

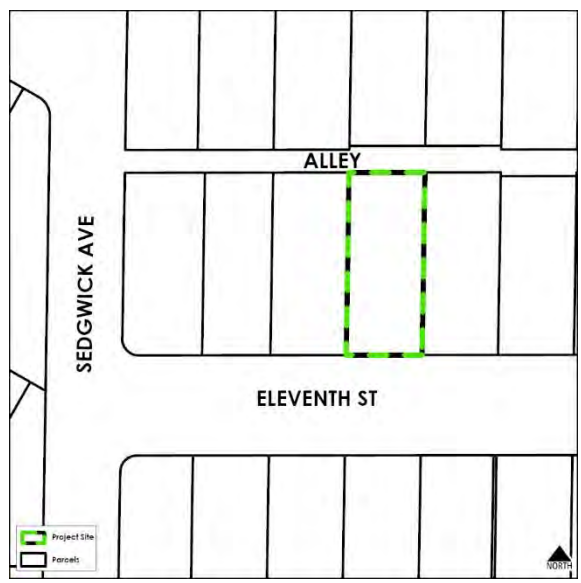


Community & Economic Development Department  
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

Planning Division

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETING DATE: MAY 15, 2024  
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 5

## PROPOSED PROJECT

Case Numbers	DP-2024-00577(Historic Designation)	
Request	To consider a Historic Designation request to designate the Okubo Residence as a City Landmark	
Applicant	Valerie Silva	
Project Location	2356 Eleventh Street, on the north side of Eleventh Street between Sedgwick and Eucalyptus Avenues	
APN	221-031-014	
Ward	1	
Neighborhood	Eastside	
Historic District	Not Applicable	
Historic Designation	Not Applicable	
Staff Planner	Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer 951-826-5507 swatson@riversideca.gov	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board recommend that the City Council:

1. **DETERMINE** that Planning Case DP-2024-00577 (Historic Designation) for the designation of the Okubo Residence as a City Landmark is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Rule) and 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment), as the proposal will have no significant effect on the environment, identifies the structure as a cultural resource, and preserves the historic character of a cultural resource; and
2. **APPROVE** Planning Case DP-2024-00577 (Historic Designation), based on the facts of findings, and designate the Okubo Residence as a City Landmark.

## BACKGROUND

### *The Okubo Residence*

The Okubo residence is located at 2365 Eleventh Street. The residence was constructed circa 1900. The Okubo Family rented the residence beginning in 1925 until purchasing it in 1930. The family lived at the residence until 1942 when Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, causing the forced relocation of Japanese Americans to the War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps. The Okubo family never returned to the residence which they rented to Valeriano and Mercedes Silva during incarceration. In 1951, the Silva Family purchased the home from the Okubos and still own the property today.

As part of the City's Japanese American Historic Context Statement (Japanese American Heritage and the Quest for Civil Rights in Riverside, California, 1890s-1970s) complete in 2011, the residence was found eligible for listing in National Register and California Register Criteria A/1 because it is associated with events that convey the experience of the Japanese American community as a whole, and Criteria B/2 because it is associated with the life of prolific artist Miné Okubo.

### *The Okubo Family*

In 1904, Tometsugu (Frank) and Miejioko (Miyo) Kato Okubo immigrated from Japan to the United States, reportedly for Miyo to work as a calligrapher at the Empire of Japan Exhibition as part of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Tometsugu and Miyo moved to Riverside soon after, where their first child, Yoshi, was born in October of 1904. The family rented a few places in Riverside's Eastside before moving to the residence at 2365 Eleventh Street, which Tometsugu purchased in the name of his eldest daughter, Yoshi, in 1930.

While living in Riverside, Tometsugu worked at a candy shop, as a tailor, and a gardener/landscaper. Miyo painted at home while raising her six children, teaching them various arts and encouraging them to pursue artistic careers. Yoshi, Miné, and Binji went on to have careers connected to the arts. Miné will be discussed later in this report. Yoshi went on to be an artist and gallery manager and Binji was a painter and director of the Art Students League in Los Angeles. Miyo's artistic skills lived on in her children passed her death in 1940.

Due to the forced relocation of Japanese Americans in World War II, the family reported to the Civil Control Station at 3557 Main Street, on May 20-21, 1942, where the family, along with other Japanese Americans, were placed on busses and sent to WRA Camps. For the remainder of the war the family was separate. Tometsugu, was placed in a detention camp in Fort Missoula, Montana. The camp was intended for individuals considered to be spies or posing a serious threat. Often included in this category were first-generation Japanese immigrants who were active in the community.

After being released from the camps, records indicate that Tometsugu lived in Pomona with his daughter Yoshi. He passed away in 1956, and Tometsugu and Miyo are buried in the Olivewood Cemetery. Their daughters Yoshi and Miné were later buried with them.

### *Miné Okubo*

Miné Okubo was born on June 27, 1912, in Riverside. She attended Longfellow Elementary School, Riverside Poly High School, and Riverside Junior College. She credits the pursuit of an artistic career due to encouragement not only from her mother but also from her High School Art teacher, Althea B. Williams. Upon encouragement from her Riverside Junior College art teacher, she applied to the University of California, Berkeley. In 1933, she received a fellowship at UC Berkeley where she would go on to complete a bachelor's and master's degree in fine arts and anthropology. After a 1938 fellowship to study art in Europe was cut short due to the outbreak of the war, Miné received news of her mother had become ill and returned to Riverside. After her mother's passing,

Miné returned to the Bay Area and worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Art Project and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. During her time with the WPA, she worked on murals, mosaics and frescoes at Government Island, Oakland Hospitality House, Treasure Island and Fort Ord. She also worked for Diego Rivera and it is reported that while he painted murals, she would explain the work to visitors.

The following excerpt from the 2011 California Department of Parks and Recreation Form (DPR Form), completed by Jenn Wilson as part of the Japanese American Historic Context Statement, discusses Miné Okubo's artistic career and its impact:

In 1942, Miné, along with her brother, Toku, who was residing with her in northern California while he attended the University of California Berkeley, were forced to evacuate her home under Executive Order 9066. Miné's family, residing at 2365 11th Street, in Riverside, was also at internment camps, but was separated in various camps. Miné was just one of 120,000 Japanese American evacuees incarcerated in America during World War II. She and her brother were first at Tanforan Relocation Camp in San Bruno, California. Six months later, Toku and Miné were transferred to Topaz Relocation Center in Utah. It was during this time that Miné sketched over 2,000 drawings of her experience in the camp.

Many of the sketches depicted the hardships that she and fellow evacuees endured in the camps. She submitted a sketch of a camp guard to an art contest in San Francisco. It caught the attention of Fortune magazine, which hired Okubo to illustrate a special issue on Japan. The job offer allowed her to leave the camp and head to Fortune magazine headquarters in New York City.

Miné Okubo's sketches of her internment experience continued to attract attention, and eventually led to the publication of her book, *Citizen 13660*, in 1946. The book includes roughly 200 drawings along with Okubo's accompanying text. It was the first account by a WWII American Internee to show the experience of the internment camps. Miné's work throughout her life gained her much recognition. She received the San Francisco Museum Annual Prize in 1948; taught art at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1950-1952; made an appearance in the televised program, *The Nisei: The Pride and the Shame*, Twentieth Century TV, CBS News with Walter Cronkite, in 1965; was selected by the California State Department of Education as one of twelve women pioneers in *The History of California (1800 to present)*; received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for Art of the College Art Association, in 1991; had a play written about her life called "*Miné: A Name for Herself*"; and in 2006 Riverside Community College debuted *Miné Okubo Drive* on their campus.

## ANALYSIS

The applicant is requesting approval of a Historic Designation to designate the Okubo Residence as a Historic Landmark.

The applicant has provided an architectural description, statement of significance, photographs documenting the architecture and building setting, and copies of primary and secondary sources as summarized below.

### Architectural Description

The Okubo Residence is situated on the north side of Eleventh Street, behind a brick wall and hedges. The single-story residence exhibits a Late Victorica style with Colonial influences. It is wood framed construction, with a raised foundation and a rectangular plan. The residence is clad in wood siding and is capped with asphalt shingle-topped, moderately pitched gable-on-hipped roof with narrows eaves with fascia boards. A projecting porch with a shed supported by slender

doric columns running the length of the façade (south elevation). The primary entry is centrally located on the façade. The fenestration of the residence includes fixed and double-hung wood windows with wood trim, some paired and some with divided light.

### Statement of Significance

The Okubo Residence is historically significant because demonstrates the Japanese American community experience in Riverside, including the practice of purchasing properties in the name of American born children and the forced relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II. The residence is also historically significant for its association as the child who home of recognized artist Miné Okubo, who's art demonstrated a firsthand experience in the Japanese interment camps of World War II. Despite its condition, the Okubo residences still retains a high-degree integrity required for City Landmark designation.

## TITLE 20 EVALUATION

Under Title 20 (Cultural Resources), "Landmark" means: "Any improvement or natural feature that is an exceptional example of a historical, archaeological, cultural, architectural, community, aesthetic or artistic heritage of the City, that retains a high degree of integrity." Based on the applicable criteria from Chapter 20.50 of Title 20, the Okubo Residence qualifies for Landmark Designation as follows:

FINDING: Criterion 1: Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, architectural, or natural history;

FACTS: The California Alien Law of 1913 prohibited foreign born individuals from owning property. The 1918 decision in the case of California v. Jukichi Harada upheld the American-born Harada children's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to equal protection included owning the property. The laws were later amended in 1920 and 1923. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the laws in a 1923 decision; however, with the Harada decision still in place, the Okubo Family was able to purchase the residence at 2365 Eleventh Street in the name of the oldest child. The Okubo Family were relocated to internment camps in 1942 as part of the Executive Order 9066 signed by Franklin Roosevelt. Despite the relocation, the family was able to retain ownership of the property until it was sold to their tenants in 1951. The residence showcases the Japanese community experience in Riverside including the fight against the Alien Land Laws and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; therefore, the residence is eligible for Landmark designation under Criterion 1.

FINDING: Criterion 2: Is identified with persons or events significant in local, state or national history;

FACTS: The residence at 2365 Eleventh Street is associated with the life of prolific artist Miné Okubo, who is recognized for her work that provided a first-hand experience in the internment camps. Miné received multiple awards and recognition, including the California State Department of Education naming her one of twelve women pioneers in The History of California (1800 to present) and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for Art of the College Art Association, in 1991. The residence is associated with Miné as the family lived in the residence from 1925 to 1942. It is the remaining home that has the longest period of association with Miné's childhood; therefore, the residence is eligible for Landmark designation under Criterion 2.



## 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).

This item aligns with the following Cross-Cutting Threads:

1. Community Trust: This Landmark Designation request is being reviewed during a Public Hearing before the Cultural Heritage Board and the public is able to provide comments.
2. Equity: Historic property information associated with this designation will be added to the City's Historic Resources Inventory, which will be available to the public. This will allow information about the historic property to be available to all residents.
3. Fiscal Responsibility: No City General Funds are being allocated as part of this Landmark Designation.
4. Innovation: This Landmark Designation request made use of current research practices and looks at historic integrity based on best practices approaches.
5. Sustainability and Resiliency: This Landmark Designation will help to preserve the City's collective history for future generations.

## PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS

A public hearing notice was mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the site. As of the writing of this report, no responses have been received by Staff regarding this proposal.

## APPEAL INFORMATION

Actions by the Cultural Heritage Board, including any environmental finding, may be appealed to the City Council within ten calendar days after the decision. Appeal filing and processing information may be obtained from the Planning Division by calling 951-826-5800.

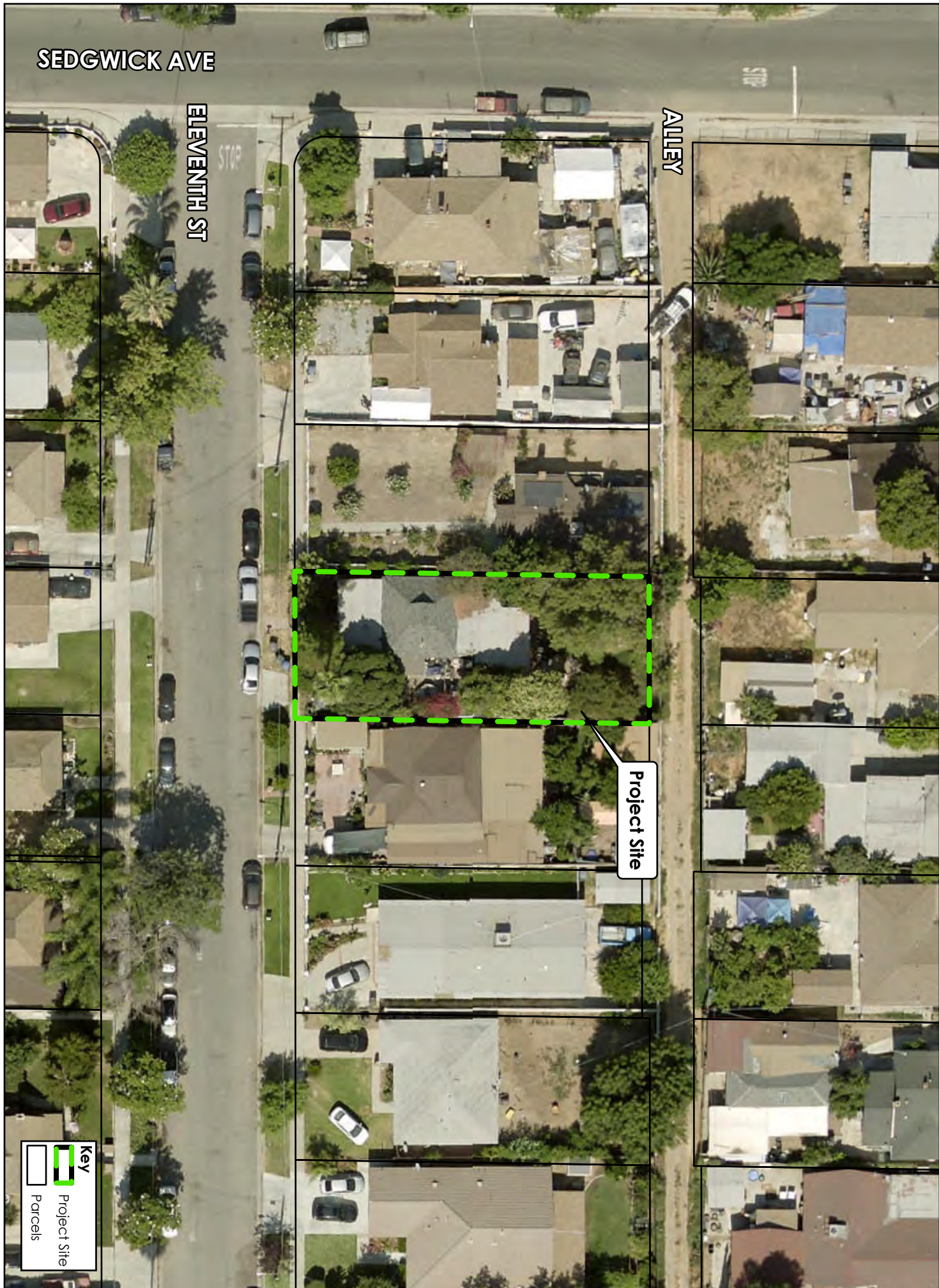
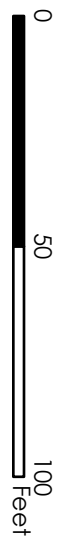
## EXHIBITS LIST

1. Aerial/Location Map
2. Historic Designation Application
3. 2011 DPR Form
4. Current & Historic Photos
5. [City of Riverside Japanese American Historic Context Statement](#)

---

Prepared by: Scott Watson, Historic Preservation Officer

Approved by: Maribeth Tinio, City Planner



# Cultural Resources Nomination Application

<u>  X  </u>	City Landmark	<u>      </u>	Structure of Merit
<i>Please check the Designation for which you are</i>			

## IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Okubo House
2. Historic Name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Street address: 2365 Eleventh Street (previously 535 Eleventh Street)  
City Riverside State CA Zip 92507
4. Assessor Parcel number: 221031014
5. Present Legal Owner: Valerie Silva (951) 818-6676  
City Riverside State CA Zip 92507
6. Present Use: Single Family Residence
7. Original Use: Single Family Residence

Date form prepared: April 22, 2024

Preparer: Carol McDoniel on behalf of Valerie Silva

Sponsoring Organization (if any): N/A

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION

8. Legal property description: Lot 119 MB 006/027 SB Garfield Place
- Include approximate property size (in feet): Street Frontage 45' Depth 120'
9. Architectural Style: Single story wood frame cottage with a gable roof extending into shed roof over the porch.
10. Construction Date: Estimated 1910-13 Factual \_\_\_\_\_  
Source of Information: ☒ Assessor's Records ☐ Building Permit ☐ Sanborn Map  
☐ Publications ☐ Oral Interviews
11. Architect's Name: unknown Builder's Name: unknown
12. Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated  
☐ No longer in existence
13. Alterations: Additions prior to 1942, possibly prior to 1913: front room (8'x10'), bedroom (10'x13'), laundry room (2'x9'), bathroom (6'x13'). Rear patio cover (12'x42'), front porch cover (6'x30').
14. Surroundings:  
☐ Open Land ☐ Scattered Buildings ☒ Densely Built-Up
15. Use type:  
☒ Residential ☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☐ Civic  
☐ Other
16. Is the structure on its original site?  
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown  
If moved, approximate year \_\_\_\_\_
17. Related features and/or out-buildings: garage (original, extant)



## SIGNIFICANCE

18. Historical Attributes:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Building                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Folk Art                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single Family         | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Building                | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Furniture                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Family                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Building                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ancillary Building               | <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad Depot                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees/Vegetation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Train                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Open Space                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Open Space                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Canal/Aqueduct                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm/Ranch                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Building                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dam                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military Property                | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility Building             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake/River/Reservoir             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CCC/WPA Structure                | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Minority Prop. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Structure            | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway/Trail                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Auditorium                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amusement Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's Property                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Monument/Mural/Gravestone        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Stadium                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mine                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center/Social Hall        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Building, 1-3 stories | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Building, over 3 stories |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                           |  |   |

## Cultural Resources Nomination Application - Okubo

### 19. Architectural Description

*The below description is quoted directly from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Form 523 used for listing of multiple properties to establish eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This description was prepared by Jenn Wilson on March 10, 2011 for the City of Riverside Japanese American Historic Context Statement.*

#### DPR Section P3a. Description

The single-family property located at 2365 11th Street is situated on Lot 119, subdivision Garfield Place, in the northeastern area of the city of Riverside. The one-story building faces south onto 11th Street. It is rectangular in plan, with the narrow end of the plan the main facade of the building, running parallel with the street and the long side of the plan running perpendicular to the street. It has a wood-frame structure sheathed with clapboard siding. There is a detached garage in the back of the house that is not visible from the street. A 1908 Sanborn map indicates that there were three smaller structures in the northeast section of the property in back of the main building. By 1952, another Sanborn map reveals that the three smaller structures were no longer, and an addition, presumably the detached garage, was added to the east side of the building.

The roof is high-pitched, gable-on-hip, sheathed with composition shingles. The gable roof dormer is located on the top, center of the roof, with one gable facing east and the other facing west. The roof extends out a few feet beyond the front of the house and is supported by what seems to be four wooden columns. The columns are relatively narrow in width and are cylinder in shape. There is a roof overhang at the front of the property, but there does not appear to be a raised floor that would indicate the existence of a porch. The front door is centrally placed on the main facade, with a large, rectangular window to the left of the door and a smaller window to the right of the front door.

A chain-link fence, about five feet high, surrounds the property. Two concrete block pillars, each about a foot wide, stand on either side of the front chain-link gate that is situated about 6 feet from the front door of the building. There are bushes that surround the fence, making it difficult to see the bottom half of the property. Two large trees on either side of the home block the side views of the building, and cover a good portion of the front sides of the facade, including the windows. The landscape in front of the sidewalk consists of grass and a large tree on the right hand-side of the home next to the mailbox. The landscape does not appear to be well kept, as most of the grass is dead.

The exact year that the residence was built is not yet clear. The city of Riverside states that the building was constructed in 1913, while a survey done on the property in 2001 dates the construction of the building in 1910. However, the structure can be observed in a Sanborn map dating back to 1908. Additionally, the County of Riverside Assessor's Office's records indicates that the building was present before 1913. The first sign of structural activity on the property took place in 1899, when owner J.A. Clendenen—who also owned lots 118-125—made



“improvements” on the land, which valued the property at \$50. According to Assessor’s Office archivist, Jim Hofer, the dollar amount suggests the construction of a shed or some other small structure. In 1900, Peter Schwab purchased lots 118 and 119. Land improvements were made, placing the value of the property at \$150. Hofer argues that this could be the construction of a small home. In 1905, under the ownership of Geo Ward, improvements were made again, putting the value at \$225. This most certainly suggests that the original structure was present by this year. Improvements were not made again until 1910, but only increased the value by \$50, suggesting no major work was done. The improvement values stayed relatively the same until 1924. I therefore place the year of the building’s original construction between 1900-1905.

An inspection was done on the property on April 20, 1993, which indicated that electrical and structural repairs were to be made to the bedroom, bathroom, laundry room, front room, and roof. No additional records have been found to clarify what, if any, restorative work has been performed on the property.

#### **OKUBO FAMILY RIVERSIDE RESIDENCES**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Original Address</b>	<b>Updated Address</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Rented</b>	<b>Owned</b>
1910	Census	160	3038	Denton St.	X	
1913-14	Directories	160	3038	Denton St.		
1920	Census	608 or 680	2142 for 680	11 <sup>th</sup> Street	X	
1921	Directory	756	2054	11 <sup>th</sup> Street	X	
1925	Directory	535	2365	11 <sup>th</sup> Street	X	
1930	Census	535	2365	11 <sup>th</sup> Street		X
1940	Census	535	2365	11 <sup>th</sup> Street		X
1934-42	Directories	535	2365	11 <sup>th</sup> Street		X

## Cultural Resources Nomination Application

### 20. Statement of Significance

The residence at 2365 Eleventh Street in Riverside is significant as the childhood home of artist Miné Okubo who lived there with her parents and siblings from 1925 to the time of WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans in 1942. The home is further significant for its contribution to the history of Japanese in Riverside—their settlement, community development, forced removal, and return. The residence is eligible as designation as a City Landmark in accordance with the following criteria.

### **Historic Context**

City of Riverside Municipal Code Title 20, defines *Landmark* as:

- A. Any improvement or natural feature that is an exceptional example of a historical, archaeological, cultural, architectural, community, aesthetic or artistic heritage of the City; retains a high degree of integrity; and
- B. Meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - a. Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, architectural, or natural history.
  - b. Is identified with persons or events significant in local, state, or national history.

The Okubo House meets:

- Criterion A: cultural and community heritage
- Criterion B: cultural, social, economic, political history

The property is significant under the City of Riverside historical contexts:

- Japanese American Heritage and the Quest for Civil Rights in Riverside, California, 1890s-1970s.
- Japanese in Riverside: Settlement, Community Development, WWII Forced Removal and Incarceration, Return & Recovery, 1890s-1970s
- The Quest for Japanese American Citizenship and Civil Rights in Riverside, 1892-1946

The Okubo home is included in the City of Riverside's *Japanese American Context Statement* that includes the following historic contexts applicable to the Okubo home:

Riverside is notable for the small, but unusual, number of prominent individuals who drew attention of Nikkei and non-Nikkei for their achievements or their engagement with significant civil rights issues.

The overwhelming number of Issei were hard-working immigrants struggling to establish themselves and their families in the United States. Instances of Issei fame, such as the Haradas, were quite unusual. It is remarkable then, that two other Riverside residents of Japanese descent, Ulysses Shinsei Kaneko and Miné Okubo also received widespread attention and have structures associated with them that are extant.

The City of Riverside's contribution to Japanese American history at local, statewide, and national level has been established through the significance of the Harada House National Historic Landmark.

Apart from the National Historic Landmark Harada House, this aspect of Riverside's history has not yet translated into common awareness or visibility in the city's built environment. This work expands understanding of the Harada story by documenting historic themes and sites associated with the establishment and development of Riverside's Japanese American community, early twentieth century anti-Japanese campaigns and legislation, the dramatic break in community continuity represented by World War II incarceration, and post-war resettlement.

The sites identified are also significant in national contexts, such as the impacts of Asian immigration to the Western United States, and the forced removal and mass incarceration of Japanese during World War II.

The city's context statement includes these National Register of Historic Places criteria that apply to the Okubo home:

The listed property types are most often eligible under National Register Criterion A under areas of significance Ethnic Heritage/Asian, Immigration, Social History, and Law. Criterion A includes "properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained." A smaller number of properties may be significant under Criterion B, sites "associated with the lives of persons significant in our past."

To meet Criterion A eligibility, the property must be directly associated with significant historical events and/or patterns of events in the history of the Japanese American community in Riverside and/or the Japanese American quest for civil rights. To meet Criterion B eligibility, a property must be associated with a person prominent in the development of the Japanese American community in Riverside and/or the Japanese American quest for civil rights. It should also be the primary property associated with that individual and his or her period of significance within the historic themes of Riverside's Japanese American community development and quest for civil rights.

The Okubo home is not eligible under National Register Criterion C, wherein the property "must exhibit Japanese aesthetics, methods of construction, or have been designed by a Japanese American architect or builder."

### **Historic Integrity**

The National Register of Historic Places defines "integrity" as "the ability of a property to convey its historical associations or attributes. The seven aspects of integrity are location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association."

The Okubo home meets these criteria in the following ways:

- Location, Setting – the home has not been moved and exists where it was built. The setting of the early 1900 neighborhood still exists. While the surrounding main arteries of University Avenue (formerly Eighth Street) have grown over time, the residential streets of the neighborhood retain their original size and usage of single-family homes.
- Design, Materials, Workmanship – city and county records do not definitively determine when the home was built. County tax records show buildings present on the property as early as 1899. County and City records show the house construction date as 1903. Structures appear on 1908 Sanborn insurance maps. A 1993 city inspection determined the original structure consisted of a small footprint with 4-6 additions done at unknown dates. Interviews with current owners determine that all additions were completed prior to family ownership in the 1940s.
- Feeling, Association – as stated in location and setting, the house and neighborhood is predominantly unchanged since the time of the Okubo family ownership. Since it's development the area was known to be an ethnically diverse neighborhood, which continues to present day.

Having only two families as owners/residents since 1930, the home retains the much of the original materials present at the time of the Okubo's ownership.

### **History of the Okubo Family**

Tometsugu (Frank) and Miejioko (Miyo) Kato Okubo immigrated to the United States from Japan in 1904. According to family lore, Miyo, an honors graduate of the Tokyo Art Institute, was sent to the United States by the Japanese government to work as a calligrapher in the Empire of Japan Exhibition at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. They apparently come to Riverside soon after, as records show their oldest child was born in Riverside in October of 1904. The family name appears in city directories starting in 1912. They rented houses on Denton and Eleventh streets prior to 1910, rented the house at 2365 Eleventh prior to 1925, and purchased the home in 1930. This was after the Harada family faced a lawsuit in 1913 for purchasing their home in Mile Square. The judge in that case ruled that American-born children could own land. We can assume the Okubo family felt confident when they purchased the house and recorded the deed in the name of oldest daughter Yoshi. It is also important to note that the Okubo home is located in the ethnically diverse Eastside neighborhood.

In Riverside, Tometsugu worked first at a candy shop, as a tailor, and a gardener and landscaper. Miné recalled that her mother painted at home, despite managing the home and six children, and always encouraged her children to pursue artistic careers. In addition to Miné, son Binji (Benji) was a pioneering Nisei painter and director of the Art Students League in Los Angeles. Daughter Yoshi was also an artist and a gallery manager.

February 19, 1942, changed the lives of Japanese Americans when President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, banning people of Japanese descent, including United States citizens, from living on the West Coast. On May 20-21, 1942, the Okubo family members living in Riverside, along with all Japanese Americans living in the vicinity, were required to report to the Civil Control Station at 3557 Main Street where they were placed on buses and sent to War

Relocation Authority (WRA) camps. The Okubo family was separated for the duration of the war. Tometsugu was perceived as a threat due to his leadership role with Riverside Union Church. It was common for the U.S. government to suspect *Issei*, first-generation Japanese immigrants not born in the states who were active members of their communities, of being disloyal and working as spies. He was sent to a detention camp—meant for individuals considered to be spies or “serious threats”—in Fort Missoula, Montana and then to Louisiana. Benji Okubo was confined at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, and other siblings were sent to Poston, Arizona. The U.S. military drafted son Sinji (born 1908) prior to the Exclusion Order. Miyo had passed away in 1940.<sup>1</sup>

Like many Japanese American communities, Riverside’s never regained its pre-WWII population. After the war, WRA records indicate that Tometsugu lived in Pomona for a time, most likely with daughter Yoshi who had a home there. He never returned to their home on Eleventh Street. The Okubos rented the house to Valeriano and Mercedes Silva while incarcerated, and eventually sold it to the Silva family in 1951.

Tometsugu died in 1956. He and wife Miyo, along with daughters Miné and Yoshi, are buried at Riverside’s Olivewood Cemetery. Army veteran Thomas Senji (born 1914) is buried at Riverside National Cemetery.

### **Miné Okubo**

Miné Okubo was born in Riverside, California, on June 27, 1912, one of six children of Tometsugu (Frank) and Miejioko (Miyo) Kato Okubo. Like her siblings, Miné attended Longfellow Elementary, Riverside Poly High School, and Riverside Junior College (now RCC).

Mark Rawitsch, author of *The House on Lemon Street* that tells the story of the Harada family, corresponded with Miné about growing up in Riverside. In a letter, she shared:

“My artistic talent was recognized early in the grade schools, but I received my first encouragement at the Polytechnic High School.” Miné’s high school art teacher, Althea B. Williams, encouraged her to believe in herself. “For three years I had a very understanding art teacher who took keen interest in my work and entered many of my works in the international high school competitions and other local shows. At Riverside Junior College my art teacher thought University of California, Berkeley would be the best place to continue my art studies.”

In 1933 she was awarded a fellowship to attend University of California, Berkeley, where she completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fine art and anthropology. In 1938 she won a fellowship that allowed her to travel and study art in Europe. Her two-year fellowship was cut short when war broke out in Europe in 1939. This coincided with news that her mother was ill, and Miné returned to Riverside. After her mother’s death in 1940 she returned to the Bay Area where she worked for the Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

When Executive Order 9066 was issued, Miné and her brother Toku (Robert) were confined at Tanforan Assembly Center, then at the incarceration camp located in Topaz, Utah. While at Topaz, Miné taught art classes and helped found a literary review, *Trek*, for which she drew

cover designs and illustrations. Because inmates were not permitted to bring cameras into camp, Miné documented her time at Tanforan and Topaz through drawings. She produced over one thousand sketches of life in camp. In early 1943, while she was still incarcerated, her drawing of camp sentries won a prize in a show at the San Francisco Museum of Art and a reproduction appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Impressed with her work, the *Chronicle's* editors commissioned a set of her camp sketches as a feature for their Sunday magazine *This World*. The sketches, along with Miné's written commentaries on her situation, appeared in the *Chronicle* in mid-1943. The publicity attracted the attention of the editors of *Fortune* magazine, who hired her to work on a special issue on Japan. Because of this offer of work, Miné was able to leave incarceration and live in New York City.

Many of Miné's drawings of life in camp depicted the experiences of women and children. After the war ended, she was encouraged to compile her drawings into a book. In 1946 *Citizen 13660* was published, containing 206 of those drawings. This was the first published account of incarceration from someone who experienced it first-hand. The title of the book is the "family number" assigned to Miné and Toku by the U.S. government upon incarceration.

Miné worked as a freelance and commercial artist until 1951 when she became a full-time painter. She produced illustrations for newspapers, magazines, and children's books. From 1951 to 1952, she worked as an art lecturer at UC Berkley before returning to New York City where she lived for the rest of her life.

In 1974, the Riverside Community College District named Miné Okubo the Alumnus of the Year, and thirty years later Riverside City College named a street on campus in her honor.

In 1981, the United States Congress created the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to seek an apology and restitution for the injustices carried out against Japanese Americans by the U.S. government during the war. Miné testified about her experiences before the committee and submitted *Citizen 13660* as evidence. Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to officially recognize the illegal removal and incarceration of people of Japanese descent during the war.<sup>ii</sup>

In 1984, *Citizen 13660* won the American Book Award. Throughout her life, Miné returned to Riverside often to see family and friends. She remained active as an artist until her last months of life. Upon her death, she left her papers and the bulk of her private art collection to Riverside Community College. The Okubo collection includes more than 8,000 pieces of artwork, professional and personal papers, and memorabilia accumulated while she lived in New York. The Okubo collection is housed at RCC's Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties, which opened to the public on Miné's 100th birthday in June 2012.

---

<sup>i</sup> One of the strategies employed by the federal government to promote and enable the forced removal and confinement of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II was the use of euphemistic terms that masked the true nature of what was being done. Japanese American were "evacuated," as if from a natural disaster or for their own protection, from their



---

homes and sent to "assembly centers" and "relocation centers," names that gloss over the fact that these were concentration, prison, or detention camps.

This document avoids using these and other overtly euphemistic terms, except when quoting from historic documents or in proper nouns. The term "internment" is used only to refer to the legally permissible detention of enemy aliens and not to the mass forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were U.S. citizens.

For further information, Densho Encyclopedia's full statement on terminology can be found at [densho.org/terminology/](http://densho.org/terminology/)

<sup>ii</sup> In the late 1960s community activists petitioned the government to investigate potential government wrongdoings. Classified information was uncovered that showed the civilian exclusion order and the incarceration of Japanese Americans were based on racism and falsehoods.

In February of 1980, Congress passed an act forming the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). This commission conducted hearings in ten cities, heard testimonies from over 750 witnesses, and examined over 10,000 documents. In 1983, the CWRIC issued its report that concluded that military necessity was not the cause of the mass imprisonment. Rather, "...the broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."

Acting upon the recommendations of the commission, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which President Ronald Reagan signed it into law. This law required payment and apology to survivors of the incarceration caused by Executive Order 9066. Two years later, President George W. Bush presented the first apologies, along with payments of \$20,000 each to the oldest survivors.

The CWRIC's finding are published as *Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians* (Seattle: University of Washington Press and Washington D.C.: Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, 1997)

## Cultural Resources Nomination Application

### 21. Bibliography

Creef, Elena Tajima, and Robinson, Greg, ed. *Miné Okubo: Following Her Own Road*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008.

Graves, Donna. Japanese American Context Statement. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. City of Riverside Community & Economic Development, Historic Preservation. 2012.

<https://riversideca.gov/cedd/sites/riversideca.gov/cedd/files/pdf/planning/historic-preservation/Japanese-American-Context-Statement.pdf>

Okubo, Miné. *Citizen 13660*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1946, 1983 ed.

Rawitsch, Mark. *The House on Lemon Street: Japanese Pioneers and the American Dream*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2012.

Robinson, Greg. *After Camp: Portraits in Midcentury Japanese American Life and Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.

Robinson, Greg. "Miné Okubo" Densho Encyclopedia. 2020. Accessed February 27, 2024. [https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Miné\\_Okubo](https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Miné_Okubo)

Spring, Kelly. "Miné Okubo" National Women's History Museum. 2017. Accessed February 27, 2024. [www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/Miné-okubo](http://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/Miné-okubo)

Ueno, Rihoko. "Miné Okubo, Number 13660" Smithsonian Archives of American Art. 2015. Accessed February 27, 2024. <http://www.aaa.si.edu/blog/2015/05/min%C3%A9-okubo-number-13660>

Wilson, Jenn. DPR 523 Form. State of California Office of Historic Preservation. 2011.

"Miné Okubo" Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties. Accessed February 27, 2024. <https://socialjustice.rccd.edu/collections/okubo.html>

1910 United States Federal Census for years 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

National Archives WWII Draft Registration Cards for California, 10/16/1940-03/31/1947

Riverside County Assessor's records

Riverside City Directories, 1902-1960

United States Final Accountability Rosters of Evacuees at Relocation Centers, 1942-1946

Scott K. Watson, Historic Preservation Officer  
Community & Economic Development, Historic Preservation  
City of Riverside Planning Department  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

April 22, 2024

RE: City Landmark Application for the Okubo House

Dear Mr. Watson,

Thank you for considering the City Landmark application for the Okubo family home located at 2365 Eleventh Street in Riverside. This application was prepared by Carol McDoniel at my request. It is the desire of the Silva family to designate the home as a City of Riverside Cultural Resource and we fully support this application.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Silva". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Valerie" and last name "Silva" clearly distinguishable.

Valerie Silva  
2365 Eleventh Street  
Riverside, CA 92607

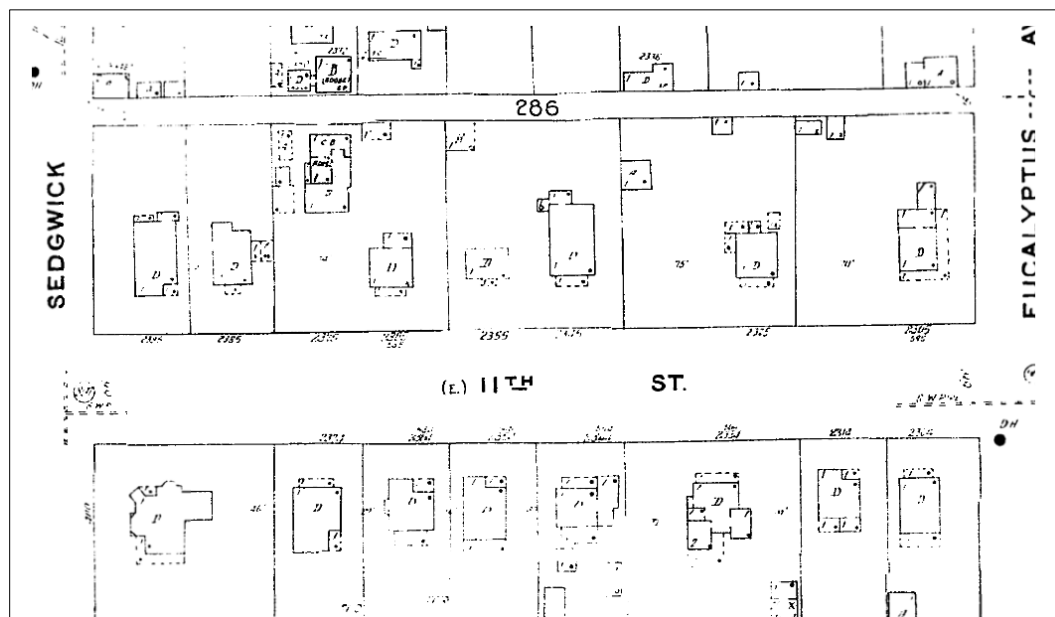
# Cultural Resources Nomination Application

## SIGNIFICANCE

### 22. Photographs



Okubo Family Home on Eleventh Street, Riverside CA



Sanborn Map Riversside 1908, republished 1952, sheet 33





Okubo Family Home on Eleventh Street, Riverside CA (2024)

## Miejoko Kato and Tometsugu Okubo



Tometsugu and Meijoko Okubo.

Marvis, Barbara J. *Famous People of Asian Ancestry. Volume V.* Mitchell Lane, 1994.



1930 US Census showing Tometsugu (Frank) and Miyo Okubo living at 2365 Eleventh St. with their six children.



1940 US Census showing Tometsugu (Frank) and Toku (Robert) Okubo living at 2365 Eleventh.



ESTABLISHED  
1880

OTHER STORES  
Los Angeles  
San Diego  
Long Beach

## Southern California Music Co.

855 MAIN STREET

RIVERSIDE, CAL.

"EVERYTHING  
IN MUSIC"

TEL. 76

RIVERSIDE CITY DIRECTORY

279

Oda C lab r Maud & Gage Canal  
Odd Fellows Hall 730 W 9th  
Ode Wm H (Gertrude) h 282 Palm av  
O'Dea Anna r 321 Magnolia av  
Odell Deirdre F Mrs bkpr Riverside Community Hosp h  
102 W Arlington av  
Odell John B (Flora) orange grower h 429 Indiana av  
Odie Robt J asst eng r 779 E 8th  
Odle Everett L (Hattie) r 111 Oxford  
Odle Lee (Stella) rancher h 111 Oxford  
Oellrich Paul fruit pkr r 223 N Main  
Ogawa Jos h 243 E 14th  
Ogden F P dr Motor Transit Co r Highgrove  
Ogden Jefferson D rancher 304 Palm av  
Ogen Frank J (Jennie) driver Riverside Dairy Co h 563 W  
12th  
Ogle Jos M (Ruth) reprmn h 349 W 4th

INCOME TAX ADVISOR

SYSTEMS

**R. H. BROWN**

Bookkeeping Accounting Auditing

Office Phone 691

212 Citizens National Bank Building, Riverside, Cal.

Ogle T W Mrs r 531 Dwight av  
O'Haven Nicholas L formn Victoria av Citrus Assn h 354  
Peters  
Ohio The furn rms 746 W 8th  
Ohlhausen Carl (Louise) cement wkr h 563 E 10th  
Ohlhausen Chas A (Mary) cement contr 556 E 9th  
Ohlhausen Chester (Nellie) cement wkr h 579 E 10th  
Ohlhausen Evelyn pkr r 556 E 9th  
Ohlin Harry P (Susan A) slsmn Franzen Hdw Co h 326  
Larchwood pl  
Oien Siegard (Mabel) (Folsom Dairy Co) h 549 E 9th  
O'Kane Cath r 1268 Lime  
Okubo T (Meiyo) h 535 E 11th  
Okumura Tamezo (Kogen) barber & billiards 770 W 9th h  
1057 S Market  
Oldendorf Fred (Jessie) bldg contr 223 Linewood pl  
Oldendorf Geo P (Clarissa) carp h 150 S Jefferson  
Oldendorf Jas H bldg contr 250 Linewood pl  
Oldendorf Mary M wid John H h 250 Linewood pl  
Olinger Mary E Mrs Indywkr Riverside Lndy r 359 Park av

ESTABLISHED 1901

**TETLEY NURSERIES**

PHONE 738

850 MAIN

Largest Citrus Nurser-  
ies in California  
"Supply Co." Buds Used

**Enterprise  
Want Ads**

**Sell More  
and Cost  
Less**

**Say—**

**9  
9  
9**

**It's the**

**WANT  
AD  
PHONE**

**of the**

**RIVERSIDE  
ENTERPRISE**

Original address 535 Eleventh was changed to 2365 when Riverside changed address numbering.  
Riverside City Directory 1925.

# FRANZEN'S

**HARDWARE**  
Wholesale and Retail

Paints, Stoves, Electric Appliances,  
Crockery and Glassware, Furniture  
and Rugs, Complete Home Furnishers

**3730-3760 Main St. — Tel. 542**

258

(1934) LOS ANGELES DIRECTORY CO'S

## INSURANCE

WITH  
PERSONAL  
SERVICE

Francis L.  
McDowell

3678 Ninth  
Phone 340

Ogilvie Richd slsmn Riverside Lndy r San Jacinto  
Ogle Alex K (Norma) rancher r Mission blvd West Riverside  
Ogle Ellz Mrs r 3531 Dwight av  
Oglesby R h 2458 8th  
O-Griff-O Studio (Evelyn Griffith Peter Traphagen) art gds 3638  
Main  
O'Haven Nicholas L h 7588 Peters  
Ohmen John C tchr Polytechnic High Sch r 4191 Walnut  
O'Hearn Patk lab Woodcraft Home  
Ohio Rooms (K Maruyama) 3746 8th  
Ohlhausen Carl (Louise) h 1704 7th  
Ohlhausen Chas A (Mary J) h 3709 Ottawa av  
Ohlhausen Sherman r 1704 7th  
Ohlhausen Louise r 1704 7th  
Ohlin Harry P (Susie) slsmn h 4070 Linwood pl  
Ohmen John C tchr h 4526 Orange  
Ohno Shiosaku farmer h 1066 Orange  
Ohsner J W Mrs. maid County Hosp r 9851 Magnolia av  
Oien Donald r 2586 8th  
Oien Frieda C r 2586 8th  
Oien Sigurd C (Mabel C) caretaker Riverside Municipal Auditorium  
h 2586 8th  
Okubo Frank (Miyo) gdnr h 2365 11th  
Okubo Mine r 2365 11th  
Oldendorf Fred (Jessie I) bldg contr h 3869 Linwood av  
Oldendorf Fred jr complaint supvr Sou Sierras Power Co r 3869 Lin-  
wood pl  
Oldendorf Jas H h 3944 Linwood pl  
Oldham Clifton J (Lucille) ins agt 3834 7th h 3209 Walnut  
**OLDSMOBILE MOTOR CARS, Bert Upson Dealer, 3595 Market,  
Tel 1300**  
Oliver Allen (Mildred) U S A h 4583 8th  
Oliver John H (Lorena) h 3704 Van Buren  
Olivera Romola (Milica) lab h 7844 Casa Blanca  
Olivewood Cemetery 3340 Central av  
Ollor Virginia steno r 161 Boone  
Olmstead Bessie (wid C E) h 3394 Franklin av  
Olmstead Courtland B (Hazel) lab Sou Cal Gas Co h 4056 Linwood pl  
Olmstead Vera r 3394 Franklin av  
Olsen Ellworth S (Clara) v-pres Riverside Water Co h 3643 Central av  
Olson Arlo L br mgr Standard Stations r Colton  
**OLSON EDGAR C (Edna M) Signs "When You Think of Signs  
Think of Olson," 3779 14th, h 5036 Brockton Av, Tel 1673**  
Olson Geo E (Irma V) (McGrath-Olson)  
Olson Helen missionary r 3922 4th  
Olson John W lather h 4311 Bandini av  
Olson Lloyd S (Lily) pntr Fox & Helgeson r 3377 4th  
Olson Mary r 4311 Bandini av  
Olson Nelvin N (California Garage) r 3298 Main  
Olson Otis slsmn A M Lewis Inc r 331 Cajon Redlands  
Olsson Edw A (Wilna P) h 3621 Castle Reagh pl  
Olvera Baldomero (Isabel) lab h 7824 Casa Blanca  
Olvera Gaspar (Isabel) lab h 7750 Casa Blanca  
O'Mara Thos F (Jennie) elec eng h 3743 Van Buren



# COMMUNITY LOAN SERVICE

COURTEOUS CONFIDENTIAL LOANS ON  
AUTO — FURNITURE — SALARY

3832 ORANGE STREET

TELEPHONE 2000

240 (1937) LOS ANGELES DIRECTORY CO'S

**P. M. SWART ROOFING CO.**

PABCO ROOFING OF ALL KINDS

ROOF REPAIRING  
2751 CRIDGE STREET

ESTIMATES FURNISHED  
TEL. 3860

Ogle Alex K (Norna) rancher r Mission blvd West Riverside  
Ogle Chas H lab Albers Pkg Co  
Ogle Norma H Mrs pkr Albers Pkg Co r rt 2 bx 600  
Oglesby Thos W (Edna) h 3704 Van Buren  
O'Hair Harrell C beauty opr Golden Ray Beauty Shop r Colton  
O'Haven Nicholas L h 7588 Peters  
Ohio Rooms (Jenjiro Fujino) 3746 8th  
Ohlhausen Audrey r 1704 7th  
Ohlhausen Carl (Louise) h 1704 7th  
Ohlhausen Geo r 1704 7th  
Ohlhausen Mary J (wid C A) h 3709 Ottawa av  
Ohlhausen Sherman gas sta atdt r 1704 7th  
Ohlin Harry P (Susie) slsmn Westbrook's h 3892 Linwood pl  
Ohmen John C (Waneta) tchr City Sch h 4526 Orange  
Ohmen Waneta Mrs tchr City Sch r 4526 Orange  
Ohnu Masa r 1066 Orange  
Ohnu Shiosaku (Chiko) farmer h 1066 Orange  
Ohrt Hans H br mgr Shell Oil Co  
Ohsner J W Mrs maid County Hosp r La Sierra  
Oian Edwin (Marybelle) USA h 4038 Mulberry  
Oien Sigurd C (Mabel) caretkr Riverside Mun Auditorium h 2586 8th  
O'Keefe John (Alice h 3260 Main  
Okubo Frank (M) gdnr h 2365 11th  
Okubo Toku r 2365 11th  
Olateo Juan busmn Mission Inn  
Oldendorf Fred (Jessie I) bldg contr 3869 Linwood pl  
Oldendorf Fred jr (Edith) coml eng Nevada-Calif Elec Corp h 4261  
Houghton av  
Oldendorf Jas H h 3944 Linwood pl  
**OLDHAM CLIFTON J (Lucille) Agt New York Life Insurance Co,**  
**3834 7th, Tel 292 h 4425 Beatty Dr Res Tel 4844**  
Olgin Jose L lab h 2464 11th  
Oliver Allen (Mildred) USA h 3956 Lime  
Oliver Kath nurse Riverside Community Hosp r 4221 Walnut  
Olivewood Cemetery 3340 Central av  
Olivier Geo H r 8334 Magnolia av  
Olmstead Bessie (wid Chas) h 3394 Franklin av  
Olmstead Courtland B (Hazel) lmbrwkr h 4056 Linwood pl  
Olmstead Lella B sten r 4056 Linwood pl  
Olmstead Vera beauty opr r 3394 Franklin av  
Olney Mae Mrs r 5471 Magnolia av  
Olsen Clifford printer Sherman Institute r 9010 Magnolia av  
Olsen Edgar C (Edna) signs 2543 Main  
Olson Arth E baker Sherman Institute r 9010 Magnolia av  
Olson Chris (Lucy) miner h 3632 Ramona dr  
Olson Clara Mrs h 3643 Central av  
Olson Clarence A (Eliz P) clk h 4166 Almond  
Olson Donald H (Hope) auto mech h 4153 5th  
Olson E S bkpr r 3474 8th  
Olson Ellsworth S (Clara) v-pres Riverside Water Co and mgr Riv-  
erside Finance & Inv Co r 3643 Central av  
Olson Geo E (Edith) (McGrath-Olson Co) h 6073 Riverside av  
Olson Harold E h 3468 Bonita  
Olson John W h 4311 Bandini av  
Olson Le Roy r 3643 Central av  
Olson Lillian maid 5625 Magnolia av



# ACHESON and GRAHAM, Inc.

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

D A Y  
N I G H T } Service Tel. 451

3391 Main St.

### ALICE SUITS MARTIN + Florist

Plants and Cut Flowers for all Occasions Artistically Arranged

BONDED MEMBER TELEGRAPH DELIVERY SERVICE

Tel. 2140-M

Riverside

4766 Bandini Avenue



Ohio Rooms Mrs Sho Fujino mgr 3746 8th  
 Ohlhausen Carl (Louise) h1704 7th  
 Ohlhausen Geo C r1704 7th  
 Ohlin Harry P (Susan) slsmn J R Westbrook Co h3754 Elmwood ct  
 Ohlin Margie emp SCTCo r3754 Elmwood ct  
 Ohmen John C (Waneta E) tchr Pub Sch h3003 Central av  
 Ohmen Waneta Mrs tchr Pub Sch r3003 Central av  
 Ohmura M Rev pastor Japanese Union Ch h3195 14th  
 Ohno Shiosaku (Chiyo) rancher h1066 Orange  
 Oien Sigurd C (Mabel C) caretkr Municipal Auditorium h2586 8th  
 O'Kelley Rose M Mrs clk MW&Co h3365 Comer av  
 Oksen Warren F driver r3950 7th  
 Okubo Benj h2365 11th  
 Okushiba I ranch wkr h2019 McAllister  
 Olateo Juan busmn Mission Inn r3649 7th  
 O'Laughlin Lou tchr h3372 14th  
 Olberg Anna Mrs r3861 Robertson  
 Oldendorf Fred bldg contr 3869 Linwood pl  
 Oldendorf Fred jr (Edith I) supvr CEPCo h4251 Houghton av  
 OLDHAM CLIFTON J (Lucille) Agt New York Life Insurance Co,  
 3834 7th, Tel 292, h4425 Beatty Dr, Res Tel 4844 (For further  
 information see page 23 Buyers' Guide)  
 Olivas Frank (Loretta) lab h7472 Emerald  
 Oliver Frances Mrs h3841 Jackson  
 Oliver Fred H bartndr Mission Inn r4255 Almond  
 Oliver John A (Eva) lab h6908 Indiana av  
 Oliver Margt A r4255 Almond  
 Oliver Zita Mrs hosp atdt h3351 12th  
 OLIVEWOOD CEMETERY (Mausoleum) A N Lemm Supt, 3300  
 Central Av, Tel 410  
 Olloman Ilda Mrs clk Mrs D M Colburn h3889 4th  
 Olloman Robt clk r3889 4th  
 Olmstead Bessie (wid Chas) clk h3394 Franklin av  
 Olmstead Courtland B (Hazel H) clk h3607 Linwood pl  
 Olmstead Lois M clk SR&Co r3607 Linwood pl  
 Olmstead Vera opr G E Malone r3394 Franklin av  
 Olney Mae Mrs r4484 Vine  
 OLSAN IRVING T (Edna) Mgr Riverside Furniture Co, h3927 Chap-  
 man Place  
 Olsen Chas F (Norma) clk N W Gibbs h9475 Miller  
 Olsen Claire Mrs r3919 Chestnut  
 Olson John F jr (Charlotte) USA h4261 9th  
 Olson Alice K Mrs clk City Light & Water Dept r3210 Orange  
 Olson Bennett C (Helen R) USA h3034 Lemon  
 Olson Clara B Mrs h3647 Central av  
 Olson Edgar C (Edna M) sign writer 2081 Marlborough av r Sunny-  
 mead  
 Olson Ellsworth S (Floyd R) real est 3615 9th h3791 Hoover  
 Olson Floyd R Mrs cosmetics 3705 Main r3791 Hoover  
 Olson Francis L cook A B Price r3767 Main  
 Olson Geo E (Edith I) (McGrath-Olson Co) h3521 Castle Reagh pl  
 Olson Geo W (Tena) USA r3890 11th  
 Olson H E r3210 Orange  
 Olson John W h4311 Bandini av



**Loop & Lineaweaver Paint Store**  
 PAINTING CONTRACTORS  
 Sherwin-Williams Paints — Imperial Wall Paper  
 6419 Magnolia Ave.  
 Telephone 1059



# ALLBRIGHT'S

**AUTO PARTS** **Firestone TIRES**  
**RADIOS — BATTERIES — RADIATORS — ELECTRICAL**  
 3889 8th St., Cor. Fairmount Telephone 4500



**PARIS**  
**CLEANERS**

**WE CALL  
 AND  
 DELIVER**

**FIRST  
 QUALITY  
 WORK  
 ONLY**

**4466  
 Magnolia  
 Avenue**

**Phone  
 5577**

Silk Vince J police r Hotel Tetley  
 Silva Barney M lab r7678 Peters  
 Silva Della G r2365 11th  
 Silva Fortunada (Andreas) lab h7678 Peters  
 Silva Ramon G fruit wkr r2365 11th  
 Silva Rosario G dom r2365 11th  
 Silva Valeriano (Mercedes) miner h2365 11th  
 Silvas Fred J (Myrtle) lab h3631 Everest av  
 Silverman Saml H (Ida) h3210 Redwood dr  
 Simkins Arth L (Vera) aircraftwkr h3919 Strong  
 Simkins Sidney L farmer h3919 Strong  
 Simmonds Melvin H (Lillian) USA h4586 Mulberry  
 Simmons Norma C r3268 Date  
 Simmons R G (Kath) USA h4305 Mulberry  
 Simmons Richd (Essie) poultrymn h3316 Comer av  
 Simmons Richd (Ruth) USA r2335 7th  
 Simmons Roy S (Nellie) clk h5793 Grand av  
 Simmons Thos H (Marie M) h4083 5th  
 Simmons Westwood C h3064 Redwood dr  
 Simmons Wm (Grace) USA r3639 Mulberry  
 Simmons Winfred (Marjorie) dairy wkr h2595 Gibson  
 Simms Claude C (Vera) h4110 4th  
 Simms Claude C jr (Irene) clk h8728 Cal av  
 Simms Cecil W (Clara) dept mgr Alf M Lewis r7060 Indiana  
 Simms Fern S Mrs music tchr 3511 Orange  
**SIMMS FLOWER SHOP (La Monte A Simms) 3727 Main, Tel 239**  
 Simms La Monte A (Ina) (Simms Flower Shop) h3783 Rubidoux dr  
 Simms LaRoy P (Fern S) h3511 Orange  
 Simms LaRoy P jr USA r3511 Orange  
 Simms Lorraine B Mrs h3972 Main  
 Simms Phillip A r4110 4th  
 Simonds Paul E (Edith) phys 3691 Main R304 h600 Kemp  
 Simonds Ralph S (Ruth) driver John Suverkrup Lbr Co h4201 Cover  
 Simons Ace (Florence) carp h335 Mission blvd West Riverside  
 Simons Howard C (Elma L) asst mgr M H Simons & Co h4330  
 Lemon  
 Simons John A (Fannie B) h2210 9th  
 Simons John R lab r2210 9th  
**SIMONS M H & CO (Maude M Howard, M H Simons) Funeral Di-**  
**rectors and Embalmers, 3610 11th, Tel 33, Res Tel 1359**  
 Simons Melvin H (Mary J) (M H Simons & Co) h3361 Walnut  
 Simonson J Harvey (Annie) fruit grower h2367 7th  
 Simonson Wilford A clk P O r rt 4 bx 530  
 Simpkins Arth H (Harriett) leather wkr h4280 9th  
 Simpkins Mereon M cash Golden State Co r3881 Eucalyptus av  
 Simpkins Merl (Mereon) mech h3881 Eucalyptus av  
 Simpson Arth B (Henrietta) police RPD h4323 7th  
 Simpson Eliz E v-prin Lowell Sch h3270 Main  
 Simpson Frances Mrs checker Safeway P O bx 176  
 Simpson Jas E (Thelma) h3591 Locust  
 Simpson John (Lulu) rancher h3943 Chestnut  
 Simpson Jose defense wkr r2610 10th  
 Simpson Josephine sten CWD r3884 Hidalgo pl  
 Simpson Lester C (Veda) driver h2776 6th  
 Simpson Mary (wid G D) h3006 9th  
 Simpson Nellie bkpr Bailey Staty Co r Colton  
 Sims Cecil (Estelle) lab h649 Palmyrita av  
 Sims Cecil W (Clara) slsmn h7060 Indiana av  
 Sims Claude B (Jean) guard h3270 Main  
 Sims Edw R (Frances) acct CEP Co h5248 Brockton av  
 Sims Jean Mrs mgr Mission and Riverside Apts r3270 Main  
 Sims Kath r4240 Sedgwick av  
 Sims Laura A (wid Edw) h4240 Sedgwick av  
 Sims Margt E waiter r2306 Market  
 Sims Minnie h3540 Orange  
 Sims Nola Mrs h3270 Main  
 Sims Paul A firemn r4450 Park av

During WWII incarceration the Okubos rented the home to Valeriano and Mercedes Silva who later purchased the home. The Silva family still owns the home.  
 Riverside City Directory 1943





Mildred Nance

Alice Newman

Turnley Nichols

Mack Nishimoto

T. Nishimoto

#### MILDRED E. NANCE

Commercial course; Latin Club 1; Glee Club 1; Commercial Club 2, 3.

#### GLADYS NOBLE

College prep. course; Glee Club 1; Honor Society 1; Girl Reserves 1; Commercial Club 3; Girls' Athletic Association 4.

#### ALICE NEWMAN

Commercial course; domestic science 3, 4; Dramatics Club 1; advisory representative 2.

#### MINNIE OKUBO

College prep. course; art course 1, 2, 3, 4; Art Club 1; Honor Society 2, 3, 4; Latin Club 2, 4; Cartoonist Club 4; Girl Reserves 4; G. A. A. 4.

#### TURNLEY NICHOLS

College prep. course; French Club 3; Cavaliers' Club 4; R. O. T. C. 2, 3, 4; first lieutenant 3; field adjutant 4.

#### JUEL OLSON

Commercial course; Commercial Club 1, 2, 3; Kodak Club 1; social chairman 1.

#### MACK NISHIMOTO

General course; cross-country interclass 2, 3, 4.

#### FLORENCE PACKARD

General course; Science Club president 1; Spanish Club 1; Girls' League advisory representative 2, 3; Honor Society 3, 4; Spanish Club 3, 4; Girls' advisory council 4; class play 1.

#### T. NISHIMOTO

General course; interclass track 3; interclass cross-country 3; agriculture Club 3; stock judging team 2, 3.

#### JOE PAGE

General course.



Gladys Noble

Minnie Okubo

Juel Olson

Florence Packard

Joe Page

**Former Student Here Prize Winner—Benji Okubo**, student of the Otis Art Institute at Los Angeles, was a student in the Riverside Junior college two years ago. Okubo was the winner of the first prize of \$75 at the hands of the officials of the California Botanic Garden. His poster was chosen from a group of 107 submitted, and the judges declared the posters formed one of the finest collections ever gathered together in Los Angeles.

Benji Okubo, first prize winner, art contest  
Riverside Daily Press, March 19, 1928



Los Angeles Times, March 16, 1928

## NEW CRAFTS STUDIO OPEN IN INN BLOCK

Adding distinctly to the cultural attractions of Riverside are the O-Griff-O studios, newly opened at 3638 Main street, in the Mission Inn block. The proprietors are Miss Yoshi Okubo and Miss Evelyn Griffith, both well known to local art lovers.

The new studios are the outgrowth of an idea conceived by Mrs. Sue Kelley, and the interior has been charmingly arranged and decorated. Here are taught leather and silver work, and through the Mission Inn school of wood carving and Thyrsis Field's studio of copper craftsmanship, these crafts also are available.

The O-Griff-O studios offer etchings, beautiful articles in tooled leather, silver and copper, and there are paintings by Mrs. Kelley which will delight discriminating patrons.

Yoshi Okubo opens art studio on Main Street,  
Riverside Daily Press, December 8, 1932



**Headquarters  
Western Defense Command  
and Fourth Army**

**Presidio of San Francisco, California**

**May 19, 1942**

**Civilian Exclusion Order No. 83**

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Public Proclamations Nos. 1 and 2, this Headquarters, dated March 2, 1942, and March 16, 1942, respectively, it is hereby ordered that from and after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., of Monday, May 25, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, be excluded from that portion of Military Area No. 1 described as follows:

All that portion of the Counties of San Bernardino and Riverside, State of California, south of a line running east and west through the peak of Mount San Antonio (Mount Baldy or Old Baldy) on the Los Angeles-San Bernardino County line, and west of a line running north and south through the peak of Mount San Jacinto, Riverside County, together with all parcels of Riverside County not heretofore covered by Exclusion Orders of this Headquarters.

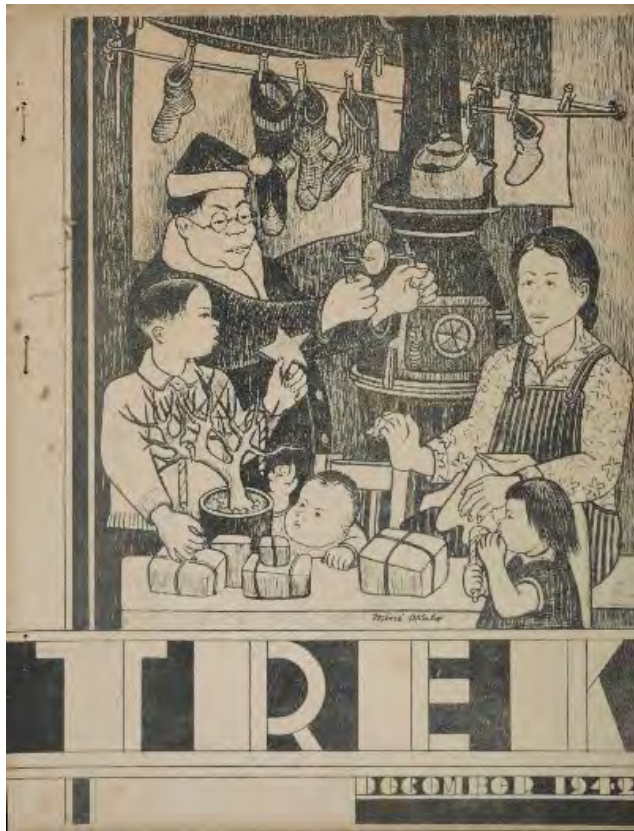
2. A responsible member of each family, and each individual living alone, in the above described area will report between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Wednesday, May 20, 1942, or during the same hours on Thursday, May 21, 1942, to the Civil Control Station located at:

3557 Main Street,  
Riverside, California.

3. Any person subject to this order who fails to comply with any of its provisions or with the provisions of published instructions pertaining hereto or who is found in the above area after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., of Monday, May 25, 1942, will be liable to the criminal penalties provided by Public Law No. 503, 77th Congress, approved March 21, 1942, entitled "An Act to Provide a Penalty for Violation of Restrictions or Orders with Respect to Persons Entering, Remaining in, Leaving or Committing any Act in Military Areas or Zones," and alien Japanese will be subject to immediate apprehension and internment.

4. All persons within the bounds of an established Assembly Center pursuant to instructions from this Headquarters are excepted from the provisions of this order while those persons are in such Assembly Center.

**J. L. DeWITT**  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
Commanding



*Trek* Vol. 1, no. 1, 1942 December. Esther McCoy papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.



Page 3 of *Trek* Vol. 1, no. 2, 1943 February. Esther McCoy papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.





Illustration from “Citizen 13660” depicting Miné Okubo and her brother Toku standing with their government-issued family identification number affixed to both their baggage and clothing.

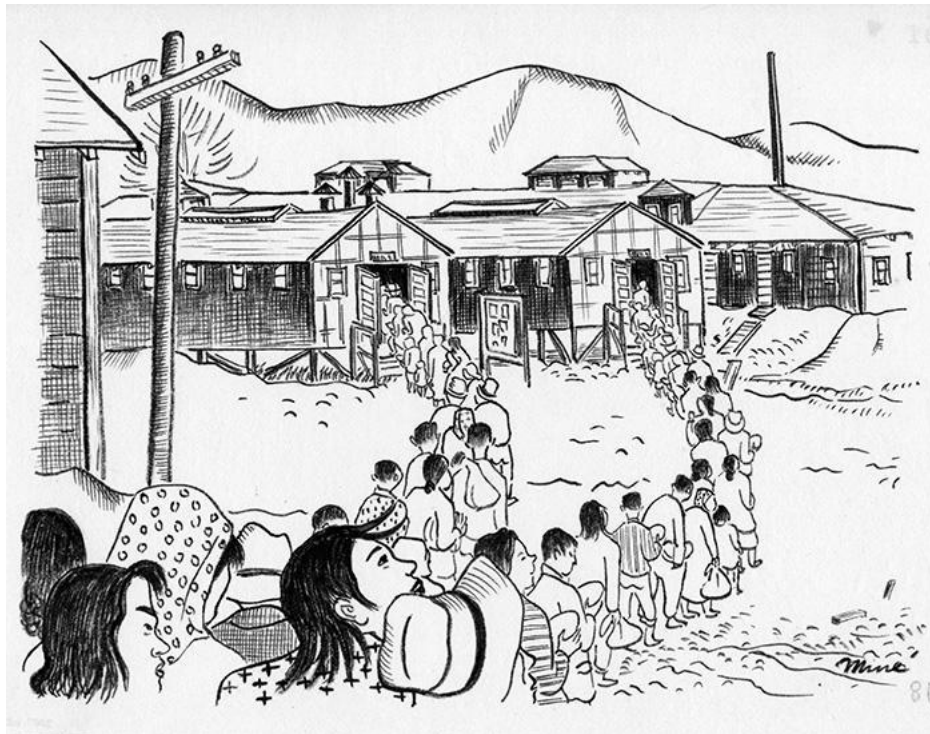


Illustration from “Citizen 13660” depicting Miné Okubo and others at Tanforan Assembly Center where waiting in line “...describes our everyday life.”

Archives, Japanese American National Museum



Sumi Harada (front left) with Miné Okubo (front center) and friends, July 1974.  
Harada Family Archive, Museum of Riverside



State of California The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #\_\_\_\_  
HRI #\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial\_\_\_\_  
NRHP Status Code 3S

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Review Code \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 7 \*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street

P1. Other Identifier: Miné Okubo Childhood Residence

\*P2.Location: **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted** \*a. County Riverside  
and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_; R \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ of Sec \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ B.M.

c. Address 2365 Eleventh Street City Riverside Zip 92507

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone \_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_ mN/

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

APN: 221031014

\*P3a. **Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)  
The single-family property located at 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street is situated on Lot 119, subdivision Garfield Place, in the northeastern area of the city of Riverside. The one-story building faces south onto 11<sup>th</sup> Street. It is rectangular in plan, with the narrow end of the plan the main facade of the building, running parallel with the street and the long side of the plan running perpendicular to the street.

See continuation sheet.

\*P3b. **Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP2

\*P4. **Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) January 28, 2011; Photo shows the front facing south onto 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

\*P6. **Date Constructed/Age and Source:** ☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric  
Both  
1900-1905 (Assessor's records)

\*P7. **Owner and Address:**  
Not Available

\*P8. **Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, and address)  
Jenn Wilson  
University of California  
Riverside  
900 University Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92507

\*P9. **Date Recorded:** March 10, 2011

\*P10. **Survey Type:** (Describe)  
Intensive Level

\*P11. **Report Citation** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter

"none.") \_\_\_\_\_

\*Attachments: NONE Location Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record  
Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): \_\_\_\_\_

## BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 7

\*NRHP Status Code 3S

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street

B1. Historic Name:

B2. Common Name: Miné Okubo House

B3. Original Use: Single-Family Residence B4. Present Use: Single-Family Residence

\*B5. Architectural Style: Colonial Revival

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

\*B7. Moved? ☒ No Yes Unknown Date: N/A Original Location: N/A

\*B8. Related Features:

Rear shed/barn

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme Japanese in Riverside: Settlement & Community Development, World War II Forced Removal and Incarceration, and Return and Recovery; The Quest for Japanese American Citizenship & Civil Rights in Riverside Area: City of Riverside

Period of Significance 1925-1945 Property Type HP2 Applicable Criteria A/1, B/2 (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

This residence is significant under National Register and California Register Criteria A/1 because it is associated with events that convey the experience of the Japanese American community as a whole, and Criteria B/2 because it is associated with the life of prolific artist Miné Okubo. It is the remaining home that has the longest period of association with Miné during her productive period of life in Riverside. The Okubo's moved there in 1925, and in 1931, Miné's father purchased the house in the name of Yoshi Okubo, Miné's eldest sister—then 24 years of age, due to the Alien Land Law. The residents were displaced as a result of World War II forced removal and incarceration. Miné was able to translate the experience into powerful artistic records of what they and their families endured. Miné died in 2001 and left her collection of letters, paintings, and drawings to Riverside City College. They are on display and available for research in the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties.

Please see continuation sheet.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP 36 (JA)

\*B12. References:

See continuation sheet.

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator: Jenn Wilson

\*Date of Evaluation: March 10, 2011

(This space reserved for official comments.)



Page 3 of 7 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
\*Recorded by: Jenn Wilson \*Date March 10, 2011 X Continuation Update

### P3a. Description (cont.)

The home is a wood-frame structure sheathed with clapboard siding. There is a detached shed/barn to the rear of the house that is not visible from the street but is visible from the alley. A 1908 Sanborn map indicates that there were three smaller structures in the northeast section of the property in back of the main building. By 1952, another Sanborn map reveals that two of the three smaller structures were no longer present, and an addition was added to the east side of the building. Neither the remaining detached structure nor the addition is denoted by the Sanborn map for the purpose of housing automobiles.

The roof is high-pitched, gable-on-hip, sheathed with composition shingles. The gable roof dormer is located on the top, center of the roof, with one gable facing east and the other facing west. A shed roof extends out a few feet beyond the front of the house and is supported by what appear to be four wooden columns. The classical columns are relatively narrow in width and are cylindrical in shape, with capitals. Two steps lead to a stoop, but there does not appear to be a raised floor that would indicate the existence of a porch. The front door is centrally placed on the main facade, with a large, rectangular one-over-one double hung wood window to the right of the door and a larger appearing window to the left. A portion of the right elevation appears to be board and batten, while the left side of the house is clearly horizontal siding like the front.

A chain-link fence, about five feet high, surrounds the property. Two concrete block pillars, each about a foot wide, stand on either side of the front chain-link gate that is situated about 6 feet from the front door of the building. There are overgrown bushes that surround the fence, making it difficult to see the home clearly. Two large trees on either side of the home block the side views of the building, and cover a good portion of the front sides of the facade, including the windows. The landscape in front of the sidewalk consists of grass and a large tree on the right hand-side of the home next to the mailbox. The landscape does not appear to be well kept, as most of the grass is dead.

The exact year that the residence was built is not yet clear. The city of Riverside states that the building was constructed in 1913, while a survey done on the property in 2001 dates the construction of the building in 1910. However, the structure can be observed in a Sanborn map dating back to 1908. Additionally, the County of Riverside Assessor's Office records indicate that the building was present before 1913. The first sign of structural activity on the property took place in 1899, when owner J.A. Clendenen—who also owned lots 118-125—made "improvements" on the land, which valued the property at \$50. According to Assessor's Office archivist, Jim Hofer, the dollar amount suggests the construction of a shed or some other small structure. In 1900, Peter Schwab purchased lots 118 and 119. Land improvements were made, placing the value of the property at \$150. Hofer argues that this could be the construction of a small home. In 1905, under the ownership of Geo Ward, improvements were made again, putting the value at \$225. This most certainly suggests that the original structure was present by this year. Improvements were not made again until 1910, but only increased the value by \$50, suggesting no major work was done. The improvement values stayed relatively the same until 1924. I therefore place the year of the building's original construction between 1900 and 1905.

An inspection was done on the property on April 20, 1993, which indicated that electrical and structural repairs were to be made to the bedroom, bathroom, laundry room, front room, and roof. No additional records have been found to clarify what, if any, restorative work has been performed on the property.

### B10. Significance (cont.):

Famed Japanese American artist, Miné Okubo, and her family once occupied the home at 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Miné's father, Fame Okubo, a scholar in Japan, first emigrated from Japan in 1900.<sup>i</sup> Miné, the youngest of four, was born in Riverside on June 27, 1912. Earliest accounts on the Okubo's residence show that Miné and her family lived at 160 (3038) Denton Street as early as 1915 (\*Please see Okubo Residences Chart below).<sup>ii</sup> 1920s Census indicates that the Okubo's rented the property at 608 11th Street. However, the house number 608 was not found on our address converter, though 680 was found on the converter, which is the property at present day 2142 11th St. In 1921, the Okubo's moved again, just about a block away, on the same street, to 756 W 11th Street (Miné's father was listed at

State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Primary#  
HRI #  
Trinomial

Page 4 of 7 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
\*Recorded by: Jenn Wilson \*Date March 10, 2011 X Continuation Update

**B10: Significance (cont.):**

756 West 11th, while her mother, Miyo Okubo, was listed at 756 East 11th Street; another typo), which is currently 2054 11<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>iii</sup> According to Miné's biography, she grew up in a home off of Kansas Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> streets.<sup>iv</sup> Supporting this, the property the Okubo's possibly lived in anywhere from 1915-1920, present day 2142 11th St, is just west of Kansas Avenue, while the property they occupied beginning in 1921, present day 2054 11<sup>th</sup> Street, is just east of Kansas Avenue.

**OKUBO RESIDENCES CHART**

Census Year	Old Address	New Address	Street	Owned	Did not own	Miné's Age
1915	160	3038	Denton St.		X	3
1920	608 or 680	No new address for 608; 2142 for 680	11 <sup>th</sup> St.		X	8
1921	756	2054	11 <sup>th</sup> St.		X	9
1925	535	2365	11 <sup>th</sup> St.	X Owned in 1931		13

Census records show that by 1925, the Okubo's had moved two blocks west to 535 11<sup>th</sup> Street (present day 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street), when Miné was about 13 years old.<sup>v</sup> They rented the property until 1931, when Miné's father, purchased the property in the name of his eldest, American-born daughter Yoshi Okubo--then 24 years of age.<sup>vi</sup> This event exemplifies the pattern of home ownership of many minorities at the time, and is a direct result of fellow Riverside Japanese immigrant Jukichi Harada's case against California's discriminatory Alien Land Law of 1913, which prohibited aliens from owning land or property. It remained in Yoshi's name until 1951, when the family sold the property.<sup>vii</sup>

The precedent for property ownership by American-born children of Japanese immigrants was established by the Harada case. The case attracted wide attention because it was the first to test the constitutionality of an alien land law in California. In December 1915, Jukichi Harada purchased a home in Riverside in a middle-class neighborhood at 3356 Lemon Street. Because the Alien Land Law of 1913 prevented him from owning land, he purchased the land under his three minor American-born children's names, Miné, Sumi, and Yoshizo. The Harada's faced discrimination and hostility in their new neighborhood, but Jukichi refused to move. Many neighbors brought charges against the Harada family, claiming that under the laws of the United States Jukichi was an alien not eligible for citizenship and therefore it was illegal for him to own property in the state of California. On December 14, 1916, the case went to trial. *The People of the State of California v. Jukichi Harada, et al.* Two years later, on September 17, 1918, Judge Hugh H. Craig of the Riverside County Superior Court reached a judgment in favor of the Haradas.<sup>viii</sup> While he agreed that the law did declare that aliens ineligible for citizenship could not own land, their children born in the United States, however, did have constitutional rights equal to those of any other citizens. This momentous event presented the possibility for many immigrants, including the Okubos, to establish their roots in America and build a more stable, thriving community.

While living at 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Miné attended Riverside Polytechnic High School and befriended the Harada's youngest daughter, Sumi.<sup>ix</sup> Theirs was a friendship that lasted far into their elder years.<sup>x</sup> After high school, Miné attended Riverside Junior College (now Riverside Community College) from 1930-1933, focusing on art. She

State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary#  
HRI #  
Trinomial

Page 5 of 7 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
\*Recorded by: Jenn Wilson \*Date March 10, 2011 X Continuation Update

**B10. Significance (cont.):**

remained at 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street until she left to study art at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1933.<sup>xi</sup> She received her bachelor's from UC Berkeley in 1935, and her Master's in fine art in 1936. In 1938, UC Berkeley awarded Miné with a fellowship to study art in Europe for 18 months. World War II had already broken out upon her arrival back in the states. From 1939-1941, Miné was commissioned by the Federal Arts Program (part of the federal Works Projects Administration) as an artist to work on public art projects including painting, murals, mosaics and frescoes at Government Island, Oakland Hospitality House, Treasure Island and Fort Ord. During this time, she also worked for famed artist, Diego Rivera, in San Francisco. As Rivera was painting murals, Okubo was below, explaining his work to visitors.<sup>xii</sup>

In 1942, Miné, along with her brother, Toku, who was residing with her in northern California while he attended the University of California Berkeley, were forced to evacuate her home under Executive Order 9066. Miné's family, residing at 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street, in Riverside, was also at internment camps, but was separated in various camps.<sup>xiii</sup> Miné was just one of 120,000 Japanese American evacuees incarcerated in America during World War II.<sup>xiv</sup> She and her brother were first at Tanforan Relocation Camp in San Bruno, California. Six months later, Toku and Miné were transferred to Topaz Relocation Center in Utah.<sup>xv</sup> It was during this time that Miné sketched over 2,000 drawings of her experience in the camp.<sup>xvi</sup>

Many of the sketches depicted the hardships that she and fellow evacuees endured in the camps. She submitted a sketch of a camp guard to an art contest in San Francisco. It caught the attention of Fortune magazine, which hired Okubo to illustrate a special issue on Japan. The job offer allowed her to leave the camp and head to Fortune magazine headquarters in New York City.<sup>xvii</sup>

Miné Okubo's sketches of her internment experience continued to attract attention, and eventually led to the publication of her book, *Citizen 13660*, in 1946.<sup>xviii</sup> The book includes roughly 200 drawings along with Okubo's accompanying text. It was the first account by a WWII American Internee to show the experience of the internment camps. Miné's work throughout her life gained her much recognition. She received the San Francisco Museum Annual Prize in 1948; taught art at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1950-1952; made an appearance in the televised program, *The Nisei: The Pride and the Shame*, Twentieth Century TV, CBS News with Walter Cronkite, in 1965; was selected by the California State Department of Education as one of twelve women pioneers in *The History of California (1800 to present)*; received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for Art of the College Art Association, in 1991; had a play written about her life called "Miné: A Name for Herself"; and in 2006 Riverside Community College debuted Miné Okubo Drive on their campus.<sup>xix xx xxi</sup>

Before her internment, Miné thought of herself as being American first, and Japanese second.<sup>xxii</sup> She spoke little to no Japanese and knew little of her Japanese roots or traditions.<sup>xxiii</sup> However, her experience in the internment enforced the harsh reality of racial discrimination. Life would never be the same for Miné, nor was it for most Japanese and Japanese evacuees. Like many of those at internment camps, Miné never returned to her home in California. Her father, however, did return to the family home at 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>xxiv</sup> Miné continued to work for various magazines in New York and began taking an interest in her Japanese ancestry. Most of her artwork after her internment was Japanese inspired, including the signature Japanese character, representing her name, which she stamped on many of her later works.

Miné Okubo died on February 10, 2001, at the age of 88, in Greenwich Village in New York City, New York. Although she spent the majority of her life in New York City, Miné held a special place in her heart for Riverside and was diligent about keeping in touch with friends and relatives in the area. In one of her many letters to her notable friend, Sumi Harada, Miné mentioned that she considered Riverside as her "beginning."<sup>xxv</sup> In her book, *Miné Okubo: an American Experience*, she also noted on the significance that her experience Riverside had on her, saying, "I have a very strong attachment to Riverside and my early life there."<sup>xxvi</sup>

State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary#  
HRI #  
Trinomial

Page 6 of 7 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
\*Recorded by: Jenn Wilson \*Date March 10, 2011 X Continuation Update

**B10. Significance (cont.):**

Just as significant as Riverside was to contributing to Miné Okubo's legacy, so too is Miné Okubo significant to Riverside's. Her family's acquisition of the property at 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street under the name of their American-born daughter, their internment, and the national success of Miné's first-hand account of being interned all exemplify the Japanese experience in America at this time.

The property retains much of its architectural integrity, and clearly contributes to an understanding of contextual significance of the Japanese experience in Riverside during World War II. Thus, the property is determined eligible for local listing, under Criterion A, for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

<sup>i</sup> Nealon, Sean, The Press Enterprise Website, "Materials left by late artist provide look into Japanese-American experience," [http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_S\\_okubo15.430182c.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_okubo15.430182c.html).

<sup>ii</sup> 1910 Census.

<sup>iii</sup> 1920 Census.

<sup>iv</sup> Nealon.

<sup>v</sup> 1930 Census.

<sup>vi</sup> Riverside County Assessor's records.

<sup>vii</sup> Riverside County Assessor's records.

<sup>viii</sup> Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Mine' Okubo collection, "About the Harada House," <http://www.riversideca.gov/museum/harada.asp>.

<sup>ix</sup> Okubo, Mine and Shirley Sun Okubo, *Mine Okubo: an American Experience*, Publisher: Museum (1972), found at Riverside Metropolitan Museum archives, Mine' Okubo collection.

<sup>x</sup> Collection of letters from Mine' to Sumi at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

<sup>xi</sup> Okubo.

<sup>xii</sup> University of Minnesota Website, Voices From the Gap, "Mine Okubo," <http://voices.cla.umn.edu/artistpages/okuboMine.php>.

<sup>xiii</sup> Okubo.

<sup>xiv</sup> Riverside Community College, "Mine' Okubo Collection, <http://library.rcc.edu/riverside/okubo/>.

<sup>xv</sup> Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Mine' Okubo collection, Printout from website ,website address: "content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft996nb5q61/?NaANN=13030&docID=ft996nb5q6&brand=oac." Website currently not found online.

<sup>xvi</sup> Nealon.

<sup>xvii</sup> Okubo.

<sup>xviii</sup> Niiya, Brian Japanese American history: an A-to-Z reference from 1868 to the present, Checkmark Books; Updated edition (December 2000) p. 274.

<sup>xix</sup> Okubo.

<sup>xx</sup> Nealon.

<sup>xxi</sup> Riverside Community College, "Mine' Okubo Collection", <http://library.rcc.edu/riverside/okubo/>.

<sup>xxii</sup> Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Mine' Okubo collection, Pamphlet on Mine' Okubo from Riverside Community College, 18 Jun 1974.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Okubo.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Assessor's records 1931-1951.

<sup>xxv</sup> Okubo, Miné, personal letter to Sumi Harada, 1983, Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Miné Okubo collection.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Okubo.



State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary#  
HRI #  
Trinomial

Page 7 of 7 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 2365 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
\*Recorded by: Jenn Wilson \*Date March 10, 2011 X Continuation Update

**B12. References:**

Japanese American National Museum  
Japanese City Directories (1930-1962)

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 2000. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.: New York.

Nealon, Sean, The Press Enterprise Website, "Materials left by late artist provide look into Japanese-American experience," [http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_S\\_okubo15.430182c.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_okubo15.430182c.html), accessed February 2, 2011.

Niia, Brian Japanese American history: an A-to-Z reference from 1868 to the present, Checkmark Books; Updated edition (December 2000)

Riverside, City of  
Assessor's maps (1895-1956)  
Building permits  
Census records (1890-1950)  
Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (1895, 1908, 1952)

Riverside, County of  
Assessor's records (1895-1956)  
Assessor's maps

Riverside Community College, "Mine' Okubo Collection", <http://library.rcc.edu/riverside/okubo/>, accessed February 10, 2011.

Riverside Metropolitan Museum  
Collection of letters from Mine' to Sumi at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.  
Okubo, Miné and Shirley Sun Okubo, *Mine Okubo: an American Experience*, Publisher: Museum; 1972.  
Printout, "About the Harada House," <http://www.riversideca.gov/museum/harada.asp>.  
Printout, "content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ft996nb5q61/?NaANN=13030&docID=ft996nb5q6&brand=oac."  
Riverside Community College, "Miné Okubo Collection, <http://library.rcc.edu/riverside/okubo/>.  
Pamphlet on Mine' Okubo from Riverside Community College, 18 Jun 1974.

University of Minnesota Website, Voices From the Gap, "Miné Okubo,"  
<http://voices.cla.umn.edu/artistpages/okuboMine.php>, accessed January 30, 2011.



## Exhibit 4 - Current & Historic Photos



*Figure 1 - Fronth (south) Elevation*



*Figure 2 - Front (south) and East Elevation*



## Exhibit 4 - Current & Historic Photos



Figure 3 - Front Elevation Details



Figure 4 - Front Elevation Details

## Exhibit 4 - Current & Historic Photos



*Figure 5 - East Elevation Details*



*Figure 6 - Tometsugu and Miejoko Kato Okubo*



## Exhibit 4 - Current & Historic Photos



*Figure 7 - Miné Okubo with Sumi Harada*



*Figure 8 - Citizen 13660 by Miné Okubo*

## Exhibit 4 - Current & Historic Photos

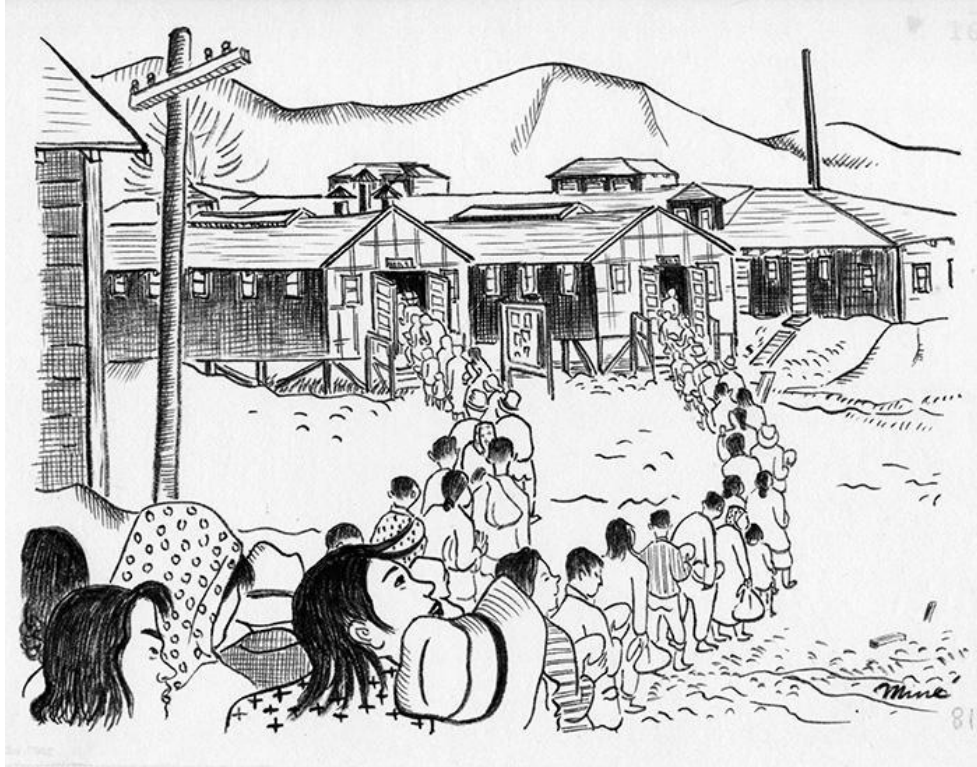


Figure 9 - Waiting In Lines by Miné Okubo





# **LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF OKUBO RESIDENCE DP-2024-00577 (HD)**

**Community & Economic Development Department**

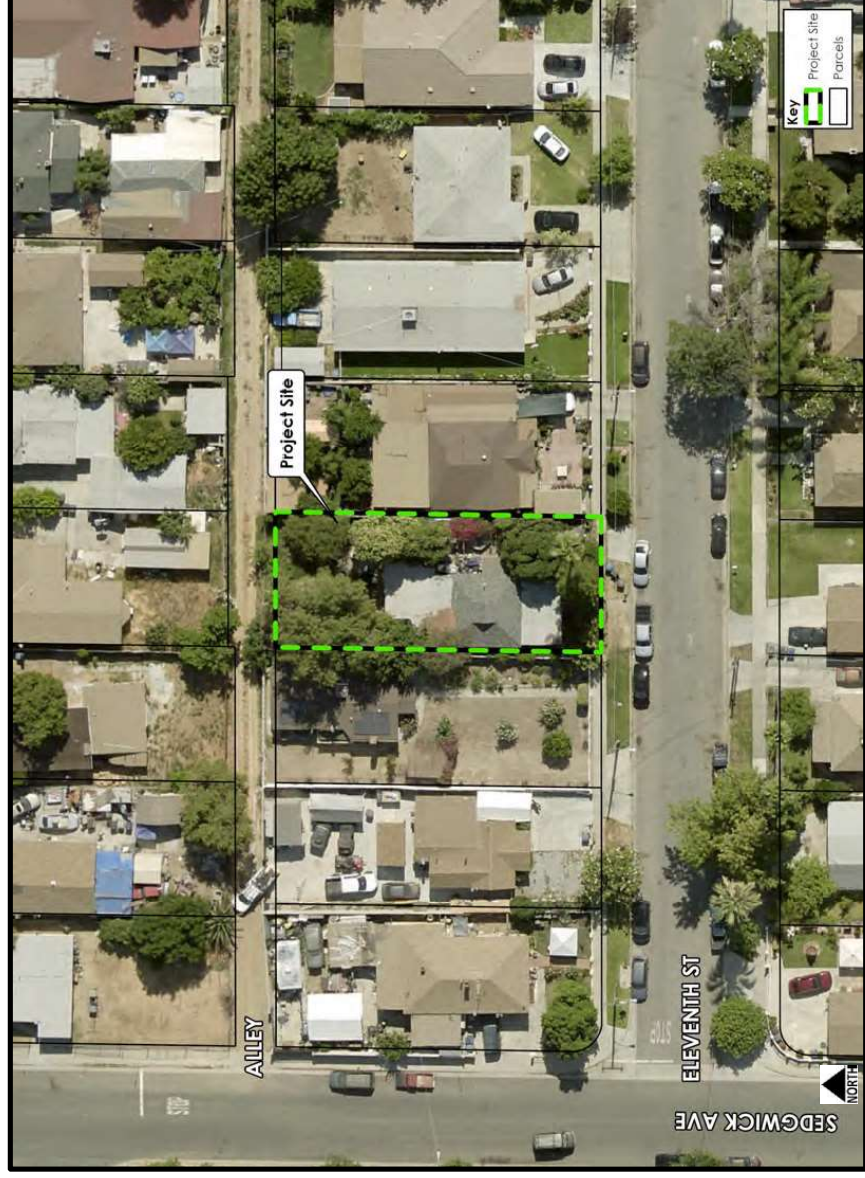
## **Cultural Heritage Board**

Agenda Item: 5

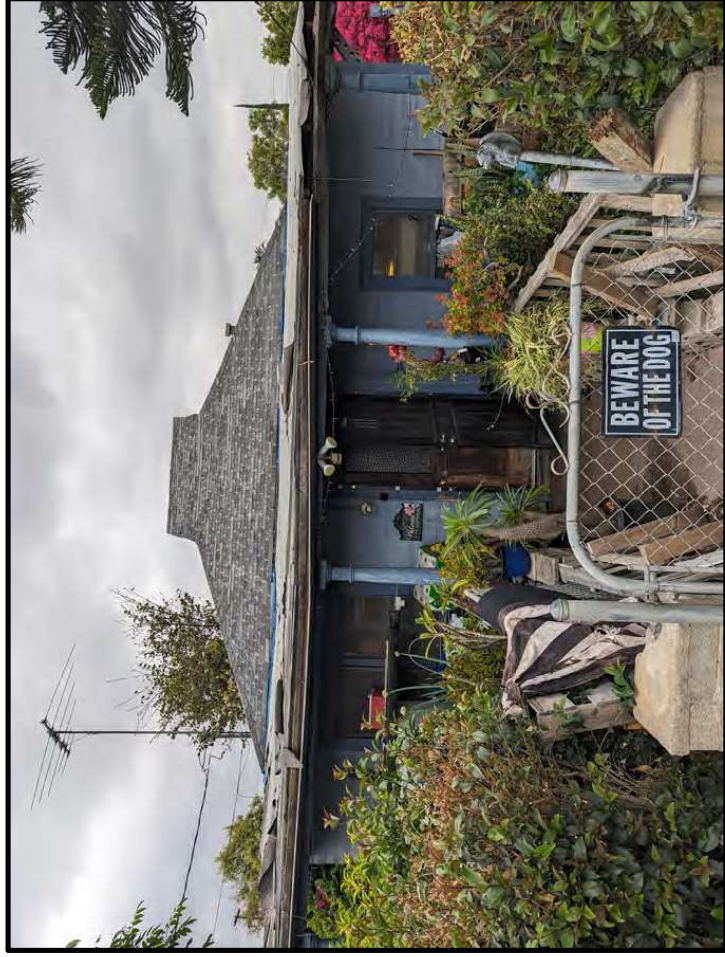
May 15, 2024

**RiversideCA.gov**

# AERIAL PHOTO/LOCATION



# OKUBO RESIDENCE



South (Front) Elevation and front yard



East (Side) Elevation



# OKUBO FAMILY



Tometsugu (Frank) and Miejo (Miyo) Kato Okubo

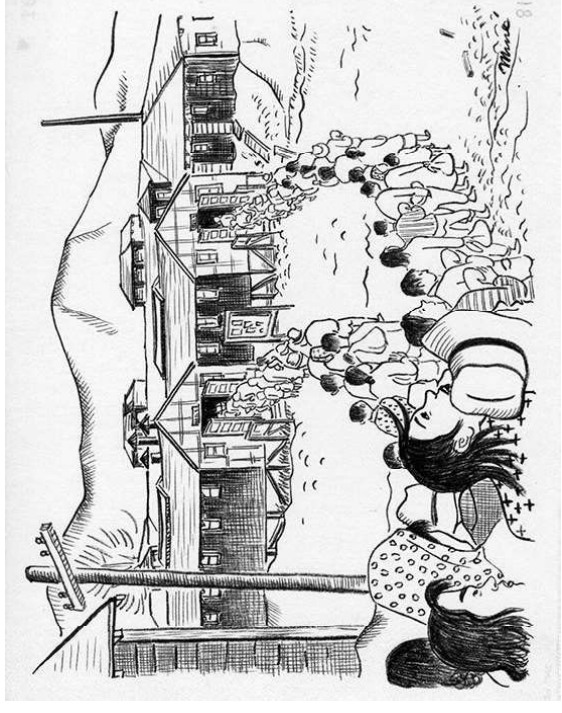
# MINÉ OKUBO



**Miné Okubo (Center)  
with Sumi Harada**



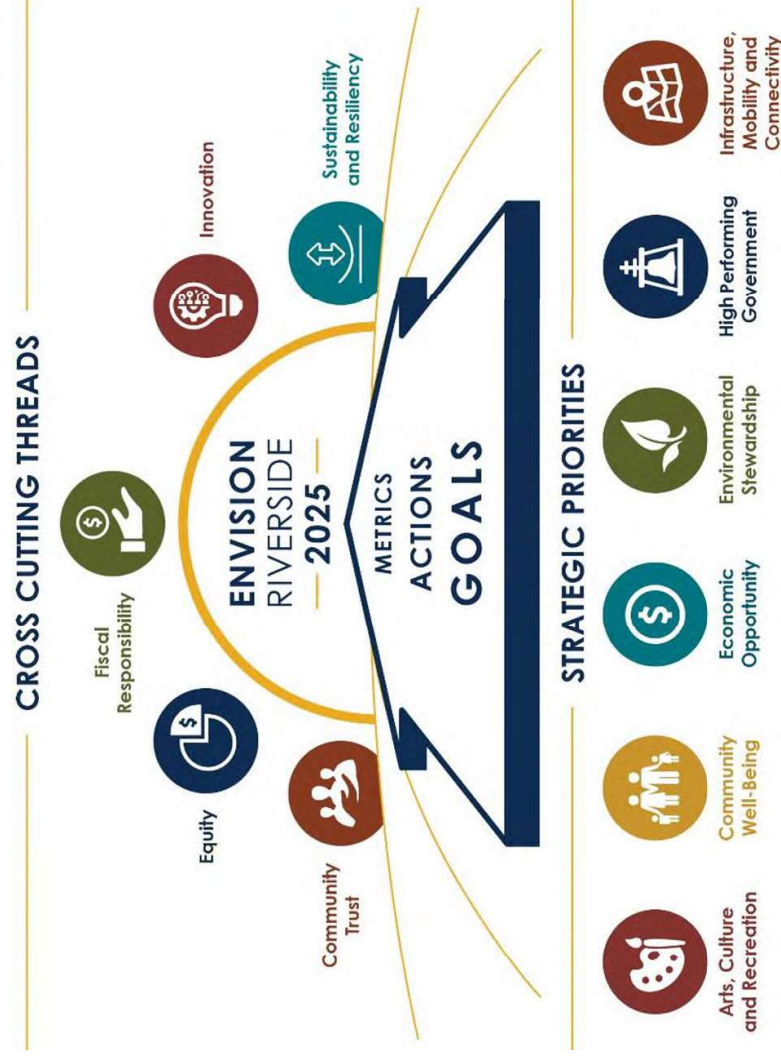
**Citizen 13660 ID number  
by Miné Okubo**



**Waiting in Lines  
by Miné Okubo**



# STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



## Strategic Priority No. 2 – Community Well Being

Goal No. 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.

# RECOMMENDATION

**Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board recommend that City Council:**

- 1. DETERMINE** that Planning Case DP-2024-00577 (Historic Designation) for the designation of the Okubo Residence as a City Landmark, is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Rule) and 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment), as the proposal will have no significant effect on the environment, identifies the structure as a cultural resource, and preserves the historic character of a cultural resource; and
- 2. APPROVE** Planning Case DP-2024-00577(Historic Designation), based on the facts of findings, and designate the Okubo Residence as a City Landmark.