



Community & Economic Development Department

Planning Division

3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: JUNE 15, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

POINTS OF CULTURAL INTEREST

I. CASE NUMBER: P16-0342

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

- 1) **Proposal:** Request to recognize Dosan's Republic: Site of the First Korean American Settlement, as a City Point of Cultural Interest
- 2) **Location:** 3096 Cottage Street; APN:219-321-001, 219-321-002, 211-241-011
- 3) **Ward:** 2
- 4) **Applicant:** Carol Park
- 5) **Case Planner:** Scott Watson, Assistant Planner
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III. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Cultural Heritage Board Recommend that the City Council:

1. **DETERMINE** that P16-0342, City Point of Cultural Interest recognition, is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Sections 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment, said action is intended to recognize a point of historic or cultural interest; and,
2. **APPROVE** Planning Case P16-0342 based on the facts for findings outlined below and thereby the recognition of Dosan's Republic: Site of the First Korean American Settlement as a City Point of Cultural Interest.

FACTS FOR FINDINGS: (From Sections 20.20.030 and 20.50.010(U) of the Riverside Municipal Code)

FINDINGS: Criterion 1: Has anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value;

FACTS: Dosan's Republic meets Criterion 1 because it was site of the first organized Koreatown on the United States mainland and because it founded by Korean patriot Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, who famous for his role in the Korean independence movement.

FINDINGS: Criterion 2: The original physical feature(s) no longer exist to an appreciable extent;

FACTS: The Dosan's Republic meets Criterion 2 because by 1952 all of the improvements associated with Pachappa Camp or Dosan's Republic were no longer extant.

IV. BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

A camp was originally constructed at this location to provide housing for Chinese workers who built the Santa Fe Railroad in the 1880s and it took the name Pachappa Camp after the Pachappa Rail Station further along the tracks. Following the construction of the railways, the housing proved no longer necessary for the intermittent Chinese workers who either moved to another settlement in the city or followed work elsewhere. In the early 1900s, Korean immigrants began moving to Riverside, enticed by its warm climate and the possibilities of finding work in the citrus industry. After 1905, the site housed the first organized Koreatown on the United States mainland, as Korean immigrants set up a labor bureau and community organizations to provide for one another. The settlement also became known colloquially as Dosan's Republic after Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, the settlement's founder and most famous resident, known for his leadership in Korea's fight for independence. The settlement anchored the overseas Korean independence movement, while revealing important trends in the history of Korean immigration to the United States.

All of the buildings (approximately twenty dwellings) were vernacular, single-story, wood frame structures. The community center, a duplex, stood one and a half stories tall. The wooden buildings were largely rectangular in structure, three were square, and another followed a rough L-plan, each with at least one window opening. Five of the structures had awnings, twelve possessed tile chimneys, while two had stove pipes, and two others had no chimneys. The Sanborn insurance map labeled the structures shanties, attesting to their likely poor condition. The structures likely rested upon little or no foundation and no further descriptions of the shacks relating to roofing or doors or other details survive. By 1915, the Riverside city directory listed the address 1508 Pachappa Avenue as the site of a Korean Mission, an address where no structure stood on the 1908 insurance map, but no architectural description of the building remains. The houses also proved drafty, as the boards constructing them had shrunk, and one resident Mary Paik Lee recalled putting clay in the cracks in the walls to keep out the wind. The homes were not equipped with gas, water, or electricity, and residents relied on outdoor water pumps and outhouses. When Koreans occupied the camp, the structures were painted red-brick.

In the 1920s, a largely Japanese American population began moving into the shacks in the camp, and by 1939, the settlement again changed ethnic make-up, and primarily Mexican inhabitants resided in the area, according to the 1951 Sanborn insurance maps. In 1952, Pachappa Camp no longer accommodated ethnic communities at all but succumbed to industrial development, hosting the Fisher Oil Storage facility and a meat market. The new businesses paved over the land, fencing off the block, while leaving the northwest parcel vacant. Today, the site hosts the Southern California Gas Company and Mobil Oil Corporation.

V. STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION:

The location of 3096 Cottage Street is recognized as portion of the site of the first organized Koreatown on the United States mainland known as Pachappa Camp and Dosan's Republic. It is further recognized because it was founded by Korean patriot Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, famous for his role in the Korean independence movement, acting as Minister of Labor of the Korean Provisional Government in exile. Ahn lived in Riverside from 1904-1907 and 1911-1913, while his family lived continuously from 1905-1913 at the location. The site is further recognized due to its reflection of Riverside's cultural, social, and economic history relating to the citrus industry, immigration, and the ethnic diversity of the city.

VI. PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS:

Public notices were published in one newspaper of general circulation within the City, and mailed to property owners and occupants within 300 feet of the site, at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled hearing. No responses were received to date.

VII. EXHIBITS:

1. Location Map
2. Zoning Map
3. Designation Application