

**HISTORIC RESOURCE: SHOSEI-AN  
TEAHOUSE**

**LOCATION:** Brand Park

**OWNERSHIP:** Public

**LAND AREA:**

**ZONE:** SR

**DESIGNATION:** Glendale Register

**YEAR BUILT:**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

At the time of the tea house and gardens construction in 1974, the Sister City Committee of Glendale and Glendale's Japanese-American community actively pursued the establishment of a sister city relationship with Osaka, which resulted in the creation of this resource. The project took over 10 years of citizen planning and participation, with nearly every civic organization contributing to the fund.

Modeled on a specific teahouse in Japan, the Brand Park Teahouse exemplifies one of the few architecturally correct examples of teahouse architecture in the Western United States. Japanese teahouse architecture is over 1,000 years old. Hayahiko Takase, known as premier architect for designing teahouses in the greater Los Angeles area, served as the architect of the Brand Park Teahouse. Materials came from Japan.

This Japanese architectural style has had a significant impact on the Arts and Crafts movement including the Craftsman style of architecture found in Glendale and other nearby towns. The teahouse and other Japanese architecture also influenced the Modern, Mid-Century architecture linking the outdoor environment with the indoor.

The teahouse is an integral part of the traditional and spiritual traditions of tea ceremonies that are

still performed today throughout the world. Teahouses are traditionally associated with Japanese gardens and likewise the Brand Park Teahouse includes the Friendship Garden designed in high style.

Because of the unique architecture and overall design of the property as a re-creation of the traditional Japanese teahouse and garden, the property contains a multitude of character defining features that need to be preserved in style, workmanship and materials.

The garden character defining features include: the entrance gate; the waiting arbor; the water basin; the landscaping; and the koi pond. The teahouse exterior character defining features include: exterior materials; the wrap-around veranda; and roofline. The teahouse interior defining features include: the floor; the hearth; the sliding doors to the outside; the floor plan designed in the traditional teahouse fashion; the entrance; and the tearoom preparation area.

This house is designated a historic resource because it identifies interest or value as part of the heritage of the City; it is the location of a significant historic event; it identifies with a person, persons or groups who significantly contributed to the history and development of the city, or whose work has influenced the heritage of the city, the state or the United States; it exemplifies one of the best remaining architectural elements of attention to architectural design, details, materials or craftsmanship of a particular historic period; it is in a unique location or contains a singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood; and it contains a natural setting that strongly contributes to the well-being of the people of the city.

