

March 25, 2008

The *San Jose Japantown Historic Context and Intensive Survey*, conducted by historical consultants Carey & Co. Inc. Architecture, included a series of community, Japantown Community Congress, and Historic Landmarks Commission meetings throughout the project. In December 2006, the City of San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission reviewed and accepted the Japantown Final Survey Report, and recommended that the City Council accept the document. Following that meeting, planning staff and the Japantown Survey Committee held a community meeting on June 12, 2007 in order to explain the City's permit processes for historic properties. Following-up on that meeting, another community meeting will be held prior to taking the Final Survey Report forward to City Council for acceptance.

Community Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 2008
6:00 p.m.
Jacinto "Tony" Siquig
Northside Community Center
488 N. Sixth Street.

The next step, following the two community meetings, will be to take the Final Survey Report to an anticipated Tuesday May 6, 2008 City Council meeting for acceptance.

San Jose Japantown Final Survey Report Acceptance
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
200 E. Santa Clara Street

Following Council acceptance of the Final Survey Report, the Historic Landmarks will consider the addition of the qualified historic resources to the City's Historic Resources Inventory.

California Japantown Preservation Pilot Project Background

Interest in conducting the survey project came in large part from members of the Japantown community who were active in the statewide California Japantown Preservation Pilot Project. This project resulted in state legislation to help preserve and promote the state's three remaining Japantowns in San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles. Through the California Japantown Preservation Pilot Project, San Jose's Japantown incorporated the nonprofit Japantown Community Congress. Members of the Congress together with a representative of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, Japantown Business Association, and San Jose Redevelopment Agency formed a survey committee to oversee the project.

Property Owner Letter
RE: San Jose Japantown (SJJ) Survey
5/25/08
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In Phase I of the Japantown project, the historic context researched and recorded the area from the perspective of the built environment and how that environment helps to interpret the history of Japanese Americans in San Jose and the United States. Within this context, the Reconnaissance Survey preliminarily identified 67 properties that appeared to have historic significance. Property-specific research completed in Phase II of the project identified additional properties that possess historic significance. For every significant property record, a number of archival sources were consulted to establish a statement of significance. Phase II provided an in depth account of the history and culture of San Jose's Japantown and its association to significant national, regional and local events, established potential historic district boundaries, and identified contributors to the potential district. These contributing buildings gained their significance through various factors: 1) their association with the City's Japanese American history, 2) their connection to people important in local, state or national history, and/or 3) their architectural distinction. As a group they may qualify for listing as a City of San Jose Historic District, a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Historic District and/or a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). A TCP is a site that is important due to the role it plays in the cultural practices or beliefs of a living community. Additionally, other resources were identified as individually significant and eligible for official designation as City Landmarks and/or for separate listing on the NRHP.

You can read the Survey at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/Historic/Index.html>.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to discuss the Survey with a planner and/or have additional questions, please contact Tiffany Telles at (408) 535-7839 tiffany.telles@sanjoseca.gov or Sally Zarnowitz at (408) 535-7834 sally.n.zarnowitz@sanjoseca.gov

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Historic Preservation Officer