

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Office of Historic Resources/Cultural Heritage Commission

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM



1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Proposed Monument Name: Grant D. Venerable Family Residence		Former residence of notable person(s)	
Other Associated Names:			
Street Address: 2921 S. Budlong Avenue		Zip: 90007	Council District: 8
Range of Addresses on Property:		Community Name:	
Assessor Parcel Number: 505401014	Tract: Cotton's Budlong Ave Tract	Block:	Lot: 15
Identification cont'd:			
Proposed Monument Property Type:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Building	<input type="radio"/> Structure	<input type="radio"/> Object
	<input type="radio"/> Site/Open Space	<input type="radio"/> Natural Feature	
Describe any additional resources located on the property to be included in the nomination, here:			

2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

Year built: 1908	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Factual <input type="radio"/> Estimated	Threatened? None
Architect/Designer: George J. Webster & Neal Dow Barker	Contractor: A.C. Tobias	
Original Use: Single Family Residence	Present Use: Single Family Residence	
Is the Proposed Monument on its Original Site?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No (explain in section 7) <input type="radio"/> Unknown (explain in section 7)

3. STYLE & MATERIALS

Architectural Style: Craftsman		Stories: 1	Plan Shape: Rectangular
<i>FEATURE</i>	<i>PRIMARY</i>	<i>SECONDARY</i>	
CONSTRUCTION	Type: Wood	Type: Select	
CLADDING	Material: Wood shingles	Material: Select	
ROOF	Type: Gable	Type: Select	
	Material: Composition shingle	Material: Select	
WINDOWS	Type: Sliding	Type: Select	
	Material: Vinyl	Material: Select	
ENTRY	Style: Off-center	Style: Select	
DOOR	Type: Paneled, glazed	Type: Select	



HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM

4. ALTERATION HISTORY

List date and write a brief description of any major alterations or additions. This section may also be completed on a separate document. Include copies of permits in the nomination packet. Make sure to list any major alterations for which there are no permits, as well.

	Removed original windows, replaced with sliding windows in original frames
	Removed dividing wall & dining built-ins separating dining room from kitchen
	Partitioned original bathroom to add additional half bathroom
	Den original windows removed & framed-in for smaller vinyl window
	Added faux paneling to cover brick fireplace
	Most original doors removed & replaced with modern slabs
	In-ground pool added to backyard
	Carpeted added in bedrooms.

5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Registers	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)	<input type="radio"/> Contributing feature <input type="radio"/> Non-contributing feature
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determined eligible for national, state, or local landmark status by an historic resources survey(s)	Survey Name(s): _____ _____
Other historical or cultural resource designations: None		

6. APPLICABLE HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT CRITERIA

The proposed monument exemplifies the following Cultural Heritage Ordinance Criteria (Section 22.171.7):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.



HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM

7. WRITTEN STATEMENTS

This section allows you to discuss at length the significance of the proposed monument and why it should be designated an Historic-Cultural Monument. Type your response on separate documents and attach them to this form.

A. Proposed Monument Description - Describe the proposed monument's physical characteristics and relationship to its surrounding environment. Expand on sections 2 and 3 with a more detailed description of the site. Expand on section 4 and discuss the construction/alteration history in detail if that is necessary to explain the proposed monument's current form. Identify and describe any character-defining elements, structures, interior spaces, or landscape features.

B. Statement of Significance - Address the proposed monument's historic, cultural, and/or architectural significance by discussing how it satisfies the HCM criteria you selected in Section 6. You must support your argument with substantial evidence and analysis. The Statement of Significance is your main argument for designation so it is important to substantiate any claims you make with supporting documentation and research.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant

Name: West Adams Heritage Association		Company: Same	
Street Address: 2263 S Harvard Blvd		City: Los Angeles	State:
Zip: 90018	Phone Number: (323) 909-9242	Email: preservation@westadamsheritage.org	

Property Owner

Is the owner in support of the nomination? Yes No Unknown

Name: Santiago Pamplona & Corinne Bower		Company:	
Street Address: 2921 S. Budlong Ave		City: Los Angeles	State: CA
Zip: 90007	Phone Number: (717) 649 - 3544	Email: cbower19@gmail.com	

Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative

Name: Raymond Hurley & Laura Meyers		Company: West Adams Heritage Association	
Street Address: 2915 S Budlong Ave		City: Los Angeles	State: CA
Zip: 90007	Phone Number: 703 915 6361	Email: hurleyraymond474@gmail.com	



HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM

9. SUBMITTAL

When you have completed preparing your nomination, compile all materials in the order specified below. Although the entire packet must not exceed 100 pages, you may send additional material on a CD or flash drive.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nomination Form | 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written Statements A and B | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations
(include first construction permits) |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bibliography | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional, Contemporary Photos |
| 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Facade
(8x10, the main photo of the proposed monument. Also
email a digital copy of the main photo to:
planning.ohr@lacity.org) | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical Photos |
| | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zimas Parcel Report for all Nominated Parcels
(including map) |

10. RELEASE

Please read each statement and check the corresponding boxes to indicate that you agree with the statement, then sign below in the provided space. Either the applicant or preparer may sign.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I acknowledge that all documents submitted will become public records under the California Public Records Act, and understand that the documents will be made available upon request to members of the public for inspection and copying.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I acknowledge that all photographs and images submitted as part of this application will become the property of the City of Los Angeles, and understand that permission is granted for use of the photographs and images by the City without any expectation of compensation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I acknowledge that I have the right to submit or have obtained the appropriate permission to submit all information contained in this application.

Raymond Hurley

03 26 2026

~~03 08 2022~~

Name:

Date:

Signature:

Mail your Historic-Cultural Monument Submittal to the Office of Historic Resources.

Office of Historic Resources
Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa St., Ste. 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213-874-3679
Website: preservation.lacity.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

● SECTION A PROPOSED MONUMENT DESCRIPTION	pg 6
● SECTION B STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	
○ INTRODUCTION	pg 9
○ OVERVIEW	pg 10
○ CRITERION 1	
■ COMMUNITY HISTORY: ADAMS-NORMANDIE IN THE WEST ADAMS DISTRICT	pg 12
■ CONTEXT: HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND LOS ANGELES	pg 14
■ CROSSING THE REDLINE: THE EFFORT TO DESEGREGATE LOS ANGELES' "WEST SIDE"	pg 14
■ COMMUNITY FORMATION: THE VENERABLES CROSS THE RED LINE	pg 15
■ THE VENERABLE FAMILY AS SYMBOLS	pg 16
■ ROLE OF THE RESIDENCE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIC AND SOCIAL LIFE	pg 17
■ CRITERION 1 SUMMARY	pg 21
○ CRITERIA 2	
■ THE LIFE OF GRANT D. VENERABLE: VENERABLE'S EARLY YEARS	pg 21
■ CALTECH: HISTORY	pg 22
■ VENERABLE ATTENDS CALTECH	pg 22
■ CONTEXT: SEGREGATION IN HIGHER ACADEMIA	pg 23
■ GRANT D. VENERABLE: CAREER AFTER GRADUATION	pg 24
■ THE UNTIMELY PASSING OF THELMA S. VENERABLE	pg 25
■ VENERABLE LATER YEARS	pg 25
■ THE CHILDREN OF GRANT D. VENERABLE	pg 26
■ CRITERION 2 SUMMARY	pg 26
○ CRITERIA 3	
■ INTRODUCTION	pg 27
■ CONTEXT: THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT	pg 27
■ THE SUBJECT RESIDENCE'S EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE CRAFTSMAN STYLE	pg 28
■ A.C. TOBIAS COMMISSIONS BARKER & WEBSTER	pg 28
■ BARKER & WEBSTER	pg 29
■ ASSOCIATION WITH MASTER ARCHITECT GEORGE J. WEBSTER	pg 29
■ GEORGE J. WEBSTER: LIFE AND CAREER	pg 30
■ WEBSTER'S MASTERWORKS	pg 31
■ NEAL DOW BARKER: LIFE AND CAREER	pg 32
■ CRITERION 3 SUMMARY	pg 32
○ SECTION B CONCLUSION	pg 32
○ LIST OF RESIDENCES ASSOCIATED WITH GRANT D. VENERABLE	pg 34
○ BIBLIOGRAPHY	pg 36
○ PROPERTY PHOTOS	pg 39
○ LETTERS OF SUPPORT	pg 46
○ COPIES OF PRIMARY / SECONDARY RESEARCH	pg 55
○ ALTERATION HISTORY	pg 66
○ COPIES OF BUILDING PERMITS	pg 67
○ PARCEL PROFILE SUPPORT	pg 71
○ ZIMAS	pg 74

A. PROPOSED MONUMENT DESCRIPTION

The Grant D. Venerable Family residence is located in the Adams-Normandie neighborhood of the Historic West Adams District of Los Angeles, at 2921 S. Budlong Avenue. Constructed in 1908, this one-story, wood-frame bungalow was built in the Craftsman architectural style.

EXTERIOR

The subject property is sited on a lot measuring 50 feet x 134 feet, on the west side of Budlong Avenue, with the front elevation facing east. It is of wood-frame construction with exterior walls clad in split redwood shingles with unfinished lower edges. The form of the house is roughly rectangular, with shallow protrusions on the north and south sides, and a larger protrusion to the east, street-facing facade. The bungalow has a 23-foot setback, excluding porches or other protrusions from the main structure.

The front elevation is dominated by a relatively large porch with steps at the front and sides. The window surrounds are plain boards in the typical Craftsman manner. The original architects employed a faux post-and-beam style at the facade's bottom corners with faux exposed mudsills with half-timbered corners at the base. One also can see the original brick of the wing wall by the front steps and mudsill.

The residence has an intersecting cross-gable and hipped roof with overhanging eaves, and is clad with composition shingles. The roof ridge runs east-west, with a gable in the front and a hip-and-gable form in the rear. The primary, street-facing elevation features a main gable with a large vent at its peak, composed of two rows of alternate vertical slats with one row behind the other, offset so the attic space cannot be seen. The south-facing gable features two original windows to the attic in a traditional style with glass painted over. Two pairs of structural wooden knee-brackets with integral feet support the north and south gables, with one pair supporting the upper gable, while the lower pair adjoins the bottom of the gable.

The roof pitch is medium, with a wide overhang along the eaves and gable rakes. The roof, which was originally clad in wood shingles, has since been replaced with composition shingles. A driveway runs to the north of the house, paved in cement with a dividing fence. The backyard features a kidney-shaped in-ground pool.

LIVING ROOM

The main entrance on the east-facing elevation opens directly into the living room, which runs the full width of the house until it reaches an alcove den that protrudes to the south east. The living room has plain-sawn oak flooring (possibly original) and the original Douglas fir woodwork of the beams and remaining built-ins have been painted white. Intersecting, molding-trimmed box beams run along the ceiling both east-west and north-south, supported by columns, and continue into the dining room.

The living room has one large, wood-framed fixed picture window looking out on the porch. On the north wall of the living room there is a fireplace with a mantle flanked by bookshelves on both sides. Above the mantle, the chimney bottle-necks to a thinner shaft.

The south wall of the living room appears to sport a protruding bay window, which from the outside reveals itself to actually be inset from the gable hanging over it. This effect is created from the protruding den to the left/north of the bay window, which is actually flush with the gable, and the wall to the main bedroom to the right/south side. A framing set of column beams supporting an overhanging beam completes the bay window illusion. This "false bay" effect is a signature of architect George J. Webster, which will be discussed further in Criterion 3. A door on the living room's west wall, across from the colonnade leading to the den and beside the false bay window on the south wall, leads to the main bedroom.

THE DEN

A diagonal colonnade crossing the base of the front wing has been closed in with drywall and a set of double doors to separate the alcove den from the living room. The den is currently used as an office, and it was previously enclosed to serve as an additional bedroom. An angled, quarter-sawn oak stair tread steps down into the "sunken" room. The south wall features a ribbon of two sets of original paired casements at a raised height. The leaded glass panes are arranged in the architect's signature style, with three square panes over two rectangular panes. The south wall also features original molding and a bookcase backed with bead board.

THE DINING ROOM

The living room flows into the dining room directly to the west, continuing the living room's oak floors. Two half-height walls partition the living room from the dining room, both framed by a vertical boxed column at either end, with a horizontal boxed beam running north/south at the ceiling over the dining room entry.

In the south-west corner, an original door frame and modern door lead to the central hallway along the west wall. This west wall would have once spanned the dining room's full north-south width, but has since been shortened to only cover with width of the hallway door frame. This wall would have previously contained an in-set buffet built in the Craftsman style, and would have separated the kitchen from the dining room.

The north wall features a center pair of windows flanked by two smaller, raised windows. The living room's bay window effect is mimicked on the dining room north wall: what appears from the interior to be a bay window is shown to be flush with the gable above it from the exterior view. This illusion is created from the north living room wall with the fireplace actually being inset under the gable, allowing the chimney to be flush with the gable.

KITCHEN

The removal of the dining room west wall allows for an open floor plan between the kitchen, living room and dining room. The modern kitchen is also open to the rear laundry room, which has an exit door to the backyard along the west exterior wall. This laundry room was formerly separated from the kitchen by a wall and door, which have been removed, likely between 1990 and 2000, based on permits pulled for kitchen remodel.

HALLWAY

The central hallway connects to the common rooms via the door on the dining room west wall. The hall is in the shape of a stubby "L" and has doors to the front bedroom, bathroom, rear corner bedroom, rear central bedroom, and kitchen. At the end of the hallway from the dining room entrance, there is a possibly original five-panel door with raised panels that leads into the rear central bedroom.

BATHROOM

The original bathroom is accessed via the center door of three lining the hallway's south wall. Though still a full bathroom, its floor plan has been divided about halfway through its original footprint to make way for a half-bathroom specific to the larger/primary bedroom. No original features appear to remain in either of the bathrooms.

BEDROOMS

The front bedroom is the largest of the residence's three bedrooms. It is accessible from both the hallway and the living room. This bedroom is currently used as the primary bedroom. Its south wall features vinyl windows with original framing, and the west wall has a door to the half bathroom.

The rear central bedroom is accessed from the western end of the hall. The smallest of the home's three bedrooms, it still has original molding around the window. All bedroom floors are carpeted.

Proceeding back to the hallway and directly to the south one enters the south west corner bedroom. Original molding is extant for the baseboard as well as the framing for two vinyl windows on the south and west walls.

ALTERATIONS

The front porch and its steps have been covered with a possibly granite-like material. Archival photos show the porch once had a pergola with posts supporting box beams running axially and transversely, forming a stacked set. At some point prior to 1985, the pergola was removed along with a supporting column at the northeast corner, and the beams were truncated. A permit was filed in 1971 to install an above-ground pool in the backyard.

The original foundation was brick, and a permit to remove and replace the foundation was issued in 2004. Most original windows have been replaced with vinyl while retaining their original interior and exterior framing and original jambs and sills.

The original front door has been replaced by a modern paneled door of thinner width, though a vertical post shows the original door's larger width. The living room fireplace and bookcases have been covered with patterned tile – possibly laminate or granite — and it is unknown if the original fireplace brick, tile hearth floor and broad wooden mantle remain beneath the tile. The sunken den's diagonal colonnade has since been enclosed with drywall and a pair of double doors, though the original molding and beams remain visible.

The dining room was once separated from the kitchen with a built-in buffet with leaded glass windows which was flanked by two swinging paneled doors, one leading to the kitchen and the other to the main hallway.

The laundry room would have likely been separated from the kitchen by a wall and door, leading out to a screened-in-porch with half walls, which has since been framed in and merged with the kitchen. Added exterior features in the backyard include an in-ground pool in the backyard. Archival photographs show a free-standing garage once stood in the backyard, but has since been removed.

INTEGRITY

Despite substantial interior modifications, the exterior of the house remains largely as it was built. Almost all original exterior architectural features remain in good condition, with original window and door molding in most cases beyond the infill on the east-facing protruding den. The public rooms, with their stacked beams and broad fireplace and likely original flooring still appear much as they would have 118 years ago.

This nomination recognizes the historic personage, Grant D. Venerable, who purchased the home in 1944 and lived there for 25 years. The adult children of Grant D. Venerable who were raised in the home, pictured below standing on the home's front porch in 2022, clearly recognizing it as retaining the character-defining features they remember from their childhood and young adult years.

Written with contributions from Anna Marie Brooks' HCM nomination of 2915 S Budlong Ave and John G. Ripley's report on 2915 S Budlong Ave.



The three adult children of Grant D. Venerable (L-R: Lloyd Venerable, Lynda Venerable and Grand D. Venerable II) on the front porch of the Venerable Family Residence in 2022. Photo taken by nomination preparers.

B. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

INTRODUCTION

Many historical figures are recognized at some later time after their accomplishments, once enough context has emerged for them to be appreciated by history. Grant D. Venerable's accomplishment was the rare sort seen immediately as a historic accomplishment. In 1929, he became the first student of African descent admitted to the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and in 1932 became its first graduate of African descent. This achievement provides important context for understanding both the property's association with Venerable and its broader historical significance. As will be explained further in Criteria 1 and 2, his accomplishment brought him public recognition, and during his later residency at 2921 S. Budlong Avenue, he and his family became widely recognized examples of Black upward mobility and residential integration in midcentury Los Angeles. Although his graduation predates his occupancy of the residence, it directly informed his ability to acquire and reside in a neighborhood that had previously excluded Black residents, and his renown made the house – and the family who occupied it for a quarter-century – into powerful symbols of equality.

An October 1932 article from *The California Eagle* (then the largest African American newspaper in the western United States) was written in anticipation of his graduation for the editorial section, and shows just how barrier-breaking Venerable's graduation was viewed in its time. The article's text is reproduced here for legibility, with the original scan shown on page 65 of this document:

STUDENT EXPRESSIONS | BY: CARL ECHOLS GRANT D. VENERABLE

Is the fact known and appreciated that at the world-famous California Institute of Technology, located in Pasadena, one and only one Negro student has ever studied within its sacred walls?

Is the fact known and appreciated that this senior, for such he is, will be graduated from this school this year, having established a precedence hitherto unknown in the twenty or more years of its history?

Grant D. Venerable deserves the highest respect and admiration of his fellows. The world greets his intellectual accomplishments. Let colored folk get into this reception line and honor real achievement when it makes its appearance.

The example of Mr. Venerable will encourage Negro youth throughout the land. It must do more, it must awaken a desire and determination to follow in the footsteps of this exemplary young man and student.

Grant Venerable was born in Kansas City, Missouri, July 10th, 1904. He came to California a few years ago with his mother Mrs. Louise Venerable, who lives presently in Los Angeles. Young Grant graduated from the San Bernardino High School immediately planned to enter Cal Tech. He found himself, however at U. C. L. A. as a medical student. This course was abandoned after three years and the brilliant young mathematician headed straight for the Pasadena Institute made famous by Millikan, Morgan and Einstein. He began his training for Civil Engineering and is soon to complete the course.

Venerable soon won the esteem of professors and students. He was chosen vice-president of the cosmopolitan club. He was sent by the school to the Canadian Student Christian Conference which convened at Vancouver, British Columbia this past summer. Delegates from over the world were present.

One day Grant was casually led to enumerate a few subjects he studied during his young career. The list is partly as follows: Elementary and advanced algebra, plane and solid geometry, trigonometry, plane analytic and solid analytic geometry, integral and differential calculus, theory of probability, theory of numbers, theory of equations, projection geometry, spherical trigonometry, and so forth and so on. Physics, chemistry, geology, zoology, paleontology, economics, history. Spanish, French, English and a few others to help make the list varied and interesting.

And so proceeds the career of a pioneer who not only on one occasion at Cal Tech received one of the two highest grades, but who was picked by coach and athletes as sure

quarterback and quartermile material. As a twist of fate altered his career from that of physician to an engineer, so a twist of an ankle changed his career as an athlete, at least for a while.

Soon the California Institute of Technology will open its doors and send forth another group of graduated scientists and engineers. Among them will be the first Negro in the history of the school – Grant D. Venerable.

Source: [California Eagle](#), Editorials October 23, 1932 pg. 8

OVERVIEW

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence located at 2921 South Budlong Avenue is a significant historic resource associated with African American heritage in the West Adams District, as well as for its notable architectural heritage. It meets the following criteria for designation as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM):

CRITERION 1

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community.

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence is significant under Criterion 1 for its association with the mid-20th century desegregation of Los Angeles' West Adams district and the broader historical patterns of African American migration, housing discrimination, and community formation in South Los Angeles. It exemplifies significant contributions to the broader cultural fabric of the community by serving as a frequent and active meeting site for a number of social clubs and organizations, strengthening ties among Los Angeles' prospering Black community from the 1940s through the 1960s.

CRITERION 2

The property is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history.

This house was the first home purchased by Grant D. Venerable, who broke barriers in higher education, and specifically in the sciences and engineering, when he became the first Black graduate of Caltech in 1932. His accomplishment exemplifies the efforts of other African American scholars and the NAACP in the 1920s and 1930s to tear down racial barriers to higher education. Venerable lived in this property from 1945 to 1970 – his longest period spent in any residence.

CRITERION 3

The property also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence is significant under Criterion 3 both because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman style and because it represents a notable work of master architect George J. Webster. The house displays the defining features of the Craftsman style at its peak expression, all of which remain legible despite later alterations and align with the character-defining elements identified in the SurveyLA Arts and Crafts Movement Context Statement. The residence is also an important early example of its master architect George J. Webster's work. Known for building grand residences in Pasadena and Altadena at the height of the Arroyo Seco Arts and Crafts movement, this residence is particularly notable as one of only six of Webster's works still extant within the city of Los Angeles, and especially notable in the wake of the 2025 Eaton fire that destroyed seven of his most important works in Altadena.

In addition, the property is associated with multiple specific **Context Statements** described in SurveyLA and in other historic context and cultural theme studies that have identified narratives that are significant to African American heritage in this country as well as our architectural legacy. These historic contexts are important to understanding the history of African Americans in Los Angeles, so that we can, in the words of the African American Historic Places, Los

Angeles (AAHPLA): “better identify, protect, and celebrate African American heritage throughout the City of L.A.”

CONTEXT 1 | *Migration and Settlement Patterns: Crossing the Red Line*

CONTEXT 2 | *Housing Discrimination in the Nation and in Los Angeles*

CONTEXT 3 | *Community Formation*

CONTEXT 4 | *Civic and Social Infrastructure: The Home as Meeting Place*

CONTEXT 5 | *Civil Rights: Segregation in Higher Education*

CONTEXT 6 | *The Arts & Crafts Movement, 1895-1930*

- **Migration and Settlement Patterns: Crossing the Red Line:** The westward movement of African American families into West Adams before and after WWII
Historians of Black American life in Los Angeles note this early wave of inner city migration into previously Caucasian-inhabited neighborhoods was often led by socially established, economically capable, and civically-engaged African American professionals, like Venerable, who possessed the means and determination to challenge restrictive housing patterns.
- **Housing Discrimination in the Nation and in Los Angeles:** African American challenges to restrictive covenants and redlining
Before Grant D. Venerable purchased his home on Budlong in 1944, there were next to no African Americans in this or nearby subdivisions north of Jefferson Street. Moreover, his family members were among the named defendants in a court case that was soon to get national headlines: the “Sugar Hill cases” (Tolhurst V. Venerable) was among the first local cases to receive a ruling that overturned restrictive covenants.
- **Community Formation:** Development of African American middle-class neighborhoods in South Los Angeles
Venerable was a well-known figure who helped lead efforts to desegregate West Adams -- his home on Budlong was one of the earliest black-owned residences in this section of the Adams-Normandie community, north of Jefferson Boulevard.
- **Civic and Social Infrastructure: The Home as Meeting Place:** The use of private homes as meeting places for organizations excluded from segregated institutions
As a documented site of civic, cultural, and social activities, the residence actively contributed to the cultural fabric of the region.
- **Civil Rights: Segregation in Higher Education:** The nation’s top universities closed their doors to African American scholars. From Harvard’s founding until the end of WWII, only about a dozen African Americans graduated in the sciences and engineering from the top U.S. universities; Venerable was one.
The importance of Venerable’s role in desegregating Caltech cannot be understated. He entered a field and institutional environment in which African American students were almost entirely absent, facing exclusion from campus housing and other discriminatory barriers. His achievement—recognized and celebrated in the Black press throughout his life—embodied the early struggle to desegregate elite higher education and made him one of the nation’s earliest African American science graduates from a top-ranked university. Venerable’s personal struggle, finally successful, to matriculate from a top-ranked college in the sciences not only gave him life-long fame, it elevated his status to a symbol within L.A.’s Black community that hard work would result in achieving seemingly unattainable goals.
- **The Arts & Crafts Movement, 1895-1930:** One of the most popular styles utilized by home builders throughout the West Adams District, the Arts and Crafts movement emphasized hand craftsmanship over mass production.
The property displays the distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman style, including its rustic massing, expressive roof forms, exposed structural elements, and handcrafted detailing.

CRITERION 1

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence is identified with important events of local history.

COMMUNITY HISTORY: ADAMS-NORMANDIE IN THE WEST ADAMS DISTRICT

The Subject building is located in the Adams-Normandie neighborhood of West Adams, in the southwestern section of the City of Los Angeles, south of the Santa Monica Freeway and northwest of the University of Southern California (USC) campus. This area is the ancestral and unceded territory of the original people of Los Angeles, the Tongva, who defined their world as *Tovaangar*.

The subject building is closest to the former villages of Yaanga and Geveronga and was most probably controlled by them for thousands of years. Prior to the period of conquest and colonization by Spanish, Mexican and U.S. governments (1769-present), the Tongva intensively managed their lands by cultivating, pruning, seeding, and above all, by seasonal burning.

In the 1770s, the Spanish established a colonial military, religious, and economic base at Misión San Gabriel Arcángel, relocating thousands of Tongva and their neighbors from surrounding village-states. The colonial occupation depended on the forced labor of the Tongva, which would eradicate the local Indigenous economic base by displacing flowerfields with European grazing grasses and cutting ancient acorn-bearing oaks for lumber.

According to "We Are Still Here," a report on past, present and ongoing harms against local tribes prepared for the County of Los Angeles, "[c]enturies of displacement, enslavement, incarceration, and genocide from successive waves of settlers – the Spanish, the Mexicans, and then Americans – mean that most local Tribes don't hold the present-day titles to their ancestral lands." Despite subjugation by Spanish, Mexican and U.S. governments, members of the Gabrielino-Tongva tribe continue to be stewards of their homelands today.

Los Angeles was known as "El Pueblo de La Reina de Los Angeles" in its early years and was formally incorporated as the City of Los Angeles in 1850, the same year that California became the 31st U.S. state. In the 1870s, Los Angeles was still little more than a village of 5,000 to 7,000 people. But in 1885, a railroad rate war helped create a real estate boom in the region, and boosterism brought waves of American migrants from the East Coast and Midwest. By 1887, the population exceeded 50,000.

Promoters and investors marketed Southern California's warm climate, sunny skies and beautiful coastline to entice Americans to move west. Taking advantage of the need to house the new migrants, land investors, speculators and developers began to purchase land outside the city, particularly to the west of the original boundaries, to accommodate the newcomers. Simultaneously, railroad and streetcar systems were beginning to be laid throughout the area and served these new outlying suburban neighborhoods. The Adams-Normandie area, combined with the Old University District (generally south of Jefferson to the railroad tracks), had some of the earliest suburban neighborhoods developed prior to the turn of the 20th century -- although not all sections developed that early, and much of the area remained rural (farms and cattle ranches) until after 1900.

The coming presence of the new University of Southern California (which opened in 1880), in conjunction with the nearby Street railway -- a horse-drawn car line that ran from Main Street in downtown Los Angeles to Agricultural Park (today's Exposition Park) -- stimulated feverish real estate speculation in the 1870s and 1880s. These efforts were not very successful. The "elegantly platted 'West Los Angeles' subdivisions recorded in 1876 [but] lot sales and building activity were virtually nil. A drought and recession gripped Los Angeles for the next five years." (Patricia Adler, *History of the Normandie Program Area*, page 3)

Similarly, an ambitious railroad project linking Santa Monica to Los Angeles and thence to silver mines in the Owens Valley did get built -- but its service was "rudimentary" and primarily benefitted hay farmers on the plains between Vermont and Western Avenues, south of Jefferson.

The tract and township of "West Los Angeles" was renamed "University" and both a post office and general store were opened in 1883 on the southwest corner of Jefferson Boulevard and University Avenue (circa today's Hoover). And then began, from 1886 to its bust in summer 1888, a "silly season in real estate activity when sales averaged as high as \$12 million a month." (Adler, page 6). Many nearby swathes of land in the area, including the Charles Victor Hall Tract located just one-quarter mile west of the subject property, were subdivided in anticipation of new residential markets created by the university. Hall filed a subdivision map on November 30, 1887, but he was only able to sell a few lots at that time. Hall's tract -- as well as Budlong Avenue -- was still a substantial walking distance from the horse-drawn "Main Street and Agricultural Park Railroad" and therefore was not attractive to commuters who worked in downtown Los Angeles. The tracts closer to the University and the horse-car line fared better but were still not fully developed.

This boom-and-bust era continued for several decades. In the overall Adams-Normandie area, in addition to the Charles Victor Hall Tract, the Urmston Tract (north of Adams and east of Vermont) was laid out in 1886, and the Howe Tract (south of Jefferson and bisected by what is now Normandie Avenue) was laid out in 1887. The “Newman Tracts” (southeast of the Howe Tract) show on early maps; however, these parcels were later re-subdivided by a variety of developers mostly after 1900.

The distance from Downtown and the habitual neglect (Adler, page 10) of Los Angeles’s unpaved streets made horse & buggy transportation to these tracts unbearably time-consuming for anyone who worked in the heart of the City. Finally, railroad and streetcar systems were laid throughout the city and served these new outlying suburban neighborhoods. A new streetcar line – still with horse-drawn cars – opened in 1891. The cars made the lengthy trip from Downtown via Flower to Washington and then along a circuitous route through University Park to Hoover, then south past Jefferson to Santa Monica (Exposition). The complicated route was also often muddy – until it was finally electrified in 1900. The City also granted a charter in 1897 for a traction line on 24th Street to Normandie, south to Adams and west to Arlington. Soon after came the 1902 grand opening of the Jefferson Street line, which ran down Vermont to Jefferson and then west to Arlington. Thenceforth, urbanized settlement of the Adams-Normandie area proceeded nearly as rapidly as rail transportation was expanded.

The early land owners in the area “greeted the coming of rail transportation with great enthusiasm. It could, they knew, produce an almost magical transformation of raw land, which had lain untended from the time it was platted into house lots, into a neighborhood of cottages and gardens.” (Adler, page 13)

The Subject property experienced a slightly different development scenario. Today it is located within Cotton’s Budlong Avenue Tract, a 16-lot subdivision laid out in 1907. Hamilton H. (“H.H.”) and Henry G. (“H.G.”) Cotton were the owners of an influential real estate brokerage, H.G. Cotton & Co., and were also subdividers of more than one residential tract in the early years of the 20th century. But before their subdivision of this one partial block of Budlong Avenue, there were several previous property owners in this pastoral section with very large parcels of land, and few attempts to develop the neighborhood. As late as 1898, Budlong Avenue was rural enough that rather than addresses, occupants’ homes were described by which intersection they lived in the *Los Angeles City Directory*. For example, Miss Lucy Bradshaw, a teacher, lived “south” of West Adams on Budlong, while Melville Brown, a pharmacist, lived in the third house south of 29th Street.

Nancy A. Budlong arrived in Los Angeles in 1883, with her five young adult children in tow. She told local society that she was a “widow,” but in truth she was recently divorced from her wealthy lawyer husband, David Budlong. Nancy Budlong initially settled outside the city limits in a house on a country road she re-named “Budlong Avenue.” Soon, she began investing in Los Angeles real estate. Mrs. Budlong had a knack for realty; her holdings grew to be extensive in both Los Angeles and Redondo Beach, and she was associated with Los Angeles improvement efforts until her death in 1907.

In 1887, two different real estate firms promoted lots located between Vermont and Budlong. Jere Johnson noted that “50 choice lots” will be auctioned off under a mammoth tent, while all would be entertained by the “celebrated” Fred Dohs band. And Luckenbach & Chesebro advertised “*Hoop La Hoop La Hoop La*” – fine lots on Budlong within a block of where a streetcar soon would be running. However, by and large these lots did not sell – an 1894 Birdseye Map of Los Angeles shows that, with the exception of portions of the Vermont Avenue and Adams Street frontages, the parcels remained farmland and pastures.

At this point, the tracts of Adams-Normandie were NOT a part of the City of Los Angeles. In October of 1895, an attempt was made to annex this section, but the vote failed as the residents of the University Township were firmly opposed. A year later, a second vote passed – but it excluded University (the area south of Jefferson to Santa Barbara, Vermont to Arlington). The 1896 Southern and Western Addition increased the size of the city by 10 square miles, and brought city services to the Adams-Normandie area for the first time. Three years later, University’s residents relented, and consented to also be annexed to the growing city.

Still, the lots on Budlong Avenue where the Subject Property would be built in 1907-1908 remained vacant.

Finally, following the improvements to city infrastructure and transportation systems, the neighborhoods surrounding USC became prime real estate for affluent families in the City. Mostly middle-class white residents moved into the area and by 1912, the Cotton’s Budlong Avenue Tract and nearby tracts were nearly built-out with single-family dwellings on their internal streets. In the 1920s, commercial buildings began to be erected along the perimeter streets of Jefferson Boulevard, Adams Boulevard and Vermont Avenue, along with small multi-family buildings on lots that had never been developed.

In 1922, Los Angeles’s new Planning Commission embarked on a citywide rezoning effort. For the general Adams-Normandie/West Adams District area, only two pocket neighborhoods (West Adams Heights and St. James Place-Chester Place) retained the “A” single family zoning. Everywhere else within neighborhoods was rezoned single or multi-family zoning, while the main corridors now allowed any type of dwelling plus commercial use. “...Particularly

along Jefferson Blvd., small stores, early filling stations and repair shops of all sorts were constructed in the front yards of the handsome two-story houses of the turn of the century. There was no effort to maintain a uniform set-back line, or bring a semblance of order to the appearance of the street.” (Adler, page 23)

By 1939, the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC) noted that deed restrictions in Adams-Normandie had also expired and described the neighborhood as “In Decline.” According to HOLC, fifteen to twenty years previous to mapping the district, the area was considered high grade, however due to conversion of old homes into multifamily dwellings and boarding houses and the possibility that it could become a blighted area through “infiltration of subversive racial elements” from “districts to the south,” it was given a “low yellow” grade.

Written with contributions from Los Angeles Conservancy’s HCM Application for Greater Page Temple, as well as the History of the Normandie Program Area, prepared for the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, by Patricia Adler, Urban Historian, 1969.

CONTEXT: HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND LOS ANGELES

Homeownership has long been understood as a key pathway to wealth accumulation and economic stability in the United States, as housing represents a major component of household wealth for most American families. But until an important Supreme Court decision in 1948 and the subsequent passing of the Fair Housing Act in 1968, it was commonplace across the nation for restrictive housing covenants in property deeds to expressly prohibit the property’s sale to anyone who was not Caucasian, “specifically Negroes, Asians, Hispanics, and Jews.” Such race-restrictive housing covenants were a vital method of maintaining segregation in Los Angeles, as well as nationwide.

In addition to racially-restrictive covenants, African Americans faced significant institutional challenges to achieving homeownership throughout the 20th century. Beyond facing barriers to employment and generational wealth, public and private policies made mortgages and home insurance policies hard to receive via discriminatory lending practices and what became known as federal “redlining.” Throughout the 1930s, various federal government agencies assessed cities nationwide on the security and risk of real-estate and mortgage investments. Los Angeles was among 239 cities divided into four grades, each corresponding to a color – green noting first grade (most desirable) and blue noting second grade (still desirable), while yellow (third grade) represented neighborhoods in decline and red (4th grade) represented hazardous areas to invest in. A copy of the 1939 grading map of Los Angeles created by HOLC under the Federal Housing Administration is included on page 56 of this nomination.

Most African American urban households fell into the zone labeled “red” or “grade four,” which were considered most risky for mortgage support. In both public and private spheres, red zones were considered not worthy of investment and property values were lower than in higher-graded zones. The effects of redlining extended beyond denying real estate loans to charging exorbitant interest rates and denying credit and insurance to those living in “risky” zones.

As funding for public schools in the United States is largely derived from property taxes, this process also inhibited educational resources. Today, redlining is considered one of the most profound manifestations of systemic racism in American society for its lingering effects on both housing and educational segregation, and is viewed as a major contributor to the racial wealth gap.

CROSSING THE REDLINE: THE EFFORT TO DESEGREGATE LOS ANGELES’ “WEST SIDE”

In the late 1930s, the Historic West Adams neighborhoods were referred to as the “West Side” by the largely Black inhabitants of the neighborhoods east of Central Avenue, which were then the epicenter of African American life in Los Angeles. But as the “East Side” faced overcrowding, Black Angelenos began to explore where else in L.A. they could settle.

Historians of Black American life in Los Angeles, including Jennifer Mandel, Lawrence de Graaf and Josh Sides, have shown that this early wave of inner city migration into previously Caucasian-inhabited neighborhoods was often led by socially established, economically capable, and civically-engaged African American professionals who possessed the means and determination to challenge restrictive housing patterns.

Jennifer Mandel’s book, *The Coveted Westside: How the Black Homeowners’ Rights Movement Shaped Modern Los Angeles* (University of Nevada Press, 2022), provides excellent context on the concerted effort made by Black Angelenos to migrate to and desegregate the so-called “West Side.”

Mandel writes that African Americans “purchased homes and goods as a way to assert their civil rights,” using the American dollar as an “essential expression of political views” by boycotting racist public and private institutions

and consciously choosing where to spend their money. Mandel continues, “To middle- and upper-class Blacks, homeownership and consumerism signified wealth, status, and power in American society. Indeed, affluent blacks in Los Angeles acted alongside a broad-based effort toward racial equality that was occurring in communities around the country and erupted in the mid-1950s as the modern civil rights movement.” (Mandel, page 14)

Mandel notes that “although whites attempted to isolate people of color to the Eastside, middle-and upper-class African Americans used their financial resources and resolve to confront residential discrimination one street block at a time. As they migrated westward, affluent blacks broke down the racial divide and expanded housing opportunities for people of color across the city.” (Mandel, 22)

In 1939, the HOLC map deemed the Adams-Normandie neighborhood, as well as much of West Adams, as yellow/grade three, meaning “declining.” The neighborhood was increasingly inhabited by Eastern European Caucasians, while south of Jefferson Blvd was graded red, and was home to a larger African American population. An extract of the Adams-Normandie neighborhood section of the larger 1939 HOLC map of Los Angeles is included on page 55.

By the early 1940s, Black families were beginning to challenge race-restrictive covenants while migrating west of Central Avenue and north of Jefferson Street. Such trailblazers risked intimidation, lawsuits, and violence by moving into white neighborhoods. However, if they found that an area was reasonably safe, many others followed.

When wealthy Black Americans purchased grand homes in the West Adams Heights neighborhood (aka Sugar Hill) in 1945, a group of white residents sued their Black neighbors, insisting on evicting them because “their property would lose value and racial clashes would inevitably ensue.” Loren Miller, a prominent civil rights attorney, was hired by the collective of Black homeowners, who ultimately prevailed in the consolidated Sugar Hill cases, helping end racist housing restrictions in California. In December 1945, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Thurmond Clarke ruled against the white homeowners, making Thurmond the first judge in America to use the 14th Amendment to disallow the enforcement of race-restrictive covenants. The case served as a precursor for the Supreme Court suit, *Shelley v. Kraemer* (also argued by Loren Miller), which ruled against such covenants nationwide and paved the way for the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

According to a 2018 *Los Angeles Times* profile on the Adams-Normandie neighborhood, “The court-ordered end of L.A.’s discriminatory racial covenants in the late 1940s was a milestone in the neighborhood’s history, as black Angelenos and other people of color were now afforded the same housing rights as whites and were able to freely move into the neighborhood. As a result, many of the remaining white residents decamped to the Valley and other suburbs.”

COMMUNITY FORMATION: THE VENERABLES CROSS THE RED LINE

Grant D. Venerable purchased his first home at 2921 S. Budlong Avenue in 1944 for a price of \$7,000. Prior to 1944, Venerable resided with his wife, Thelma S. Venerable, in the home owned by his mother, Louise Venerable, at 1286 West 36th St. (a building since demolished), located south of Jefferson Boulevard. Although sited within a mile of the subject residence, Jefferson Boulevard at the time marked the divide between a predominantly African American neighborhood deemed red by HOLC (his mother’s) and a primarily Caucasian neighborhood deemed yellow (that of the subject residence).

Venerable became locally famous when, in 1932, he became the first graduate of African descent from the famed Caltech. The impact of his achievement will be further elaborated on in the Criterion 2 of this nomination. As a notable public figure, crossing the red-line to buy into a neighborhood formerly off-limits to African Americans meant that he was acting in accordance with the pattern of prosperous African Americans paving the way to integrate the West Side, thereby identifying the subject property with this important historical event.

Venerable’s acquisition of the home predates both the 1945 Sugar Hill decision and the landmark 1948 *Shelley v. Kraemer* decision, meaning he was taking a significant risk by crossing the color line. Beyond potentially getting sued, an African American crossing the red line could mean not only getting sued, but also being the victim of harassment and violent intimidation.

Venerable’s daughter Lynda recalls her family being “if not the first, then among the first” African Americans on the block. She also recalls that her father carried a visible gun on his person as a warning to neighbors who might commit violent reprisals. Thankfully, the gun was never fired.

Within a year of Venerable purchasing the subject residence, the residents of “Sugar Hill” were being sued by their white neighbors less than a mile from Venerable’s new home. Many people recognize the names of the celebrity defendants involved in the Sugar Hill lawsuit, in particular actresses Hattie McDaniel and Louise Beavers, but the legal name of the lawsuit was actually *Tolhurst v. Venerable*. The named defendant was Nellie Venerable, Grant D. Venerable’s aunt. Nellie Venerable was the wife of Conquest Blaine Venerable, a life-long father figure for the younger

Grant Venerable. Blaine had amassed a fortune as an hotelier, entrepreneur and philanthropist, and purchased a Moorish-style villa on “Sugar Hill” at 2266 S. Harvard Blvd. in 1945 (since demolished).

According to the 1942-1943 *California Negro Directory*, very few African Americans were living north of Jefferson Street at that time, and only one African American is listed on Budlong Ave north of Jefferson: Lucille Henderson in a house located at 24th Street and Budlong – five blocks to the north of the subject residence, bisected by Adams Boulevard.

Census records for the subject property’s tract from 1940 and 1950 show a startling demographic shift on this particular section of Adams-Normandie. In 1940, every resident listed on the subject residence’s census page was of Caucasian descent. By 1950, 90% were listed as African American. These census records are included on page 58 and 59 of this nomination.

Given the census-documented demographic shift within the decade and that Venerable purchased the home in 1944 – prior to the decisions in both the *Tolhurst v. Venerable* and *Shelley vs. Kramer* lawsuits – we feel confident in stating Venerable was part of this early wave of prominent African Americans who desegregated Adams Normandie, thereby paving the way for others to follow.

By the latter half of the 1940s, other prosperous Black Americans had settled in Adams-Normandie. The home and music school of Leon and Dovie Steward was established across the street at 2916 S. Budlong Ave by 1948, where the Venerable children learned to play the organ and performed recitals written up frequently in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* and the *California Eagle*. Later, 2215-2217 Budlong Ave was the home of famed musician Johnny “Guitar” Watson, and Professor William T. Wilkins would establish his school of music a block away from the Venerable home, at 1514 W. 29th St. There were several other nearby African American pioneers, including film and television actress Amanda Randolph, who lived a few blocks away on Van Buren Place. Venerable’s mother Louise Venerable also followed her son to live at 2955 S. Budlong Ave. (just down the street from her son on the same block) from 1945 until her death in 1950. An obituary in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* in 1950 described Venerable’s mother as “one of Los Angeles’ widely esteemed pioneers, who came to the city 30 years ago.” Her obituary is included in the Appendix, page 34.

The subject residence – and its identification with the well-known Grant D. Venerable – made it a testament in its era to Black upward mobility, desegregation, and equality. Venerable was a celebrated public figure, and crossing the red-line helped serve as a bellwether to other African Americans that the Adams-Normandie enclave was safe. The subject residence is thereby identified with the important local event of desegregating L.A.’s West Side. Venerable was not only acting in accordance with the tides of the time and the expectations and hopes of LA’s Black elite, but he was also acting in accordance with his own personal life mission to break through the racial divide and expand opportunities for other people of color – be it in the arena of higher academia or access to housing in the neighborhood of one’s choice.

THE VENERABLE FAMILY AS SYMBOLS

In this era, home ownership faced such significant barriers that the mere act of purchasing turned homes – and the families that inhabited them – into symbols of economic and social equality, especially when it dared to happen where institutional forces were determined that they should not.

Following the notoriety gained by Venerable’s graduation in 1932, both he and his family were chronicled by the era’s leading African American newspapers for decades to come, and are even identified as residents of Budlong Avenue. His wife Thelma Scott Venerable was referred to in a June 23rd, 1949 edition of the *California Eagle* as “Mrs S [Venerable] of Budlong Avenue” in the social notes section, while her 1950 obituary refers to her as a “popular and highly regarded young matron of the West Side.” Both articles are reproduced on pages 15 and 16 of the Appendix.

A November 8, 1951 article in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* (one of the most influential newspapers chronicling African American life in L.A.) features a photograph of Venerable with his three children opening a bank account at Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Association. The caption mentions their address at “2921 Budlong St. [sic].” The newspaper clipping is included on page 19 of the Appendix.

It is important to note that the Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Association was founded in 1946 to provide bank services to minorities in the greater Los Angeles area, who were not served by other banks in the region. It grew to become the second-largest Black-owned bank in the country. Identifying the Venerable family, along with their home address, in one of L.A.’s leading Black newspapers, with a bank created specifically to cater to the underserved community, is another example of how Venerable, his family and his home were symbols of Black upward mobility in mid-century L.A.

Furthermore, this newspaper clipping, especially in context with the numerous press articles and mentions about the Venerable family, demonstrate the property’s identification with the broader historical movement of achieving economic and social equality in Los Angeles. The proposed monument’s name, the Grant D. Venerable Family

Residence, acknowledges the family of Grant D. Venerable for their contributions to the local fabric.

ROLE OF THE RESIDENCE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural and social history of the community, serving as a meeting place for organizations excluded from segregated institutions.

During the Venerable family's 25-year tenure (1945–1970), the residence also served as a meeting space for civic, fraternal, cultural, and social organizations, reflecting another significant pattern in Los Angeles' African American history. As noted in the SurveyLA African American Context Statement documents, African Americans frequently relied on private homes, churches, and community-run venues for organizational activities during segregation, when access to many public or commercial facilities was limited. The SurveyLA *Citywide Historic Context Statement for African American History of Los Angeles* includes a theme of Social Clubs and Organizations, 1885-1980, stating:

"African American social clubs and organizations in Los Angeles fostered a sense of community identity and pride.... Because of exclusionary practices by whites, members of the African American community often formed their own clubs, establishing separate chapters of national white clubs as well as distinct local organizations.... Meetings and events were held in residences, churches, or rented spaces."

The *Santa Barbara African American Context Statement* chapter on "Clubs and Social Organizations" provides further context on the impact of Black homes used as social clubs:

"The homes of Black residents also frequently served as more than personal residences but also as meeting places for Black social clubs, civic and political organizations, and other groups, in addition to churches. In this way, the homes of Black residents often acted as incubators for activities, efforts, and movements led by Black men and women that not only enriched the lives of Black residents but positively impacted the city as a whole."

The Subject property hosted numerous social clubs and organization meetings, allowing African Americans from other neighborhoods to congregate, fraternize, and share resources. Numerous music recitals, club meetings, and social gatherings are reported in the *California Eagle* and *Los Angeles Sentinel* while the Venerable family lived at the subject residence, and several articles listed the family home alongside the street name of the subject residence, Budlong Ave. (see newspaper clippings in the Appendix, pages 16 - 24). While not the exclusive meeting point for some of these organizations, the number of groups that utilized the space for meetings is further evidence of the residence's contributions to the broader cultural fabric during the heyday of mid-century West Adams. The following sections list the various clubs that used the subject residence as a meeting.

THE KANSAS CLUB

The Los Angeles chapter of the Kansas Club was a local branch of the nationwide Kansas Club movement, which was established out of the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1900 "to assert their emerging middle-class [status], organize their growing population." Clubs of this era grew out of the necessity for community among the diasporas created from The Great Migration and were known to "challenge established definitions of race and gender, redefine leadership roles in Black communities, and question the complexities of economic class status."

According to the PhD dissertation by Doretha K. Williams, "Kansas Grows the Best Wheat and the Best Race Women: Black Women's Club Movement in Kansas, 1900-30," the Kansas Club's origins were primarily women-led and tailored to "strengthen their communities... monitoring the ebb and flow of unstable migration patterns.... Kansas women accomplished more than just incorporated art clubs; they strengthened a community in transition, setting in motion the construction of a Black middle class."

The families of both Grant D. Venerable's and his wife, Thelma Scott Venerable, are representative of one of several waves of migration of African American families at the turn of the 20th century. Scott's family migrated from Kansas in 1919, packing all of their belongings and family members into a single Chandler Touring Car to embark on the 13-day journey from Topeka, Kansas to Los Angeles, where they settled in Boyle Heights.

Her family were part of a group of African Americans known as "Children of the Exodus" or "Exodusters" who embarked on one of the largest single migrations in American history to escape Jim Crow laws in Deep South states. The Exodusters migrated *en masse* to Kansas, which was rumored to become a "Black state," to be given over to former slaves and their children. When Kansas did not become such a place, another migration pattern was triggered westward. Many headed for California, though a larger migration to California did not take place until the outbreak of WWII, when Franklin D. Roosevelt integrated the shipping ports on the West Coast.

Although Grant D. Venerable was born and raised in Missouri, his family has strong connections with Kansas as well. His uncle and de-facto father figure C. (Conquest) Blaine Venerable was the first Black teacher in Lawrence, Kansas, despite "much opposition" as reported in a May 29, 1915 article in the *Lawrence Journal-World*. Venerable's mother, Louise Venerable, was also living in Lawrence, Kansas in 1915, and had purchased a house for her daughter Neosho Venerable to live in while attending the University of Kansas. It was from Lawrence, Kansas that young Grant Venerable was sent in 1919 to live with his uncle Conquest in San Bernardino.

Two 1946 photos (*below*) show a dinner session of the Kansas Club in the Venerable Family Residence. According to Grant D. Venerable II, the home's spacious living room and den made it an ideal meeting space for this group, of which his maternal grandparents were charter members.



Grant D. Venerable and Thelma Scott Venerable (top photo, far right) host a dinner session of the Kansas Club in the Venerable Family Residence at 2921 S. Budlong Ave, in March 1946. *Source: Anthony Scott Papers, Kansas University.*

The Kansas Club emphasized the importance of owning and building homes to form strong communities, fight prejudice and resist discrimination, encouraging "homebuilding as their avenues toward race and self-improvement...Club women sought to create a sense of economic stability by securing employment for the recently-arrived migrants. [...]" (Williams, pages 68-73). Chapters were spawned nationwide, including among the nascent Black migrant population in California. The Los Angeles chapter was founded in 1927, and was written up frequently in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* throughout the 1930s-1960s. Loren Miller, the aforementioned civil rights attorney and *Los Angeles Sentinel* owner, who was raised in Kansas, is also reported in attendance at meetings. Newspaper coverage of the Kansas Club is shown on pages 38-41 of the Appendix. Despite being primarily women-led, there were many male members and attendees.

LAS MADRINAS

According to Grant D. Venerable II, his paternal grandmother Louise Venerable used the subject residence for meetings of Las Madrinias (alternative spelling: "Madrenas") at least once a year. Las Madrinias (Spanish for "The Godmothers") was an organization of women who worked as servants in the homes of wealthy white families and organized cultural and social events. One such event was bringing singer Marian Anderson to perform in Los Angeles in 1940 after she'd been denied the chance to sing in Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The organization was written about extensively throughout the 1950s in the *Sentinel*, often in connection with the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority (Louise Venerable was also a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Mother's Club). Despite living just a half-block away from the Venerables in her final years (1945-1950), she chose her son's home as a meeting venue for its especially spacious common rooms. Louise Venerable's residence from 1945-1950 at 2955 S. Budlong Ave.

is extant but in altered condition. Louise Venerable's prior home at 1286 W. 36th St. was demolished in the 1960s and is now an apartment building.

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was a pivotal social organization for the African American community in the world of higher education. Founded in 1906 at Cornell University, it is considered the first intercollegiate Greek-Letter fraternity for African American men.

As a charter member of the local Alpha Phi Alpha chapter, Venerable held annual meetings at his home. Grant D. Venerable served on the Alpha Phi Alpha scholarship committee, and in that role he occasionally gave lectures at local high schools. The *Los Angeles Sentinel*, in a 1947 article, mentions Venerable as an "outstanding engineer graduate of Caltech," who gave a speech "stressing the importance of preparation for opportunity." This article further underscores the resounding effect of Venerable's Caltech graduation and his lifelong mission to expand access to higher education for his community. The April 1941 issue of *The Sphinx* (Alpha Phi Alpha's official publication, and the second oldest continuously-published journal by African Americans in the United States), features a profile of Grant D. Venerable in the "Alpha Men in the News" section, noting his career transition from insurance executive to "engineering consultant" following his groundbreaking graduation (Appendix, page 35).

SurveyLA's Citywide Historic Context Statement for the African American History of Los Angeles, in its chapter on Clubs and Organizations, mentions: "Sororities and fraternities often have significance beyond the university community, forming a base for future political and civic activism in addition to friendships. Social critics argue that historically Black Greek organizations differ from those that are traditionally all-white because of the organizations' lasting importance to African Americans long after they have left their respective colleges and universities."

Fraternities were viewed as especially important for Black students at integrated institutions, as housing was commonly denied to Black students. Venerable joined Alpha Phi Alpha at UCLA, lived in the Alpha fraternity house while attending UC Berkeley, and was initially denied on-campus housing while attending Caltech. Lawrence Otis Graham writes extensively about the influence of Alpha Phi Alpha in his book *Our Kind of People: Inside America's Black Upper Class* (HarperCollins, 1999). "By the 1930s and 1940s, the fraternities and sororities had become more dominant on campus, offering large social gatherings and serving as a magnet for not just the intellectual elite but also the economic elite. By the early 1950s, many of the fraternity alumni who stayed active in their graduate chapters had launched important civic programs to respond to the black community..." (Graham, page 86)

Inclusion in these organizations was highly sought after, and only those with the highest academic standards and community profile gained admission. The social ties forged in this fraternity stayed with its members for life. Academic excellence was of the utmost importance, and members were devoted to increasing access to higher education for those who came after them.

According to the Venerable family, it was through Alpha Phi Alpha that Venerable met and became lifelong friends with Jesse Owens, who gained fame for winning four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. (A photograph of Jesse Owens beside Thelma Venerable holding an infant Lloyd Venerable alongside a young Grant D Venerable II can be viewed on page 15 of the Appendix).

Among the other high profile members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternal network were: "Dr. Martin Luther King; Atlanta Mayors Andrew Young and Maynard Jackson; scholar W. E. B. Du Bois; former U.S. Senator Edward Brooke; former Congressman William Gray, who now heads the United Negro College Fund; Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens; Canaan Baptist Church head Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker; *Ebony* magazine founder John Johnson; New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial; Seattle Mayor Norman Rice; Parks Sausage founder Henry Parks; National Urban League directors Hugh Price, Lester Granger, and Whitney Young; Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer; San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown; New York Congressman Charles Rangel; U.S. Cabinet Secretaries William Coleman, Samuel Pierce, and Louis Sullivan; Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr.; and New York City Mayor David Dinkins." (Graham, page 92). The fraternity is still active today, with over 150,000 members and 750 chapters around the world, and still offering mentoring services to youth.

The Sphinx also mentions in its December 1938 issue that in 1928 and 1929, Venerable was President of the Alpha Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha. Thelma Venerable was also active in the organization, serving as a member of the Alpha Wives Auxiliary of Los Angeles. An October 1947 issue shows Thelma Scott Venerable among other "wives of brothers" from the three main Los Angeles Alpha Phi Alpha chapters, congregating as one of the "most active groups of its kind within the fraternal circles."

JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA

The national organization "Jack and Jill of America" was founded in 1938 in Pennsylvania as a club for African

American families. Led by middle and upper-middle class Black mothers, its goal was to help children succeed economically and socially against adversity faced by a society dominated by white people. The first chapter in Los Angeles was founded in 1949 by Emily Brown Portwig, a pharmacist, and the organization gathered at numerous homes throughout the city.

Jack and Jill of America has long been one of the defining organizations for families of the Black professional class. It has 218 chapters throughout the United States and Germany, and its membership includes more than 30,000 parents and children. A nonprofit service organization, it focuses on bringing together children aged two to nineteen and introducing them to various educational, social, and cultural experiences.” (Graham, 22)

Lawrence Graham explains that to this day, Jack and Jill is considered highly selective and membership is invitation-only. A large emphasis is placed on education, and in particular the pursuit of higher education. Membership was especially beneficial for children who lived in largely white-populated neighborhoods, as it instilled a connection with the Black community. Members were known to say “We needed the church, the family, and Jack and Jill.”

As Jack and Jill was primarily focused on children, birthday parties became society events, and as such the Venerable children were written about frequently in both the *Sentinel* and *California Eagle*, with numerous articles mentioning the Venerable Children birthday parties and the house on Budlong Avenue. A 1949 *Eagle* article specially mentions “Lloyd Venerable of Budlong Ave” as “entertaining 30 young friends... in honor of his 4th birthday, while another article mentions his 8th birthday party (Appendix, page 23). Both the *California Eagle* and *Los Angeles Sentinel* also reported frequently on the piano recitals performed by all three children, underscoring The Venerable’s exemplification of Jack and Jill’s emphasis on accomplishment.

A photograph from the Venerable Family Archive shows Grant D. Venerable II’s fourth birthday party in 1946 in front of the subject residence, which he (Venerable II) identifies as a Jack and Jill event, highlighting two future influential guests: Judith Francis Davis, who would become an attorney and serve in the nation’s diplomatic corps, and “Billy Beverly” otherwise known as the Honorable William C. Beverly (retired) who served as a judge for the Los Angeles Superior Court in California.

Mentorship was another key facet of Jack and Jill, instilling the importance of exceeding academically. According to Grant D. Venerable II, it was widely known among the African American “West Side” youth that if they were in search of a mentor, they could walk up to the door of 2921 S. Budlong Ave. and find one in his father. A photograph from the Venerable Family Archive dated December 18, 1955 shows 13 of Venerable’s mentees posed in front of the fireplace at 2921 S. Budlong Ave., along with Venerable’s three children. Venerable sought to instill a business and education consciousness through ventures such as selling copies of *Jet Magazine*, a weekly news magazine for the African American community (Appendix, page 20).

THE OCTOBER CLUB

Lynda Venerable’s debutante presentation with the social club “The October Club” was also profiled by the leading west coast African American newspapers. An October 1960 article in the *California Eagle* features a photo of Lynda’s debut at the October Club Cotillion, writing: “Lynda Venerable...assisted by father Grant D. Venerable, as she bows in stars.” While Grant D. Venerable disliked the exclusivity of some of these debutante social clubs, he understood the importance of membership. The October Club was founded by Venerable’s sister, Neosho Venerable Tatum, and was considered less elitist than “The Links,” another debutante club. According to the Venerable children, their aunt Neosho used the home to host planning meetings for the October Club debuts. Photographs from the Venerable Family Archive show Lynda Venerable posing prior to her 1960 debut at the October Club (Appendix, pages 25-26).

CRITERION 1 SUMMARY

The Venerable Family Residence is directly associated with several major themes in the Citywide Historic Context Statement and the SurveyLA African American History framework:

- **Housing Segregation and Resistance:** African American challenges to restrictive covenants and redlining
- **Migration and Settlement Patterns:** The westward movement of African American families into West Adams before and after WWII
- **Community Formation:** Development of African American middle-class neighborhoods in South Los Angeles

- **Civic and Social Infrastructure:** The use of private homes as meeting places for organizations excluded from segregated institutions

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence at 2921 S. Budlong Avenue is significant under Criterion 1 for its association with the early integration of the Adams-Normandie neighborhood and West Adams region, its representation of African American resistance to racially restrictive housing practices, its role in the demographic transformation of West Adams, and its documented function as a center of African American social and civic life during segregation. These associations place the property within the broader historical patterns that shaped mid-20th century Los Angeles and contributed substantially to the cultural and social history of the city.

Furthermore, the volume of social clubs the residence hosted demonstrate that it served as a pivotal community anchor, strengthening bonds among Kansas emigres and members of the nation's first African American fraternity while uplifting the next generation and instilling values necessary for achieving social and economic equality against the forces of segregation and institutional racism, thereby exemplifying significant contributions to the fabric of LA's Black community.

CRITERION 2

The property is associated with the lives of historic personages important to state, city, and local history.

THE LIFE OF GRANT D. VENERABLE: VENERABLE'S EARLY YEARS

Grant Delbert Venerable was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 10, 1904 and was of African, Cherokee, and Scottish descent. He attended Crispus Attucks Elementary School, a segregated school, and Lincoln High School in Kansas City. There Venerable received a strong education in mathematics and liberal arts.

At the age of 15, he migrated to California because of what was thought to be a tuberculosis spot on his lung, and landed in San Bernardino to live with his uncle Conquest Blaine Venerable (1885-1969). "Uncle Blaine," as he was known, was the much younger brother of Grant D. Venerable's father, and was raised by Grant D. Venerable's mother, Louise Venerable, as a sort of foster son.

The tuberculosis spot on Venerable's lung was a misdiagnosis, and he enrolled at San Bernardino High School as one of only five black students. Because he had come from a segregated school (Lincoln High School), he was held back a year, but graduated on time in 1920 at the age of 16. After graduation, he lived with his mother, Louise Venerable, on a ranch in Santa Ana, running track at Santa Ana Junior College. He moved with his mother to Los Angeles around 1921, and attended the University of Southern California, enrolling as a pre-med student. His mother worked as a housekeeper in the home of the wealthy Blackstone family, who owned the J.W. Robinson Department Store. From that income she purchased a home at 1286 West 36th St. (since demolished), where Venerable lived on-and-off while attending various colleges.

From 1923-1924, Venerable attended the Southern Branch of the University of California on Vermont Avenue, which became the original campus for the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), now home to the Los Angeles City College. There Venerable joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, association with which was an honor, and Venerable continued his association with this fraternity as a charter member throughout his life.

From 1924-1926 he studied at the University of California at Berkeley as a mathematics major, living at the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity house on Scott Street in San Francisco (*see: list of residences associated with Grant D. Venerable, page 34*). From 1926-1927 he returned to UCLA, where he served as president of the Agenda Club, described by UCLA as "a Negro organization." Venerable's attendance at UCLA was cut short when he was expelled by the head of the mathematics department for dropping a course without securing approval from the department chair. These harsh consequences were not a typical reprimand, and it should be noted that Venerable had recently made waves for writing a guest-editorial column in the *UCLA Daily Bruin* in reply to a racist article the journal had recently published. The article, called "The Negro Problem," publicly questioned the role Black people should play in integrating to white society. Venerable wrote in response:

"We should like to set at rest the misguided minds of those who are under the impression that we of the Negro race want social equality. To make such an assertion of the "New Negro" (so ably described by Ralph Bunche '27 in an address at the close of the last

semester) is an exhibition of ignorance beyond comparison. We want social equality and social intercourse with the other races in no greater measure than they desire it with us. Equal opportunity is our plea!" (CDB, 10/10/27)."

Loud Bark and Curious Eyes: A History of the UCLA Daily Bruin, 1919-1955, pgs. 30-31

For the next two years, Venerable studied independently to deepen his math and physics knowledge before applying to Caltech.

CALTECH: HISTORY

Caltech traces its roots back to the fall of 1891, when Amos Throop, a philanthropist based in Pasadena, established Throop University in the Wooster Block building in Pasadena. Throop University grew rapidly with the arrival of astronomer George Ellery Hale (the Mount Wilson Observatory's first director) to its board of trustees in 1907. Hale molded the school into a "first-class institution for engineering and scientific research and education" according to Caltech's website page, "History & Milestones." Hale was joined by chemist Arthur A. Noyes and physicist Robert A. Millikan in 1921 and the school was renamed the California Institute of Technology. Caltech rose into prominence throughout the 1920s, with the express purpose to pursue "scientific research of the greatest importance." Today, Caltech is ranked among the best academic institutions in the world and the most selective in the United States.

VENERABLE ATTENDS CALTECH

At Caltech, Venerable attended classes taught by scholars such as engineers Fred Converse and Theodore von Kármán (who developed the "wind tunnel" that would later become the Jet Propulsion Laboratory); chemical engineer William N. Lacey, and Nobel physicist Albert Einstein (a visiting lecturer in 1930, prior to his joining the Princeton faculty), as well as Robert A. Millikan, who won the Nobel Prize in 1923 for determining the magnitude of the electron's charge.

He paid for college through odd jobs, mowing lawns and working as a chauffeur and butler for a family in Beverly Hills. While studying at Caltech, Venerable was a member of the YMCA (now the Caltech Y), the American Society of Engineers, the track team, and the Exhibit Day committee. He also wrote for *The California Tech*, Caltech's student newspaper, from 1929 to 1932, and was named president of Caltech's Cosmopolitan Club, which was formed to promote fellowship among students of different nationalities. Venerable's mentions and photos in the 1932 Caltech yearbook can be viewed in the Appendix, pages 5-9.

Venerable's time at Caltech was not without incidents of racism. Grant Venerable's daughter, Lynda Venerable Ellington, writes in her support letter for this nomination that "he was not wanted at this prestigious school and was told many times he would not pass the course of study" (the full letter is included on page 49). Even more blatant was denying Venerable his application to live in one of Caltech's student residences. Dr. Millikan, who was associated with eugenics and the Human Betterment Society, appealed to the Board of Trustees on the issue of whether a "colored" student should be permitted to live on campus. Venerable was later approved to live in the house, but declined, citing the prohibitive cost. According to Venerable's children, Millikan came to respect Venerable's intellect. Venerable's obituary notes Venerable as a "protege" of Millikan during his time at Caltech (Venerable's obituary in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* can be viewed on page 62 of this nomination).

In 1931, Venerable was selected by Caltech to represent the university at the American Canadian student conference on Bowen Island in Vancouver, Canada. The *California Eagle*, the largest African American newspaper circulating in California at the time, reported the news on July 10, 1931, referring to Venerable as "the only colored student in Caltech... a major in engineering and... former president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity."

On August 14th, 1931, Venerable published an article in the *California Eagle* on his experiences in Canada, "Canadian Christian Conference Views Race Problem: All races tell of their problems; remedies advanced by few," in which Christian speakers from around the world discussed such wide-ranging subjects as colonialism and generational views on interracial marriage. The article is in the Appendix, page 4.

In 1932, the year of his graduation, Venerable was living in Pasadena at 1147 Cordova St, which appears to be the site of the Trinity Baptist Church. Census records also show him intermittently registered at his mother's address, 1286 West 36th St, a site since demolished.

CONTEXT: SEGREGATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

For most of U.S. history, African Americans faced near-total exclusion from higher education. Before the Civil War, it was illegal in many places to teach enslaved people to read, and after emancipation, schooling remained deeply

unequal. In 1896, the Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, affirming that the state and local-level racial segregation laws created after the Civil War did not violate the U.S. Constitution, establishing the principle of “separate but equal.” The result was a system of segregated and separate schooling – by law in the south and/or by tradition everywhere else – that was anything but equal.

Vastly different amounts of money were spent on the public school K-12 education, with different curriculums that steered Black students towards vocations such as railroad porter, blacksmith, laundress or maid. Higher education was similarly segregated and unequal. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were primarily established after the Civil War (1865–1877) and were likewise oriented toward vocational training to secure employment.

By the early 20th century, major universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, and Caltech, adhered to an unwritten system of racial exclusion, producing only a handful of Black graduates in any discipline. Segregation in schooling—distinct from residential or employment discrimination—persisted nationwide well into the 20th century. Elite universities maintained formal or informal racial barriers, producing only a very small number of Black graduates in any discipline before World War II. In scientific fields, opportunities were even rarer: the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* recorded only a short list of African American pioneers in the sciences up to the early 1930s, underscoring how exceptional such accomplishments were at the time.

By the mid-1930s, the NAACP began an orchestrated challenge to *Plessy v. Ferguson* – with some moderate success. Venerable was likely influenced by the movement in its nascent stages, become the first Black student admitted to Caltech in 1929 and its first black graduate three years later, just over three decades following the *Plessy* decision.

California’s leading universities followed the same exclusionary patterns. Stanford, Berkeley, UCLA, USC, and Caltech enrolled only a handful of Black students in their early decades, and their archives reflect sparse records of African American student life before the mid-20th century. A 2023 review of institutional histories revealed no African American science or engineering graduates at any of these institutions before Venerable’s 1932 Caltech degree, underscoring the rarity of his accomplishment. The few earlier exceptions—such as Ernest Houston Johnson at Stanford (1891–1895) and Bessie Bruington Burke at UCLA (1911)—were limited to non-STEM fields.

Within the fields of the sciences and engineering, African Americans were profoundly underrepresented throughout the 1930s–1950s, even as universities sought to expand scientific training after World War II and during the Cold War. Black students continued to face structural barriers, and HBCUs lacked accredited engineering programs until the 1960s–1970s. At Caltech itself, after Venerable’s graduation, no other African American undergraduate appeared until 1961, demonstrating how exceptional his presence there had been. Indeed, until this day African Americans remain underrepresented in the science and engineering fields in higher education.

The Supreme Court didn’t officially end racial segregation in public schools until 1954, with the decision in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. However, segregation continued to persist despite this ruling. In 1976, the Supreme Court ruled segregation in public schools to be illegal.

The winter 2007 edition of *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* profiles Grant D. Venerable in its article titled “The Talented Black Scholars Whom No White University Would Hire” alongside a black-and-white portrait of Venerable. The article is specifically chronicling the lack of Black people in the faculty of American colleges and universities, and is reproduced in the Appendix, pg 11.

For further background, a detailed history of African Americans’ battles to achieve success in higher education and the sciences, a broader national and state context statement entitled “Paving the Way: African Americans in the Sciences and Engineering Fields” can be found in the Appendix, pp. 56–65.

Within this context, the importance of Venerable’s role in desegregating Caltech cannot be overstated. He entered a field and institutional environment in which African American students were almost entirely absent, facing exclusion from campus housing and other discriminatory barriers. His achievement—recognized and celebrated in the Black press throughout his life—embodied the early struggle to desegregate elite higher education and made him one of the nation’s earliest African American science graduates from a top-ranked university.

GRANT D. VENERABLE: CAREER AFTER GRADUATION

The nation was in the thick of the Great Depression when Venerable graduated from Caltech, and despite his engineering degree from an esteemed university, he struggled to find work. The Great Depression was especially hard on African Americans. The term “last hired, first fired,” proliferated as African Americans saw unemployment rates that dwarfed those of whites. The Library of Congress states the unemployment rate among African Americans in 1932 at approximately 50 percent.

In 1934, Venerable went to Montana to put his engineering degree to some use in his aunt’s gold mine, earning enough to return to California by 1935 to work for the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company as a junior

insurance representative and salesman. Golden State Mutual was founded to provide Black people in California – who were often denied policies or charged exorbitant premiums – with quality life insurance. It was the first of its kind in California, and would go on to become the largest Black-owned insurance company in the American West, employing many Black Americans in Los Angeles.

Both the *Los Angeles Sentinel* and the *California Eagle* reported in 1936 and 1937 about Venerable's rise in the Golden State ranks with "remarkably rapid advancement," noting that he was "very popular in religious and fraternal circles." On June 11, 1937 an article on the front page of the *California Eagle* with the headline "Golden State Writes \$178,000 New Business" states that "Grant Venerable, assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles district, lead[s] in sales." (Appendix, pages 11-12)

In 1936 at Golden State Mutual, Venerable met his future wife Thelma Lorraine Scott, who worked as a corporate bookkeeper. Scott attended Los Angeles Junior College to earn her Associate of Arts degree, an academic feat that was not expected nor typical for women in her era. Scott and Venerable were married in 1939 at the Scott family church, Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Boyle Heights.

Venerable took a leave of absence at Golden State around 1940-1941, when an increased demand for mining engineers finally allowed him to pursue his chosen field of study. He worked for the Hayward Spyglass Company, applying his knowledge of optics, before working as a mining engineer in remote locations like Death Valley and the Salton Sea.

Venerable returned to entrepreneurship in 1945, when he became the general manager of the McAlpin Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles at 648 Stanford Ave, in a building since demolished. Venerable used the Subject property on Budlong Avenue as his business headquarters while operating the McAlpin, which was known as a safe haven for Black travelers during segregation. An advertisement for the McAlpin hotel under the management of Grant D. Venerable, is visible on page 13 of the Appendix.

The 1896 Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* was a case about segregated train cars – and as a result of its landmark precedent, segregation was enshrined at hotels, eateries, beaches, restrooms, and of course, schools. Los Angeles also had its own form of Jim Crow policies, and Glendale was even known as a "sundown town" where African Americans could risk harassment and violent intimidation. This climate contributed to the need for hotels that catered exclusively to the Black community.

The McAlpin Hotel was listed in various editions of *The Negro Motorist Green Book* or *The Travelers' Green Book*, (commonly referred to as the "Green Book"), an annual guidebook for African American travelers that provided a list of thousands of U.S. hotels, inns and boarding houses, along with restaurants, gas stations, and other establishments that would offer safe services in a time where travelers could encounter racial prejudice, price gouging and physical violence.

In 1948, Venerable moved on from the hospitality industry to assemble shareholders with his brother-in-law Bill Tatum to acquire the George R. Healy Manufacturing Company of Montebello. Utilizing his scientific and engineering skills, he developed a "felt weld" chalkboard eraser that is still used by school districts nationwide. Venerable would spend nearly the rest of his life running the Healy Manufacturing company, using the subject residence's den as his office and headquarters and to host his annual shareholders meetings.

In 1948, Grant D. Venerable was profiled in the first edition of the *Negro's Who's Who of California*, a directory of "Negro pioneers of California" (page 2) and was dedicated to "their untiring efforts and belief in freedom and the will to make for this generation, and generations to come, a more democratic place to live." It profiled those whose "achievements and recognition in those fields of activity which are measures of his advancement and his contributions to the growth and progress of the community and state in which he lives." (page 1). It was organized by categories such as "Church and Pulpit," "Civic and Social," and "Art and Music." Venerable was profiled under the "Business and Industry" section, on page 84, where his Bachelors of Science from Caltech is emphasized by "the first Negro to complete the undergraduate curriculum of this institution." The relevant pages of the *Who's Who* of 1948 are reproduced in the Appendix, page 14.

THE UNTIMELY PASSING OF THELMA SCOTT VENERABLE

Tragically, Venerable's wife Thelma died unexpectedly of a pulmonary embolism in December of 1950, at just 34 years old. Their eldest child Grant was five years old, Lynda was three and Lloyd was one. Her obituary in the *California Eagle* notes that her passing came as a shock because she "kept the seriousness of her complaint by her pleasant smiles and never-complaining devotion to her family." Her obituaries can be seen in the Appendix, pages 16 and 17.

In addition to her career at Golden State Mutual, Thelma was an organist, painter and homemaker, and an active member of the Vermont Avenue Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA), where her eldest son

attended school. Following her passing, Grant Venerable assumed her duties with the PTA, eventually serving as the first male president of the James A. Foshay Junior High School PTA. Both parents used the residence as an occasional PTA meeting space, becoming active community voices in their children's education.

After Thelma's passing, the Vermont Avenue Parent Teacher Association gave her a posthumous lifetime membership, the highest honor a PTA "can bestow upon anyone." Her husband and children accepted the honor on her behalf." (Appendix, Page 15)

VENERABLE'S LATER YEARS

Grant Venerable subsequently married Ida Walls Lee in 1953. Born July 29, 1910, Lee worked at Lockheed Martin during World War II before becoming a school teacher at Hooper Avenue School in South Los Angeles. Venerable and Lee separated in 1955. Venerable later married Naomi T. Pryor in 1967, and left Budlong Avenue around 1970. A shared driveway agreement from 1970 with the property directly to the north— 2915 S. Budlong Ave (The A.C. Tobias Residence, *CHC-2021-10146-HCM*) – was signed by Grant D. Venerable, indicating he still owned the property as of 1970. By 1971, a new owner applied for permits at the subject property.

By the mid-1950s, rumors were spreading of the government's plans to build the I-10 freeway directly through "the West Side," in-line with a trend nationwide during America's mid-century effort to modernize American roadways. By the early 1960s, residents of Sugar Hill and Berkeley Square (a neighborhood of mansions, many of them black-owned, lining a wide gated street across Western Avenue from Sugar Hill) saw the homes they fought so hard to attain seized by eminent domain and demolished. Despite community activism, the residents were unsuccessful in halting what was then viewed as inevitable progress. The neighborhood of Adams-Normandie was also a site of such demolitions, with the freeway ending up just a mile north of the Venerable residence. Photographs of the Venerable family overlooking the construction of the I-10 freeway can be viewed on page 20 of the Appendix.

Historical patterns demonstrate that Black communities nationwide were often the sites of inner-city freeways, and subsequently experienced economic downturn. The freeway construction triggered a migration of the area's well-to-do Black community further west to such communities as the Baldwin Hills area, which Venerable followed once his children had all left for college.

Census and voter registration rolls show Grant D. Venerable living at the Park LaBrea apartments at 360 Burnside Avenue #1B, from approximately 1973-1978. His third wife, Naomi T. Pryor, passed away in 1978. In 1979 he was registered to vote at 3851 S. Cloverdale in Baldwin Vista. He continued to run the Healy Manufacturing Company until retiring in 1985. He remained at the Cloverdale residence until his death in 1986. As this residence is a modest one he inhabited later in life and only for approximately seven years, it does not appear to have the same level of historical association as the Subject residence.

Venerable passed away on March 27, 1986 at the age of 81 due to Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Venerable's family established a Memorial Book Fund in his honor at Caltech. The endowment is used to purchase books that "bear upon the human condition, especially of African American and Native American cultures, and which bear upon the impact of modern technology on the human condition." Venerable's obituary is included on page 62 of this document.

In 2021, Caltech removed the name of the physicist Robert Millikan (who publicly questioned the appropriateness of Venerable's living on campus housing) from campus buildings for his association with the eugenics movement, and renamed buildings for other notable Caltech graduates. Caltech recognized Venerable by memorializing one of its eight undergraduate houses as "The Venerable House," noting his "life that embodies the values and character of the house."

THE CHILDREN OF GRANT D. VENERABLE

Lynda Blaine Venerable Ellington (b. 1944) attended UC Berkeley before receiving a B.S. degree in Business Administration in 1969 from California State University-Los Angeles, graduating as one of 50 women in a class of 3,000. She married Mr. Bernardo Ellington in 1971, and went on to parlay her natural gift for mathematics into a successful career in banking and marketing.

Lloyd Dennis Venerable (b. 1945) combines a scientific engineering instinct with modern art and photography. In the 1970s he worked as curator of Gemini Graphic Editions Limited (Gemini G.E.L.), an important and innovating atelier in fine art lithography print editions, where he forged connections with renowned contemporary artists from David Hockney to Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, Kenneth Price, and Roy Lichtenstein, among others.

Grant D. Venerable II (b. 1942) gained admission to UCLA as an undergraduate while living at the Subject residence through his graduation in 1965. It was at UCLA that Venerable was inspired to pursue chemistry. While still living at home, he subsequently gained admission to the University of Chicago to pursue a Master of Science as well as a

Ph.D. -- he earned his PhD by the age of 28. A 1971 article in the *Sentinel* notes him “as one of the few blacks to receive a Ph.D. in chemistry at the age of 28.” (Appendix, page 29)

He has led an accomplished career as an awarded chemist, professor and university dean. His publications include six books, and dozens of academic articles and editorials in such places as the *San Francisco Examiner*, *Los Angeles Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. In 1972, Grant D. Venerable II authored a *Los Angeles Times* op-ed aimed at William Shockley, a Nobel prize winner who also happened to be a graduating Caltech student in 1932 alongside his father. Shockley, a vocal advocate for eugenics and his beliefs that Black people were “genetically inferior,” stated erroneously that “there were never any black people at Caltech” during his time there. Venerable II reminded Shockley that he attended Caltech alongside “Grant D. Venerable, Caltech’s first Negro alumnus.” The article is reproduced in the Appendix, page 30.

CRITERION 2 SUMMARY

Venerable’s Caltech degree stands as a rare, early, and significant breakthrough in the desegregation of American higher education—particularly in STEM fields that were overwhelmingly white and institutionally closed to African Americans. His achievement was widely publicized in the Black press and repeatedly invoked during his residency at the Budlong Avenue home to inspire younger generations toward academic and career achievement.

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence presents a clear and well-documented example of eligibility under Criterion 2. While Venerable’s most widely recognized achievement—his barrier-breaking graduation from Caltech in 1932—predates his occupancy of the subject property, the designation criteria do not require that a property be the site of a singular defining event. Rather, eligibility is established through a property’s meaningful association with the productive life and legacy of a significant individual.

Of all the properties associated with Venerable's life, no other known property is as consistently documented in connection with Venerable – the subject residence was by far his longest time spent living anywhere (see: LIST OF RESIDENCES ASSOCIATED WITH GRANT D. VENERABLE, page 34). It was here that the fruits of his historic achievement were most fully realized — as a home, a civic gathering place, a business headquarters, and a symbol of the possibilities his Caltech degree had made material. Caltech has recognized his legacy by naming one of its residential houses in his honor; this nomination asks the City of Los Angeles to recognize where that legacy was actually lived.

CRITERION 3

The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, and represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

INTRODUCTION

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence is significant under Criterion 3 because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman style at its peak expression, as well as because it represents a notable work of master architect George J. Webster.

Built in 1908, the house displays hallmark Craftsman features—including its rustic massing, low-pitched gabled roof, broad overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, deep porch, and hand-crafted post-and-beam detailing—that reflect the style’s British Arts & Crafts origins, its Arroyo Seco regional development, and its Japanese and Medieval timber influences. Despite later alterations, these character-defining elements remain intact and align with the standards outlined in the SurveyLA Arts and Crafts Movement Context Statement for significant Craftsman residences.

George J. Webster qualifies as a master architect for his substantial and influential contributions to Southern California’s Arts and Crafts architecture, realized through his early partnership with Neal Dow Barker and his later independent practice in Pasadena, Altadena, and Los Angeles.

Architectural historians used to refer to Webster as the “uncredited architect of Pasadena and Altadena” for his more than thirty distinguished craftsman residences built throughout that region. In recent years, his contributions to that region began to receive the proper recognition.

The Venerable Residence represents a pivotal early commission in this body of work, demonstrating the emerging design vocabulary and craftsmanship that would define Webster’s later masterworks. The subject property is especially notable as one of only six Webster-designed residences known to survive within the City of Los Angeles. The subject’s notability took on an even greater significance and rarity when the Eaton Fire of 2025 wiped out seven of his most important works in Altadena.

CONTEXT: THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Barker and Webster were both British subjects – Barker from England, Webster from Scotland – and remained so throughout their lives. Because both architects were British subjects and trained during the period when the Arts and Crafts movement was flourishing in Britain and Scotland, they were likely exposed to the movements in their differing and earlier iterations.

According to the SurveyLA Citywide Historic Context Statement on the *Arts and Crafts Movement 1895-1930*: “The Arts and Crafts movement was an art, design, architecture, and lifestyle philosophy that originated in mid-nineteenth century England.... The proponents of the American Arts and Crafts movement shared with their British counterparts a reform philosophy that emphasized hand craftsmanship over mass production.”

The movement reflected an aesthetic shift away from the tenets of late Victorian era design. Movement pioneers in Britain were also motivated by a rejection of the dehumanizing effects brought about by the Industrial Revolution and mass production, advocating instead for works influenced by nature and traditional craftsmanship.

Both Barker and Webster were also influenced by the early California Arts and Crafts movement and were active participants in its architecture portion. Pasadena, Altadena, and the collectively-referenced “Arroyo Seco” region, were essential sites for the Craftsman zeitgeist in the early 20th century. Both Barker and Webster were, at that time, living in the Arroyo Seco region and were frequently building there.

Eclecticism is a central design tenet of the Craftsman movement, due to the numerous influences from cultures around the world, including Swiss, Japanese, and English architecture. Webster, a Scotsman raised in South America and working in turn-of-the-century Southern California, exemplified the global eclecticism central to the design movement, which he channeled into his work. Influences of English design as well as Japanese design abound in his work, along with some uniquely Californian tendencies, including generous front porches and pergolas are all evident in the subject residence, and will be highlighted further in the section “ASSOCIATION WITH MASTER ARCHITECT GEORGE J. WEBSTER” on page 29 of this nomination.

In the early 1900s, the L.A. District of West Adams was becoming a destination for wealthy Angelenos. Farmland was divided up, and Craftsman architects were tapped to build entire neighborhoods in the fashion of the era. Bungalows were then a popular and economical form of housing due to their simplicity and use of natural materials,

making them well-suited for a booming California.

The movement began to decline around 1915, as “kit homes” embraced the Craftsman style and introduced it to the masses via assembly-line-processed, pre-cut materials. They could be ordered from a catalog and assembled on any plot of land – essentially the opposite of the movement’s original emphasis on hand-crafted and pre-industrial modes of building.

THE SUBJECT RESIDENCE’S EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE CRAFTSMAN STYLE

The subject residence exemplifies what SurveyLA Citywide Historic Context Statement on the *Arts and Crafts Movement* notes as characteristic of the early Craftsman bungalow, including windows placed in groups or bands and “wood... shingle exteriors, horizontal definitions with broad front porches, front-facing gabled roofs and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails.” (page 46, SurveyLA) SurveyLA notes that custom-designed houses (as opposed to the catalogue-ordered “Kit homes”) often featured “workmanship and design of high quality and represent the Craftsman style at its peak of expression.” (page 19, SurveyLA)

The residence reflects the defining Craftsman characteristics through its one-story bungalow form, cross-gabled and hipped roof structure with broad overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and structural knee brackets. The house’s exterior cladding of split redwood shingles reinforces the natural materials and handcrafted aesthetic central to the Arts and Crafts movement. The prominent street-facing porch, deep roof overhangs, and horizontal massing further emphasize the informal domestic scale and strong relationship between structure and craftsmanship that define Craftsman residential architecture.

Additional design features further illustrate the stylistic vocabulary of the Craftsman bungalow. The residence incorporates grouped windows, leaded glass casements, and wood-framed picture windows that provide both interior light and a visual connection to the exterior landscape. Structural and decorative elements—including boxed ceiling beams, built-in bookcases flanking the broad living room fireplace, and colonnaded transitions between rooms—demonstrate the Arts and Crafts emphasis on visible joinery, integrated furnishings, and the honest expression of materials and construction methods.

Faux exposed mudsills and post-and-beam detailing along portions of the exterior walls create the appearance of traditional timber construction, evoking both medieval European framing traditions and the Japanese architectural influences frequently embraced by Arts and Crafts designers. As noted in the SurveyLA Arts and Crafts Movement Context Statement, architects of the Craftsman movement frequently drew inspiration from Japanese architecture and other global traditions in developing their designs.

Together, these elements embody the key architectural principles identified in the SurveyLA context statement and illustrate the house’s strong representation of the Craftsman style during its period of greatest popularity in early twentieth-century Southern California.

A.C. TOBIAS COMMISSIONS BARKER & WEBSTER TO DESIGN RESIDENCES

In 1907, real estate developer Archibald Clark Tobias purchased three contiguous parcels on the west side of the 2900 block of Budlong Avenue. Tobias chose the design partnership of Neal Dow Barker and George James Webster, known as “Barker & Webster,” to design a home for himself and his wife with a business office inside at 2915 S. Budlong, now a Historic Cultural Monument to the City of Los Angeles (*CHC-2021-10146-HCM, the A.C. Tobias Residence*). Tobias also commissioned two investment residences to the north and south of his home, at 2911 S. Budlong to the north and the subject residence to the south at 2921 S. Budlong Ave. The three “Tobias Bungalows” form a triptych with consistent overall designs, but with variations for each home. A 1908 *Los Angeles Times* article announces the completion of the A.C. Tobias house (visible on page 63 of this nomination).

The Tobias Bungalows were constructed between 1908 and 1909 at a cost of \$3,000 each. George J. Webster designed and built a fourth bungalow at 2931 S. Budlong in 1910, as a solo architect. The residence still stands, and despite alterations bears a resemblance to the Tobias Bungalows. Photos of all the Barker and Webster-designed “Tobias bungalow” on Budlong Avenue can be seen on page 39 of this nomination.

BARKER & WEBSTER

G. J. Webster and N. D. Barker formed a partnership in August of 1908, which lasted into 1909. From their office in Downtown Los Angeles they designed eight known houses, six of which were in Los Angeles, and only four remain standing today. Webster has two extant properties as a solo architect in the city of Los Angeles (excluding Pasadena and Altadena). A full list of works by George J. Webster and Neal Dow Barker, as well as lists of their work as solo designers and in other partnerships, can be found in the Appendix, pages 52-54.

Of the works produced within their one-year partnership, it is difficult to distinguish Barker's contributions from Webster's. In general, it is difficult to distinguish Barker's design signatures from that of any of the partnerships he formed – one can view no known examples of Barker's solo work, and he almost exclusively functioned in partnerships. His most notable collaborations were with Webster and architect M. Paul Martin. Historian John Ripley speculates Barker may have acted more in a supporting role with his partnerships, as Webster's solo architectural style tends to dominate their partnership, as does M. Paul Martin's style in his partnership with Barker. A full biography of Barker's life can be read on page 32, under the heading NEAL DOW BARKER, and a full list of Barker-designed properties is available in the Appendix, page 54. The section "GEORGE J. WEBSTER, LIFE AND CAREER" will share more about Webster's life and career.

The Tobias Bungalows in particular bear consistent scale, mannerisms and details with the single-story rustic bungalows for which Webster became known before tackling grander commissions in Pasadena and Altadena. Another notable and extant work of Barker & Webster is a seven-room bungalow built for Walter Vail, at 1303 Maltman Ave, in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles, erected in early 1909. Like the Tobias cottages, it bears many of Webster's design signatures, which will be expanded on in the next section.

ASSOCIATION WITH MASTER ARCHITECT GEORGE J. WEBSTER

George J. Webster qualifies as a master architect not only for the quality of his designs but also for the scale of his contribution to the Craftsman landscape of Southern California and the demonstrable influence of his work on other builders and designers. Architectural historians have attributed more than thirty Craftsman residences to Webster in Pasadena and Altadena—two communities at the heart of the Arroyo Seco region, widely recognized as one of the most significant centers of the American Craftsman movement. This concentration of work led historians to describe Webster as the "uncredited architect of Altadena," reflecting the substantial physical imprint his designs left on the area's built environment during the height of the Craftsman era. Thanks to the research of architectural historians Anna Marie Brooks and John G. Ripley (author of *Images of America: Pasadena's Bungalow Heaven*, and Webster's foremost researcher) Webster's contributions to the regions are being given proper recognition.

According to architectural historian Ripley, Webster's work demonstrates a consistent architectural language characterized by several recurring design elements. These elements include: variations in ceiling and beam compositions, board-on-board gable vents, distinctive wood-paned 3-over-2 windows (commonly referred to as "Webster windows"), a particular form of supportive knee braces with integral feet, and the use of faux post-and-beam construction to emphasize structural expression. Ripley also identifies what he terms Webster's "ambiguity of wall boundaries," a form of three-dimensional spatial thinking in which wall depth and structural elements are manipulated to create subtle illusions in the perception of interior space.

The Venerable Residence is the earliest known example of Webster's work to incorporate all of these elements together. Many of these character-defining features remain intact today, including the structural knee braces, board-on-board gable vents, faux post-and-beam elements, and interior beam compositions. Although many – but not all – windows have been replaced, surviving examples demonstrate Webster's characteristic glazing patterns, including variations of his signature 3-over-2 window compositions executed with leaded art glass.

While open planning and the visual connection of interior rooms were common features of the Craftsman movement, Webster's handling of interior spatial relationships is particularly distinctive. Ripley notes that Webster frequently used alcoves, colonnades, and cased openings to separate major living spaces while maintaining a continuous spatial flow. At the subject residence, the living room, dining room, and den are articulated through stacked post-and-beam elements and ceiling beams that extend uninterrupted across the connecting spaces. This spatial arrangement reflects what Ripley identifies as Webster's interest in open planning and may also show the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School, which emphasized flowing interior spaces rather than rigidly enclosed rooms.

Webster's three-dimensional manipulation of interior walls—what Ripley calls "wall ambiguity"—is especially evident in the living and dining rooms of the subject residence. From the interior of the dining room, the north wall appears to form a projecting bay window lined with windows of varying heights. However, the exterior view of the north elevation reveals that the wall is actually flush with the gable above. The illusion is created by recessing the living room fireplace so that the chimney aligns with the gable above while the dining room wall projects forward. A similar

spatial illusion occurs on the south side of the living room, where a recessed nook creates the appearance of a bay window formed by the adjacent bedroom wall and the colonnade separating the den along with stacked post-and-beam framing. Although easily overlooked, these subtle manipulations of depth and structure demonstrate Webster's sophisticated approach to interior spatial design, especially in an era before computers that could render complex three-dimensional arrangements.

Another signature feature used repeatedly by Webster between approximately 1906 and 1914 is the board-on-board attic vent design, which allows ventilation while shielding the attic from view. This vent type appears prominently in the primary street-facing gable as well as the secondary gables of the residence. The motif later appeared in the work of Webster's frequent contractor Harry McKeen and was also adopted in later designs by Neal Dow Barker.

The residence's broad front porch, with steps extending along multiple sides, further reflects a feature that appears in a number of Webster's later works and contributes to the building's strong relationship between interior living spaces and the surrounding landscape.

Taken together, these elements demonstrate the residence's clear expression of a master architect's emerging architectural vocabulary. The house incorporates many of the distinctive features that would appear repeatedly throughout Webster's later work, making it a notable early example of the design principles that defined his career.

GEORGE J. WEBSTER: LIFE AND CAREER

George James Webster was born of Scottish parents on April 28, 1868, in Paysandú, Uruguay, where his father managed a cattle estancia, with Spanish as the primary language spoken in the home. The family later moved to Scotland (without the father), and George grew up in the Edinburgh area. He earned a college degree, but the institution is not known. In Britain his profession was listed as "gas engineer." Around 1898 he married the former Annie MacPherson Southerland, a native of Scotland; they had no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster came to the Los Angeles area in about 1902, when Webster was 34 years of age. After staying at the Argyle Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles, they moved to their newly-purchased home in Pasadena on June 21, 1902. His first Pasadena-area directory listing was in the 1904 edition, which listed him as a "rancher" residing in Altadena. Over the years, he and his wife moved fairly often within Pasadena and Altadena, sometimes living briefly in houses of his own design.

Webster joined the M. Paul Martin firm as a draftsman in 1903. Webster soon left the Martin firm and opened a drafting and blueprinting firm next door to Martin's office, advertising "a specialty made of designing artistic and convenient residences." His first documented house commenced in early 1905, a bungalow for Mabel Farris which still stands (in altered condition) at 619 South Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena. It has also recently been acknowledged that Webster was the designer of an addition and garage for the Wells-Halliday Mansion (HCM No. 458).

In 1906, he took a break from designing homes to live in Sonora, Mexico and travel through Central and South America. Webster was a native Spanish speaker, and took many photos which illustrated articles by the Associated Press as well as articles written by himself for the *Los Angeles Times*, such as a series on earthquake activity in Chile and Peru (Appendix, page. 44).

Webster appears to have had an interest in photography as well as architecture. The *Los Angeles City Directory* of 1915 indicates he was the secretary and treasurer of the West Coast Art Company, in addition to his designing work. He also had several photographs published in local newspapers.

Webster returned to Southern California in 1907 and re-established his independent design practice. Webster's designs for single-story rustic bungalows were published with photographs and descriptions in the book *Bungalows, Camps and Mountain Houses* by William Phillips Comstock and Clarence Eaton Schmerhorn, printed in 1908, the same year he commenced the Tobias bungalows (viewed in the Appendix, page 50). The book contained two photographs, a floor plan, and a description of a seven-room Craftsman bungalow. His feature in a book edited by other architects shows respect for his work by his peers, and the influence his work had on the Craftsman movement.

Webster's designs were also featured in the *Ladies Home Journal* and *House Beautiful*, and in bungalow design books. A 1908 edition of *Ladies Home Journal* features Webster's work in articles written and photographically illustrated by Pasadena author Helen Lukens Gaut, whose husband was a builder in Pasadena, further demonstrating his esteem among his peers. The articles illustrated the types of bungalows which could be constructed at a price point. One was titled, "The Two-Thousand-Dollar Bungalow," and the next, "The Three-Thousand-Dollar Bungalow." Each article included a photographic example of Webster's work with an extended tagline.

Webster resumed his solo career by April 1909, establishing an office in Downtown Pasadena. Some of the residences he designed in this phase of his career were on a grander, more elaborate scale than the rustic bungalows he built on Budlong Avenue in Los Angeles, although still very much in the Craftsman style.

Webster maintained an architectural office from 1914 through 1916, according to directories. In late 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Webster moved to Laguna Beach, where they had owned property since 1914. They built a home at 2285 Glenneyre St. in 1922 and remained there for about 32 years. George was involved in the local improvement association and various neighborhood issues. Both George and Annie were active for many years in the Laguna Beach Garden Club.

Webster passed away at age of 76 on February 5, 1954, with little notice in the newspapers. He was survived by his wife, who died later that same year. His brief obituary can be viewed in the Appendix, page 53.

WEBSTER'S MASTERWORKS

Through the breadth of his work, recognition by fellow architects and publishers, and the adoption of his design motifs by other practitioners, Webster demonstrably influenced the architectural character of the Arroyo Seco Craftsman movement.

The following works count among Webster's most significant architectural achievements. Their scale and beauty exemplify the Arroyo Seco Craftsman movement at its peak, and speak to Webster's status as a master architect of the Craftsman style. Photographs and architectural plans of these works can be viewed in the Appendix, pages 45 - 51, along with a full list of Webster's works as a soloist and in partnerships on pages 52 - 54.

ROSEWALL

The estate dubbed "Rosewall" at 180 E. Mendocino St. in Altadena, was built in 1911. It was Webster's costliest and grandest commission. It was, somewhat miraculously, spared destruction during the Eaton Fire, although almost everything around it was destroyed.



Left: Early photograph of Rosewall Estate (still extant as of 2025). Source: *Altadena*, page 129. Fisher Family Collection.

Right: Modern photo of Rosewall Estate. Source: John G. Ripley

COLONEL WILLIAM GRIFFITH HOUSE (1910)

In 1910, Colonel William Griffith and his wife Josephine commissioned Webster to design a winter home for them at 1824 N. Mar Vista Ave. in Pasadena. In 1913, Josephine Griffith purchased a neighboring 60-foot-wide parcel to extend the northerly boundary of her property. In 1917 an accompanying property was built on that lot in the style of the Col. William Griffith House, either for their son, or possibly as a servant's quarters or as an investment.

The residence, currently located at 1844 N. Mar Vista Ave, is the work of an unknown architect. According to historian Tim Gregory, *The Building Biographer*, the house bears a striking resemblance in stylistic features and materials to the Griffiths' original home, so may also have been designed by George Webster," or it may be a work done by another architect in his style.

J.S. PAUL RESIDENCE

Built in 1909, the J.S. Paul Residence at 1163 Rubio St. in Altadena was perhaps Webster's most visually stunning and complex work, boasting extensive pergolas and bands of windows in the two panes over three style used frequently throughout Webster's oeuvre. The property was lost in the Eaton Fire of 2025. Photos before and after the Eaton Fire can be viewed on page 46 of the Appendix.

GARFIELD AVE

Mr. and Mrs. Webster had moved by late 1910 to the 2000 block of Garfield Ave., a block-long tract straddling the Pasadena/Altadena border which Webster subdivided and designed many of the houses. Along North Garfield below Woodbury Road at the Altadena/Pasadena border, Webster designed at least nine Craftsman residences over a seven-year period. Eight of these dwellings are still standing, several of which Mr. and Mrs. Webster lived in. All of the

Garfield Ave residences survived the 2025 Eaton Fire.

THE VALENTINE COTTAGES

Between 1912 and 1915, a compound of four cottages was commissioned by Walter Valentine in Altadena. Documentation points to Webster as the main architect of the cottage addressed at 2800 Holliston Ave., while physical evidence points to him as the likely designer of another bungalow at 1419 E. Palm St. (listed in the National Register of Historic Places, No. 100001337).

Webster also designed stone entrance portals at the NE corner of Holliston and Palm in 1912. 1421 E. Palm St. has also been attributed to George Webster, with significant alterations and additions from Henry Greene in 1922, mainly adding a living room and garage. The Valentine Cottages are often exclusively credited to Henry Greene, who, along with his brother Charles Greene (together known as Greene & Greene), are considered exemplars of the American Arts and Crafts movement. Photos of the Valentine cottages before and after the Eaton Fire can be viewed on page 47 of the Appendix, note the distinctive attic ventilation in the gable – a Webster signature – along with the gable’s supporting braces with integral feet

Webster may have designed the fourth cottage, but there is no documentation to support this. Webster had designed a prior residence for Valentine at 600 Alameda St., Altadena. Unfortunately, all of the Valentine Cottages were destroyed in the Eaton Fire of 2025.

NEAL DOW BARKER: LIFE AND CAREER

Neal Dow Barker was an architectural designer and de facto architect in Southern California from about 1901 to about 1921. He was never licensed as an architect in California. Most of his known works were in Los Angeles, but a few are known in the Pasadena-Altadena area.

Barker was born in Manchester, England, in April of 1856; his parents were both natives of England. He first arrived in the US in 1876 at the age of 20. He was in England again by 1881 but returned to Canada and opened an office in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1883, calling himself an architect and heating and ventilating engineer. He designed the Manitoba Medical College in Winnipeg, Canada in 1884, but another architect tried to take credit for the design. Barker eventually won recognition as the designer after a war of words in the local newspapers.

He married Catherine Smith (1860-1886) in England in about 1885. Their son Reginald was born in Canada in 1886, but Catherine died on the same day. He returned to England in 1894 to marry Margaret Dean (1856-1901), and the couple entered the United States shortly thereafter. Their daughter Constance was born in California in 1896, probably in Los Angeles where Barker was a partner in an oil burner business. By 1899 they were in Oakland, where Barker listed his occupation as architect.

After losing his second wife, he returned to Los Angeles in 1902, where he became a draftsman and later associate at the firm of architect M. Paul Martin, who designed residences, apartments and business buildings. Their works were covered in newspapers, but generally only in text. The associates practiced together until 1908.

Barker designed his own residence in Altadena, in 1904. The residence was featured in the *House Beautiful and Architectural Department* of the *Times’ Weekly Illustrated Magazine*. The publication date was June 5, 1904. However, no known copies of the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* survive in public archives.

Around 1909, Barker returned to the office of M. Paul Martin as a draftsman, and later worked for others and for himself until retiring around 1921. However, he also did various independent jobs in the Pasadena-Altadena area, and he was listed as an architect in the classified sections of the Pasadena directories of 1916, 1918, and 1919.

He retired circa 1921, as the Craftsman style waned. His next career was as the proprietor of a service station in Altadena. Neal Dow Barker passed away on November 28, 1925 at the age of 69, when he was killed in a traffic accident on the Ridge Route in Kern County. Barker’s first son Reginald (1886-1945) became a well-known motion picture director in the early years of the film industry.

Written with contributions from John G. Ripley and Anna Marie Brook’s HCM nomination of 2915 S. Budlong Ave.

CRITERION 3 SUMMARY

George J. Webster qualifies as a master architect not only for the quality of his designs but also for the scale of his contribution to the Craftsman landscape of Southern California and the demonstrable influence of his work on other builders and designers. Architectural historians have attributed more than thirty Craftsman residences to Webster in

Pasadena and Altadena—two communities at the heart of the Arroyo Seco region, widely recognized as one of the most significant centers of the American Craftsman movement.

This concentration of work led historians to describe Webster as the “uncredited architect of Altadena,” reflecting the substantial physical imprint his designs left on the area’s built environment during the height of the Craftsman era. Webster’s work was also recognized by his professional peers during his lifetime, both in books and in the press, along with photographs and descriptions. The influence of Webster’s architectural vocabulary can be seen in the work of other designers and builders active in the region. His distinctive board-on-board attic vent design, for example, was later adopted by his contractor Harry McKeen and appears in works by Neal Dow Barker after the dissolution of their partnership. Such replication of identifiable design elements illustrates the diffusion of Webster’s stylistic ideas among contemporaries working within the Craftsman tradition.

Through the breadth of his work, recognition by fellow architects and publishers, and the adoption of his design motifs by other practitioners, Webster demonstrably influenced the architectural character of the Arroyo Seco Craftsman movement.

SECTION B CONCLUSION

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence meets the Cultural Heritage Ordinance criteria for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument. Under Criterion 1, the property is directly associated with significant events and broad patterns in Los Angeles history, including the mid-20th-century migration across federal redlining of Los Angeles to desegregate the West Adams region. As Venerable was a famous local figure, he was acting in accordance with documented historical trends of high-profile and affluent figures serving as bellwethers to test the safety of integrating neighborhoods.

Venerable’s graduation from Caltech gave him lifelong fame, and his family became symbols of Black American upward mobility; they were frequently profiled in the press in connection with their address and various achievements. As one context of the earliest Black-owned homes north of Jefferson Boulevard and a documented site of civic, cultural, and social activities, the residence actively contributed to the cultural fabric of the region, strengthening a community against enormous social and economic pressures.

Under Criterion 2, the property is associated with the life of Grant D. Venerable, a historic personage whose accomplishments in higher education were significant at the local, state and national levels. As the first African American graduate of the famed Caltech, he was a widely recognized figure in the Black press, playing a pioneering role in expanding opportunities for African Americans in STEM fields. His long residency at the property makes it his most significantly associated property, and the result of his historic graduation and prosperous career as a civil engineer, insurance salesman and later entrepreneur.

Under Criterion 3, the residence embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman style, including its rustic massing, expressive roof forms, exposed structural elements, and handcrafted detailing, consistent with the character-defining features identified in the SurveyLA Arts and Crafts Movement context statement.

It is also a notable work of master architect George J. Webster, representing an important early commission in his developing oeuvre and one of only six known Webster-designed residences still extant in the City of Los Angeles, whether as a solo architect or in partnership with Neal Dow Barker. The scale of Webster’s contributions to the Arroyo Seco Arts and Crafts architectural movement qualify him as a master builder, and the property’s design integrity and architectural rarity underscore its importance within Southern California’s Arts and Crafts heritage.

Webster’s works display a consistent architectural language characterized by several recurring design elements. These elements include: variations in ceiling and beam compositions, board-on-board gable vents, distinctive wood-paned 3-over-2 windows (commonly referred to as “Webster windows”), a particular form of supportive knee braces with integral feet, and the use of faux post-and-beam construction to emphasize structural expression. Ripley also identifies what he terms Webster’s “ambiguity of wall boundaries,” a form of three-dimensional spatial thinking in which wall depth and structural elements are manipulated to create subtle illusions in the perception of interior space. The Venerable Family Residence at 2921 S. Budlong Ave. is the earliest known example of Webster’s work to incorporate all of these elements together.

As Cultural Heritage Commissioner Barry Milofsky observed at a 2022 hearing, “the history of Los Angeles is told by the small homes.” Although modest in scale, the Venerable Residence fuses the global influences of the Arts and Crafts movement with the social history of mid-century Black Los Angeles, serving for a quarter century as a beacon of achievement, community formation, and cultural expression.

For these reasons, the Grant D. Venerable Family Residence at 2921 S. Budlong Avenue retains sufficient historic, associative, and architectural integrity to meet all three criteria of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance and merits recognition as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

LIST OF RESIDENCES ASSOCIATED WITH GRANT D. VENERABLE

3851 S Cloverdale. 90008, Grant D. Venerable's home from. 1979 - 1986



**C. BLAINE VENERABLE'S MANSION, 2266 S HARVARD BLVD
~1945 - 1958 (demolished)**

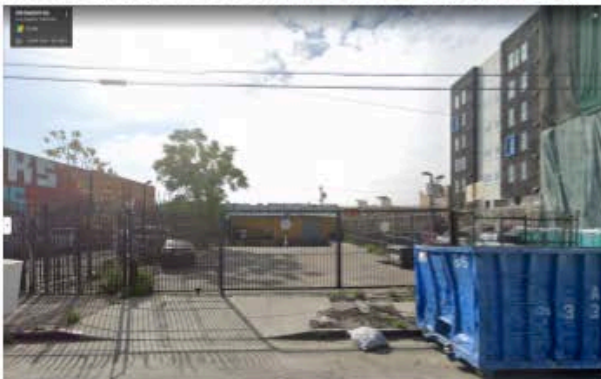


Source: google maps

**LATER C. BLAINE VENERABLE RESIDENCE
1221 S HUDSON AVE, LOS ANGELES, ~1958 - 1969**



MCALPIN HOTEL 648 STANFORD AVE (demolished)



Source: google maps

SCOTT FAMILY RESIDENCES

612 N EVERGREEN AVE & 3011 BOULDER ST. (image unavailable via google maps)



LOUISE VENERABLE RESIDENCE, ~1947-1950, 2955 S BUDLONG



Source: google maps

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Office of Historic Resources. HCM Nomination: Greater Page Temple (HCM #1323). Los Angeles City Planning, 2023.
- Federal Reserve Board. Disparities in Wealth by Race and Ethnicity in the 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances. 2020.
- "Homeownership and Housing Equity in the Mid-Twentieth Century." FEDS Notes, September 24, 2025.
<https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/homeownership-and-housing-equity-in-the-mid-twentieth-century-20250924.html>
- Ashley Dobson, Tremayne Nez, and Desirée Martinez, "We Are Still Here: A Report on Past, Present, and Ongoing Harms Against Local Tribes, 8.
- 1 Sean Greene and Thomas Curwen, "Mapping the Tongva villages of L.A.'s past," Los Angeles Times, 9 May 2019. 2 "Department of History Land Acknowledgement," USC Dornsife Department of History, accessed June 9, 2024,
- Adler, Patricia. History of the Normandie Program Area. Prepared for the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles. Los Angeles: Community Redevelopment Agency, 1969.
- <https://dornsife.usc.edu/hist/home/department-of-history-land-acknowledgement/> 3
- 1911 photograph of the JS Paul residence. (Source: *Keith's Mag March 1911*, page 161)
- 1950 U.S. Census of Population and Housing, Los Angeles County, CA, US Department of Commerce, Form P1, dwelling 2931, Snell 18
- 1950 U.S. Census of Population and Housing, Los Angeles County, CA, US Department of Commerce, Form P1, dwelling 2933, King 20
- "30 Debs Bow as Happy Event Crowns Weeks of Preparation" *Jessie Mae Brown, Sentinel Society Editor. Los Angeles Sentinel (1934 -) Nov 22, 1962 pg 11*
- Advertisement for the McAlpin Hotel Display Ad 91. No Title. Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-); Jan 9, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel, pg. 22
- "A History of Alpha Delta Chapter of Los Angeles" *The Sphinx*, December 1936, pg 7-8
- Albert and Elsa Einstein, John and Lora Baer and Arthur H. Fleming, Pasadena, 1 January 1931, 1931. Private Collection.
- "America's black upper class and Black Lives Matter." *The Economist.com*, Aug 22nd 2020 (*Updated Aug 27th 2020*)
- Anthony Scott Family Collection, RH MS 676, African American Experience Collections. Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries.
- "A Statistical Study of American Men of Science: The Selection of a Group of One Thousand Scientific Men" (1910) J. McKeen Cattell
- "Beneath The Santa Monica Freeway Lies The Erasure Of Sugar Hill" National Public Radio, May 4 2021.
- Berkeleyan. "Berkeley's Pioneering Black Students." University of California, Berkeley, 7 Feb. 2001,
<https://newsarchive.berkeley.edu/news/berkeleyan/2001/02/7/students.html>.
- "Best Universities in 1910 and 1925." College Confidential, <https://talk.collegeconfidential.com/t/the-best-universities-in-1910-and-1925/1311043>.
- "Black Bruin History at UCLA" UCLA Alumni Newsletter, UCLA, Feb. 2021, <https://newsletter.alumni.ucla.edu/connect/2021/feb/black-bruin-history/default.htm>.
- "Board of Education Honors Dr. Venerable" Cooke, Wanda. *Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-) April 1, 1971 pg. C11*
- "Book Fund Honors First Black Student". Caltech News. Volume 23, No. 2. April 1989. California Institute of Technology.
- Brady, Marilyn Dell. Organizing Afro-American Girls' Clubs in Kansas in the 1920s. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*. Vol. 9, No. 2 (1987) pp. 69-73 University of Nebraska Press
- Brooks, Anna Marie. Historical Cultural Monument Nomination Form, 2915 S. Budlong Ave. Pgs. 5-36
- Broverman, Neal. "A Bunch of Downtown Hotels and Businesses Were Safe Havens for Black Travelers During Segregation." *Los Angeles Magazine*, 25 May 2016,
<https://www.lamag.com/driver/downtown-hotels-and-businesses-safe-havens-during-segregation/>.
- CalTech yearbook, "THE BIG T" 1932. Pasadena, CA. Vol. 22 Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA
- CalTech's First Black Graduate Venerable Grant D. II. *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*; New York Iss. 21, (Autumn 1998): 125.
- "Caltech Approves New Names for Campus Assets and Honors." CalTech Student Affairs. 08 November 2018.
- "California Institute of Technology Rankings". Top Universities. Retrieved February 27, 2022.
- Carnevale, Anthony P., Nicole Smith, and Michael C. Quinn. "Mission Not Accomplished: Unequal Opportunities and Outcomes for Black and Latinx Engineers." Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2021, <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/engineering/>.
- "C.B. Venerable, Family Honored by Ward Chapel AME." Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-); Jul 31, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel pg. 6
- "Children Give Piano Recital on Church Lawn" *Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-) Jul 1, 1948 p6*
- Committee on Naming and Recognition Final Report. California Institute of Technology. December 17, 2020 (Revised: February 27, 2021)
- Contemporary photograph of the JS Paul residence. (Source: <http://hometown-pasadena.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/paul-house.jpg>)
- "Developing Thrift Habit" *Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-)*; Nov 8.1951 pg. A4
- "Dianna McNeil Pierson: First African American to Attend the University of Southern California." Black Then,
<https://blackthen.com/diana-mcneil-pierson-first-african-american-attend-university-southern-california/>.
- "Driveway Agreement, 2921 & 2915 S. Budlong Avenue." United Mortgage Servicing Corp. Ray E. Lee, Registrar-Recorder. Signed Grant D. Venerable & Texana Sargent. 19 November 1970.
- Education for Citizenship Week. Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-); Jun 5, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel, pg. 8
- Fleming, Jack. "Neighborhood Spotlight: Adams-Normandie Was Once Exclusive. Now It's Inclusive." Los Angeles Times, 3 Nov. 2018,
<https://www.latimes.com/business/realstate/hot-property/la-fi-hp-neighborhood-spotlight-adams-normandie-20181103-story.html>.
- "Footprints in the Chaotic Unknown" by Grant D. Venerable II, Published by Master Player Library-Phoenix Rising Series, 2019
- "Funeral Services Held for Local Businessman." Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-); May 8, 1969; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel: pg. A1
- Garrigues, George Louis. "Loud Bark and Curious Eyes: A History of the UCLA Daily Bruin, 1919-1955." MA thesis, University of California, Los Angeles, 1970.
- "Golden State Insurance Co Promotes Pair." Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-); Oct 8, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel, pg. 1
- Grant D. Venerable (obituary). Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-); Apr 3, 1986; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel, pg. 36
- "Grant D. Venerable" *The Sphinx*, April 1941, Pg. 16
- "Grant D. Venerable II, PhD, Honored for Contributions to Chemistry and Education" CISION PRNewsire, Apr 20, 2018, 10:22 ET
- Grant D. Venerable family papers. RH MS P946. Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.
- Hewlett, Rene A., Williams, Max J. "Negro who's who in California." Los Angeles, CA: "Negro Who's Who in California" Publishing Co., 1948.
- "History & Milestones." California Institute of Technology, Site Content Copyright © 2022
- Hughes, Raymond M. (Raymond Mollyneaux), 1873-1958, and Ohio) Miami University (Oxford. A Study of the Graduate Schools of America. Oxford, Ohio: Miami university, 1925
- New Age Publishing Company. (1942). The official Negro directory and classified buyers' guide (1942-1943). Los Angeles, CA: New Age Publishing Company. Retrieved from https://archive.org/details/The_Official_Negro_Directory_and_Classified_Buyers_Guide_1942-1943
- "Index to Registered Voters, Los Angeles City Precinct No.573, Los Angeles County, California, 1946" "California State Library; Sacramento, California; Great Register of Voters, 1900-1968
- Index-5054 City of Los Angles Assessor's Map. (1983). County of Los Angeles, California.
- "Jeff Student Wins Alpha Frat Award" *Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-)*, Jun 5, 1947 pg18
- John Ripley Archive:
 - 2056 Garfield Plans by George J Webster (1911)
 - List of Barker properties
 - List of Webster properties
 - Wall Ambiguity
 - Webster Chronology
 - Webster features 1b
 - Webster features 1c

- Webster_Scrabook v1n
- Johnson, John H., ed. (September 1963). "The negro in business:experts hail record in insurance, banking, undertaking, real estate, cosmetics, publishing". Ebony. Chicago, Illinois: Johnson Publishing Company, Inc. 18 (11): 211, 212, 214–216, 218.
- The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education. "About JBHE." <https://www.ibhe.com/about/>
- J.S. Paul Residence photograph (1990) [Altadena Heritage](#)
- "Junior Pianists" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Jul 8, 1948 pg. 4
- J. McKeen Cattell, A Statistical Study of American Men of Science: The Selection of a Group of One Thousand Scientific Men.Science24,658-665(1906).DOI:10.1126/science.24.621.658
- Johnson, James. The Black Bruins: The Remarkable Lives of UCLA's Jackie Robinson, Woody Strode, Tom Bradley, Kenny Washington, and Ray Bartlett. Skyhorse Publishing, 2018
- Katzman, David M., Jelks, Randal M., Williams, Doretha, Graham, Maryemma, Dandridge, Deborah, Hart, Tanya, Dorsey, Allison. (2011, December 3). [Kansas Grows the Best Wheat and the Best Race Women: Black Women's Club Movement in Kansas, 1900-30](#). University of Kansas.
- Kelly, Elaine. "African American Migration from Kansas to California" Inside Spencer: The Kenneth Spencer Research Library Blog. The University of Kansas. Elaine Kelley
- "Kansas Club has 20th Anniversary" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) May 22, 1947; p18
- "New Officers for Kansas State Club." *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-); Jan 29, 1948; p17
- "Kansas Club Neighbors" Photo, standalone – Jun 19, 1947 pg. 18
- "His Negro Neighbor: Gov. Hoch of Kansas by Entertaining Booker T. Washington Encourages Nick Chiles' Ambitions." *Los Angeles Times* (1886-1922); Jul 26, 1905 pg. 11
- "K.C. Club in Meeting" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934 -); March 31, 1955 pC6
- "Kansas Club News" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934 -); Nov 2, 1950 p A4
- "Clubbing Around" *Kansas Club, Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934 -); May 13, 1948 p17
- "Clubbing Around" *Kansas Club, Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934 -); May 27, 1948 p17
- "Clubbing Around" *Kansas Club, Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934 -); Mar 2, 1950 pB3
- "Kansas Club Plans Brunch" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934 -); May 29, 1952 pC5
- "Kansas Club" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934 -); Jan 4, 1951 pB1
- "Kansas Club News" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Oct 19, 1950 pA4
- "Kansas Club Holds Meet" *Los Angeles SEntinel* (1934-); Aug 14, 1946 pg. 18
- "Kansas Club Holds Festiva Lawn Party" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Aug 25, 1955 pC3
- "Kansas Club—" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Jun 9, 1955 pg C5
- "Kansas Club" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Aug 7, 1952 p C2
- "Kansas Club News" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Jun 9, 1955 pg A4
- "Kansas Club" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Jan 7, 1954 pg C4
- "Kansas Club Joins Chest" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Jun 12, 1947 pg 18
- "Kansas Club" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Jan 21, 1954 pg C3
- "L.A. once had 224 Green Book sites 'safe' for African Americans. Only a fraction remain." *Los Angeles Times*, by Times Staff, FEB. 25, 2019 10:10 AM PT <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-green-book-explainer-20190225-story.html>
- "Last Hired, First Fired: How the Great Depression Affected African Americans" Christopher Klein; History.com; August 31,2018; updated April 18, 2018
- "Last Hired, First Fired? Unemployment and Urban Black Workers During the Great Depression" William A. Sundstrom. *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (June, 1992), pages 415-429), Cambridge University Press
- Liaison International. "Overlooked No More: 5 Must-Know African American Pioneers in Higher Education." Liaison International, 1 Feb. 2022, <https://www.liaisonedu.com/overlooked-no-more-5-must-know-african-americans-pioneers-higher-education/>.
- "Lloyd Venerable Celebrates 8th Birthday" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) April 2, 1953 pg. A11
- "Many Pay Final Tribute at Rites For Mrs. Louise Venerable." *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-); Oct 12, 1950; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel / pg. A6
- "McAlpin Hotel" Route 66 Properties Listed in Black Traveler Guidebooks Reporting: August, 2014
- "McAlpin-648 Stanford Ave." *The Negro Traverlers' Green Book*. p17 1955
- [Miss Lynda B. Venerable Now Mrs. O. B. Flington. Los Angeles Sentinel \(1934-\)](#); Los Angeles, Calif. [Los Angeles, Calif.]. 22 July 1971: C2.
- Meares, Hadley. (2018, February 22) *The Short History of West Adams and Sugar Hill Curbed LA*
- Mogul, Mitzi March. "Significance and implications of Tolhurst V. Venerable to the history of West Adams Heights." Edited by Laura Meyers.
- "Mrs. Thelma Venerable" *Los Angeles Times* (1923-1995) Dec 19, 1950; pg B10
- Muhammad, Ismail. "Walking with the Ghosts of Black Los Angeles." *Literary Hub, Freemans*. 20 September 2019
- National Commission on Excellence in Education. "A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform." A Report to the Nation and the Secretary of Education, United States Department of Education, April 1983.
- Noltemeyer, A.L., Mujic, J., & McLoughlin, C.S. (2012). The history of inequality in education. In A.L. Noltemeyer & C.S. McLoughlin (Eds.), *Disproportionality in Education and Special Education*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Publisher Ltd.
- "October Club Debutants Bow" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Oct 20, 1960, pg B1
- "Our kind of people: Inside America's Black Upper Class." by Lawrence Otis Graham (1999) HarperCollins e-books, [2006]
- "Patsy Brooks Has Birthday Celebration" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Aug 5, 1948 p17
- "Paul Revere Was Here. On the trail LA's Legendary Architect Paul R. Williams." *Los Angeles Conservancy. The National Organization of Minority Architects*.
- Payberah, Josh. "Trojan Tales: USC's First Black Graduate and the Representation of Diversity in the School of Dentistry." USC Annenberg Media, 5 Oct. 2016, <https://www.uscannenbergmedia.com/2016/10/05/trojan-tales-uscs-first-black-graduate-and-the-representation-of-diversity-in-the-school-of-dentistry/>.
- Photograph: "I-10 under construction (Near SR 11), c. 1960", from article "Creating the Santa Monica Freeway" KCET by [Nathan Masters](#) September 9, 2012, originally from *Los Angeles Examiner* (1903-1962)
- "Plan To Conduct Revival Services." *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-); Jul 31, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel, pg. 6
- Professor Kenneth R. Manning, Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies. "Blacks in science have rich history, but diversity efforts must continue MIT News Massachusetts Institute of Technology" MIT News. 13 January, 1999
- "Race, Housing and the Fight for Civil Rights in Los Angeles" National Endowment for the Humanities. Tom & Ethel Bradley Center © California State University, Northridge
- "Red Ironbark. *Eucalyptus tricarpa, sideroxylon and crebra. The most valuable eucalypt.*" Rowan Reid, Agroforestry in Australia: Trees on farms for shelter, conservation & profit
- "Robert A. Kennard, 74, Is Dead. Architect and Mentor for Blacks". *New York Times*. March 30, 1995. P 85
- Rous, Heidi, and Nancy Gerber. Pasadena's Historic Highlands Home Tour. Pamphlet, 2015, pp. 24-33.
- Santa Barbara African American and Black Historic Context Statement; Prepared for the City of Santa Barbara, June 2022, Public Review Draft
- Schiff, Judith Ann. "Pioneers." *Yale Alumni Magazine*, January/February 2006, http://archives.yalealumnimagazine.com/issues/2006_01/old_yale.html.
- "Scholarship Committee" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-) Jun 5, 1947, pg 8
- Slater, Robert Bruce. "The First Black Graduates of the Nation's 50 Flagship State Universities." *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, no. 13, Autumn 1996, pp. 72-85. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/2963173
- Slater, R. B. (1994). "The blacks who first entered the world of white higher education." *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, (4), 47-56. Retrieved from <http://ezproxy.lapl.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/blacks-who-first-entered-world-white-higher/docview/89270377/se-2?accountid=6749>

- "Soaring home prices spur a resurgence near USC" Los Angeles Times, Business section. By Andrew Khouri, April 30, 2014, 6:25 p.m.
- "Social Notes" *California Eagle* (1879–1964) March 17, 1949 p12
- Stanford Libraries. "Researching Black Community at Stanford." Stanford University, n.d., <https://exhibits.stanford.edu/black-at-stanford/about/researching-black-community-at-stanford>.
- "Sugar Hill: The dark history the 10 Freeway has to a historic Black community" Fox 11 Los Angeles, By Brooke Thomas, Published February 9, 2022
- SurveyLA, [Citywide Historic Context Statement for the African American History of Los Angeles, Clubs & Organizations](#).
- The First Black Faculty Members at the Nation's Highest-Ranked Universities Author(s): Robert Bruce Slater Source: *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* , Winter, 1998-1999, No. 22 (Winter, 1998-1999), pp. 97-106
- "Top 100 – Lowest Acceptance Rates". US News. Retrieved February 27, 2022.
- Venerable, Lynda E. 14 May 2022. Interview by R. Hurley [Phone call]. Venerable Family History, West Adams Heritage Association. Los Angeles, CA.
- Venerable II, Grant D. 13 May 2022. Interview by R. Hurley [Phone call]. Venerable Family History, West Adams Heritage Association. Los Angeles, CA.
- Venerable II, Grant D. 14 May 2022. Interview by R. Hurley [Phone call]. Venerable Family History, West Adams Heritage Association. Los Angeles, CA
- Venerable, Grant D. "Venerable Family History," 2021
- Venerable II, Grant D. (2013, April 09) [The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Grant Venerable](#), The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
- [Venerable II, Grant D. "Perhaps Shockley Can Prove Whites Have "Racist Gene"."](#) Finley, Rhodes A. Los Angeles Times (1923-1995); June 10, 1972; pg. B4
- Venerable Family Archive
 - 1985 photograph of 2921 S. Budlong Ave, taken by Grant D. Venerable II
 - Grant D. Venerable beside Model T Ford in Elliston, MT 1934
 - Jesse Owens holding Lloyd Venerable beside Thelma Scott Venerable, with Grant D. Venerable II and Lynda Venerable. 1946 *Venerable Family Archive*
 - December 18, 1955 business meeting and Pre-Christmas party of sixteen "Jet Boy" salesmen
 - Grant D. Venerable II's 4th birthday party (photograph)
 - 1946 photograph of the Venerable children alongside fellow Jack and Jill member Clothilde Dunning (photograph)
 - Lynda Venerable's debut portrait at the October Club Cotillion, Oct 15, 1960
 - Lynda Venerable's debut in society with the October Club, escorted by her father Grant D. Venerable Los Angeles, Oct 15, 1960
 - Extended family present at the October Club Cotillion Lynda Venerable —Lf to Rt: Arthur & Stella Cunningham Bell, Tom & Marian Singleton Jackson, and James and Carolyn Larkin Shifflett (1960)
 - Lynda Venerable at front door of prior to October Club debut, 1960.
 - *Venerable family archive*.
 - Lynda Venerable in the den of 2921 S. Budlong Ave.
 - Grant D. Venerable and his three children survey the construction of the 1-10 Freeway, which ran through the Adams-Normandie neighborhood just a mile from the Venerable Family Residence. 1960.
 - Grant D Venerable and daughter Lynda doing Healey Mfg Co. bank business at Security Pacific Bank. 1961
 - 1960: Grant Delbert II on the 2921 rooftop service his installation of electrical-current generating solar cells.
 - G.Delbert II practicing Belmore piano in living room of 2921 Budlong during 10th grade at Manual Arts High 1958.
 - Grant D. Venerable II at chalkboard family communications center in dining room of 2921 – 8th grade,
 - Vermont Avenue Elementary School PTA. Flanked by her PTA sisters, Thelma V is standing 3rd from left. The Parent Teacher's Association was integral to the success of the Los Angeles City Schools.
 - "Student Delegate Returns" California Eagle, Friday July 10, 1931, page 11
 - "Canadian Christian Conferences Views Race Problem," By Grant D. Venerable, California Eagle, Friday August 14, 1931, page 7
 - "Student Expressions: Grant D. Venerable" by Carl Echols; Oct 23, 1932 California Eagle (1879–1964), Editorial, page 8
 - "Review Reveals Progress of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company." Thursday January 20, 1938, California Eagle (1879–1964), pg/ 2B
 - "Between Friends" Pictorial, January 4 1945, , page 23
 - "Golden State Writes \$178,000 New Business." California Eagle, June 11, 1937, California Eagle (1879–1964) Front page.
 - "Third Annual Future Artist Music Program" California Eagle (1879–1964) Dec 12 1948 pg 16
 - "Children's Piano School Program" California Eagle (1879–1964) Jun 16 1950 pg 24
 - "A Unique Piano Demonstration" California Eagle (1879–1964) July 10 1947 Front Page
 - "Little Miss Linda Venerable" California Eagle (1879–1964) Jun 23 1947 Pg 12
 - "The People Enjoyed" California Eagle (1879–1964) July 7, 1950, Pg 12
 - "30 Young Ladies Bow in Links Chapter 11th Annual Cotillion Saturday Night" California Eagle (1879–1964) Nov 11, 1962, Pg 17
 - "Scholarship Candidates" California Eagle (1879-1964); June 9, 1960, Page 2
 - "Mrs. Grant Venerable Passes Following a Brief Illness." California Eagle (1879-1964); Dec 21, 1950, pg 12
 - "PTA Award Given Mrs. T. Venerable" California Eagle (1879-1964), Feb 2, 1951, Pg. 12
 - "SOCIAL NOTES" California Eagle (1879-1964), June 23, 1949, Pg. 9
- WEST ADAMS' LANDMARKS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, A publication of West Adams Heritage Association, Aug. 19, 2009.
- West Adams (Images of America), Suzanne Tarbell Cooper (Author), Don Lynch (Author), John G. Kurtz (Author), Arcadia Publishing; Illustrated edition (November 17, 2008)
- "West Coast Alpha Wives Form Auxiliary – Frat House is Aim," *The Sphinx*, October 1947, pg. 23
- "What is Marquis Who's Who?"(website page) <https://marquiswhoswho.com/about>
- White, Gia. "Part 1: Memory and Imagination." 150 Years of Women at Berkeley, University of California, Berkeley, 150w.berkeley.edu/part-1-memory-and-imagination.
- Wiener, Jocelyn. "Regarding Ernest Johnson." Stanford Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2004, <https://stanfordmag.org/contents/regarding-ernest-johnson>.
- "World University Rankings". Times Higher Education (THE). Retrieved February 27, 2022.
- "Young Artists to Present Special Concert This Sunday" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-), Dec 2, 1950 pg. 20
- "Youngsters presented in Recital" *Los Angeles Sentinel* (1934-), Jun 29, 1950 pg. C4

PROPERTY PHOTOS



Top: Front facade of subject residence at 2921 S. Budlong Ave, Los Angeles CA 90007, the proposed Grant D. Venerable Family Residence.
Bottom: The three "Tobias Bungalows," with 2921 at the left, 2915 in the middle (A. C. Tobias Residence; CHC-2021-10146-HCM), and 2911 S. Budlong Ave on the right.
Photos of historic Red or Pink Ironbark Eucalyptus sideroxylon in front of the three Tobias Bungalows.
Source: taken by nomination preparers, 2022



Webster's signature knee-braces with integral feet.
Source: photo taken by nomination preparer, 2022



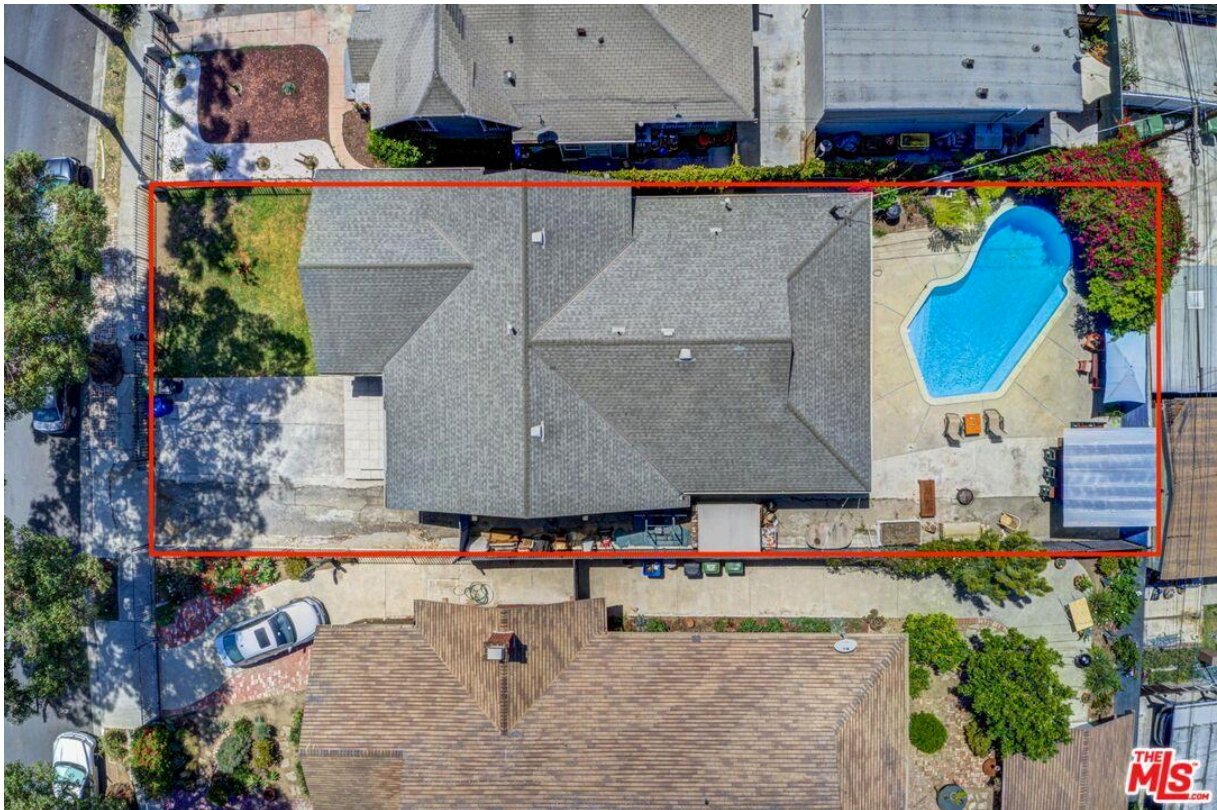
North elevation of subject residence, showing chimney serving the living room fireplace, and the dining room “false bay” window. Also note the knee braces with integral feet supporting the gable, another “Webster-ism.” Photo taken by nomination preparers.



Left: East facing gable (front facade) with infill featuring board-on-board gable vents in signature Webster style (Source: MLS Photo, 2022) Right: North facing gable with vents (Source: nomination preparer) Below: Diagram by John Ripley showing Webster’s board-on-board gable vents.



Examples of the faux mudsills as part of the larger faux post-and-beam structure, lending the appearance of a medieval Japanese structure to the bungalow. Photo taken by nomination preparers.



Top-down photograph showing exterior footprint of subject residence. (Source: MLS, 2022)



View of 2921 S Budlong Ave. through the colonnade and stacked ceiling beams. (Source: MLS, 2022)



View from the living room towards the dining room and kitchen, with entrance to the hallway. (Source: MLS, 2022)



Alcove den facing west with a ribbon of smaller leaded “Webster Style” windows. (source: MLS, 2022)



Detail: a ribbon of four leaded glass smaller casements in the “Webster Style” in the alcove den. Source: Redfin, 2022



Living room false bay window on south side. (Source: MLS, 2022)



Rear west-facing bedroom. (Source: MLS, 2022)

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Grant D. Venerable II, Ph.D.
300 Gaelic Way
Tyrone, Georgia 30290
404 861-6258 c
ventwo@aol.com

July 12, 2022

Cultural Heritage Commission
200 North Spring Street, Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Grant D. and Thelma Scott Venerable Residence-2921 Budlong Avenue

Dear Commission Members:

I am pleased to note that my family home at 2921 S. Budlong Avenue (L.A. 90007) has been nominated for a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) designation. Purchased in 1944 at a cost of \$7,000 and moved into in March 1945, this home was a major “first fruit” of my father Grant D. Venerable’s historic achievement of being the “first of his race” to graduate from the famed *California Institute of Technology* (Caltech) in Pasadena (1932). The unique style and practical features of this spacious craftsman home by a prominent duo of early 20th century architects enabled my parents to cultivate just the right lifestyle in support of their marriage, careers, civic activities, and raising three energetic and creative children. I can attest to specific qualities and features of the house as anchors for everything my sister, brother, and I have achieved in our fulfilling lives. Those achievements are undergirded by habits supporting good health, recreational pursuits, and spiritual development. But we have also enjoyed close ties to a large and viable extended family system, a nurturing social network of friends and colleagues sustaining successful lives.

In my case, this has supported my becoming a successful university mentor and teacher across the natural and social sciences and the arts and humanities. This was in such places as Duarte High, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Cruz, San Francisco State, and fifteen years of service as provost/academic vice president retiring after nine years at Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. But also sustained by the 2921 Budlong residence was a strong sense of the contextual dimension in completing significant projects and leading such higher education organizations and projects. Everything I have been recognized for in *Who’s Who in America* springs from the inspiration and immense resource base afforded me at 2921, the qualities of the many individuals it has attracted, and its proximity to the cultural offerings of the Los Angeles region.

We did not learn until recently of the house’s architectural significance, or that its architects had built grand residences in Pasadena. You could certainly feel the architects’ unique signature in the 30-foot living room with stylish ceiling beams presided over at its north end by a handsome, bleached-brick fireplace flanked by bookshelves filled with literary classics, not the least of which was the 20-volume *Book of Knowledge*. When my father and mother Thelma Scott purchased this, their first home at 2921 Budlong Avenue, they credited those ceiling beams and spacious living room, so their kids would have a playground inside in case of a rare rainy day!

This house became an “organizing principle” for everything that was part and parcel of the identity of my family and our ancestors prior to my grandparental relatives’ arrival in Los Angeles after 1900. It would be no stretch to assert that 2921 Budlong offered a foundational influence in making me what I have become in my existence as a scientist, artist, musician, and educator. Even the house’s “conversion” to a solar observatory with my rooftop solar cell installation gave major impetus (1960) to my studying photo and electrochemistry during my undergraduate chemistry major at UCLA (1965-1970). And then providing the momentum for my earning the Ph.D. in physical chemistry at The University of Chicago focusing on radiation chemical processes.

In those days, the “network” involved all those who held our community together as we diminished the Color Line. It was of the utmost importance that the organizations comprising the children, youths, and families of the “Jack & Jill of America,” the PTA, Alpha Phi Alpha, and our Jet Magazine sales branch of the Johnson Publishing Co. were gathered on so many occasions over two decades. These gatherings involved families representing high-achieving members of LA’s “Black elite,” primarily physicians, educators, pharmacists, dentists, businessmen, attorneys, religious leaders and teachers. The architecture of this home, in particular the imposing living room and dining room space, the den and dining room, made it an ideal meeting place for the Board of Directors of the Venerable Corporation which purchased the George R. Healey Manufacturing Co. However, the den also functioned as Dad’s quiet space and “brain center” where he studied and brought ideas to fruition. His large pre-electric powered calculators performed complex arithmetic operations by heavy tabletop, hand-cranked rotor wheel machines that utterly fascinated us children. His large slide rule from his Caltech days sat next to the calculators for doing logarithmic and exponential computations.

It can be definitively stated that our home attracted a “Who’s Who” of the local and national community into its elegant interior. The 2921 residence held official meetings of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, of which my father was a charter member (1925) and whose members included such lifelong friends as Ralph J. Bunche (U.N. Undersecretary and 1948 Nobel Peace Prize winner), Chicago-based chemist Lloyd A. Hall (who revolutionized the meat packing industry), real estate broker Grace Atkins Ginns, and Olympic athlete Jesse Owens. The local Vermont Avenue School PTA, a congenially diverse group of mothers (see attached photo) also enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere of 2921 for luncheon meetings. The Kansas Club of pioneering migrants from Kansas, mainly my mother’s kindred, gathered at least a few times, while the Friday Morning Prayer Band gathered there perhaps monthly. Also gathering there were Las Madrinas (Spanish for “The Godmothers”), an active network of women who, like my father’s mother, were servants in the grand homes of Los Angeles-Beverly Hills and organized cultural events for the community. Budlong was at least a once a year venue for Las Madrinas when hosted by Louise Venerable, mother of Grant D. Venerable Sr., during the years in which she was active. (An attached photo shows Las Madrinas in 1940 hosting a reception for the renowned operatic contralto Marian Anderson who appreciated every opportunity to be in the warm embrace of the African American community wherever she concertized. This event occurred within a year following her celebrated Easter Sunday concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.)

Black financial independence was my father’s motivating dream, not just for himself but for his peers and future generations as well. From 2921 he and his brother-in-law William Tatum operated the McAlpin Hotel downtown and later acquired and operated the George R. Healy Company of Montebello California and made a respectable income through the manufacture and sales of “felt-weld” blackboard erasers that became school and college standards nationwide.

As I complete the eighth decade of my multifaceted existence, I am especially sensitive to human tendencies toward dementia and amnesia around who and what one is. If this is not checked, the very natural process of neural degeneration and the brain's forgetting how to coordinate the heart's pumping the blood to the vital organs and the brain's overall coordinative functions. When that happens to an entire city, the people and their leaders actually forget who and what they once were as an "urban organism." This has been the sad fate of once vibrant rust belt and automobile manufacturing centers. Their vintage buildings, residences, and other unique monuments have vanished or been lost to urban decay, because people and their leaders have forgotten.

When the Santa Monica Freeway was first announced, my civil engineer father while excited by the possibility for the public to utilize the new I-10 freeway infrastructure, he had not initially grasped the profound social consequences that would be incurred as a result; many of the mansions of Sugar Hill and Berkeley Square, where many wealthy Black families resided, would be demolished to make space for the I-10. Furthermore, the I-10 would run through the northern part of our neighborhood. The city leaders were effectively sealing South Central Los Angeles off from the rest of the City.

We don't always understand in the present what is lost when historic buildings and residences are demolished to make way for "progress," no matter how compelling is the case for economic development and quick wind-fall profits. Looking back, I wish Los Angeles still had those grand residences of my childhood in Berkeley Square and Sugar Hill as reminders that our history is one of resilience, adaptation to change, and ultimately prosperity. I strongly urge the commission to carefully consider what will be lost and what will continually renew our urban identity in the neighborhoods south of the I-10 freeway as this beautiful region enjoys economic reawakening.

Sincerely,

Grant D. Venerable II

LYNDA V. ELLINGTON

64 Heath Aster Lane
lyndabee02@yahoo.com

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

602-690-5690

May 15, 2022

Cultural Heritage Commission
200 N Spring St, Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Commission Members,

2921 Budlong Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007! This was my home, where I was brought home from St. Vincent's Hospital, where I grew up and lived until about the age of 22. What made it a special home? Thoughts for your consideration in naming this home a 'historic monument':

Certainly, I was not aware of its historical background, it's designers or that it was a craftsman style home. It was a special home for my two brothers and me, Mom and Dad, Thelma and Grant Venerable. As I would come to know this home, filled with warmth and love, with open doors to family, friends and neighbors, it was a haven for all. My parents accepted all visitors without judgment and that is how my family came to be known and appreciated.

My father, a 1932 Caltech graduate, the first undergraduate of African descent was aware of the challenges of being one of the first families of color to live west of Vermont Avenue in a most desired neighborhood. The neighbors soon came to know a man of honor with a peaceful nature who would help guide not only his own children but mentor anyone who needed help. My father owned a small manufacturing company his only product being chalkboard erasers, needed by school boards across the country and as far away as the Philippines. This was a first for a man of African descent as there were only 2 other manufacturers of erasers in the US. He supplied his products by competitive bid and, as I spent many days there, I know firsthand that his erasers could be found everywhere in this country.

My father's legacy is being honored by Caltech in the renaming of a building in his honor in this the 90th anniversary of his graduation. He attended Caltech in a time when eugenics was actively supported in many areas especially at universities. My father helped to disprove the theory that people were 'inferior' because of the color of their skin. He was not wanted at this prestigious school and was told many times he

would not pass the course of study. My father had drive, determination, ambition and willpower and knew an engineering course of study was perfect for him. He was able to matriculate well and in so doing made lifelong friends of administrators and students alike. There are times when a person can speak about the way life should be, then there are those who's actions lead the way to understanding.

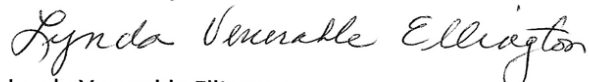
Our Budlong house was one of warmth with beautiful wood throughout, a hallmark of craftsman style. In the living room there was a beautiful fireplace with a huge wood mantle that held family pictures. Wooden bookcases on either side of the fireplace included built-in benches, cozy reading nooks. The books my parents would read inspired our knowledge and curiosity. At the front of the home was a huge picture window where before pulling down the shade every night we kids would say "goodnight street light".

There was a beautiful formal dining room where family and friends gathered for special occasions, dinners, birthday parties. The room included a magnificent buffet of wood and glass that covered an entire wall. At those special times the buffet would be laden with a delicious meal while the glass door cabinets protected family 'treasures' of present and past centuries from prying little hands.

The backyard was one where children could play in the mud and often did. My mother also planted a huge garden that our family and neighbors could share in. My love of gardening has extended from those humble beginnings to this day.

Looking back, there is no place like that home, beautiful, historic. Steeped in its history of a family seeking a good life and helping others along the way I ask your consideration in naming it a 'historic monument'. In so doing hopefully it will be viewed as a place of love, contentment, of reaching out to help others who enter in.

Thank you for your consideration.


Lynda Venerable Ellington

Anna Marie Brooks
1109 4th Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90019
historichomesla@aol.com
310-650-2143

June 13, 2022

Dear Councilmember,

RE: Item 2, 22-0306, CHC-2021-101460-HCM, A. C. Tobias Residence, 2915 Budlong Ave.
CD 8

2915 Budlong Ave. is up for consideration as an HCM, on June 14th before PLUM. I cannot attend the meeting as I have a surgical follow-up appointment at Cedars. As the nominator of this fine, Rustic Craftsman bungalow by architectural designers Barker & Webster, and first occupied by developer/real estate broker A. C. Tobias, this outstanding residence has absolutely NO historic protection. Please change that unlucky fate by granting it HCM protection. The residences to the direct north, 2911, and south, 2921 Budlong Ave. were also developed by the same designers and developer, also in 1908. As a tryptic, the residences are similar in design with the center one, 2915, also incorporating an in-home office. 2915 is the most intact and the grandest of the three with original exterior and interior details still extant throughout its continuing 114-year life. The original *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* tree, common name Red or Pink Ironbark, still holds forth in its magnificence in the median at the front of the property. Following the City's and the CHC's inspection visit, it was deemed a museum-quality renovation by members of the City staff and of the CHC. No one knew that this fine Rustic Craftsman residence has absolutely NO historic protection. Therefore, please approve 2915 Budlong Ave. known as the A. C. Tobias Residence for Historic-Cultural Monument status, thus granting it protection, and refer it onward to the City Council.

In a related matter 2921 Budlong Ave., the southernmost of the tryptic of residences designed by Barker & Webster and developed by A. C. Tobias, is currently on the market in excess of \$1 Million. The first offer, now withdrawn, was to demolish the property. It currently awaits its fate, unless the City, CHC, PLUM and City Council find it worthy of Historic-Cultural Monument status. Its cultural, social, and economic history are outstanding. 2921 Budlong was found eligible for CHC status under all three

criteria, by the preparer of the nomination, recently submitted to the Office of Historic Resources. The following are quoted from the nomination criteria:

1. The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community. The Venerable family itself broke some of the barriers that faced (and continue to face) African Americans in the sciences; the family is also associated with Great Migration. Importantly, the family owned & managed a hotel listed in the Green Book and played a role in the "Sugar Hill" lawsuits that helped end restrictive covenants and break the color line in Los Angeles's residential neighborhoods.

2. The property is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history. Grant Delbert Venerable and his son, Grant Delbert Venerable II, who both broke barriers for African Americans in academia and the fields of science and engineering. Grant Delbert Venerable Sr. was the first African American graduate of Caltech, the California Institute of Technology, and in recognition, the university recently renamed one of its campus buildings for him.

3. The property also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age. This Rustic Craftsman was designed by Neal Dow Barker and George James Webster, and although it has some (reversible) alterations, it retains the distinctive architectural characteristics they are recognized for.

One can only submit a single property for HCM nomination, even though these three are intimately related. This historian submitted 2915 Budlong, the property in consideration for HCM nomination today (June 14), when it went on the market and the first offer was from a developer who wanted to demo this residence which has absolutely NO historic protection. The successful purchaser is in support of the nomination. In fact, he, a documentarian, is the nominator of 2921 Budlong, which also went on the market and received the highest offer from another developer.

Please remember 2921 Budlong Avenue when it is forwarded to you from the CHC, most likely months from now. In the meantime, today (June 14) please grant 2915 Budlong Ave. HCM status, thus granting it historic protection.

Thank you,

Anna Marie Brooks
Historian & Preparer of HCM Nomination of 2915 Budlong Ave.



Thyeris Mason
President

Julianne Burg
Vice President

Samantha Burg
Secretary

Julie Burg
Treasurer

Joe Vaca
Area 1
Representative

Marco Flores
Area 1
Representative

David Greenman
Area 2
Representative

Mehul Patel
Area 2
Representative

Jean Frost
Area 3
Representative

Nicolas Creighton
Area 3
Representative

Cindy Gaete
At Large
Representative

Jon Tieuel
At Large
Representative

Jim Childs
At Large
Representative

Vacant
USC Interest
Representative

Joe Ward-Wallace
Business Interest
Representative

June 22, 2022

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Cultural Heritage Commission: Barry Milofsky, President
Gail Kennard, Vice President
Richard Barron, Pilar Buelna, Diane Kanner, Commissioners
Lambert Giessinger, Preservation Architect

Via email

RE: Support for the nomination of the Grant D. Venerable Family Home, 2921 S. Budlong Ave., as a Historic Cultural Monument.

On behalf of the Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC), we would like to express our support of the HCM Nomination of the Grant D. Venerable Family Home. Grant D. Venerable was Caltech's first African American graduate. He broke barriers for African Americans in academia, and the sciences and engineering fields.

NANDC voted unanimously to support the nomination at its General Board meeting of June 2, 2022.

The Grant D. Venerable Family Residence is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community.

The Venerable family itself broke some of the barriers that faced (and continue to face) African Americans in the sciences; the family is also associated with Great Migration. Importantly, the family owned & managed a hotel listed in the Green Book and played a role in the "Sugar Hill" lawsuits that helped end restrictive covenants and break the color line in Los Angeles's residential neighborhoods.

The property is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history. Grant Delbert Venerable and his son, Grant Delbert Venerable II, both broke barriers for African Americans in academia and the fields of science and

PO Box 18769
Los Angeles, CA 90018
board@nandc.org | www.NANDC.org

1



engineering. Grant Delbert Venerable Sr. was the first African American graduate of Caltech, the California Institute of Technology, and in recognition, the university recently renamed one of its campus buildings for him.

This nomination also represents just one example of the wealth of history that has gone unrecognized in the NANDC area and in South Los Angeles. NANDC is supporting a cultural and architectural resource survey for its NANDC task force area and is working with Planning and Councilmember Harris-Dawson and Councilmember Curren Price to achieve that goal. Until there is a viable survey, the CHC will be receiving these gems piece meal - unfortunate but necessary.

NANDC is a self-governed, self-directed, and independent organization empowered by the Los Angeles City Charter. This charter offers neighborhood councils a role in the City's decision-making process. NANDC was certified by the City of Los Angeles on April 27, 2002 and was the 24th neighborhood council formed under the guidelines of the City Charter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thryeris Mason".

Thryeris Mason, President
Empowerment Congress North Area Development Council (NANDC)
www.NANDC.org

CC: Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Albizael Del Valle, CD 8
Isaias Benevides, CD 8
Adrian Fine, LA Conservancy
West Adams Heritage Association

PO Box 18769
Los Angeles, CA 90018
board@nandc.org | www.NANDC.org

2

COPIES OF PRIMARY/SECONDARY DOCUMENTATION

GRANT D. VENERABLE DRAFT CARD



https://www.fold3.com/image/630035015

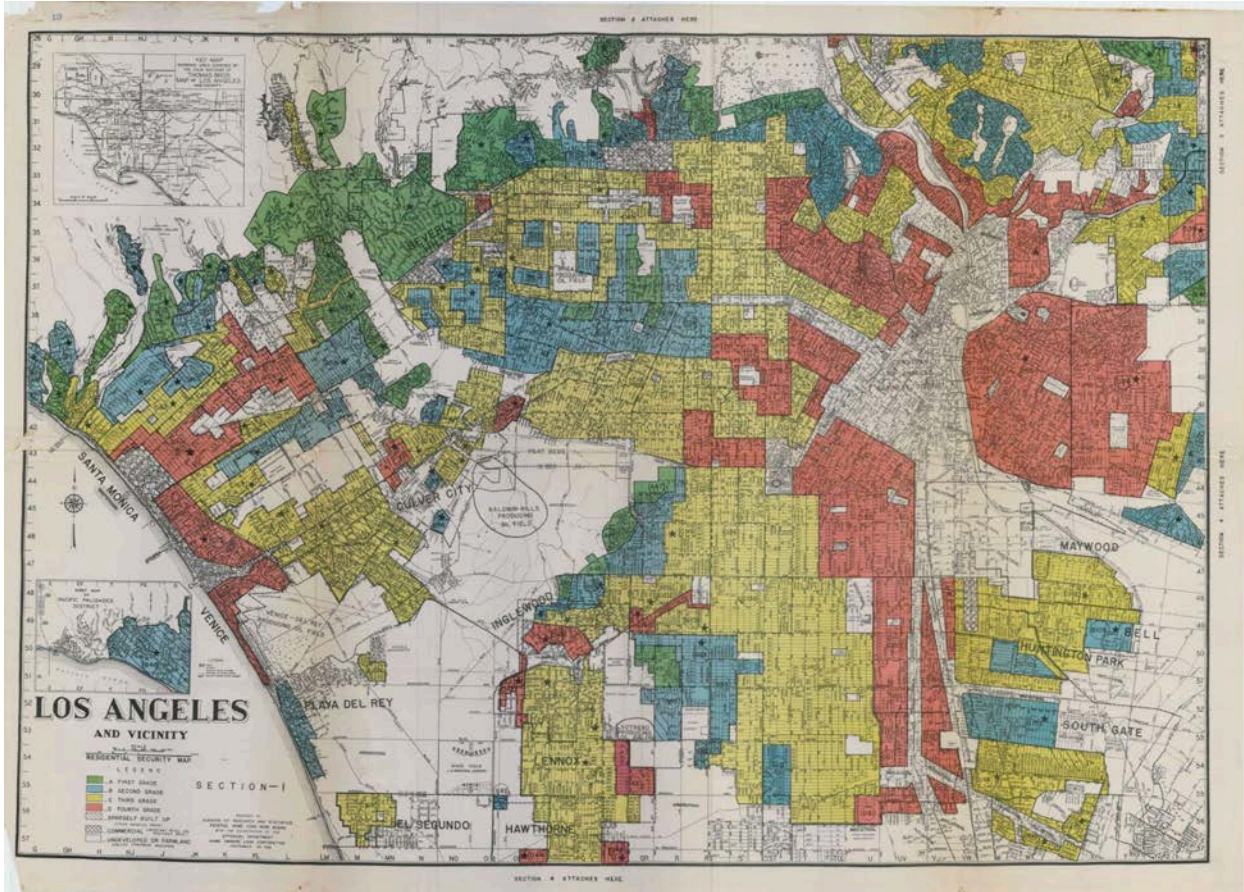
4 May 45 2921 Budlong Ave, Pa 7 233

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

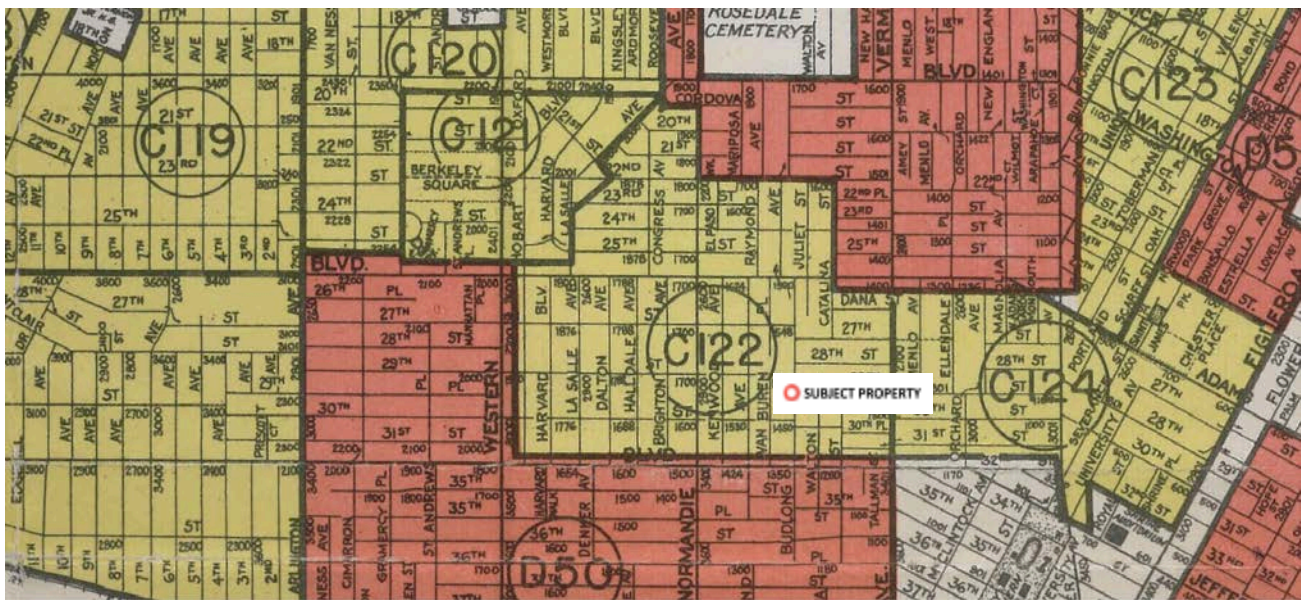
SERIAL NUMBER 1589	1. NAME (Print) GRANT DELBERT VENERABLE	ORDER NUMBER 11525
(Number and street)	(First) (Middle) (Last)	(State)
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 1286 WEST 36th Street LOS ANGELES CALIF.		
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME		
[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]		
4. TELEPHONE RE 5521	5. AGE IN YEARS 37	6. PLACE OF BIRTH KANSAS CITY
(Exchange) (Number)	DATE OF BIRTH July 10 1904	(Town or county) (State or country)
	(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS. THELMA VENERABLE 1286 WEST 36th St.		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS GRANT D. VENERABLE 4903 So. Central Ave. LA		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 4903 So. Central Ave Los Angeles Calif		
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42)	(over) ☆ GPO 16-21630-1	Grant D. Venerable (Registrant's signature)

Grant D. Venerable's 1945 draft card, with his new address at 2921 Budlong Ave handwritten on top, May 4th 1945.

HOLC LOS ANGELES REDLINING MAP (1939)



HOLC LOS ANGELES REDLINING MAP: ADAMS-NORMANDIE CLOSEUP



GRANT D. VENERABLE DEED FOR 2921 S BUDLONG
1944 August 11th
Book: 21190 Pages: 142-143

U.S.I.P.S. \$6.60 Cancelled GRANT DEED

In Consideration of TEN AND NO/100 Dollars, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by the undersigned, DUDLEY F. KUZELL and ELIZABETH L. KUZELL, husband and wife, DO HEREBY GRANT TO GRANT D. VENERABLE and THELMA L. VENERABLE, husband and wife, as Joint Tenants, the real property in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, described as follows: The South 20 feet of Lot 14 and the North 30 feet of Lot 15, in Cotton's Budlong Avenue Tract, as per map recorded in Book 12 Page 59 of Maps, in the office of the County Recorder of said County.

SUBJECT TO: Taxes for the fiscal year 1944 and 1945.

21190 143

Conditions, restrictions, reservations, rights, rights of way and easements of record.
Signed this 27th day of July, 1944.

Dudley F. Kuzell
Elizabeth L. Kuzell

State of California, }
County of Los Angeles } ss On this 27th day of July, 1944 before me, the undersigned
a Notary Public in and for said County, personally appeared Dudley F. Kuzell and
Elizabeth L. Kuzell known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the
within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same.

Witness my hand and official seal.

(SEAL) V. H. Volland, Notary Public
Los Angeles County, California.
My Commission Expires June 5-45.

#816 Copy of original recorded at request of National Title Insurance Co. Aug. 11, 1944 at 5
A.M. Copyist #10 Compared, Mame B. Beatty, County Recorder, by *L. J. ...* Deputy
\$1.00-S. T.

NOV 19 1970

LOS ANGELES LAND TITLE CO.

when recorded mail to:

United Mortgage Servicing Corp
3685 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 303
Los Angeles, California 90016

1256

RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIF.
2 Min. 8 A.M. NOV 19 1970
Past
RAY E. LEE, Registrar-Recorder

DRIVEWAY AGREEMENT

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BY THE OWNERS OF:

2921 South Budlong Avenue Los Angeles, California 90007
2915 South Budlong Avenue Los Angeles, California 90007

FEE
\$2.80
ET

NOV 19 1970

that the maintenance cost involved in providing vehicular access to above mentioned properties will be divided equally between the above property owners and the funds necessary will be collected and administered in a manner mutually agreed to by all parties whenever necessary.

2921 South Budlong Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Grant D. Venerable
Grant D. Venerable

2915 South Budlong Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Texana Sargent
Texana Sargent

The undersigned declare that they are the owners of those certain parcels of land situated in city of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California described as follows:

PARCEL 1: The South 20 feet of Lot 14 and the North 30 feet of Lot 15 of Cotton's Budlong Avenue Tract, as per map recorded in Book 12 Page 59 of Maps, in the office of the County Recorder of said County.

PARCEL 2: The South 30 feet of Lot 13 and North 20 feet of Lot 14 of Cotton's Budlong Avenue Tract, as per map recorded in Book 12 Page 59 of Maps, in the office of the County Recorder of said County.

and said owners agree that there is constructed in and upon said right of way, or easement, as suitable pavement and that they will maintain said pavement in a good usable condition under all traffic or weather conditions until said maintenance is assumed by a governmental agency.

This agreement is to be construed as a covenant running with the land and for the mutual benefit of the undersigned, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, we have executed this agreement this 19th day of November 1970.

Grant D. Venerable
Grant D. Venerable

Texana Sargent
Texana Sargent

1256

51097-4

November 19th, 1970 driveway-sharing agreement between Grant D. Venerable at 2921 S. Budlong Ave and Texana Sargent at 2915 S. Budong Ave.

On Second Thought

By LOREN MILLER

LET'S SQUAWK

I have decided to award the week's booby prize to certain gentlemen at the Water and Power Department without examining the squawks of other claimants. They won in a walk when they refused to hire Negro workers on a city construction project because they feared the races couldn't mix together without "creating gument."

I don't know whether or not there would have been arguments either do the theorists who made order. It is unimportant. Sides of municipally owned projects can't hide their prejudice behind such specious theories. And now is the time for us to protest. We let them get away with this sort of policy and we will be shamed forever under the plea that practice is an old and therefore sacred practice.

It all comes down to the point of the hired servants up town to own the Department. It belongs to the taxpayers of this city. It means that each one of us has an interest in it. We will look it silly if we, as owners of a business, discriminate against our race. Let's squawk.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Certain lawyers of the city have performed a distinguished service by their attacks on the unfair unjust trust deed racket. So as I know California is one of a few states that permits the banks to take away men's homes without the formality of mortgage foreclosure and giving the loser a chance to redeem his property. A law is particularly unjust these times.

I am glad to note that a Negro, Macbeth, is in the forefront of the fight. This sort of thing has been neglected by us too long. It is time for us to wake up and see that whenever a law works hardship on the poor it is bound to be the poorest in America. Rich make the social injustices.

colleges. Oregon and Lillard got it in the neck. Too bad.

GREAT MINDS

The L. A. Bar Association and some newspapers are all bet up because a judge permitted the broadcast of the Clark trial. You can understand the papers. They make money only if their news is fresh and the radio cuts in on their business. You need not take their mental caliber is indicated by the fact that they bar Negro lawyers from their learned ranks and kicked up the biggest row over the prospect of a Negro judge. Such great minds get fuddled easily.

BOOKS AND BOOKS

I learn from the librarian that the circulation at Helen Hunt Jackson library, "located in the heart of the Black Belt" as the daily prints would say, is falling off. Whether or not this decrease is a calamity, I cannot say. It all depends on what kind of books the cash customers were reading. If they were absorbing some of the trash the Master Minds permit on the book shelves it might turn out to be a blessing in disguise. There are books and books.

As a client of long standing, I am able to report that the library in question has an excellent selection of books from which Negroes might profit. One of our saddest features is our tendency to depend too little on information and too much on fuzzy inspiration, a

falling which accounts for the inane and vapid utterings of our editors, preachers, leaders, columnists and public speakers.

Most of us have no acquaintance with reading except a faint and hazy recollection of the patent fakes of school text books supplanted with the clap-trap of the newspapers. An hour or two spent with a careful selection of books would do much to weed out such erroneous ideas as the one that Negroes could solve all their ills were they given the ballot or another that all will be happy when we can point to a few black millionaires.

WIND BAG

There is talk that the biggest false alarm in America. General (Smiley) Butler may be invited to take over and cure the ills from which our police force is suffering. That would be a major calamity to Negroes. Butler is a roystering bully who has nothing to his credit except imposing brute force on the helpless citizens of those places where he has been sent by the U.

S. He is the same guy who remarked that the Haitian constitution could go to hell. In addition to that, he is incompetent and useless. Despite all the talk, he did not clean up Philadelphia when he was in charge of the city. As one who was there sometimes, I can testify that the rackets were as wide open as they were before his swashbuckling regime.

It Seems To Me

By: L. B. GRANGER

The Urban League throughout its national organization now seems committed to a step which is bound to bring down upon it the wrath and condemnation of

within the memory of the present generation. No one could realize that not only would the Negro be unable to find jobs in the new fields but that he would be fortun-

STUDENT EXPRESSIONS

BY: CARL ECHOLS

GRANT D. VENERABLE

Is the fact known and appreciated that at the world-famous California Institute of Technology, located in Pasadena, one and only one Negro student has ever studied within its sacred walls?

Is the fact known and appreciated that this senior, for such he is, will be graduated from this school this year, having established a precedence hitherto unknown in the twenty or more years of its history?

Grant D. Venerable deserves the highest respect and admiration of his fellows.

The world greets intellectual accomplishment. Let colored folk get into this reception line and honor real achievement when it makes its appearance.

The example of Mr. Venerable will encourage Negro youth throughout the land. It must do more it must awaken a desire and determination to follow in the footsteps of this exemplary young man and student.

Grant Venerable was born in Kansas City, Missouri, July 10, 1904. He came to California a few years ago with his mother, Mrs. Louise Venerable, who lives presently in Los Angeles.

Young Grant graduated from the San Bernardino High School and immediately planned to enter Cal. Tech. He found himself, however, at U. C. L. A. as a medical student. This course was abandoned after three years and the brilliant young mathematician headed straight for the Pasadena Institute made famous by Millikan, Morgan and Einstein. He began his training for Civil Engineering and is soon to complete the course.

Venerable soon won the esteem of professors and students. He was chosen vice-president of the Cosmopolitan club. He was sent by the school to the Canadian Student Christian Conference which convened at Vancouver, British Columbia this past summer. Delegates from over the world were present.

One day Grant was casually led to enumerate a few subjects he has studied during his young career. The list is partly as follows:

Elementary and advanced algebra, plane and solid geometry, trigonometry, plane analytic and solid analytic geometry, integral and differential calculus, theory of probability, theory of numbers, theory of equations, projection geometry, spherical trigonometry, and so forth and so on.

Physics, chemistry, geology, zoology, paleontology, economics, history, Spanish, French, English and a few others help to make the list varied and interesting.

And so proceeds the career of a pioneer who not only on one occasion at Cal. Tech. received one of the two highest grades but who was picked by coach and athletes as sure quarter back and quarter mile material. As a twist of fate altered his career from that of physician to an engineer, so a twist of an ankle changed his career as an athlete, at least for awhile.

Soon the California Institute of Technology will open its doors and send forth another group of graduated scientists and engineers. Among them will be the first Negro in the history of the school. Grant D. Venerable.

"STUDENT EXPRESSIONS by Carl Echols: Grant D. Venerable"
Source: *The California Eagle*, Editorials October 23, 1932 pg 8

GRANT D. VENERABLE, OBITUARY

Grant D. Venerable

Civil Engineer-businessman and 67-year L.A. resident, **Grant D. Venerable**, died of Hodgkins lymphoma on Thursday, March 27. He was 81.

The Kansas City, Missouri-born mathematical thinker was president and general manager of the Geo. R. Healey Mfg. Co. of Los Angeles, which pioneered in the development of the "felt weld" chalkboard eraser that is widely used in school districts across the U.S.

In 1932, he was the first Black American to graduate from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena where he was a protege of the late Nobel Laureate physicist Robert A. Millikan.

An associate of the late Ralph Bunche, Mr. **Venerable** was noted in the 1920s as an outstanding cornetist and quarter-mile sprinter, both at UCLA and CalTech. In 1939, he married the former Thelma Scott, who predeceased him in 1950. From 1967 to 1978 he was married to the late Naomi T. Pryor, formerly of Chicago.

He is survived by a daughter Lynda Ellington and son-in-law Owen Ellington, M.D.; two sons, graphic artist Lloyd **Venerable** of Los Angeles and Bay Area high-tech author and commentator **Grant D. Venerable, II**; and three grandchildren Owen, Bryan and Michelle.

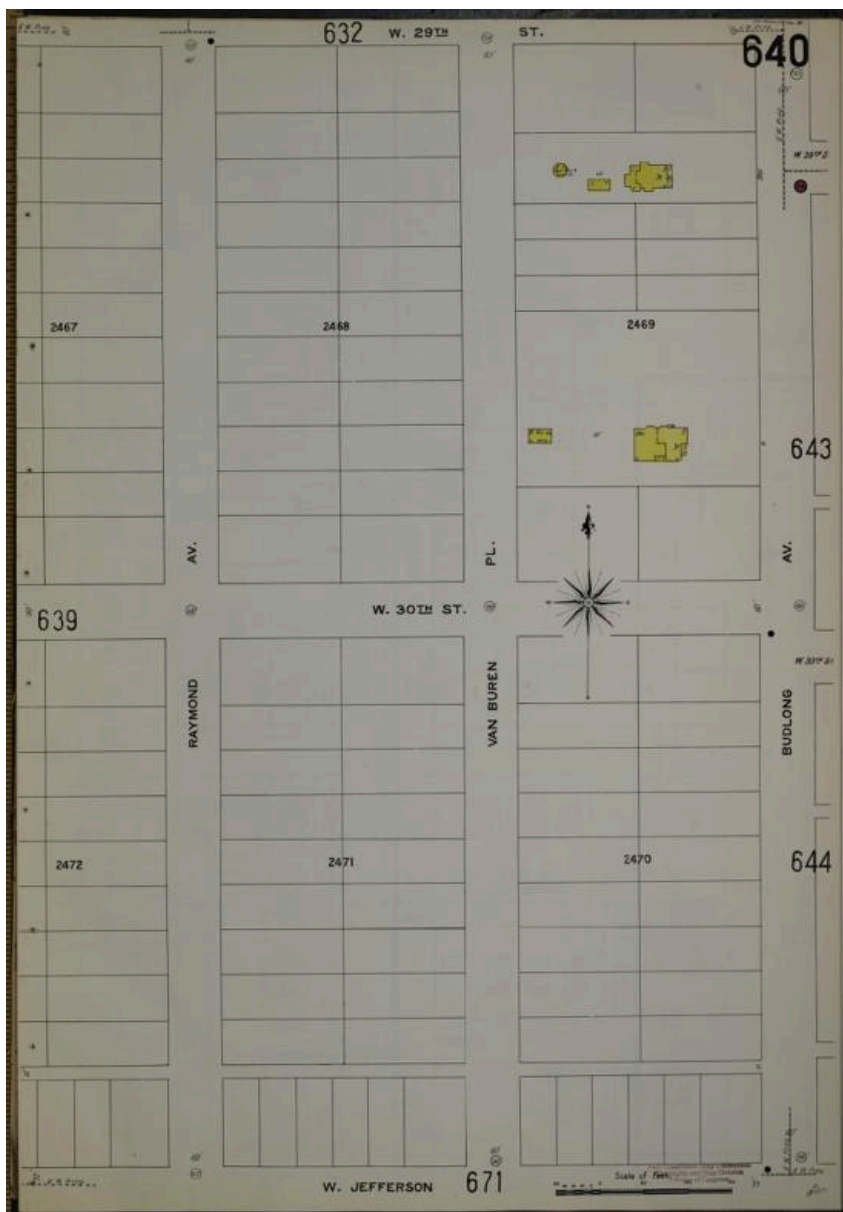
A memorial service is planned for April 5 at Guidance Church of Religious Science. Contributions may be sent to the California Institute of Technology, care of the **Venerable** Memorial Fund.

Grant D. Venerable's obituary in the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, April 3rd, 1986.

street.
Barker & Webster have completed plans for a six-room bungalow, to be built by A. C. Tobias on Budlong avenue, near Twenty-ninth street, by day labor.

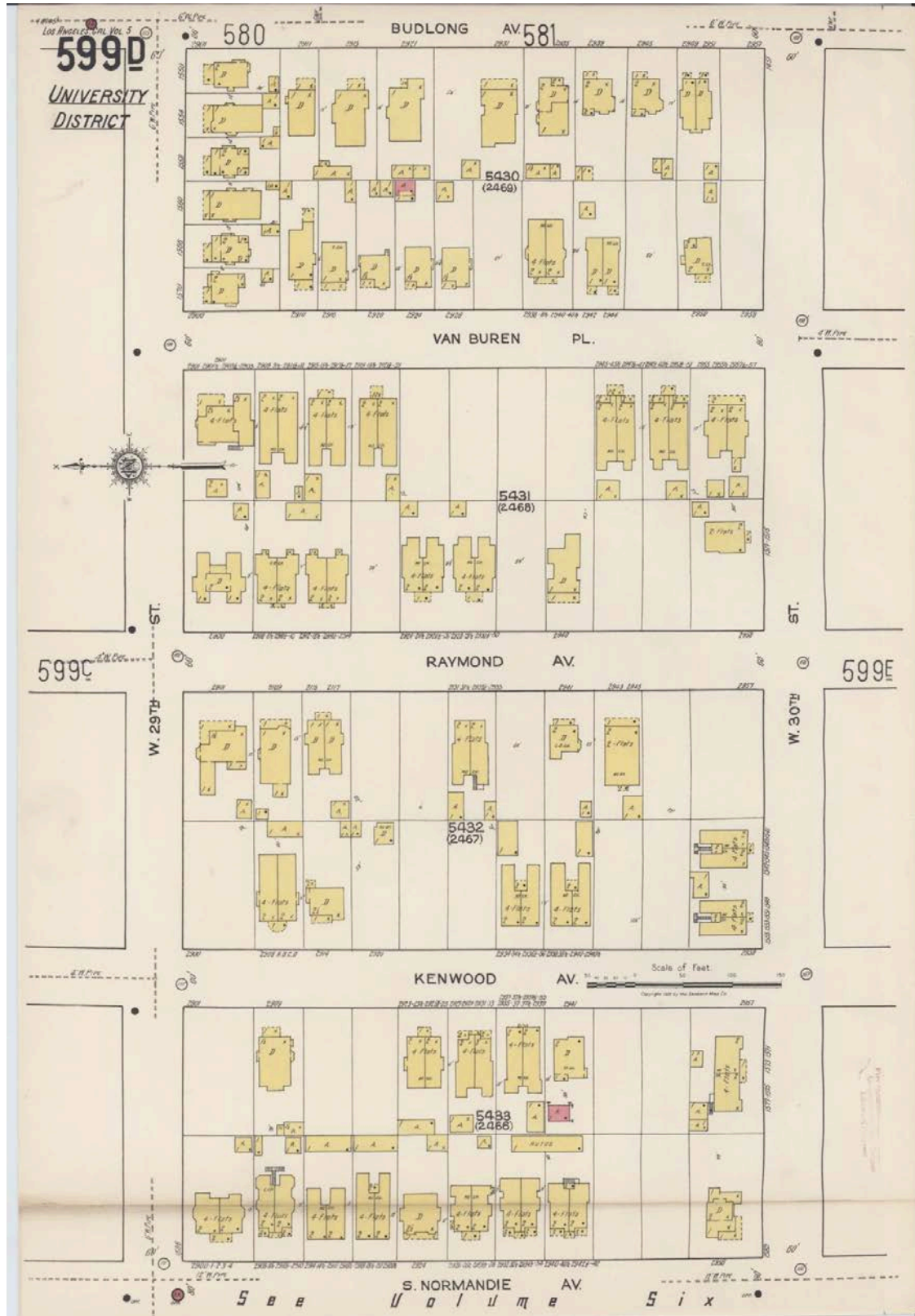
"AMONG THE ARCHITECTS.: Boards of Local Designers Taken up With Plans for Many New Buildings--Colleges and Schools." *Los Angeles Times* (1886-1922); *Los Angeles, Calif.* 18 Oct 1908: V15.

1906 SANBORN MAP



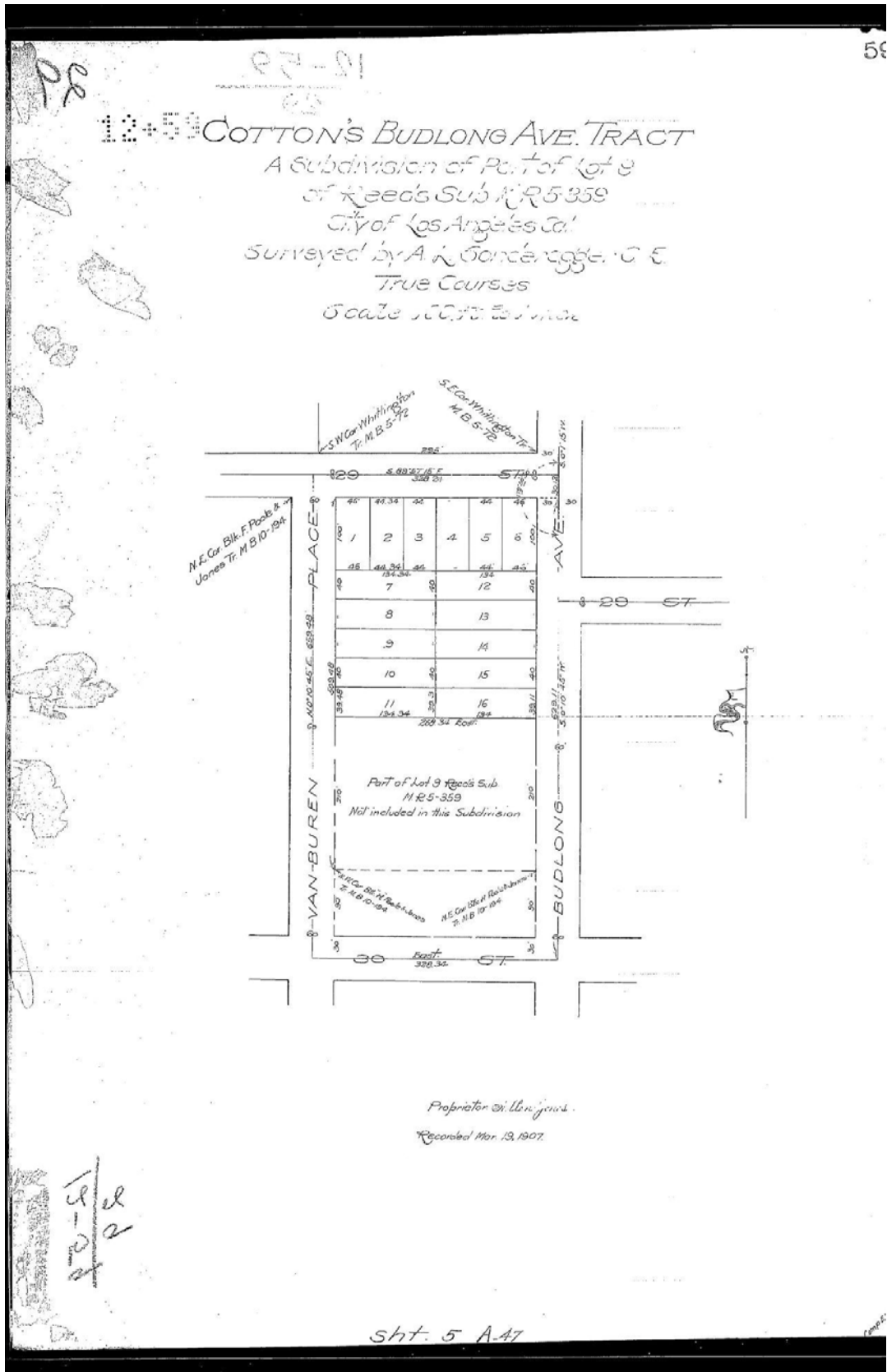
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Los Angeles, 1921 (Vol. 6, Sheet 640)

1920 SANBORN MAP



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Los Angeles, 1921 (Vol. 6, Sheet 640), showing subject residence footprint.

COTTON'S BUDLONG TRACT SUBDIVISION (1907)



PERMIT & ALTERATION HISTORY

User Doc Number	Doc Date	Owner / Registrant	Purpose
1908LA05306	September 23, 1908	A.C. Tobias	Erect 20' 6" SFR residence. No dimensions. Wood lath & floor. 2 brick chimneys & foundation, shingle roof. Barker & Webster, designers.
1971LA32591	July 14, 1971	Charles Taylor	Install private swimming pool
1990HO04200	January 26, 1990	Jose Alvarez	Kitchen remodel: cabinets
00016-10000-07177	April 21, 2000	Washington Mutual Bank	General remodel, kitchen cabinets and bedroom closet doors
00016-10000-07177	May 2, 2000	Washington Mutual Bank	Replace roof with composition shingles and ½" CDX plywood
03016-20000-10232	May 29, 2003	BDR Inc.	T.O (E) Roof, APPLY ½" CDX Plywood, install composition shingles Class "A"
04016-10000-16774	August 26, 2004	Capital Investment Properties LLC	Remove & replace entire foundation per LA City Standard Plan.
04016-10000-16841	August 26, 2004	Capital Investment Properties LLC	Remove and replace 12" square concrete piers under an (E) SFD PER TYPE V SHEET

COPIES OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR MAJOR ALTERATIONS

ORIGINAL BUILDING PERMIT

All applications must be filled out by applicant.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Ward 5

Applicant must indicate the Building Line or Lines clearly and distinctly on the Drawings.

Application for Erection of Frame Buildings
CLASS "D"

Application is hereby made to the Chief Inspector of Buildings of the City of Los Angeles, for the approval of the detailed statement of the specifications and plans herewith submitted for the erection of the building herein described. All provisions of the Building Ordinances shall be complied with in the erection of said building, whether specified herein or not.

(Sign here) A. C. Tobias

Los Angeles, Cal., SEP 23 1908 1908

TAKE TO ROOM NO. 6 FIRST FLOOR

Lot No. S 20 off 14 Block 15
11.30 off 15
Collins Building Ave. Tract

ASSESSOR PLEASE VERIFY

District No. 19 M. B. page 9 F. B. page 212 Jones

TAKE TO ROOM NO. 34 THIRD FLOOR

ENGINEER PLEASE VERIFY

No. 2921 - Bulling Ave Street Ch. 6th St

1. Purpose of the building Residence
2. Number of rooms Seven
3. Is any part to be used for store or other business purposes? No
4. Owner's name A. C. Tobias
5. Owner's address 3578 Bulling Ave
6. Architect's name Russell & Wadley
7. Builder's name A. C. Tobias
8. Builder's address 3578 Bulling Ave
9. Entire cost of proposed building, \$ 3000.00
10. Will building be erected on front or rear of lot? Rear on rear
11. Size of lot 50' x 134' Size of building _____ x _____
12. Number of stories in height one; height from curb level to highest point 9' 0" 6 in
13. Height of first floor above curb level 2 ft 11 in
14. What is the character of the ground: rock, clay, sand, filled, etc.? Clay
15. What will be the depth of the foundation below curb level? 6'
16. Of what material will foundation and cellar walls be built? Brick
17. Give dimensions of footings 16 in dia at Bulling, 16 in dia
18. Give thickness of foundation and cellar walls at top 8 in
19. Number and kind of chimneys three Number of flues one & two
20. Number of inlets to each flue 1 & 2 Interior size of flues 2-5/8 x 4-1/2 x 3-2
21. What will be the size of the mud sills? 2 x 4 Size of girders or stringers 4 x 4
22. What will be the size of exterior studs? 2 x 4 Interior studs 2 x 4
23. Bearing partition studs 2 x 4

PERMIT NO. 5306

OVER

F 52480

PERMIT TO ADD IN-GROUND POOL IN BACKYARD

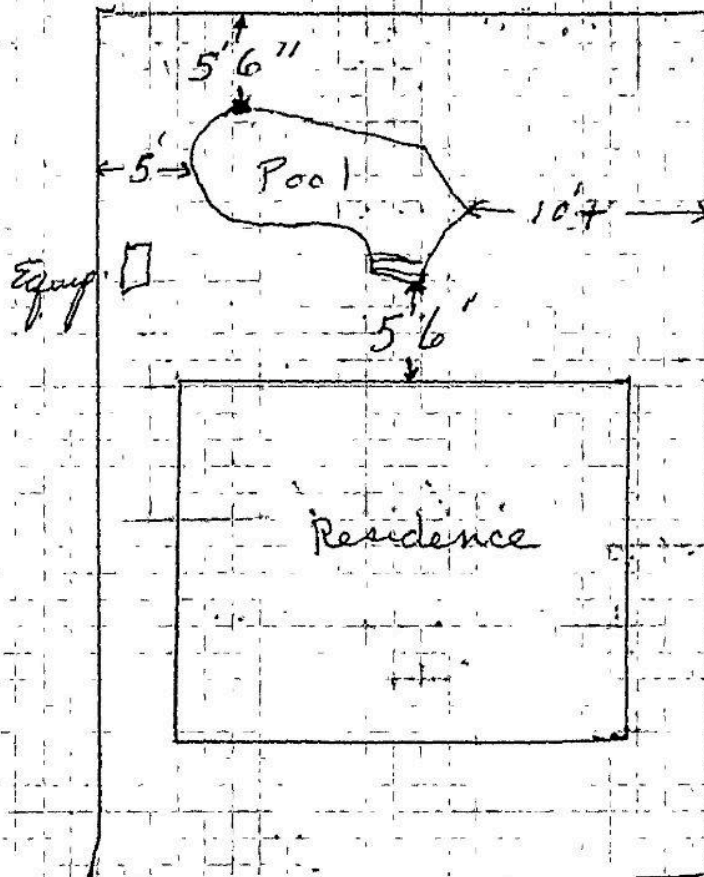
1 APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION OF NEW BUILDING CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY						BAS B-1-R10-69 DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY
INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only. 2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.						
1. LEGAL DESCR.	LOT	BLK.	TRACT	CENSUS TRACT		
	14-15		Cotton's Tract	2221		
2. PURPOSE OF BUILDING	A-no/heater				DIST. MAP	
	20' Pvt. swim pool - Miles				4306	
3. JOB ADDRESS	2921 So. Budlong Ave. Los Angeles				ZONE	
					R37-0	
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS	39th St AND 30th St				FIRE DIST.	
5. OWNER'S NAME	TAYLOR, Charles			PHONE	LOT (TYPE)	
				731 0442	INT	
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS	2921 So. Budlong Ave. Los Angeles			CITY	LOT SIZE	
				Los Angeles	80X134	
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER				STATE LICENSE No.	PHONE	
8. ENGINEER	Miles			STATE LICENSE No.	PHONE	
				9398	652 0143	
9. CONTRACTOR	AUTOMATION POOLS			STATE LICENSE No.	PHONE	
				263870	881 6656	
10. LENDER	BRANCH ADDRESS			AFFIDAVITS		
11. SIZE OF NEW BLDG.	STORIES	HEIGHT	NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE			
15x30			Res/ Att/ garage			
12. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION	EXT. WALLS	ROOF	FLOOR			
	gunite					
13. JOB ADDRESS	2921 So Budlong Ave. Los Angeles				DISTRICT OFFICE	
					LA.	
14. VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING	\$ 3200.				GRADING	
					CRIT. SOIL	
PURPOSE OF BUILDING					HIGHWAY DED.	
Pvt swim pool						
TYPE	GROUP	STORIES	PLANS CHECKED		FLOOD	
M12			[Signature]			
BLDG. AREA	MAX. OCC.	TOTAL	PLANS APPROVED		CONS.	
362			[Signature]			
DWELL. UNITS	GUEST ROOMS	PARKING SPACES	REQ'D	PROVIDED	APPL. APPROVED	
					[Signature]	
SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPECIFIED	CONT. INSP.		INSPECTION ACTIVITY		INSPECTOR	
	gunite		COMB GEN MAJ. S. CONS			
P.C. No. 4859	S.P.C.		G.P.I.	B.P. 22.50	I.P.	
14.62					O.S. C/O TYPIST	
PLAN CHECK EXPIRES SIX MONTHS AFTER FEE IS PAID. PERMIT EXPIRES ONE YEAR AFTER FEE IS PAID OR SIX MONTHS AFTER FEE IS PAID IF CONSTRUCTION IS NOT COMMENCED.						
CASHIER'S USE ONLY	JUL-14-71		40571 E	32591	14.62	
				32591	22.50	

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

I certify that in doing the work authorized hereby I will not employ any person in violation of the Labor Code of the State of California relating to workmen's compensation insurance.

"This permit is an application for inspection, the issuance of which is not an approval or an authorization of the work specified herein. This permit does not authorize or permit, nor shall it be construed as authorizing or permitting the violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Neither the City of Los Angeles, nor any board, department, officer or employee thereof make any warranty or shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, or the condition of the property or soil upon which such work is performed." (See Sec. 91.0202 L.A.M.C.)

Signed	[Signature]		Name	Date
(Owner or Agent)				
Bureau of Engineering	ADDRESS APPROVED	[Signature]		7-13-71
	SEWERS AVAILABLE	No Connection Permitted		7-13-71
	NOT AVAILABLE			
	DRIVEWAY APPROVED			
	HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED			
	COMPLETED			
	FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED			



2921 So Rudlong.

NO. 103 - 1 PRESEN 2 1 508 11-1-2008
 NO. 103 - 1 PRESEN 2 1 508 11-1-2008



City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

6/24/2026 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

2921 S BUDLONG AVE

ZIP CODES

90007

RECENT ACTIVITY

ENV-2026-3235-CE

CHC-2026-3234-HCM

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2022-5432-ZC-CPIOA

CPC-2008-1552-CPU

CPC-2005-5848-CA

CPC-2004-2394-ICO

CPC-19XX-29708

CPC-19XX-18002

CPC-1990-346-CA

CPC-1983-506

ORD-46167

ORD-188313

ORD-180218

ORD-171682

ORD-171681

ORD-162128

ORD-156833

ORD-156356

ORD-129760

ENV-2008-1781-EIR

ENV-2005-6078-ND

ENV-2004-2410-CE-ICO

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	120B197 147
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	4,020.1 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 634 - GRID A7
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5054014014
Tract	COTTON'S BUDLONG AVE TRACT
Map Reference	M B 12-59
Block	None
Lot	15
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	1
Map Sheet	120B197

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	South Los Angeles
Area Planning Commission	South Los Angeles APC
Neighborhood Council	EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS NORTH AREA NC
Council District	CD 8 - Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Census Tract #	2221.00000000
LADBS District Office	Los Angeles Metro

Permitting and Zoning Compliance Information

Administrative Review	None
-----------------------	------

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	[Q]R3-1-O-CPIO
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the City of Los Angeles ZI-2512 Housing Element Sites ZI-1231 Specific Plan: South Los Angeles Alcohol Sales ZI-2397 Neighborhood Stabilization Ordinance: North University Park-Exposition Park-West Adams ZI-2484 Community Plan Implementation Overlay: South Los Angeles ZI-2374 State Enterprise Zone: Los Angeles
General Plan Land Use	Low Medium I Residential
General Plan Note(s)	Yes
Minimum Density Requirement	Yes (Citywide)
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Specific Plan Area	SOUTH LOS ANGELES ALCOHOL SALES
Subarea	None
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
Historic Preservation Review	No
HistoricPlacesLA	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone	None
Other Historic Designations	None
Mills Act Contract	None
CDO: Community Design Overlay	None
CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay	South Los Angeles
Subarea	Character Residential
CPIO Historic Preservation Review	No
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up	None
HCR: Hillside Construction Regulation	No

This report is subject to the terms and conditions as set forth on the website. For more details, please refer to the terms and conditions at zimas.lacity.org
(*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	North University Park-Exposition Park-West Adams
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
RBP: Restaurant Beverage Program Eligible Area	None
ASP: Alcohol Sales Program	No
RFA: Residential Floor Area District	None
RIO: River Implementation Overlay	No
SN: Sign District	No
AB 2334: Very Low Vehicle Travel Area	Yes
AB 2097: Within a half mile of a Major Transit Stop	Yes
Streetscape	No
Adaptive Reuse Subareas	No
Adaptive Reuse Program	Citywide Adaptive Reuse Program
Affordable Housing Linkage Fee	
Neighborhood	Adams-Normandie
Residential Market Area	Low
Commercial Market Area	Medium
Inclusionary Housing	No
Local Affordable Housing Incentive	No
Targeted Planting	No
Special Lot Line	No
Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)	Tier 3
Mixed Income Incentive Programs	
Transit Oriented Incentive Area (TOIA)	2
Opportunity Corridors Incentive Area	Not Eligible
Corridor Transition Incentive Area	Not Eligible
TCAC Opportunity Area	Low
High Quality Transit Corridor (within 1/2 mile)	Yes
ED 1 Eligibility	Review Eligibility
RPA: Redevelopment Project Area	None
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	23
500 Ft School Zone	None
500 Ft Park Zone	None
Zanja System 1 Mile Buffer	No

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5054014014
Ownership (Assessor)	
Owner1	PAMPLONA,SANTIAGO M AND BOWER,CORINNE A
Address	2921 S BUDLONG AVE LOS ANGELES CA 90007
Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land Records)	
Owner	LOPEZ, AUDREY
Address	2921 S. BUDLONG AVENUE LOS ANGELES CA 90007
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0.123 (ac)
Use Code	0101 - Residential - Single Family Residence - Pool
Assessed Land Val.	\$416,011
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$216,910
Last Owner Change	08/11/2022
Last Sale Amount	\$1,022,000
Tax Rate Area	210
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	961558

This report is subject to the terms and conditions as set forth on the website. For more details, please refer to the terms and conditions at zimas.lacity.org
 (*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

	857914
	857913
	843825
	248157
	1694210
	1439919
	1415876
	1342860
	12068
	1159171
Building 1	
Year Built	1909
Building Class	D45B
Number of Units	1
Number of Bedrooms	3
Number of Bathrooms	1
Building Square Footage	1,813.0 (sq ft)
Building 2	No data for building 2
Building 3	No data for building 3
Building 4	No data for building 4
Building 5	No data for building 5
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No [APN: 5054014014]

Additional Information

Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	None
Coastal Bluff Potential	No
Canyon Bluff Potential	No
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone	YES
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	500 Yr
Watercourse	No
Streams	No
Methane Hazard Site	Methane Zone
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	No
Wells	None
Sea Level Rise Area	No
Oil Well Adjacency	No
Universal Planning Review Service Applicability	No

Environmental

Santa Monica Mountains Zone	No
Biological Resource Potential	None
Mountain Lion Potential	None
Monarch Butterfly Potential	No
300-Foot Habitat Buffer	No
County-Designated SEAs and CRAs	No
USFWS-designated CHAs	No
Criterion 1 Protected Areas for Wildlife (PAWs)	No

Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	1.99866504
Nearest Fault (Name)	Puente Hills Blind Thrust

This report is subject to the terms and conditions as set forth on the website. For more details, please refer to the terms and conditions at zimas.lacity.org
 (*) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

Region	Los Angeles Blind Thrusts
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	0.70000000
Slip Geometry	Reverse
Slip Type	Moderately / Poorly Constrained
Down Dip Width (km)	19.00000000
Rupture Top	5.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	25.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	7.10000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	No
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area	None
Tsunami Hazard Area	No

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District	None
Hubzone	None
Jobs and Economic Development Incentive Zone (JEDI)	None
Opportunity Zone	No
Promise Zone	None
State Enterprise Zone	LOS ANGELES STATE ENTERPRISE ZONE

Housing

Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No [APN: 5054014014]
Ellis Act Property	No
Just Cause For Eviction Ordinance (JCO)	Yes
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5054014014
Address	2921 S BUDLONG AVE
Year Built	1909
Use Code	0101 - Residential - Single Family Residence - Pool
Notes	The Just Cause Ordinance applies after the expiration of the initial lease or after 6 months of continuous occupancy, whichever comes first.
Housing Crisis Act and Resident Protections Ordinance Replacement Review	Yes
Housing Element Sites	
HE Replacement Required	Yes
SB 166 Units	Appendix 4.1 0.04
Housing Use within Prior 5 Years	Yes

Public Safety

Police Information	
Bureau	South
Division / Station	Southwest
Reporting District	337
Fire Information	
Bureau	South
Battallion	13
District / Fire Station	15
Red Flag Restricted Parking	No

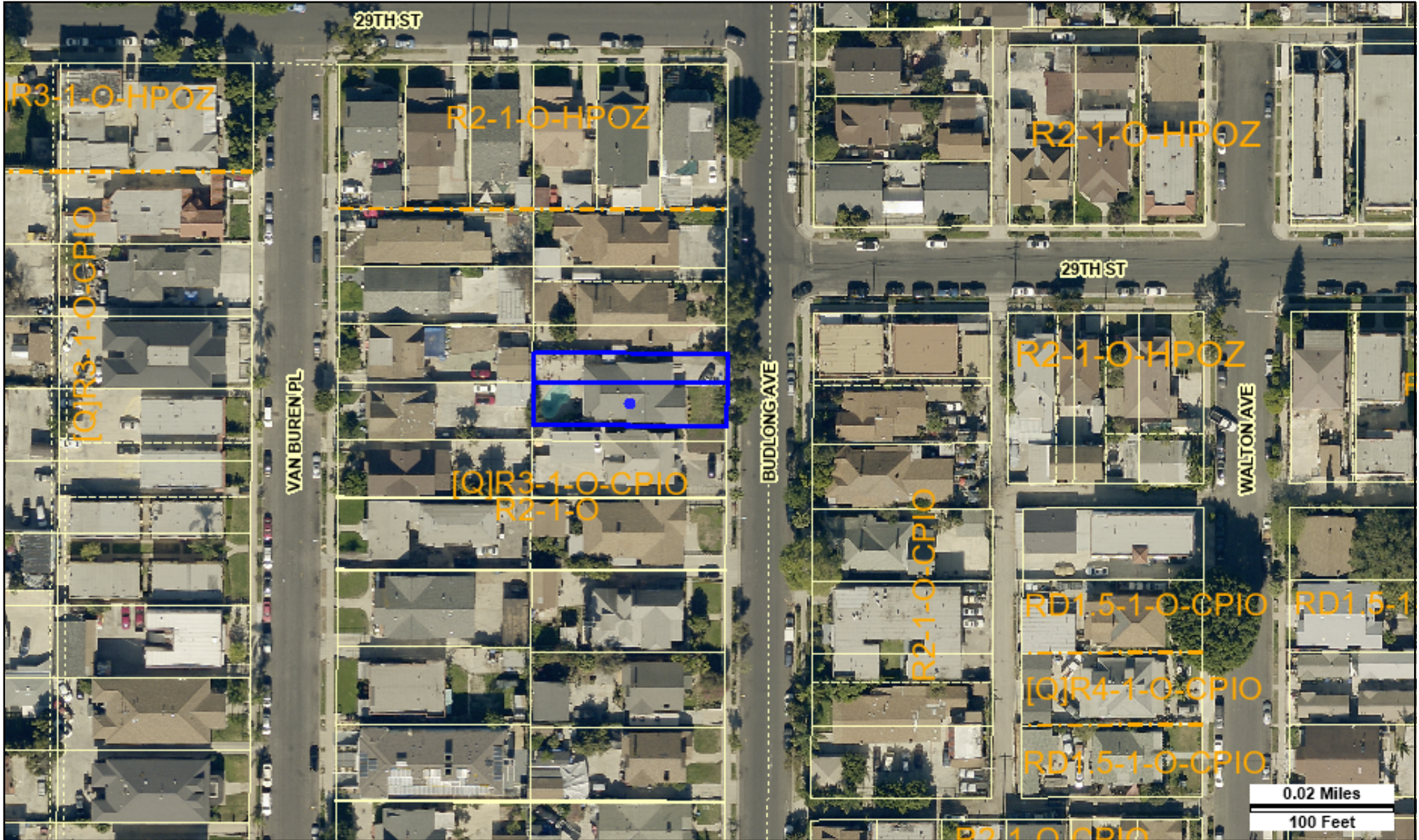
CASE SUMMARIES

Note: Information for case summaries is retrieved from the Planning Department's Plan Case Tracking System (PCTS) database.

Case Number:	CPC-2022-5432-ZC-CPIOA
Required Action(s):	ZC-ZONE CHANGE CPIOA-COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERLAY ADJUSTMENT
Project Description(s):	AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERLAY (CPIO)
Case Number:	CPC-2008-1552-CPU
Required Action(s):	CPU-COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE
Project Description(s):	SOUTH LOS ANGELES NEW COMMUNITY PLAN PROGRAM
Case Number:	CPC-2005-5848-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Description(s):	PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY OFF-CAMPUS OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY 10FWY TO NORTH, 110 FWY TO EAST, MLK BLVD TO THE SOUTH AND NORMANDIE AVE TO THE WEST
Case Number:	CPC-2004-2394-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Description(s):	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR./29TH STREET/NORMANDIE/VERMONT/INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Case Number:	CPC-19XX-29708
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Description(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-19XX-18002
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Description(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1990-346-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Description(s):	AMENDMENT TO THE L.A.M.C. TO - DRAFT AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE GRANTING OF A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE OFF-SITE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (LOURDES GREEN/KAREN HOO)
Case Number:	CPC-1983-506
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Description(s):	SPECIFIC PLN ORD FOR INTERIM CONDITIONAL USE APPRVL FOR ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOL WHICH ARE GENERALLY LOCATED INTHE SOUTH CENTRAL AREA OF THE CITY
Case Number:	ENV-2008-1781-EIR
Required Action(s):	EIR-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Project Description(s):	SOUTH LOS ANGELES NEW COMMUNITY PLAN PROGRAM
Case Number:	ENV-2005-6078-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Description(s):	PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY OFF-CAMPUS OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY 10FWY TO NORTH, 110 FWY TO EAST, MLK BLVD TO THE SOUTH AND NORMANDIE AVE TO THE WEST
Case Number:	ENV-2004-2410-CE-ICO
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Description(s):	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR./29TH STREET/NORMANDIE/VERMONT/INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-46167
ORD-188313
ORD-180218
ORD-171682
ORD-171681
ORD-162128
ORD-156833
ORD-156356
ORD-129760



Address: 2921 S BUDLONG AVE

Tract: COTTON'S BUDLONG AVE TRACT

Zoning: [Q]R3-1-O-CPIO

APN: 5054014014

Block: None

General Plan: Low Medium I Residential

PIN #: 120B197 147

Lot: 15

Arb: 1

