



Community & Economic Development Department
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Planning Division

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: JUNE 17, 2026
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7

WORKSHOP ITEM

Case Number	Not Applicable
Request	A workshop to discuss and provide feedback on expanding awareness of the Point of Cultural Interest program.
Project Location	Citywide
Wards	All
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board hold a workshop to discuss and provide feedback on expanding awareness of the Point of Cultural Interest program.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the City Council established the Point of Cultural Interest (POCI) program through the adoption of Ordinance No. 7344, which added Chapter 20.21 (Recognitions) to the Riverside Municipal Code. The program was created to recognize otherwise intangible historic facts about a place within the city by providing a means of highlighting locations of historic or community significance where physical features related to the significance are not present. These locations could include, but are not limited to, sites where the historic structures are no longer extant or public spaces when significant events took place.

Unlike City Landmarks and Structures of Merit, which identify extant historic resources that retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance, POCIs are recognized, not designated, and are strictly informational in nature. POCIs are not Cultural Resources under Title 20 and do not impose development restrictions or design review requirements. Further, Title 20 expressly indicates that POCIs are not historical resources under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or other environmental laws.

The program was developed in response to a nomination submitted by the Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at the University of California, Riverside, seeking recognition of Pachappa Camp, the site of the first organized Korean American settlement. Although Pachappa Camp was determined to possess exceptional historical significance as the location of the first organized Korean American settlement on the United States mainland and for its association with Korean patriot Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, all known improvements associated with the settlement had been removed by 1952

through industrial redevelopment. The site no longer contained physical resources (structures or archaeological resources), it was not eligible for historic designation under Title 20. In an effort to recognize the history of the site, the City established the POCl program to provide an appropriate method of recognizing its historical significance.

Following the adoption of Chapter 20.21, the City Council recognized "Pachappa Camp: Site of the First Organized Korean American Settlement" as City Point of Cultural Interest No. 1. The recognition acknowledges the site's significance and its importance in Riverside's cultural, social, and economic history.

DISCUSSION

Section 20.50.010 of the Riverside Municipal Code defines a POCl as a site of local significance that possesses anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value; where the original physical features no longer exist to an appreciable extent; and that does not qualify as a designation Cultural Resource or an Eligible Cultural Resource.

The process for recognition application is established in Section 20.21.020 of the Riverside Municipal Code, which provides:

"The Board, City Council, or any Person may apply for the recognition, modification, or derecognition of a Point of Cultural Interest. Applications for recognition, modification, or derecognition shall be on forms provided by the Planning Division."

Following receipt of an application, Planning Division staff prepares a report for consideration by the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) at a public hearing. The Board then makes a recommendation to the City Council, which conducts a public hearing and takes final action on the proposed recognition.

Because applications may be initiated by the CHB, the City Council, or any member of the public, the effectiveness of the program depends on awareness of its purpose and the availability of appropriate nominations. Nearly ten years since the City Council established the POCl program, Pachappa Camp, remains the only POCl in the City, which suggests there are opportunities to increase awareness of the program and encourage broader participation.

The purpose of this workshop is to solicit the CHB's input on strategies to promote the POCl program and potential identify locations that may be eligible for recognition. Discussion topics may include increasing public awareness through the City's website, social media, and community outreach; partnering with local historical or cultural organizations, neighborhood groups, and educational institutions; and identifying sites that reflect Riverside's diverse history but are not eligible for designation as Cultural Resources because the original physical features no longer exist.

Each recognized POCl is commemorated with a City-installed recognition sign. In 2017 the cost for fabrication and installation of a recognition sign was \$250 per location. The cost has likely increased of over the last 10 years. The relatively low cost of the signage provides an economical means of commemorating Riverside's history while increasing public awareness of significant places throughout the community.

Staff is seeking direction from the CHB regarding opportunities to expand awareness of the POI program, encourage future nominations, and identify locations that may warrant recognition as future Points of Cultural Interest.

EXHIBITS LIST

1. Chapter 20.21 of the Riverside Municipal Code (RMC)
2. RMC Section 20.50.010 – POI Definition
3. POI Sign Example

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