

JAPANESE TEAHOUSE

The pile of rubble in front of you tells a story.

In 1915, Clara Patterson, Ardenwood's well-educated and wealthy owner, hired California's first woman architect, Julia Morgan, to remodel a "teahouse" into a residence at this site. The project reflected Clara's respect for Japanese culture at a time when Japanese immigrants were making important contributions to California's agriculture.

The teahouse project was never completed. On December 8, 1941, one day after the nation of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the building was destroyed by fire.

Over the following years, people of Japanese ancestry faced unjust treatment throughout America. Today, we honor the contributions of our vital and resilient Japanese American communities.



Photo courtesy of Society of California Pioneers

The 4,185 sq ft multi-roomed "teahouse" originally housed Japanese Commissioners to the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco.



*Clara Patterson Layson
Photo courtesy of the
Patterson House Collection*



*Richard Kobayashi, farmer with cabbages,
Manzanar Relocation Center, California
Photo: Ansel Adams 1943
Photo Courtesy of the Library of Congress*

Here, the absence of a building tells a story. What buildings are still standing at Ardenwood, and what stories do they tell?

Whose history do we know the most about and why?