Descriptive Summary

Title: Irvine Valencia Growers packing house records
Date: 1923-2003
Collection Number: MS-R114
Creator: Irvine Valencia Growers
Extent: 23.6 linear feet (47 boxes)
Languages: The collection is in English.
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.

Abstract: This collection comprises records created and collected during a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) project completed prior to the demolition of the Irvine Valencia Growers (IVG) packing house in Irvine, California, which belonged to the Irvine Company. The IVG packing house played a significant role in the growth of the Valencia orange industry in Orange County. The records of the packing house provide insights into the agricultural business and labor history of the county and constitute a rare and extensive set of resources for the study of citrus agriculture in Southern California.

Access
Collection is open for research. For preservation purposes, access to materials in boxes 1 and 3 is restricted. Researcher use copies of these materials are available.

Publication Rights
Property rights reside with the University of California. Intellectual property rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. Some of these materials are in the public domain. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Preferred Citation

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information

Processing History

Historical Background
Planning for the Irvine Valencia Growers (IVG) packing house in Orange County, California began as early as 1926. Initial plans, which were abandoned in 1928, included a joint facility with the Frances Citrus Association. Ultimately, the contract for the project, including all plans and specification and supervision of construction, was awarded to F. S. Bishop. IVG reached an agreement with the A. T. & S. F. Railroad on April 29, 1929 to provide railroad access to the facility. The land was acquired from the Irvine Company on July 1, 1929. The main purpose of the packing house was to protect the fruit from injury and decay during its journey from the citrus groves to the consumer. Oranges were picked by hand and transported by truck to the packing house. At the packing house they were sorted, graded, washed, and waxed. The oranges were then systematically and carefully packed in cartons, stacked on pallets, and stored in the pre-cooler until loaded onto the trucks or railway freight cars that transported them to their final destinations.

The first orange trees were planted in California in 1804 at the San Gabriel Mission, but the Californians did not send their product east in any significant quantity until 1877 after the opening of the transcontinental railroad. Citrus fruit soon became one of California’s few export products and provided a significant economic base for the young state. The earliest California orange crops consisted of Navel oranges, which were harvested during the winter in Riverside County, and Valencia oranges, which ripened during the summer in Orange County. Complications in distribution in the early 1890s resulted in financial hardship for many growers and led them to band together into cooperatives. The growers established the Southern California Fruit Exchange in 1893 to protect their interests. The organization was renamed the California Fruit Growers Exchange in 1905 and renamed Sunkist Growers, Inc. in 1952. Throughout the years, the term "Sunkist" had been used by the exchange to identify their highest quality fruit.
James Irvine, owner of the Irvine Ranch in the early 1900s, was a supporter of the co-operative principle of marketing produce. The Irvine Ranch joined the California Fruit Growers Exchange. The Irvine Ranch had three co-operatives: The Valencia Growers Association, the Golden West Citrus Association, and the Frances Citrus Association. The first articles of association for IVG show the company name "Valencia Growers Association" crossed out and replaced by the name Irvine Valencia Growers. From its inception, the Irvine Valencia Growers was directed by men who were employed by the Irvine Ranch and/or close friends of the Irvine family, providing the Irvine Company with the potential to exert a strong influence over IVG. Case in point: IVG's first president, A. J. McFadden was also the president of the Irvine Foundation and later president of the Irvine Company. The Irvine Company acquired the packing house at some point, thus becoming the owner of its records.

Over the years, several alterations were made to the Irvine Valencia Growers building complex, greatly changing its appearance from its original state and compromising its historical significance from an architectural standpoint. Although the packing house was recognized as a cultural resource, an environmental impact report in 2003 recommended demolition of the complex due to its fragile condition and the prohibitive cost of preserving it. The historic status of the packing house led to a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) project in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. HABS is administered by Heritage Documentation Programs and is the Federal Government's oldest preservation program. HABS was created in 1933 to document America's architectural heritage by recording the history of significant built environments prior to their destruction. The site upon which IVG once stood is now part of the Jeffrey Open Space Trail in Irvine; it is commemorated by a historical marker and a large mosaic.


Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection comprises records created and collected during a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) project completed prior to the demolition of the Irvine Valencia Growers (IVG) packing house in Irvine, California. The IVG packing house played a significant role in the growth of the Valencia orange industry in Orange County. Spanning 70 years, its records provide insights into the agricultural business and labor history of the county and constitute an invaluable resource for the study of citrus agriculture in Southern California. The collection documents the day-to-day business, practices, and environment of IVG. The collection also documents such topics as the early 20th-century cooperative approach to fruit growing in California, the pervasive influence of the Irvine Company on the cooperative, and the association of the IVG packing house with significant citrus worker strikes that took place in the county from 1935 to 1936.

These materials are the product of an agreement between the City of Irvine, the Irvine Company, and the Keith Companies to document the packing house prior to its demolition in 2003. The collection primarily comprises photocopies of historic documents owned by the Irvine Company and original documentation created by the Keith Company for the HABS project. The narrative text of the HABS report conveys the historical context and significance of the IVG. The HABS project also provides maps, architectural records, and photographs that documented the IVG complex prior to its demolition. Materials include incorporation articles and by-laws, board and shareholders' meeting minutes, financial records, audit reports, annual reports, trademark files, growers' pool records and accounts, appraisals and inventories, correspondence concerning machinery and equipment, worker training and safety materials, and fruit crate labels, oral histories, and other interviews.

Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged in two series.

Series 1. Historical American Building Survey (HABS) project documentation, 2001-2003. 3.5 linear feet

Processing Note
Prior to their donation to UC Irvine, the materials were compiled and organized by Hatheway and Associates, consultants for the Keith Companies, who contracted with the City of Irvine to perform the HABS project. For the most part, Hatheway's organizational scheme and description of materials has been retained.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Irvine Valencia Growers -- Archives.
Series 1. **Historic American Building Survey (HABS) project documentation 2001-2003**

**Physical Description:** 3.5 linear feet

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains materials prepared in conjunction with a Historic American Building Survey (HABS) completed in 2003 by The Keith Companies and their project subcontractor, Hatheway and Associates, and includes a historical report, photographs, maps, and drawings. Volume I and IV of the HABS report are particularly rich, providing item-level information about the contents of the photocopied records of the IVG packing house, which are located in Series 2 of this collection.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged as it was produced by the HABS consultants, with the multiple volumes of the report itself followed by supplementary information.

**Restrictions**

Unbound archival copies of the Master Index, Volume I, and Volume IV of the HABS report are housed in boxes 1 and 3, to which access is restricted. Duplicate copies for researcher use are available in Box 47 and described below.

**IVG packing house documentation report by HABS**

**Master index and user guide 2003**

- **Archival original**

  **Access Information**

  Original report is restricted. Use copy is available.

**Box : Folder 47 : 1**

**Use copy**
### Volume I, narrative text 2003

**Scope and Content Note**
Comprises an architectural description of the IVG packing house and its various construction phases, extensive historical background information on the orange industry in Southern California and on the Irvine Ranch, an overview of the business structure of the IVG packing house, biographical information on its founders, and interviews with several employees.

**Archival original**

**Access Information**
Original report is restricted. Use copy is available.

### Volume II, photographs 2003

**Scope and Content Note**
Comprises printouts of digital reproductions of HABS project photographs taken by Tom Zimmerman and copies of historic photographs of the IVG packing house and its surroundings. Includes extensive data about each photograph. Copy prints and negatives for the HABS photographs are in "Related materials" within this series. Copy prints and negatives for the historic photographs are included in Series 2 of this collection.

### Volume III, maps and drawings 2003

**Scope and Content Note**
Comprises photocopies of maps and drawings of the IVG packing house, building sections, and orchards (originals dated 1929-2001). Copies of the historic maps and drawings are included in Series 2 of this collection. Several of the drawings were prepared by Thirtieth Street Architects, Inc. for the City of Irvine as part of a 2001 adaptive reuse study of the packing house. Copies are in "Related materials" within this series.

### Volume IV, catalog of business records and historic documents 2003

**Scope and Content Note**
Serves as an index to the photocopied records and documents in Series 2 of this collection.

**Archival original**

**Access Information**
Original report is restricted. Use copy is available.

### Related materials accompanying the documentation report

**Drawings and plot plans of the general site and main building sections by Thirtieth Street Architects, Inc. 2001**

**HABS project photographs by Tom Zimmerman, copy negatives, and descriptive data 2003**
Physical Description: 70 photographic prints and corresponding negatives

**Scope and Content Note**
See also the historic photographs in Series 2, box 8.

**Photographs 1-17**
**Photographs 18-35**
**Photographs 36-52**
**Photographs 53-70**

**Supplemental materials**
Drover, Christopher, Phase I cultural resources inventory for Planning Area 9, Irvine, California 2001

Scope and Content Note
Inventory was prepared for the Irvine Community Development Company under the auspices of the Keith Companies.

Templeton Planning Group, supplemental environmental impact report 2003

Scope and Content Note
Materials include Thirtieth Street Architects, Inc. feasibility study.


Physical Description: 20.1 linear feet

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series comprises copies of Irvine Valencia Growers’ business records, photographs, minutes, reports, fruit crate labels, and other historic documents. These copies were made by Hatheway and Associates in 2003 from originals owned by the Irvine Company.

Arrangement
The series is arranged as it was produced by the HABS consultants.

Historic photographs of the IVG packing house facilities and orchards, 4x5 copy negatives, and descriptive data circa 1940-circa 1960

Physical Description: 21 photographic prints and corresponding negatives

Scope and Content Note
See also the photographs produced by HABS contemporaneous with the HABS report in Series 1, box 7.

Articles of incorporation and amendments 1926-1989

Bylaws and amendments 1926-1977

Minutes, organizational meeting of the Board of Directors 1926-1998

Minutes, Board of Directors meetings 1926-1998

Minutes, annual shareholders meeting 1926-1998

Fruit Growers Exchange agreements, funds, and compacts 1926-1946

Scope and Content Note
The Exchange was key to the marketing of citrus in California. Materials provide insight into the impact of the exchange on an individual packing house.

Frances Mutual Water Co. agreements, resolutions, and by-laws 1923-1963

Revolving fund agreement and resolutions 1926-1977

Accounts payable 1926-1943

Scope and Content Note
Materials provide a highly detailed account of money paid to various contractors and suppliers for construction of the IVG packing house, as well as a glimpse of the management practices of both the packing house and the Irvine Company.
Expense ledgers 1929-1944

Cash disbursements

Scope and Content Note
Materials record cash disbursements to various accounts, funds, individual agencies, and entities. They represent a nearly continuous record of the business expenses of the packing house for over 50 years. Each box contains a detailed listing of the items in that box (a printout from the catalog found in Volume IV of the HABS report).

1926-1942 1926-1942
Record of checks drawn 1926-1943
1944-1945 January 1944-1945
1945-1953 1945-1953
Disbursements and cash received 1945-1959
Disbursements and checks drawn 1960-1968
Maps of orchards associated with each grower and shareholder circa 1990

Growers' pool records

Scope and Content Note
Materials provide details about production, organized by fruit, brand, and grower, including many prominent people in the history of Orange County. Most boxes provide printouts from the Catalog (Volume IV) with a detailed listing of the items in that box.

1929-1947 1929-1947
1947-1959 1947-1959
Financial statement 1967-1969

Growers' accounts

Scope and Content Note
Contains production records that provide details about the number of boxes of fruit produced by different growers at different orchards and detail the impact of business cycles and weather on production over time.

1929-1943 1929-1943
1943-1946 1943-1946
1953-1955 1953-1955
1956-1960 1956-1960
Box : Folder 41 : 1-4  
Box : Folder 41 : Annual reports 1976-1985  
Scope and Content Note  
Prepared for the IVG board and shareholders at a time when increasing property values and development began to compete with the use of land for agricultural purposes in Orange County.

Box : Folder 41 : 7-8  
Box : Folder 41 : Audit reports 1969-1977

Box : Folder 41 : 9-10,42:1-14  
Box : Folder 42 : Trademark files 1928-1995

Box : Folder 42 : 15-16  
Box : Folder 42 : Building records and notices of completion 1931-1969

Box : Folder 42 : 17-18  
Box : Folder 42 : Building Committee minutes 1938, 1968

Box : Folder 42 : 19-22  
Box : Folder 42 : Appraisal reports 1972, 1976

Box : Folder 42 : 21-22  
Box : Folder 43 : Inventories of raw material, equipment, and machinery 1971-1978

Box : Folder 43 : 3-4  
Box : Folder 43 : Valuation survey 1990

Box : Folder 43 : 5-6  
Box : Folder 43 : Correspondence regarding machinery and equipment 1930-1981

Box : Folder 43 : 7-8  
Box : Folder 43 : Fire sprinkler system correspondence and drawings 1978

Box : Folder 43 : 9-10  
Box : Folder 43 : Job descriptions circa 1991  
Scope and Content Note  
Documents address the entire spectrum of labor required to run a packing house. Materials are in English and Spanish.

Box : Folder 43 : 11-12  
Box : Folder 43 : Crew foreman training handbook circa 1990

Box : Folder 43 : 13-14  
Box : Folder 43 : Safety handbook circa 1990  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials are in English and Spanish.

Box : Folder 43 : 15-16  
Box : Folder 44 : Information for Santa Fe rail car loading 1971-1978

Box : Folder 44 : 1-2  

Box : Folder 44 : 3-4  
Box : Folder 44 : Job hazards list circa 1990  
Scope and Content Note  
Materials are in English and Spanish.

Box : Folder 44 : 5-13  
Box : Folder 44 : Citrus Safety Training Program lecture scripts and slides on citrus, packing, and forklift safety circa 1980- circa 1990

Box : Folder 44 : 14-15  
Box : Folder 44 : Accident prevention analysis reports (State Compensation Insurance Fund) 1973-1977

Box : Folder 45 : 1-8  
Box : Folder 45 : Maps and drawings of the IVG packing house site and buildings 1929-1978  
Physical Description: Photocopies on acid-free paper

Box : Folder 46  

Box : Folder 44 : 16-17  
Box : Folder 44 : IVG stationery circa 1950- circa 1960