

MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL

REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER AND STAFF

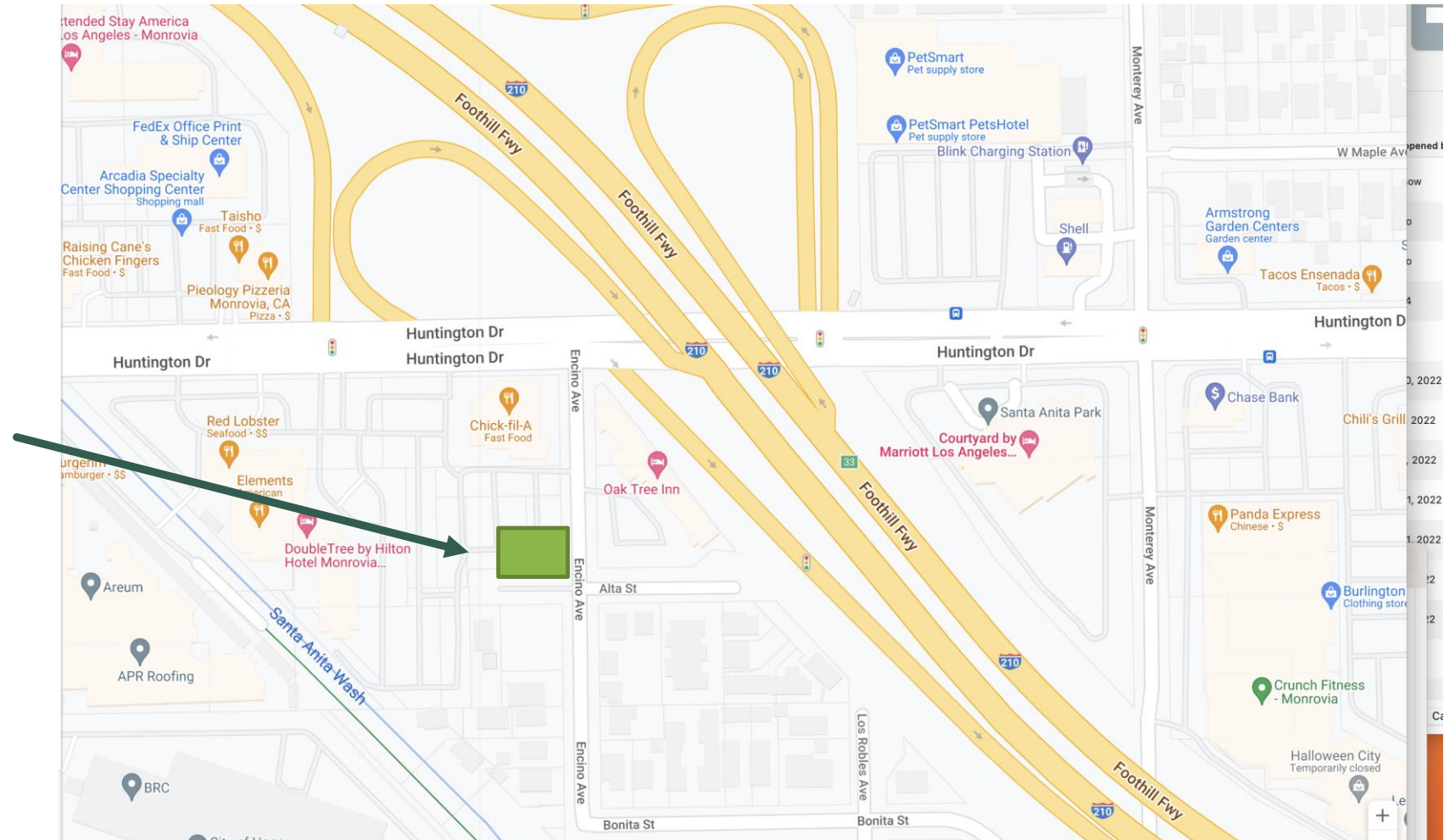
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023



Call for Nominations Related to the Naming of the New Park

NEW PARK LOCATION – I I I I ENCINO AVENUE

As a part of the development of the former Claim Jumper site, The Hale Corporation donated approximately 8,600 square feet to the City for the purpose of a new park in South Monrovia.



EXISTING SITE



OBJECTIVE

- Share with the Council and the community the Call for Nominations for naming the new park
- Provide an overview on the Guidelines related to naming the new park
- Share the Process for adopting a name for the new park
- Provide some background and history surrounding this neighborhood with the goal of inspiring potential name recommendations

FACILITY NAMING POLICY

General Policy

- City Council approved a **Facility and Street Naming Policy** in September of 2016 in an effort to create a consistent and uniform procedure in the naming or renaming of City facilities and streets.
- The Policy established guidelines and a process for naming or renaming of City facilities and streets.
- The Policy gives the City Council the final authority in all naming decisions.
- The Policy outlines a waiting period of 3 years after the death of an individual prior to consideration. This requirement may be waived through an affirmative vote of at least four(4) City Council members.

FACILITY NAMING POLICY

Guidelines

- The name recommendation must recognize natural features related to the Monrovia community or honor an individual(s) or organization who have made significant contributions to the betterment of the community
 - Protection of natural or cultural resources
 - Betterment of a specific facility or park
 - Contributions to the advancement of recreational opportunities
 - Associated with an economic development or redevelopment activity in the City of Monrovia
 - Positive impact on the lives of Monrovia's residents
 - Volunteered for ten (10) or more years of service to the community

FACILITY NAMING POLICY

Procedure

- Requests for naming of a City facility shall be submitted to the City Manager's Office in writing on the City's Facility Naming Application Form.
- **Due Date Thursday, September 28, 2023 5:00p.m.**
- If the proposed facility name is in recognition of a person(s) or organization, the applicant is required to provide clear evidence that the person or organization to be honored has made a significant and lasting contribution to the betterment of the City of Monrovia.



City of Monrovia Facility and Street Naming Application

Applicants Name: _____ Applicants Phone #: _____

Applicants Email: _____

Facility / Street Being Considered: _____

Individual / Organization to be Recognized: _____

Proposed Name: _____

Please check all that apply:

- Is the individual deceased? If yes, what was the year of their death: _____
- The person or organization made lasting and significant* contributions to the protection of natural or cultural resources of the City of Monrovia.
- The person or organization made substantial contributions* to the betterment of a specific facility or park consistent with the established standards for the facility.
- The person or organization made substantial contributions* to the advancement of recreational opportunities with the City of Monrovia.
- The person or organization was associated with an economic development or redevelopment activity.
- The person or organization had a positive impact on the lives of Monrovia's residents.
- The person or organization volunteered for ten (10) or more years of service to the community.

*Please provide additional information as to how / why the contribution of the individual or organization was significant or substantial not to exceed two (2) typed pages.

FACILITY NAMING POLICY PROCESS

Application for
proposed name is
submitted

City Manager
Reviews

Community
Services
Commission
Reviews & Makes
Recommendation

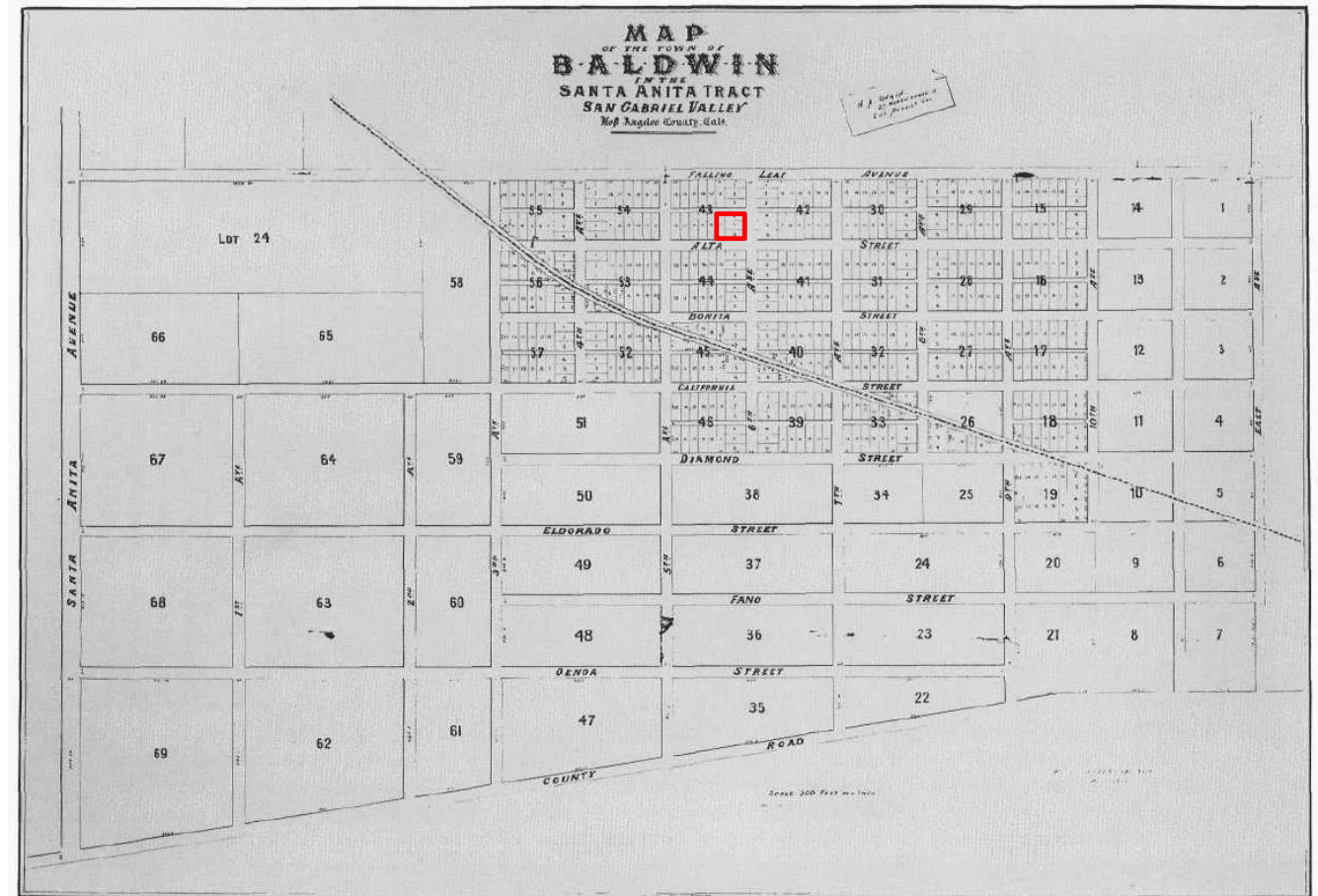
City Council
Reviews &
Decides

DISCOVER ITS HISTORY

While we are not looking to name the Park tonight, we do want to share some themes that have emerged and may impact the parks identity.

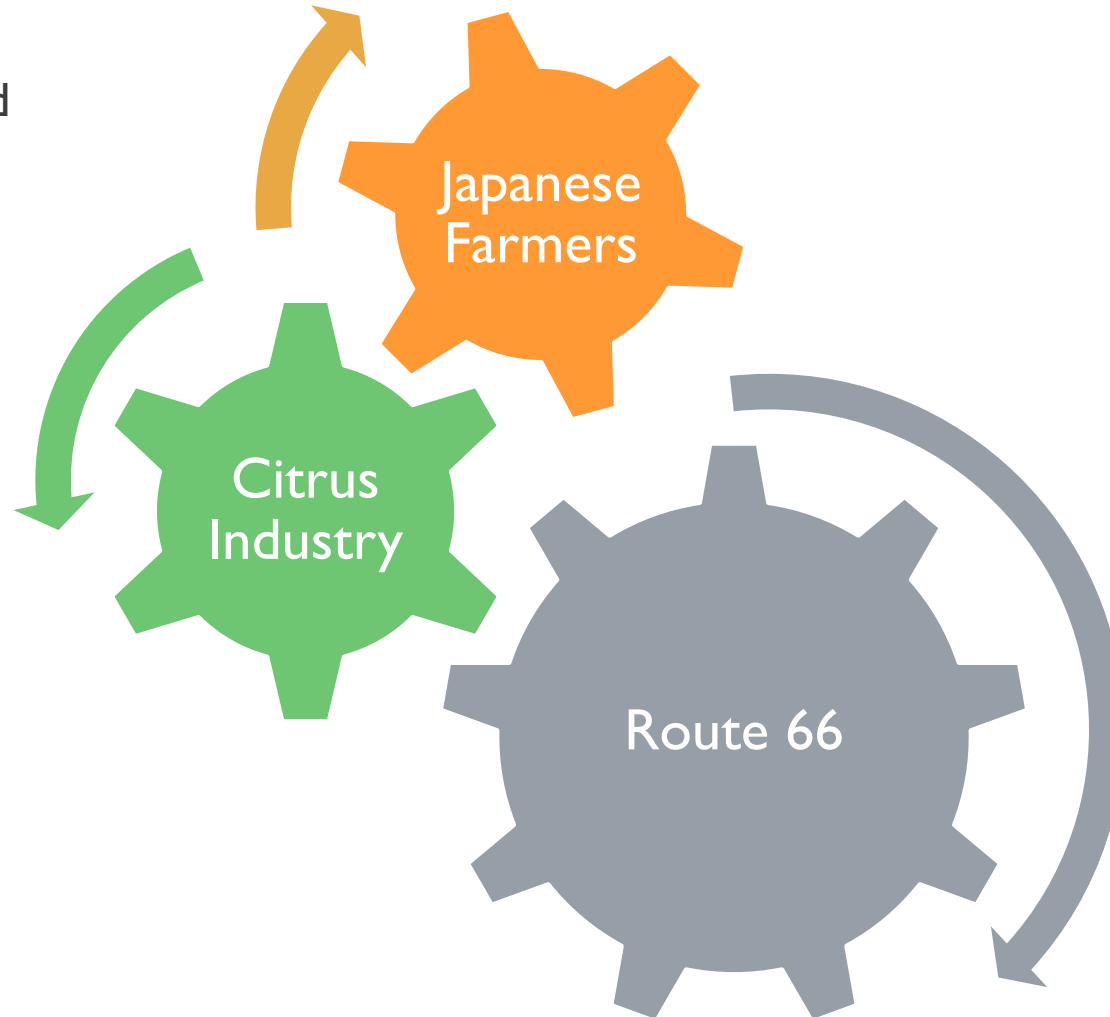
Initial facts on the history of the area were gathered from local history resources:

- *Monrovia Historical Museum*
- *Monrovia Historical Society*
- *MOHPG*
- *Pam Barkas*
- *Susie Ling*
- *Community Services Commissioner Edward Belden*
- *Community Development Director Craig Jimenez*



POSSIBLE THEMES

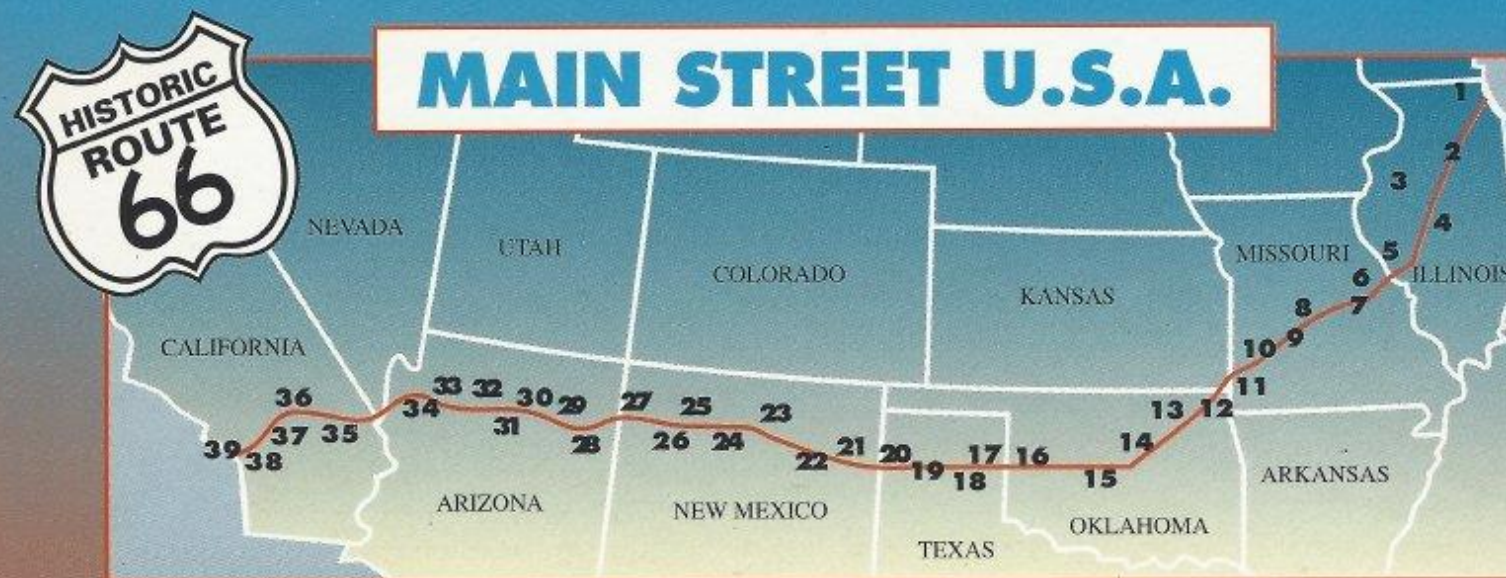
Three themes have emerged as we learned more about this neighborhood.



- The popular Route 66 corridor along Huntington took travelers west to the beach and east to the desert.
- The area was populated with fruit and citrus orchards.
- Many Japanese farmers were important to the produce industry and often unrecognized.

ROUTE 66

Route 66 opened in 1926 and will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2026.



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. CHICAGO | 14. OKLAHOMA CITY | 27. GALLOP |
| 2. JOLIET | 15. EL RENO | 28. HOLBROOK |
| 3. PONTIAC | 16. ELK CITY | 29. WINSLOW |
| 4. BLOOMINGTON | 17. SHAMROCK | 30. WINONA |
| 5. SPRINGFIELD | 18. MC LEAN | 31. FLAGSTAFF |
| 6. ST. LOUIS | 19. AMARILLO | 32. WILLIAMS |
| 7. STANTON | 20. VEGA | 33. SELIGMAN |
| 8. ROLLA | 21. TUCUMCARI | 34. KINGMAN |
| 9. SPRINGFIELD | 22. SANTA ROSA | 35. NEEDLES |
| 10. JOPLIN | 23. MORIARTY | 36. BARSTOW |
| 11. BAXTER SPRINGS | 24. ALBUQUERQUE | 37. SAN BERNARDINO |
| 12. TULSA | 25. GRANTS | 38. PASADENA |
| 13. SAPULPA | 26. CONTINENTAL DIVIDE | 39. LOS ANGELES |



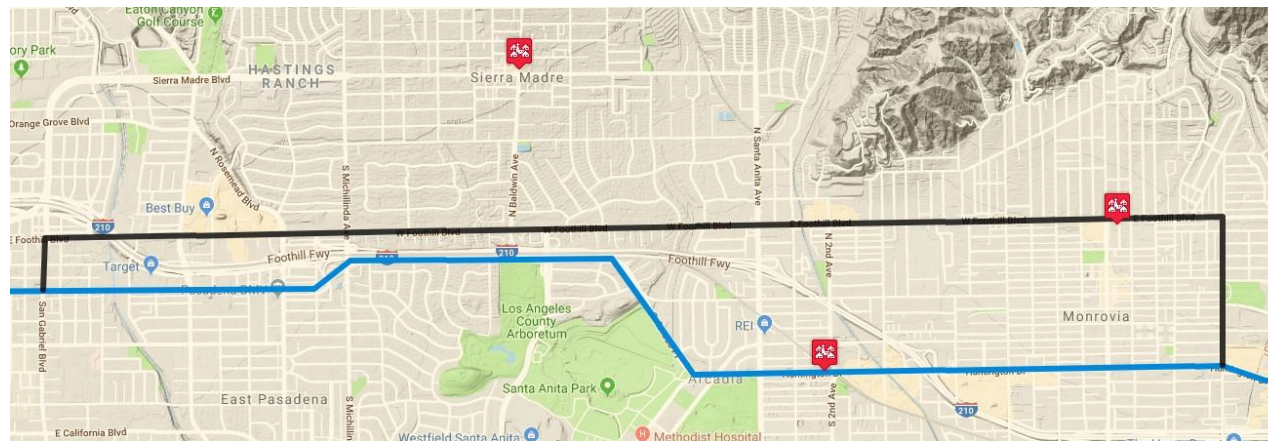
ROUTE 66 – TWO ROUTES THROUGH MONROVIA



When it was established in 1926-1927, US Route 66 entered Monrovia on Huntington Drive and originally went north (right) on Shamrock and turned west (left) at Foothill Blvd.

But in the early 1930s Arcadia successfully lobbied the State Dept of Transportation and in 1933, Route 66 was realigned to continued on Huntington through Arcadia to take drivers through Arcadia's central business district.

By 1950 the original route was abandoned and there was a single route on Huntington Drive through Monrovia.



Source: Steve Baker:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfEMPmabQOc>

SIGNIFICANCE OF HUNTINGTON DRIVE



Huntington Drive was:

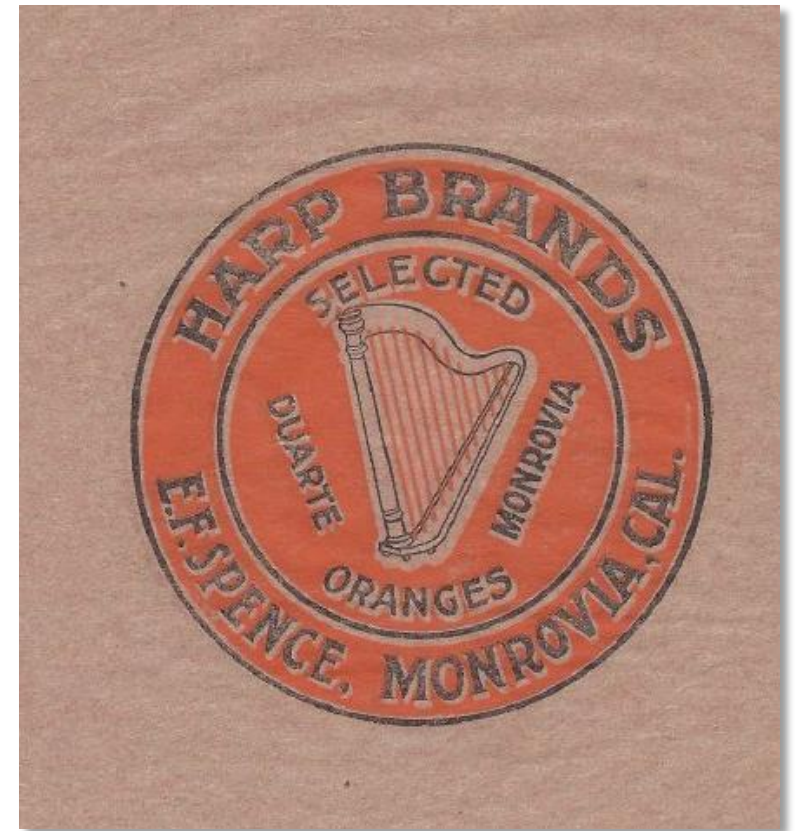
- First designated a street in 1883 when Lucky Baldwin surveyed and subdivided his Rancho Santa Anita.
- Originally named Falling Leaf.
- A two-lane road for 40 years.
- A symbol of the rancho and the orange grove eras in Monrovia and Southern California.
- After WWI renamed to honor Henry E. Huntington, whose Pacific Electric Railway reached Monrovia in 1903
- Widened to four lanes and repaved in 1929 to accommodate the growth in automobiles.

Source: Steve Baker

CITRUS INDUSTRY



- The citrus industry was a key to Monrovia's development.
- The climate, open land and new railroads connecting farmers with markets, saw the expansion of the citrus industry throughout Monrovia and neighboring towns.
- Many of the early settlers such as Monroe, Pile, Spence and others had citrus orchards.

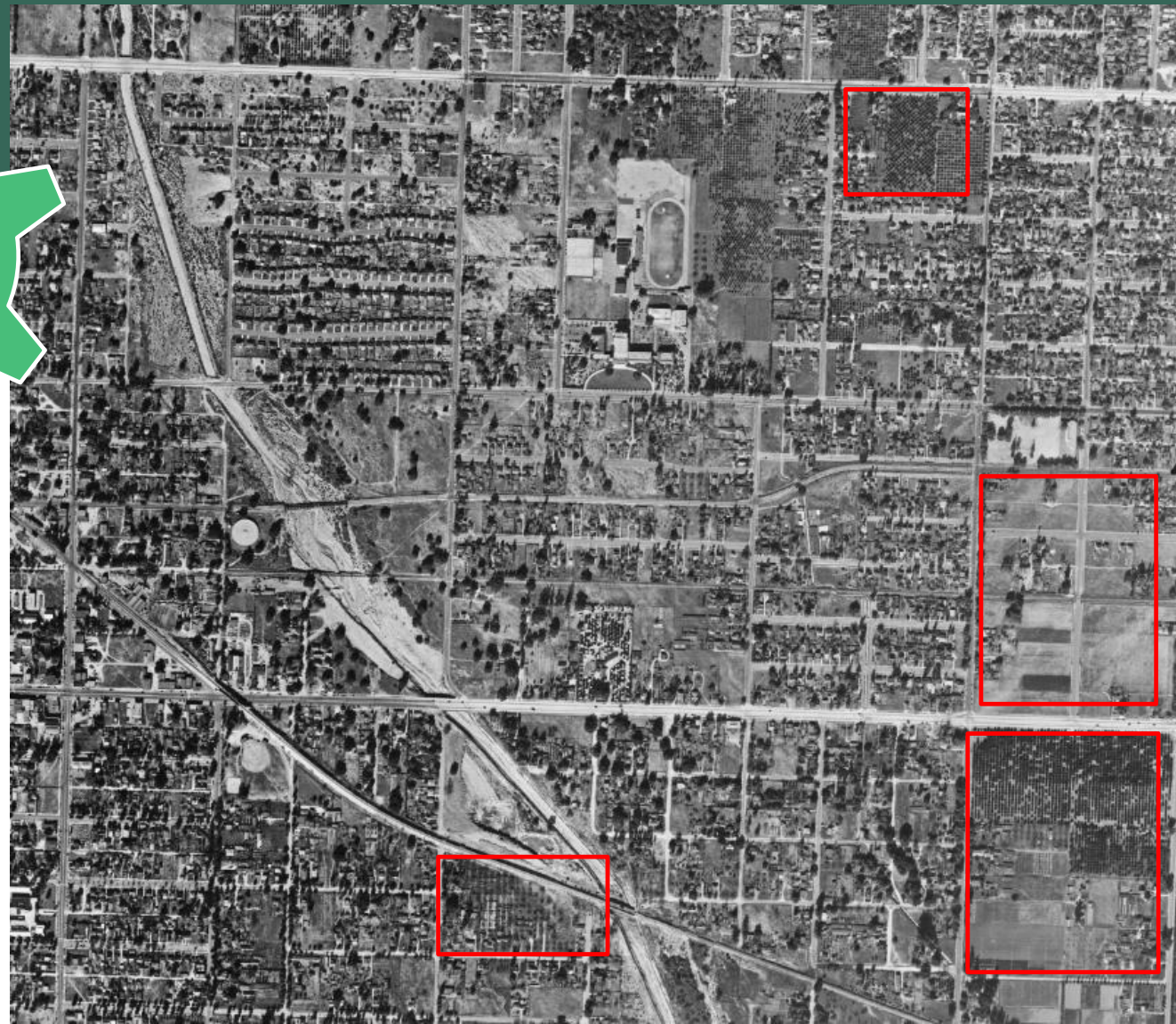


CITRUS INDUSTRY



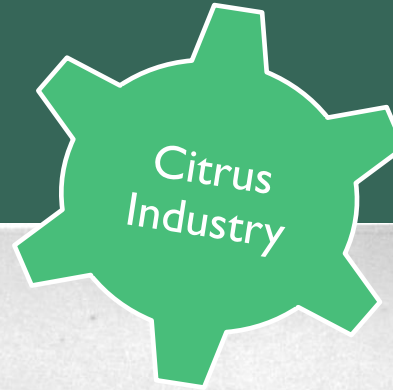
The area near the property was subdivided in the early 1900's to facilitate agriculture, specifically citrus, through WWII and further subdivided in the 1950's.

There were many produce stands selling fresh juice and produce from the local farms.



ROUTE 66 + CITRUS

- The McDonald Brothers' first food stands sold food for Route 66 travelers.
- They first sold oranges and orange juice from local farms – and then added food.
- They had stands on each side of the highway
 - Airdrome at 742 E. Huntington Drive
 - "Giant Orange" at 721 E. Huntington.



Photos and content courtesy of the Monrovia Historical Society's Monrovia Legacy Project

JAPANESE FARMERS



- Families like the Uyedas, Tsuneishis, Asanos, Morimotos, Kuromiyas and others came to Monrovia to build strawberry farms, grocery stores, fruit stands and more.
- After Pearl Harbor, many Japanese Monroviaans were sent to Internment Camps. After their release, many returned to Monrovia and graduated their children from Monrovia schools, resumed their businesses, and continued to contribute to the community.
- Their contributions made significant advancements for local agriculture and business interests.
- While the City celebrates the history of Japanese Monroviaans on the corner of Mayflower Avenue and 300 West Cypress Avenue with the 4th Neighborhood Treasure, their stories could be highlighted more.



Photo courtesy of Susie Ling

JAPANESE FARMERS

Japanese
Farmers

- The Uyeda family had a fruit stand at 331 W. Huntington that sold strawberries and other fruit grown on their farm on City land between Mayflower and Magnolia just north of Huntington Drive.
- The Los Angeles Times dubbed Mr. Uyeda “Monrovia’s Strawberry King”.
- While the family was interned during WWII, a neighboring family cared for their farm.



Photos courtesy of Susie Ling

JAPANESE FARMERS



- The Tsuneishi family farmed strawberries and ran a fruit stand on Route 66 in Monrovia.
- During World War II, members of the family were sent to the Heart Mountain, Wyoming internment camp, even as four of the sons served in the US armed forces.



Photo courtesy of Susie Ling

JAPANESE FARMERS

Japanese
Farmers



The Tsuneishi family fruit stand on Huntington Drive.

Photo courtesy of Susie Ling



Mother Tsuneishi (left) is with a 4 Blue Stars Flag for her four sons serving in the war.

JAPANESE FARMERS

Japanese
Farmers

- The James Kuromiya family farmed strawberries and ran a fruit stand at 201 W Huntington on Route 66.
- When the family were interned during WWII, one of the sons - Yosh - was imprisoned for refusing to serve in the military that interned his family.
- Grandson Steven Kiyoshi Kuromiya became a civil rights and gay rights activist.



Photo courtesy of Susie Ling

ALSO ON HUNTINGTON

- By 1955 a string of car dealerships on Huntington Drive catered to the automobile culture that made excursions on Route 66 popular.
- One was the McDonald & O'Boyle Chevrolet at 201 W Huntington.



Photos and content courtesy of the Monrovia Historical Society's Monrovia Legacy Project

NEXT STEPS...

- Should City Council agree, the next step would be to open the nominations for a Park name.
- Staff will promote the Call for Nominations through the City Managers weekly message as well as through other social media outlets.
- **Application shall be submitted to the City Manager's Office (City Clerk), no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 28.**
- Staff will present the nomination to the Community Services Commission at their October 10 meeting.
- Staff will bring a recommendation to the City Council at the October 17 meeting.

QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION

