

PH0661131

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 25 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
JAMES C. RIVES HOUSE
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
10921 South Paramount Boulevard
CITY, TOWN
Downey
STATE
California
VICINITY OF
33
COUNTY
Los Angeles
CODE
06
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
05
CODE
037
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
C.D. Mocabee, Jr.
STREET & NUMBER
10921 S. Paramount Blvd.
CITY, TOWN
Downey
VICINITY OF
California
STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Los Angeles County Hall of Records
STREET & NUMBER
320 West Temple Street
CITY, TOWN
Los Angeles
STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
California Historic Resources Inventory
DATE
January 1977
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Office of Historic Preservation
CITY, TOWN
Sacramento
STATE
California
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rives House is a two-story wooden residence with dormer attic in Georgian Revival styling. The roof is hipped with identical dormers protruding from each side, and a boxed cornice with decorated frieze extending around the entire structure just below the roofline. The facade consists of a two-story flat portico supported by four free-standing Greek columns and two which lay flush to the wall. Directly above the entrance is a second-story balcony with decorative railing, supported by two columns laying flush to the wall. The first-story window structures on both sides of the entrance are carved to form Greek columns with an arched decoration above; the second-story windows are plain. One-story porticos with turned-wood railings, similar in design to that of the facade, are located on both sides of the house.

Alterations to this structure have been minimal. A turned-wood ballustrade which was originally located along the entire roofline, and the decorative brackets originally on the dormers have been removed. When Third Street was widened in the 1950's, the large portico on the southern side of the house was shortened in length so that it now almost perfectly matches its counterpart on the north side. Minor modifications have taken place in the interior, which is almost in its original condition.

Also included on this large lot are a wooden water tower now used as a storage shed, and a walnut-drying structure which closely resembles a carriage house.

The property is located in a large residential section of the city, although it fronts on a busy commercial street.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Neher & Skilling

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When completed in 1912, the Rives House was by far the most imposing residence in the community of Downey. The structure was built for James C. Rives, born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1864, one of Downey's most prominent citizens at that time. Rives came to Downey as a young man, became publisher of the Downey Review for a short time, and was admitted to the bar in 1887. After a short career as a local lawyer, he served as Los Angeles County District Attorney (1899-1902) and as a judge of the Superior Court of the County. He was also a walnut grower in Downey in his later years.

In 1911 Rives commissioned Los Angeles architects Neher & Skilling to design a new residence for him in Downey. The Georgian Revival structure that resulted was the most elegant residence in the area, an adaptation of a style which was very popular in Southern California in the first two decades of the twentieth century. No doubt the design of the house was influenced by many of the Georgian mansions in Rives' home state. The structure exhibited many details such as Ionic columns which made it architecturally unique in its area and an important visual landmark for local citizens and visitors.

After Rives' death, the property was acquired by the present owners and much of the land around it was subdivided for residential units. Paramount Boulevard became a commercial thoroughfare which put pressure on the large lot that would threaten the existence of the house. Much recent publicity has been given to the possible retention of the property, either to be saved by the city of Downey or by a local service group. Its future has not yet been determined.

Since many of Downey's oldest landmarks have been destroyed over the years because of rapid development, the Rives House is now the most important link to the agricultural community of Downey before its mass suburbanization after World War II.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Assessment Records of Los Angeles County, 1900-1940. Los Angeles County Archives.

Los Angeles Times, February 9, 1913, VI, 9.

Downey Champion, March 29, 1970, A-3.

(cont.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	11	395000	3756430
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A lot commencing at the northwest corner of Paramount Boulevard and Third Street, extending 100' northward along Paramount, then 305' westward, then 100' southward to Third Street, and then 305' eastward to the original point.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Sitton Curatorial Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

DATE

September 12, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

900 Exposition Blvd.

TELEPHONE

746-0410 x241

CITY OR TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Kroy Miller

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/17/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Monty

DATE

5-22-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Walter Cole

DATE

5-17-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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MAY 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Southeast News (Downey), July 2, 1976.

Southwest Contractor & Manufacturer, October 14, 1911, p. 17.

Quinn, Charles R. History of Downey. Downey: Elena Quinn, 1973.

Rodman, Willoughby. History of the Bench and Bar of Southern California. Los Angeles: William J. Porter, 1909.

J. C. RIVES # 3750
DOWNEY, CA.

