



# City of Riverside Series: Downtown Riverside

## HISTORY

Riverside was founded in 1870 by John W. North and the Southern California Colony Association. Then in 1873 a woman by the name of Eliza Tibbets planted two navel orange trees. The citrus trees thrived in the warm days and cold nights. The orange navel trees had a reputation of being sweet, seedless, and easy to peel. Eventually, Riverside became one of America's citrus' capitols.

The citrus industry brought wealth to Riverside in two-ways. First, through the growing and selling of citrus, second, through travel. Travelers would come to Riverside for both the climate and the citrus.

“In 1895, Riverside enjoyed the highest per capita income in the country, and that level of wealth continued for years to come.”<sup>1</sup> This assisted in developing “the small agriculture town into a thriving city”<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Lech, S. (2007). *Images of America: Riverside 1870-1940*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, p. 7

<sup>2</sup> Lech. (2007), p. 7.



## **ACTIVITY**

Over the years Riverside has grown exponentially, from a small town to a citrus giant to a historic center. We invite you to share your personal historical photographs. So, we can reminisce in the memory of Riverside's development.

### **Materials:**

- Camera
- Photographs

### **Directions:**

1. Find Photographs.
2. Discuss them with Friends and Family.
3. Share them with us!



## Content Resources

If you are interested in learning more history about Riverside and the citrus industry, check out the resources below.

California State Parks. *Irrigation – The Gage Canal*. [Website] [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=22584](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22584)

California State Parks. *Preserving the Cultural Landscape of the Citrus Industry*. [Website] [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=649](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=649)

Lech, Steve. *Images of America: Riverside 1870-1940*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2007.