

Harada House

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Harada House

Other Name/Site Number: _____

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 3356 Lemon Street

Not for publication: _____

City/Town: Riverside

Vicinity: _____

State: CA County: Riverside Code: 06

Zip Code: 92501

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-local: _____
Public-State: _____
Public-Federal: _____

Category of Property
Building(s): X
District: _____
Site: _____
Structure: _____
Object: _____

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing
1

1

Noncontributing

Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling
Current: Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:	Materials:	
No Style	Foundation:	
	Walls:	Wood
	Roof:	Wood Shingles
	Other Description:	_____

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.Summary [1]

The Harada House is a two-story building with recessed shiplap wood siding and a wood shingle roof--a functional building with no outstanding architectural design motifs except for the heavy square porch supports, crossed near the top with wooden blocks, which extend, in a decorative manner, beyond the main supports.

The present physical appearance of the house reflects alterations by the Haradas in 1916. At that time, they added a second story with four bedrooms, a bathroom, and an open front porch. [2] Since then the only change of consequence has been the enclosing, after World War II, of the upper front porch.

Additional Description

As built, likely during the 1880s, the house was a single-story "saltbox" cottage with recessed shiplap wood siding and a wood shingle roof. The only original exterior architectural decoration consisted of four square chamfered porch support posts with decorative scroll-sawn brackets; these were removed in 1916. The original windows were decorated with extended sill blocks. [3]

The interior of the ground floor, which reflects the earlier construction date, is largely intact except for minor window

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changes and a door removal in 1916. The only alteration of note, in the diningroom in the 1940s, resulted in a lowered ceiling and new plaster. The second floor features, dating from 1916, contrast with the ground floor. Most, if not all, the 1916 interior features, including wallpaper, fixtures, house hardware, etc., remain in place.

It should be reiterated that, unlike other altered historic buildings, the Harada House's historical integrity was not destroyed by the alteration in 1916. In fact, the alteration figured as evidence in the case of California v. Harada.

Endnotes

1. This description is an edited version of that in the National Register of Historic Places nomination form prepared by Mark H. Rawitsch in 1976.
2. A photo of the remodeled structure appeared in the Los Angeles Times on October 22, 1916.
3. A photo of the house appeared in the Los Angeles Examiner, January 5, 1916, Sec. 2, p. 1, a few days after the Haradas purchased the property, and indicates the basic features of the original building.

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary

The Harada House was the object of the first test of the constitutionality of an alien land law in the United States. Although a site associated with Japanese-Americans, the landmark State court decision in California v. Harada, which affirmed the right of native-born citizens of immigrant parentage to own land, is important to all Americans of immigrant heritage and fundamentally reinforced the constitutional guarantees of American citizenship.

Background [1]

In December 1915, Jukichi Harada, who had immigrated from Japan in 1903, purchased this house in a middle-class Caucasian neighborhood near downtown Riverside, California. For several years, Mr. Harada had operated a rented restaurant and boardinghouses in Riverside. By 1915, still living in and running a boardinghouse, he had accumulated enough savings to purchase a home for his growing family.

By Federal law at the time, Jukichi Harada and his wife Ken were ineligible to become citizens of the United States; California's Alien Land Law of 1913 prevented them, as non-citizens, from owning land in the State. Realizing the constitutional guarantees that adhered to American citizenship, Mr. Harada placed the ownership of the home in the names of his three American-born children, all minors at the time---Mine (b. 1906), Sumi (b. 1909), and Yoshizo (b. 1912)--with himself as trustee. He felt that, since his children were Americans by birth, the family could purchase land in their names.

California v. Harada

It did not take long for the Haradas' neighbors to react. They formed a committee to persuade the Haradas to give up the property. The Haradas refused and the State of California filed suit against the Harada children, to force the family to yield the property to the State. [2]

Gov. Hiram W. Johnson, the Progressive Vice-Presidential candidate in 1912 with Theodore Roosevelt, who was poised for a

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successful 1916 race for the U.S. Senate, urged the action be brought. His was not an unpopular stand; the California Democratic and Socialist parties had also favored exclusionary legislation directed at Japanese. There is evidence, however, that President Woodrow Wilson's Administration viewed the case as an embarrassment for the damage it stood to do to U.S. relations with Japan. [3]

By mid-1916, interest in California v. Harada had expanded well beyond Riverside. California's newspapers published rumors that the State's Japanese were preparing to take over large tracts of real estate. The New York Times featured the case in a front-page article. The Japanese consul in Los Angeles made inquiries and requested transcripts of the pleadings, which were sent to the Japanese Embassy in Washington and to the government in Tokyo. Photos of the Harada House were published in Japan and the case was described as being of "international importance."

In the fall of 1918, after lengthy continuances, a final ruling was made. By that time the United States and Japan were Allies against the Central Powers in World War I. Judge Hugh Craig of the Riverside Superior Court ruled in favor of the Haradas. In doing so, he upheld the Alien Land Law; aliens ineligible to become American citizens could not own land. Their children, however, if American-born, were entitled to all the constitutional guarantees of American citizenship, including land tenure. The Harada children were the legal owners of the property. The family could keep its home, inasmuch as the State chose not to appeal the ruling. [4]

Later History

The elder Haradas stayed on in their "children's house" in Riverside, continuing their restaurant business even during the Depression. Their son-in-law Saburo Kido (who resided elsewhere) became national president of the Japanese-American Citizens League (JACL) in 1940. Despite pledges of loyalty to the United States by Kido shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he and his Riverside in-laws were interned, like all Japanese-Americans along the West Coast.

The Harada family was divided between internment camps, but partially reunited in the camp at Topaz, Utah, in 1943. The Haradas had sold their restaurant at a loss when they left Riverside for internment, but, because a Caucasian friend agreed

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to live in their house, they, unlike numerous Japanese-Americans, managed to keep their home.

In camp, Saburo Kido led successful efforts to persuade the U.S. Government to permit Japanese-Americans to enlist in the military. As a consequence, he was beaten by those in the camp opposed to his stand. Mrs. Harada died in Topaz in March 1943; Jukichi died there in January 1944. Their 20-year-old son Harold enlisted and served in the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all-Nisei unit.

After the war ended, Sumi Harada returned alone to the house on Lemon Street in Riverside. She permitted her home to be used as a virtual hostel for returning Riverside Japanese-American families who had lost their homes during internment. She even had the upstairs front porch enclosed to accommodate more boarders. [5]

Sumi Harada still lives in the house on Lemon Street. With the assistance and interest of Mark Howland Rawitsch, beginning in 1977, the family's astonishingly intact collection of papers, articles, and artifacts has been inventoried. An outgrowth of these efforts has been its designation as a local landmark, its nomination by the State to the National Register of Historic Places, and, ultimately, of course, its consideration for National Historic Landmark designation.

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Endnotes

1. This historical treatment has been abstracted from Mark H. Rawitsch, No Other Place: Japanese American Pioneers in a Southern California Neighborhood (Riverside: University of California, Riverside, Department of History, 1983).
2. Ibid., pp. 27-43.
3. Ibid., pp. 11, 57.
4. Ibid., pp. 44-68. It was not until 1948, however, in Oyama v. California, that the Supreme Court of the United States invalidated a portion of the California Alien Land Law. Two years later, a California court ruled the entire law unconstitutional. And, in 1956, the voters of California formally repealed the law by referendum. (Ibid., pp. 75-76.)
5. Ibid., pp. 77-89.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reports and Publications

Rawitsch, Mark Howland. "Japanese American Relocation: Educational Patterns and Community Receptivity." Riverside: University of California, Riverside, Department of History, June 4, 1976.

_____. No Other Place: Japanese American Pioneers in a Southern California Neighborhood. Riverside: University of California, Riverside, Department of History, 1983.

(Rawitsch's studies make extensive use of interviews and published newspaper accounts, of which those listed below are a mere sampling. He also used unpublished reports and taped interviews by himself and the following author, which are deposited in the Departments of Sociology and History at the University of California, Riverside.)

Wong, Morrison G. "The Alien Land Law, The Haradas, and Riverside, California." University of California, Riverside, Department of Sociology. (Japanese Americans in Riverside Research Project) (No date.)

Newspaper Articles (chronological, 1915-18)

"Japanese Buy on Lemon Street," Riverside Daily Press, December 23, 1915.

"Land Titles to Children, Jap Plan to Evade Law on Aliens," Los Angeles Examiner, December 23, 1915.

"Minor Children of Japanese Purchase Residence," Riverside Enterprise, December 23, 1915.

"Harada Case is Precedent," Riverside Daily Press, January 5, 1916.

"Wholesale Purchase of California Farm Property by Nipponese for Children Predicted," Los Angeles Examiner, January 5, 1916. (Photos of children and original structure.)

"To Test Alien Land Law Here," Riverside Enterprise, October 5, 1916.

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"Alien Land Law Suit Brought in California," The New York Times,
 October 6, 1916, p. 1.

"State Test of Its Alien Land Law is Started," Los Angeles Examiner,
 October 6, 1916.

"Jap Government Stirred Over Harada Case," Riverside Enterprise,
 October 7, 1916.

"Japan vs. America in a Riverside Suit," Los Angeles Times,
 October 22, 1916. (Photos of individuals and remodeled house.)

"Judge Craig Returns Opinion in Japanese Case; Finds Law Not in
 Conflict with Treaty," Riverside Enterprise, April 4, 1917.

"Japanese Guests on Anniversary," Riverside Daily Press, November 1,
 1917.

"Judge Craig Decides That Native Born Japanese May Own Land Here,"
Riverside Daily Press, December 17, 1918.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has
 been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register.
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University: University of California, Riverside
- Other: Specify Repository: _____

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 (one) acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing

A 11 466000 3760360

Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at a point on the easterly line of Lemon Street, 125 feet northerly from the southwest corner of Block 3, Range 4, of the City of Riverside; then running at right angles easterly parallel with the northerly line of 4th Street for 100 feet; thence, at right angles northerly and parallel with the easterly line of Lemon Street for 40 feet; then at right angles westerly parallel with the northerly line of 4th Street for 100 feet to the easterly line of Lemon Street; thence at right angles southerly along the easterly line of Lemon Street for 40 feet.

Boundary Justification:

The lot lines of the Harada property are as they were in 1915, when the Haradas purchased the house.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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