²¹⁴ Alhambra Preservation Group, "Emery Park Elementary School Earns 2015 APG Award," *The Prose of Preservation*. January 5, 2016, <https://proseofpreservation.org/2016/01/05/emery-park-elementary-school-garners-2015-apg-award/> (accessed January 2021).

Americans. Alhambra benefitted from the implementation of a number of PWA and WPA projects during the 1930s, along with several additional efforts funded by other agencies.

WPA projects included the rehabilitation of the science building at Alhambra High School in 1935; improvements to the playground at Emery Park School in 1935; construction of the West Valley Boulevard Pedestrian Tunnel in 1935 (extant but closed); and improved school grounds at the Fremont School in 1939.

PWA projects included construction of the Alhambra High School gymnasium (designed by architect John Walker Smart) in 1935, and the construction of Mark Keppel High School, which was opened in 1940. Mark Keppel High School also included three exterior murals by noted Southern California artist Millard Sheets.

Additional New Deal construction completed during this period included the development of the Alhambra Reservoir, funded by the State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA); and the construction of the Alhambra Post Office, which was funded by the Treasury Department and featured several murals funded by the Treasury Section of Fine Arts.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as an example of civic or institutional development representing the continued civic and institutional growth of Alhambra in the period between World Wars I and II, or for an association with New Deal-era federal funding programs.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1920-1940

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers civic and institutional development in Alhambra between World Wars I and II.

Geographic Location

Located throughout the City of Alhambra.

Criteria

National Register: A California Register: 1

Associated Property Types	Institutional: Post Office, Fire and Police Station, School, Library, Hospital, Religious Building, Social Club, Cultural Institution, Fraternal Organization, Park, Civic Building, Infrastructure Improvement, Civic Amenity, Public Art
Property Type Description	Institutional property types include schools, hospitals, religious buildings (including churches, convents, rectories, and schools), clubhouses associated with social clubs or fraternal organizations, parks, civic buildings like post offices and police/fire stations, and civic amenities or infrastructure improvements like roadways and bridges.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Is an example of civic or institutional development representing the establishment and growth of Alhambra in the period between World Wars I and II

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- Represents or reflects important civic or institutional development from the period
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with a person important in Alhambra history, specific heritage group, or a New Deal-era federal funding program

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- Original use may have changed

- Signage may have changed
- Should retain the majority of features that illustrate its style or type

Theme: Commercial Development, 1920-1940

Commercial activity exploded in Alhambra as the City's population boomed. Retail trade, which covered about twenty-one blocks of the City by 1935, totaled nearly \$9 million; the city's three banks reported total resources of \$423,316,752 for that year, with about \$12 million in savings deposits.²¹⁵

The automobile became a key factor in the evolution of commercial activity during the 1920s; the shift rendered several operations obsolete in a town that, consumed with ranching and agricultural activities, had once been driven by the horse and wagon. As Robert Studer recalled, "Once the ranchers in Alhambra had kept two harness-makers busy, but with the eventual end of ranching in town, and the beginning popularity of the automobile, the harness menders left Alhambra for greener pastures elsewhere...By 1920 the horse had become extinct in Alhambra."²¹⁶ Another shift in development patterns was noted with the closure of the Alhambra Orange Growers Association; the subdivision of groves for home sites gradually cut down on the production of oranges until, in 1932, there was not enough fruit to keep the association going, and it was discontinued.²¹⁷

As some commercial sectors declined, others expanded. The beginnings of Alhambra's present-day Auto Row originated during this period as automobile dealerships began to open along Main Street, and gas stations and automobile-service operations such as the Y Service Station, the Fremont Service Station, and D'Arcy Coach Works, Kehlet's Garage, and Central Garage proliferated.

As the motion picture industry matured into the Golden Age of Cinema in the 1920s, entertainment also became big business, and live theatre and motion picture houses became popular additions during this period. By the end of the 1930s, there were five movie theaters in the city: the Alhambra Theatre (now known as the Superba Theatre); the second Alhambra Theatre (later known as the Coronet Theatre and then the Capri Theatre); the Temple Theater (later known as the El Rey Theatre), which was designed by Walker & Eisen and opened in 1921; the Alhambra Theatre, which was designed by George Weir and opened in 1924; and Bard's Garfield Egyptian Theater, which was designed by Lewis Arthur Smith and opened in 1924 as part of the Valley Grand Building.

Other businesses operating during this period included the Alhambra Bakery, Phelan & Bezata Dry Goods, LeRoy Radio Electronics, Owl Drug, John French's Inc., and Crawford's Market. Crawford's Market – the predecessor to the later Crawford's Corner developed by the same family – opened two locations of the eponymous grocery store at the corner of

²¹⁵ Studer, 163.

²¹⁶ Studer, 72.

²¹⁷ Studer, 57.

Valley Boulevard and New Avenue in 1929, and subsequently at the corner of Valley Boulevard and Ninth.

Development of the Alhambra Airport

The Alhambra Airport represented one of the principal development efforts of the period. Constructed in 1929 and dedicated in 1930, the Alhambra Airport was built to serve as the western terminal of Western Air Express, which later became known as Western Air Lines. Airport facilities included a four-story passenger terminal as well as a massive hexagonal hangar – called the “Hex-Hangar,” it was said to be the largest in the world at the time – that permitted mechanics to work on six Fokker airliners with 100-foot wingspreads at the same time.

“In its heyday, Alhambra Airport was the scene of bustling activity,” recalled Robert Studer. “It was a favorite haunt of sports aviators as well as commercial airliners.”²¹⁸ The site also served as the filming location of a number of motion pictures, including *13 Hours By Air* (1936), *Danger Flight* (1939), *Flying Blind* (1941), *They Met in Bombay* (1941), and *Flight Lieutenant* (1942).

The airport’s success was relatively short-lived; beginning in 1937 the City began to receive a number of public complaints regarding the noise generated by the airfield, as well as the potential hazards associated with its operation. As the clouds of war gathered over Europe, however, the airport was reinvigorated when Lockheed Aircraft Corporation took over the facility for service as an official shipping station for the company’s military airplane orders placed overseas.

Location Filming in Alhambra

Alhambra bears the distinction of playing host to one of the earliest instances of location filming in Southern California – one that predates even the development of permanent motion picture production facilities in the region.²¹⁹ Although some non-fiction actuality films were being made in downtown Los Angeles as early as the 1890s, the generally accepted advent of location filming in Southern California is the production of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, which was filmed in 1907 (likely in La Jolla) and released in 1908. Prior to that,

²¹⁸ Studer, 105.

²¹⁹ For a more detailed discussion of location filming in Southern California, readers may wish to consult the following: SurveyLA Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey, “Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement: Context: Entertainment Industry, 1908-1980, Theme: Filming Locations Associated with the Motion Picture and Television Broadcasting Industries, 1908-1980,” prepared for the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Office of Historic Resources by Historic Resources Group, September 2019, https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/986211ba-6d75-4251-b239-c825dd704c6f/7.5_Entertainment_FilmingLocationsMotionPictureandTelevisionBroadcastingIndustries_1908-1980.pdf (accessed November 2021). For a list of films staged in Alhambra, see “Filming Location Matching ‘Alhambra, California’ (Sorted by Release Date Ascending),” Internet Movie Database [IMDb], https://www.imdb.com/search/title/?locations=Alhambra,%20California&sort=release_date.asc (accessed November 2021).

however, the Biograph Film Company sent a cameraman to Los Angeles in June 1906 to film scenes for *A Daring Hold-Up in Southern California*, a recreation of an actual real-life robbery of passengers on a trolley car. The film, which was released in September 1906, featured scenes that had been staged in Alhambra that summer.²²⁰ A second film, *The Woman Michael Married*, was staged in the area in 1919. The polo fields of the Midwick Country Club also played host to three motion pictures as the 1920s drew to a close: *Pleasure Crazyed* (1929), *Their Own Desire* (1929), and *The Social Lion* (1930). The most notable film staged at the country club, however, is likely *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), which starred Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone, and Claude Rains.

Although Alhambra had certainly gotten an early start in the film business, it wasn't until the opening of the Alhambra Airport that the City's future as a filming location really took flight. The 1930s saw the staging of such films as *Flying High* (1931), *13 Hours by Air* (1936), *Fugitive in the Sky* (1936), and *Danger Flight* (1939). The industry's demand for the airport as a filming location would continue well into the 1940s, as the advent of World War II motivated the production of more films that highlighted military themes and featured aviation as part of the plot.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme may be significant as an excellent example of commercial development in the 1920s and 1930s, when the commercial core along Main Street grew beyond its previous boundaries, influenced by the increasing availability of the automobile.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1920-1940

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers commercial development in Alhambra between World Wars I and II.

²²⁰ See Andrew A. Erish, *Col. William N. Selig, the Man Who Invented Hollywood* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2012), 220; and "The Movies Move In: The Beginnings of a Major California Industry," *California History Nugget* IV, no. 1: 7-14, 12.

Geographic Location	Commercial activity from the period was located along Main Street.
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Commercial: One-story Building; One-story Commercial Storefront Block; Mixed-use Building; Mixed-use Commercial Block; Retail store; Commercial Office; Bank; Restaurant; Theater; Hotel/Motel; Recreational Facility; Historic District
Property Type Description	Commercial property types include the one-story building, consisting of one or more storefronts, and the multi-story mixed-use building, consisting of storefronts on the ground floor and offices, meeting spaces, or residential units above. One-story buildings were often called storefront blocks, while the multi-story mixed-use buildings were commonly known as commercial or business blocks. Buildings may be individual resources and/or contributing features to a historic district.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.
Eligibility Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates from the period of significance; and • Has a proven association with an event important in history; or • Represents important patterns and trends in commercial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra’s commercial development
Character-Defining/Associative Features:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance • May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context • May also be significant for association with important early settlers or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Replacement of storefronts is a common and acceptable alteration
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- Original use may have changed
- Storefront signage may have changed

Theme: Industrial Development, 1920-1940

Industrial development played a critical role in Alhambra's economic development in the years between the wars. As Robert Studer wrote, "Nothing in Alhambra's long history has been of any greater importance to the city than its industrial development."²²¹

Industrial development lagged for some time in Alhambra, "due, in part at least, to a lack of initiative on the part of the community," wrote Studer. "The self-image of Alhambra as a bedroom of Los Angeles was a hard one to shake."²²² In 1923, however, a group of local businessmen organized Alhambra Industrial Syndicate to facilitate the purchase of 100 acres of land in the southwestern section of Alhambra and began the direct solicitation of industrial firms to establish operations in the area. This area was ideal for manufacturing purposes, with the Southern Pacific mainline to the south on Mission Road and the Pacific Electric freight lines to the north on Main Street; power, water, gas, and electricity were available, and several paved streets lined with telephone poles provided access to trucks to Los Angeles.²²³

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce also launched a selling campaign resulting in many sites being sold to important industrial firms. Within a few years, Alhambra's industrial area was producing an estimated \$6 million worth of products and employing more than 2,000 workers, with a payroll totaling around \$2 million.²²⁴ Industrial operations included firms in the manufacturing, engineering, electrical power and supply production, welding and machine work, steel pipe and tank production, and foundries, and others.²²⁵ Among the firms to locate in the area were C.F. Braun & Co., A. L. Boyden Company, Southern California Edison Company, Southwest Welding and Machine Company, Haddon Automatic Sprinkler Company, Reliance Gas Regulator Company, American Liquid Meter Company, and the Winroth Pump Company.²²⁶

By 1938, industrial activity was sufficient to warrant the addition of a freight rail line, which originated from the Glendora, Sierra Madre, and Alhambra lines and served the Alhambra and Shorb branch.²²⁷ By 1940, with nearly 4,000 employees, the industrial firms in Alhambra were annually producing over \$8 million, ranking the area 14th in value of products in California.²²⁸ "Electronic Scrapbook of Alhambra History."

²²¹ Studer, 103.

²²² Studer, 103.

²²³ Michael Anthony Orozco, *Alhambra*, with images from the Alhambra Historical Society, Images of America (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 61.

²²⁴ Studer, 122.

²²⁵ Studer, 123.

²²⁶ Studer, 122-123.

²²⁷ "Alhambra-San Gabriel Line."

²²⁸ Studer, 123.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance	Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; or as a good example of pre-World War II industrial growth, including growth of light industrial and manufacturing uses to serve the growing population in the area.
Period of Significance	1920-1940
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers industrial development in Alhambra during the period between World Wars I and II
Geographic Location	Located throughout Alhambra, largely in proximity to rail lines along Mission Road and Main Street
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Manufacturing Facility; Transportation and Shipping-related Facility; Light Industrial Building; Quonset Hut; Infrastructure Improvement; Historic District
Property Type Description	Industrial buildings identified under this theme may represent a range of industrial building types and uses. They are often utilitarian in design but may represent architectural styles prevalent during the period of construction.
Property Type Significance	See summary statement of significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in industrial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra's industrial history; or
- Is associated with a significant industrial corporation headquartered in Alhambra

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

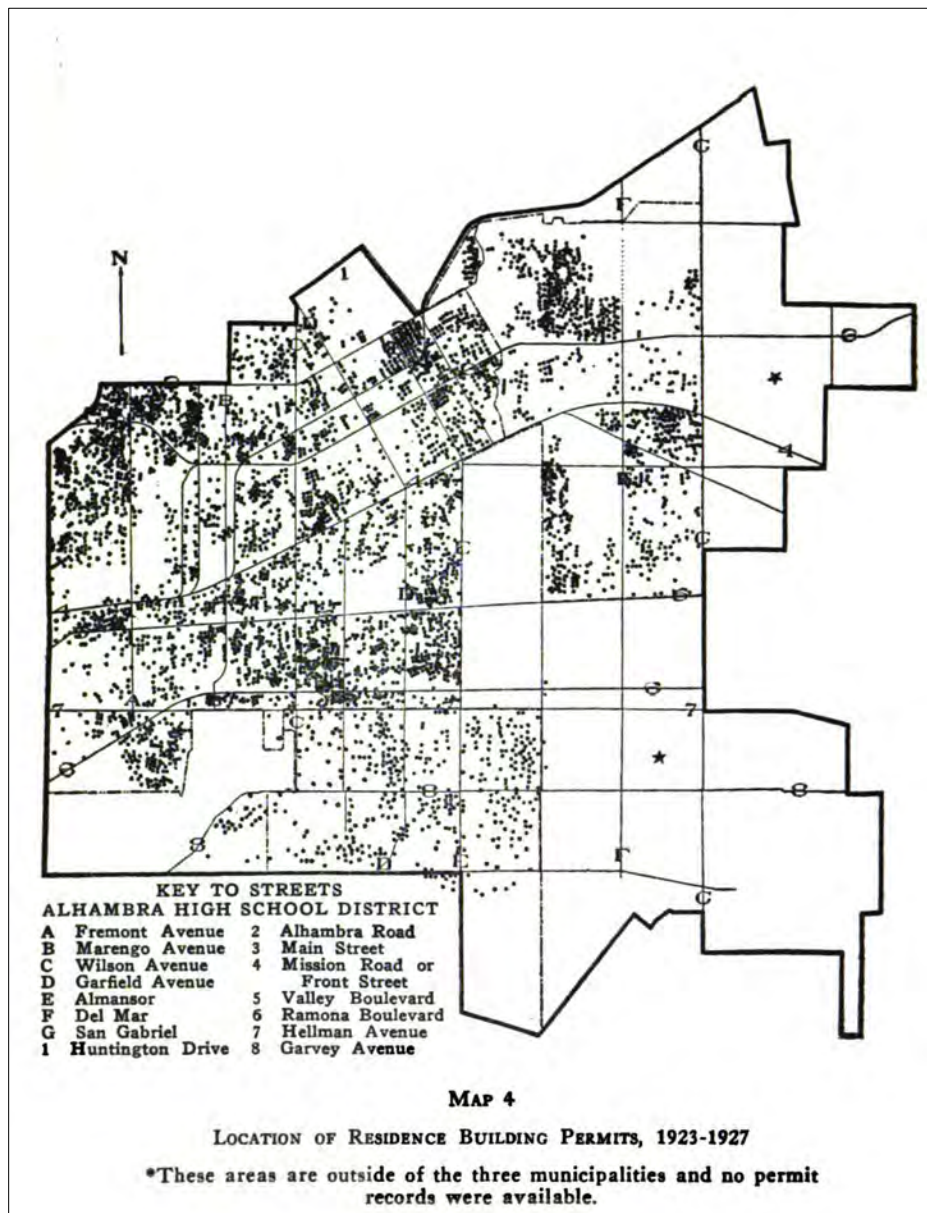
- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant for association with important persons or a specific heritage group
- May also be significant as an example of an architectural style

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Design, Feeling, and Association
- Some original materials may be altered or removed as long as the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its type

Theme: Residential Development, 1920-1940

Building permit valuations reached \$7,231,330 in 1923, a high that was not equaled until immediately after World War II.²²⁹ A record number of tracts – 118 in total – were recorded between 1920 and 1940; over one hundred of those tracts were recorded in the 1920s. Subdivision activity peaked in 1923, when forty tracts were recorded.



Location of residential building permits filed between 1923 and 1927, showing areas of growth in the City during the mid-1920s. From Osman and Hull's *Survey of the Alhambra Public Schools*, 1928.

²²⁹ "Electronic Scrapbook of Alhambra History," City of Alhambra, archived from the original on October 20, 2013 at <https://web.archive.org/web/20131030084147/http://www.cityofalhambra.org:80/community/scrapbook.html> (accessed December 2020).

Notable tracts recorded during this period included Emery Park, the Mayfair Tract, and the Orange Blossom Manor Tract. Emery Park, which was located west of Fremont Avenue and south of Main Street, comprised 500 acres of land that had once been part of Dolgeville and was later annexed to the City of Alhambra in 1908. The Mayfair Tract represented one of Alhambra's last major undeveloped parcels, comprising 63 acres bounded by San Marino Avenue on the north, Garfield Avenue on the east, Valley Boulevard on the south, and Sixth Street on the west. The Orange Blossom Manor Tract was subdivided from land once owned by Francis Q. Story, a pioneering Alhambra citrus farmer, who began dividing his acreage during the 1920s.²³⁰



Mayfair Tract, Alhambra, 1929. *Huntington Digital Library.*

Concentrations of residences dating from this period can be found in the present-day neighborhoods of Alhambra Park, East Ramona, East Ramona Park, East Shorb, Emery Park, Emery Park Hills, Ethel Park, Lindaraxa Park, Martha Baldwin, Mayfair Park, Midwick Park/Alhambra Hills, Olive Avenue, and West Ramona.

One of the most notable residences constructed during the 1920s was the Pyrenees Castle, which was commissioned by Sylvestre Dupuy. Dupuy, who had been raised in France, settled in the San Gabriel Valley with his family in 1910, where he dabbled in agriculture and ranching, as well as real estate development and oil. Enjoying the financial fruits of his labor, Dupuy commissioned architect John Walker Smart to design an expansive estate reminiscent

²³⁰ Alhambra Preservation Group, "Focus On: Alhambra's 1920s Neighborhoods," *The Prose of Preservation*, September 27, 2020, <https://proseofpreservation.org/2020/09/27/focus-on-alhambra-1920s-neighborhoods/> (accessed January 2021).

of the chateaux Dupuy recalled from his childhood. The result was the Pyrenees Castle, which was completed in 1926. The estate gardens were elaborate that the landscaping was not yet complete when Dupuy died eleven years later in 1937.



Sylvester Dupuy Residence.
Security Pacific National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme include single- and multi- family residences constructed in the 118 tracts recorded between 1920 and 1940. Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; for an association with a specific heritage group or a person important in local, state, or national history; for exemplifying an important trend or pattern of development (typically, as contributors to historic districts); or as a rare or remnant example of early residential development.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

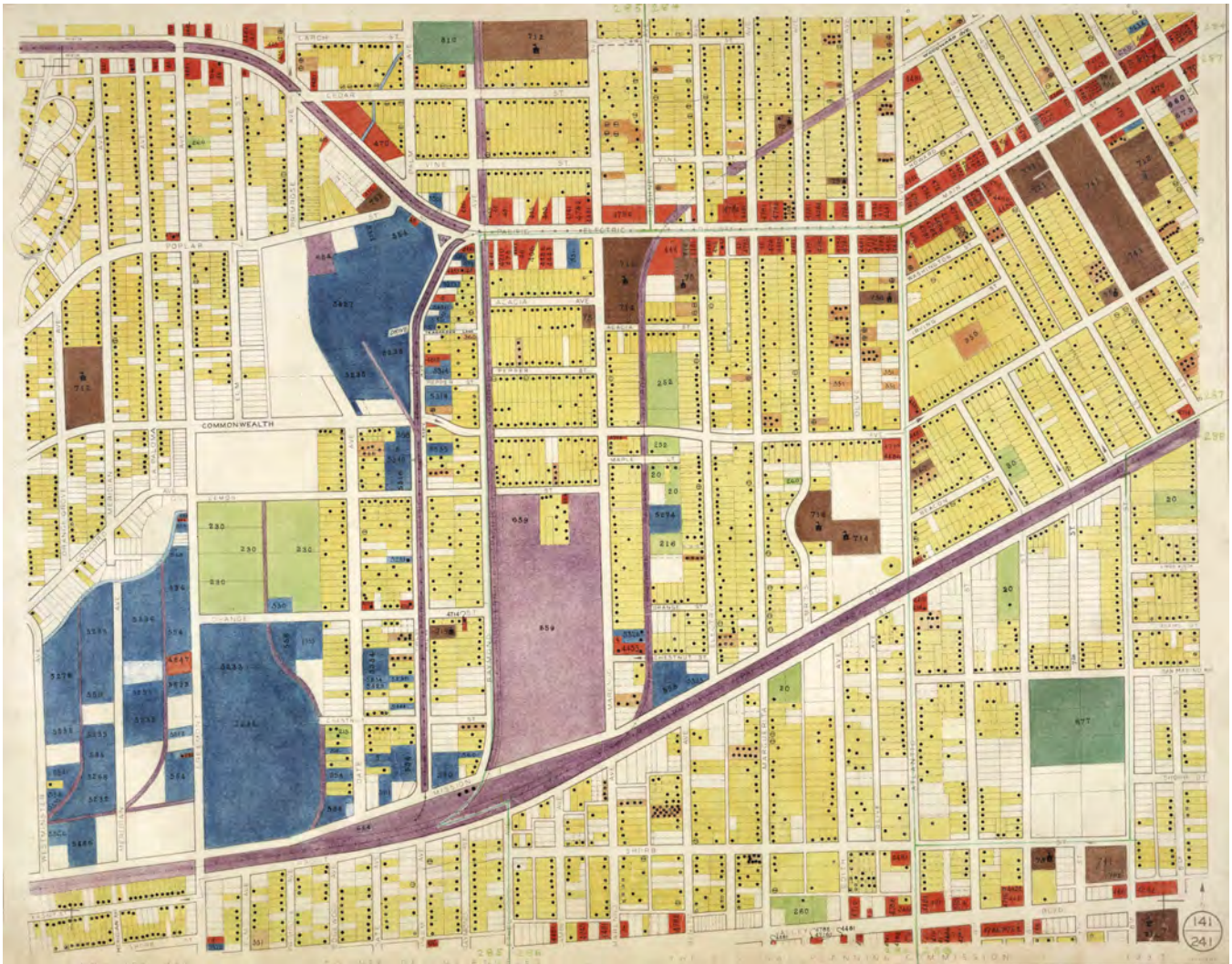
Period of Significance	1920-1940
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers residential development in Alhambra during the period between World Wars I and II
Geographic Location	Located throughout the City of Alhambra.
Criteria	National Register: A, B California Register: 1, 2
Associated Property Types	Residential: Single Family Residence, Multi-Family Residence, Tract Feature/Amenity, Historic District
Property Type Description	Significant property types are those representing important periods of early residential development in this part of Alhambra, including single- and multi-family residences, tract features and amenities including street trees/other significant landscape features and street lights, and historic districts.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.
Eligibility Standards:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates from the period of significance; and • Has a proven association with an event important in history; or • Represents an important pattern or trend in residential development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra residential development; or • Has a proven association with a significant person's productive life, reflecting the time period when they achieved significance; or • Has a proven association with a specific heritage group

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, and Feeling
 - Properties eligible for association with an event, heritage group, or significant person should also retain integrity of Association.
- Some original materials may be altered or removed if the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation.
- For historic districts, the majority of the components that add to the district's historic character must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.
 - A contributing property must retain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association to adequately convey the significance of the historic district.
 - Some alterations to individual buildings, such as replacement roof materials, replacement garage doors, and replacement of windows within original openings may be acceptable as long as the district as a whole continues to convey its significance.
 - Original tract features may also be contributing features to a historic district under this theme.



Land use map showing part of Alhambra, 1936/1937. Sheet 12 of Book 14, County Surveyor Coordinates 141/241.
Huntington Library.

IX. ALHAMBRA DURING WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)

Japan's attack on the American naval fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, marked the United States' entrance into World War II. Alhambra's population increased during this period, as "people from all over the United States moved to Southern California to find employment in the arms industry."²³¹

Unlike World War I, which – having been conducted on foreign shores – had had little impact on daily life in America, this time the war prompted a marked change in both the daily life and development of Alhambra. The City of Alhambra was now considered to be a combat zone, and for the first time a U.S. Army unit was stationed in the city. The Headquarters Battery 78th Regiment Anti-Aircraft Artillery was housed in a large building located at the corner of Sixth and Main Streets, and a restaurant across the street, the Little Dutch Garden, was converted into a mess hall.²³² A Victory House was also constructed next to the old City Hall at Second and Main Streets for the sale of war bonds and savings stamps.²³³ And, with wartime gasoline rationing in full effect, the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce launched the Hi Neighbor parade as an attempt to encourage residents to conserve gasoline and keep commerce local.²³⁴ The luncheon, which was open to both residents and local merchants, became a tradition that continued for over thirty years.

POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, AND EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES DURING WORLD WAR II

Two principal policies influenced population and immigration during this brief period: Executive Order 9066 and the Magnuson Act. The most significant by far was Executive Order 9066, which called for the removal of Japanese from the West Coast.

Executive Order 9066

Envy over economic success combined with distrust over cultural separateness and long-standing anti-Asian racism turned into disaster when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.²³⁵ Lobbyists from western states, many representing competing economic interests or nativist groups, pressured Congress and the President to remove persons of Japanese descent from the west coast, both *Issei*, or foreign-born first-generation Japanese; as well as *Nisei*, or American-born second-generation Japanese who had become American citizens. During Congressional committee hearings, Department of Justice representatives raised constitutional and ethical objections to the proposal, so the U.S. Army

²³¹ Orozco, 8.

²³² Studer, 113.

²³³ Risher, 79.

²³⁴ Risher, 84-85.

²³⁵ The following discussion has been excerpted and adapted from "Executive Order 9066: Resulting in the Relocation of Japanese (1942)," <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=74> (accessed November 2021).

carried out the task instead. The West Coast was divided into military zones, and on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing exclusion. Congress then implemented the order on March 21, 1942, by passing Public Law 503.

After encouraging voluntary evacuation of the areas, the Western Defense Command began involuntary removal and detention of West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry. In the next six months, approximately 122,000 men, women, and children were moved to assembly centers. They were then evacuated to and confined in isolated, fenced, and guarded relocation centers, known as internment camps. The 10 relocation sites were in remote areas in six western states and Arkansas: Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Tule Lake and Manzanar in California, Topaz in Utah, Poston and Gila River in Arizona, Granada in Colorado, Minidoka in Idaho, and Jerome and Rowher in Arkansas.

Nearly 70,000 of the evacuees were American citizens. The government made no charges against them, nor could they appeal their incarceration. All lost personal liberties; most lost homes and property as well. Although several Japanese Americans challenged the government's actions in court cases, the Supreme Court upheld their legality. *Nisei* were nevertheless encouraged to serve in the armed forces, and some were also drafted. Altogether, more than 30,000 Japanese Americans served with distinction during World War II in segregated units.

Magnuson Act

In 1943, Congress passed the Magnuson Act, a measure to repeal the discriminatory exclusion laws against Chinese immigrants and to establish an immigration quota for China of around 105 visas per year.²³⁶ As such, the Chinese were both the first to be excluded in the beginning of the era of immigration restriction and the first Asians to gain entry to the United States in the era of liberalization. The repeal of this act was a decision almost wholly grounded in the exigencies of World War II, as Japanese propaganda made repeated reference to Chinese exclusion from the United States in order to weaken the ties between the United States and its ally, the Republic of China. The fact that in addition to general measures preventing Asian immigration, the Chinese were subject to their own, unique prohibition had long been a source of contention in Sino-American relations. There was little opposition to the repeal, because the United States already had in place a number of measures to ensure that, even without the Chinese Exclusion Laws explicitly forbidding Chinese immigration, Chinese still could not enter. The Immigration Act of 1924 had stated that aliens ineligible for U.S. citizenship were not permitted to enter the United States, and this included the Chinese.

²³⁶ The following discussion has been excerpted and adapted from U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, "Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, 1943," <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/chinese-exclusion-act-repeal> (accessed November 2021).

In light of the overall immigration to the United States, at first glance the new quota seemed insignificant. Yet, those concerned about an onslaught of Chinese (or Asian) immigration and its potential impact on American society and racial composition believed that even this small quota represented an opening wedge through which potentially thousands of Chinese could enter the United States. Because migration within the Western Hemisphere was not regulated by the quota system, it seemed possible that Chinese residents in Central and South America would re-migrate to the United States. Moreover, if the Chinese of Hong Kong were to apply under the vast, largely unused British quota, thousands could enter each year on top of the number of available Chinese visas.

Fears about the economic, social, and racial effect of a “floodtide” of Chinese immigrants led to a compromise bill—fears that mirrored the xenophobic arguments that had led to Chinese Exclusion in the first place, some sixty years previously. Under this bill, there would be a quota on Chinese immigration, but, unlike European quotas based on country of citizenship, the Chinese quota would be based on ethnicity. Chinese immigrating to the United States from anywhere in the world would be counted against the Chinese quota, even if they had never been to China or had never held Chinese nationality. Creating this special, ethnic quota for the Chinese was a way for the United States to combat Japanese propaganda by proclaiming that Chinese were welcome, but at the same time, to ensure that only a limited number of Chinese actually entered the country.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt threw the weight of his office behind the compromise measure, connecting the importance of the measure to American wartime goals. In a letter to Congress, Roosevelt wrote that passing the bill was vital to correcting the “historic mistake” of Chinese exclusion, and he emphasized that the legislation was “important in the cause of winning the war and of establishing a secure peace.”²³⁷

MUNICIPAL GROWTH IN ALHAMBRA, 1941-1945

Transportation and Modernization

Beginning in 1940, the Pacific Electric Railway inaugurated a Modernization Program that proposed a number of changes to existing rail lines. As part of this program, Pacific Electric asked the Public Utilities Commission for permission to abandon the Alhambra Line “Red Cars” and replace passenger service with buses. The final run was made on November 30, 1941.

Alhambra was first of the major interurbans to “go bus,” only one week before Pearl Harbor, although a number of interurban lines would eventually be replaced in a similar

²³⁷ U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, “Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, 1943.”

fashion.²³⁸ Existing trackage was retained for freight service between Sierra Vista and West Alhambra throughout the war, but later abandoned in 1951.²³⁹

Annexations

Beginning in the 1940s, the City of Alhambra began to annex additional land to expand its boundaries for the first time in fifteen years. These annexations comprised land in the eastern and southern portions of present-day Alhambra and primarily represented areas that would be subdivided for further residential development in the years following World War II, largely on the former sites of the Midwick Country Club and the Alhambra Airport.

During World War II, the Alhambra Airport became an official shipping point for Lockheed’s military airplanes, including large numbers of P-38 Lightning fighters.²⁴⁰ In 1945, the airport was purchased by the Harlow Aircraft Company, which used the site to manufacture small aircraft until the business failed a year later; the property was subsequently sold for residential development. The land comprising the airport was annexed in 1944 as part of the T. W. A. Airport annexation.

The Midwick Country Club had been experiencing financial difficulties for some time before World War II. As Former SCGA Amateur and California Amateur champion Charles Seaver remembers recalled, “The reason it died wasn't really the Depression. Instead, it was that the club stopped reaching out for new members and eventually the membership just started dying off until it was too late.”²⁴¹ After defaulting on its bonds, the club was sold at public auction in 1941 to Alhambra “Banana King” Dominic Jebbia, for \$178,000.²⁴² Lease negotiations with the City of Alhambra to operate the property as a public park fell through, and for a time it continued operate as a private club known as the Southern California Golf Club. Then, in 1944, a fire swept the property, destroying the iconic clubhouse. The property continued to operate as a public course for several years until it was subdivided for residential development. The land comprising the Midwick Country Club was acquired through multiple annexations, one of the earliest being the Midwick Addition No. 2 in 1941.

Smaller annexations, such as the Pasadena Annex No. 1, the Ramona Boulevard annexation, and the Hellman Avenue annexation, consisted of much smaller portions of land, but served equally important purposes. The Pasadena Annex No. 1 represented land offered to the City of Alhambra by the City of Pasadena in an effort to prevent the City of San Gabriel – which had been negotiating with residents to the south to form an annexation district – from

²³⁸ “Rail Service Abolished on Northern District,” *Timepoints* 3, no. 4 (October 1951).

²³⁹ “Alhambra-San Gabriel Line.”

²⁴⁰ “Alhambra Airport/Western Air College Airport, Alhambra, CA,” Abandoned & Little-Known Airfields, revised June 17, 2020, http://www.airfields-freeman.com/CA/Airfields_CA_LA_E.htm#alhambra (accessed January 2021).

²⁴¹ “SCGA History, Part 2: 1920-1939,” Southern California Golf Association, <https://www.scga.org/about/scga-history/part-2#ch1> (accessed March 2021).

²⁴² Studer, 108.

annexing the entire Crown City Ranch property and assuming control of the Tri-City Sewer Farm.²⁴³

Table 8: Annexations, 1941-1945

Effective Date	Annexation Name
11/28/1941	Midwick Addition No. 2
11/30/1944	Pasadena Annex No. 1
12/18/1944	Mark Keppel
12/21/1944	T. W. A. Airport
4/23/1945	Ramona Boulevard
4/23/1945	Hellman Avenue

DEVELOPMENT IN ALHAMBRA, 1941-1945

Extant resources dating to this period are located throughout the City. Single-family properties in the City of Alhambra constructed between 1941 and 1945 are relatively rare, and were largely constructed in the three tracts subdivided during the period. These tracts were spread across the City, but only numbered 77 parcels in total. Residences from this period represent modest one-story vernacular residences as well as examples of prominent architectural styles of the period, including Minimal Traditional and Ranch. Commercial activity from the period continued to expand along Main Street and began to populate Mission Road and Valley Boulevard as well.

Theme: Civic and Institutional Development, 1941-1945

Many of the clubs and social organizations formed during this period were dedicated to the wartime effort, or to the support of soldiers and families affected by the war, including the Alhambra U.S.O. (dedicated 1942), the American Women's Voluntary Service, the Navy Mother's Club (1942), and the Blue Star Mothers (1943).

The Red Cross prevailed as the most influential and important organization of the period, due in large part to the support services they provided for the war effort, which included first aid classes held "were in almost continuous session."²⁴⁴ With so many additional demands for services, a new Red Cross chapter house was constructed on Bushnell Avenue in April 1942 - the Red Cross's one-third interest in the police department's two-way radio communication system was surrendered in payment for the land.²⁴⁵ A garage was built to

²⁴³ "Land Offered to Alhambra," *Pasadena Star-News*, August 24, 1944.

²⁴⁴ Studer, 112.

²⁴⁵ Studer, 202.

house a new donated ambulance, and in 1944 an addition was added by moving a building from Camp Santa Anita.²⁴⁶

A U.S.O. club was also opened in 1942 on the ground floor of the Andres Building at Main Street and Atlantic Boulevard. Building owner Frank Andres donated the space rent-free, and a canteen was opened with free service for men in uniform.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as an example of civic or institutional development representing the continued civic and institutional growth of Alhambra during World War II.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1941-1945

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers civic and institutional development in Alhambra during World War II.

Geographic Location

Located throughout the City of Alhambra.

Criteria

National Register: A California Register: 1

Associated Property Types

Institutional: Post Office, Fire and Police Station, School, Library, Hospital, Religious Building, Social Club, Cultural Institution, Fraternal Organization, Park, Civic Building, Infrastructure Improvement, Civic Amenity

Property Type Description

Institutional property types include schools, hospitals, religious buildings (including churches, convents, rectories, and schools), clubhouses associated with social clubs or fraternal organizations, parks, civic buildings like post offices

²⁴⁶ Studer, 203.

and police/fire stations, and civic amenities or infrastructure improvements like roadways and bridges.

Property Type Significance See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Is an example of civic or institutional development representing the growth of Alhambra during World War II

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- Represents or reflects important civic or institutional development from the period
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with a person important in Alhambra history or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- Original use may have changed
- Signage may have changed
- Should retain the majority of features that illustrate its style or type

Theme: Commercial Development, 1941-1945

As Alhambra was already an established center of industry, economic activity exploded in the City as nearby factories were converted for war use and new residents relocated to the area to work in the defense industry. By 1941, retail trade had jumped to \$15 million and the city's industrial output was estimated at \$25,380,000; the retail area had expanded to cover almost 35 blocks of retail stores and shops, and the city's jobbing territory served more than 150,000 persons.²⁴⁷ However, despite the increased economic activity, commercial *construction* during this period was limited as building materials were diverted to the defense industry to assist with the war effort.

As retail boomed, a number of new shops and restaurants opened in Alhambra during the war years. Included among them are some of the city's most beloved establishments, including Fosselman's Ice Cream, which opened an ice cream parlor at 1824 West Main Street in 1941. Bun 'n Burger also opened that same year at 1000 East Main Street in a building designed by architect Walter Zick, and remains in operation today. The eighteenth and final location of the Chili Bowl restaurant chain also opened in Alhambra in 1941 at 501 West Valley Boulevard; the building is now home to the Kim Chuy Restaurant. However, the building continues to retain its distinctive chili bowl-shaped form.

Retail operations included the beloved Pedrini's Music Store, which opened on Main Street around 1941 and remained in operation for nearly sixty years until the building was subdivided in 2001.

Location Filming in Alhambra

War, along with its many horrors, had been the subject of films since the dawn of the industry. However, the 1940s represented the first time that Hollywood's depictions of war – complete with sound and all the effects it allowed – would play alongside an *actual* war in real time, rather than merely depicting a historical battle. This unique circumstance presented filmmakers with an opportunity to harness the power and reach of the medium to communicate patriotic, pro-American messages to the general public.

By this time, motion pictures were firmly established as the prevailing form of popular entertainment in America. However, the function of films during this period extended far beyond merely serving as vehicles for entertainment. Their distribution played a critical role in communicating certain ideas and values to a widespread audience. This quality was one that filmmakers hoped to harness during the years of World War II, when motion pictures had the power to promote the country's wartime policy interests. To that end, films released during this period emphasized themes of patriotism, personal sacrifice, and a larger national identity.

²⁴⁷ Studer, 123.

As a result, filming activity in Alhambra peaked during this comparatively short period as filmmakers sought to capitalize on the City's picture-perfect airport, which proved to be the perfect setting for a growing number of films featuring aviation, military, and combat themes. Films staged in Alhambra during this period include *Flying Wild* (1941); *They Met in Bombay* (1941), with Clark Gable, Rosalind Russell, and Peter Lorre; *International Squadron* (1941), with Ronald Reagan; *Flying Blind* (1941); *They Died With Their Boots On* (1941), with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland; and *Flight Lieutenant* (1942).

Although the Alhambra Airport was the star of the show for filming activities during this period, the Midwick Country Club also made a cameo in *National Velvet* (1944), which starred a then-twelve-year-old Elizabeth Taylor.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme may be significant as an excellent example of commercial development during World War II, when economic activity in the City rapidly expanded to cater to new defense workers in the area.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1941-1945

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers commercial development in Alhambra during World War II.

Geographic Location

Commercial activity from the period was located along Main Street.

Criteria

National Register: A California Register: 1

Associated Property Types

Commercial: One-story Building; One-story Commercial Storefront Block; Mixed-use Building; Mixed-use Commercial Block; Retail store; Commercial Office; Bank; Restaurant; Theater; Hotel/Motel; Recreational Facility; Historic District

Property Type Description Commercial property types include the one-story building, consisting of one or more storefronts, and the multi-story mixed-use building, consisting of storefronts on the ground floor and offices, meeting spaces, or residential units above. One-story buildings were often called storefront blocks, while the multi-story mixed-use buildings were commonly known as commercial or business blocks. Buildings may be individual resources and/or contributing features to a historic district.

Property Type Significance See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in commercial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra’s commercial development

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with important early settlers or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Workmanship, and Feeling
- Replacement of storefronts is a common and acceptable alteration
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- Original use may have changed
- Storefront signage may have changed

Theme: Industrial Development, 1941-1945

Industrial growth in the City exploded during World War II as “great airplane factories and shipyards increased their turnout of war material and hundreds of small plants sprang up to manufacture the various articles of battle.”²⁴⁸ Many facilities were converted for wartime production. According to Robert Studer, “The city’s industrial...growth was going at full speed by 1942 with war contracts and defense spending.”²⁴⁹ The Standard Felt Corporation was one such factory operating at maximum capacity producing felts for aircraft, tanks, and rockets.²⁵⁰

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance	Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; or as an important example of the local war effort.
Period of Significance	1941-1945
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers industrial development in Alhambra during World War II
Geographic Location	Located throughout Alhambra, largely in proximity to rail lines along Mission Road and Main Street, and at the former Alhambra Airport
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Manufacturing Facility; Transportation and Shipping-related Facility; Light Industrial Building; Quonset Hut; Infrastructure Improvement; Historic District
Property Type Description	Industrial buildings identified under this theme may represent a range of industrial building types and uses. They are often utilitarian in design but may represent architectural styles prevalent during the period of construction.
Property Type Significance	See summary statement of significance above.

²⁴⁸ Studer, 112.

²⁴⁹ Studer, 123.

²⁵⁰ Risher, 31.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in industrial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra's industrial history; or
- Is associated with a significant industrial corporation headquartered in Alhambra

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant for association with important persons or a specific heritage group
- May also be significant as an example of an architectural style

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Design, Feeling, and Association
- Some original materials may be altered or removed as long as the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its type

Theme: Residential Development, 1941-1945

Residential construction was largely halted during the mid-1940s so that much-needed building materials could be diverted to the war effort. However, three modest residential subdivisions were recorded during this period, placing a total of 77 additional residential parcels on the market, and assessor tax records suggest that individual residential lots were improved during this period, though no large-scale development efforts took place.

Table 9: Tracts Recorded, 1941-1945

Date Recorded	Tract Name/No.	Map Book No.	Owners
10/31/1941	Tract No. 11536	TR0248-011	Henry Dupuy, Frank Dupuy, Marie Dupuy Russell, Anna Dupuy
12/18/1941	Tract No. 13074	TR0249-009	Pedro Goyeneche, Juana Goyeneche
6/12/1945	Tract No. 12774	TR0266-015	Jacob Bean Securities Company, City of Alhambra

Tract No. 12774 consisted of 45 lots flanking Story Place between Cynthia Street to the north and Alhambra Road to the south, while Tract No. 12074 consisted of ten lots on the west side of Eighth Street, just south of Front Street. Tract No. 11536 represented the subdivision of a portion of the original extent of the estate associated with the “Pyrenees Castle” residence built by Sylvestre Dupuy in 1926. Dupuy subsequently died in 1937; his family continued to reside at the estate for another ten years, subdividing the northern portion of the property that fronted Valley Boulevard into twenty-two residential lots. The main residence was sold the following year to real estate developer and race car enthusiast E. T. Bondurant.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme include single- and multi- family residences constructed in the three tracts recorded between 1941 and 1945. Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; for an association with a specific heritage group or a person important in local, state, or national history; for exemplifying an important trend or pattern of development (typically, as contributors to historic districts).

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance	1941-1945
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers residential development in Alhambra during World War II
Geographic Location	Located throughout the City of Alhambra.
Criteria	National Register: A, B California Register: 1, 2
Associated Property Types	Residential: Single Family Residence, Multi-Family Residence, Tract Feature/Amenity, Historic District
Property Type Description	Significant property types are those representing important periods of early residential development in this part of Alhambra, including single- and multi-family residences, tract features and amenities including street trees/other significant landscape features and street lights, and historic districts.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents an important pattern or trend in residential development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra residential development; or
- Has a proven association with a significant person's productive life, reflecting the time period when they achieved significance; or
- Has a proven association with a specific heritage group

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, and Feeling
 - Properties eligible for association with an event, heritage group, or significant person should also retain integrity of Association.
- Some original materials may be altered or removed if the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation.
- For historic districts, the majority of the components that add to the district's historic character must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.
 - A contributing property must retain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association to adequately convey the significance of the historic district.
 - Some alterations to individual buildings, such as replacement roof materials, replacement garage doors, and replacement of windows within original openings may be acceptable as long as the district as a whole continues to convey its significance.
 - Original tract features may also be contributing features to a historic district under this theme.



Midwick Hill Country Club 1932 Midwick Tract 1953 Spence Air Photo from Westways 1953 #2



Photo comparison showing the subdivision of Midwick Country Club, one of the largest development projects that defined the postwar era. *Midwick Tract Development Project website.*

X. POSTWAR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY (1946-1967)

Along with many communities throughout California, the City of Alhambra experienced tremendous growth in the years following World War II as returning GIs sought homes for their young families and defense workers who had relocated to the area for the duration of the war opted to stay. The resultant physical development and demand for housing and services transformed the landscape of Alhambra with higher-density development in every sector.

In 1964, the City of Alhambra engaged the noted planner and architect Victor Gruen to develop a master plan of the City's projected growth over a twenty-year period.²⁵¹ By that time the City was already considering options for redevelopment; at the time it was noted that the plan could "pave the way for Alhambra to further consider the necessity of an urban renewal project," noting that "compiling a projected plan of the city is mandatory before urban renewal could be instituted."²⁵² In 1965, the City adopted its first General Plan.

POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, AND EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES OF THE EARLY POSTWAR ERA

For many years after the war, various individuals and groups sought compensation for Japanese who had been incarcerated during World War II.²⁵³ The speed of the evacuation had forced many homeowners and businessmen to sell out quickly; total property loss is estimated at \$1.3 billion, and net income loss at \$2.7 billion (calculated in 1983 dollars based on the Commission investigation below). The Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act of 1948, with amendments in 1951 and 1965, provided token payments for some property losses.

The repeal of Chinese exclusion during World War II paved the way for measures in 1946 to admit Filipino and Asian-Indian immigrants.²⁵⁴ The exclusion of both of these groups had long damaged U.S. relations with the Philippines and India. Eventually, Asian exclusion ended with the 1952 Immigration Act, although that Act followed the pattern of the Chinese quota and assigned racial, not national, quotas to all Asian immigrants. This system did not

²⁵¹ "Planning Survey, Pay Raises to Be Discussed," *Los Angeles Times*, May 13, 1964.

²⁵² "Planning Survey, Pay Raises to Be Discussed," *Los Angeles Times*, May 13, 1964.

²⁵³ The following discussion has been excerpted and adapted from "Executive Order 9066: Resulting in the Relocation of Japanese (1942)," <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=74> (accessed November 2021). More serious efforts to make amends took place in the early 1980s, when the congressionally established Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians held investigations and made recommendations. As a result, several bills were introduced in Congress from 1984 until 1988, when Public Law 100-383, which acknowledged the injustice of the internment, apologized for it, and provided for restitution, was passed.

²⁵⁴ The following discussion has been excerpted and adapted from U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, "Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, 1943," <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/chinese-exclusion-act-repeal> (accessed November 2021).

end until Congress did away with the National Origins quota system altogether in the Immigration Act of 1965.

The decades following the massive suburbanization after World War II led to demographic shifts in Southern California communities. During this era the demographics of Alhambra and the larger San Gabriel Valley began to evolve away from a predominantly Anglo population to a multicultural and diverse community. In the 1950s, Italian Americans settled in Alhambra’s pre-war bungalows. In the following decade, the Latinx community moved from surrounding areas to Alhambra.²⁵⁵

The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act ended discriminatory quotas favoring Europeans over Chinese and other non-European immigrants, which allowed a diverse population of Chinese to immigrate to the United States, with many settling in the San Gabriel Valley.²⁵⁶ In the decades following, Alhambra, along with many other San Gabriel Valley communities, developed into an ethnoburb. Geographer Wei Li describes ethnoburbs as “suburban ethnic clusters of residential and business districts within large metropolitan areas. They are multiracial/multiethnic, multicultural, multilingual, and often multinational communities in which one ethnic group has significant concentration but does not necessarily comprise the majority.”²⁵⁷

Table 10: Population in Alhambra by Decade, 1946-1967²⁵⁸

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1950	51,129	(10)	116	(27)	 	(48)	114	51,359
1960	54,483	31	89	56	26	107	15	54,807

Table 11: Rate of Population Growth in Alhambra by Decade, 1946-1967

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1950	31.99%	42.88%	46.84%	170.00%	—	-23.81%	-4.20%	31.91%
1960	6.56%	210.00%	-23.28%	107.41%	—	122.92%	-86.84%	6.71%

²⁵⁵ Denise Lawrence-Zuniga, “Bungalows and Mansions,” 821.

²⁵⁶ Amy Luu, “The Chinese American Experience in the San Gabriel Valley,” Chinese American Museum, Summer 1999, archived from the original on January 12, 2008 at <https://web.archive.org/web/20080112153600/http://www.camla.org/history/sangabri.htm> (accessed January 2021).

²⁵⁷ Denise Lawrence-Zuniga, “Bungalows and Mansions,” 830.

²⁵⁸ Numbers in parentheses represent breakdowns of some races included in the “Other Races” category.

POST-WORLD WAR II GROWTH IN ALHAMBRA, 1946-1967

Annexations

In the years following the war, the City of Alhambra continued a program of annexation to acquire and subdivide land for further residential development in the eastern and southern regions of the present-day City. Of the sixteen annexations recorded during this period, eight comprised land formerly part of the Midwick Country Club. The remaining eight annexations included land located largely in the area bounded by Mission Road to the north, South New Avenue to the east, Valley Boulevard to the south, and South Almansor Street to the west.

Table 12: Annexations, 1946-1967

Effective Date	Annexation Name
5/12/1947	Midwick Country Club No. 1
5/12/1947	Pasadena Annex No. 2
5/26/1947	Midwick Country Club No. 2
12/20/1947	Pasadena Annex No. 3
1/15/1948	Hellman Midwick
1/15/1948	Pasadena Annex No. 4
8/10/1948	Pasadena Annex No. 5
8/30/1948	Midwick Country Club No. 3
5/13/1949	Granada Park Annex
9/10/1949	Midwick Country Club No. 4
11/18/1950	Midwick Country Club No. 5
2/7/ 1951	Pasadena Annex No. 6
10/13/1953	San Gabriel Annex No. 1
5/31/1955	L.A. Co. Annex No. 1 (1955)
10/18/1957	L. A. Co. Annex No. 2
1/27/1964	Alhambra Hills C. R. 01-27-64

DEVELOPMENT IN ALHAMBRA, 1946-1967

Extant resources dating to this period are located throughout the city. Single-family properties in the City of Alhambra constructed between 1946 and 1967 are among the most prevalent in the City. Residences from this period represent modest one-story vernacular residences as well as modest and high style examples of prominent architectural styles of the period, including Minimal Traditional, Ranch, and Mid-Century Modern. Commercial activity from the period continued to expand along Main Street, Mission Road, and Valley Boulevard, as the streets transformed into busy commercial thoroughfares. Institutional

development was located throughout the City to cater to the growing population near their homes.

Theme: Civic and Institutional Development, 1946-1967

A number of new institutions were added during this period and existing institutional facilities were expanded to meet the needs of the growing community.

Two additional elementary schools, Martha Baldwin School and William Northrup School, opened in 1950. The San Gabriel High School later became the newest addition to the Alhambra School District when it opened in September 1955. Constructed at a cost of \$3,400,000, the school was erected at the easternmost edge of the City of Alhambra; a small portion of the property falls within the boundary of the City of San Gabriel.

Municipal services were expanded as well; a new police headquarters was constructed at the southeast corner of Woodward Avenue and Third Street in 1955. The fire department also received two new facilities: in 1950 the fire station at Poplar Boulevard was demolished and a new building constructed to replace it.²⁵⁹ Then in, 1966, the North Stoneman Avenue fire station headquarters – which had been in operation since 1908 – was relocated to a site at the northwest corner of First Street and Woodward Avenue, and a new, larger building was erected.²⁶⁰ The most notable project, however, was the construction of a new city hall, which was designed by architect William Allen and constructed in 1960.²⁶¹



Alhambra City Hall, circa 1960. *CardCow.com*.

²⁵⁹ Risher, 76.

²⁶⁰ Risher, 76.

²⁶¹ “City Accepts New Home,” *Pasadena Independent*, December 15, 1960.

The 1950s also saw an expansion of medical facilities in Alhambra. The existing Alhambra Hospital was incorporated as a non-profit and renamed the Alhambra Community Hospital. In 1958, a \$30,000 modernization program supplemented a \$200,000 expansion program, which raised the hospital's capacity from 45 to 64 beds.²⁶²

Several additional park facilities were also developed beginning in the late 1940s. Almansor Park, which opened in 1947, consisted of land acquired from the Crown City Ranch that had formerly served as Memorial Park. In 1951, an additional 104 acres of land were purchased from the Crown City Ranch to expand Almansor Park, and the Almansor Park Recreation Building was completed. The Emery Park Youth Center also opened in 1947, and the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course was completed in 1955.

Religious services expanded with the construction of the St. Thomas More Catholic Church on South Fremont Avenue in 1948, and the completion of the St. Therese Roman Catholic Church, designed by architect J. Earl Trudeau, at the southeast corner of El Molino Avenue and Alhambra Road in 1950.

Social and cultural organizations also flourished during this period; among the clubs organized were the Alhambra Mental Health Association (1949), Alhambra Woman's Club Juniors (1949), the Civitan Club (1949), the Golden Age Club (1949), the Granada Masonic Lodge (1949), the Sertoma Club (1953), and the Junior Chamber Clown Club (1958).

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; or as an example of post-World War II civic or institutional development to serve the growing population in the postwar era.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1946-1967

²⁶² Studer, 173.

Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers civic and institutional development in Alhambra during the period immediately following World War II.
Geographic Location	Located throughout the City of Alhambra.
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Institutional: Post Office, Fire and Police Station, Civic Building (including City Hall), School, Library, Hospital, Religious Building, Social Club, Cultural Institution, Fraternal Organization, Park, Civic Building, Infrastructure Improvement, Civic Amenity
Property Type Description	Institutional property types include schools, hospitals, religious buildings (including churches, convents, rectories, and schools), clubhouses associated with social clubs or fraternal organizations, parks, civic buildings like post offices and police/fire stations, and civic amenities or infrastructure improvements like roadways and bridges.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Is an example of civic or institutional development representing the growth of Alhambra after World War II

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- Represents or reflects important civic or institutional development from the period
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with a person important in Alhambra history or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Setting may have changed (surrounding buildings and land uses)
- Original use may have changed
- Signage may have changed
- Should retain the majority of features that illustrate its style or type

Theme: Commercial Development, 1946-1967

Alhambra's commercial enterprises underwent a rapid transformation as a result of the postwar population boom. Retail trade jumped from \$15 million in 1941 to \$65 million in 1949,²⁶³ and a number of new businesses were constructed to meet the needs of the growing community. The commercial center of the Main Street shopping area gradually shifted to the east end of town when retail establishments like Liebergs' Department Store, Butler Brothers' Department Store, J. C. Penney, Ashburn Furniture Store, Bragg's Women's Shop, Woolworth's opened storefronts there.²⁶⁴ As a result, the retail center of Main Street moved closer to Chapel, and its historic hub at Garfield Avenue and Main Street began to decline.²⁶⁵

Valley Boulevard, once named Ocean-to-Ocean Highway, also came into its own in the 1950s as a new business artery, including a multi-million dollar shopping center at the city's eastern boundary.²⁶⁶ This trend continued into the 1960s as commercial activity on the Boulevard flourished, and number of new restaurants opened during the 1950s and 1960s, including The Hat, which opened at 1 West Valley Boulevard in 1951; Morris Steak House (now Henry's Cuisine), which was designed by Armét & Davis and constructed at 301 East Valley Boulevard in 1964;²⁶⁷ and Bob's Big Boy (now Noodle World), also designed by Armét & Davis, which opened at 600 West Valley Boulevard in 1966.

Perhaps the most notable commercial development during this period was Crawford's Corner, a commercial center developed by Wayland and Leemoria Crawford. The Crawfords had already established several grocery stores in Alhambra, but by the 1960s decided that "their growing Alhambra enterprise required a fresh image."²⁶⁸ The couple developed a 30,000-square-foot shopping complex designed in an elaborate Western theme with a bell tower, gazebo, and rustic signage.

²⁶³ "Electronic Scrapbook of Alhambra History."

²⁶⁴ Risher, 49.

²⁶⁵ Risher, 49.

²⁶⁶ "History of Alhambra (1771-Present)," City of Alhambra, <https://www.cityofalhambra.org/resources/history-of-alhambra> (accessed January 2021).

²⁶⁷ "Restaurant Set for Alhambra," *Los Angeles Times*, September 6, 1964.

²⁶⁸ Alhambra Preservation Group, "Focus On: Crawford's Corner," *The Prose of Preservation*. July 31, 2018, <https://proseofpreservation.org/2018/07/31/focus-on-crawfords-corner/> (accessed January 2021).



Crawford's Corner, circa 1964. *Alhambra Preservation Group.*

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme may be significant as an excellent example of commercial development after World War II, when economic activity in the City rapidly expanded to serve the growing population in the postwar era.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1946-1967

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers commercial development in Alhambra during the immediate post-World War II era.

Geographic Location

Commercial activity from the period was predominately located along Main Street, Mission

Road, and Valley Boulevard. The commercial center of the Main Street shopping area shifted from Garfield Avenue to Chapel during this period; Valley Boulevard began to emerge as a vibrant business corridor.

Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Commercial: One-story Building; One-story Commercial Storefront Block; Mixed-use Building; Mixed-use Commercial Block; Retail store; Commercial Office; Bank; Restaurant; Theater; Hotel/Motel; Recreational Facility; Historic District
Property Type Description	Commercial property types include the one-story building, consisting of one or more storefronts, and the multi-story mixed-use building, consisting of storefronts on the ground floor and offices, meeting spaces, or residential units above. One-story buildings were often called storefront blocks, while the multi-story mixed-use buildings were commonly known as commercial or business blocks. Buildings may be individual resources and/or contributing features to a historic district.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in commercial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra's commercial development

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Replacement of storefronts is a common and acceptable alteration
- Original use may have changed
- Storefront signage may have changed

Theme: Industrial Development, 1946-1967

Industrial operations, which had flourished during World War II, continued to operate in Alhambra throughout the immediate postwar years. The Standard Felt Company remained in operation, employing over 200 people to produce mechanical felts for strips, gaskets, and washers, and medical felts such as splint works, braces, and pads; the company's business totaled \$3,000,000 per year.²⁶⁹ By the 1960s, however, industrial operations began to decline, and industrial properties became a target of the City's redevelopment efforts.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance	Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; or as an example of post-World War II industrial development.
Period of Significance	1946-1967
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers industrial development in Alhambra during the immediate post-World War II period
Geographic Location	Located throughout Alhambra
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Manufacturing Facility; Transportation and Shipping-related Facility; Light Industrial Building; Quonset Hut; Infrastructure Improvement; Historic District
Property Type Description	Industrial buildings identified under this theme may represent a range of industrial building types and uses. They are often utilitarian in design but may represent architectural styles prevalent during the period of construction.
Property Type Significance	See summary statement of significance above.

²⁶⁹ Risher, 31.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in industrial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra's industrial history; or
- Is associated with a significant industrial corporation headquartered in Alhambra

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant for association with important persons or a specific heritage group
- May also be significant as an example of an architectural style

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Some original materials may be altered or removed as long as the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its type

Theme: Residential Development, 1946-1967

In the late 1940s throughout the 1950s, residential development reflected the spirit of prosperity and optimism of the immediate postwar years. Alhambra's greatest year for construction was 1948, when building in that year was valued at \$12,309,205.²⁷⁰ Vast tracts of single-family homes were constructed on previously undeveloped or underdeveloped land – the last time such parcels would be available. This trend is exemplified in the development of the Airport Tract and Midwick neighborhoods, which were constructed on the sides of the Alhambra Airport and the Midwick Country Club respectively and whose development numbered in the hundreds of homes, a scale never before seen in the City of Alhambra. Other concentrations of homes were also developed in the Bean Tract and Alhambra Hills Tract neighborhoods during this period.

However, by the late 1950s, the demand for housing prompted unprecedented development pressures, and many older single-family residences became targets for demolition and redevelopment. Multi-family residential development became increasingly popular towards the end of the decade and continuing through the 1960s; by 1970, more than half of the City's population was living in multi-family housing.²⁷¹

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme include single-family residences constructed in vast residential tracts recorded during the period immediately following World War II, and the multi-family residences that were increasingly popular by the late 1950s and early 1960s. Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; for an association with a specific heritage group or a person important in local, state, or national history; for exemplifying an important trend or pattern of development (typically, as contributors to historic districts).

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant

²⁷⁰ Studer, 123.

²⁷¹ Risher, 90.

under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance	1946-1967
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers residential development in Alhambra during the period following World War II
Geographic Location	Located throughout the City of Alhambra.
Criteria	National Register: A, B California Register: 1, 2
Associated Property Types	Residential: Single Family Residence, Multi-Family Residence, Tract Feature/Amenity, Historic District
Property Type Description	Significant property types are those representing important periods of early residential development in this part of Alhambra, including single- and multi-family residences, tract features and amenities including street trees/other significant landscape features and street lights, and historic districts.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents an important pattern or trend in residential development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra residential development; or
- Has a proven association with a significant person's productive life, reflecting the time period when they achieved significance; or
- Has a proven association with a specific heritage group

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, and Feeling
 - Properties eligible for association with an event, heritage group, or significant person should also retain integrity of Association.
- Some original materials may be altered or removed if the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation.
- For historic districts, the majority of the components that add to the district's historic character must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.
 - A contributing property must retain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association to adequately convey the significance of the historic district.
 - Some alterations to individual buildings, such as replacement roof materials, replacement garage doors, and replacement of windows within original openings may be acceptable as long as the district as a whole continues to convey its significance.
 - Original tract features may also be contributing features to a historic district under this theme.

XI. POSTWAR DECLINE AND REDEVELOPMENT (1968-1980)

The conclusion of World War II and the return home of hundreds of thousands of soldiers prompted widespread shifts in demographics and marked a turning point in the political and economic development of Southern California. It also sparked a critical housing shortage in Southern California, which resulted in overcrowding and overtaxed housing stock. By the 1960s, ‘blight’ had become a major issue for city officials across the region, who struggled to combat the physical and economic effects of the mass residential – and commercial – exodus inspired by postwar suburbanization.

By the mid-1960s, several neighboring cities in the San Gabriel Valley – many of whom shared similar concerns regarding blight – had moved to establish redevelopment agencies in order to combat the effects of economic decline on the built environment. They were equipped with two laws to aid them in their efforts: The California Community Redevelopment Act of 1945 and the Federal Housing Acts of 1946 and 1949, which gave cities the legal authority to implement plans for redevelopment.²⁷² The California Community Redevelopment Act allowed local governments throughout California to establish agencies to oversee the process of redevelopment in blighted areas. At the same time, Title I of the Housing Act allocated federal funds to municipal housing authorities for the purpose of planning and executing redevelopment projects.²⁷³ In concert, the laws enacted in the 1940s created the necessary provisions for redevelopment efforts in Alhambra in the late 1960s.

POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY

The 1970s were a significant era in the changing demographics of Alhambra and its development as an ethnoburb. By the 1970s, many Chinese residents moved out of Chinatown and into suburban regions of the San Gabriel Valley, namely Alhambra and Monterey Park. Monterey Park was actively promoted as the “Chinese Beverly Hills,” by real estate developer Frederick Hsieh, prompting many American-born Asians and immigrants from Taiwan and Hong Kong to resettle in Monterey Park.²⁷⁴ Furthermore, Hsieh predicted that the growing population trends would make Monterey Park comparable to Downtown Los Angeles’s Chinatown, and eventually surpass it.²⁷⁵ Monterey Park was home to 2,200 Chinese Americans in 1970, compared to 327 Chinese-American residents in Alhambra.²⁷⁶ Alhambra’s changing architectural landscape played a role in its development as an

²⁷² Nathan Masters, “Rediscovering Downtown L.A.’s Lost Neighborhood of Bunker Hill,” KCET Lost LA, July 11, 2012, <https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/rediscovering-downtown-las-lost-neighborhood-of-bunker-hill> (accessed December 2018); and Stephen Jones, “The Bunker Hill Story: Welfare, Redevelopment, and Housing Crisis in Postwar Los Angeles,” master’s thesis, City University of New York, 2017, CUNY Academic Works, https://academicworks.cuny.edu/gc_etds/2344/ (accessed December 2018), 14-15.

²⁷³ Jones, 14-15.

²⁷⁴ “Spatial Disparities in the Expansion of the Chinese Ethnoburb,” 53.

²⁷⁵ “The San Gabriel Valley as a Capital of Chinese Food,” 117.

²⁷⁶ Chen, “Chinese Immigration and its Implications on Urban Management in Los Angeles,” 51.

ethnoburb as well. When Alhambra’s country club and airport shut down in the postwar period, realtors promoted the new homes and promise of business opportunities on the newly subdivided land to overseas immigrants, citing the proximity to the freeway as a primary selling point.²⁷⁷ In 1973, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that 52% of the 8,790 student body in Alhambra’s elementary school district were ethnic minorities, with 36.6% Latinx and 14.7% Asian students. Similarly, the minority enrollment of Alhambra’s high school district increased from 40.3% to 43.6%.²⁷⁸ Superintendent Elmer Ensz called for a reevaluation of the school’s curriculum to accommodate the shifting enrollment in Alhambra’s schools, where the new student population expressed a greater demand for inclusion of courses that focused on basic skills and career education.²⁷⁹

Table 13: Population in Alhambra by Decade, 1968-1980²⁸⁰

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1970	60,278	129	197	327	143	484	567	62,125
1980	46,197	343	674	4,043	837	1,375	11,146	64,615

Table 14: Rate of Population Growth in Alhambra by Decade, 1968-1980

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1970	10.63%	316.13%	121.35%	483.99%	450.00%	352.34%	3680.00%	13.35%
1980	-23.36%	165.89%	242.13%	1136.39%	485.31%	184.09%	1865.78%	4.00%

MUNICIPAL GROWTH IN ALHAMBRA, 1968-1980

The Alhambra Redevelopment Project

Of all the forces that drove the development of real estate in Alhambra during the second half of the 20th century, the implementation of the Alhambra Redevelopment Project has undoubtedly been one of the most influential in shaping the character of the built environment in the City. In March 1967, the Community Redevelopment Agency was

²⁷⁷ “Asian Americans Have a Lot History in Alhambra, Surrounding Areas,” *Pasadena Star News*, 2011, updated 2017. <https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2011/02/07/asian-americans-have-a-long-history-in-alhambra-surrounding-areas/> (accessed XXXXX).

²⁷⁸ Craig Turner, “Student Body at Alhambra 52% Minority,” *The Los Angeles Times*, 1973.

²⁷⁹ Craig Turner, “Student Body at Alhambra 52% Minority,” *The Los Angeles Times*, 1973.

²⁸⁰ Numbers in parentheses represent breakdowns of some races included in the “Other Races” category.

established under state law by the Alhambra City Council, and the first board was seated in January 1968.²⁸¹

The Redevelopment Project area originally consisted of approximately 370 acres and was bounded by Mission Road on the south, the City limits and Fremont Avenue on the west, Poplar Boulevard, Main Street and Commonwealth Avenue on the north, and Marengo Avenue and Electric Avenue on the east.²⁸² The first project undertaken by the Redevelopment Agency was the purchase of fourteen acres in an industrial tract that was then sold to the Seeley Company, who brokered the deal to develop the corporate offices of the Ralph M. Parsons Engineering Co. on the site.²⁸³ Other planned projects that followed included the construction of a new community hospital, as well as a shopping center in the Central Business District.²⁸⁴

Annexations

In 1978, the City expanded its boundaries again through the Garvey Annexation, which added 3.03 acres to the City’s southern boundary along Garvey Avenue at El Paso.

Table 15: Annexations, 1968-1980

Effective Date	Annexation Name
10/30/1978	Garvey Annexation 76-1

DEVELOPMENT IN ALHAMBRA, 1968-1980

Extant resources dating to this period are located throughout the City, and were largely constructed as infill or redevelopment projects in previously developed areas. Buildings from this period represent modest vernacular structures as well as examples of prominent architectural styles of the period, including Late Modern. Commercial activity from the period continued to expand along Main Street, Mission Road, and Valley Boulevard.

Infrastructural Improvements

In January 1977, construction commenced on “the largest single public improvement”²⁸⁵ project in Alhambra, which consisted of lowering the Southern Pacific railroad tracks along Mission Road. The project excavated enough dirt to lower the tracks to 35 feet below street

²⁸¹ “Alhambra to Develop Plan for West Side,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 28, 1967; “Alhambra Weighs 2 Redevelopment Studies at Once,” *Los Angeles Times*, April 21, 1968.

²⁸² Alhambra Redevelopment Agency, “Alhambra Redevelopment Agency Industrial Redevelopment Project Subordinate Tax Allocation Bonds, Series 2005 B,” July 28, 2005, <http://cdiacdocs.sto.ca.gov/2005-0928.pdf> (accessed March 2021), 28.

²⁸³ “Industrial Tract Purchase Approved,” *Los Angeles Times*, September 21, 1971.

²⁸⁴ “Hospital Gets OK,” *Monrovia Daily News-Post*, February 1, 1972; “Fund Drive Started for Hospital,” *Los Angeles Times*, March 7, 1974; and “Firm Gets ARA Okay to develop Alhambra Center,” *Monrovia Daily News-Post*, May 21, 1974.

²⁸⁵ “History of Alhambra (1771-Present).”

level, making the at-grade separation crossings safer to navigate for both automobiles and pedestrians.

Theme: Civic and Institutional Development, 1968-1980

One of the earliest construction projects to be undertaken as part of the Redevelopment Project was the construction of the new Alhambra Community Hospital at 100 South Raymond Avenue, which was completed in 1974. A number of new facilities were also constructed for municipal services during this period; a new headquarters for the fire department was dedicated in 1968 at 301 North First Street, and a new courthouse on Commonwealth Avenue was also completed in 1974. Perhaps most notably, after suffering substantial structural damage during an earthquake, the Alhambra Public Library was condemned and library facilities were relocated to temporary quarters in a Quonset Hut until 1975, when a new 37,000-square-foot library was opened on the same site at 410 West Main Street. The City's parks also received improvements; the Joslyn Senior Center at Story Park was completed in 1973, and in 1977 the Almansor Golf Course was expanded from nine holes to eighteen using dirt left over from the 1977 Southern Pacific track-lowering project.²⁸⁶

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; or as an example of civic or institutional development associated with the Alhambra Redevelopment Project established in 1967.

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1968-1980

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers civic and institutional development in Alhambra from the establishment of the Alhambra Redevelopment Project through 1980,

²⁸⁶ "History of Alhambra (1771-Present)."

the close of the period of significance for this study.

Geographic Location

Located throughout the City of Alhambra.

Criteria

National Register: A California Register: 1

Associated Property Types

Institutional: Post Office, Fire and Police Station, Civic Building, School, Library, Hospital, Religious Building, Social Club, Cultural Institution, Fraternal Organization, Park, Civic Building, Infrastructure Improvement, Civic Amenity

Property Type Description

Institutional property types include schools, hospitals, religious buildings (including churches, convents, rectories, and schools), clubhouses associated with social clubs or fraternal organizations, parks, civic buildings like post offices and police/fire stations, and civic amenities or infrastructure improvements like roadways and bridges.

Property Type Significance

See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Is an example of civic or institutional development representing the growth of Alhambra under the Alhambra Redevelopment Project.

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- Represents or reflects important civic or institutional development from the period
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with a person important in Alhambra history or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Original use may have changed
- Signage may have changed
- Should retain the majority of features that illustrate its style or type

Theme: Commercial Development, 1968-1980



The Sears Tower, 1971. *USC Digital Library.*

In Alhambra, the postwar migration was most keenly felt along Main Street. Although Main Street had risen to prominence as one of the earliest and most profitable retail centers in the San Gabriel Valley, its fortunes declined as postwar commercial development evolved away from the downtown shopping corridor toward the suburban shopping mall model. Much like residential development, commercial development also began increasing in density during this period, leading to the development of office towers like the Sears, Roebuck and Company Pacific Coast Territory Headquarters, which was designed by A.C. Martin and completed in 1971 at the intersection of Fremont and Commonwealth Avenues.

Location Filming in Alhambra

By the late 1960s, television had firmly eclipsed the cinema as the most popular form of entertainment, and location filming on the whole began to decrease. At the same time, following the demolition of the Alhambra Airport and the Midwick Country Club – the City’s most popular sides for location filming – filming activity all but disappeared in Alhambra after World War II. Only a handful of films were staged in the area throughout the 1950s and 1960s. By the late 1970s, however, as modes of filmmaking began to evolve and the role of location filming within the industry began to change, filming activity began to return to Alhambra. Two of the most notable examples of location filming in the City from this later period – and also two of the most recognizable – are *Halloween* (1978), directed by John Carpenter, and *Phantasm* (1979), directed by Don Coscarelli. *Halloween*, which is widely believed to be one of the most terrifying films of all time, tells the story of serial killer Michael Myers, who in one scene memorably stalks the hallways of Garfield School (110 West McLean Street). The cult-favorite *Phantasm*, which sees the teenage Tommy face off against a mysterious mortician with the help of a friendly ice cream man, included scenes staged at Fosselman’s Ice Cream Company on Main Street (1824 West Main Street).

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance	<p>Resources significant under this theme may be significant as an excellent example of commercial development under the Alhambra Redevelopment Project, when commercial development began to increase in density.</p> <p>While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).</p>
Period of Significance	1967-1980
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers commercial development in Alhambra between 1968 and 1980.
Geographic Location	Commercial activity from the period was predominately located along Main Street, Mission Road, and Valley Boulevard.
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Commercial: One-story Building; One-story Commercial Storefront Block; Mixed-use Building; Mixed-use Commercial Block; Retail store; Commercial Office; Bank; Restaurant; Theater; Hotel/Motel; Recreational Facility; Historic District
Property Type Description	Commercial property types include the one-story building, consisting of one or more storefronts, and the multi-story mixed-use building, consisting of storefronts on the ground floor and offices, meeting spaces, or residential units above. One-story buildings were often called storefront blocks, while the multi-story mixed-use buildings were commonly known as commercial or business blocks. Buildings may be individual resources and/or contributing features to a historic district.

Property Type Significance See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in commercial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra's commercial development

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant under themes within the Architecture and Design context
- May also be significant for association with important early settlers or a specific heritage group

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association
- Replacement of storefronts is a common and acceptable alteration
- Original use may have changed
- Signage may have changed

Theme: Industrial Development, 1968-1980

Industrial development continued to function as a central component of Alhambra's economic activities during the later postwar period, but development activities slowed as the Alhambra Redevelopment Agency prioritized the redevelopment of existing industrial sites for other uses.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance	Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; or as an example of industrial development in the mid-20 th century.
Period of Significance	1968-1980
Period of Significance Justification	Broadly covers industrial development in Alhambra in the latter half of the 20 th century
Geographic Location	Located throughout Alhambra
Criteria	National Register: A California Register: 1
Associated Property Types	Manufacturing Facility; Transportation and Shipping-related Facility; Light Industrial Building; Quonset Hut; Infrastructure Improvement; Historic District
Property Type Description	Industrial buildings identified under this theme may represent a range of industrial building types and uses. They are often utilitarian in design but may represent architectural styles prevalent during the period of construction.
Property Type Significance	See summary statement of significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents important patterns and trends in industrial development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra's industrial history; or

- Is associated with a significant industrial corporation headquartered in Alhambra

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance
- May also be significant for association with important persons or a specific heritage group
- May also be significant as an example of an architectural style

Integrity Considerations:

- At a minimum, should retain integrity of Location, Design, and Feeling
- Some original materials may be altered or removed as long as the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its type

Theme: Residential Development, 1968-1980

Residential development undertaken during the later postwar period exhibited different patterns than those efforts dating from the years immediately following the war. Home ownership remained an important milestone, but the demand for higher-density housing prevailed. In fact, by 1970, more than half of the population in Alhambra was living in multifamily structures.²⁸⁷

The 1960s and 1970s brought on the widespread development of the condominium following legislation passed in 1961 granting the Federal Housing Administration the power to insure mortgages on condominium properties. By the end of the 1960s, the condo had arrived in Alhambra; indeed, nearly all of the nineteen tracts recorded between 1968 and 1978 were related to the construction of new condominiums. This trend continued into the next decade, with every tract recorded in 1980 and 1981 dedicated to condominium development as well.

Eligibility Standards

Summary Statement of Significance

Resources significant under this theme include single- and multi-family residences constructed during the latter half of the 20th century. Individual properties or historic districts that are eligible under this theme may be significant as the site of an important event in history; for an association with a specific heritage group or a person important in local, state, or national history; for exemplifying an important trend or pattern of development (typically, as contributors to historic districts).

While not required, properties from this period that are excellent or rare examples of their architectural style or method of construction, or the work of a master or noted architect, may also be significant under Criterion C/3, as discussed in the Architecture and Design Context (Chapter XIII).

Period of Significance

1968-1980

Period of Significance Justification

Broadly covers residential development in Alhambra during the latter half of the 20th century

Geographic Location

Located throughout the City of Alhambra.

²⁸⁷ Orozco, 101.

Criteria	National Register: A, B California Register: 1, 2
Associated Property Types	Residential: Single Family Residence, Multi-Family Residence, Tract Feature/Amenity, Historic District
Property Type Description	Significant property types are those representing important periods of early residential development in this part of Alhambra, including single- and multi-family residences, tract features and amenities including street trees/other significant landscape features and street lights, and historic districts.
Property Type Significance	See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance; and
- Has a proven association with an event important in history; or
- Represents an important pattern or trend in residential development from the period, or a facet of Alhambra residential development; or
- Has a proven association with a significant person's productive life, reflecting the time period when they achieved significance; or
- Has a proven association with a specific heritage group

Character-Defining/Associative Features:

- Retains most of the essential physical and character-defining features from the period of significance

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Location, Design, Workmanship, and Feeling
 - Properties eligible for association with an event, heritage group, or significant person should also retain integrity of Association.
- Some original materials may be altered or removed if the property retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation.

- For historic districts, the majority of the components that add to the district's historic character must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.
 - A contributing property must retain integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association to adequately convey the significance of the historic district.
 - Some alterations to individual buildings, such as replacement roof materials, replacement garage doors, and replacement of windows within original openings may be acceptable as long as the district as a whole continues to convey its significance.
 - Original tract features may also be contributing features to a historic district under this theme.

XII. ALHAMBRA TODAY (1981-PRESENT)

As the 20th century drew to a close, the City of Alhambra was also moving toward a period of transformation. In July 1981, the Alhambra City Council adopted an ordinance which amended the City's Industrial Redevelopment Plan to expand the current boundaries of the redevelopment project to include an additional 210 acres in order to facilitate rehabilitation of the downtown area. Located immediately to the northeast of the original project site, this additional land – known as “Added Area A” – comprised the area surrounding the Main Street commercial corridor extending eastward from Fremont Avenue to the City limits.

The physical impact of the Agency's expansion of the Redevelopment Area was immediately apparent. Between 1981 and 1989, 148 tracts were recorded in the City of Alhambra – more than any other decade in the City's history. Fifty-three tracts were recorded in 1981 alone, a record that surpassed even the peak of the City's housing boom in the 1920s. In addition, all of the tracts recorded in 1981 were for condominium purposes, further evidence of the evolving trend toward higher-density residential development. Redevelopment projects completed included the Alhambra Hospital Medical Center, the Alhambra Ramada Inn, the Plaza de Alhambra, and Alhambra Place.

The City annexed its last parcel of land in December 1989; the Alhambra Street Annexation expanded the City boundary east of Vega Street, to the east of the intersection of Hoeffler Drive and Alhambra Street and brought the City to its present-day boundaries.

Additional amendments to the Redevelopment Plan were adopted in 1993 to, in part, “extend the Agency's authority to acquire property by eminent domain.”²⁸⁸ Redevelopment continued with projects such as Fremont Plaza, completed in 1996, and the Plaza on Main, completed in 1998.

The dawn of the millennium brought further changes to the City of Alhambra. The Redevelopment Plan was further amended in 2002 to “re-establish the Agency's eminent domain authority within the Original Area and extend the Agency's eminent domain authority in Added Area A for twelve years.”²⁸⁹ Projects completed as part of redevelopments during this period included the Alhambra Renaissance Plaza, the Alhambra Regency Plaza, and the development of Auto Row.

After adopting the Valley Boulevard Specific Plan in 1990, in the early 2000s, the City of Alhambra began implementing additional specific plans to address planning needs and govern development in defined areas throughout the City. Current specific plans include Alhambra Walk (2003), Alhambra Place (2006), Alhambra 5th and Main (2006), Casita de Zen

²⁸⁸ Alhambra Redevelopment Agency, 25.

²⁸⁹ Alhambra Redevelopment Agency, 25.

(2010), 2300 Poplar (2011), Alhambra Pacific Plaza (2011), 2500 West Hellman avenue (2012), Marengo and Acacia (2012), and 2400 South Fremont Avenue (2015).

In 2009, the City adopted residential design guidelines for all properties with R-1 zoning in the City of Alhambra. As part of the framework for the guidelines, the City identified twenty-six single-family residential neighborhoods based on the development trends and architectural styles that define their character. The boundaries of these neighborhoods in relation to the decade of development for parcels contained within them is shown on the following page.

In 2011, California Governor Jerry Brown proposed a statewide elimination of redevelopment agencies beginning in the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The Governor's proposal was incorporated into Assembly Bill 26, which was passed by the California State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on June 28, 2011. Consequently, the Alhambra Redevelopment Agency was dissolved the following year.

RECENT POPULATION AND MIGRATION IN ALHAMBRA

By the 1980s, the Asian American community in San Gabriel Valley spread from Monterey Park into adjacent communities, including Alhambra, Arcadia, El Monte, Pasadena, among other regions, where the Chinese community purchased real estate properties. In 1980 the Chinese population of Alhambra grew to 4,043 residents.²⁹⁰ The overall population of Alhambra also increased by 4% since 1970, as reported by the Alhambra Department of Housing and Community Development.²⁹¹ Furthermore, figures provided by the State Department of Education exhibited that Alhambra had the highest percentage of Asian students of any district in the state by 1980. Three-quarters of Alhambra's Asian students were not born in the United States and 43% of students claiming Vietnamese origin.²⁹² Frederick Hsieh's prediction had come true; a 1987 *Los Angeles Times* article estimated that 100,000 Chinese and other Asian immigrants had moved to western San Gabriel Valley communities.²⁹³ The Chinese community that settled in Alhambra played a prominent role in shifting the commercial corridor along Main Street and Valley Boulevard, a main arterial that spans Alhambra, San Gabriel and Rosemead. Many businesses, including restaurants, supermarkets, and small shops developed in close clusters along these two streets, making Alhambra and surrounding San Gabriel Valley communities shopping and dining destinations for Southern Californians.²⁹⁴ Other major Chinese-American businesses in that developed in Alhambra include finance, insurance, real estate, and various professional services.²⁹⁵ The development of Alhambra's Asian supermarkets and restaurants were an

²⁹⁰ Chen, "Chinese Immigration and its Implications on Urban Management in Los Angeles," 51.

²⁹¹ "Asian Population in Alhambra Up 600%," *The Los Angeles Times*, 1983.

²⁹² Elaine Woo, "Ethnic Diversity Puts School Districts to Test," *The Los Angeles Times*, 1987.

²⁹³ "San Gabriel Valley as a Capital of Chinese Food," 117.

²⁹⁴ "San Gabriel Valley as a Capital of Chinese Food," 119-120.

²⁹⁵ Lawrence-Zuniga, "Bungalows and Mansions," 831.

important anchor for the growing Chinese-American community in Alhambra; food helped connect Chinese immigrants to their homeland and preserve identities. In addition, immigrants were arriving from different provinces and bringing with them their own regional cuisines, which helped Alhambra and the greater San Gabriel Valley develop as a destination for various regional specialties, such as hand-pulled Xian noodles, Schuan boil fish, boba tea, and more.²⁹⁶

By 1990, Southern California was home to the largest Chinese community in the nation, with 50% of the population concentrated in the San Gabriel Valley. Alhambra's Chinese population had more than quadrupled, with 21,436 Chinese-identifying residents in Alhambra.²⁹⁷ In the 2000 census, Alhambra's population was made up of 47.2% Asian Americans. In 2010, that number grew to 50.4%.

²⁹⁶ Anh Do, "Valley Boulevard, LA's Chinese Main Street, Was a Ghost Town in 2020. Can it Bounce Back?," *Los Angeles Times*, 2021.

²⁹⁷ Chen, "Chinese Immigration and its Implications on Urban Management in Los Angeles," 51.

Figure 2: R-1 Residential Neighborhood Development by Decade



XIII. CONTEXT: ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

INTRODUCTION

When Alhambra was first developed by Benjamin Wilson and James De Barth Shorb, it was called the “City of Homes.”²⁹⁸ The city’s proximity to Pasadena, Downtown Los Angeles, and Monterey Park was ideal for residents who worked in Los Angeles but wanted to live in a noise and smoke-free city. Alhambra offered lush vegetation, pure mountain water, churches, educational facilities, and plenty of opportunity to establish small businesses.²⁹⁹ Alhambra is home to a variety of commercial and institutional buildings, as well as residences ranging from modest bungalows to large palatial properties, representing architectural styles from Queen Anne to Mid-Century Modern and beyond.

Buildings that are significant for the embodiment of the distinguishing features of an architectural style and/or as a significant work of a master architect or designer will be evaluated under this context. Designed landscapes or landscape features may also be significant under this context.

For each significant architectural style there is a discussion of the origins and a list of character-defining features intrinsic to each. A property that is eligible for designation as an excellent example of its architectural style retains most - though not necessarily all - of the character-defining features of the style, and continues to exhibit its historic appearance. A property that has lost some historic materials or details can be eligible if it retains the majority of the features that illustrate its style in terms of the massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows and doors, texture of materials, and ornamentation. The property is not eligible, however, if it retains some basic features conveying massing but has lost the majority of the features that once characterized its style.³⁰⁰ A property important for illustrating a particular architectural style or construction technique must retain most of the physical features that constitute that style or technique.³⁰¹

For guidance on the proper treatment of historic resources and appropriate alterations to specific architectural styles, refer to *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings*. In general, acceptable alterations to historic resources of all architectural styles may include:

- Replacement roofing, when necessary, that matches the original as closely as possible in material, profile, color, and pattern.
- Structural reinforcement or infrastructure upgrades that are compatible and do not result in the loss of distinctive materials or features that characterize the property.

²⁹⁸ *Alhambra, California: The City of Homes*, (Alhambra, CA: Arrowhead Press, 1913), 4.

²⁹⁹ *Alhambra, California: The City of Homes*, 4-6.

³⁰⁰ *National Register Bulletin 15*.

³⁰¹ *National Register Bulletin 15*.

- Repair, rather than replacement, of deteriorated historic features.
- Replacement of severely deteriorated or missing features with new that match the old in design, color, texture, and where possible, material.
- New additions that are compatible with, differentiated from, and subordinate to the original and do not damage or destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property.

The architectural character of Alhambra reflects changes in popular tastes overtime. The oldest residences, dating from the 19th century, were built in the Queen Anne style. Other early residences in Alhambra were one- and two-story Craftsman houses.³⁰² As Alhambra's population grew in the 1920s, many new neighborhoods were developed, which included houses designed in a variety of Period Revival styles, including Spanish Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Neoclassical Cottages, and Tudor Revival. Many of these neighborhoods, such as Emery Park, Mayfair, and the Orange Blossom Manor Tract, are home to examples of modest and high style examples of a variety of architectural styles. Commercial and institutional architecture in Alhambra varies in style from vernacular to Art Deco to Mid-Century Modern.

Properties significant as an excellent or rare example of an architectural style are eligible under the following criteria:

- National/California Register Criterion C/3 (embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values)

There may be properties that are eligible under this context that have not reached 50 years of age, which is the generally accepted threshold for assessing historic significance. A property that is less than 50 years old can be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if it meets Criteria Consideration G which states that “a property which has achieved significance within the past 50 years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance.” The California Register does not have a specific criteria consideration, but the guidelines state that significant time must have passed for the development of a scholarly perspective on the potential resource.

³⁰² “Alhambra Historic and Cultural Resources Survey, Inventoried Properties Listed by National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Status, Survey Area I,” prepared as part of the 1984-1985 Final Report by Johnson Heumann Research Associates, Consultants to the City of Alhambra, for the Office of Historic Preservation, State of California, 23.

THEME: 19TH CENTURY METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION & ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Sub-Theme: Queen Anne

The eclectic and elaborate Queen Anne style was one of the most popular styles for domestic architecture in the United States from the 1880s until about 1900, although it continued in California until about 1910. Misnamed after the early 19th century British sovereign, the style actually originated in 19th-century Britain and combines freely adapted elements of English Gothic, Elizabethan, and classical architecture. Like the Stick style that it quickly replaced, Queen Anne uses exterior wall surfaces as a primary decorative element and was popularized throughout the United States by the rapidly-expanding railroad network that made pre-cut architectural features easily available. The style is characterized by irregular compositions with complex multi-gabled and hipped roofs, intricately patterned shingles and masonry, turned spindle work, and classical elements executed in wood.

Character-defining features include:

- Asymmetrical façade
- Steeply-pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominate front-facing gable
- Wooden exterior wall cladding with decorative patterned shingles or patterned masonry
- Projecting partial-, full-width or wrap-around front porch, usually one story in height
- Cut-away bay windows
- Wood double-hung sash windows
- Towers topped by turrets, domes or cupolas
- Tall decorative brick chimneys
- Ornamentation may include decorative brackets, bargeboards and pendants, as well as Eastlake details, such as spindle work

Queen Anne: Extant Example



208 E. Beacon Street (1902)

Sub-Theme: Shingle Style

The Shingle style was a uniquely American adaptation combining the wide porches, shingled surfaces, and asymmetrical forms of the Queen Anne style; the gambrel roofs, rambling lean-to additions, classical columns, and Palladian windows of the Colonial Revival; and the irregular sculpted shapes, Romanesque arches, and rusticated stonework of the contemporaneous Richardsonian Romanesque. The style first appeared in the 1870s and reached its highest expression in the fashionable seaside resorts of the northeast. Although the style spread throughout the United States it never achieved the widespread popularity of the Queen Anne, and therefore Shingle style houses are relatively rare in California.³⁰³

Character-defining features include:

- Irregular plan and asymmetrical composition
- Steeply-pitched cross gable, hipped, and gambrel roofs
- Shingle wall and roof cladding
- Towers or turrets
- Broad porches, sometimes wrapping two or more sides
- Wood double-hung windows, typically with divided lights in the upper sash and a single light below, frequently grouped in horizontal bands
- Rusticated stone foundations, first stories, porch piers, and towers
- Classical elements including columns and Palladian windows

Shingle Style: Extant Example



George B. Adams Residence, 200 E. Beacon Street (c.1880)

³⁰³ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 290.

Sub-Theme: American Foursquare

The American foursquare was one of the most popular house types in the United States from about 1890 well into the 20th century. The compact, sparsely ornamented foursquare was an antidote to the ornate Queen Anne and, because of its simplicity, affordability, and ease of construction, was a popular mail-order “kit home.” It is thus found on small urban and suburban lots throughout the country.

Character-defining features include:

- Square or rectangular plan and compact, two-story massing
- Symmetrical or asymmetrical composition
- Hipped or pyramidal roof, sometimes with wide boxed eaves and eave brackets or dentil molding
- Central hipped dormer
- Exterior walls finished in horizontal wood siding
- Projecting one-story porch across front, sometimes extending over driveway as a *porte-cochère*
- Wood double-hung windows

American Foursquare: Extant Example



1510 S. Campbell Street (1906)

Sub-Theme: Neoclassical Cottage

The term “Neoclassical Cottage” is used to describe simple house forms or cottages with fewer decorative features than other styles from the period. While vernacular residences may display certain characteristics of recognizable styles, especially Queen Anne, decorative detailing is typically confined to the porch or cornice line.

Character-defining features include:

- Symmetrical façade
- Simple square or rectangular form
- Gabled or hipped roof with boxed or open eaves
- Wood exterior cladding
- Simple window and door surrounds
- Bay windows
- Details may include cornice line brackets
- Porch support with turned spindles or square posts

Sub-Theme: Residential Vernacular

The term “Residential Vernacular” is used to describe simple houses or cottages with little or no distinguishing decorative features. These buildings are characterized by their simplicity and lack of any characteristics of recognizable styles.

Character-defining features include:

- Simple square or rectangular form
- Gabled or hipped roof with boxed or open eaves
- Wood exterior cladding
- Simple window and door surrounds

Sub-Theme: Commercial Vernacular

Although not an officially recognized style, “commercial vernacular” describes simple commercial structures with little decorative ornamentation, common in American cities and towns of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They are typically brick in construction, with minimal decorative detailing.

Character-defining features include:

- Simple square or rectangular form
- Flat roof with a flat or stepped parapet
- Brick exterior wall surfaces, with face brick on the primary facade
- First-story storefronts, typically with a continuous transom window above
- Wood double-hung sash upper-story windows, often in pairs
- Segmental arch window and door openings on side and rear elevations
- Decorative detailing, if any, may include cornices, friezes, quoins, or stringcourses

Commercial Vernacular: Extant Examples



3078-3080 W. Valley Boulevard (1926)



1156 W. Valley Boulevard (1931)



200 W. Main Street (1924)

Sub-Theme: Mission Revival

The Mission Revival style is indigenous to California, which drew upon its own colonial past as a counterpart to the Colonial Revival of the Northeastern states. The style grew out of the romanticized image of old California fostered by Helen Hunt Jackson's popular 1884 novel *Ramona*, and through the efforts of writer Charles Fletcher Lummis, who promoted California tourism with his magazine *Land of Sunshine* and founded the Landmarks Club in 1895 to restore the crumbling Spanish missions. Beginning in about 1890 California architects borrowed and freely adapted features of the California missions, including bare plaster walls, curvilinear bell parapets or *espadañas*, arcades, and tile roofs, often in combination with elements of other styles. Never common beyond the Southwest, its regional popularity was spurred by its adoption by the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railroads as the preferred style for train stations and resort hotels, where the original scale of the missions could be more successfully replicated. The style was less successful and therefore rarer in residential applications, but continued in decreasing use until at least 1920.

Character-defining features include:

- Red clay tile roofs with overhanging eaves and open rafters
- Shaped parapets
- Cement plaster exterior wall finish
- Arched window and door openings
- Details may include bell towers, arcades, quatrefoil openings or patterned tiles

Mission Revival: Extant Example



1417-1419 S. Curtis Avenue (1924)

THEME: CRAFTSMAN

Craftsman architecture grew out of the late 19th century English Arts and Crafts movement. A reaction against industrialization and the excesses of the Victorian era, the movement stressed simplicity of design, hand-craftsmanship, and the relationship of the building to the climate and landscape. Craftsman architecture developed in the first decade of the 20th century as an indigenous California version of the American Arts and Crafts movement, incorporating Southern California's unique qualities. Constructed primarily of stained wood, with wide overhanging eaves, balconies, and terraces extending the living space outdoors, the style embodied the goals of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Craftsman bungalow dates from the early 1900s through the 1920s. The bungalow's simplicity of form, informal character, direct response to site, and extensive use of natural materials, particularly wood and stone, was a regional interpretation of the reforms espoused by the Arts and Crafts movement's founder, William Morris. Craftsman bungalows generally have rectangular or irregular plans, and are one to one-and-a-half stories tall. They have wood clapboard or shingle exteriors and a pronounced horizontal emphasis, with broad front porches, often composed with stone, clinker brick, or plastered porch piers. Other character-defining features include low-pitched front-facing gable roofs, and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails.

As opposed to smaller developer-built or prefabricated bungalows, two-story Craftsman houses were often commissioned for wealthy residents and designed specifically with the homeowner's needs and the physical site in mind. They generally feature a low-pitched gable roof, wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and windows grouped in horizontal bands. A high-style Craftsman house is distinguished by the quality of the materials and complexity of design and may feature elaborate, custom-designed woodwork, stained glass, and other fixtures.

By World War I, the Craftsman style declined in popularity and was replaced by Period Revival styles. The Craftsman bungalow continued to be built into the 1920s, but was often painted in lighter colors, stripped of its dark wood interiors, or blended with characteristics of various Revival styles.

Character-defining features include:

- Horizontal massing
- Low-pitched gable roof with rolled or composition shingle roofing
- Wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, outriggers, or knee braces
- Exterior walls clad in wood shingle, shake, or clapboard siding
- Projecting partial- or full-width, or wrap-around front porch
- Heavy porch piers, often of river stone or masonry
- Wood sash casement or double-hung windows, often grouped in multiples

- Wide front doors, often with a beveled light
- Wide, plain window and door surrounds, often with extended lintels
- Extensive use of natural materials (wood, brick or river stone)

Craftsman: Extant Examples



824 N. Marguerita Avenue (1909)



1708 S. 2nd Street (1912)



1025 S. 4th Street (1914)

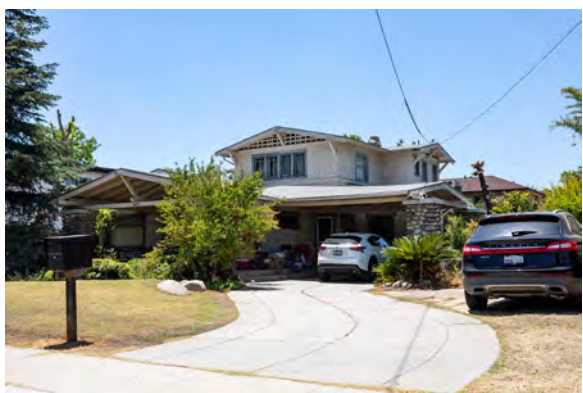
Sub-Theme: Airplane Bungalow

Airplane Bungalows date from the early 1900s and reached their peak of popularity in the late 1910s. The Airplane Bungalow is a variation of the one-story Craftsman bungalow and shares many of its character-defining features, including a usually asymmetrical composition, low-pitched gable roof, wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, wood shingles or horizontal wood siding, and a wide porch. The distinguishing feature of the Airplane Bungalow is a small second story in the middle of the house, usually of only one or two rooms, that rises above the surrounding roof. The influence of Japanese architecture is common in Airplane bungalows, exhibited in *torii*-inspired post-and-beam joinery, flaring eaves and ridges, and corresponding curved bargeboards.

Character-defining features include:

- Small, one- or two-room second story in the middle of the roof
- Japanese influences including Asian-inspired post-and-beam joinery, flared eaves and ridges, and curved bargeboards.

Airplane Bungalow: Extant Examples



1609 S. 2nd Street (1913)



1616 S. 2nd Street (1912)

Sub-Theme: Swiss Chalet Style

The Swiss Chalet style - constructed primarily of stained wood, in which wide overhanging eaves and balconies helped integrate the outdoors as part of the living space - was compatible with the goals of the Arts and Crafts movement. The Chalet style Craftsman house usually consists of a single, rectangular two-story volume covered by a front-facing gable roof. The primary façade is typically symmetrical and frequently features a wide porch topped by a second-story balcony. Porches and balconies usually have plank railings with decorative cutouts. Brackets and bargeboards are usually more decorative than those found in other variations of Craftsman architecture.

Character-defining features include:

- Rectangular plan and compact, 2-story massing
- Flat, usually symmetrical primary façade
- Moderately pitched front gable roof with wide, overhanging eaves and rake, and exposed rafter tails
- Wood shingle, horizontal wood siding, or cement plaster exterior wall finish, sometimes in combination
- Wide porch, recessed or projecting
- Second-story balcony with plank railing, usually with decorative cut-outs
- Divided light casement or double hung wood windows, sometimes with diamond-patterned lights
- Decorative brackets and bargeboards

Swiss Chalet: Extant Examples



639 N. Bushnell Avenue (1906)



1619 S. 2nd Street (1910)

Sub-Theme: English-Influenced Craftsman

The English-influenced Craftsman style, as its name implies, is a hybrid that exhibits a stronger resemblance to the late 19th century British roots of the Arts and Crafts movement than does the typical California Craftsman. English-influenced Craftsman houses typically have a more compact plan and a more vertical emphasis than their Craftsman counterparts, moderate to steeply pitched gable, hipped, or jerkinhead roofs, dormers, bay windows, and sometimes decorative half-timbering in the gable ends and at second stories with cement plaster or brick veneer at the first story. They also frequently feature exterior walls clad in wood shingles or horizontal siding and wide front porches characteristic of the Craftsman style.

Character-defining features include:

- Irregular or rectangular plan with 1 ½ or 2-story massing
- Typically asymmetrical composition
- Moderately- to steeply-pitched gable, hipped, or jerkinhead roof, usually with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails
- Usually one or more dominant front-facing cross gables
- Dormers and/or bay windows
- Decorative half-timbering at second stories and gable ends
- Wood shingle, horizontal wood siding, brick, or cement plaster exterior wall finish, sometimes in combination
- Divided light casement or double hung wood windows in various groupings, sometimes with leaded glass or diamond-patterned lights
- Prominent chimney with decorative brickwork

English-Influenced Craftsman: Extant Example



Fred W. Marshall Residence, 1601 S. 4th Street (1907)

Sub-Theme: Japanese-Influenced Craftsman

The influence of Japanese architecture in the Craftsman style is usually traced to the works of Charles and Henry Greene, who had been deeply impressed by the Japanese pavilion at the 1893 Chicago world's fair. This influence is evident in the complex roof trusses and brackets, lanterns, and especially the beautifully joined wood interiors for which the Greenes were noted. These subtle Japanese-inspired features became staples of many large and small Craftsman-style houses and were sometimes joined with more overt Japanese references, especially multi-gabled, pagoda-like roofs with flared ridges and eaves, battered stone piers supporting porch roofs, and *torii*-style gateways.

Character-defining features include:

- Complex, elaborately joined wood trusses and brackets
- Multi-gabled roofs with flared ridges and eaves
- Battered stone piers
- *Torii*-style gateways
- Decorative hanging and standing lanterns

Japanese-Influenced Craftsman: Extant Example

1801 S. 2nd Street (1914)

Sub-Theme: Industrial Vernacular

The term “Industrial Vernacular” is used to describe simple industrial buildings with little or no distinguishing decorative features. These buildings are characterized by their utilitarian design, prosaic materials, and lack of any characteristics of recognizable styles. This term encompasses buildings constructed as airport structures (i.e. hangars), factories, and packing houses.

Prior to the widespread use of electric lighting, controlling and capitalizing on daylight was a necessary component of the design of manufacturing buildings. Daylight was brought into the building using a variety of methods, including expansive industrial sash windows, orientation of intensive hand work next to the exterior walls of the building, skylights, and specialized roof forms to bring light into the interior. With the development of better illumination from fluorescent bulbs, manufacturers changed their focus in design from capitalizing on available light to controlling lighting and ventilation through closed systems. Controlled conditions factories are distinguished by their minimal use of windows for light and ventilation. While some windows may be located on the front-facing façade or on an attached office, the building relies on internal systems for circulation and climate control.

Character-defining features include:

- Square or rectangular plan and simple massing
- One- or two-story height
- Flat, truss, or sawtooth roof, usually with parapet
- Roof monitors, skylights or clerestory windows
- Brick masonry construction, expressed or veneered in cement plaster
- Divided-light, steel-sash awning, hopper, or double-hung windows
- Loading docks and doors

Industrial Vernacular: Extant Example



624 S. Palm Avenue (1955)

THEME: 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Sub-Theme: Tudor Revival

The Tudor Revival style is loosely based on a variety of late medieval English building traditions including Perpendicular Gothic, Tudor, Elizabethan, and Jacobean. It has its origins in the late 19th-century English Arts and Crafts movement, whose leaders drew inspiration in part from English domestic architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries because of its picturesque qualities and sympathetic relationship to the natural landscape. The earliest examples of the style appeared in the United States in large estates of the 1890s. The Tudor Revival style grew in favor after World War I and reached its peak of popularity in the 1920s and 1930s, as architects and developers adapted it to the country's rapidly growing suburban residential communities and advancements in masonry veneering techniques allowed even the most modest examples to emulate the brick and stone exteriors of English prototypes.

High style Tudor Revival houses are typically two and sometimes three stories in height with steeply-pitched, multi-gable roofs; slate roof shingles are found in the finer examples, but wood shakes and composition shingles are also common. At least one front-facing gable is almost universally present as a dominant façade element. The buildings are usually rambling compositions of multiple volumes in a variety of sizes and shapes. Exterior walls are veneered in brick or stone, or feature decorative half-timbering, sometimes in elaborate patterns, with plaster between, which mimics the appearance of medieval construction techniques. Tall, narrow casement windows, sometimes with leaded diamond-shaped lights, are frequently set in horizontal groupings or projecting bays. Main entrances are frequently set in crenellated turrets or under secondary gables with catslides, and feature paneled wood doors framed by four-centered pointed arches. Projecting exterior chimneys with multiple flues and elaborate brickwork are sometimes located on the primary façade.

Sub-types of the Tudor Revival style include the Storybook cottage. The Storybook cottage is a more whimsical version of the Tudor Revival style, derived from the quaint medieval cottages of the Cotswold region of southwestern England. Storybook cottages typically feature very steeply-pitched roofs with composition shingles laid in irregular patterns and rolled eaves to suggest thatching, eyebrow dormers, and exterior walls veneered in a rough, irregular plaster finish. The Storybook style was particularly popular in Hollywood where motion picture set designers sometimes moonlighted as architects.

Character-defining features include:

- Asymmetrical façade and irregular massing
- Steeply-pitched multi-gabled roof with a prominent front-facing gable and slate, wood shake, or composition roofing
- Brick or plaster exterior wall cladding, typically with half-timbering and decorative details in stone or brick

- Tall, narrow divided-light windows, usually casement, often grouped horizontally or in bays; may have leaded diamond-shaped lights
- Entrance with pointed arch, set in turret or under secondary gable
- Prominent chimney with elaborate brickwork

Tudor Revival: Extant Examples



1903 Parkview Drive (1940)



401 N. Story Place (1930)



1841 S. Chapel Avenue (1930)

Sub-Theme: English Revival

The English Revival style is a sub-type of the Tudor Revival style, which is loosely based on a variety of late medieval English building traditions including Perpendicular Gothic, Tudor, Elizabethan, and Jacobean. It has its origins in the late 19th-century English Arts and Crafts movement, whose leaders drew inspiration in part from English domestic architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries because of its picturesque qualities and sympathetic relationship to the natural landscape. The earliest examples of the style appeared in the United States in large estates of the 1890s. The Tudor Revival style grew in favor after World War I and reached its peak of popularity in the 1920s and 1930s, as architects and developers adapted it to the country's rapidly growing suburban residential communities and advancements in masonry veneering techniques allowed even the most modest examples to emulate the brick and stone exteriors of English prototypes.

English Revival houses are simpler than their high-style Tudor Revival counterparts. They are typically two stories in height with steeply-pitched, multi-gable roofs usually clad in wood shakes or composition shingles. The buildings are usually rambling compositions of multiple volumes in a variety of sizes and shapes. Exterior walls are usually veneered in plaster, with brick or stone used only at the chimney or around the primary entrance. Half-timbering, if used at all, is usually limited to a primary front-facing gable if featured. Tall, narrow casement windows, sometimes with leaded diamond-shaped lights, are frequently set in horizontal groupings or projecting bays. Projecting exterior chimneys, usually brick or stone, are frequently used as prominent design features.

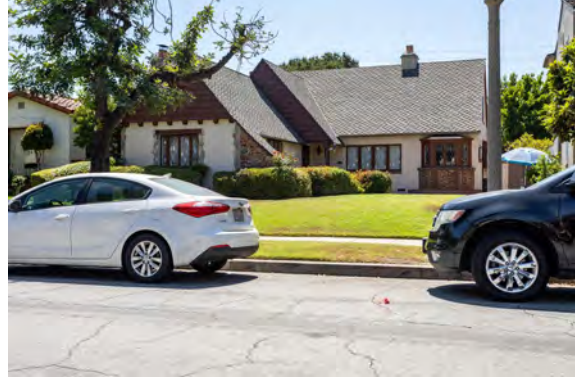
Character-defining features include:

- Asymmetrical façade and irregular massing
- Steeply-pitched gable roof with wood shake or composition roofing
- Plaster exterior wall cladding; decorative half-timbering or brick details are usually limited or omitted
- Tall, narrow divided-light windows, usually casement, often grouped horizontally or in bays; may have leaded diamond-shaped lights
- Prominent chimney

English Revival: Extant Examples



2845 Midwick Drive (1935)



1125 S. 4th Street (1935)



306 E. Adams Avenue (1927)



423 N. Almanson Street (1925)

Sub-Theme: Spanish Colonial Revival

The Spanish Colonial Revival style attained widespread popularity throughout Southern California following the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego, which was housed in a series of buildings designed by chief architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue in the late Baroque *Churrigueresque* style of Spain and Mexico. The *Churrigueresque* style, with intricate ornamentation juxtaposed against plain stucco wall surfaces and accented with towers and domes, lent itself to monumental public edifices, churches, and exuberant commercial buildings and theaters, but was less suited to residential or smaller scale commercial architecture. For those, architects drew inspiration from provincial Spain, particularly the arid southern region of Andalusia, where many young American architects were diverted while World War I prevented their traditional post-graduate “grand tour” of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany. The resulting style was based on infinitely creative combinations of plaster, tile, wood, and iron, featuring plaster-clad volumes arranged around patios, low-pitched tile roofs, and a sprawling, horizontal orientation. It was a deliberate attempt to develop a “native” California architectural style and romanticize the area’s colonial past, though it drew directly from Spanish and other Mediterranean precedents and bore little resemblance to the missions and rustic adobe ranch houses that comprised the state’s actual colonial-era buildings.

The popularity of the Spanish Colonial Revival style extended across nearly all property types, and coincided with Southern California’s population boom of the 1920s. It shaped the region’s expansion for nearly two decades, reaching a high point in 1929 and tapering off through the 1930s as the Great Depression gradually took hold. Like other revival styles, the Spanish Colonial Revival style was often simplified, reduced to its signature elements, or creatively combined with design features of other Mediterranean regions such as Italy, southern France, and North Africa, resulting in a pan-Mediterranean *mélange* of eclectic variations (see Mediterranean Revival Style). It was sometimes combined, although much less frequently, with the emerging Art Deco and Moderne styles.

Character-defining features include:

- Asymmetrical façade
- Irregular plan and horizontal massing
- Varied gable or hipped roofs with clay barrel tiles
- Plaster veneered exterior walls forming wide, uninterrupted expanses
- Wood-sash casement or double-hung windows, typically with divided lights
- Round, pointed, or parabolic arched openings
- Arcades or colonnades
- Decorative grilles of wood, wrought iron, or plaster
- Balconies, patios or towers
- Decorative terra cotta or glazed ceramic tile work

Spanish Colonial Revival: Extant Examples



10 Halstead Circle (1924)



1812 S. 6th Street (1931)



1200 W. Main Street (c. 1930)



1136 S. 3rd Street (1931)

Sub-Theme: Mediterranean Revival

The Mediterranean Revival style is distinguished by its eclectic mix of architectural elements from several regions around the Mediterranean Sea, including Spain, Italy, southern France, and North Africa. Much of the American architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries can be broadly classified as ultimately Mediterranean in origin, including the Beaux Arts, Mission Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Italian Renaissance Revival styles. By the 1920s, the lines between these individual styles were frequently blurred and their distinguishing characteristics blended by architects who drew inspiration from throughout the Mediterranean region. These imaginative combinations of details from varied architectural traditions resulted in the emergence of a distinct Mediterranean Revival style.

In contrast to the more academic and more literal interpretations such as the Andalusian-influenced Spanish Colonial Revival style or the restrained, dignified Italian Renaissance Revival style, the broader Mediterranean Revival frequently incorporated elements of Italian and Spanish Renaissance, Provençal, Venetian Gothic, and Moorish architecture into otherwise Spanish Colonial Revival designs. The Mediterranean Revival style is sometimes more formal and usually more elaborately composed and ornamented than the simpler, more rustic Spanish Colonial Revival style, and often more flamboyant than the sober Italian Renaissance Revival style. Typical features of the Mediterranean Revival style include arched entrance doorways with richly detailed surrounds; arcades and loggias; stairways and terraces with cast stone balustrades; and Classical decorative elements in cast stone or plaster, including architraves, stringcourses, cornices, pilasters, columns, and quoins.

Character-defining features include:

- Frequently symmetrical façade
- Rectangular plan and two-story height
- Hipped roof with clay barrel tiles and wide boxed or bracketed eaves, or eave cornice
- Exterior walls veneered in smooth plaster
- Wood-sash casement windows, typically with divided lights; sometimes double-hung windows; Palladian windows or other accent windows
- Arched door or window openings
- Elaborate door surrounds
- Arcades, colonnades, or loggias
- Terraces and stairs with cast stone balustrades
- Cast stone or plaster decorative elements including architraves, stringcourses, cornices, pilasters, columns, and quoins
- Decorative grilles of wood, wrought iron, or plaster
- Balconies, patios or towers
- Decorative terra cotta or glazed ceramic tile work

Mediterranean Revival: Extant Examples



Eli Harvey Residence, 130 Champion Place (1929)

Sub-Theme: Monterey Colonial Revival

The Monterey Colonial Revival style is based upon the distinctive style of residential architecture that developed in California beginning in the 1830s, as more and more Yankee merchants and settlers arrived in Alta California and adapted the Anglo building traditions of the East Coast to local Hispanic customs. As its name implies, the style developed in and around Monterey and combined vernacular adobe construction with elements of American Federal and Greek Revival architecture, including multi-light sliding sash windows, louvered shutters, paneled doors, and Classical details executed in wood. The style's most distinguishing characteristic is a second-floor covered wood balcony, often cantilevered, extending the length of the primary façade and sometimes wrapping one or two sides. The best-known example of the style, and one of the earliest, is the Thomas Larkin adobe, constructed beginning in 1834 and one of the first two-story dwellings in Monterey.³⁰⁴

The style was revived beginning in the mid- to late 1920s and was favored by architects and homeowners who perhaps found the fantastical Spanish and Mediterranean revivals too exotic and too different from the building traditions familiar to most Americans. It reached the height of its popularity in Southern California in the 1930s, with some examples constructed in the early 1940s. The Monterey Colonial Revival style replaced adobe construction with wood framed walls veneered in smooth plaster and devoid of surface ornament, and featured second-story balconies, low-pitched gable or hipped roofs, and double-hung wood windows.

Character-defining features include:

- Usually asymmetrical façade
- Two-story height
- Rectangular or L-shaped plan
- Low-pitched hipped or side gable roofs with wood shakes or clay tiles
- Plaster-veneered exterior walls devoid of surface ornament
- Second-floor covered wood balcony, sometimes cantilevered, across primary façade and occasionally wrapping one or more sides, with simple wood posts and wood or metal railing
- Wood-sash double-hung windows, typically with divided lights
- Louvered or paneled wood shutters
- Recessed entrances with paneled wood doors

³⁰⁴ Monterey County Historical Society, "Monterey's Larkin House Adobe and Garden," <http://www.mchsmuseum.com/larkinhouse.html> (accessed September 2013).

Monterey Colonial Revival: Extant Examples



1815 W. Hellman Avenue (1928)



1132 S. 3rd Street (1931)

Sub-Theme: Italian Renaissance Revival

The Italian Renaissance Revival style was based upon the classically-inspired architecture developed in Italy during the artistic, architectural, and literary movement of the 14th through 16th centuries that was spurred by the rebirth of interest in the ideals and achievements of imperial Rome. Italian Renaissance architecture was familiar to late 19th-century American architects who were trained at the École des Beaux Arts, and the style was first interpreted for monumental, elaborately decorated public buildings such as the Boston Public Library (McKim, Mead, and White, 1887) and lavish mansions such as the Breakers (Richard Morris Hunt, 1893), the Vanderbilt “summer cottage” in Newport, Rhode Island. By the early 20th century a more restrained, more literal interpretation of the style developed as a larger number of American architects, as well as their clients, visited Italy and thus gained first-hand knowledge of original examples of Italian Renaissance architecture. This knowledge was further disseminated through extensive photographic documentation. Italian Renaissance Revival buildings are often characterized by formal, usually symmetrical façades with recessed entrances, open loggias, and restrained use of classical details including quoins, roofline balustrades, pedimented windows, molded cornices and stringcourses, and rusticated stone work. The style was frequently used for imposing civic buildings.

Character-defining features include:

- Symmetrical façade
- Rectangular plan and formal composition
- Low-pitched hipped roof with clay barrel or Roman tile; sometimes flat roof with balustrade or parapet
- Boxed eaves with decorative brackets or cornice
- Exterior walls veneered in smooth plaster or masonry
- Arched window and door openings, especially at the first floor
- Divided-light wood sash casement windows (upper story windows usually smaller and less elaborately detailed than lower)
- Pedimented windows
- Primary entrance framed with classical columns or pilasters
- Decorative cast stone classical details including quoins, entablatures, stringcourses, pediments, architraves, cornices
- Open loggias

Sub-Theme: French Revival

French Revival style architecture in Southern California often consists of two sub-types, Chateausque and French Provincial. The Chateausque style is loosely modeled on the 16th century chateaux of France's Loire Valley and combines features of French Gothic and Renaissance architecture. The style gained popularity in the United States in the late 19th century and is most closely associated with Richard Morris Hunt, the first American architect to study at the *École des Beaux-Arts* in Paris. The style did not gain popularity in Southern California until the 1920s; it was most frequently used there for luxury apartment buildings and only occasionally for large single-family residences. Chateausque style buildings are typically two or more stories in height and feature multiple, steeply-pitched hipped roofs with towers, turrets, spires, tall chimneys, and highly ornamented dormers. Exterior walls are usually veneered in stone, brick, or scored plaster, and are ornamented with classical pilasters, stringcourses, and cornices. Windows are typically divided light wood casements and are frequently paired or grouped with prominent mullions.

The more modest French Provincial style was popularized after World War I and is based upon country houses of the French provinces, including Normandy. Although it shares several basic features with the more elaborate Chateausque style, the French Provincial style is much simpler in its composition and detailing. It is characterized by a prominent, steeply pitched hipped roof with flared eaves and a classical eave cornice; simple rectangular plan and massing; exterior walls veneered in smooth plaster; and divided light, wood sash casement or double-hung windows, usually with louvered wood shutters. Second floor windows sometimes break the cornice line with shallow dormers. The Norman variation usually features decorative half-timbering and a circular entrance tower with a conical roof.

Character-defining features of the Chateausque style include:

- Multiple, steeply pitched hipped roofs
- Complex massing
- Stone, brick, or scored plaster veneer at exterior walls
- Towers, turrets, and spires
- Highly ornamented dormers
- Tall chimneys
- Divided light wood casement windows, paired or grouped, with prominent mullions
- Classical pilasters, stringcourses, and cornices
- Detached garage at rear of property
- Character-defining features of the French Provincial style include:
- Steeply pitched hipped roofs with flared eaves and eave cornice
- Rectangular plan and simple massing
- Smooth plaster veneer at exterior walls

- Divided light, wood sash casement or double hung windows that sometimes break the cornice line
- Louvered wood shutters
- Decorative half-timbering and circular entrance tower with conical roof (Norman variation)

French Revival: Extant Examples



3201 W. Commonwealth Ave (1930)

Sub-Theme: American Colonial Revival

American Colonial Revival describes a varied style that combines a number of architectural features found throughout the American Colonies, particularly in New England. The style has neither the strict formality of the Georgian Revival nor the decorative embellishments of the Neoclassical, although it sometimes incorporates elements of both. It also adapts elements of Dutch colonial architecture, such as the gambrel roof. American Colonial Revival buildings are typically one or two stories in height, and are sometimes symmetrical but frequently asymmetrical, with rectangular, L-shaped, or irregular plans. They typically feature side gable or cross gable roofs, sometimes with gabled dormers; exterior walls clad in horizontal wood siding and occasionally brick; prominent brick chimneys; double hung, divided light wood sash windows, usually with louvered wood shutters; paneled wood doors, sometimes with sidelights, transom lights, or fanlights; and restrained use of Classical details. Some American Colonial Revival houses have small, pedimented porches, while others have shed-roofed porches supported on wood posts extending the length of the primary façade.

The U.S. Centennial Exposition of 1876 inspired a sense of patriotism in Americans and fostered an interest in the styles of the Colonial era. Early examples of a revival style in the late 19th century were rarely accurate reproductions, but were instead free interpretations with details inspired by colonial precedents, while later examples shifted to more historically correct proportions and details. The American Colonial Revival style was popular for grand homes in the early 20th century, and by the 1920s was being applied to more modest homes. The restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in the 1930s refueled interest in the style, and it remained popular into the post-World War II era. Local examples primarily date from the 1930s and early 1940s, and often are a simplified version of the style.

Character-defining features include:

- Side gable or cross gable roof, sometimes with dormers
- Asymmetrical composition (occasionally symmetrical)
- Horizontal wood siding at exterior walls
- Paneled wood entry door, sometimes with sidelights, transom light, or fanlight
- Double hung, divided light wood sash windows, usually with louvered wood shutters
- Projecting front porch
- Prominent brick chimney

American Colonial Revival: Extant Examples



301 N. Story Place (1935)

Sub-Theme: Georgian Revival

The Georgian style was the predominant architectural style in Great Britain and her North American colonies throughout the 18th century. It takes its name from the three kings – George I, George II, and George III - whose successive reigns (1714-1820) encompassed the period, but its stylistic elements were probably fixed by the end of the 17th century. The Georgian style combined traditional elements of late medieval English architecture, such as steeply-pitched roofs, towering chimneys, and dormers, with the strict proportions, symmetrical composition and Classical detailing of the Italian Renaissance as well as a recent invention, the vertical sliding sash (double hung) window. Inspired by pattern books and constructed by prosperous merchants and planters, the Georgian houses of the American Colonies were smaller and less ornate, but no less stately, than their British counterparts and projected the same aura of dignity and gentility. In the late 18th century the sober, restrained Georgian style gave way to the lighter, more ornate Adam style.

The U.S. Centennial Exposition of 1876 inspired a sense of patriotism in Americans and fostered an interest in the styles of the Colonial era. Early examples of a revival style in the late 19th century were rarely accurate reproductions, but rather took elements of Georgian architecture and applied them to Victorian buildings. In the early 20th century architects began to produce more accurate interpretations that featured historically correct proportions and details. The Georgian Revival style is characterized by a rectangular plan and a formal, symmetrical, 5-bay composition; restrained use of Classical ornament; hipped or side gable roof with eave cornice, sometimes with dormers; tall chimneys; and double hung, divided light wood sash windows. Georgian Revival buildings of the 1920s and 1930s sometimes also feature Adam (Federal), Palladian, or other Neo-Classical elements such as columned, pedimented porticos or Venetian (Palladian) windows.

Character-defining features include:

- Hipped or side gable roofs with eave cornice; sometimes dormers
- Rectangular plan and regular massing
- Symmetrical façade, typically 5 bays wide
- Exterior walls veneered in brick; occasionally wood siding
- Main entrance centered on front façade, with paneled wood door flanked by Classical pilasters or columns supporting a pediment
- Double hung, divided light wood sash windows, sometimes with louvered or paneled shutters
- Prominent brick chimney(s)

Georgian Revival: Extant Example



927 N. Bushnell Avenue (1924)

Sub-Theme: Neoclassical

Neoclassical styles include elements of the late 18th century Classical Revival and Adam (Federal) styles as well as the early 19th century Greek Revival style, sometimes combining them in the same building. The Classical Revival style was influenced by the work of the 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, who adapted Roman temple forms to residential design. The style is characterized by a dominant entrance portico, usually full height, with classical columns supporting a pediment, and the frequent use of the tripartite Venetian (Palladian) window as a focal point. The Classical Revival style was championed in the United States by Thomas Jefferson, whose designs for the Virginia state capitol, the University of Virginia, and his own home, Monticello, are among the finest American examples of the style.

The related Adam style, a contemporary of the Classical Revival, is based on the work of the Scottish architects and designers Robert, John, and James Adam, who lightened the sober, rectilinear Georgian style by adding round arches, semicircular niches, domes, semicircular or elliptical fanlights, and delicate classical Roman decorative details such as swags, garlands, urns, and grotesques in cast plaster or brightly-colored paint. Both the Classical Revival and the Adam styles were popular in the post-Revolutionary War United States (where the Adam style is known as the Federal style on patriotic principle) from the 1780s until the 1830s, by which time both were supplanted by the Greek Revival style.

The Greek Revival was based on classical Greek, rather than Roman, precedents and was popular in the United States from about 1830 until the outbreak of the Civil War. It is usually characterized by simple forms and bold classical details, including Etruscan or Greek Doric columns and heavy entablatures at the eave and porch.

The Neoclassical styles did not achieve the broader popularity of their related American Colonial Revival contemporary in the 1920s and 1930s. The style is best identified by its symmetrical façade typically dominated by a full-height porch with the roof supported by classical columns. Like the Renaissance Revival, this style was widely used for imposing civic buildings, institutional buildings, and banks.

Character-defining features include:

- Symmetrical façade
- Rectangular plan, sometimes with side wings
- Low-pitched hipped or side gable roof
- Exterior walls clad in masonry veneer or horizontal wood siding
- Paneled wood entrance door with sidelights, transom light, and classical surround
- Double-hung, divided light wood sash windows, sometimes with louvered wood shutters

- Venetian (Palladian) window or round or elliptical accent windows (Classical Revival and Adam/Federal)
- Semicircular or elliptical fanlights over entrance doors (Classical Revival and Adam/Federal)
- Pedimented entrance portico, usually full height, supported on classical columns (Classical Revival and Greek Revival)
- Wide classical entablatures (Greek Revival)
- Roof balustrade (Classical Revival and Adam/Federal)
- Decorative details including swags, garlands, urns, and grotesques (Adam/Federal)

Neoclassical: Extant Examples



Christian Science Church, 200 W. Commonwealth Avenue (1922)

THEME: EARLY MODERNISM

Sub-Theme: International Style

The International Style – an architectural aesthetic that stressed rationality, logic, and a break with the past – emerged in Europe in the 1920s with the work of Le Corbusier in France, and Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in Germany. The United States became a stronghold of Modern architecture after the emigration of Gropius, Mies, and Marcel Breuer. Two Austrian emigrants, Richard Neutra and Rudolph Schindler, helped introduce modern architecture to Southern California in the 1920s. Their buildings were minimalist in concept, stressed functionalism, and were devoid of regional characteristics and nonessential decorative elements. In 1932, the Museum of Modern Art hosted an exhibition, titled simply "Modern Architecture," that featured the work of fifteen architects from around the world whose buildings shared a stark simplicity and vigorous functionalism. The term International Style was coined by Henry Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson in the accompanying catalog.

The early impact of the International Style in the United States was primarily in the fields of residential and small-scale commercial design. The economic downturn of the Depression, followed by World War II, resulted in little architectural development during this period. It was not until the postwar period that Americans embraced Modernism, and its full impact on the architectural landscape is observed. Within the International Style, two trends emerged after World War II. The first emphasized the expression of the building's function, following the early work of Walter Gropius, who created innovative designs that borrowed materials and methods of construction from modern technology. He advocated for industrialized building and an acceptance of standardization and prefabrication. Gropius introduced a screen wall system that utilized a structural steel frame to support the floors and which allowed the external glass walls to continue without interruption.

The second postwar trend in the International Style is represented by Mies van der Rohe and his followers. Within the Miesian tradition there are three subtypes: the glass and steel pavilion, modeled on Mies' design for the Barcelona Pavilion (1929); the skyscraper with an all-glass curtain wall like his Seagram Building (1954) in New York; and the modular office building like his design for Crown Hall (1955) at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). While "form follows function" was the mantra of Gropius, "less is more" was the aphorism of Mies. He focused his efforts on the idea of enclosing open and adaptable "universal" spaces with clearly arranged structural frameworks, featuring pre-manufactured steel frames spanned with large sheets of glass.

Pure examples of the International Style are rare.

Character-defining features include:

- Rectangular massing
- Balance and regularity, but not symmetry

- Clear expression of form and function
- Steel frame structure used as an organizing device
- Elevation of buildings on tall piers (piloti)
- Flat roofs
- Frequent use of glass, steel, concrete, and smooth plaster
- Horizontal bands of flush windows, often meeting at corners
- Absence of ornamentation
- Column-free interior spaces

International Style: Extant Example



2221 S. Westboro Avenue (1930)

Sub-Theme: Art Deco

Art Deco originated in France in the 1910s as an experimental movement in architecture and the decorative arts. It developed into a major style when it was first exhibited in Paris at the 1925 *Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes*, from which it takes its name. The Exposition's organizers had insisted on the creation of a new, modern aesthetic. The architecture of the Art Deco movement rejected the rigid organizational methods and classical ornamentation of the Beaux Arts style. It emphasized a soaring verticality through the use of stepped towers, spires, and fluted or reeded piers, and embraced highly stylized geometric, floral and figurative motifs as decorative elements on both the exterior and interior. Ornate metalwork, especially aluminum, glazed terra cotta tiles, and bright colors were hallmarks of the style.

Art Deco was the first popular style in the United States that consciously rejected historical precedents. It was instead a product of the Machine Age and took its inspiration from industry and transportation. Art Deco was employed primarily in commercial and institutional buildings, and occasionally in multi-family residential buildings. It was rarely used for single-family residences. By the mid-1930s, in the depths of the Great Depression, the highly decorated style was already viewed as garish and overwrought, and it was soon abandoned in favor of the cleaner, simpler Streamline Moderne style.

Character-defining features include:

- Vertical emphasis
- Smooth wall surfaces, usually of plaster
- Flat roofs with decorative parapets or towers
- Stylized decorative floral and figurative elements in cast stone, glazed terra cotta tiles, or aluminum
- Geometric decorative motifs such as zigzags and chevrons
- Stepped towers, piers, and other vertical elements
- Metal windows, usually fixed or casement

Art Deco: Extant Example



Ramona Elementary School, 509 W. Norwood Place

Sub-Theme: Streamline Moderne

The constraints of the Great Depression cut short the development of Art Deco architecture, but replaced it with a purer expression of modernity, the Streamline Moderne. Characterized by smooth surfaces, curved corners, and sweeping horizontal lines, Streamline Moderne is considered to be the first thoroughly Modern architectural style to achieve wide acceptance among the American public. Inspired by the industrial designs of the period, the style was popular throughout the United States in the late 1930s, particularly with the Federally-funded projects of the Works Progress Administration; buildings executed under those programs are often referred to as PWA Moderne. Unlike the equally modern but highly-ornamental Art Deco style of the late 1920s, Streamline Moderne was perceived as expressing an austerity more appropriate for Depression-era architecture, although Art Deco and Streamline Moderne were not necessarily opposites. A Streamline Moderne building with a few Deco elements was not uncommon, but the prime movers behind the Streamline Moderne style such as Raymond Loewy, Walter Dorwin Teague, Gilbert Rohde, and Norman Bel Geddes all disliked Art Deco, seeing it as falsely modern.

The origins of the Streamline Moderne are rooted in transportation design, which took the curved form of the teardrop, because it was the most efficient shape in lowering the wind resistance of an object. Product designers and architects who wanted to express efficiency borrowed the streamlined shape of cars, planes, trains, and ocean liners. Streamline Moderne architecture looked efficient in its clean lines. It was in fact relatively inexpensive to build because there was little labor-intensive ornament like terra cotta; exteriors tended to be concrete or plaster. The Streamline Moderne's finest hour was the New York World's Fair of 1939-40. Here, the "World of Tomorrow" showcased the cars and cities of the future, a robot, a microwave oven, and a television, all in streamlined pavilions. While the style was popular throughout Southern California during the 1930s, there are relatively few examples simply because there was so little construction activity during the Depression.

Character-defining features include:

- Horizontal emphasis
- Asymmetrical façade
- Flat roof with coping
- Smooth plaster wall surfaces
- Curved end walls and corners
- Glass block and porthole windows
- Flat canopy over entrances
- Fluted or reeded moldings or stringcourses
- Pipe railings along exterior staircases and balconies
- Steel sash windows

Streamline Moderne: Extant Example



Mark Keppel High School, 501 E. Hellman Avenue (1940)

Theme: Minimal Traditional

The Minimal Traditional style is defined by a single-story configuration, simple exterior forms, and a restrained use of traditional architectural detailing. The Minimal Traditional house was immensely popular in large suburban residential developments throughout the United States during the 1940s and early 1950s. The style had its origins in the principles of the Modern movement and the requirements of the FHA and other Federal programs of the 1930s. Its open plan reflected the developer's desire for greater efficiency. Modern construction methods addressed the builder's need to reduce costs and keep homes affordable to the middle class. Conventional detailing appealed to conservative home buyers and mortgage companies. In Southern California, the style is closely associated with large-scale residential developments of the World War II and postwar periods. Primarily associated with the detached single-family house, Minimal Traditional detailing may also be applied to apartment buildings of the same period.

Character-defining features include:

- One-story configuration
- Rectangular plan
- Medium or low-pitched hip or side-gable roof with shallow eaves
- Smooth stucco wall cladding, often with wood lap or stone veneer accents
- Wood multi-light windows (picture, double-hung sash, casement)
- Projecting three-sided oriel
- Shallow entry porch with slender wood supports
- Wood shutters
- Lack of decorative exterior detailing

Minimal Traditional: Extant Examples



1701 Edgewood Drive (1939)



1017 Azalea Drive (1948)



1600 S. El Molino St (1947)

THEME: POST-WORLD WAR II MODERNISM/REGIONAL MODERNISM

Sub-Theme: Mid-Century Modern

Mid-Century Modern is a term used to describe the post-World War II iteration of the International Style in both residential and commercial design. The International Style was characterized by geometric forms, smooth wall surfaces, and an absence of exterior decoration. Mid-Century Modern represents the adaptation of these elements to the local climate and topography, as well as to the postwar need for efficiently-built, moderately-priced homes. In Southern California, this often meant the use of wood post-and-beam construction. Mid-Century Modernism is often characterized by a clear expression of structure and materials, large expanses of glass, and open interior plans.

The roots of the style can be traced to early Modernists like Richard Neutra and Rudolph Schindler, whose local work inspired “second generation” Modern architects like Gregory Ain, Craig Ellwood, Harwell Hamilton Harris, Pierre Koenig, Raphael Soriano, and many more. These postwar architects developed an indigenous Modernism that was born from the International Style but matured into a fundamentally regional style, fostered in part by *Art and Architecture* magazine’s pivotal Case Study Program (1945-1966). The style gained popularity because its use of standardized, prefabricated materials permitted quick and economical construction. It became the predominant architectural style in the postwar years and is represented in almost every property type, from single-family residences to commercial buildings to gas stations.

Character-defining features include:

- One or two-story configuration
- Horizontal massing (for small-scale buildings)
- Simple geometric forms
- Expressed post-and-beam construction, in wood or steel
- Flat roof or low-pitched gable roof with wide overhanging eaves and cantilevered canopies
- Unadorned wall surfaces
- Wood, plaster, brick or stone used as exterior wall panels or accent materials
- Flush-mounted metal frame fixed windows and sliding doors, and clerestory windows
- Exterior staircases, decks, patios and balconies
- Little or no exterior decorative detailing
- Attached carport or garage
- Expressionistic/Organic subtype: sculptural forms and geometric shapes, including butterfly, A-frame, folded plate or barrel vault roofs

Mid-Century Modern: Extant Examples



1901 S. Garvey Avenue (1947)



2316 S. Electric Avenue (1952)



2741 S. Fremont Avenue (1963)

Sub-Theme: Ranch

The Ranch style emerged from the 1930s designs of Southern California architect Cliff May, who merged modernist ideas with traditional notions of the working ranches of the American West and in particular, the rustic adobe houses of California's Spanish- and Mexican-era *ranchos*. The resulting architectural style – characterized by its low horizontal massing, sprawling interior plan, and wood exterior detailing – embodied the mid-20th century ideal of “California living.” The Ranch style enjoyed enormous popularity throughout the United States from the 1940s to 1970s. It epitomized unpretentious architecture and dominated the suburbs of the post-World War II period. It was more conservative than other modern residential architecture of the period, often using decorative elements based on historical forms and capitalizing on the national fascination with the “Old West.” The underlying philosophy of the Ranch house was informality, outdoor living, gracious entertaining, and natural materials.

The most common style of Ranch house is the California Ranch. It is characterized by its one-story height; asymmetrical massing in L- or U-shaped plans; low-pitched hipped or gabled roofs with wide overhanging eaves; a variety of materials for exterior cladding, including plaster and board-and-batten; divided light wood sash windows, sometimes with diamond-shaped panes; and large picture windows. Decorative details commonly seen in California Ranch houses include scalloped bargeboards, false cupolas and dovecotes, shutters, and iron or wood porch supports. The California Ranch house accommodated America's adoption of the automobile as the primary means of transportation with a two-car garage that was a prominent architectural feature on the front of the house, and a sprawling layout on a large lot. Floor plans for the tracts of Ranch houses were usually designed to meet the FHA standards so that the developer could receive guaranteed loans.

Another variation on the Ranch house is the Modern Ranch, which was influenced by Mid-Century Modernism. Modern Ranches emphasized horizontal planes more than the California Ranch, and included modern instead of traditional stylistic details. Character-defining features included low-pitched hipped or flat roofs, prominent rectangular chimneys, recessed entryways, and wood or concrete block privacy screens. Other stylistic elements resulted in Asian variations.

Character-defining features include:

- One-story
- Sprawling plan
- L- or U-shaped plan, often with radiating wings
- Low, horizontal massing with wide street façade
- Low-pitched hipped or gable roof with open overhanging eaves and wood shakes
- Plaster, wood lap, or board-and-batten siding, often with brick or stone accents
- Divided light wood sash windows (picture, double-hung sash, diamond-pane)

- Wide, covered front porch with wood posts
- Attached garage, sometimes linked with open-sided breezeway
- Details such as wood shutters, attic vents in gable ends, dovescotes, extended gables, or scalloped barge boards
- Modern Ranch sub-type may feature flat or low-pitched hipped roof with composition shingle or gravel roofing; metal framed windows; wood or concrete block privacy screens

Ranch House: Extant Examples



3309 Viscount Street (1954)



2325 Roark Drive (1951)

Sub-Theme: Googie

Googie has been described as Modernism for the masses. With its swooping lines and organic shapes, the style attempted to capture the playful exuberance of postwar America. Named for the John Lautner-designed Googie's Restaurant in Los Angeles, the style was widely employed in roadside commercial architecture of the 1950s, including coffee shops, bowling alleys, and car washes.

Character-defining features include:

- Expressive rooflines, including butterfly, folded-plate, and cantilevers
- Organic, abstract, and parabolic shapes
- Clear expression of materials, including concrete, steel, asbestos, cement, glass block, plastic, and plywood
- Large expanses of plate glass
- Thematic ornamentation, including tiki and space age motifs
- Primacy of signage, including the pervasive use of neon

Googie: Extant Examples



850 W. Valley Boulevard (1967)



Prebles Restaurant, 201 W. Main Street (1964)

Sub-Theme: Programmatic/Mimetic³⁰⁵

Programmatic/Mimetic buildings are a specific commercial architectural type common along the roadside during the 1920s and 1930s. Programmatic/Mimetic buildings are, above all, objects that need to be viewed in three dimensions and the sprawl allowed by the passenger car. Larger lots surrounded by parking made this possible. At the same time, the speed of passing vehicles gave the large-scale advertising innate in the Programmatic/Mimetic form an advantage over the more discreet signs of the earlier pre-automobile commercial outlets.

Programmatic/Mimetic architecture evolved between 1918 and 1950, but was most prevalent between 1928 and 1934. The property type represents a unique expression of American roadside design which conveys an advertising message through adaptations in the building form itself. The term “programmatic” refers to structures whose form is directly related to the products sold within, such as a hot dog stand in the form of a hot dog. “Mimetic” refers to buildings which mimic forms which are not related to the building’s use but may be related to the name of the original business, such as a restaurant in the form of a derby hat, or the spirit of the activity housed within, such as a bar in the form of a giant beer barrel. In both cases, these structures take the form of objects not normally associated with architecture, including food, animals, or household items. Extant examples are rare.

Programmatic/Mimetic roadside buildings could be found throughout the country, but were particularly well-suited to Southern California. The mild climate and the resulting local tradition of inexpensive stucco-on-wood-frame construction made them easy and cheap to build. The stucco-on-wood-frame construction also allowed for a greater freedom of form than could be achieved with the masonry or clapboard exteriors typical elsewhere.

Programmatic/mimetic architecture is typically applied to low-scale commercial buildings, particularly those along well-trafficked automobile corridors. This architecture was primarily applied to restaurants, food stands, and retail stores. The term “Programmatic/Mimetic” should not be applied to thematic signage applied to an otherwise ordinary building form, or to buildings that adopt a fantasy architectural theme.

Character-defining features include:

- Typically a low-scale commercial building
- Primarily applied historically to restaurants, food stands, and retail stores
- Conveys an advertising message through adaptations in the building form itself
- Takes the form of an object not normally associated with architecture, such as food, animals, or household items

³⁰⁵ The following discussion of mimetic architecture has been excerpted and adapted from SurveyLA Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey, “Context: Commercial Development, 1850-1980; Theme: Commercial Development and the Automobile, 1910-1970; Sub-theme: Programmatic/Mimetic, 1918-1950,” August 2016, https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/3007ea6c-c4dd-42ec-bede-b109293f2873/CommercialDevelopmentandtheAutomobile_1910-1970.pdf (accessed November 2021), 29-31.

- Of the layouts typical of adapting to the needs of the automobile (e.g. free-standing on a roadside setting to allow for viewing from the automobile)
- May be linked to particular companies and/or designers

Programmatic/Mimetic: Extant Examples



Crawford's Corner, 1485 E. Valley Boulevard
(1964)



Chili Bowl, 501 W. Valley Boulevard (1941)

Sub-Theme: New Formalism

New Formalism is a sub-type of Late Modern architecture that developed in the mid-1950s as a reaction to the International Style's strict vocabulary and total rejection of historical precedent. New Formalist buildings are monumental in appearance, and reference and abstract classical forms such as full-height columns, projecting cornices, and arcades. Traditional materials such as travertine, marble, or granite were used, but in a panelized, non-traditional form. In Southern California, the style was applied mainly to public and institutional buildings. On a larger urban design scale, grand axes and symmetry were used to achieve a modern monumentality. Primary in developing New Formalism were three architects: Edward Durrell Stone, who melded his Beaux Arts training with the stark Modernism of his early work; Philip Johnson; and Minoru Yamasaki. All three had earlier achieved prominence working within the International Style and other Modernist idioms.

Character-defining features of New Formalism include:

- Symmetrical plan
- Flat rooflines with heavy overhanging cornices
- Colonnades, plazas and elevated podiums used as compositional devices
- Repeating arches and rounded openings
- Large screens of perforated concrete block, concrete, or metal

New Formalism: Extant Example



Alhambra Court House, 150 W. Commonwealth Avenue (1971)

Sub-Theme: Late Modernism

Late Modern is a blanket term used to describe the evolution of Modern architecture from the mid-1950s through the 1970s. It is typically applied to commercial and institutional buildings. Unlike the straightforward, functionalist simplicity of International Style and Mid-Century Modernism, Late Modern buildings exhibit a more deliberate sculptural quality with bold geometric volumes, uniform surfaces such as glass skin or concrete, and a sometimes exaggerated expression of structure and systems. Significant architects who produced works in the style include Marcel Breuer, Philip Johnson, Cesar Pelli, Piano and Rogers, and John Portman.

Character-defining features of Late Modern style include:

- Bold geometric volumes
- Large expanses of unrelieved wall surfaces
- Uniform use of cladding materials including glass, concrete, or masonry veneer
- Exaggerated expression of structure and systems
- Hooded or deeply set windows
- Little or no applied ornament

Late Modern: Extant Example

Sears, Roebuck & Co. Pacific Coast Territory Administrative Offices Tower, 900 S. Fremont Avenue (A.C. Martin & Associates; 1971)

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**Summary Statement of Significance**

Properties significant for their architectural merit are evaluated under this context, which includes separate themes for the predominant architectural styles found in the city. Properties eligible under the Architecture and Design context may be significant as an excellent or rare example of an architectural style, property type, or designed landscape; or as an important example of the work of a notable builder, designer, landscape architect, or architect.

Many resources that are eligible under this context may also be significant under other contexts as well.

Period of Significance

1875-1980

Period of Significance Justification

Reflects the extant built landscape in Alhambra from the earliest known resource through the close of the period of significance for this study, which may be extended over time.

Geographic Location

Citywide

Criteria

National Register: C California Register: 3

Associated Property Types

Properties eligible under this context may be any property type: Residential, Commercial, Institutional, or Industrial

Property Type Significance

See Summary Statement of Significance above.

Eligibility Standards:

- Dates from the period of significance of the applicable theme; and
- Represents a good to excellent example of the style; and
- Display most of the character-defining features of the style or type

Integrity Considerations:

- Should retain integrity of Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, and Feeling

- Additions may be acceptable if not within public view, do not alter the original roofline, and are subordinate to the original design intent
- Replacement of some windows may be acceptable if the openings have not been changed or resized
- If it is a rare surviving example of its style or type, a greater degree of alteration may be acceptable

SOURCES



Alhambra Public Library, circa 1920. *California State Library.*

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*Appendices***APPENDIX A – DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY**

The Alhambra Hotel, circa 1887. *USC Digital Library.*

APPENDIX A – DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT

The area’s earliest known inhabitants were members of the Tongva tribe, hunter-gatherers who resided throughout the region that is now Los Angeles County.

EUROPEAN EXPLORATION (1542-1769)

- 1542 Portuguese navigator Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo becomes the first European to explore what is now the West Coast of the United States.
- 1602 Navigator Sebastian Vizcaíno further investigates the Pacific Coast region.

SPANISH RULE (1769-1821)

- 1769 The Spanish government dispatches an expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá to conduct an inland exploration of California.
- The first recorded reference to Alhambra (“El Susa”) appears in the diary of Fr. Juan Crespi, a missionary with the Portolá expedition.
- 1771 *Mission San Gabriel Arcángel* is founded on the banks of the San Gabriel River.
- 1776 Due to severe flooding, the Mission is relocated to higher ground in present-day San Gabriel.
- 1781 *El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río de Porciúncula* is founded on September 4th, the second town created during the Spanish colonization of Alta California.

MEXICAN RULE (1821-1849)

- 1821 Mexico wins its independence from Spain, making Alta California part of Mexico.

- 1833** The Mexican Congress passes an act to secularize the California missions.
- 1838** The 128.26-acre Rancho Huerta de Cuati is granted to Hugo Reid and his wife, Victoria Bartolomea Comicrabit.
- 1848** The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the Mexican-American War and cedes Alta California to the United States.
- 1849** Gold is discovered at Sutter’s Mill in Coloma, California, sparking a gold rush that prompts hundreds of thousands of people to descend upon Alta California. The discovery also gives rise to the development of the mining industry in California, which transforms the Southern California landscape and brings scores of new settlers to the region.

EARLY CALIFORNIA (1850-1874)

- 1850** California is admitted to the Union on September 9th, becoming its 31st state.

Congress passes the Foreign Miners’ Tax of 1850, which imposes a tax of \$20 per month on foreign miners. The Act is later repealed in 1851, but is subsequently replaced with another law in 1852, which imposes a tax of only three dollars per month and is increased multiple times in subsequent years. Both Acts are adopted in an effort to restrict foreign competition in mining, and are largely designed to limit the activities of Chinese miners.

Congress passes the Act for the Government and Protection of Indians, also known informally as the Indian Indenture Act. The Act regulates certain employment terms that allow for the separation of Indigenous parents from their children, displacing local Tongva communities and leading to the enslavement and enforced labor of Native Americans in the state. The Act also redefines legal definitions of certain criminal activities and punishments and incentivizes harassment and violence toward Native Americans under the guise of punishment, resulting in widespread exploitation.

- 1851** Congress passes the California Land Act, which requires all holders of Spanish and/or Mexican land grants to present their titles for verification by the Public Land Commission, which was charged with determining the validity – or lack thereof – of land grants

previously assigned by both the Mexican and Spanish authorities under earlier periods of rule. Adoption of the Land Act contributed to the breakup of expansive rancho lands that dominated the Southern California landscape and created newfound availability that attracted settlers looking for smaller acreages to the area. The shift helped fuel one of the region's earliest land booms and sparked the transformation of the area from a rancho economy to a more complex model as land became available for other purposes.

- 1852** Hugo Reid dies on December 12th.
- 1854** Benjamin Davis "Don Benito" Wilson acquires Rancho Huerta de Cuati from Hugo Reid's widow, Victoria Comicrabit Reid, and dubs the property "Lake Vineyard."
- 1857** Congress passes the California Overland Mail Act, which authorizes overland mail delivery service to California and promises government aid to any company that can reliably transport mail from St. Louis to San Francisco twice a week and guarantee its arrival within twenty-five days. Passage of the law sparks the launch of a stagecoach line carrying both passengers and overland mail to and from California in 1858.
- 1861** The first transcontinental telegraph line is completed, eliminating gaps in transmission in Nevada and creating a link between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, which allows telegrams to be transmitted between the East and West Coasts for the first time.
- 1867** Wilson's daughter, Maria de Jesus Wilson, marries James De Barth Shorb, who joins his father-in-law in developing his San Gabriel Valley land holdings.
- 1869** The Transcontinental Railroad is completed on May 10th. Its construction links Union Pacific Railroad lines in the east and Central Pacific Railroad lines in the west, making overland transport possible between the East and West Coasts.
- 1870s** As population increases in Los Angeles County, the cost of government increases and property taxes are raised – eventually to as much as fifty cents per acre. Wilson begins to consider subdividing Lake Vineyard in order to raise money.

- 1873** The Southern Pacific Railroad line through the San Gabriel Valley is completed, paving the way for expanded agricultural activities as well as residential and commercial development.
- 1874** B. D. Wilson subdivides a portion of Lake Vineyard for development as the Alhambra Tract (MR003-266), which is surveyed in June.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF ALHAMBRA (1875-1902)

- 1875** Congress passes the Page Act, the first restrictive immigration law to be adopted in America. The Act marks the end of open borders by effectively barring the entry of Chinese laborers into the United States. Though the Act applies to both sexes in theory in an effort to prevent forced labor, in practice Chinese women are selectively targeted in order to prevent them from engaging in prostitution with white American males.
- Acreage in the Alhambra Tract is offered for sale to the public for the first time in April.
- Wilson and Shorb – along with several associates – establish the Lake Vineyard Land and Water Association, which is incorporated in May.
- 1876** The Alhambra Tract is recorded in September.
- The Alhambra Addition Tract (MR003-298) is surveyed in October and recorded in December.
- 1877** All five and ten-acre plots in the Alhambra Tract are sold within two years.
- 1878** St. James Chapel, a 20x35-foot frame building, is dedicated in January. It remains the only church building in Alhambra until 1888.
- Benjamin Wilson dies on March 11th.
- 1880** At least 25 families reside in Alhambra.
- 1880s** The land boom of the 1880s prompts many owners of parcels in the original Alhambra and Alhambra Addition Tracts to subdivide their

acreage into smaller lots to meet the demand for land and housing in the area.

- 1882** Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act, which prohibits the immigration of Chinese laborers. It is the first law to be implemented specifically to prevent a particular ethnic or cultural group from immigrating to the United States.
- The San Gabriel Winery is established.
- 1883** The demand for land prompts the first subdivision recorded in Alhambra when G. B. Adams divides six lots in the Alhambra Addition tract into twelve smaller parcels (MR005-121).
- 1885** The Santa Fe Railroad completes a second transcontinental line that now terminates in Los Angeles, breaking the Southern Pacific Railroad's monopoly on the region. A fare war between the now-warring transcontinental railroad companies brings railroad ticket prices to new lows, drawing thousands of tourists and new residents to Southern California.
- Alhambra residents begin to focus on developing Main Street as a commercial center, opening the first store in the region in 1885, and the area soon begins to function as a commercial hub for the San Gabriel Valley.
- 1887** The Alhambra Hotel opens for business.
- The Southern Pacific Railroad builds a full-service depot at the southeast corner of Garfield Avenue and Marengo Road, with a passenger waiting area, loading dock, Western Union office, and resident stationmaster.
- The Alhambra and Pasadena Street Railway is completed in February. The horse-drawn trolley route begins at the Southern Pacific depot at Garfield and Mission and runs north to the Raymond depot of the Santa Fe Railroad in Pasadena.
- 1888** The San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Railroad is completed. This line links the new town of Monrovia with Los Angeles via Alhambra.

- 1890** The United States Census records the City's population of 808 residents.
- Ramona Convent Secondary School opens.
- 1893** Alhambra's first hospital is established in a remodeled bungalow by Drs. Milbank Johnson and O. O. Witherbee at the corner of Boabdil (Main) and Second Streets.
- 1896** James De Barth Shorb dies on April 16th.
- 1901** The Los Angeles and Pasadena Electric Railway (the predecessor of Pacific Electric) begins construction on the Alhambra line in October.
- 1902** The electric railway line is opened on June 21st with cars running through to General Hospital in Los Angeles on a 30-minute schedule.

CITY INCORPORATION & CIVIC IMPROVEMENT (1903-1919)

- 1903** Alhambra is incorporated as a city on July 11th.
- Alfred Dolge comes to Alhambra to establish a felt-making factory, the Alfred Dolge Manufacturing Company, with the financial backing of Henry Huntington, William Kerkoff, and associates.
- 1906** The City files its first building report, noting that 161 construction permits were issued in 1906, with a total value of \$200,343.
- 1908** Dolge's felt company is reorganized as the Alfred Dolge Felt Company, and the company adds the production of piano felt as well as the fabrication of piano hammers and ladies' slippers. The company's name is soon changed to the Standard Felt Company.
- 1910** The United States Census records the City's population of 5,021 residents.
- 1913** The Midwick Country Club opens on April 19th.
- 1915** Alhambra becomes a chartered city of the third class on March 8th.

- 1917** The United States declares war on Germany on April 6th, marking the country's entrance into World War I.
- 1918** A ceasefire and armistice is declared on November 11th, marking the conclusion of World War I.

CITY EXPANSION & INDUSTRIAL GROWTH (1920-1940)

- 1920** The United States Census records the City's population of 9,096 residents, an increase of 81.16% over the previous decade.
- 1921** Congress passes the Emergency Quota Act, which introduces a quota system – known as the National Origins Formula – for establishing numerical limits on immigration from any particular country. The quota is calculated in a way that favors Northern and Western European countries, and immigration from Eastern and/or Southern European countries as well as non-European countries falls drastically in the following years.
- 1923** Building permit valuations in Alhambra reach \$7,231,330 in 1923, a high that will not be equaled until immediately after World War II.
- Assessed valuation in the City totals approximately \$13,000,000.
- 1924** Congress adopts the Immigration Act of 1924, which places further restrictions on existing immigration quotas and implements a new visa system that requires all non-citizens entering the United States to first obtain a visa from an American embassy or consulate before traveling to America.
- 1929** Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange plunge, precipitating an economic collapse that results in the Great Depression.
- 1930** The United States Census records the City's population of 29,472 residents, an increase of 224.01% over the previous decade.
- The Alhambra Airport opens in April.
- 1933** The Long Beach earthquake rattles Southern California on March 10th. The widespread damage resulting from the 6.4-magnitude earthquake highlights the need to consider earthquake-resistant design in the construction of buildings in the region.

The California State Legislature passes the Field Act on April 10th, which mandates earthquake-resistant construction and establishes seismic safety standards for the design and construction of school buildings in the State.

1940 The United States Census records the City's population of 38,935 residents, an increase of 32.11% over the previous decade.

Construction in Alhambra has increased more than 600% since 1910. Assessed valuation in the City totals more than \$27,000,000.

Annual production in the Alhambra area now exceeds \$8,000,000 and employs nearly 4,000 people. As a result the area now ranks 14th in value of products in California.

WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)

1941 Japan attacks the American naval fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7th, prompting the United States' entrance into World War II.

Retail trade totals \$15,000,000.

1943 Congress passes the Magnuson Act, which reverses the earlier prohibition of Chinese immigration to the United States and instead introduces a quota that allows a small number of Chinese to enter the country each year. American borders are now open to Chinese citizens for the first time in over sixty years.

The Pacific Electric red cars make their final trip on the Alhambra, San Gabriel and Temple City line.

1945 Japan surrenders to the Allied forces, marking the end of the hostilities of World War II.

POSTWAR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY (1946-1980)

1946 Building permit valuations reach a new high at \$8,148,006.

1948 Building permit valuations set a new record at \$12,309,205. This is the last year in which permit valuations peak; they later fall annually until 1953.

1949 Retail trade jumps over 400% since 1941, to \$65,000,000.

- 1950** The United States Census records the City’s population of 51,359 residents, an increase of 31.91% over the previous decade.
- 1952** Congress passes the Immigration and Nationality Act, which employs a more streamlined quota formula for immigration and establishes new categories for immigrants that place greater emphasis on familial ties and/or labor qualifications. More importantly, the Act also abolishes the “alien ineligible to citizenship” category that has previously characterized American immigration law, resulting in discrimination against people of Asian descent.
- 1953** Building permit valuations reach a new low at \$4,657,885.
- 1960** The United States Census records the City’s population of 54,807 residents, an increase of 6.71% over the previous decade.
- 1965** Congress passes the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which abolishes the National Origins Formula’s discriminatory quotas that favors European immigrants. The abolishment of the immigration quotas formerly maintained under the National Origins Formula sparks a rise in Asian migration to the United States, with Chinese and Japanese settling in the San Gabriel Valley.
- The City of Alhambra draws up its first General Plan.
- 1967** The Alhambra Redevelopment Agency is established.
- 1966** The Alhambra Historical Society is established.
- 1970** The United States Census records the City’s population of 62,125 residents, an increase of 13.35% over the previous decade.
- Following the abolishment of the National Origins Formula, Alhambra’s Chinese population grows by 483.9%, and the City’s Japanese population increases by 352.3%.
- More than half of the City’s population lives in multi-family residences, reflecting the increasing density of housing in the City in the postwar era.
- 1980** The United States Census records the City’s population of 64,615 residents, an increase of 4.00% over the previous decade.

ALHAMBRA TODAY (1981-present)

- 1984** The City of Alhambra conducts its first historic resources survey. The survey effort includes a citywide windshield survey as well as an intensive-level survey of two single-family residential neighborhoods identified for their overall architectural character.
- 1990** The United States Census records the City's population of 82,106 residents, an increase of 27.01% over the previous decade.
- 2000** The United States Census records the City's population of 85,804 residents, an increase of 4.50% over the previous decade.
- 2003** The City of Alhambra celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.
- 2010** The United States Census records the City's population of 83,089 residents, reflecting a decrease in population for the first time since the City's founding.
- 2012** The Alhambra Redevelopment Agency ceases operations.

APPENDIX B – POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND COMPOSITION BY DECADE, 1910-1980

Table B-1: Population by Decade, 1910-1980³⁰⁶

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1910	4,970	—	18	(20)		(13)	33	5,021
1920	8,965	—	44	(21)		(65)	87	9,096
1930	28,793	(17)	96	(7)		(79)	583	29,472
1940	38,737	(7)	79	(10)		(63)	119	38,935
1950	51,129	(10)	116	(27)		(48)	114	51,359
1960	54,483	31	89	56	26	107	15	54,807
1970	60,278	129	197	327	143	484	567	62,125
1980	46,197	343	674	4,043	837	1,375	11,146	64,615

Table B-2: Rate of Population Growth by Decade, 1910-1980

Year	White Native and Foreign-Born	Native American	Black	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Other Races	Overall Pop.
1910	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1920	80.38%	—	144.44%	5.00%	—	400.00%	163.64%	81.16%
1930	221.17%	—	118.18%	-66.67%	—	21.54%	570.11%	224.01%
1940	34.53%	-58.82%	-17.71%	42.88%	—	-20.25%	-79.59%	32.11%
1950	31.99%	42.88%	46.84%	170.00%	—	-23.81%	-4.20%	31.91%
1960	6.56%	210.00%	-23.28%	107.41%	—	122.92%	-86.84%	6.71%

³⁰⁶ Numbers in parentheses represent breakdowns of some races included in the “Other Races” category.

1970	10.63%	316.13%	121.35%	483.99%	450.00%	352.34%	3680.00%	13.35%
1980	-23.36%	165.89%	242.13%	1136.39%	485.31%	184.09%	1865.78%	4.00%

APPENDIX C – COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Included in this appendix is correspondence received to date on the development of the Historic Context Statement. These comments were received either through written communication with City staff, or via the Community Submission portal on the project website, found here: <https://historicalhambra.squarespace.com/community-submissions>.

All names and contact information have been removed.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Heather Goers](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:57:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine,

Here is an email for the Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org





From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:39 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: 403 S. Garfield / T. J. Stuart

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): 403 S. Garfield

Type of Information: important person and architecture in historical downtown

Period of time represented: Victorian

—

The home belonged to T. J. Stuart. Bruce Risher also mentioned that William Thrall may have lived in this house although Oscar Amaro says he's done research on Will Thrall and he found that Thrall lived on the east side of Garfield, not in this house. Will Thrall was a naturalist and hiker who did much for the San Gabriel Mountains.

Thomas J. Stuart - born March 20, 1839 in Pennsylvania - he was one of nine children born to David and Elizabeth Stuart
Mr. Stuart died in 1909 and he is buried in the San Gabriel Cemetery.
He married Charlotte H. Willey, from Indiana, in 1866 in Indiana.

They had five children but only three survived - Edward (born 1869), Mary (born 1871) and Anna (born in 1888).

Charlotte and Thomas lived in Jeffersonville, Indiana on the banks of the Ohio River between 1870 and the early 1880s when Thomas worked as a shipping clerk.

In the 1900 census, they are living in Alhambra, although the census identifies it as San Gabriel. Their house number is 424 but there is no street name listed. His profession in 1900 is listed as deputy clerk but it doesn't say what company/organization/institution he works for.

In 1900, two of their children (Edward and Anna) are still living with them. Edward is working as a bookkeeper. Anna is a teacher.

From Chris Olsen & article in APG Fall Newsletter

The 1920 U.S. Census shows that 403 S. Garfield was originally used as multi-family housing. According to the Assessor directory, two families lives in what is the oldest and largest structure on the lot. Clifford H. Everdon, a shoe salesman, and his wife Edith and their daughter and son, rented the property along with the Coleman family. Calvin Coleman, who was a laborer in an oil field, also lived there with his wife and son.

The Assessor's Office shows three structures on the property, with the oldest possibly dating from 1918, though we estimate it is older than that based on its Victorian architectural features. Flanked on either side by what look like the original grove of trees, it is listed at 3,370 square feet, 6 bedrooms/2 baths; a one-room sleeping porch was added in 1927. Also on the lot are two other units, both built in 1941, each with one bedroom and one bathroom.

In July 2015, J&KD LLC bought this property for \$3.1 million from ANJ LLC, just 2 months after ANJ LLC bought it for \$600,000 from Eretz G4 Properties LLC. It is now on the market again.

Why is this significant?: Victorian house from c. 1888 ; TJ Stuart might have been one of the founding fathers of the City

Where can we find more information?: Alhambra Preservation Group , and Historical Society may have info.

The City of Alhambra may publish: No, please consider the resource(s) described above, but do not share my name.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Cc: [Quyle, Scott](#)
Subject: FW: addendum to my forms I submitted, 403 S. Garfield
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:56:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From:
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: addendum to my forms I submitted, 403 S. Garfield

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization.

Hi

Thank you for your amazing work so far!

I filled out the form tonight. Since there's no way to upload pictures, here is what I have that I wanted to share:

403 S. Garfield, 1880s

I snuck in there back in 2017 and took inside pics during renovation. I was shocked at how amny diff. rooms there were.

When I was on the APG board, I facilitated an effort to get the current owner to re-imagine this bldg, and contract with a historic architect/developer out of Pasadena (forgot his name, office on Colorado Blvd in Old Town) to possibly put in assisted living. The property takes up the whole block and it seemed he'd rather just have it sold and demolished. Over the years he's been trying to sell it off. It's on the medical bldg. corridor and is in extreme danger.

It's on the historic survey your group did for us in the 80s.

TJ Stuart apparently is buried in a cemetery I think in San Gabriel. Bruce Risher sent me the photo and I may have it if you need it.



CARRIAGE AWAITS—Taken in 1888, this old picture depicts the old home of T. J. Stuart, complete with horse and buggy, as it looked at Garfield and Beacon Streets during pioneer days in Alhembra. The home still stands with the scenery changed.



















From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:43:22 PM

From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Pedrini's Music Store

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Main & 1st Streets in Alhambra

Type of Information: Important cultural resource. I lived in Alhambra from 1969-79. Pedrini's was where I purchased sheet music, albums, musical instruments, took music lessons, learned about classical music. To me, it was a musical resource in my home town within walking distance of my home, a store and a music studio where I took lessons. The Pedrini family had been at this location for over 60 years and contributed greatly to the cultural development of many via music.

Period of time represented: See above response.

Why is this significant?: Important cultural resource for all types of music. My interest was classical.

Where can we find more information?: The Pedrini family. Look them up. Not sure if Geraldine Pedrini is still alive, but her relatives may be.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:43:27 PM

From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: St. Therese Church

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Alhambra Road and Vega Street

Type of Information: Important architectural landmark and cultural resource of Catholics.

Period of time represented: Built in the 1940's, but example of an earlier style, Art Deco, Zigzag Moderne. Also important cultural resource for Catholics. J. Earl Trudeau, architect, 1908-1990. Important So. Calif. church architect.

Why is this significant?: See above response

Where can we find more information?: St. Therese Church and website.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:43:44 PM

From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Alhambra Library

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Quonset hut at Garfield near Elgin (1969 to mid 70's), Main Street near 2nd Street (mid 70's to 1990's ?).

Type of Information: Important cultural, educational resource. I lived in Alhambra from 1969-79.

Period of time represented: See above.

Why is this significant?: Important cultural and educational resource.

Where can we find more information?: Alhambra Library

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Cc: [Quyle, Scott](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:01:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:37 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Twoheys and The Diner on Main

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Garfield/Huntington and 201 W. Main

Type of Information: restaurant, Googie -type diners

Period of time represented: 1940s-50s

Twohey's is slated for demolition. It's now empty. I have emailed you some interior pictures from 2020.

Why is this significant?: diner architecture

Where can we find more information?: Twohey's and Diner on Main owners

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Cc: [Quyle, Scott](#)
Subject: FW: addendum to my forms I submitted, Twohey's
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:57:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
Community Development Department
111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From:
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:33 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: addendum to my forms I submitted, Twohey's





pictures from Oct. 2020

Property sold, up for demolition soon. Still stands Huntington/Garfield

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Cc: [Reynoso, Vanessa](#); [Ho, Andrew](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Contact Us
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 3:46:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Everyone,

Here is an email

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 3:25 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Contact Us

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Message: Hi Project Team!

I just wanted to let you know that I attended the 10/13/21 meeting regarding development of an historic context statement, and you did a really fantastic job. I am so pleased that HRG was hired for this segment of the project. I first became involved in activism related to historic preservation in Alhambra in 2004. Oscar Amaro and Kathy Hildreth had established what became Alhambra Preservation Group a few months previously -- I did the work to incorporate it as a nonprofit organization and served two terms as its president. I am now working with a group to revive the Alhambra Historical Society. I am confident that we can get your researchers into the local museum to see what resources can be utilized (with the cooperation of the former board of trustees). Our members include five people who were present on the 10/13 Zoom meeting, as well as Bruce Risher -- who wrote the book on Alhambra's first 100 years.

For what it's worth, I hope that you will utilize some of the materials we developed in Alhambra Preservation Group. I left the board of directors in 2016, but before that time we presented annual Heritage Home Awards, recognizing the owners of historic buildings who had done particularly fine work of restoration and rehabilitation. We researched and wrote narrative histories of those award-winning houses -- at least 4-6 per year. We also presented several home tours between 2004 and 2013, and copies of the program booklets from those events should still be available through APG or the Historical Society. If not, I have most of them. Another project of ours was the research and writing of about 5 Home Histories for donors. I did much of the writing, and I think I have copies of all of them. Oscar and Joyce Amaro can provide them also, of course -- as well as providing you with lots more info on all the organization has done since 2016.

I will read the draft context statement in the next few days, and provide specific input. In the meantime, I'm hoping that one of its elements will be a statement on the influence of the Pacific Electric Rail system on the development of residential and commercial areas between 1900 and 1925.

Thank you so much for your work! Those of us who have been in this fight for decades feel like the cavalry has finally arrived!

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Cc: [Quyle, Scott](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:54:08 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 6:50 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Scripps Kensington

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Valley/Marengo (1518 Marengo Avenue, Alhambra)

Type of Information: Scripps Kensington was a skilled nursing facility of the Episcopal Church. There were 268 historic trees on these 12 acres of land up until 2018, when they were razed

Period of time represented: 1920s - 1960s approx. in its hey day.

Why is this significant?: There's a chapel by a famous architect, and fortunately thanks to community outrage and Alhambra Preservation Group activism, that got saved. But the trees got razed. I think it's historically significant for the fact that seniors gave up their property and net worth to the Church and in return the Church promised to take care of them and provided them a serene place to retire. Not only is the historic use of the property important, but the community coming together to save the trees and Chapel.

Where can we find more information?: <https://concernedalhambrans.wordpress.com>
(Marengo Avenue Water Brigade community group that fought for 1+ year to save the trees and chapel) I was the lead organizer and would love to submit to you modern day photos I took before demolition.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Cc: [Quyle, Scott](#)
Subject: FW: Scripps Kensington and 268 trees
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:59:41 AM
Attachments: [1965_sunnyview.png](#)
[IMG_2521.PNG](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org



From:
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:04 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Scripps Kensington and 268 trees

Hi

I filled out the form about this.

Please consider the links to the The Scripps Kensington and The Chapel (<https://concernedalhambrians.wordpress.com>) plus the mention of these historic trees. I have tons of pictures. Unfortunately the trees are all gone now but the 1923 chapel still stands. Not everything is on the website. There's also some on the Marengo Avenue Water Brigade Facebook page with video drive bys etc.

Mention of the tireless Marengo Avenue Water Brigade community activists and neighbors should be considered because they were there from the beginning to try to save both the chapel and the trees. I was the volunteer community organizer for the group.

Also, the tree report has the list of every single tree - type, quality and tree number. I honestly feel they each deserve a special mention or listing. They are now killed and gone. You mentioned special trees tonight in the presentation. They were there during the Scripps Kensington time,

providing the seniors shade, air and serenity.

Attached are some pictures. The picture of some of the group in front of the chapel with some of the beloved trees and at other public demonstrations. We called ourselves the Water brigade because the owners topped watering so we brought water in buckets. The brown tree trunk picture by the brown house is a tree that was 80-100 years old (my arborist told me). The chapel is still standing as luxury condos etc are being built around it, called "Woodhaven" (!). There's no one picture that does justice to the trees. That's me walking amongst the last few standing that as i said, are all annihilated. There's before and now areal pictures from Google. It was because of this effort and extreme loss that Alhambra instituted a tree ordinance, less than a year after approval to demolish.

This place and the people and trees associated with it is 1000% historic.

If you need any documentation or pictures or anything, please let me know.

Thank you.













BIKERS

STEP RIGHT UP PROTESTERS HOLD A MOCK CIRCUS PERFORMANCE TO PROTEST ALHAMBRA CITY COUNCIL'S RULING ON TREE REMOVAL

BY ANDRÉ COLEMAN



In an effort to make their point about the comedy of errors and alleged corruption leading to the uprooting of 268 trees, local activists on Monday dressed as trees and circus performers at Monday's Alhambra City Council meeting.

The measure passed 3-0, with two of the council's five members not showing up. "We were very silent and quiet and didn't say a thing," said activist Melissa Michelson. "As soon as they voted, we hissed and I started playing the circus music."

Mayor Stephen Sham, who previously voted in favor of the project after receiving a \$5,000 political donation from TAG-2 Medical Investment, the property's owners, did not attend the meeting.

In its posted agenda, the council announced a majority of council members would be leaving City Hall at 6:45 p.m. and reduced public comment.

Last week, public comment on the issue lasted for nearly three hours.

After the vote, the group gathered near the cars of council members and continued their mock circus performance. One council member turned around and walked back inside City Hall inside after seeing what was going on.

The trees are due to be removed from a property on Marengo Avenue near Valley Boulevard to make way for 126 townhomes and a medical center.

According to current plans, five trees will remain on the property and 36 will be temporarily relocated and moved back to the property. The remaining 227 trees will be cut down.

But the developer claims more trees will replace them after construction. The project has been controversial for some time. The Alhambra City Council has approved a zoning change ordinance for the project to proceed.

Originally, developers St. Clair Partners of Irvine sought approval from the city to knock down an old church, the trees and several cottages which were once part of the Scripps Kensington Retirement Community Home.

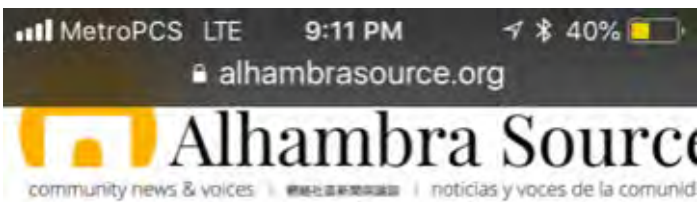
When the project was held before the second reading of the zone change ordinance, removal of the church was pulled from the project.

Residents have been calling for the city to conduct an environmental impact study, which is mandated by California Environmental Quality Act, (CEQA) to determine what effects the destruction of so many trees would have on the local environment and residents. ■









City Government

Alhambra City Council will hold tree ordinance public hearing

The Alhambra City Council is expected to adopt a first reading of a tree protection ordinance.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:47:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Ramona Park Building Company, principles were John and Daniel Althouse

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Ramona Park Historic District: Although technically not a historic district, the area is bounded by South 6th Street on the west, Garfield Bl on the east, Valley Bl on the north and Interstate 10 on the south

Type of Information: John and Daniel Althouse were principles of the Ramona Park Building Company, which build several Arts and Crafts styled homes in the Ramona Park area. A cluster of their built homes can be found on South 2nd Street between Norwood and Glendon Way. Additional homes can be found on S 3rd and at 1808 S. 6th Street. The Althouse brothers were contemporaries of the Greene and Greene brothers and the four collaborated on at least one home in South Pasadena on Milan Avenue.

Period of time represented: The period of time represented includes the early 20th century - from 1900 - 1920.

Why is this significant?: This is significant because of the quality of the homes they designed as well as their association with the Greene and Greene brothers.

Where can we find more information?: Joyce and Oscar Amaro live at 1808 S. 6th Street in one of the homes built by the Ramona Park Building Company.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:48:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 3:37 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Artist's Alley on Champion Place

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Champion Place just north of Main Street

Type of Information: Artist's Alley located on Champion Place just north of Main Street was a gathering place for artists at the turn of the 20th century.

—

Period of time represented: Late 1800s into the early 1900s

Why is this significant?: Notable artists who came out to Alhambra and lived and created art on Champion Place included Norman Rockwell, Clyde Forsythe, Eli Harvey and others. Norman Rockwell married Mary Barstow at an Arts and Crafts home that I believe is still standing on North Champion Place. Rockwell's art studio was above the garage at the home of Clyde Forsythe - the Orange Blossom Manor - located on North Almansor Avenue on the southeast corner of Almansor Avenue and Alhambra Road.

Where can we find more information?: The Alhambra Preservation Group did a home tour in 2009 and the Orange Blossom Manor was one of the homes featured on the tour. They would have information on the Forsythe home and Rockwell's studio.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:48:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org





From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Judson Studios - Renowned Stained Glass Studio in Highland Park

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): 805 N. Electric Avenue and 919 N. Marguerita Avenue

Type of Information: In 1917, Judson family members were living in homes on North Marguerita and North Electric Avenue. One of the homes has an original stained glass window

—

(I believe its in the Marguerita Avenue home in the dining room) designed and created by the Judson studios.

Period of time represented: Late 1800s and early 1900s

Why is this significant?: The Judson Stained Glass Studios is the oldest stained glass studio in America having been established in 1897. To have an original Judson studios creation in an Alhambra home is noteworthy.

Where can we find more information?: The 1917 Alhambra directory lists Paul and Blanche Judson as living at 805 N. Electric Avenue and Walter and Mable Judson as living at 919 N. Marguerita Avenue.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:48:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Father of the Bride Movie / National Velvet / The Little Things

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): 500 North Almansor Avenue, Midwick Country Club Polo barns and fields, Bun N Burger at 1000 E. Main Street

Type of Information: A backyard scene of the 1990 Father of the Bride movie starring Steve Martin was filmed at the home at 500 N. Almansor Avenue; Elizabeth Taylor and Mickey Rooney filmed scenes from National Velvet at the Midwick Country Club's barns and fields;

—

Denzel Washington filmed a scene from a recent movie "The Little Things" at Bun N Burger

Period of time represented: Various times are represented in this entry: 1944 for National Velvet, 1990 for Father of the Bride and 2020 for The Little Things

Why is this significant?: Association with movie stars and the use of Alhambra as movie sets

Where can we find more information?: imdb.com may list the set locations for these movies

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:49:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
Community Development Department
111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Crawford's Corner

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Northwest corner of Valley Blvd and New Avenue

Type of Information: Crawford's Corner has one-of-a-kind mid-century architecture that features a western boom town theme.

Period of time represented: 1964 was the year that Crawford's Corner was built

Why is this significant?: It is significant because of the uniqueness of this mid-century architecture. It is also endangered because of its location - the City of Alhambra has plans to revitalize Valley Blvd. Its original sign was recently removed.

Where can we find more information?: This blog post by Alhambra Preservation Group has additional information: <https://proseofpreservation.org/2018/07/31/focus-on-crawfords-corner/>

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:49:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Alhambra Preservation Group's blog "The Prose of Preservation" and Alhambra Preservation Group's Facebook page

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): www.proseofpreservation.org and www.facebook.com/alhambrapreservation

Type of Information: Alhambra Preservation Group started their blog in 2012 and published articles for their quarterly e-newsletter. Often times these articles featured historically and

architecturally significant homes, churches, schools and businesses. This blog has a wealth of information on Alhambra's built environment. Likewise, APG's Facebook page also has information on Alhambra's built environment. A scavenger hunt called "I Spy" was done a few years ago and featured little known characteristics about architecturally significant buildings in Alhambra.

Period of time represented: The articles and FB posts cover architecture ranging from Victorian to Mid-Century Modern and everything in between.

Why is this significant?: A resource for the historic context statement

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:49:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Covered/Inaccessible Pedestrian Tunnel under Valley Blvd at 6th Street

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Valley Blvd at 6th street

Type of Information: A pedestrian tunnel that was originally built in the 1930s? is currently covered and inaccessible to pedestrians. The tunnel is located on the east side of 6th Street and goes under Valley Blvd.

Period of time represented: 1920s? 1930s?

Why is this significant?: It is an interesting streetscape feature that has been covered and inaccessible for decades. I'm guessing that it was originally built when Ramona Elementary School was built in the early 1930s and may have been put in when the Mayfair housing tract was built in the late 1920s. I pass this hidden pedestrian underpass almost daily and am fascinated by its history and the reasons why it was covered and not used anymore. I'm not sure that it is significant. It's just one of those hidden street scape features that many people don't notice or know about.

Where can we find more information?: Not sure where additional information can be found. Perhaps the City of Alhambra Department of Public Works - Street Services?

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:50:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org





From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Mark Keppel High School

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): 501 E. Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, CA

Type of Information: School designed by Sylvanus Marston with murals created by Millard Sheets

Period of time represented: The school was built in the mid to late 1930s as part of the Roosevelt's WPA.

Why is this significant?: The Streamline Moderne architecture of Mark Keppel High School is noteworthy, as is the architect who designed the building (Sylvanus Marston). Millard Sheets is a renowned muralist.

Where can we find more information?: <https://proseofpreservation.org/tag/mark-keppel-high-school/>

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:50:26 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
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 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org





From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Victorian homes in Alhambra

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Various locations - there is a cluster of Victorian homes on Beacon Street just east of Garfield Blvd.

Type of Information: Alhambra features many Victorian homes that are still standing

Period of time represented: 1880s - 1910

Why is this significant?: The Victorian homes in Alhambra are some of Alhambra's oldest architecture. The homes are located throughout Alhambra - from the city's center to North Granada to a few in the southwest corner of Alhambra, near Granada Park.

Where can we find more information?: Alhambra Preservation Group's Prose of Preservation featured an article that highlighted Alhambra's Victorian architecture a few years ago. <https://proseofpreservation.org/2019/02/15/focus-on-alhambras-victorian-homes/>

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:50:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification For

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Alhambra's Neon Signs - Municipal Welcome Signs and Businesses

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Three "Alhambra" neon signs (Huntington Blvd at the western boundary; Valley Blvd at the western boundary; Main Street at the Eastern boundary) and businesses (Bun N Burger, The Hat and Twoheys before they moved to South Pasadena))

Type of Information: Neon Signs

Period of time represented: 1920s - 1960s

Why is this significant?: An important (and bright) way of advertising that was popular in the mid 20th century

Where can we find more information?: Alhambra Preservation Group's blog post:
<https://proseofpreservation.org/2019/11/10/ahambras-neon-signs-return-in-a-blaze-of-glory/>

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:51:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201

www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Three Alhambra 1920s Housing Tracts

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable): Various locations - Mayfair Tract, Emery Park Tract, and Orange Blossom Manor Tract

Type of Information: Homes and their varying architectural styles built in the 1920s in three of Alhambra's housing tracts

Period of time represented: 1920s

Why is this significant?: These housing tracts included a wide variety of architectural styles - from Spanish Colonial Revival to English Tudor Revival to English Colonial Revival and more.

Where can we find more information?: Alhambra Preservation Group wrote a blog article on 1920s Alhambra neighborhoods last year:

<https://proseofpreservation.org/2020/09/27/focus-on-alhambras-1920s-neighborhoods/>

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:51:19 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org





From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:27 AM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Midwick Tract

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable):

Type of Information: History

Period of time represented: 1920s to 30s this area was a fancy country club and golf course for Los Angeles's wealthy and movie stars. The areas included a polo grind as well. There's a Facebook page dedicated to Midwick tract.

Why is this significant?: History

Where can we find more information?:

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Community Feedback (Draft Historic Context Statement Outline)
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:21:52 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals for Community Feedback.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
Community Development Department
111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org



From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Community Feedback (Draft Historic Context Statement Outline)

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Feedback: Crawford Corner can use a face lift. I've lived in the neighborhood since 1971. My Granny worked at the Crawford market and Carol's Fabrics. Later she worked at Newberry's.

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form
Date: Monday, November 1, 2021 8:56:31 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
 Community Development Department
 111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
 T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org





From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:28 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Historic Resources Identification Form

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Name of Person/Place/Story: Additional information about Midwick Country Club in LA Times Article

Address or Approximate Location (if applicable):

Type of Information: Newspaper article

Period of time represented:

Why is this significant?: History of Alhambra

Where can we find more information?:

https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1993-07-19-me-14670-story.html%3f_amp=true

From: [Alhambra Historic Preservation](#)
To: [Christine Lazzaretto](#); [Heather Goers](#); [Molly Iker-Johnson](#); [Intern HRG](#)
Subject: FW: Form Submission - Contact Us
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 7:20:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Christine and Heather,

Here are additional submittals.

Best regards,

Mario Arellano | Assistant Planner
Community Development Department
111 S. First St. | Alhambra, CA 91801
T: 626-570-5034 | F: 626-458-4201
www.cityofalhambra.org
   

From: Squarespace [mailto:form-submission@squarespace.info]
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Alhambra Historic Preservation <Historicalhambra@cityofalhambra.org>
Subject: Form Submission - Contact Us

Sent via form submission from [City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program](#)

Message: Hello,

I actually know a WWII VET who attended Marguerita Elementary and graduated from Alhambra High school. He was raised in Alhambra and even helped built his family home before the war, on Edith Ave and Shorb. He is 96 and doing great! He wrote a book titled "It Only Takes One" you can find it on amazon or I can get you one for free. He retired as a Fire Captain from the Alhambra Fire Dept in the 1980's and currently resides in Temple City. He is one of my best friends and I'm sure he can tell you many stories about Alhambra. Feel free to reach me and I will get you in contact with one of his kids. I am a Captain for Alhambra fire, just FYI.

Thank you for your time.

To: City of Alhambra Historic Preservation Program

Re: Draft History Context Statement

Date: November 11th, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I want to thank the City Council of Alhambra for beginning the project. It's a great idea.

After reading the Draft History Context Statement, however, I feel compelled to write to you about a small but important issue: that is, the tone of the parts of the Statement that have to do with the Franciscan Missions. Honestly, I consider this tone markedly biased at the least and propagandistic at the worst.

I do want to say at the outset that I am not accusing anyone involved in the process of writing the Draft of knowing and deliberate unfairness toward the padres. I understand that this is how history is being taught nowadays. But history is being taught in a biased and propagandistic way. Therefore, I feel the need to speak out.

The parts I ask you to reconsider are highlighted below:

Under the heading, **“Context: Spanish Rule: Colonization and Mission Establishment (1769-1820):**

“...Local native tribes were absorbed into the mission system, forced to convert to Christianity, and forced to work the mission's agricultural and ranch lands. At the San Gabriel Mission, the native Tongva inhabitants became known as the Gabrielinos. The missions continued to hold these large tracts of land until the Mexican government

declared its independence from Spain....”

And, following, under **“Context: Mexican Rule: Secularization and Subsequent Land Grants (1821-1849)”**:

“In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain, making Alta California part of Mexico. By the 1830s, the influence of the mission system was waning, replaced by a focus on secular agricultural settlement. With growing pressure on the Mexican government to secularize the missions, in 1833 the Mexican Congress passed the Act for the Secularization of the Missions of California. The missions were subsequently abandoned by the Franciscan padres and the majority of mission lands taken from the Catholic Church....”

My objections:

“Local tribes were absorbed into the mission system...”

This sentence, in the passive voice, reads in a way that suggests the mission system was an impersonal, unfeeling behemoth of an organization, something like the layman's view of a

modern business corporation. This assertion is not supported by the facts. It's well known that the mission padres literally walked through Alta California, stopping at Indian villages along the way. They ate, slept, and lived among the Indians and knew their way of life even before the first mission was established. This was hardly an impersonal process, nor one in which the missionaries could avoid interacting with the people they were trying to convert.

In addition, once the missions were established, the padres, as managers of the entire system, interacted with the Indians on a daily basis. In fact, the second tier of managers were Indians themselves. According to historian Steven W. Hackel,

“Most Alta California missions counted between 500 and 1,000 Indian residents, two missionaries, and a military guard of four or five soldiers. Because their numbers were few and their resources limited, Spaniards looked to Indian leaders to help organize and regulate the missions' life and work. To this end, they instituted and directed annual elections in which the mission community chose its own officials, thereby enabling Spanish religious and military authorities to rule Indians through Indians.”¹

Hackel calls this form of governance “indirect rule” and suggests it led to an “intersection of Indian and Spanish structures of authority.”² In other words, Indians from the beginning had a managerial role in how the missions were run. Running the missions was a joint effort – it could hardly have been otherwise, with only two padres per mission.

These mission indigenous leaders were generally chosen from the traditional village nobility or ancestral captains because these were the people the Indians wished to lead them. Often, there were Indians from several villages living together in the same mission and, in order to make sure there was a balance of power between the various villages, the padres chose the candidates for office. But the Indians themselves then voted for the leaders they wanted. Though these leaders (*regidores* and *alcaldes*) had little power to go against the will of the padres, they still ruled over their people and sometimes led them to rebellion against the mission system.³ And, by this process, as the years progressed, individual Indians developed an understanding of the modern concept of representative power:

“[T]he Spaniard's use of and dependence on Indian officials reveal a noteworthy paradox of the colonial history of the Americas: indirect rule not only reshaped Indian lives, but it also provided Indians with the means and the personnel to retain control over some aspects of their communities, in some areas long after the collapse of colonial rule.”⁴

Once again, the padres lived and worked all day long with their Indian charges. It was in their own best interest, in fact, to understand the Indian way of thinking, as perplexing as this process frequently was for all involved. One obstacle was the multiplicity of languages the Indians used, often differing from village to village. Still, Father Zalvidea at the Mission San Gabriel managed

¹ Steven W. Hackel, (1997). *The Staff of Leadership: Indian Authority in the Missions of Alta California*, https://stevenhackel.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/the-staff-of-leadership_-indian-authority-in-the-missions-of-alta-california.pdf, p. 348.

² Hackel, p. 349.

³ Hackel, p. 348. See, for example, Hackel's take on the Toypurina incident: “Sources of Rebellion: Indian Testimony and the Mission San Gabriel Uprising of 1785,” https://stevenhackel.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/sources-of-rebellion_-indian-testimony-and-the-mission-san-gabriel-uprising-of-1785.pdf.

⁴ Hackel, p. 350.

to learn the Tongva languages well enough to preach in them.⁵ His only way to have done that would have been to spend a great deal of time with his flock. If he were merely running an inhumane system bent on “absorbing” Indians and molding them into automatons or slave labor, it’s doubtful whether he would have bothered learning their language.

Every indication is that the Franciscan fathers believed in Pope Francis’s motto: the good shepherd smells like his sheep.

As for the phrase,

“...forced to convert to Christianity...”

The charge seems to have been popularized in modern times through the work of biologist and population studies expert Sherburne F. Cook. His essays, published in the early 1940s,⁶ accuse the Spanish missionaries of various wrongs against the indigenous tribes of Alta California. The most important of these wrongs is the accusation of forced conversion since, once an Indian was baptized and converted to Catholicism, he was obligated by Spanish law to live on mission property unless given permission by the padres to go elsewhere.

As evidence of forced conversion, Cook quotes two sources: eyewitness/hearsay testimony by foreign visitors to the missions and mission records of expeditions made into the wild by soldiers and/or mission Indians.

Historian and Franciscan friar Francis F. Guest, however, accuses Cook of cherry-picking his data and rebuts Cook’s arguments in the following ways:⁷

1. **Forced conversion was illegal both by Spanish law and Catholic doctrine...** This is not to say that it would have been impossible for the padres to break these rules, but it’s unlikely. After all, the padres believed they were being watched from on high.

2. **...However, if non-Christian Indians harmed Spaniards or Christianized Indians or their property, the Spanish guard could capture and hold them for punishment.**⁸ Non-Christian Indians often harassed or attacked mission Indians and Spanish soldiers. Another huge problem was horse thieving – a very serious offense, since horses were to the missions what cars

⁵ Geiger, Maynard, “Franciscan Missionaries in Hispanic California, 1769-1848” (San Marino, CA, Huntington Library, 1969), p. 267; Beebe, Rose Marie and Senkewicz, Robert M., “Testimonios,” p. 107.

⁶ Cook, Sherburne F., “The Conflict between the California Indian and White Civilization,” University of California Press, Berkeley, 1976 (a collection of essays originally published in the early 1940s).

⁷ Guest, Francis F., “An Examination of the Thesis of S.F. Cook on the Forced Conversion of Indians in the California Missions,” <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/41170811.pdf>. Also available on Amazon.

⁸ Guest, *ibid.*, p. 2, quoting the *Recopilación de leyes de los reinos de las Indias*, ley x, título iv, libro iii: “No governor, lieutenant, or alcalde ordinario can or may send armed parties against the Indians with a view to reducing them into missions, or forcing them to work in mines, or for any other pretext. The penalty for violation of this law is loss of office and payment of 2,000 pesos. But if some Indians should cause harm to Spaniards, or to peaceful Indians, whether in their persons or in their property, then we certainly allow [these same officials] to send armed parties, within three months [of the perpetration of the crime], to punish them [the Indians] or to take them prisoner...”

and trucks are to modern society. The Indians could make off with as many as a hundred horses at a time.⁹ Failing to punish this behavior would have meant the end of the missions.

3. When non-Christian Indians were arrested and brought to the missions, they would often choose to be converted for pragmatic reasons. Undoubtedly, they would be counseled by the mission Indians to do so in order to get a lighter sentence. This was not an ideal motivation, but, in such circumstances, the padres might give the Indians the benefit of the doubt, and this would account for a certain proportion of baptisms.

4. Many local Indians were never converted. It is documented that unconverted Indians often lived close to the missions and most likely picked up many skills from association with the missions and mission Indians. For example, according to records, in 1804, non-Christian Indians near Mission Santa Barbara were planting and harvesting their own crops.¹⁰ And in 1828, there were from 800 to 900 non-Christian Indians living on the various ranchos of Mission San Gabriel.¹¹ If forced conversion was *de rigueur*, all these Indians would have been “absorbed into the mission system.” But they were not.

Guest also mentions a map, owned by the Bancroft Library and dated 1924, which shows various Indian villages in the Mission Santa Clara region. Twelve non-Christian village are marked with a circle, and twenty Christian villages are marked with a circle and a cross.¹²

5. There is no evidence that the padres relied on forced conversion as a method of population growth; there is evidence of planning to encourage voluntary conversion: In their writings, the padres frequently noted that the baptized Indians who ran away and stayed away from the missions were homesick for their own small neighborhood or homeland. Anything outside of about five leagues (a dozen or so miles) was often too far away to stay permanently, even though the padres gave the Indians permission to visit their home village twice a year for a few weeks at a time. For this reason, the padres intended to found more missions and *assistencias*, small satellite settlements, as close together as necessary for the Indians’ comfort. This was their solution to the fugitive Indian problem, and it is not an inhumane one. It shows the padres’ intention to win the Indians over by fair means, not foul. If forced conversion was the rule, it does not seem likely that the padres would go to this trouble.

6. As noted before, Indians outnumbered padres and soldiers by a factor of close to 100 to one. Yes, the soldiers had guns (muskets) and cannon, but these would hardly have been able to prevent so many Indians from leaving the missions if they, or even a sizable fraction, had chosen to do so. Therefore, it can only be surmised that most of the Indians were at least okay with mission life most of the time. This argues against the idea that forced conversion was necessary.

⁹ Guest, pp. 9-10: “...it was unusually easy for a small number of Indians to drive off a hundred or more horses from Spanish ranchos into the wilderness in one night.... In 1819 Father Mariano Payeras, then President of the California missions, complained that Indians, both Christian and non-Christian, were leaving both missions and ranchos without horses. In 1830 a complaint was made that there was not an Indian rancheria [village] that did not have horses. The Indians were accustomed to slaughter the horses, dry the meat, and then pack it in *tercios*, just the way the missionized Indians had been taught to do by the Spanish, another instance of fusion of culture.”

¹⁰ Guest, p. 4, quoting “Governor to the Commander of Santa Barbara, Loreto, June 5, 1804, CA 26, p. 102.” (Before association with the mission system, it may be noted, California Indians were hunter/gatherers, and gathering/processing plant food was almost exclusively women’s work.)

¹¹ Guest, p. 7, citing *Estado of Mission San Gabriel and surrounding ranchos*. No place or date. CA 21, p. 98.

¹² Guest, p. 21.

The padres were not insensitive to the problems mission Indians had in adjusting to their new way of life. And, at stressful times, such as epidemics or mission food shortages, they allowed the Indians to go *en masse* back to the wild.¹³

7. Expeditions to the interior to capture fugitive Christian or non-Christian criminal Indians often met with Indians they have captured but did not. Of course, military documentation was terse and did not give reasons for actions – no one in those days would have imagined scholars, more than 200 years later, arguing over their motivations. However, expedition records point to there having been many opportunities for capturing innocent Indians which were not taken advantage of.¹⁴ On one occasion, soldiers arrested forty Indian men and then released them. This would not have happened if forced capture and relocation were considered appropriate ways to secure new converts and laborers.

All this is not to say that no forced conversions took place. Such a statement would be foolish, since it's impossible to prove a negative. But blanket statements about forced conversions have no real historical basis. As Guest says, Cook most likely looked at the data from an outsider's perspective, as some foreign visitors did,¹⁵ and saw what he expected to see.

In regard to the phrase claiming Indians were “...forced to work the mission's agricultural and ranch lands....”

The hunter/gatherer lifestyle was pleasant enough during years of good rain. But when drought came, the Indians starved. It was often during drought years that large numbers of Indians came to the missions, asking for admittance and baptism. There, because of the padres' zeal, organizational skills, and knowledge of European methods of farming, ranching, and irrigation, the Indians were able to eat three meals a day.¹⁶ The Indians also had a great desire to own woven clothing and blankets. (Their village clothing was made of grasses and fur pieces.)

In order to receive these benefits, however, the Indians had to do their fair share of the work. It was not a heavy workload. As Cook writes,

¹³ An interesting example of this is given in historian Steven W. Hackel's account of a local food shortage near Mission Santa Clara in 1786. Quoting one of the padres, he writes, “We [the mission padres] called together the principle [Indian] leaders at the mission and we said to them: ... The soldiers are suffering much from hunger. They have no corn, no wheat, no beans. They are asking us to sell them some... If we do sell, there will not be enough on hand to support you until the time of the wheat harvest. If you wish to go away for some weeks to gather nuts, it will be possible to sell them some corn, and there will be that much extra to spend on clothes. You may consult your own people if you wish. In less than an hour they returned to say that they would choose life in the open, for the pinole was already getting ripe.” Steven W. Hackel, *The Staff of Leadership: Indian Authority in the Missions of Alta California*, William and Mary Quarterly, Apr. 1997, p. 364. Available at JStor.org.

¹⁴ Guest, pp. 20-21.

¹⁵ Not all foreign visitors thought conversions were being forced. The botanist of the Russian vessel *Rurik*, for example, on visiting San Francisco, noted that the California Indians were free until they were baptized. Guest, p. 5.

¹⁶ Eulalia Pérez, Keeper of the Keys at Mission San Gabriel, said in her memoir of mission life that the Indians had champurrado (chocolate mixed with atole made with corn) or pozole with meat for breakfast. In the middle of the morning, she sent out drinks of water, vinegar or lemon, and sugar to the field workers. Lunch was meat and vegetables, and dinner was atole, plain or with meat. On feast days, there was bread and “something sweet” with breakfast. Beebe and Senkewicz, *Testimonios*, pp. 107-08.

“There can be no doubt that the standard working week consisted of from 5 to 6 days at 6 to 8 hours per day, let us say, 30 to 40 hours per week. Nowhere do we find any claims that more than 40 hours were required, except under extreme provocation.... It is very significant that even the bitterest opponents of the mission never accused the clergy of giving the Indians work which might cause either excessive fatigue through extremely long hours or physical injury through intense exertion and occupational hazard....”

As for children, even the critics of the missions were “in agreement that nothing more arduous were required of them than a little gardening and bird chasing [i.e., keeping birds off ripe fruit trees and newly-sewn vegetable beds].”¹⁷

Still, in the end, Cook states,

“Despite innumerable lamentations, apologies, and justifications, there can be no serious denial that the mission system, in its economics, was built upon forced labor.... Any co-operative system of support, any organization which is economically self-sustaining, as were the missions, must of necessity be founded upon the productive toil of its members. This very necessity is the primary compulsion, but if the corporate members are of sufficient intelligence, the compulsion becomes rationalized and there is an appearance of willingness and volition. On the other hand, if the mass is stupid and ignorant, then the hierarchy of authority at the top must exercise force, moral or physical... and we begin to speak of ‘forced labor.’...[T]he missionary fathers did their utmost to enlighten the neophytes, but with little success. The next step was moral suasion, and it must be admitted that, in general, such measures were adequate. When, however, they failed physical means became necessary....”¹⁸

Thus the padres – or the Indian *alcaldes* – had to flog (whip) Indians who continually shirked their work assignments.

Modern critics point to the use of physical punishment as an indication that the mission system was inhumane and cruel.¹⁹ However, corporal punishment in this era was ubiquitous. The United States Army did not ban flogging as a punishment until 1861. To blame the missionaries for using this form of discipline when it was used everywhere else is to commit the historical sin of Presentism: judging past events by modern standards as if those standards were irrefutably correct.

Considering that, while the Indians were working, they were also learning skills such as cattle ranching, blacksmithing, leathercrafting, spinning, weaving, and sewing, and also taking into

¹⁷ Cook, p. 94.

¹⁸ Cook, p. 96.

¹⁹ A typical example of the facile moral posturing of modern writers toward the padres, which I just last week found at Crowell Library: “[Mission Indians] perished by the hundreds, subjected to rigid discipline and cruelty, all in the name of the One True Faith.” Fagan, Brian, “Before California: An Archeologist Looks at Our Earliest Inhabitants” (Rowman & Littlefield, Walnut Creek, 2003). Fagan doesn’t bother to even make an argument: he is certain he is on the side of right. (He is certainly on the side of popular opinion.) Exposed to enough of this sort of writing, the average reader becomes convinced without ever having read the whole argument, much less thought it through.

account the many new foods and comforts the Indians now had available to them,²⁰ it's hard to imagine that they were getting a bad deal in exchange for their "30 or 40 hours per week."

(As an aside, the biggest problem at the missions was epidemic and endemic disease. During the mission era, it was said that the Indians still living in their open-air villages were healthier than the Indians enclosed in the missions. Indeed, at the missions, death rates far outran birth rates for decades. But by 1830, epidemics in the non-missionized Indian populations were becoming just as severe, if not worse, than they had been at the mission, while statistics suggest that mission Indians were developing natural immunity. Increase of sickness in the remote villages seemed to be caused by the missions being dissolved, and mission Indians heading back to the wild, bringing illness with them. Clearly, the spread of European diseases to the New World could be slowed but not stopped.)²¹

In regard to "...The missions were subsequently abandoned by the Franciscan padres..."

Mission administration was a matter of almost constant work and worry. When the Mexican War of Independence broke out, new missionary replacements were not able to be sent to Alta California. And, as Guest writes,

"As early as 1812 Father Mariano Payeras wrote that many of the religious were infirm, that not a few were determined to retire to the college [i.e., the seminary in Mexico from which they had originally come], and that there was a great and urgent need for new priests. As time went on the desire of many missionaries to leave became more and more insistent. In 1822 there were thirty-five missionaries in Upper California. Of these, all except eight were anxious to retire to the college. Even Narciso Durán [known for his energy and ambition] was described as fervent in his desire to leave. In 1825 Father Luis Gil complained that, at his mission, there was too much to do and there were too few to do it all. He was fifty-three years of age, he said, was incapable of discharging his duties, which had entirely consumed his strength, and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to retire. In 1829 there were only twenty-five priests caring for the twenty-one missions in Alta California. Of these, two were in their thirties, seven in their forties, seven in their fifties, six in their sixties, and three in their seventies. On this list one was described as blind, one ailing in health, one ill, two with bad health, four with poor health, and four with broken health."²²

Beside all their other problems, all these years, the padres had had to engage in constant struggle with the military, who wanted control of the Indians and who insisted that, at the very least, they and their soldiers be provided with food grown and goods manufactured at the missions. The

²⁰ History writer Charles Chapman notes, "The rank and file of the soldiery, still unpaid, often in rags, and dependent upon the missions for the little they had, looked with envy or indignation at the comparative opulence of the friars and their native wards." Chapman, Charles E., "History of California" (MacMillan & Co., New York, 1923), p. 468.

²¹ Cook, pp. 207-216.

²² Guest, p. 49.

Californio settlers, also, were covetous of mission land and livestock and so continuously criticized the padres in an effort to get the government to cede the mission lands to them.²³

When, in 1833, the Mexican government declared the missions secularized, the mission lands were seized and divided among the Californios, who were gifted land, cattle, irrigation systems, and mills that they had never built or tended. And now, without their fields and cattle, how were the padres to feed and clothe the Indians? And what protection could they expect from a government that had always been their enemy? The missionaries had devoted their lives, their years, and their health to the mission system. It is, to say the least, a bit hard to say that they “abandoned” the missions, implying that the padres lost interest in evangelizing the Indians when there was no longer anything in it for them.²⁴

The padres undoubtedly did many things that caused the Indians misery. But they did many more good things that are entirely ignored by modern accounts of California history. The padres were not racist, and they officiated over many marriages between Spanish soldiers and Indian women. They never claimed the mission lands for themselves or their order, but continuously insisted that they belonged to the Indians, and that should be parceled out to them as soon as they had learned to farm or ranch. It was not the padres’ fault that so few Indians understood or cared to try out the concept of private enterprise.²⁵

And the padres shared with the Indians what was for them their most precious possession: their Catholic faith. They tried – imperfectly, because they were imperfect men – to teach that faith to the Indians through good works and the communal creation of beauty. The missions, as they stand today, can still be seen by the impartial eye as works of beauty.

The public, however, is no longer being taught this by state schools and the secular media. It is now considered common knowledge that the padres were sadistic slave drivers. And this understanding has, in the last several years, repeatedly led to destruction of mission property – including, apparently, the recent attempt to burn down the San Gabriel Mission.²⁶

Of course, the wisdom of the mission system is debatable. Of course, there could be considered a form of ethnic hubris to even attempt such a work. Many other things could be said. But blanket

²³ The military and civilians can’t be too severely blamed – because of the ongoing Mexican War of Independence, they had not received pay or supplies from the government for years.

²⁴ And yet, apparently, they did stay on in Alta California. Chapman, pp. 468-472, recounts the wrecking of the mission system, along with attempts to save and revive it by both religious and secular leaders. Chapman also mentions that new friars arrived (finally) somewhere in the early 1830s, that Frs. García and Durán still held the offices of Father-Presidents (though without missions) for some time, and that Durán, “the last and perhaps the ablest of the Franciscan prelates,” died in 1846, in Alta California.

²⁵ Chapman, p. 469, indicates that fewer than 10% of the Indians were willing to try farming their own land: “[Governor Figueroa] issued an order for the emancipation of such Indians as were best fitted for liberty. Lands, implements, seed, and animals were to be allotted to them.... Yet, of the fifty-nine heads of families at San Diego deemed worthy of this prospect, only two cared to make the trial, while ten out of a hundred and eight accepted at San Luis Rey.”

²⁶ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-05-04/man-charged-with-arson-in-san-gabriel-mission-fire>. “Corey believed the Catholic Church did not hold people accountable for ‘bad acts,’ according to one official.”

assertions such as the ones in the Draft History Context Statement are not helpful in promoting discussion or debate – they present the condemnation of the mission system as a *fait accompli*.

One can only hope that, in time, the padres' moral failings will be more fairly weighed against their accomplishments, and that Californians will begin to view mission history more clearly.

In the meantime, I hereby ask that the writers of the Draft change its wording regarding the mission system to something more neutral – more like the treatment already given to the Spanish, Mestizo, and American settlers, as well as the California Indians themselves.

Thank you,