* Resource Name or #: Furuta House #1
* P1. Other Identifier: 

* P2. Location: 
  a. County Orange 
  b. USGS 7.5’ Quad Date T ; R ; 1/4 of 1/4 of Sec ; B.M. 
  c. Address 7642 Warner Avenue City Huntington Beach Zip 92647 
  d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear feature) Zone _____, _____mE/_____mN 
  e. Other Locational Data: (e.g. parcel #, legal description, directions to resource, elevation, additional UTMs, etc. as app 

* P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.) Capped by a front-facing gabled roof, this one-story Craftsman style dwelling of wood frame construction on a raised foundation is sheathed primarily with board-and-batten siding. Roof elements include carved bargeboards, exposed rafter tails, triangular brackets, and wood shingles in the gable face. The projecting center entry porch is sheltered by a front-gabled roof that mirrors the main roof in its design. Tapered square wood posts support the porch roof. A board-and-batten railing encloses the porch space. The wooden front steps are missing and the wood-framed windows are currently boarded up, but previous research indicates that the windows were originally wood sash. A band of windows, including a laundry porch, is located on the south end of the house. A metal security door has been added to the front entry. An addition to the house projects from the west elevation and contains three windows. The building is becoming dilapidated although its integrity is high. There are a few bushes and mature trees near the residence.

A historic photograph dated May 18th 1930 depicts the west and north elevations of Furuta House #1 in the background of a group photo of the Mission congregation. A comparison with current conditions reveals few changes have occurred to the dwelling, including the fact that the addition to the house (noted above) had already been completed by 1930.

* P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP 2. Single-Family Residence 
* P4. Resources Present: ✓Building ✓Structure □Object □Site □District □Element of District □Other (Isolates, etc.) 

* P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects) 

* P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, etc.) North elevation, lkg south 6/16/2011 

* P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: 1912 

* P7. Owner and Address: 
  Nichols St. Properties LLC 
  PO Box 1026, Huntington Beach 
  92647 

* P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address) 
  Peter Moruzzi, David Greenwood 
  ICF International 
  811 West 7th Street, Suite 800 
  Los Angeles, CA 90017 


* P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive Level Survey 

* P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report/other sources or "none") 

* Attachments: □NONE □Location Map □Sketch Map ✓Continuation Sheet ✓Building, Structure, and Object Record 
  □Archaeological Record □District Record □Linear Feature Record □Milling Station Record □Rock Art Record □Artifact Record 
  □Photograph Record □Other: (List) 

* Required Information
In 1912, Charles Mitsui Furuta (1882-1953), a native of Japan, built a home for himself and his family to the east of the Japanese Presbyterian Mission (later known as the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church). Mr. Furuta was a prominent supporter of the Church from its inception. Orange County directories first identify him as a laborer, but by the 1920s, he was raising goldfish in ponds south of the Mission. Living with Mr. Furuta were his Japanese-born wife Yukiko (Yashima) Furuta (1895-1989) and children Grace (who later worked as a nurse), Kazuko, and Raymond (Ray) Hirakaru Furuta (1914-1995). By the 1940s, Ray's wife, Martha M. Furuta, was also living at the same residence. It wasn't until the late 1940s that directories listed the Furutas' address as 7642 Wintersburg Avenue. Up until then, their mailing address, as well as that of the Mission, was a box on Rural Delivery Route 1. (Evidently, Wintersburg Avenue did not become Warner Avenue until after the area was annexed by the City of Huntington Beach as the North #1 Annexation of August 1957).

In 1947, Ray and Martha Furuta moved to a new house at 17102 South Nichols Street. By then, directories were identifying both Charles and Ray Furuta as "horticulturalists." Ray Furuta became well-known for the Japanese lilies he grew in the goldfish ponds his father had created north of his house. (continued on page 3)
B10. Significance continued.

Context:
Born in Ohio in 1860, Mr. Winters founded the Orange County town that would later bear his name by purchasing twenty acres from which he harvested a variety of crops. His display of vegetables at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition is credited with putting Orange County's agricultural resources on the map. Mr. Winters served as president of the California Celery Company in 1898 and went to the East Coast to publicize the product. He donated two lots to the community of Wintersburg, one for the freight depot and another for a mercantile store. In exchange for his efforts, the townspeople circulated a petition that the town be named Wintersburg. Mr. Winters and his wife Cordelia later moved to the City of Orange.

Wintersburg remained a very small, scattered town. It had its own post office for only a few years around the turn-of-the-twentieth-century and briefly hosted its own telephone exchange and a section in the Huntington Beach local newspaper. The 1918 Orange County directory described it as having "good schools, churches, and mercantile establishments" with regular auto stage connections with Huntington Beach and Santa Ana. However, the census of 1930 counted only 52 inhabitants, not including a settlement adjacent to Ocean View School, which had become the center of the community. In the later 1930s, according to the Huntington Beach Historical Society, the Wintersburg area served as home to the Alpha Beta markets' feedlot and meat packing plant. In 1957, Wintersburg was annexed into the City of Huntington Beach.

The Wintersburg area was known for its relatively large Japanese-American population which had begun with the arrival of farmhands around 1893, joining the Chinese and Italian laborers who had preceded them. One source says that at least seventy Japanese workers lived in bunkhouses in the Smeltzer/Wintersburg area and observations were made that they adhered to their ethnic customs which seemed strange to their Anglo neighbors. Similar to what their colleagues were undergoing elsewhere in California, the Japanese were discriminated against, first generation (or Issei) immigrants being forbidden to own property. However, by the 1920s, the Japanese community had become better accepted. Japanese-American farmers built up extensive agricultural holdings in the Wintersburg area where they raised peppers, beans, and various other products. Fish farms and hatcheries, such as the goldfish ponds tended by Charles Furuta, were other specializations of the local Japanese-American community. During World War II, Japanese-Americans in California were rounded up and sent to internment camps throughout the western United States. Many lost their properties, although a few were watched over by sympathetic neighbors. (The Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church escaped confiscation because, by church law, it belonged to the local Presbytery rather than to the congregation).

Significance:
At the rear of the property containing Furuta House #1 is a large barn consisting of a front facing gable that is covered by very old wood shingles. The north (front) elevation is dominated by two large sliding doors made of vertically laid boards. The west elevation has an addition clad in board-and-batten siding and covered by a shed roof. The addition extends around the south and east elevations with the barn’s gabled roof visible above the shed-like roof of the addition. The barn exhibits a moderate level of integrity due to additions and alterations over the years and is exceptionally dilapidated.

An oral interview with Mrs. Yukiko Furuta indicates that the original house constructed for herself and her husband, Charles Furuta, was built in late 1912. No original building permits are extant in City files for this dwelling or others on the site since they were constructed when the area was identified as the unincorporated community of Wintersburg. Initially, the house had two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. There was no electricity, gas, or indoor bathroom. According to Mrs. Furuta, their house “was very remarkable and everyone else admired it very much, because other Japanese who owned houses bought old houses. But [we] built a new house. Only three Japanese families around here then owned houses.” Around 1920 the house was expanded to accommodate a growing family. An indoor bathroom and a dining room were added at that time. In November 1952, the Assessor described Furuta House #1 as a one-story frame residence erected in 1914. It had a wood foundation, board-and-batten walls, and a gabled shingled roof (the foundation was later described as “raised concrete.”) The house contained two living rooms (one was probably a dining room), two bedrooms, and a kitchen. According to permits on file with the City of Huntington Beach, alterations costing $300 were permitted for the house in November 1968 and its electrical system was upgraded in October 1997. As of 1982, when the oral interview was conducted, Mrs. Furuta had resided...
in the house for 70 years.

In 1912, Charles and Yukiko Furuta moved into the subject dwelling that had been constructed for them by a Caucasian carpenter. It was located east of the Japanese Presbyterian Mission that sat upon land that Mr. Furuta had donated to the Mission in 1910. Mr. Furuta was a prominent supporter of the Church from its inception.

In 1986, the Japanese American Council of Orange County published a Historic Building Survey of pre-1940 Japanese-related sites, identifying the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church (both the 1910 and 1934 buildings), the 1910 Pastor’s House, and the Furuta’s original house as being among 33 surviving buildings of historical interest to the County. The Council stated that the buildings identified on the Survey “form a link…to history which can still be seen today.” In the succeeding 25 years, some of the 33 buildings, including the Garden Grove Japanese School, have been demolished. The original 1910 buildings associated with the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church are identified on the survey as the oldest surviving Japanese-American religious structures in Orange County. (The only other building listed on the survey is the Japanese Free Methodist Church in Anaheim, the buildings of which date from 1922).

Referring to the former Wintersburg Presbyterian Mission, Church and associated buildings, a letter dated September 23, 2011 from the pastor of the current Wintersburg Presbyterian Church located in Santa Ana states “This property has a rich history dating back to the Japanese Presbyterian Mission founding in 1904…. The Wintersburg community was once a very vital part of Orange County’s Christian and agricultural development. The Wintersburg property and Furuta family home also tell the story of Japanese Americans in California…. It is unique for the fact the buildings remain, as many early Japanese American sites have been demolished.”

Electronic communication from Donna Graves, Director of Preserving California’s Japantowns dated September 28, 2011 notes that Orange County Archivist Phil Brigandi wrote “There is no doubt in my mind that the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church complex (including the adjoining Furuta House) is far and away the most significant Japanese-American historical site in Orange County.” The email also states that California State University at Fullerton Professor Emeritus Arthur Hansen described the church complex as “a priceless part of the Japanese American heritage in Orange County…. Arguably the most important structures representative of the Nikkei legacy in our county.” Ms. Graves further states, “Our research for the statewide survey, ‘Preserving California’s Projects,’ confirmed in 2007 that this is an unusually intact and significant collection of historic buildings with important connections to the history of Japanese Americans in Orange County. Not only does the site have great local significance, it is a rare example of an intact complex of buildings that reflect a thriving immigrant population from the early 20th century.”

Except for Furuta House #1, the adjacent Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church #1 and #2, and the Pastor’s House, very little evidence of the Japanese American presence in Huntington Beach remains extant. In addition, within the broad context of Orange County history, the Furuta House #1 has considerable significance. Representing a way of life that has just about vanished from the urban areas of Southern California, it is among the few surviving examples from one of Orange County’s earliest Anglo settlements and among a dwindling number of historic resources related to Japanese-American life in the County.

As a result, Furuta House #1 appears eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register for its association with patterns of settlement in Orange County, including the Japanese-American community, under Criterion A and 1, respectively, at the local level of significance. However, it does not appear that Charles or Yukiko Furuta achieved a sufficient level of importance as historic personages for the dwelling to warrant National Register or California Register eligibility under Criterion B or 2, respectively. In terms of architectural significance, the Craftsman style dwelling, while exhibiting a relatively high level of integrity, does not represent an especially good example of the style, type or method of construction – nor does it represent the work of a master – to warrant listing in the National Register or California Register under criteria related to architectural merit (Criterion C or 3, respectively).

Regarding the barn, visual inspection suggests that it was constructed around the same time as the original Furuta House. However, there is no reference to the barn in the oral interview of Mrs. Yukiko Furuta nor have any historic photographs of the
barn been located. While the barn is clearly associated with the Furuta family and was most likely used for agricultural activities related to the family’s goldfish, water lily, and snow pea businesses, evidence of alterations/additions to the barn have degraded the structure’s integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. As a result, the barn does not appear eligible for designation under any criteria.
Barn. West and north elevations.

Barn. West elevation
Furuta House #2

Capped by a medium-pitched hipped roof, this one-story Minimal Traditional style single-family residence is clad in stucco and wide clapboard siding. Roof elements include shallow eaves and exposed rafters. Fenestration consists of a mix of steel-framed casements and non-original aluminum sliders. A deeply recessed front entry porch situated near the north end of the primary (west) elevation is clad with vertical boards. An attached double-car garage located at the north end of the dwelling is recessed from the main portion of the house. A bedroom wing extends east from the south elevation. Landscaping consists of a grass front lawn, shrubs, and numerous mature trees. The property exhibits a high level of physical integrity.
The original tax assessor's record indicates that the dwelling was erected in 1947 for owner Ray Furuta. There is no evidence from the tax assessor suggesting that the house was expanded or that there were any alterations.

In 1912, Charles Mitsui Furuta (1882-1953), a native of Japan, had a home constructed for himself and his family at 7642 Warner Avenue (known as the Furuta House #1). It was located just north of the subject property on an adjacent parcel. The original Furuta House was erected east of the Japanese Presbyterian Mission (later known as the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church). Charles Furuta was a prominent supporter of the Church from its inception. Orange County directories first identify him as a laborer, but by the 1920s, he was raising goldfish in ponds south of the Mission. Living with Mr. Furuta were his Japanese-born wife Yukiko (Yashima) Furuta (1895-1989) and children Grace (who later worked as a nurse), Kazuko, and Raymond (Ray) Hirakaru Furuta (1914-1995), the owner of the subject property. By the 1940s, Ray's wife, Martha M. Furuta, was also living at the Warner Avenue residence. It wasn't until the late 1940s that directories listed the Furutas' address as 7642 Wintersburg Avenue. Up until then, their mailing address, as well as that of the Mission, was a box on Rural Delivery Route 1. (Evidently, Wintersburg Avenue did not become Warner Avenue until after the area was annexed by the City of Huntington Beach as the North #1 Annexation of August 1957).

(continued on page 3)
B10. Significance (continued)

In 1947, Ray and Martha Furuta moved to a new house at 17102 S. Nichols Lane (the subject property). By then, directories were identifying both Charles and Ray Furuta as "horticulturists." Ray Furuta became well-known for the Japanese lilies he grew in the goldfish ponds his father had created north of the Warner Avenue house.

The Wintersburg area was known for its relatively large Japanese-American population which had begun with the arrival of farmhands around 1893, joining the Chinese and Italian laborers who had preceded them. One source says that at least seventy Japanese workers lived in bunkhouses in the Smeltzer/Wintersburg area and observations were made that they adhered to their ethnic customs which seemed strange to their Anglo neighbors. Similar to what their colleagues were undergoing elsewhere in California, the Japanese were discriminated against, first generation (or Issei) immigrants being forbidden to own property. However, by the 1920s, the Japanese community had become better accepted. Japanese-American farmers built up extensive agricultural holdings in the Wintersburg area where they raised peppers, beans, and various other products. Fish farms and hatcheries, such as the goldfish ponds tended by Charles Furuta, were other specializations of the local Japanese-American community. During World War II, Japanese-Americans in California were rounded up and sent to internment camps throughout the western United States. Many lost their properties, although a few were watched over by sympathetic neighbors. (The Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church escaped confiscation because, by church law, it belonged to the local Presbytery rather than to the congregation).

Except for the original Furuta House and the Japanese Presbyterian Church, very little remains of Wintersburg. Within the broad context of Orange County history, the original Furuta residence has considerable significance. Representing a way of life that has just about vanished from the urban areas of Southern California, it is among the very few surviving buildings from one of Orange County's earliest Anglo settlements and is among a dwindling number of historic resources related to the Japanese-American life in the County. As a result, the original Furuta House was found eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with patterns of settlement in Orange County, including the Japanese American community, under Criterion A at the local level of significance.

The historic association of Furuta House #2 is with Raymond H. Furuta and his wife Martha Furuta because the dwelling was built for them, according to tax assessor records and the oral interview with Mrs. Yukiko Furuta (Ray Furuta’s mother). As relates to significance, the key association with the ethnic heritage of Wintersburg specifically, and Orange County generally, is with the elder Charles and Yukiko Furuta, Ray Furuta’s parents. It is they who resided in the 7642 Warner Avenue dwelling erected in 1912 during a period when Charles Furuta was a prominent member of the adjacent Wintersburg Japanese Mission/Church and a local farmer. While the younger Ray Furuta was also involved in agriculture (and perhaps a member of the church), the period of significance for the Japanese community in the town and county was prior to World War II. After the war, it appears that many of the Japanese Americans who had previously resided in Wintersburg chose other communities in which to live and the concentration of those of Japanese ancestry was substantially less than before. Therefore, it does not appear that Furuta House #2 meets National Register of California Register criteria related to historic associations (Criterion A or 1, respectively) or historic personages (Criterion B or 2, respectively).

Architecturally, although exhibiting a relatively high level of integrity, the subject property is an undistinguished example of the Minimal Traditional style as applied to a residence and does not rise to a level of merit to meet any criteria associated with architecture. Further, no evidence was found to suggest that a master architect or builder was associated with the residence. As a result, the property does not appear eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion C or 3, respectively.
* Resource Name or #: Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church Property

**P1. Other Identifier:**

* **P2. Location:**
  - Not for Publication
  - Orange
  - Warner Avenue
  - City: Huntington Beach
  - Zip: 92647
  - Date: 6/16/2011

**P3a. Description:**

This property consists of three buildings: an original church erected in 1910 (Church #1), a newer church erected in 1934 (Church #2), and a Parson's House constructed in 1910. The buildings are located near the southeast corner of Warner Avenue and South Nichols Street.

The original Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Mission chapel (Church #1) is a one-story wood frame building that is capped by a front-gabled roof with exteriors sheathed with board-and-batten siding. Roof elements include bargeboards and exposed rafter tails. Prior to being covered with plywood, the windows were wood double-hung sash. Also, prior to being covered with plywood, the primary (north) elevation featured a pair of paneled doors. However, the original front entry porch with its gabled roof has been removed. The south (rear) elevation consists of an addition (used as a kitchen) dated 1958 that is capped by a shed roof. Of the west end of the south elevation is a recessed wood-floored porch that has a door and three-paned windows. This porch connects with the breezeway that separates the church from the Pastor’s House immediately adjacent to it.

(continued on page 3)

**P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP16 Religious Building

**P4. Resources Present:**

* **P5a. Photograph or Drawing:**
  - Church #1
  - South and east elevations, 6/16/2011

**P5b. Description of Photo:**

* **P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
  - Prehistoric
  - Historic
  - Both

1910 - 1934

**P7. Owner and Address:**

Nichols St. Properties LLC

PO Box 1026, Huntington Beach

92647

**P8. Recorded by:**

Peter Moruzzi, David Greenwood

ICF International

811 West 7th Street, Suite 800

Los Angeles, CA 90017

**P9. Date Recorded:**

6/21/2011

**P10. Survey Type:** Intensive Level Survey

**P11. Report Citation:**

(DPR 523 A and B forms by Tim Gregory 10/28/2002.)
The Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church Mission was founded in 1904 by the local Presbytery to serve the growing Japanese population in the area of the now-vanished unincorporated community of Wintersburg. The first chapel (Church #1) and the Manse (Parson's House) were dedicated on May 8, 1910. In 1930, the Mission became a full-fledged church and, in that year, the Presbyterian Ministers' Association of Orange County began to plan for a new building. The new building (Church #2) was completed in 1934 at the front of the property on Warner Avenue. The pastor in 1934 was the Rev. K. Kikuchi. By the 1940s, he had been succeeded by the Rev. Kiyoshi Noji. In 1966, the Japanese congregation moved to Garden Grove. By 1968, the church buildings were leased to the Church of God Sabbatarian. They were followed by The Rainbow Christian Fellowship. Church #2 was last used by a Hispanic congregation. The property is now vacant.

(continued on page 3)
P3. Description (continued)

A historic photograph of the Mission chapel taken in 1910 indicates that the major alterations to the building that occurred later were the construction of the kitchen addition at the rear of the chapel that occurred in 1958, and the removal of the front entry porch and porch roof (date uncertain).

The Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church building (Church #2) was erected in 1934 in the restrained Spanish Colonial Revival style coming into vogue in the early years of the Great Depression. The one-story building is capped by a gabled roof without eaves and is primarily rectangular in plan. Exterior surfaces are finished in stucco. A large projecting front-gabled portion near the west end of the north elevation contains a deeply recessed round arched opening where the primary entrance is located. The entry doors are paneled wood. Prior to being covered with plywood, the building’s windows were wood double casements with multiple panes of opaque glass. The church’s west elevation consists of three single casement windows (covered with plywood) and a concrete stoop approached by two parallel steps on both ends. The entrance on this elevation has also been covered with plywood. A circular vent is located near the apex of the gable. The south elevation contains several boarded-up windows. The east elevation contains three evenly spaced single casement windows (boarded up). A circular vent punctuates the gable peak on this elevation also. Historic photographs from the dedication of Church #2 in 1934 show that the chapel building has experienced few visible alterations since it was originally constructed.

The Pastor’s House erected in 1910 is a one-story, board-and-batten dwelling in a saltbox style where the rear portion of the side-facing gable tapers at a lower pitch than the front. The eaves have been enclosed although the rafter tails are visible. Prior to being boarded up, the windows were double-hung sash. The north (primary) elevation has an almost full-width porch with a shed roof supported by four square wood posts. A wood railing encloses the porch space. Apparently, the front door is paneled behind the plywood. The south (rear) elevation features a square window tucked under the eave and a single paneled door on its easterly end.

No original building permit was found for the Pastor’s House since it was constructed when the area was identified as the unincorporated community of Wintersburg and the County of Orange has retained no permits dating before 1954. However, an original hand-written description of the construction of the Pastor’s House states that J. Hori was the contractor for a 20 x 22 foot, four-room cottage with 5 x 10 front porch. The dwelling is described as being of wood frame construction with redwood mudsills, double-hung wood sash windows, redwood corner posts, and a gabled roof covered by redwood shingles and built for a cost of $425.

A historic photograph of the Pastor’s House and adjacent Mission chapel building (Church #1) taken in 1910 reveals several changes that have occurred to the Pastor’s House over time. It appears that the Pastor’s House was relocated from its original site southeast of the Mission chapel to its current location just west of the chapel, most likely when the second chapel (Church #2) was erected in 1934. At its new location, the Pastor’s House was connected to the original Mission chapel via an extension to the east end of the dwelling’s front porch (and sheltered by an extension of the porch roof). The wood porch railing was then extended to the chapel’s west elevation. These appear to be the only visible modifications to the Pastor’s House, which, though in disrepair, continues to possess a moderate to high level of integrity.

B10. Significance (continued)

Context:
Born in Ohio in 1860, Mr. Winters founded the Orange County town that would later bear his name by purchasing twenty acres from which he harvested a variety of crops. His display of vegetables at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition is credited with putting Orange County's agricultural resources on the map. Mr. Winters served as president of the California Celery Company in 1898 and went to the East Coast to publicize the product. He donated two lots to the community of Wintersburg, one for the freight depot and another for a mercantile store. In exchange for his efforts, the townspeople circulated a petition that the town be named Wintersburg. Mr. Winters and his wife Cordelia later moved to the City of Orange.

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The Wintersburg area was known for its relatively large Japanese-American population which had begun with the arrival of farmhands around 1893, joining the Chinese and Italian laborers who had preceded them. One source says that at least seventy Japanese workers lived in bunkhouses in the Smeltzer/Wintersburg area and observations were made that they adhered to their ethnic customs which seemed strange to their Anglo neighbors. Similar to what their colleagues were undergoing elsewhere in California, the Japanese were discriminated against, first generation (or Issei) immigrants being forbidden to own property. However, by the 1920s, the Japanese community had become better accepted. Japanese-American farmers built up extensive agricultural holdings in the Wintersburg area where they raised peppers, beans, and various other products. Fish farms and hatcheries, such as the goldfish ponds tended by Charles Furuta, were other specializations of the local Japanese-American community. During World War II, Japanese-Americans in California were rounded up and sent to internment camps throughout the western United States. Many lost their properties, although a few were watched over by sympathetic neighbors. (The Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church escaped confiscation because, by church law, it belonged to the local Presbytery rather than to the congregation).

Significance:

In 1986, the Japanese American Council of Orange County published a Historic Building Survey of pre-1940 Japanese-related sites, identifying the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church (both the 1910 and 1934 buildings), the 1910 Pastor’s House, and the Furuta’s original house as being among 33 surviving buildings of historical interest to the County. The Council stated that the buildings identified on the Survey “form a link…to history which can still be seen today.” In the succeeding 25 years, some of the 33 buildings, including the Garden Grove Japanese School, have been demolished. The original 1910 buildings associated with the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church are identified on the survey as the oldest surviving Japanese-American religious structures in Orange County. (The only other building listed on the survey is the Japanese Free Methodist Church in Anaheim, the buildings of which date from 1922).

Referring to the former Wintersburg Presbyterian Mission, Church and associated buildings, a letter dated September 23, 2011 from the pastor of the current Wintersburg Presbyterian Church located in Santa Ana states “This property has a rich history dating back to the Japanese Presbyterian Mission founding in 1904…. The Wintersburg community was once a very vital part of Orange County’s Christian and agricultural development. The Wintersburg property and Furuta family home also tell the story of Japanese Americans in California…. It is unique for the fact the buildings remain, as many early Japanese American sites have been demolished.”

Electronic communication from Donna Graves, Director of Preserving California’s Japantowns dated September 28, 2011 notes that Orange County Archivist Phil Brigandi wrote “There is no doubt in my mind that the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian Church complex (including the adjoining Furuta House) is far and away the most significant Japanese-American historical site in Orange County.” The email also states that California State University at Fullerton Professor Emeritus Arthur Hansen described the church complex as “a priceless part of the Japanese American heritage in Orange County…. arguably the most important structures representative of the Nikkei legacy in our county.” Ms. Graves further states, “Our research for the statewide survey, ‘Preserving California’s Projects,’ confirmed in 2007 that this is an unusually intact and significant collection of historic buildings with important connections to the history of Japanese Americans in Orange County. Not only does the site have great local significance, it is a rare example of an intact complex of buildings that reflect a thriving immigrant population from the early 20th century.”

As noted above, the Mission chapel (Church #1) is among a dwindling number of historic resources related to Japanese-American life in the County and highly representative of the presence of this ethnic group in the area in the first half of the 20th century.
As a result, and despite its loss of some physical integrity, Church #1 appears eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register for its association with patterns of settlement in Orange County, including the Japanese-American community, under Criterion A and 1, respectively, at the local level of significance. However, current research did not reveal information indicating that Church #1 is associated with historic personages who achieved a sufficient level of importance to warrant National Register or California Register eligibility under Criterion B or 2, respectively. In terms of architectural significance, due to the removal of the original front entry porch and porch roof, the church building represents a good but insufficiently distinguished example of a board-and-batten wood frame church building (that does not represent the work of a master) to warrant listing in the National Register or California Register under criteria related to architectural merit (Criterion C or 3, respectively).

As with the Mission chapel (Church #1) discussed above, the second chapel associated with the Wintersburg Japanese Presbyterian church (Church #2) erected in 1934 is also one of a dwindling number of historic resources related to Japanese-American life in the County and it, too, is highly representative of the presence of this ethnic group in the area in the first half of the 20th century. As a result, Church #2 appears eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register for its association with patterns of settlement in Orange County, including the Japanese-American community, under Criterion A and 1, respectively, at the local level of significance. However, current research did not reveal information indicating that Church #2 is associated with historic personages who achieved a sufficient level of importance to warrant National Register or California Register eligibility under Criterion B or 2, respectively. In terms of architectural significance, Church #2 is represents a good but undistinguished example of the restrained Spanish Colonial Revival style as applied to a religious building (that does not represent the work of a master). As a result, it does not rise to a level of architectural merit to warrant listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion C or 3, respectively.

The Pastor’s House represents a way of life that has just about vanished from the urban areas of Southern California. It is among the few surviving examples from one of Orange County’s earliest Anglo settlements and among a dwindling number of historic resources related to Japanese-American life in the County.

As a result, the Pastor’s House appears eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register for its association with patterns of settlement in Orange County, including the Japanese-American community, under Criterion A and 1, respectively, at the local level of significance. However, current research did not reveal information indicating that the house is associated with historic personages who achieved a sufficient level of importance for the dwelling to warrant National Register or California Register eligibility under Criterion B or 2, respectively. In terms of architectural significance, the loss of integrity of design, materials and workmanship renders the dwelling an insufficiently distinguished example of a saltbox-influenced cottage (that does not represent the work of a master) to warrant listing in the National Register or California Register under criteria related to architectural merit (Criterion C or 3, respectively).
Church #1. South and east elevations, looking NW

Church #1. East elevation, looking SW

Parson's House (on right). North elevation, looking south

Church #2. North and west elevations, looking SE

Open field behind buildings, looking south

Open field behind buildings, looking north