



Architectural
Resources Group

Pier 9, The Embarcadero, Suite 107
San Francisco, California 94111

ARGcreate.com

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Sunnyvale Historic Context Update
Approach, Timeframe, Outline, and Bibliography

Approach

ARG understands the City of Sunnyvale seeks to update the existing Historical Context Statement in order to identify and recognize the contributions of Asian Americans and other minorities to the history and development of Sunnyvale.

For the purposes of this report, ARG suggests that the primary research effort and majority of context shall focus on persons, families, and/or communities of racial and ethnic groups that have made underrecognized contributions to Sunnyvale's history in spite of local, state, or federal laws or regulations that prohibited their full participation in civic society. Examples of these types of laws and regulations include the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882), the Asian Exclusion Act (1924), Executive Order 9066 and Japanese and Japanese American incarceration (1942-1945), the Bracero Program (1942-1964), and restrictive covenants that prohibited some racial and ethnic groups from attaining home ownership (1920s-1968). ARG's current understanding of racial and ethnic groups that meet these established parameters include Chinese and Chinese Americans, Japanese and Japanese Americans, other Asians and Asian Americans, Filipinos and Filipino Americans, Portuguese and Portuguese Americans, Italians and Italian Americans, African Americans, and the Hispanic and/or Latino community; however, these groups are subject to change as research develops.

ARG also understands that the Historical Context Statement update seeks to identify and recognize the contributions of additional national and ethnic groups that did not face the same barriers to inclusion and were more quickly permitted to assimilate into American society. ARG suggests that communities which presented and/or preserved a strong national or cultural identity but were *not* subject to laws or regulations that prohibited full participation in civic society shall be the focus of a secondary research effort. Information on these communities, as uncovered in the course of the primary research effort, will be included in the Historical Context Statement update in narrative vignette form, enabling the reader to gain high-level familiarity with these groups' historic presence within Sunnyvale and contributions to the city's history. Examples of groups that meet these established parameters include Swedish settlers and the Yugoslavian community; however, these groups are subject to change as research develops.

Timeframe

ARG proposes that the Historical Context Statement update cover a timeframe that starts in 1850, when Martin Murphy Jr. purchased and developed agricultural land that would become Sunnyvale, and ends in 1990, when the H-1B visa program was established, initiating a new wave of demographic change in

Sunnyvale. Some contextual information will be included on the era before 1850, and an overview of the demographic changes in Sunnyvale after 1990 will also be included with suggestions for future study. However, ARG feels that the period of 1850-1990 is an appropriate timeframe to understand the contributions of Sunnyvale's previously underrecognized racial and ethnic groups, and these groups' participation in the City's agricultural and industrial economies, wartime changes, the emergence of post-war suburban housing tracts, and the shift to electronic and other technological industries.

Historical Context Statement Update Outline

The following outline is expected to evolve as the research effort develops.

1. Introduction

- a. Project background and purpose
- b. Defining rubric for demographic focus of the update
- c. Timeframe of study
- d. Methodology

2. Local Regulatory Framework

- a. Heritage Resource Inventory and evaluation criteria
- b. Historical integrity
- c. Brief overview of the local historical review process/Secretary of the Interior's Standards
- d. Previous evaluations of relevant properties (if identified)

3. Early Sunnyvale Development, 1850–1910: Minority Settlement in a Global and Regional Context

- a. Early economic development: agriculture, canning, and industry
 - i. Demographic characteristics of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara County in the mid-nineteenth century
- b. Arrival of Asian laborers, including global push and regional pull factors
 - i. Immigration from China
 - ii. Immigration from Japan
 - iii. Rise of organized anti-Asian movements and legislation
 - iv. Relationship of Sunnyvale minority residents to minority communities in nearby urban centers (San Jose and San Francisco)
- c. Formation of additional ethnic communities (i.e., Portuguese, Italian, Yugoslavian, others)
 - i. Antone Vargas – early Portuguese farmer (leased land)
- d. Segregated conditions for minority residents
 - i. Formal and informal residential segregation during this era
 - ii. Location of minority settlements
 - iii. School attendance/other education for minority students during this era
 - iv. Additional segregated spaces, including religious institutions and medical facilities.

4. Community Formation for Minority Groups in Sunnyvale, 1910–1942

- a. Review of groups present during this era and laws and regulations prohibiting full participation in civic society
- b. Japanese farming and land ownership
 - i. Family formation after change to laws governing female immigration
 - ii. Involvement in agricultural production
 - iii. Yonemoto Nursery
 - iv. Formation of community advocacy group/s
- c. Chinese community formation
 - i. Formation of community advocacy group/s
 - ii. Shop ownership: Dick and Carl Kwong, State Market grocery store
- d. Portuguese community formation
 - i. Farm labor
 - ii. Community organizations and leaders
 - iii. Katon and Maria Mellow farmers
 - iv. Formation of community advocacy group/s
- e. African Americans in Sunnyvale
 - i. Formation of community advocacy group/s
- f. Segregated and/or integrated conditions for minority residents
 - i. Formal and informal residential segregation during this era
 - 1. Racial covenants and the search for adequate housing for excluded races and ethnicities
 - ii. Location of minority settlement
 - iii. School attendance/other education for minority students during this era
 - iv. Additional segregated spaces, including religious institutions and medical facilities.
 - v. Organized resistance to discriminatory practices by community advocacy groups
- g. Emergence of industry in Sunnyvale and ethnic group participation in the labor force

5. World War II Rupture, 1941–1945

- a. Japanese and Japanese American incarceration
 - i. Impact on property ownership – examples (or not) of placing land in the care of non-Japanese and Japanese American neighbors
- b. Interviews of Sunnyvale community members impacted by federal incarceration
 - i. Search for/leverage existing interviews from this era/community
- c. Impacts on agriculture and industry
 - i. Bracerco Program impact within Sunnyvale

6. Post-World War II Growth and Community Shifts, 1945–1990

- a. Japanese and Japanese American return

- i. Ability of incarcerated Japanese and Japanese American persons to return to their properties after the War with or without the assistance of non- Japanese and Japanese American neighbors
 - ii. Effects of internment on Japanese and Japanese American’s involvement and progress in Sunnyvale’s community and economy, including the Yonemoto Nursery – return to operate nursery through the 1970s
 - b. Continued agricultural production
 - i. Hong L. Chow farm from 1950s-1970s
 - ii. Imahara strawberry farm 1956-1976
 - iii. Yick Ko and May Hon Fong (parents of Paul Fong) flower farm (rented land) on Pajaro 1960
 - c. Ongoing/shifting conditions of segregation for minority residents
 - i. Racial dynamics of postwar demographic growth
 - ii. Formal and informal residential segregation during this era
 - 1. Racial covenants and the search for adequate housing for excluded races and ethnicities
 - iii. Location of minority settlement
 - iv. School attendance/other education for minority students during this era
 - v. Additional segregated spaces, including religious institutions and medical facilities.
 - vi. Organized resistance to discriminatory practices by community advocacy groups
 - vii. Eichler Homes in Sunnyvale
 - viii. 1968 Fair Housing Act
 - d. Shift to electronics industry
 - i. Demographics of early electronic industry workforce
 - e. Immigration and Nationality Act and developments in the region’s electronics sector
 - i. Racial and ethnic minority participation in the tech industry
- 7. Sunnyvale at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century**
 - a. H1-B visa program and subsequent shift in demographics
 - i. Associated changes in the technology industry labor force
 - b. Suggestions for further study after the study period
- 8. Associated Property Types**
- 9. Evaluation Criteria**
- 10. Recommended Properties – including 5 eligible local landmarks**
- 11. Conclusion**

Appendix A. 5 DPR sets for eligible local landmarks

Research Repositories

Chinese American Historical Museum, San Jose

Portuguese Historical Museum, San Jose

Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum, Sunnyvale

Cupertino Historical Society, Cupertino

California History Center, DeAnza College

San Jose Japanese American Citizens League

Santa Clara County Office of Education

Enrollment Projection Consultants, Tom Williams, demographer

Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute, Dr. Michael Chang, founder and board president

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