CITY OF RIVERSIDE

Cultural Heritage Board Memorandum

Community & Economic Development Department **Planning Division**
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CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: MAY 21, 2025
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7

DISCUSSION ITEM

Case Numbers	Not Applicable
Request	To receive and file the National Register nomination of the Trujillo Adobe.
Project Location	Citywide
Ward	All
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board provide input, receive, file, and recommend support of the National Register nomination of the Evergreen Cemetery

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

On March 16, 1995, the National Park Service approved the City's application for Certified Local Government (CLG). Per the CLG agreement, the State of California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) will provide sixty (60) days for the chief elected official (Mayor) to review and comment on National Register nominations within its jurisdiction.

On March 5, 2025, the City received a letter from OHP indicating a National Register nomination for the Trujillo Adobe was prepared and submitted by Jen Mermilliod of JMRC and Mary Ringhoff of Architectural Resources Group (ARG) on behalf of the Riverside County Parks and the Spanish Tow Heritage Foundation (Exhibit 2 & 3). Jen Mermilliod and Mary Rignhoff, cultural consultants, exceed the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualifications and are qualified to make National Register eligibility findings.

The nomination finds the Trujillo Adobe is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A, associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

As stated in the nomination:

> The Trujillo Adobe is highly significant as the last aboveground building vestige associated with the community of San Salvador de Jurupa (Agua Mansa-La Placita de los Trujillos), one of the earliest settlements in the San Bernardino Valley. Emigrants from Abiquiu, New Mexico traveled the Old Spanish Trail and established San Salvador's first iteration along the nearby Santa Ana River by 1845. There, they built a thriving community centered on farming, ranching, and protection of neighboring ranchers' cattle. The origins of many of the Abiqueños lie in a diverse range of Indigenous peoples of the Southwest who were assimilated by the Spanish in the northern reaches of New Spain, becoming part of the broader Hispanic diaspora. When the Santa Ana River flooded in 1862, the settlement was wiped out and its residents moved to higher ground. The family of community leader Lorenzo Trujillo constructed the Trujillo Adobe at its current location, where it housed generations of the Trujillo family starting with matriarch Maria Dolores Archuleta. Now a ruin, the adobe is one of only two visible, aboveground remnants of the San Salvador community (the other is the Agua Mansa Cemetery, adjacent to the buried remains of the Agua Mansa Chapel), and its site is very likely to contain intact archaeological deposits. It is strongly associated with Hispanic and Native American ethnic heritage and with early settlement in the San Bernardino Valley. The Trujillo Adobe site retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance and associations. As a result, the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local and state levels under Criterion A. Its period of significance is 1862-1957, beginning with its construu6tiuh after the flood and ending with the last occupation by a direct descendant of Lorenzo and Maria Archuleta Trujillo.

Staff has reviewed and concurs with the findings of the nomination.

The nomination was reviewed by the State Historical Preservation Commission Quarterly meeting on Friday May 9, 2025 (Exhibit 4). As the Cultural Heritage Board was unable to review prior to the Commission Meeting, Planning staff worked with the Mayors Office to provide a letter of support.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This item contributes to the Envision Riverside 2025 City Council Strategic Priority 2 – Community Well-being (Goal 2.3 – Strengthen neighborhood identities and improve community health and the physical environment through amenities and programs that foster an increased sense of community and enhanced feelings of pride and belonging citywide) and Priority 5 – High Performing Government (Goal 5.3 - Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making).

This item aligns with the following Cross-Cutting Threads:

1. *Community Trust:* The National Register nomination is being reviewed at public meetings held by the Cultural Heritage Board and the public is able to provide comments.
2. *Equity:* Historic property information associated with this National Register will be added to the City's Historic Resources Inventory and the National Park Service website. This will allow information about the historic property to be available to all residents.
3. *Fiscal Responsibility:* The National Register nomination was complete by private entity and will not result in any additional costs to the City.
4. *Innovation:* The National Register nomination made use of current research practices and looks at historic integrity based on best practices approaches.
5. *Sustainability and Resiliency:* The National Register nomination will help to preserve the City's collective history for future generations.

EXHIBITS LIST

1. Aerial/Location Map
2. Letter from the California Office of Historic Preservation
3. National Register Nomination Form
4. State Historical Resources Commission Meeting Notice

Prepared by: Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer
Reviewed by: Maribeth Tinio, City Planner