

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF RIVERSIDE CANAL

At the proposed bridge location near the I-215 interchange is a single potentially historical resource best described as an open concrete-lined water conveyance channel. The channel extends from Spruce Street roughly north before turning west and passing beneath the AT&SF railroad. The channel is still an operational segment of the City of Riverside water system.

A search of available records could not establish whether this channel is associated with the Riverside Canal located some 400 feet (122 meters) to the north, or with the Gage Canal situated approximately 1½ miles (2.4 kilometers) south at the intersection of SR 60 and University Avenue. Both the Riverside and Gage canals have been assessed as historical resources for the purposes of CEQA; both have been evaluated as potentially eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (Starzak 1992; Wlodarski 1992). Of the Riverside Upper Canal it has been said that although a full extent of contributing and non-contributing elements has not been established the open segments of the system are considered to retain integrity (Starzak 1992) and are significant. Likewise it has been determined that the Gage Canal still retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association, and has made a significant contribution to local and regional history (Wlodarski 1992).

Whether the channelized drainage at the proposed bridge location is an element of the Riverside Upper Canal or the Gage Canal, this segment is not part of the main canal of either system. The channelized segment at Spruce Street likely represents a severed segment of the Riverside Canal or a lateral feeder of the Gage Canal. This segment also does not retain integrity. Construction associated with the I-215 interchange has drastically modified the local terrain. To the north, east, and west of the channel is the I-215 four way interchange and associated fly-over. To the south is Spruce Street and an industrialized equipment yard. The channel itself has been re-contoured, realigned, and lined with concrete. The design of the early channel has been so drastically altered as to no longer retain integrity of design, workmanship, or feeling. The environment no longer retains integrity or association. Therefore, this structure is not considered a contributing element of either the Riverside Canal or the Gage Canal and construction of the proposed bridge will not have an adverse effect on a significant historical resource.

REFERENCE CITED:

Starzak, Rick

1996 Primary Record: CA-RIV-004495/H. State of California – Resource Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation. On file at the Eastern Information Center, University of California-Riverside. Prepared by Myra Frank & Associates.

Wlodarski, Robert

1992 *Archaeological Site Record: CA-RIV-4768H*. On file at the Eastern Information Center, University of California-Riverside.