

Aerial view, Arlington Heights (1948), where the California Citrus State Historic Park would later be established.

Japanese Labor Camp, 1925



Japanese workers' housing with Japanese style roofs, Arlington Heights, ca 1915

Martinez Camp, 1911-1928

American Camp, 1911-1928

1930s Japanese laborers live along Dufferin

**Mockingbird Canyon Arroyo:**  
The arroyo (dry riverbed) that runs through the Park was both a travel route and source of sustenance for indigenous peoples. It still serves as a wildlife corridor and includes plants that Native people respectfully harvest for food, medicine, and other uses.



Cholla cactus flower buds are high in calcium and are thought to balance blood sugar.

Mockingbird Reservoir



Chinese laborers worked at the Prenda Packing House on Dufferin Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Prenda Packing House

Italian Rooming House 1890s-1900s



Gage Canal Digging, October 1899

**Becoming a Citrus Empire:**  
British investors formed the Riverside Land Trust and transformed their 3500 acres of land to support citrus groves, which they owned until 1928. They created irrigation standpipes that can be seen at the Park today and created at least three work camps: Windsor, Osborne, and Balmoral. A diverse group of laborers including Native American, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, and Mexican workers transformed the citrus landscape with their labor, as did African Americans, who also helped clear the land and build irrigation systems.

# Site Makers

The Citrus State Historic Park was founded on land that Cahuilla tribes called home, and where neighboring Luiseño, Gabrielino-Tongva, and Serrano tribes also lived and traveled for thousands of years. The landscape was transformed by Anglo settlers to support large-scale agriculture in the late 19th century. Water, diverted to Riverside from the Santa Ana River, was essential. Matthew Gage, an Irish watchmaker, took up this engineering challenge, and built a canal with financing by British investors, who also developed the site of the Park and adjacent Arlington Heights with citrus. They ran their groves in the mode of a British colonial plantation, building packing houses to process citrus, hiring a diverse set of laborers, and building on-site camps for them and their families.