



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: AUGUST 4, 2020

FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: ACCESSION OF ONE (1) ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATION OF A PROPOSED
WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL FOR DOWNTOWN RIVERSIDE BY RIVERSIDE
ARCHITECT HENRY L. A. JEKEL INTO THE MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE'S
PERMANENT COLLECTION**

ISSUE:

Approve the accession of one (1) architectural illustration of a proposed World War II memorial for downtown Riverside by Riverside architect Henry L. A. Jekel into the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the accession of one (1) architectural illustration of a proposed World War II memorial for downtown Riverside by Riverside architect Henry L. A. Jekel into the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

On June 24, 2020, the Museum of Riverside Board, with eight (8) members present, unanimously voted to recommend that City Council approve the accession of one (1) architectural illustration of a proposed World War II memorial for downtown Riverside by Riverside architect Henry L. A. Jekel into the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection.

BACKGROUND:

A member of the public formerly affiliated with the Museum of Riverside has donated to the Museum one (1) architectural illustration by Riverside architect Henry L. A. Jekel.

On February 26, 2020, with nine (9) Committee members supporting and two (2) Committee members absent, the Museum's Collections Committee approved a recommendation for the accession of a Jekel architectural illustration into the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection.

DISCUSSION:

Sections of the following discussion have been paraphrased from recent publication(s) on Henry L. A. Jekel by H. Vincent Moses and Catherine Whitmore.

Noted architect Henry L. A. Jekel (1876-1960) designed over seventy-five houses, and many commercial buildings, including the Neighbors of Woodcraft Home (now the James Complex at California Baptist University), and the renowned Benedict Castle (Castillo Isabella) in Riverside. He rose to the top of the city's civic leadership and earned praise for his engineering ability and his mastery of the Spanish Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and related architectural styles of the 1920s and 1930s.

Jekel's Riverside-based homes, including his own home at 5063 Magnolia Avenue, evoke Spanish architecture with tile roofs, uneven roof lines, metal grill work, arched windows, and patios. He designed the Mediterranean villa for Harry Hammond on Victoria Hill, and homes for such Riverside notables as A. N. Sweet (4447 Seventh Street), G. A. Hammer (4563 Prospect Avenue), Fred Stebler (4522 Sixth Street), E. P. Clarke (5125 Ramona Drive), Walter Banks (3105 Pine Street), and others. His reputation spread throughout Southern California where he gained commissions in Laguna Beach, Palm Springs, San Bernardino, Hemet, and elsewhere. Probably his last work in 1948 was the remodeling of quarters for the Banks Drug Store, in what is now the Mission Inn Foundation Museum, northeast corner of Mission Inn Avenue and Main streets.

Henry Jekel came to Riverside after having already built a career in eastern skyscraper design and construction, where he helped launch the American skyscraper revolution. In 1902, he was architect for the Pennsylvania Building, Philadelphia's first steel frame building, a seventeen-story Beaux Arts masterpiece. He also designed the Westory Building in Washington, D.C., in 1907, that city's first steel-frame skyscraper. In Washington, he worked in the Office of the Supervising Architect, Department of the Treasury, where he assisted with the design of the expansion of the Treasury Building.

While in Riverside, Jekel drew the World War II memorial plan pro bono as a member of the Mayor's Citizens Committee on the Memorial. He researched extant memorials around the country prior to designing this one. It was never built due to disagreements among planners and citizens.

Approval of this recommendation would result in this illustration—donated by local individuals and with a continuous local provenance—joining an existing Museum of Riverside Henry L. A. Jekel collection, which includes scrapbooks, photographs, documents, architectural drawings, digital copies of documents, and scanned scrapbooks of Krinard House and Benedict Castle.

The condition of the drawing is stable. Henry L. A. Jekel's 30 x 40-inch architectural illustration is mounted on acidic board and has been water-damaged, which could be mitigated with professional attention from a paper conservator. The treatment need not occur immediately.



FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by:	Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Museum of Riverside Board Draft Minutes June 24, 2020