
From Orange Groves to Servant's Quarters: Riverside's Forgotten Chinese



Riverside's early history coincided with the migration of thousands of Chinese men from Southern China to California. Early settlers relied on Chinese labor for domestic help, laundry services, fresh produce, and manual labor.

The Chinese significantly contributed to the development of Riverside's

citrus industry with many working in the groves and packinghouses. Riverside's small Chinatown, though normally a peaceful place, would periodically erupt into violence when the anti-Chinese segment of the predominately white population reacted angrily towards their presence. Around 1890, Riverside's Chinese population peaked and then slowly dwindled after restrictive immigration laws were enforced.

The original owner of Heritage House was Catherine Bettner. Mrs. Bettner, like many others at the time, employed Chinese men as servants and cooks. A small back room located on the second floor of the house was once "the servant's quarters". The room is modestly furnished with the typical belongings of what a Chinese domestic servant might have in the 1890s.



About the Chinese Moon Festival

The Chinese Moon Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, is one of the most important holidays in the Chinese Calendar. It is celebrated every year on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month when the moon is at its fullest and brightest. Much like Thanksgiving in the United States, the festival is a time for families to come together and celebrate with food and other traditions.



What is a Mooncake?

Mooncakes are traditional Chinese pastries important to the Moon Festival. Traditional mooncakes are made with a sweet bean paste, but can be made using a variety of ingredients.

Welcome to the 10th Annual Chinese Moon Festival!

*The Festival is done in partnership with Riverside Huaxia
Chinese School and Riverside Astronomical Society*

Lion Dance Performance

Storytelling by Barbara Wong

Learn the legend of the Rabbit on the Moon and many more!

Tai Chi Demonstration

Mooncakes and Tea

Enjoy this special chinese pastry (\$2 each) & complimentary tea

Get Your Name in Chinese Calligraphy

Chopstick training

Chinese Games

Decorate Your Own Lantern

Tangram Puzzles

Chinese Knotting

Operate a Real Citrus Sizer

Cooking demonstration with authentic Chinese cuisine

View the full moon with high-powered telescopes

Courtesy of the Riverside Astronomical Society

Riverside's Chinatown

View Riverside's Chinatown artifacts and photographs from the Museum's collections telling the story of what life was like as a Chinese immigrant during the city's earlier days.



Riverside Metropolitan MUSEUM

Heritage House is owned and operated by the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, a department of the City of Riverside and steward of the public trust of artifacts, archives, and historic sites owned by the City of Riverside. The RMM is responsible for three historic sites: National Historic Landmark Harada House, and the National Register listed Museum and Victorian House Museum Heritage House.

Heritage House & Gift Shop Hours

Open September from the 1st weekend after labor day through June

Friday - Sunday: Noon - 3:30 pm

Admission: Free

Suggested Donation \$5

SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Victorian Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 8, 2013

12 - 4 pm | Free | Heritage House

Step back in time and experience the spirit of a traditional Victorian Christmas one would have seen in the 1890s. This family-friendly celebration features Father Christmas; a unique range of musical entertainment which includes caroling, autoharps, dulcimers, bagpipes, and a barbershop quartet; home-baked sweets; and hot-mulled cider.

Check out these upcoming programs and events!

Asian Pacific American Young Historian Program

Now Accepting Applications! First Workshop: Sept 26

Arts Walk - "Topics of Local Native American" Panel Discussion

October 3, 2013 | 6 - 9 pm | Free | Riverside Metropolitan Museum

First Sundays - "Native American Basketweaving & Fry Bread"

October 6, 2013 | 1 - 4 pm | Free | Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Discovery Days

October 16, 2013 | 1:30 - 4:30 pm | Free | Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Journaling with John Muir

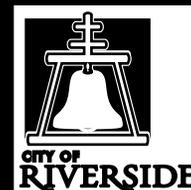
October 19, 2013 | 2 - 4 pm | Free | Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Chinese MOON FESTIVAL

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Sept
19
2013

Free | 6 - 8 PM



RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

HERITAGE HOUSE

■ VICTORIAN HOUSE AND MUSEUM

8193 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, CA 92504 | (951) 826-5273 | www.riversideca.gov/museum