Prior to the 1960s, Wilshire Center was a wealthy commercial and residential district. A heavy influx of Koreans migrated to Wilshire Center during the 1960s, after restrictions on immigration to the United States from East Asia were lifted in 1965.

The area started to become known as "Koreatown" in the 1970s due to the predominance of Korean-owned businesses on the community's major arteries--Western Avenue, Olympic Boulevard, Wilshire Boulevard, Eighth Street, Sixth Street, Third Street and Vermont Avenue. By the late 1980s, the Korean community had become quite prosperous, owning many businesses in the district and throughout inner-city Los Angeles. Today, Koreatown houses Shriners Hospital for Children
,
Southwestern University School of Law
, and the
Wiltern Theater
.

Koreatown - Los Angeles Times Neighborhood Profile