

PRIMARY RECORD

*P1. Resource Name or #: Harada House
Other Identifier: N/A
Page 1 of 33 **DRAFT**

Other Listings: NHL #77000325

- *P2. **Location:** Unrestricted
- * a. **County:** Riverside
 - * b. **USGS 7.5' Quad:** Riverside East
Date: 1967, rev. 1980
T: T.2.S. (?); **R:** R.5.W. (?); **Sec:** 23
 - c. **Address:** 3356 Lemon Street, Riverside, California 92501
 - d. **UTM (give more than one for large and/or linear resources):**
 - e. **Other locational data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate):** Assessor's parcel #213121005-5

*P3a. **Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)**

Harada House is a two-story softwood-framed house in its original location in Ward 1 of downtown Riverside, California. The feel of the neighborhood is middle class residential, not urban. The lot is 4,135 square feet and the lot lines are unchanged since the Haradas purchased the house. The Harada House was built before 1887, probably between the late 1870s and the early 1880s, as a single-story house over an unfinished masonry cellar. It is uncertain if there was an architect. The block of Lemon Street originally had seven houses, while the back half of the block was orange groves. As described in the Historic Structure Report (HRG 2007, 11), the original house was a small, one-story wood-framed cottage with



wood siding. The house had a front porch and a small covered exterior space in the rear on the south side. By 1895, there was a small rectangular outbuilding at the rear of the Harada House lot on the north side, the house was altered to include a side lean-to porch on the north side, and the rear covered porch on the southeast corner was removed. This is likely the condition of the house when the Haradas purchased it.

It is unclear who the original and subsequent owners were between the time of the house's initial construction and 1915, the year Jukichi Harada purchased the house from Fulton Gunnerson and his wife. The Haradas added a second floor in 1916 shortly after their December 2015 purchase of it. As noted in the Historic Structure Report (HRG 2007, 8-16):

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“After the additions, the Harada House had new brick foundations, a second story with additional bedrooms and a second bathroom. According to a contract with the builders, there was electric wiring for lights and switches in all rooms upstairs, plastered walls made with “Victor Patent

Plasters,” oak floors upstairs, and “dull brass hardware.” The dining room was altered to have a lowered ceiling and new plaster. The foursquare chamfered porch posts with decorative scroll-sawn brackets on the front of the house were removed during the addition. The front porch built in 1916 had four pairs of box columns in the Craftsman style that were wood with a wood decorative horizontal tie for each pair. The laundry room was originally a covered porch that included low walls and chamfered posts like the front porch but was enclosed at an unknown date. The chamfered posts were not covered and are still extant as part of the laundry room walls. The front porch on the second story was originally open but was enclosed in 1945 in order to make more room for the Japanese American boarders who were displaced by their incarceration during the war.

“Other than the orange grove on one half of the block behind the Harada House before 1908 and the out building on the northeast corner of the lot, it is unclear exactly what the Harada House landscape looked like before the Haradas purchased the house. At some point after 1908, the original outbuilding was replaced with the garage.

“The correspondence between Jesse Stebler and Sumi Harada during the internment years mentions the fruit trees and flowers growing on the site. In an unpublished research paper by Kurt Russo, the references to the landscape in the letters by Sumi and Stebler are listed.

‘In letters to Sumi Harada during her years in the internment camps Mr. Stebler mentions that [her] peach tree has started to bloom’ (letter dated 4/5/43) and that the ‘roses are in full bloom’ and that he can see them ‘out the door of the kitchen’ (letter dated 5/28/43). Later that year he again mentions the ‘peaches on the tree’ (letter dated 7/4/43) and the ‘flowers along the south fence’ (letter dated 12/8/43). In the final two references regarding the yard of the Harada House he discusses the ‘flowers in bloom,’ the fact that there are not ‘many apricots on the tree’ (letter dated 3/6/44), and refers to the flowers on the north side of the house (letter dated 4/12/45).’

“There is no record of changes to landscape in the postwar era. The fruit trees are no longer living and few of the flowers mentioned are extant.”

The house is a straightforward two-story vernacular building with some Craftsman and Victorian details. It is rectangular in plan, with overall dimensions of 26.5 feet by 24.5 feet, not including the front porch and rear one-story laundry room. There is a wood-framed porch about 7 feet deep across the entire front elevation and, at the rear of the building, a low roof over the kitchen and bathroom. There are three chimneys constructed of unreinforced brick masonry. The main chimney and the laundry room chimney were demolished as part of the stabilization work, while the chimney over the kitchen has been enclosed and temporarily braced. Additionally, the City of Riverside repaired and seismically strengthened the roof framing after the house was donated by the family. The roofing and gutters were completely replaced in the mid-2000s, with restoration of wood shakes on the original spaced sheathing and painted galvanized

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steel sheet metal gutters and leaders fabricated to replicate the extant, but deteriorated, elements. In 2005, the chain-link fence was installed by the City for security around the perimeter of the site.

The current appearance of the house reflects the Haradas' 1916 addition of the second floor and no significant additional modifications. It totals about 1,800 square feet. The main two-story structure has a double-pile hall and parlor plan, with a series of rooms running perpendicular in the rear. The only major alteration in the last century visible at street level was the enclosure of the upper front sleeping porch, which was done shortly after World War II. The interior retains much of its integrity from the period of the 1916 addition, with only minor subsequent alterations to upgrade some plumbing and electrical. Virtually all the historic materials and finishes remain, including the plaster, wallpaper, fixtures, and hardware.

The house was donated by Harada heirs to the City of Riverside/Museum of Riverside in 2003 with its original contents. The contents were immediately cataloged, packed, and removed; the house has stood empty of furnishings since that time.

Interventions since 2003 have included interior and exterior bracing and shoring of foundations and plaster, roof repairs, and minor emergency responses to address site drainage. The landscaping in the photo on page one (taken in 2009) has been removed; the site is not presently irrigated due to concerns regarding foundation stability. In 2017-2018, all the original siding was removed to facilitate an engineer's structural survey; the siding was labeled, fumigated, cleaned, encapsulated, and removed to secure storage. The house currently presents temporary fiberboard siding painted the original color of the house.

In the 2007 Historic Structure Report, HRG prioritized treatments into four categories (urgent, high, medium, and low). Treatments identified as urgent include addressing the crumbling brick foundations, surveying for the presence of hazardous materials, devoting attention to structural risks (bracing, limiting occupancy), and working with a conservator to develop treatment protocol for the wallpaper. Treatment tagged as "1" included attention to the brick chimneys, obtaining full cost estimates, fire detection and fire suppression, the garage, lighting fixture wiring, plaster stabilization, and termite treatment. Those among these treatments that did not have high costs or were emergency in nature were completed, including structural bracing and roof repairs (2006), safety-related repairs to staircase and chimneys (2006), termite-tenting (2013), site grading (2015), interior and exterior bracing and shoring (2016), and siding removal for structural assessment (2017-2018). Plywood shoring was also installed on the inscription wall with a Plexiglas window over the inscription to permit visual monitoring.

Since the 2007 HSR, and in the continuing absence of the significant financial resources required for a comprehensive rehabilitation project, the Museum of Riverside has further intervened to shore up the foundations and install interior and exterior bracing (see photographs below). This array of reinforcements includes concrete piers in the cellar, other types of bracing of the foundation in the cellar, exterior bracing at grade on the exterior southeast corner, and plywood-and-2x4 shoring to reduce further plaster losses on the interior. Plywood has been laid down on the interior flooring to protect the hardwood planks. The house has had survey points installed so that the pace and degree of settling and other movement can be monitored. The Harada House Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) established in 2017, is in the early stages of a phased fundraising campaign to preserve and interpret the house. It is hoped that fundraising efforts, combined with resources from the city and grants, will dramatically increase the funding available for the preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of the Harada House.

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- *P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) (HP2) Single family property
- *P4. Resources Present: One building
- P5b. Photos and map: See also pages 18 through 34



Photo: Archive of the Museum of Riverside. Family photo prior to enclosure of front sleeping porch, possibly ca. 1930s.

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P6. Date Constructed / Age and Source: Historic

The Harada House was built before 1887, probably between the late 1870s and the early 1880s (possibly in 1884), by an unknown builder as a single-story house. It appears with its Lemon Street neighbors on a Sanborn map of 1908. A second floor was added to the house by the Haradas (builder: Harp Brothers) in 1916 shortly after their December 1915 purchase of it (NHL documentation, 1990).

*P7. Owner and Address:

Museum of Riverside, City of Riverside
3580 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director
Museum of Riverside
3580 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

*P9. Date Recorded: February 21, 2020

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) California Historic Landmark Nomination

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") 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

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B1. Historic Name: Harada House

B2. Common Name: Harada House

B3. Original Use: Single-family dwelling

B4. Present Use: Closed and unoccupied; to become historic house museum pending rehabilitation

***B5. Architectural Style:** Vernacular; some characteristics of American Foursquare with some Craftsman and Victorian details.

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

Harada House is a two-story wood-framed house on a site of less than a tenth of an acre in its original residential neighborhood on Lemon Street in Ward 1 of downtown Riverside, California. The lot lines are unchanged since the Haradas purchased the house in 1915. The house was built before 1887, probably between the late 1870s and the early 1880s, possibly **1884**, by an unknown builder as a single-story house with a four-room floor plan on a brick foundation. The National Historic Landmark registration identifies the original one-story version of the house as a “saltbox” cottage but there is no documentary evidence of the house ever having a traditional saltbox roof configuration; the style was uncommon in Riverside and elsewhere in the West. The only photograph on file with the Museum of Riverside that shows the house prior to the addition of the second story is part of a *Los Angeles Examiner* report on January 5, 1916, where a small hip-roofed house is pictured (see photographs included with this application). The house remains in its original location, and the neighborhood remains predominantly comprised of the small single-family houses that were present over century ago.

The roof was removed and a second floor and new wood shingle roof added by the Haradas (builder: Harp Brothers) in **1916** shortly after their December 2015 purchase of it, resulting in an approximation of an American Foursquare. The front porch was reconfigured in this process to span the entire width of the front elevation. As noted in the HSR (ARG 2007, 23),

Changes that occurred during the 1916 addition included, the lowering and re-plastering of the ceiling in the dining room and the addition of the staircase to the second floor, which changed the floor plan on the north side. In 1916, the house had three covered exterior porches with a low wall. The front or western porch is extant, yet it was modified during the 1916 addition. The second story western porch was enclosed in 1945 to make room for boarders. The enclosure of the north porch probably occurred during the 1916 addition, although it could have happened before the addition. The original chamfered columns are extant in the walls of the enclosed north porch. There are many subtle distinctions among the woodwork, doors, and hardware on the first floor that provide clues about the alterations that were made during the 1916 remodeling. Later changes include the addition of carpet in the parlor and linoleum in the Kamitoku and the laundry room. There is contemporary resilient sheet flooring over plywood in the kitchen.

The current appearance of the house reflects the Haradas' 1916 addition of the second floor (four bedrooms, a bathroom, and an open front sleeping porch) and no significant additional modifications. With

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the addition of the second floor, the house reached its current size of about 1,800 square feet. The only alteration visible from the street in the last century was enclosing the upper front sleeping porch, which was done at an unknown date shortly after World War II, circa **1945-1946**. Nearly all the historic wallpaper, fixtures, and hardware remain. The roof continues to be wood shingle. Under the house is an unfinished cellar and crawl space, original to the house.

In the mid-2000s, the main chimney and the laundry room chimney were demolished as part of the stabilization work, while the chimney over the kitchen was enclosed and temporarily braced. Additionally, the city repaired and seismically strengthened the roof framing. The roofing and gutters were also completely replaced in 2006, with restoration of wood shakes on the original spaced sheathing and painted galvanized steel sheet metal gutters and leaders fabricated to replicate the extant, but deteriorated, elements. The chain-link fence was installed in 2005 for security around the perimeter of the site. The original recessed shiplap siding was removed from the house in 2017-2018 during an engineer's structural assessment and is currently in secure storage awaiting full rehabilitation of the house.

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

*B8. Related Features:

A detached garage at the back of the lot was in an advanced state of deterioration and was removed from its concrete pad in May 2016; the approximately 30% of its components that were salvageable have been documented, cleaned, encapsulated, and stored to await an eventual reconstruction of the garage. Its construction post-dates by an unknown span of years the construction and 1916 modification of the house; the garage was non-contributing with respect to the National Historic Landmark designation.

Family records indicate that fruit trees and other specific plantings existed at one time in the front and back yards. These species are no longer present, and the small front and back yards are not currently irrigated.

B9a. Architect: Unknown **b. Builder: Original is unknown; 1916 addition by Harp Brothers**

*B10. Significance: Theme: Japanese American Heritage; Ethnic Communities; Civil Rights

Area: Riverside, California

Period of Significance: 1915-1946 Property Type: Building (residence)

Applicable Criteria: Associated with individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

Landmark criteria

Harada House aligns with the following California Historic Landmark criterion: "Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California." The individuals are Japanese immigrants Jukichi Harada and his wife Ken, and their American-born children Mine, Sumi, and Yoshizo.

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The period of significance spans the Haradas' purchase of the house in 1915 at 3356 Lemon Street through the immediate post-World War II period when Sumi Harada was able to return to the house and open it as transitional housing for other Japanese Americans returning to Riverside from the camps who no longer had their homes.

At the time of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) registration, the significance of Harada House centered on ethnic heritage (Asian/Japanese law) for a period of significance defined as 1915-1918. NHL themes included 28: The Law: The Development of Principles in the Legal Specialties; 30: American Ways of Life: Ethnic Communities: Japanese-Americans; and 31: Social and Humanitarian Movements: Civil Rights Movements. A primary qualifying National Historic Landmark criterion is that the property is "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."

Additionally, the Harada House represents Japanese immigrants' quest for American citizenship and civil rights in Riverside and the United States, from the early 1900s through the 1940s, with supporting themes of the California Alien Land Law of 1913, World War II and Incarceration, and Return from Incarceration. The Harada House also represents Japanese settlement and community development in Riverside, from the 1890s through the 1940s, with a supporting theme of Community Development.

As noted in the HSR (HRG 2007, 21), "Because the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark designated the Harada House because it was a site of the struggle for civil rights for Japanese Americans, and because it continued to serve as a place effected by the racial oppression of Riverside's Japanese American population, it is appropriate to extend the period of significance to 1946."

Summary

Harada House was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 14, 1990 (#77000325). Harada House is significant under the California Historic Landmark criterion, "associated with an individual or group having profound influence on the history of California." Harada House aligns with National Register criterion A, that is, a building "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

The primary significance of Harada House lies in its being the subject of a 1918 landmark Superior Court decision granting the Japanese immigrant (*Issei*) and American-born (*Nisei*) Harada family the right to continue to own the property, deeded in the names of the family's American-born minor children. The case was an early challenge to restrictive anti-immigrant and racist property ownership laws and a test of existing laws that defined citizenship by birth. The case resolved in favor of the Haradas in September 1918, and the house—as the subject of the court case—embodies and is symbolic of this civil rights victory. From that date, the family occupied the house for the next 24 years—not without continuing to suffer exclusion and prejudice for remaining in the neighborhood—until forcibly incarcerated in 1942 along with 120,000 other Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans in the western states. The Haradas were among the small minority of Japanese Americans whose properties were cared for and preserved for them by friends. The house rose to historic significance once again in the immediate post-World War II period when Jukichi and Ken's daughter Sumi Harada returned and operated the house for a short time as

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a boarding house for less fortunate returning incarcerated. The house remained in continuous Harada ownership until shortly after Sumi's death in 2000.

Background

Long before the Haradas' experiences, the 1860 census recorded just 55 Japanese individuals in the United States. A small group of Japanese immigrants arrived in California in 1869, "the earliest chapter in the long, intertwined history of Japanese settlement and agriculture in the Golden State." (Graves) Jukichi Harada entered the United States through San Francisco, as most Japanese immigrants did, and he arrived in Los Angeles in 1903, a determined and tenacious 23-year-old schoolteacher and maritime cook. Jukichi was also remembered as a calligrapher, but he was notably lacking in the talent for agricultural work that so many of his compatriots pursued. After several years of variable fortunes, he was able to bring his wife Ken and son Masa Atsu from Japan to join him. At that time, Japanese immigrants were still few, numbering in the thousands nationwide. The Haradas arrived during what has been described as the first of two phases of Japanese immigration, 1885-1907, during which immigrants were predominantly male laborers. (Ichioka) They would have been in the first generation of Japanese immigrants to arrive in Riverside where, by 1910, there were only about "500 Japanese settlers." (Graves) The Haradas were less common in that they immigrated as a family with no intention of returning to Japan. Although the family arrived, as most immigrants did, to better their lives, Jukichi faced a society in which he could not vote, testify in court, or pursue many professions. Proscriptions against Asians included property ownership.

In the first years of the twentieth century, Japanese immigration to California increased exponentially from a few thousand to 70,000 by 1920. (Kanzaki) The Haradas' choice of Riverside put them in one of California's two largest Japantowns, and Riverside was burgeoning. They were distant from San Francisco, which was rapidly becoming the nucleus of the state's anti-Asian political movement, and which would rise to a peak in the 1913 and 1920 Alien Land Laws. In the relative calm of Riverside, the Haradas operated a boarding house on 8th Street and a rented restaurant frequented by Japanese and Mexican citrus workers. Their Washington Restaurant was originally located at 643 8th Street (extant at 3643 University Avenue) until 1925 when they moved it to 638 9th Street. The restaurant moved again in five years to 541 8th Street (razed). The restaurant was a model of patriotism, serving only American food and decorated with portraits of presidents. A further local connection can be made to the Washington navel orange, brought to Riverside in the 1870s and, by the time of the operation of the Haradas' restaurant, the source of Riverside's extraordinary wealth.

The loss of their second son, American-born Tadao, to diphtheria led the young Harada parents to seek a safer home for their growing family and cease living in the crowded boarding house themselves. "*Kodomo no tame ni*, 'for the sake of the children' was a guiding principle for many *Issei* parents and a foundation for the development of Japanese American communities." (Graves) After locating the house on Lemon Street, Jukichi pursued its purchase against several obstacles, including hostile white neighbors and difficulty finding real estate and banking professionals. Most significantly, the California Alien Land Law of 1913 presented a challenge. The law primarily focused on prohibiting ownership of agricultural land but was widely understood to target Japanese immigrants, discourage further immigration, and create an unwelcome atmosphere for Asian immigrants already in California. Japanese immigrants who were not United States citizens faced harsh treatment and were socially ostracized. Jukichi Harada was undaunted by these challenges and exemplified "an early dedication to upward mobility affecting the evolution of the

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Japanese-American subculture.” (Rawitsch, *No Other Place*)

In December 1915, Jukichi Harada purchased the approximately thirty-year-old house in its middle-class white neighborhood near the commercial areas of downtown Riverside, California. The house was not lavish, but it was considered to be in a “good” neighborhood. According to federal law at the time, neither Jukichi nor his wife Ken was eligible to become a United States citizen, and California’s Alien Land Law of 1913 (also known as the Webb-Haney Act) prevented them, as non-citizens, from personally owning land in the state. Well aware of this, Jukichi Harada placed the ownership of the home in the names of his three American-born children at the time (Mine, born 1906; Sumi, born 1909; Yoshizo, born 1912). Harada House wasn’t the first property Jukichi Harada had purchased in an American-born child’s name, but it was the first in a somewhat upscale white neighborhood. Located in the non-white, immigrant, and commercial sections of town, Jukichi’s previous property purchases attracted no attention. Riverside, like cities across the United States, had many distinct ethnic immigrant communities that both self-segregated and were forcibly segregated. For the Japanese American community, the Alien Land Law reinforced a “unique generational pattern of *Issei*, *Nisei* and *Sansei* (first-, second-, and third-generation Americans of Japanese descent)” forming racially and socially cohesive neighborhoods. Riverside’s Japantown did not experience a smooth pre-World War II growth trajectory but rather peaked at the time the Haradas arrived to establish new roots. (Graves) However, Riverside’s Japanese American community was not so large nor so self-sufficient that it did not do business in the city’s regular commercial zones or send its children to neighborhood schools, and it has been observed that, more than ethnic exclusivity, constrained economic circumstances formed the common bond in some parts of town. (Graves)

The 1915 purchase of Harada House triggered a swift reaction. Even some Japanese discouraged Jukichi from making waves (it was a hallmark of the Japanese immigrant community to avoid seeking fame or drawing attention to itself), but he stood his ground, including rejecting a generous buy-back offer. News of a Japanese family moving into the neighborhood mobilized an official and outspoken opposition force, including next door neighbor Cynthia Robinson, a Civil War widow, and five other Lemon Street residents (all of these houses are extant, although none as minimally altered in the last century as Harada House). At the time, some Riverside housing developments explicitly and formally excluded Asians, Mexicans, and others of color. On Lemon Street, such exclusion was an unwritten understanding. “The Harada family’s attempt to reside in ... a ‘White Man’s’ neighborhood is one of the most prominent events in Riverside’s Japanese American history.” (Graves) Attitudes toward the Japanese were mixed in Riverside—perhaps less extreme than in some other sectors of the state—but there was much vocal opposition to the Haradas setting new precedent in this particular neighborhood. Jukichi Harada, however, benefitted from support from a few influential Riversiders, not least among them Frank Miller, founder of the Mission Inn (the other of the two NHL properties in Riverside), and the lawyers Purington and Adair who represented the family in the legal proceeding. Miller was active beyond the Harada case in attempting to counter the anti-Japanese tenor of the times that gripped all of California to varying degrees.

On December 17, 1915, Riverside attorney F.C. Noble wrote to the State Attorney General U.S. Webb with the question, “Can a Jap boy or girl born in Calif. acquire & hold Real Estate?” The reply on December 21, 1915 from the State Attorney General U.S. Webb affirmed that “[a]ll persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside,” going on to say that “any citizen of the United States and of this state may acquire and hold real estate in California.”

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In spite of this apparently unambiguous statement, in 1916, in the midst of World War I, the state of California filed suit against Jukichi Harada, as the representative for his children, over the ownership of the

house, citing the Alien Land Law. Exclusionary laws such as this were widely popular in California at the time and were supported by both the Democratic and Socialist parties. Alien land laws in many western states were broadly written but implicitly targeted Asians and the Japanese in particular. These laws arose out of concerns over ownership of agricultural lands. While Harada House was not in an agricultural area, the law was at the core of the prosecution's argument. The case was watched closely with contained trepidation by Japanese immigrant families throughout California and the West. These immigrant families had worked hard to gain a toehold and did not typically seek attention, press, or political leadership. The experience of Asian immigrant communities, such as Riverside's Japanese to which the Haradas belonged, differed markedly from the prominence of European immigrant groups who aggressively shaped federal and local legislation. This circumstance places the judicial achievement of the Haradas, centered on their house, in still more stark relief.

The legal case also attracted nationwide notice, up to and including President Woodrow Wilson. A front-page article in *The New York Times* reflected the national and international attention garnered by the case and the widespread racist fears in California of Asian land takeover. On September 17, 1918, a final ruling was made in the Haradas' favor affirming the Fourteenth Amendment constitutional rights of those born on American soil. Contemporary world political realities were influential. The United States and Japan were allies against the Central Powers in World War I, and the legal case was a cause for some embarrassment to the United States in its efforts to maintain productive diplomatic ties with Japan. Judge Hugh Craig of the Riverside Superior Court made the ruling, but in doing so he also upheld the Alien Land Law. The role of the Japanese government in the final judgment, Japan being itself a growing international power at the time, begs further study. Further, it continued to be impossible for Jukichi and Ken Harada as immigrant aliens to become naturalized citizens or landowners throughout the remainder of their lives.

Harada House was the physical object of this first test of the constitutionality of an alien land law in the United States. Although it is a site associated with Japanese Americans, the landmark state court decision in *California v. Harada*, which affirmed the right of native-born citizens of immigrant parentage to own land, is important to all Americans of immigrant heritage and fundamentally reinforced the constitutional guarantees of American citizenship. Specifically, Harada prevailed under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment with the judge declaring of the American-born children, "They are American citizens ... entitled to equal protection of the laws of our land." The historic record reflects little of what Jukichi in later years thought of his achievement in 1918 on behalf of his family, but his pursuit of the legal case initiated a crucial process. Without this action, the process of repealing exclusionary land ownership legislation would have been still more slow to gain traction, although this process did not occur without initial backlash. The Harada case, for example, is assumed to have been a factor in passage of the 1920 version of the California Alien Land Law that barred immigrant parents from using the loophole that Jukichi Harada had used by purchasing property in his minor children's names. A storm of additional anti-Japanese legislation followed in the 1920s.

The experiences of Japanese immigrants throughout California in the early part of the twentieth century were similar, including significant employment in agriculture (citrus looming large in Riverside) and an

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increasing ownership of small businesses until World War II when most were dispossessed. Not following the agricultural path, Jukichi and Ken Harada operated restaurants and boarding houses. Riverside's Japanese community differed from that in most other California communities in notable ways. For example, a "low degree of ethnic antagonism" (Wong) existed relative to the balance of the city's population, as well

as a comparatively high level of adherence among the *Issei* and *Nikkei* to Christianity. Riverside's Japanese immigrant community almost entirely lacked the Buddhist majority that characterized other Japanese immigrant regions. It is conceivable that this higher level of tolerance and acceptance emboldened Jukichi Harada in his effort to claim on behalf of his children their freedom to exercise their constitutional rights. A decline in the size of the Japanese American community in Riverside between the Haradas' arrival and Executive Order 9066 in 1942 is surmised to have stemmed from constrained economic opportunities that stemmed from the statewide racist pressures. (Graves)

Later history

In 1940, Jukichi and Ken Harada's son-in-law Saburo Kido became president of the Japanese-American Citizens League (JACL), bringing the family into the public eye once again on different matters. The example of his father-in-law cannot have failed to help prepare Kido for his life of advocacy for Japanese American causes. By the start of World War II, Riverside's Japanese community had declined in number to less than half of its peak near the time when Jukichi, Ken, and Masa Atsu had arrived, yet it was a well rooted element of the city. The Haradas' Washington Restaurant was among the most long-lived of Riverside's Japanese-run businesses. (Graves)

When war was declared against Japan in the wake of the December 7, 1941 Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Haradas were among the 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry from across the western states—nearly two-thirds of them American citizens—who were incarcerated with remarkable speed in hastily built American concentration camps under Executive Order 9066, February 19, 1942. Riverside was no exception to the practice of arresting *Issei* and *Nisei* leaders and freezing financial assets as tactics to disempower Japanese American neighborhoods and crush business relationships, even those that had been cordial and productive for decades. Many Japanese American families destroyed family artifacts, photographs, and records that they feared might be construed as evidence of split loyalty or continuing connection to Japan. The Harada family is not known to have engaged extensively in this practice.

By 1942, daughter Sumi and son Harold were running the restaurant, but the family was forced to sell the operation quickly and at a severe loss. A scrawled graphite inscription on the plaster wall of an upstairs bedroom in Harada House, written by Harold Shigetaka "Shig" Harada notes that the day of departure for himself and his sister Sumi was May 23, 1942. They left from a collection point at 5th and Main in Riverside, three blocks from their home. Parents Jukichi and Ken Harada had already been removed to Topaz, Utah, where they both died (Ken in 1943 and Jukichi in 1944). Sumi and Harold were shipped to Poston, Arizona. As has been widely noted, incarceration was never considered during World War II for German or Italian immigrant populations, making the racist motivations of Executive Order 9066 still more evident.

In spite of the incarceration experience, Harold and his brothers were tenaciously loyal to the United States. They were among those who joined the newly formed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit comprised almost entirely of *Nisei* soldiers. While Clark Harada vented his anger in his answers to a

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“loyalty questionnaire” administered in the camps, his responses were rooted in his allegiance to American constitutional principles and citizens’ rights that were at that moment being set aside in favor of racial fear and hysteria.

After the war, Riverside never regained the number of residents of Japanese ancestry that it had prior to the war, although the Japanese American community in neighboring Los Angeles grew. Daughter Sumi Harada was the only family member to return to Riverside, in August 1945. One of the few returning incarcerated to have a home to return to (family friend Jess Stebler cared for the house in their absence), Sumi assisted many dispossessed Japanese American returnees by opening the doors of Harada House as a rooming house almost immediately. It was at this time that Sumi enclosed the front upstairs sleeping porch in order to accommodate additional roomers. JACL president and Jukichi and Ken’s son-in-law Saburo Kido identified housing as a major concern for returning incarcerated, as well as controversial relations with African Americans who had moved into neighborhoods forcibly vacated by Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans. (Graves) The post-war return from the camps was in every respect difficult. Sumi Harada’s ability to return to her childhood home was rare among *Nisei* property owners, but her reluctance to change the smallest detail in the house throughout the ensuing decades—including a refusal to take down notices she placed for the benefit of her 1940s boarders—reflects in one person’s psychology the severity of the shock to the system occasioned by the incarceration and still-simmering racial antagonism that characterized California.

In post-World War II California, centers of Japanese American community re-formed, but they centered less on the immigrant generation. (Graves) The end of the war was not the end of widespread racism. Many *Issei* and *Nisei* feared returning; widespread acts of violence in all West Coast states justified this fear. The nature of the Japanese American communities was permanently altered, in everything from a shift in economic pursuits less centered on agriculture to a decline in maintaining ties with Japan.

Downward mobility and fewer economic options were the norm. For example, Sumi was able to return to her home, but the restaurant and the livelihood it had provided were no longer in the family’s ownership. The option available to her was working as a domestic laborer for wealthy Riversiders. In Riverside, as before the war, attitudes toward returning Japanese Americans were marginally less hostile, although many chose not to return. Post-war federal relocation policies explicitly worked to prevent the reestablishment of “Little Tokyos,” and the comparatively small number of Japanese Americans in Riverside ensured that they would be less able to segregate into a large community. In this continuing atmosphere of racism—even if less explicit in Riverside—it is no surprise that it wasn’t until 1952 that the California Alien Land Laws were ultimately invalidated by the California Supreme Court. It took still longer (1988) for federal redress to be signed into law, mandating an apology and monetary compensation to every survivor wrongfully incarcerated.

Harada House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990. It is one of just thirteen NHLs associated with the Japanese American experience (seven are in California), and of those, seven are associated with the period of incarceration during World War II. Harada House is the only NHL associated with the experiences of a single family and the way that family’s experiences initiated a decades-long struggle for civil rights, distinguishing them from most other Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans. This application seeks to extend the period of significance as identified in the National Historic Landmark registration (1915-1918) to include the subsequent chapter in history, World War II, during which

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the same family's experiences mirrored rather than contrasted with that of nearly all other Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans in the western states (1915-1946). Both chapters of the Harada family experience underscore California's unique path toward realization of civil rights for all its residents.

The significance of the Japanese American and Asian American communities within California and within Riverside and the southern California agricultural (citrus) community are not adequately recognized. There are few physical markers within the City of Riverside's built environment that recognize its Asian immigrant communities. A former Chinatown, for example, has left no on-the-ground trace and scarcely any photographic record. Harada House, thus, carries a further narrative responsibility to embody these stories of settlement, struggle, community discontinuity, civil rights, citizenship, and accommodation.

Sumi Harada occupied the family home on Lemon Street until shortly before her death in 2000, living there virtually every day of her life, with the notable exception of the incarceration period and readjustment aftermath. Shortly after her death, the house was donated by Harada family heirs, with its contents, to the Museum of Riverside/City of Riverside. Thus, the house remained in continuous Harada family ownership until it passed into City of Riverside/Museum of Riverside ownership in 2003.

The compromised structural integrity of Harada House prevents the Museum of Riverside from opening the house to the public at this time, but it stands on its original site and may be viewed—along with its NHL marker—from street level. The Museum of Riverside houses the contents of the residence, which are themselves an astonishing record of the period of significance and beyond. The furnishings and other contents are planned for reinstallation in the house when rehabilitation is completed. Because of the historic integrity of the house and the completeness of the furnishings, the Museum's potential ability to recreate a historic atmosphere to convey its narrative and historic significance is high. The location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association remain intact. Rehabilitation will introduce improvements to the original workmanship of the house at the structural level, not outwardly visible. The house is not architecturally imposing or notable; yet, it is precisely its "everyman" character that makes its history so striking ... that an immigrant family who was neither wealthy nor influential would choose to resist and would prevail in court. On-site public interpretation will in time bring the inspiring and humbling story of the Haradas to all visitors, standing as a reminder of struggles endured in humanity's imperfect journey to justice.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) N/A

***B12. References:**

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B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator:

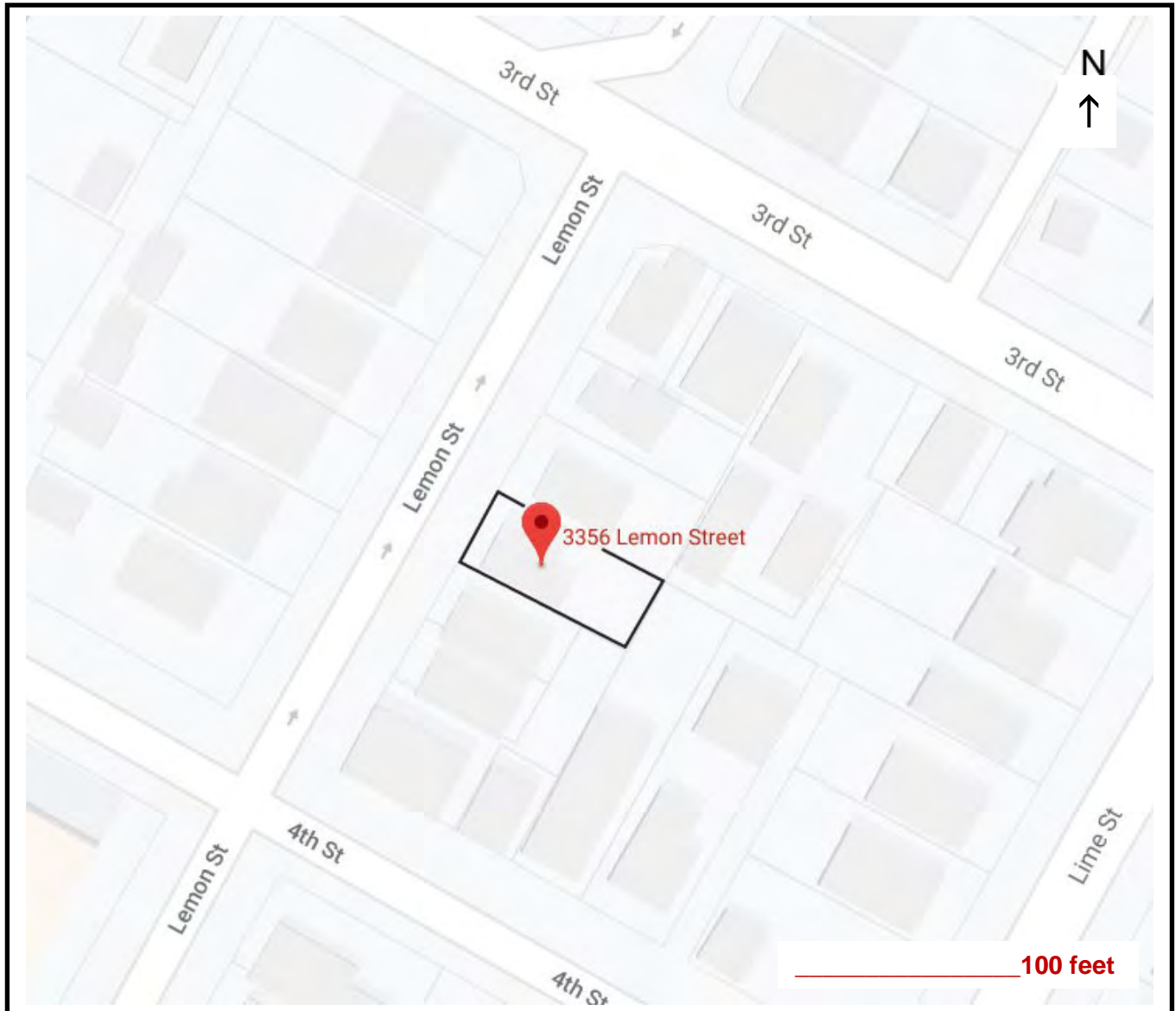
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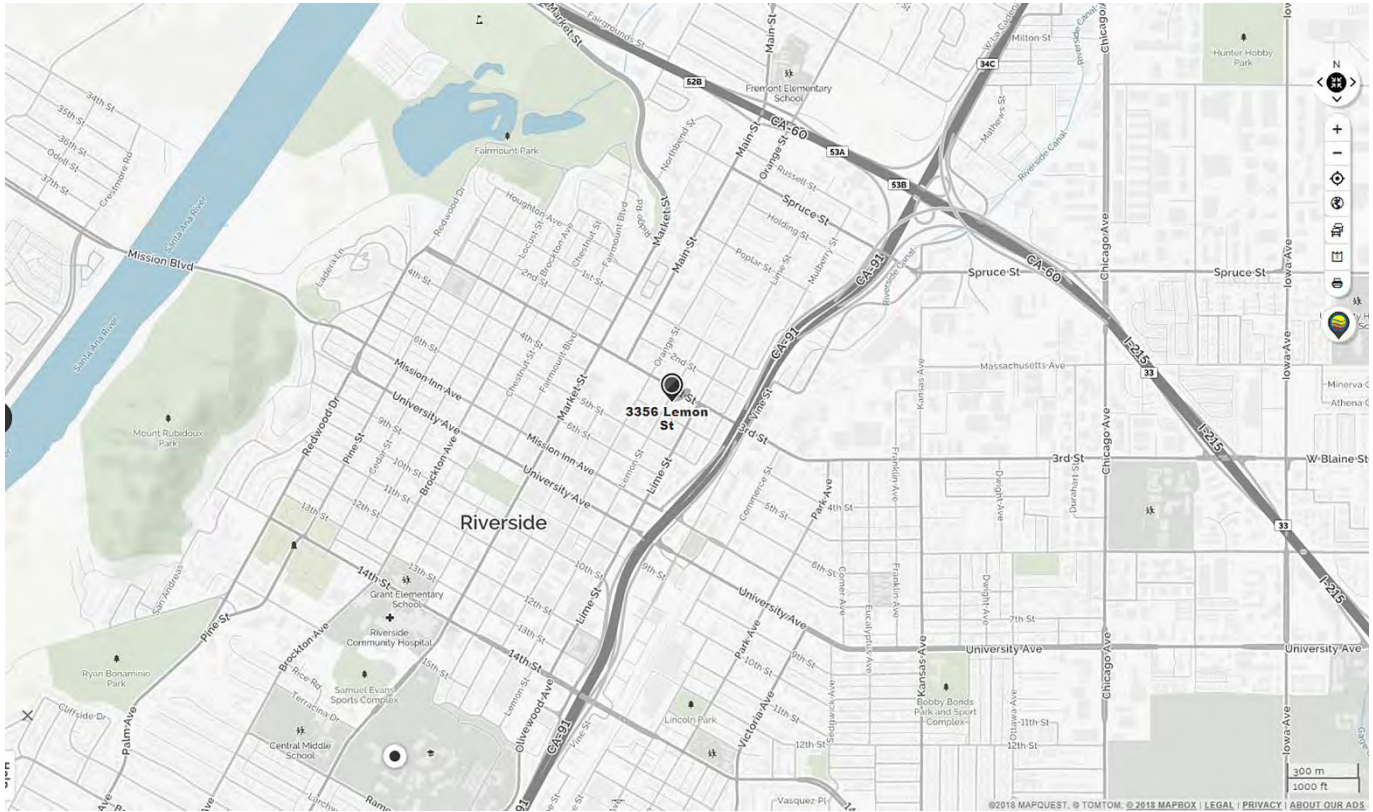
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Downtown Riverside, Harada house location indicated on map

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Harada family photo, 1928

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Photo: Archives of the Museum of Riverside. Harold Harada in 442nd uniform, in front of Harada House, ca. 1943.



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Photo: *Los Angeles Examiner*, 1/5/1916, report on issue prior to filing of court case. House before the addition of the second story appears below.



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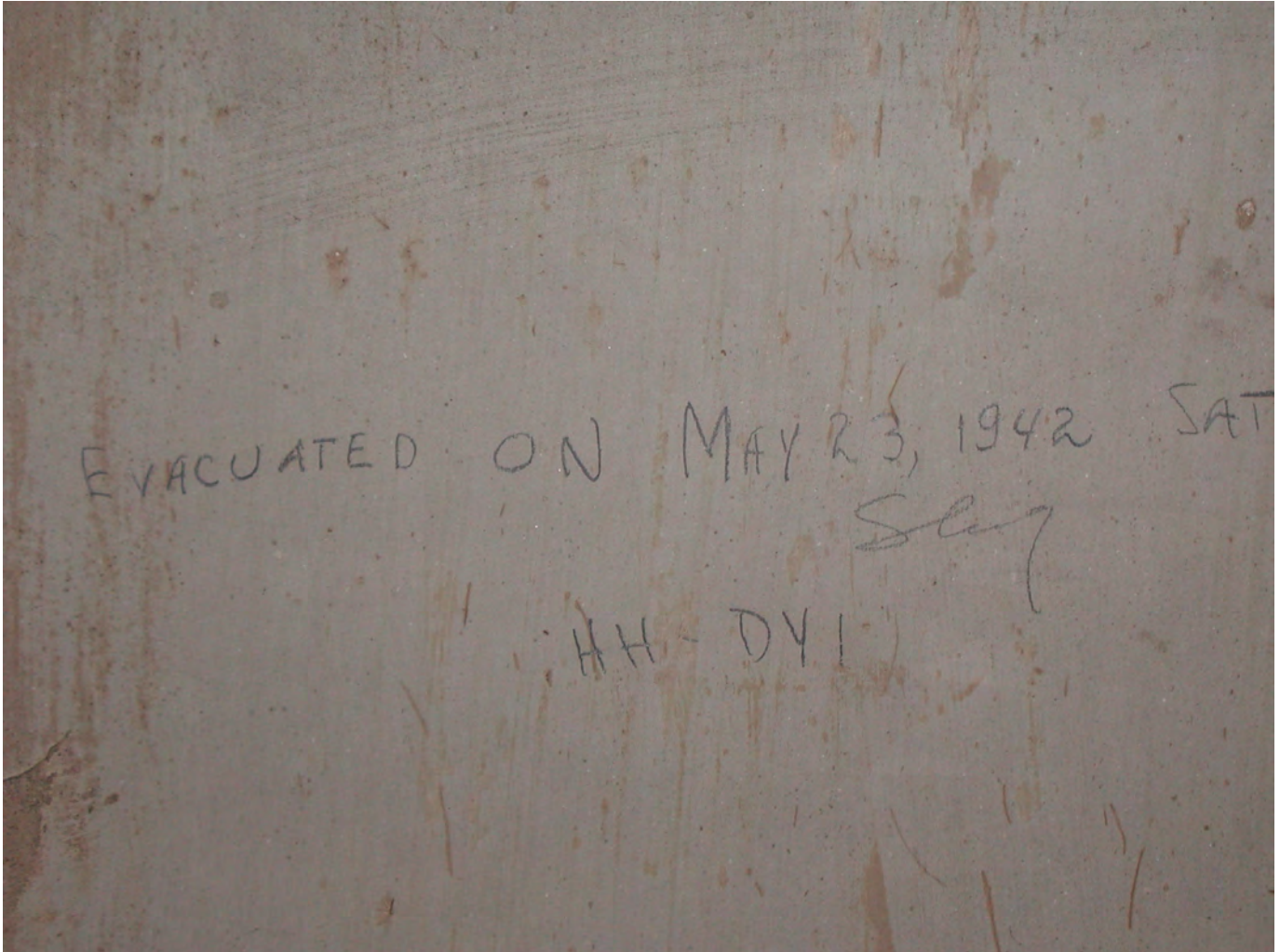
Photo: Museum of Riverside, 11/21/2019. Street view facing approximately east; front of house is northwest elevation. Robinson House appears at the left



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Harada House evacuation inscription (interior)

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Front porch toward Robinson

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Rear elevation

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North elevation

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South elevation

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Sleeping porch

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Stairs

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Upstairs bedroom 1

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Downstairs bedroom

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Kitchen and bath

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Dining room

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Bedroom with inscription

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Exterior view