

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

671-685 East Westminster Avenue and

686-688 East Westminster Avenue

CHC-2018-5305-HCM

ENV-2018-5306-CE

Agenda packet includes:

1. [Final Determination Staff Recommendation Report](#)
2. [Commission/Staff Site Inspection Photos—October 25, 2018](#)
3. [Under Consideration Staff Recommendation Report](#)
4. [Historic-Cultural Monument Application](#)
5. [Materials Submitted by the Applicant](#)
6. [Materials from the Owner's Representative](#)

Please click on each document to be directly taken to the corresponding page of the PDF.

Los Angeles Department of City Planning RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2018-5305-HCM
ENV-2018-5306-CE

HEARING DATE: December 6, 2018
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Location: 671-685 East Westminister Avenue and
686-688 East Westminister Avenue
Council District: 11 – Bonin
Community Plan Area: Venice
Area Planning Commission: West Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council: Venice
Legal Description: Ocean Park Villa Tract, Block L,
Lots 23-27; Ocean Park Villa Tract No. 2,
Block M, Lots 1-2

EXPIRATION DATE: **December 18, 2018**

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

REQUEST: Declare the property an Historic-Cultural Monument

OWNER(S): 685 Westminister Holdings LLC c/o Jay Penske
11175 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025

688 Westminister Holdings LLC c/o Jay Penske
11175 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025

APPLICANT: Laddie Williams
678 San Juan Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90291

PREPARER: Margaret Molloy
3841 Beethoven Street
Los Angeles, CA 90291

RECOMMENDATION **That the Cultural Heritage Commission:**

1. **Not declare** the property an Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7.
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Melissa Jones, Planning Assistant
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: Historic-Cultural Monument Application
Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos—October 25, 2018

FINDINGS

- The First Baptist Church of Venice does not meet any of the three criteria of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance and therefore is ineligible for designation as an Historic-Cultural Monument.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

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;
2. Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history; or
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.

SUMMARY

The First Baptist Church of Venice is a two-story church and adjacent parking lots located at 671-685 Westminster Avenue and 686-688 East Westminster Avenue on the north and south corners of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the Oakwood neighborhood of Venice. Built in 1967, the church was designed by George R. Williams in the Mid-Century Modern architectural style. From its construction until 2017, the church building (Ocean Park Villa Tract, Block L, Lots 23-27) was the home of the First Baptist Church of Venice, originally founded as an African American church in 1910. Prior to 1967, the congregation of the First Baptist Church convened at a one-story wood and stucco building designed by Paul R. Williams that was constructed in 1927 across the street at 686-688 Westminster Avenue (Ocean Park Villa Tract No. 2, Block M, Lots 1-2). By 1972, the church building at 688 Westminster Avenue was moved to 11205 South Vermont Avenue in Westmont, an area of unincorporated South Los Angeles, and the lots currently serve as parking. In 2017, the 1967 church building was sold to a private owner and the congregation of the First Baptist Church relocated to Westchester.

The founding of the First Baptist Church in 1910 corresponded with the evolution of the Oakwood section of Venice as an early enclave of African American residents, and churches were crucial anchors for the community. The First Baptist Church was one of the first two churches in Oakwood formed to serve the African American community. It was founded by the Reverend R.S. Kelsey, along with other prominent members of the African American community, including Arthur Reese, the official town decorator for Venice. The first church home in Venice was a former barn at Fifth Street and San Juan Avenue (no longer extant). Over the next several decades, as Oakwood continued to grow as an African American enclave in Venice, so too did the congregation of the First Baptist Church. Each time the Church outgrew their current space, and the Oakwood community came together to construct a larger home for the Church, which was headed by Bishop E.L. Holmes for forty-four years. In honor of his achievements and service within the Oakwood community, following his passing in 1999, the

City of Los Angeles dedicated the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue, adjacent to the third home of the First Baptist Church, as Bishop E.L. Holmes Square.

Irregular in plan, the 1967 church building consists of two masses around a central atrium: a sanctuary of wood-frame construction and a U-shaped education wing of concrete construction that wraps the sanctuary on the north, west, and south elevations. On the primary, south-facing elevation, the sanctuary is defined by a steeply pitched A-frame roof constructed of clapboard sheathing and wood rake covered in composite shingles and three bays; the east and west bays have stucco cladding with a natural stone veneer and the center bay features the main entrance flanked by sidelites with a clerestory. The education wing has a flat roof capped with wood trim, is clad in stucco, and features a row of fixed steel windows on the second story and a secondary entrance to the sanctuary on the ground floor with flanking sidelites and a canopy. The secondary east-facing elevation, along 7th Avenue, features four large rectangular fixed windows to the south and a single entrance to the north. At the second floor there is a rectangular first-floor entrance and two window openings. The north-facing elevation is mostly obscured by an overgrown tree and a rear yard fence. Fenestration includes four aluminum-framed slider windows and a single entrance at the first story, and five aluminum-framed slider windows at the second story. The west-facing elevation, adjacent to the parking lot, has five groups of aluminum-framed slider windows at the first and second stories. There is a pole sign adjacent to the church building at the southeast corner of the lot. On the interior, the sanctuary space features exposed timber framing, multi-color terrazzo tile, and wood-and-glass panel doors, and the education wing has a double-height entrance vestibule with multi-color terrazzo floors and plaster walls.

Over the years, the property has experienced several alterations that include the installation of HVAC equipment on the roof; the removal of all stained glass panels from window openings across all facades of the sanctuary and at the main entrance of the education wing; the removal of the original bronze hardware from the entrance doors; the removal of a metal cross structure historically intersecting with the southeast roofline on the primary façade; the addition of a concrete and metal stair within the education wing; and the replacement of wall coverings and flooring throughout the building, all at unknown dates. During the site inspection it was also observed that all the pews and most of the historic fabric on the interior of the church has been removed, in addition to the glazing of many of the windows.

DISCUSSION

The First Baptist Church of Venice does not meet any of the criteria for designation under the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

The applicant argues that the subject property is eligible under two criteria of the Ordinance: it “exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city, or community” as an important cultural center and place of worship for the African American community in Venice, and it “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history,” that include Arthur Reese and Reverend E.L. Holmes. However, staff finds that the information provided in the application does not support these claims.

While the congregation of the First Baptist Church was prolific from the 1920s through the 1960s, the 1967 church building does not appear to be significant within the context of the cultural and social history of the African American community in Venice. Beginning in the early 20th century through to at least 1970, the Oakwood area of Venice served as a prominent

African American enclave. The population of African Americans tripled in between 1940 and 1950, during World War II, when there was a need for defense workers at nearby manufacturing facilities. However, by the late 1960s, the racial demographics of the community changed with the influx of Latinos and other cultural groups moving in, and the relocation of many African Americans who took advantage of housing opportunities in other areas of Los Angeles. The African American population in Oakwood peaked in 1970, and since that time numbers have continued to decrease. In fact, by 1980, Latinos overtook African Americans as the largest segment of Oakwood's population. As such, the church building, which served as the home of the First Baptist Church congregation from approximately 1968 until 2017, post-dates the development of the Oakwood community as an African American enclave. Also, it does not appear that the church building had any connection to prominent African American political and social movements during the 1960s and 1970s, including the Civil Rights Movement and Black Arts Movement. Beyond being a place of local worship, the subject property is not linked with any singular significant religious, social, or historical events.

The subject property is also not directly associated with any historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history. Although local historical figures such as Arthur Reese, the town decorator of Venice, played a significant role in the establishment of the First Baptist Church as a religious institution in 1911, he passed away in 1963, prior to the construction of the 1967 church building. In addition, while Reverend E.L. Holmes was a respected member of the community as the head of the church from 1955 until 1999, he does not rise to the level of an historic personage. Reverend Holmes does not appear to have made important contributions to the history of religion or broad history of the nation, state, or the African American community in Venice while the church occupied the 1967 building.

Further, the First Baptist Church of Venice does not embody the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style or building type and is not a work of a master architect.

Neither the 1967 church building, nor the adjacent parking lot were identified in the citywide historic resources survey, SurveyLA. However, it is worth noting that the church building that was previously located at 686-688 Westminster is significant within the context of its association with the social and cultural history of African Americans in Venice, and as a work of a master architect. The First Baptist Church of Venice was one of the earliest congregations to serve the African American community that settled in the area, and the congregation's occupation of the church from approximately 1927 until 1968 directly correlates to the apex of Oakwood as an African American enclave. In addition, the church building was designed by master architect Paul R. Williams, and it was one of his earliest commissions after becoming the first African American man admitted to the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

As was mentioned at the Cultural Heritage Commission hearing on October 4, 2018, SurveyLA identified three churches in Venice that were highlighted as being associated with the early institutional development history in the African American enclave of Oakwood: the Nazarene Church (now New Bethel Baptist Church, 505 E. Brooks Avenue), Friendship Baptist Church (606-608 E. Broadway), and the Pentecostal Bethel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ (1209 E. Sixth Avenue). To correct the record, the property at 1209 East Sixth Avenue was found to be historically significant as the Monday Women's Club, a clubhouse for African American women active from 1926 until 1971, through subsequent research submitted to the Planning Department for case number ENV-2014-1988-EIR. The Bethel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ purchased the property in 1971, outside the period of significance for the African American enclave of Oakwood. Also, in looking at building permits, the property at 606-608 East Broadway, appears to have been improved with a store front at least 1927 until the 1980s, when a permit listing the Friendship Church as the owner first appears in the record.

CHC-2018-5305-HCM

671-685 East Westminster Avenue; 686-688 East Westminster Avenue

Page 5 of 5

BACKGROUND

On October 4, 2018, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the property under consideration. On October 25, 2018, a subcommittee of the Commission consisting of Commissioners Kennard and Kanner visited the property, accompanied by staff from the Office of Historic Resources.















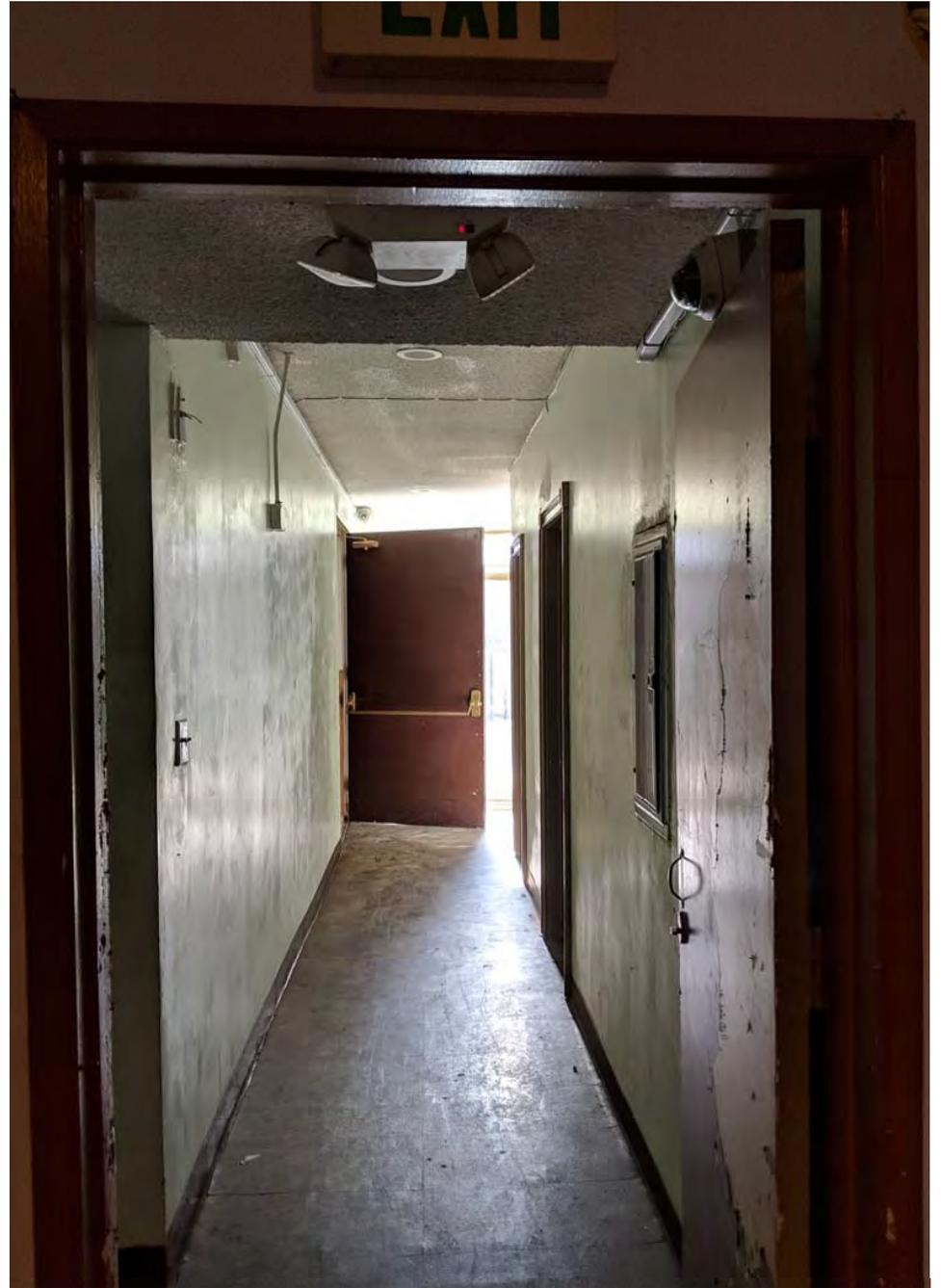


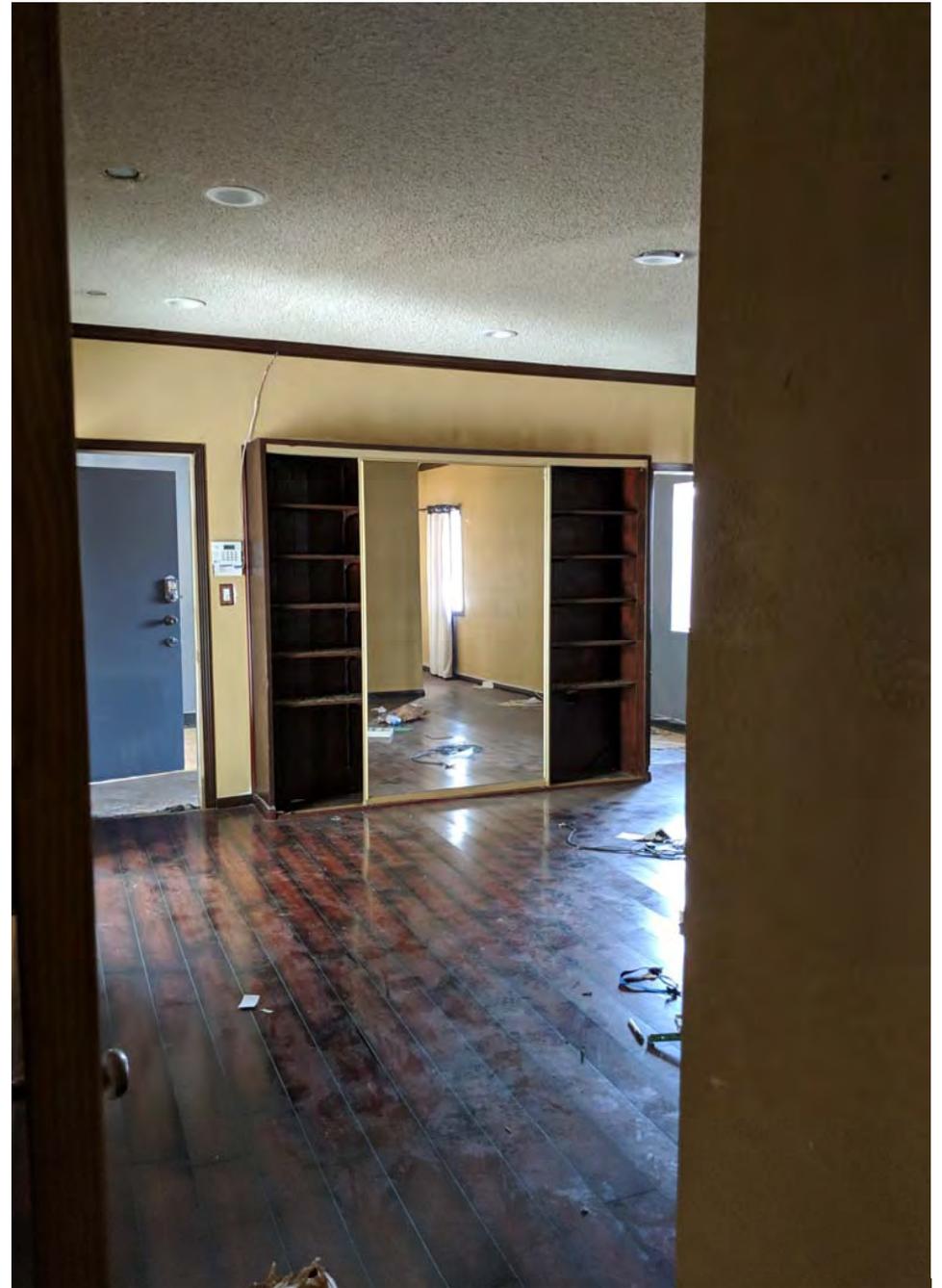
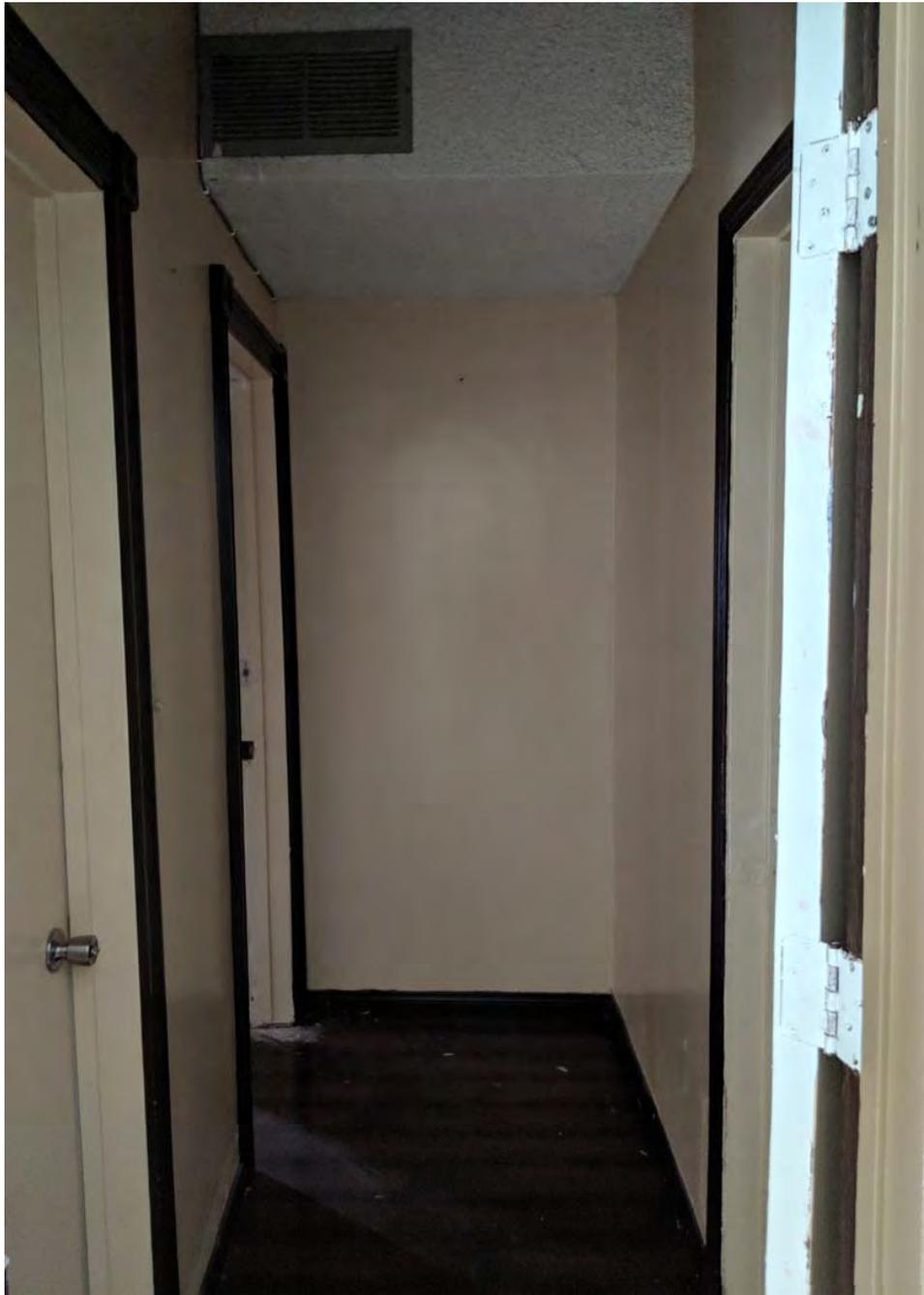


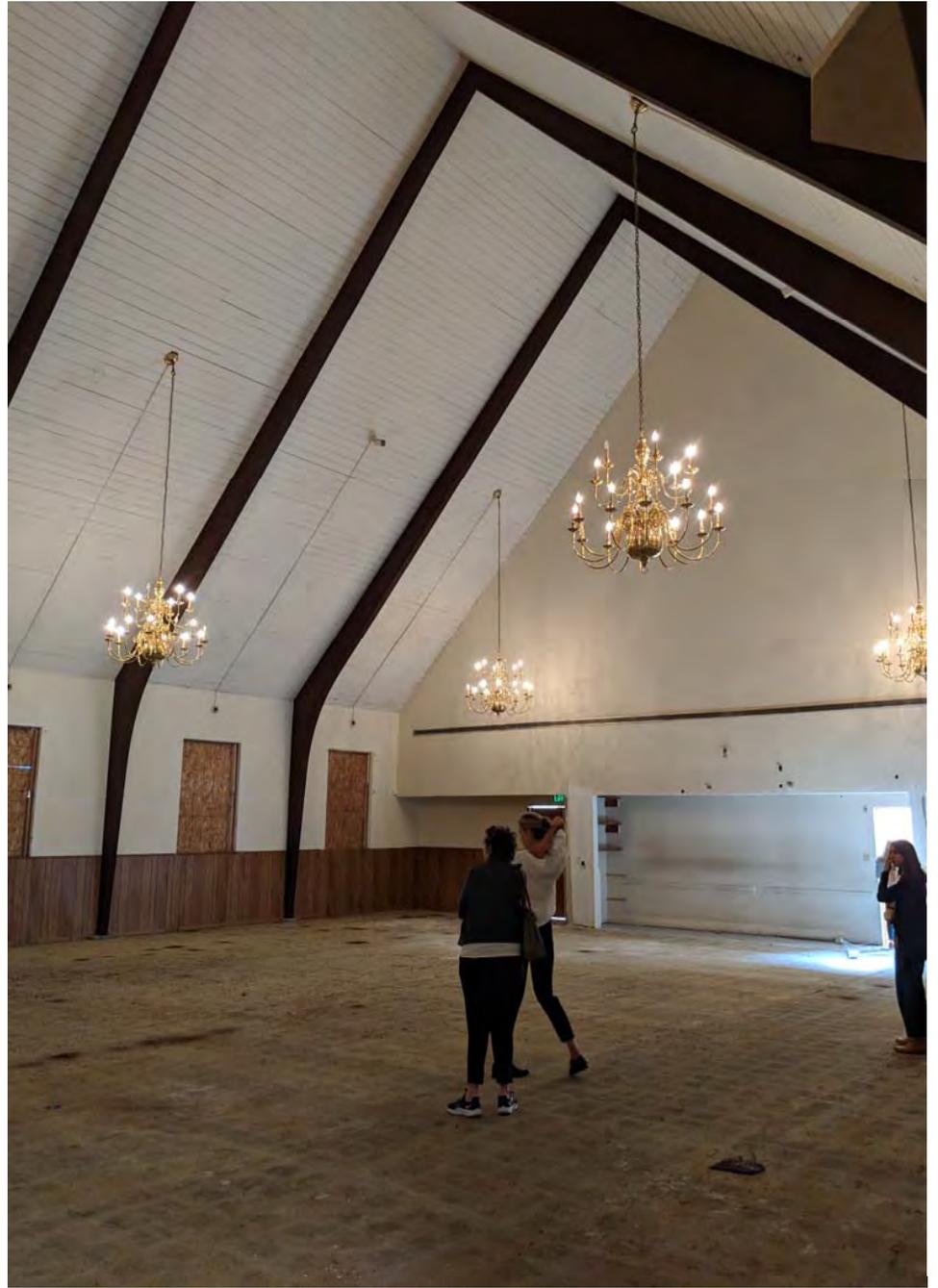


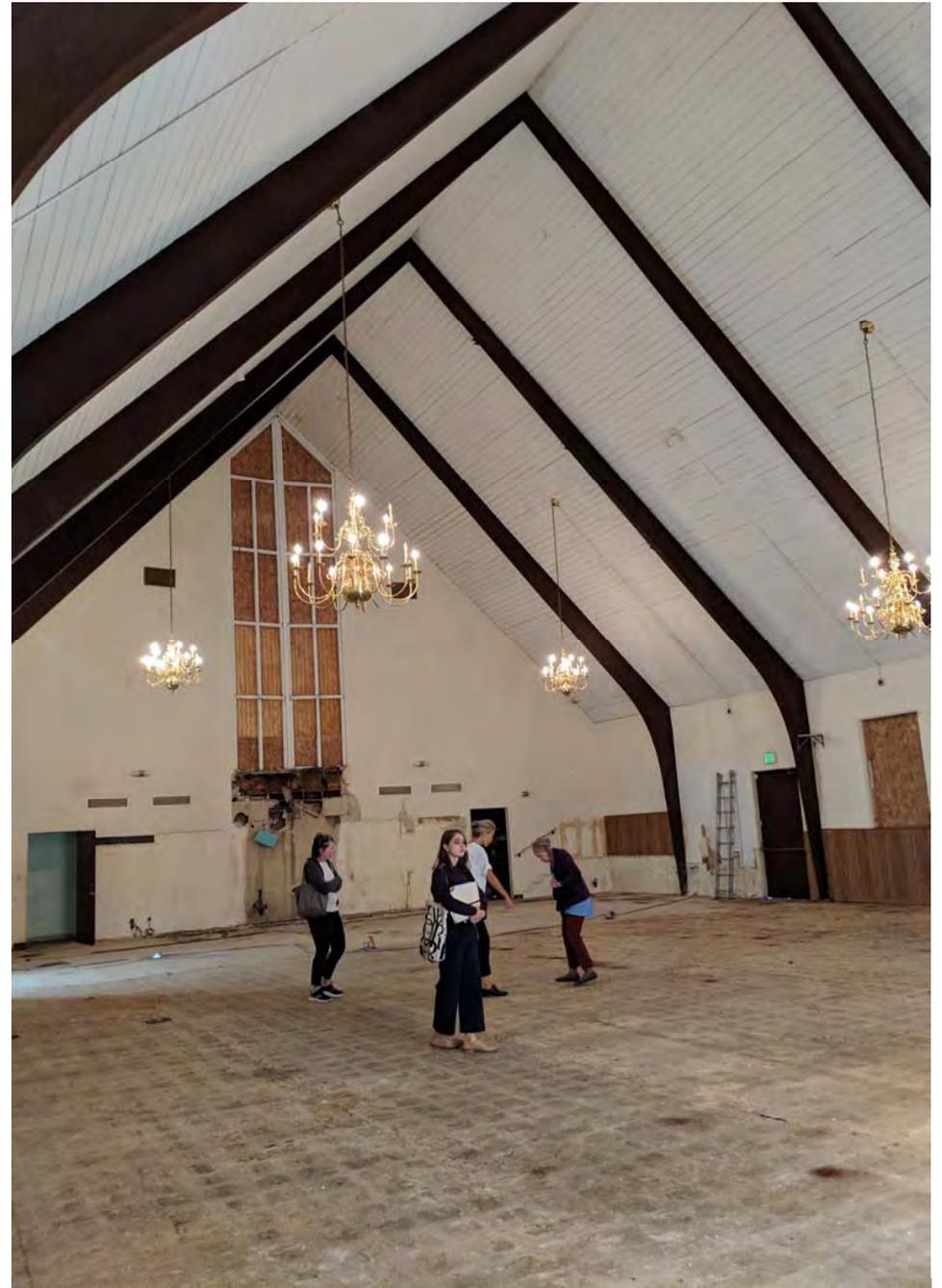


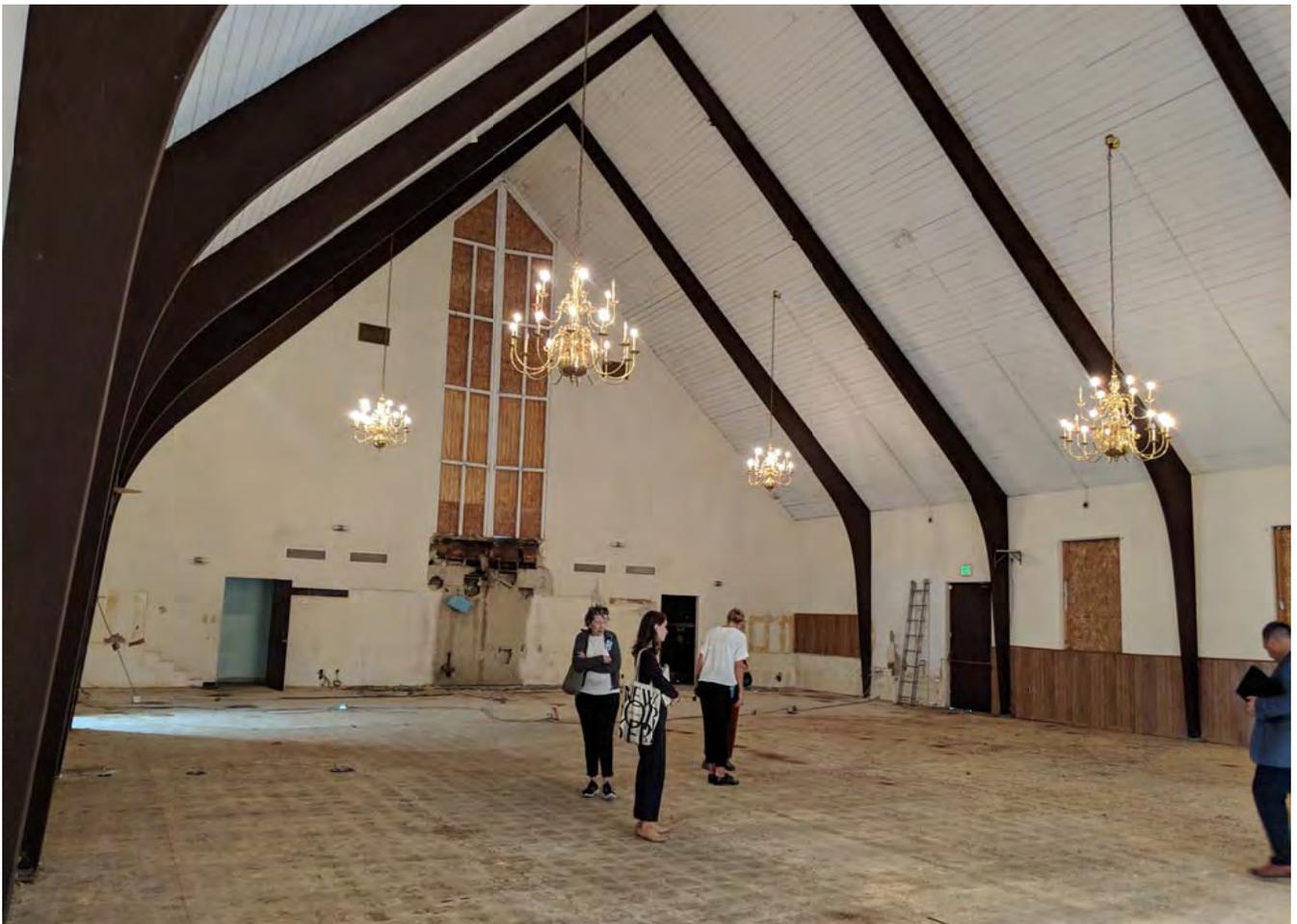




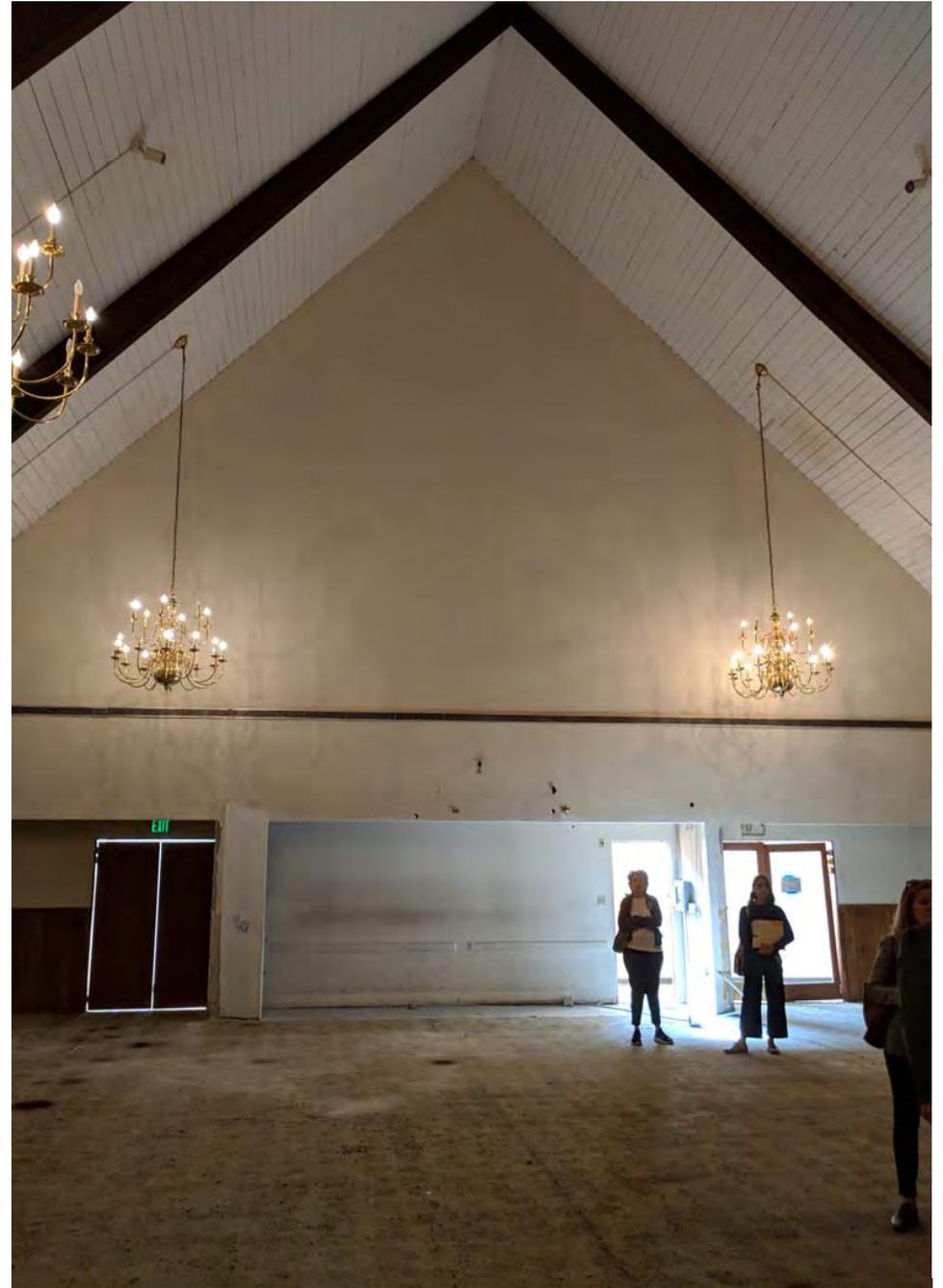




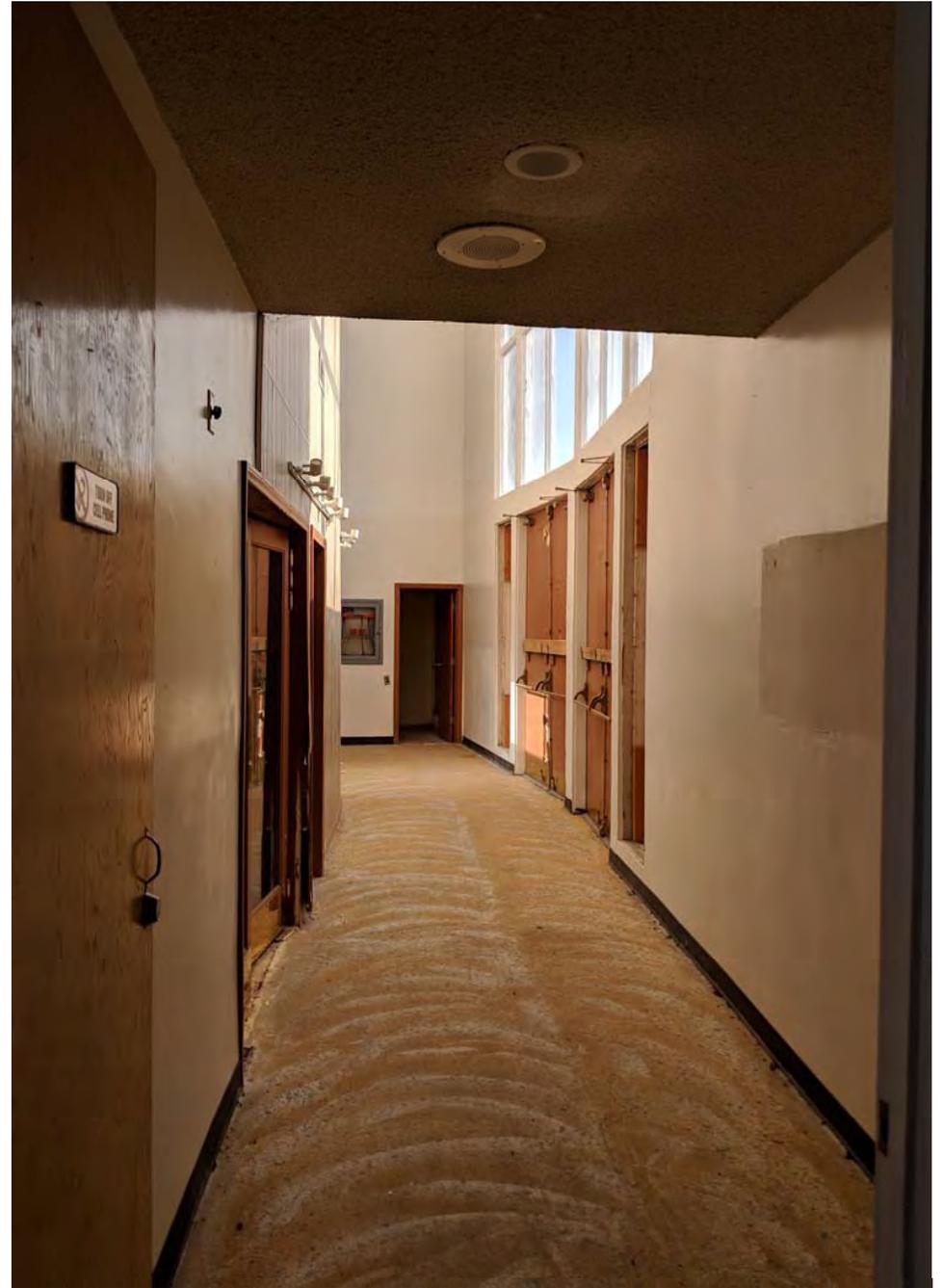


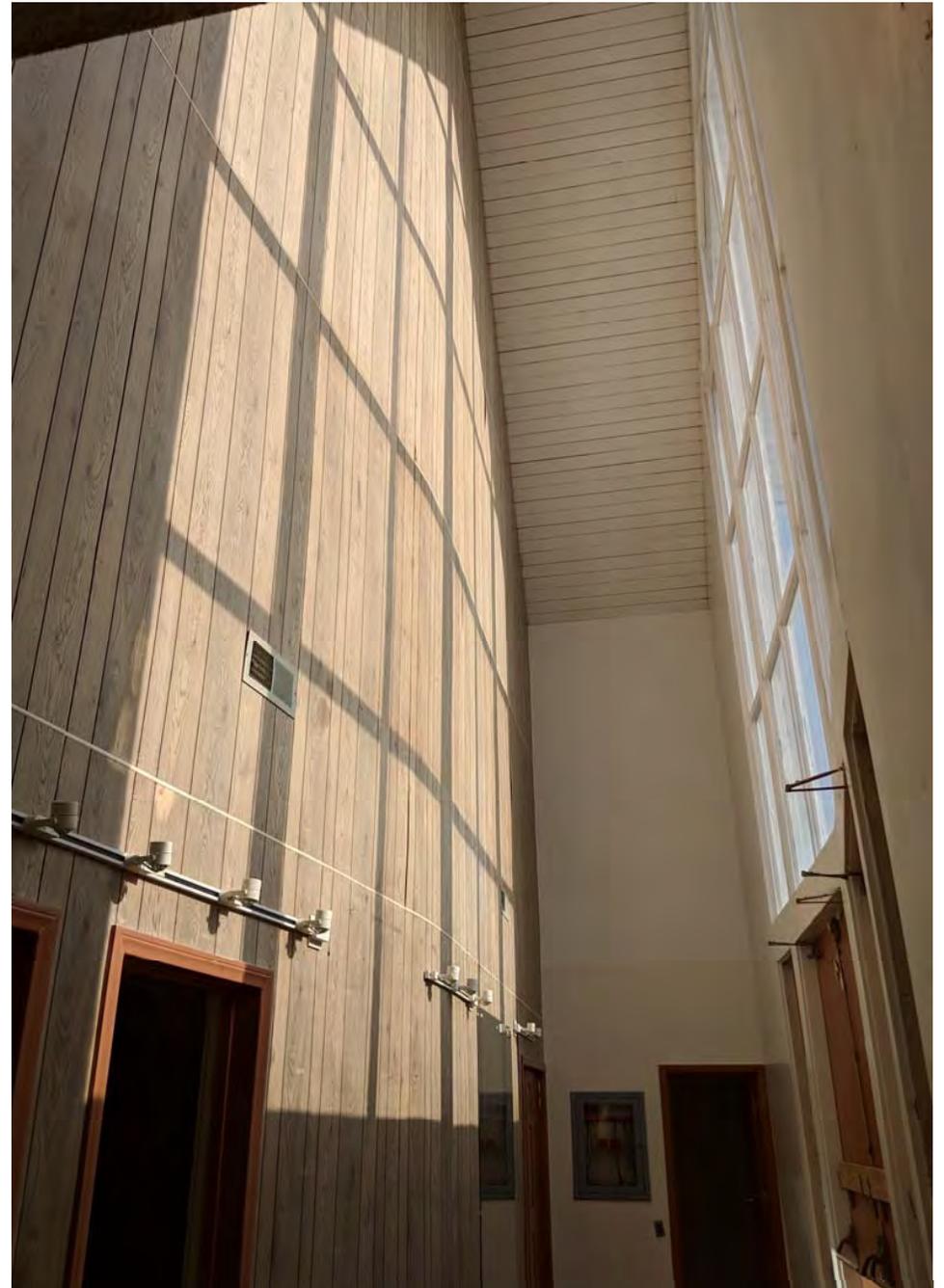
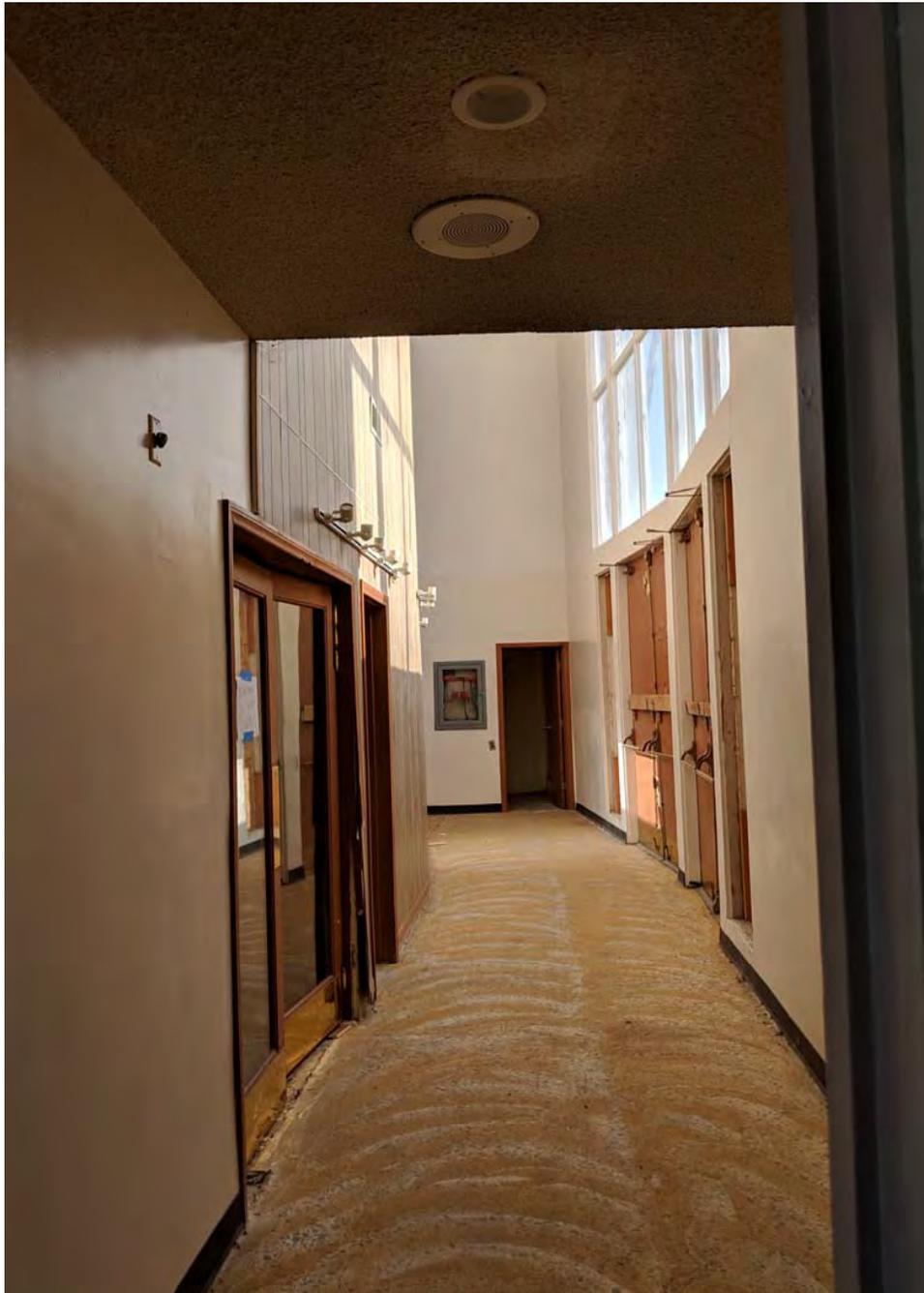


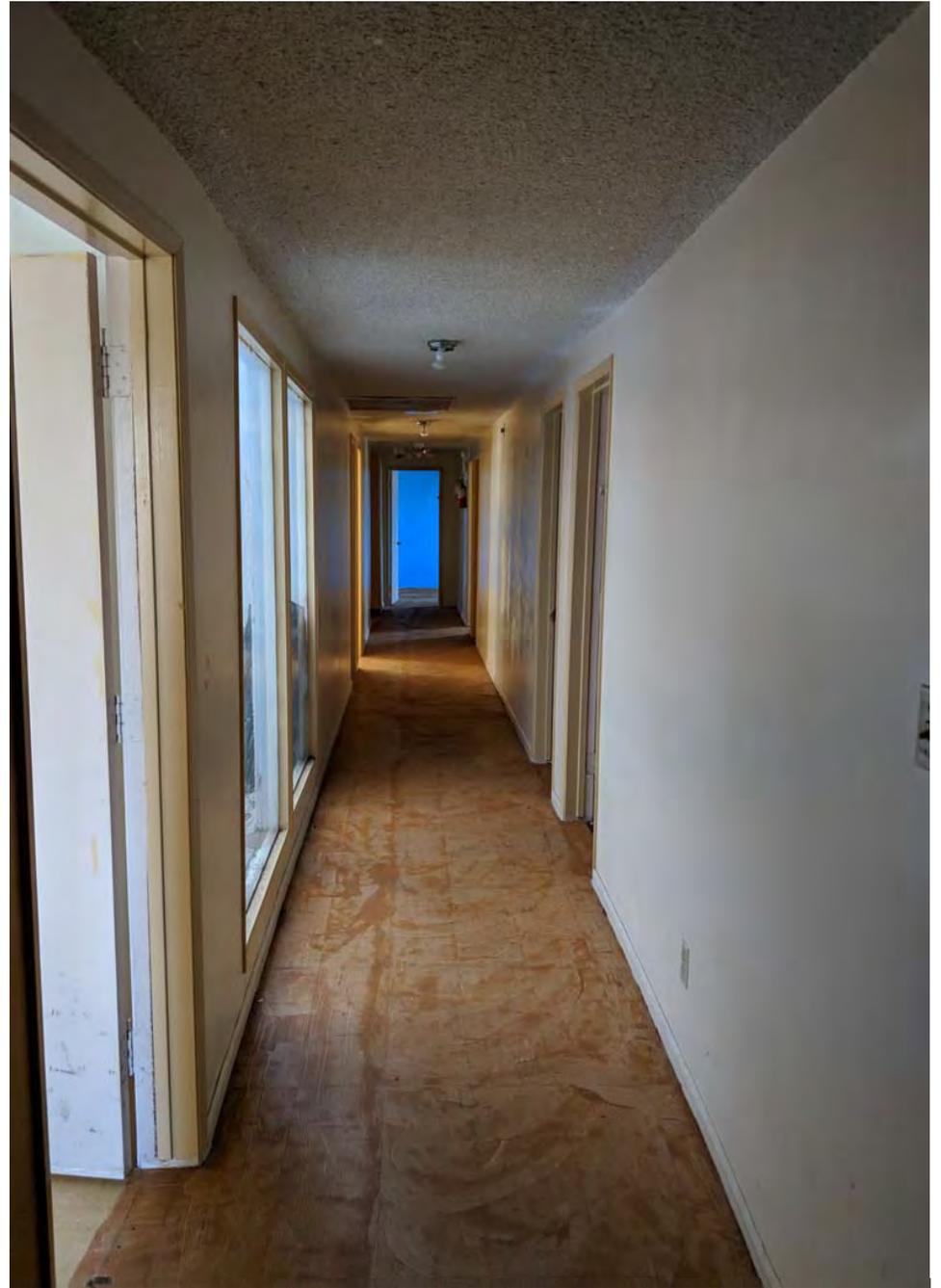
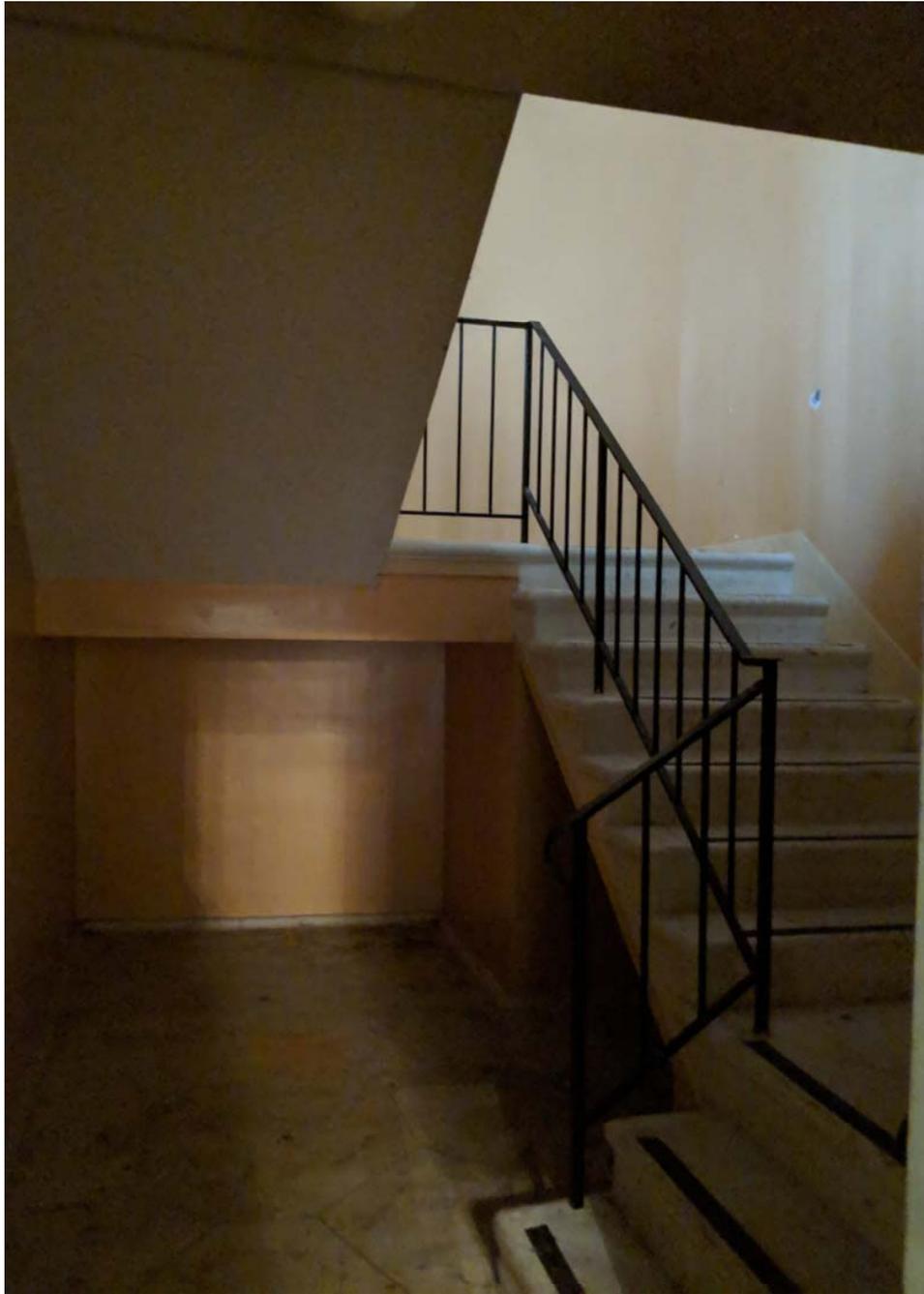




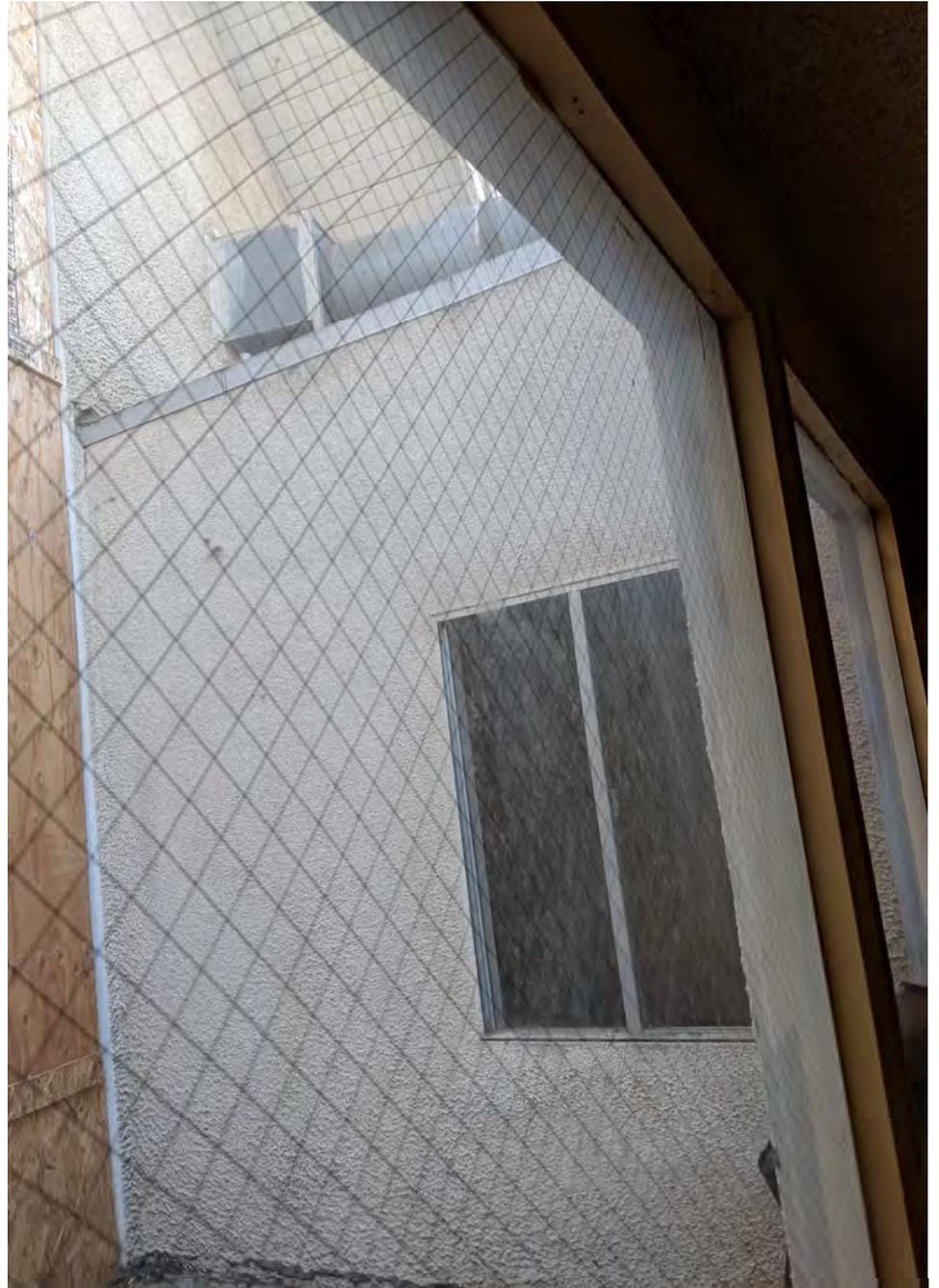


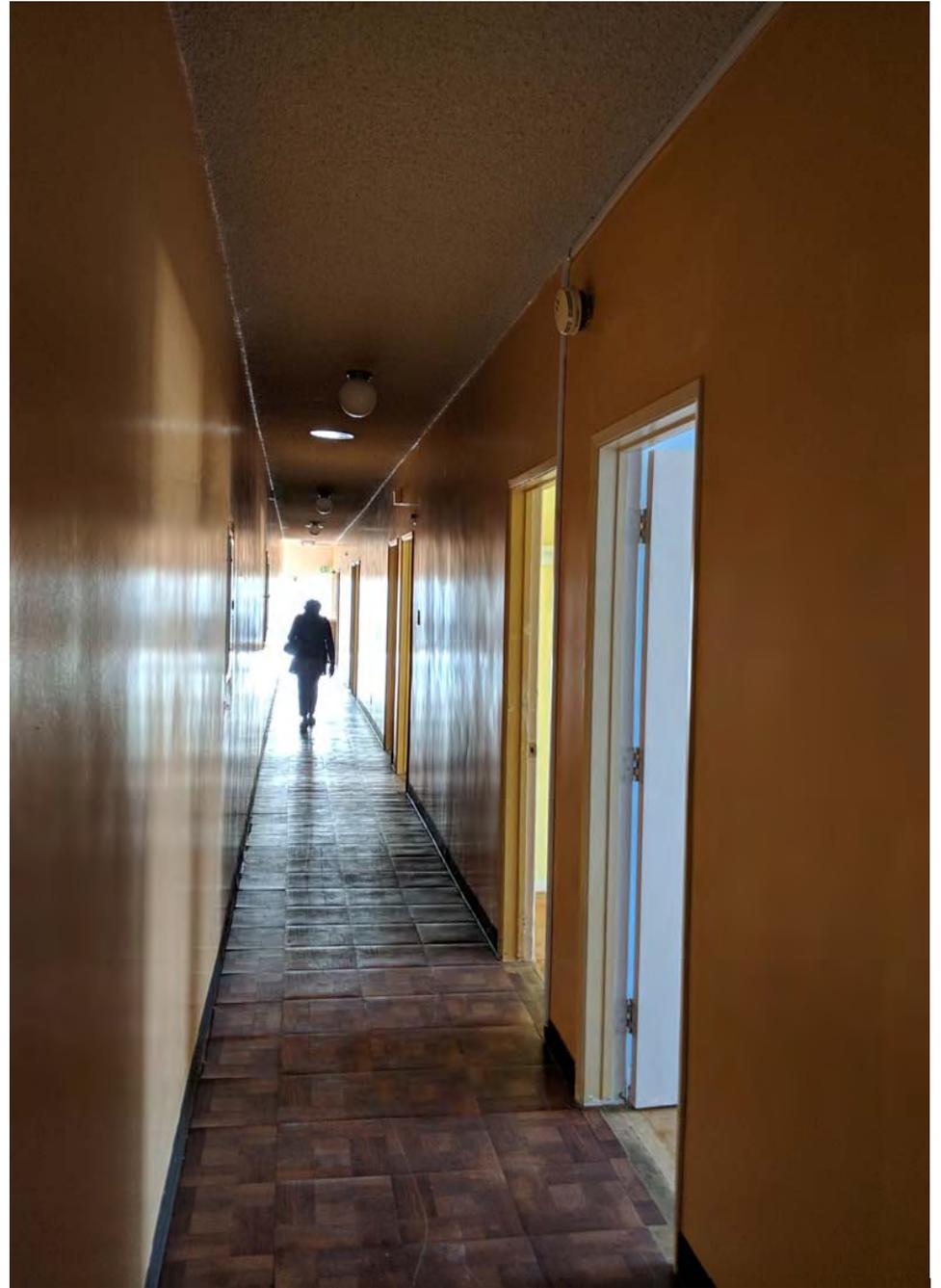


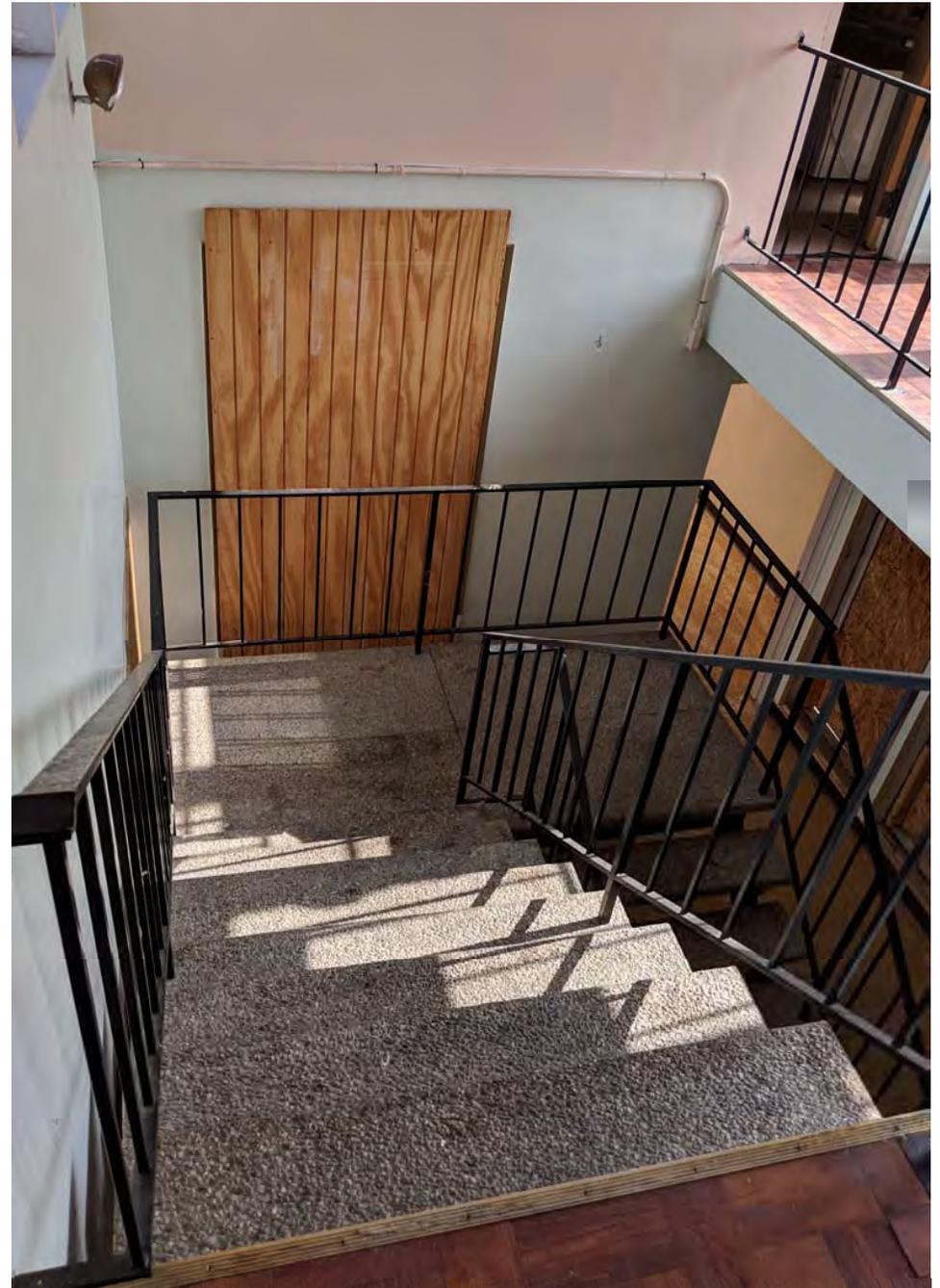


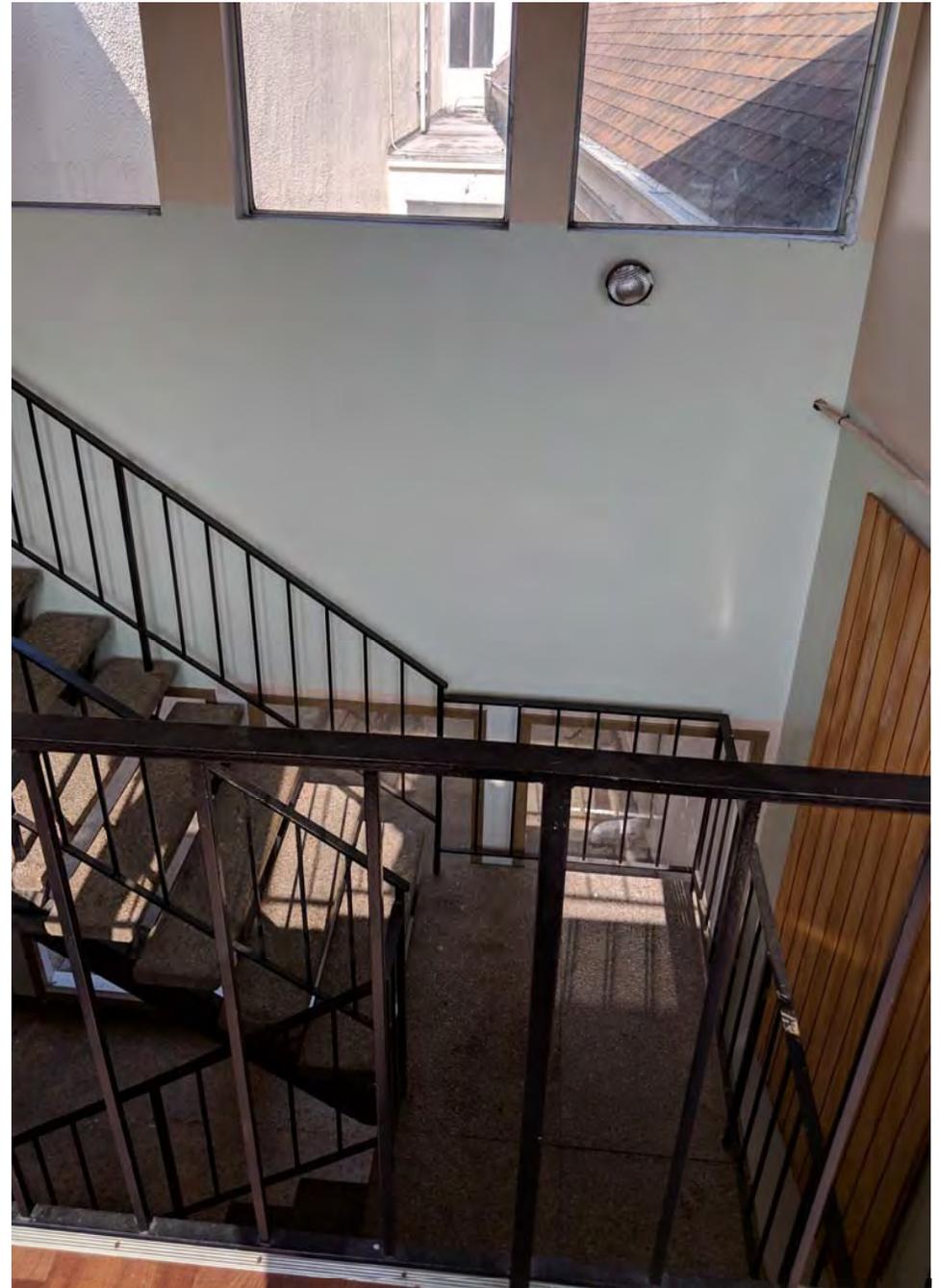


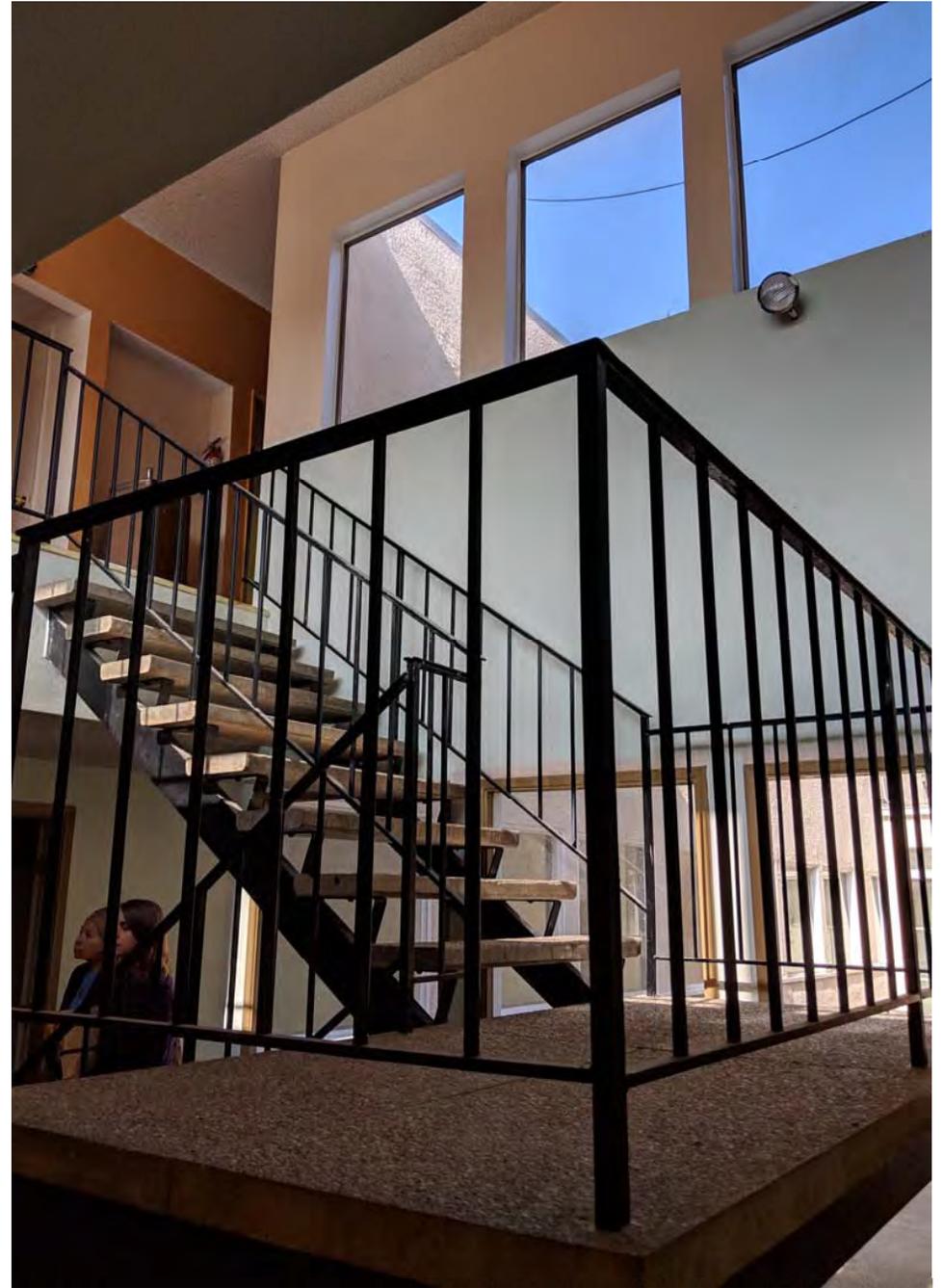


















SUMMARY

The First Baptist Church of Venice is a two-story church and adjacent parking lots located at 671-685 Westminster Avenue and 686-688 East Westminster Avenue on the north and south corners of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the Oakwood neighborhood of Venice. Built in 1967, the church was designed by George R. Williams in the Mid-Century Modern architectural style. From its construction until 2017, the church building (Ocean Park Villa Tract, Block L, Lots 23-27) was the home of the First Baptist Church of Venice, originally founded as an African American church in 1910. Prior to 1967, the congregation of the First Baptist Church convened at a one-story wood and stucco building designed by Paul R. Williams that was constructed in 1927 across the street at 686-688 Westminster Avenue (Ocean Park Villa Tract No. 2, Block M, Lots 1-2). By 1972, the church building at 688 Westminster Avenue was moved to 11205 South Vermont Avenue in South Los Angeles and the lots currently serve as parking. In 2017, the 1967 church building was sold to a private owner and the congregation of the First Baptist Church relocated to Westchester.

The founding of the First Baptist Church in 1910 corresponded with the evolution of the Oakwood section of Venice as an early enclave of African American residents, and churches were crucial anchors for the community. The First Baptist Church was one of the first two churches in Oakwood formed to serve the African American community. It was founded by the Reverend R.S. Kelsey, along with other prominent members of the African American community, including Arthur Reese, the official town decorator for Venice. The first church home in Venice was a former barn at Fifth Street and San Juan Avenue (no longer extant). Over the next several decades, as Oakwood continued to grow as an African American enclave in Venice, so too did the congregation of the First Baptist Church. Each time the Church outgrew their current space, and the Oakwood community came together to construct a larger home for the Church, which was headed by Bishop E.L. Holmes for forty-four years. In honor of his achievements and service within the Oakwood community, following his passing in 1999, the City of Los Angeles dedicated the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue, adjacent to the third home of the First Baptist Church, as Bishop E.L. Holmes Square.

Irregular in plan, the 1967 church building consists of two masses around a central atrium: a sanctuary of wood-frame construction and a U-shaped education wing of concrete construction that wraps the sanctuary on the north, west, and south elevations. On the primary, south-facing elevation, the sanctuary is defined by a steeply pitched A-frame roof constructed of clapboard sheathing and wood rake covered in composite shingles and three bays; the east and west bays have stucco cladding with a natural stone veneer and the center bay features the main entrance flanked by sidelites with a clerestory. The education wing has a flat roof capped with wood trim, is clad in stucco, and features a row of fixed steel windows on the second story and a secondary entrance to the sanctuary on the ground floor with flanking sidelites and a canopy. The secondary east-facing elevation, along 7th Avenue, features four large rectangular fixed windows to the south and a single entrance to the north. At the second floor there is a rectangular first-floor entrance and two window openings. The north-facing elevation is mostly obscured by an overgrown tree and a rear yard fence. Fenestration includes four aluminum-framed slider windows and a single entrance at the first story, and five aluminum-framed slider windows at the second story. The west-facing elevation, adjacent to the parking lot, has five groups of aluminum-framed slider windows at the first and second stories. There is a pole sign adjacent to the church building at the southeast corner of the lot. On the interior, the sanctuary space features exposed timber framing, multi-color terrazzo tile, and wood-and-glass panel doors, and the education wing has a double-height entrance vestibule with multi-color terrazzo floors and plaster walls.

Over the years, the property has experienced several alterations that include the installation of HVAC equipment on the roof; the removal of all stained glass panels from window openings across all facades of the sanctuary and at the main entrance of the education wing; the removal of the original

bronze hardware from the entrance doors; the removal of a metal cross structure historically intersecting with the southeast roofline on the primary façade; the addition of a concrete and metal stair within the education wing; and the replacement of wall coverings and flooring throughout the building, all at unknown dates.

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

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;
2. Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history; or
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.

FINDINGS

Based on the facts set forth in the summary and application, the Commission determines that the application is complete and that the property may be significant enough to warrant further investigation as a potential Historic-Cultural Monument.



HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM

1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Proposed Monument Name: First Baptist Church		Original historic name	
Other Associated Names: First Baptist Church of Venice			
Street Address: 685 E Westminster Avenue		Zip: 90291	Council District: 11
Range of Addresses on Property: 685, 679, 677, 673, 671 E Westminster		Community Name: Oakwood	
Assessor Parcel Number: 4239019021 & 4	Tract: OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT & 1	Block: L	Lot: 23-27, & 28
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:			
parking lot at 686 & 688 E Westminster Avenue			

2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

Year built: 1966	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Factual <input type="radio"/> Estimated	Threatened? Private Development
Architect/Designer: George R. Williams		Contractor: Walter Forte Jr
Original Use: Church		Present Use: Boarded Up
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: Not Applicable - Structure		Stories: 1	Plan Shape: Unknown
FEATURE	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	
CONSTRUCTION	Type: Wood	Type: Concrete poured/precast	
CLADDING	Material: Stone	Material: Select	
ROOF	Type: A-frame	Type: Select	
	Material: Unknown	Material: Select	
WINDOWS	Type: Unknown	Type:	
	Material: Wood	Material: Select	
ENTRY	Style: Centered	Style:	
DOOR	Type: Double	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.

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="checkbox"/> Contributing feature <input type="checkbox"/> 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:	

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 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: Laddie Williams		Company:	
Street Address: 678 San Juan Avenue		City: Venice	State: CA
Zip: 90291	Phone Number: 310 908 7174	Email: CWilli7269@aol.com	

Property Owner

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

Name: Jay Penske & Elaine Irwin		Company:	
Street Address:		City:	State:
Zip:	Phone Number:	Email: elaineirwinmail@gmail.com	

Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative

Name: Margaret Molloy		Company:	
Street Address: 3841 Beethoven Street		City: LosAngeles	State: CA
Zip: 90291	Phone Number: 310 560 2523	Email: mmmolloy@earthlink.net	

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nomination Form 2. Written Statements A and B 3. Bibliography 4. 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) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation 6. Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations (include first construction permits) 7. Additional, Contemporary Photos 8. Historical Photos 9. 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.

August 28, 2018

"Laddie" Celia Williams *Laddie Williams*
 Name: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

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

Office of Historic Resources
 Department of City Planning
 200 N. Spring Street, Room 620
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 Phone: 213-978-1200
 Website: preservation.lacity.org

First Baptist Church, Venice
685 E. Westminster Avenue
Venice, California 90291

Physical Description

The First Baptist Church in Venice's multi-story sanctuary building is a rare surviving example in the area of a mid-century modern place of worship, a style that was popular in Baptist Church architecture through the 1960's. There is an attached two-story assembly room and educational wing adjacent to the Church which connects to it.

The entire Bishop E.L. Homes Center is situated predominantly on the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the Oakwood Neighborhood of Venice. The site experiences a prominent public exposure with the Oakwood Community/Recreation Center and Park directly across the busy North-South Oakwood Neighborhood thoroughfare of 7th Avenue from it.

There is a large lighted sign box at the top of a tall flagpole at the Southeast corner of the property. Steps lead up from Westminster Avenue near the corner with 7th Avenue to a large A-frame façade of Type V construction. The primary entrance is symmetrical, covered in a stone veneer with a 26 light glass window above a pair of double slab style wood doors with stained glass sidelights. Each pair of doors is set within rectangular doorframes which lead directly into the Sanctuary Narthex. The narrow but tall Narthex, climbing to the center ridge of the A-frame, separates the Entry from the Sanctuary. An interior door at the West end of the Narthex provides access to the Assembly Room and Classrooms building.

The Sanctuary consists of a large vaulted interior space with an occupancy of 480, and central and side aisles lead to a Chancel and Choir at the North side of the Sanctuary, a large stained-glass window above them, with two crucifixes on either side. The rectangular Sanctuary is characterized by a shallow sloping floor lined with pews, and a segmental wood Tudor arched A-frame vaulted ceiling. Hanging chandeliers are suspended throughout the space in two rows across. Arched stained-glass windows line the East side wall, and a view into a large outdoor atrium lines the West side wall, separating the Sanctuary from the Assembly Room and Classrooms building.

The two-story Assembly Room and Classrooms building is generally configured in a long and narrow rectangular shaped structure of Type V construction. It has a flat roof and segments wrap around the Sanctuary building to its West and North. In a plan view it has the shape of the letter "L". A cornerstone plaque at the far West side of the façade memorializes the names of the founders and organizers of the First Baptist Church of Venice and traces its origins all the way back to 1910, one hundred and eight years ago. Steps to the West of the Sanctuary lead up from Westminster Avenue to a pair of slab style wood doors with three stained-glass windows to the East. The Assembly Room has an occupancy of 78. The rectangular Assembly Room has a flat ceiling and is surrounded by areas subdivided for a kitchen and support spaces. In addition, there are seventeen classrooms, which along with the Assembly Room are all served with light and air by an Atrium that separates them from the Sanctuary.

As much as the exterior is representative of a mid-century modern architectural style and tradition for Baptist Churches of the time, that reflects a more general urban environment and a more culturally assimilated sensibility, so the Church's interior reflects the Baptist artistic tradition of decorating the Sanctuary, which created a warm and welcoming environment. With the exception of built-in features

such as the stained-glass windows, decoration and ornament is subdued. The materials used reflect the modest means of the congregation. There is Burgundy carpeting on the Sanctuary floors and drapery at the entrance and the Chancel, and red drapery surrounds the stained-glass windows. Television screens at the Choir and a litany of flyers at the Narthex relay pertinent worship services and community information. A large Choir reflects that music is an important and integral component of Baptist worship services.

Architecturally, the First Baptist Church of Venice complex reflects both its Southern-States transplanted, African American origins, and its multi-generation constituency and legacy. Its design is a reflection of the community that created it, and was made welcoming and easily accessible to pedestrians, since most members lived nearby and in general walked to the Church, Assembly Room and Classrooms for Sunday School, Sunday Worship, Monday Prayer and Wednesday Word Explosion. Features like stained-glass windows also project, to members and also to the passerby, a sense of dignity and nobility. An expression of belonging where it is, the building and its use as a community center and place of learning and worship is an integral part of the Oakwood neighborhood.

Written by Gabriel Ruspini
BA Arch '91 UC Berkeley
Gabriel Ruspini Design,
Venice, CA

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the African-American community on the westside of Los Angeles (including Venice and Santa Monica) and the role of the African American in developing Venice is inextricably the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

As stated in the SurveyLA Citywide Historic Context Statement of African American History of Los Angeles, “Churches were crucial anchors of the African American community. They represented spaces of racial autonomy and freedom, where blacks came together by choice and strengthened ties of mutuality. They were sanctuaries of spiritual freedom, places where people could freely express themselves unfettered by the expectations or pressures of white society. For African Americans in Los Angeles, Doug Flamming writes, ‘Black Churches were their pride and joy, their haven in a racist America.’ They also represented springboards for community leadership, as well as centers of social life, business networks and civil rights activism. Churches, too, reflected the diversity of the African American community by class, background, and cultural proclivities. They played a vital role in allowing black congregants to express their individuality, while tying them to the broader community.”

The story of First Baptist Church in Venice tells the story of the African American community in Venice, a rare enclave of African Americans residing in a coastal town in California from the early 1900’s. First founded in Santa Monica in 1910, the early congregation soon purchased property at 5th Avenue and San Juan in Venice in 1911. This corresponded with the evolution of the Oakwood¹ section of Venice as an early and rare enclave of African American residents in a beach community in California and its relationship with Venice founder Abbot Kinney, who gained a reputation for hiring blacks to build his Venice canal system.

The history of Oakwood plays an important part of the social history of Venice and its character defining attributes of a diverse, social justice and creative enclave. Oakwood is the area bounded by Dewey Street to the northwest, Lincoln Boulevard to the northeast, California Avenue to the southeast, Electric Avenue to the southwest, and Hampton Drive to the west. It was the only area in Venice where African Americans were allowed to purchase property-- covenants were made illegal in 1948, but that did not deter realtors from refusing to sell to African Americans or dare to show them property out of the allowed boundaries.

That history of blacks owning homes started with Abbot Kinney’s employment of Arthur Reese, an African American who came to Venice from Louisiana in 1897, initially in his job as a railroad Pullman porter. Reese had an entrepreneurial spirit, initially opening up a shoe shine shop. He then started a janitorial service that became successful. He was asked to take over the janitorial department of the Kinney Company. Wanting to share the opportunities he found in Southern California, Reese recruited his cousins, the Tabor’s of Louisiana, to join his crew. They were pioneers of the Great Migration from the deep South, where rural poverty and a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan was driving families to find new lives and jobs in the booming industrial north, only 35 years after the end of slavery and the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

Employment to build the Venice Canal System drew blacks to Venice, California. Reese arrived in Venice from White Castle, LA in 1897 and is credited to being the first African American who

¹ The name “Oakwood” was given to the community in the early 90s as a means to distinguish the African American sector from Venice, in general.

lived and worked in Venice. By 1922, the entire Reese/Tabor clan had moved from Louisiana to Los Angeles. A short time after gaining employment in the janitorial department of the Kinney Company, Reese asked Kinney if he could decorate the building fronts of a special holiday affair that was to be held at the Dance Pavilion and the Auditorium. This launched his career as a decorator.

By 1918, Reese became the official town decorator for Venice. “He designed award-winning floats entered in the Mardi Gras Festival and the Tournament of Roses Parade” where he won 1st Prize. Due to Kinney’s failed business relationship his Venice vision did not manifest; however, Reese drawing from his Louisiana southern roots created extraordinary decorations and art forms, e.g. the paper mache bauble heads, and festive entertainment that became the Venice vibe that attracted visitors en masse from all over the world. His work allowed Kinney to capitalize on the entertainment appetite of the populace which resulted in the development of Kinney’s amusement park on the pier. In his obituary, Reese was described as “an accomplished decorator.” In reflection, he is more than an accomplished decorator. As an artist, his legacy is the talented and unique contributions he made to the entertainment industry of Venice in those early pioneering years that helped popularize Venice as the number one public visitor destination in California.

Meanwhile, Irving Tabor, Reese’s cousin, became Kinney’s chauffeur and trusted friend. The bungalow court at 605-607 Westminster Ave., a cultural monument of the City of Los Angeles, is a mark in that history. City records indicate that prior to 1916, the property was owned by Kinney, but that Irvin Tabor bought it in that year and began to develop it with Kinney’s help. Eventually, it would become eight structures on two lots and serve as a compound for this early African American family of Venice.

When Kinney died, he arranged that when his wife died, their house would go to Irvin Tabor. Because of the backlash resulting from the Tabors moving into the “white section” of Venice, Tabor eventually had the house moved to 1310 Sixth Avenue in Oakwood, where he lived until his death in January, 1987. The house currently sits as a City Cultural Monument.

Reese built his home at 541 E. Santa Clara Ave. in Oakwood. Irvin Tabor and Reese were held in high esteem in their community and became leaders of the historically African-American Oakwood neighborhood. Their esteemed reputations, although earned through their own works is not surprising considering Arthur Reese was the son of Rev. Arthur L. Reese, Sr. who was a prominent Baptist clergyman in the south and an activist in causes for advancing social justice. Reese, Sr. was, according to his obituary, the president of the 20th Century Educational and Industrial Congress of Louisiana “and a man who has always been identified with every uplift movement for the colored people of the south.” The cliché that the apple does not fall far from the tree is certainly applicable in reference to these two cousins whose hard work followed in the tradition of Reese, Sr.

The history of Oakwood is one of property ownership, community building, of strong familial ties, of the entrepreneurial spirit of early Los Angeles, and of the emerging African-American presence despite restrictive covenants and societal exclusion. In 1910 home ownership among blacks in Los Angeles reached over 36%, the highest in the nation. The Reese and Tabor family enclaves built community ties. Reese was a mason in high standing, was the first African American to serve on the election board of the City of Venice, was elected a member of the Republican County Central Committee of the 61st Assembly District, and was a member of the

Chamber of Commerce. In an article that appeared in the Venice Vanguard Newspaper in March 27, 1920, it was reported, "Never in the history of Venice, we believe, has there been a colored man appointed on the elections board. We are proud of our town to know that its people are broad-minded and high minded enough to recognize worth and character, and quality, instead of inequality. Mr. Arthur Reese has been in Venice for a number of years, a man of family, property owner, and is a highly respected citizen. The sooner we recognize the principles and capabilities of a man, regardless of creed or color, prejudice will be overcome."

Reese was a founding member of First Baptist Church and was baptized there in 1911. In 1927 he was head of the building committee and he donated the property at 688 Westminster to the Church. It was second place of worship but the first Church they actually built. It was one of the first two churches in Oakwood formed to serve the African-American community.

That church was designed by Paul R. Williams who was born February 18, 1894 in Los Angeles, CA and died January 23, 1980.

"One of the most important Los Angeles architects, Paul R. Williams' prolific career extended from the 1920s to the 1970s. His vast body of built work stretches across the world from Paris and Colombia to Washington, D.C., New York, and Memphis. However, the Los Angeles area was his personal and professional focus. Overcoming incredible prejudice in an all-white field, Williams became the first African American admitted to the A.I.A and designed over 3,000 projects, including the Jetsons-like theme building at Los Angeles International Airport, Saks Fifth Avenue and W. & J. Sloane's department stores in Beverly Hills, the famous Beverly Hills and Ambassador hotels, and renowned celebrity haunts, such as Chasen's and Perino's restaurants." (Paul R. Williams, Architect, A Legacy of Style, Hudson, Karen E, 1993)

Reese was Secretary of the Church in 1912 and his notes reflect the baptism of Reese and Tabor relatives at the Church in the early years. In 1911, the Church hosted the Western Baptist Association for a convention at the Church. This caused the Church to become "a nucleus for the Negro Baptist of Southern California."

Churches were often the spiritual, social, and cultural center of the black community. They also represented centers of social life, business networks, and civil rights activism and played host to speeches and lectures by renowned intellectuals. First Baptist was no exception. Adam Clayton Powell Sr., the pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, New York, appeared as a participant at a church fundraising event. Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem was the largest Protestant congregation in the country in the early 1900's, with 10,000 members, and Powell, Sr. was a founder of the National Urban League and active in the NAACP.

In 1927, the great W.E.B. DuBois spoke at a lecture to raise funds for the new church. The first page headline of the Santa Monica Evening Outlook, dated Wednesday, February 23, 1927 read, 'Dubois Addresses Large Assemblage'. Dubois spoke to an audience of 700 Bay District residents assembled at the Ocean Park Municipal Auditorium.² "DuBois was an American sociologist, historian, civil rights activists, author, writer and editor. He rose to national prominence as the leader of the Niagara Movement, a group of African-American activists who

² Santa Monica Evening Outlook newspaper, Wednesday, February 23, 1927, Vol. L11, No, 54

sought equal rights for blacks and opposed the policies of accommodation and conciliation promoted by some leaders such as Booker T. Washington. He was a graduate of Harvard University and internationally known for his work in advocating for social justice, education and equality for African Americans.

DuBois died August 27, 1963. He left a legacy of wisdom, hope and trailblazing doctrines of advocacy for justice for African Americans. His words in his arousing speech at the Municipal Auditorium on February 3, 1927 where he spoke in support of the First Baptist Church of Venice urged African Americans to actively engage in improving their lives through education and assimilation. "The races of the United States must either live together and assimilate -- or fight." (The Santa Monica Evening Outlook, February 3, 1927, *Dubois Addresses Large Assemblage*)

The historical presence and the resounding words of Dr. W.E.B. DuBois in 1927 are a gift of historical significance to the Oakwood Community. He had many words of quotable wisdom and one quote that is fitting for the current efforts to maintain First Baptist Church as a place of worship.

It is the growing custom to narrow control, concentrate power, disregard and disenfranchise the public; and assuming that certain powers by divine right of money-raising or by sheer assumption, have the power to do as they think best without consulting the wisdom of mankind.

W. E. B. Du Bois

Arthur Reese was on the lecture committee of the church that invited W.E.B. Dubois and a host of other notable persons. Among those whose name also appears in the church records is Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, who was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Urban League. Historical documents indicated that Powell, Sr. was a social justice activist who protested against racial discrimination of African Americans and liberally encouraged his congregants to engage in protests. His presence along with that of W.E.B. DuBois speaks loudly and clearly of the social activism, relevance and significant influence of First Baptist Church.

As a Trustee of the Board, Reese signed the application for the new building in 1927. His notes describe the new church as a community effort:

"Mrs. Abbott Kinney, wife of the founder of Venice, donated the lumber for framing, the Harvey Brothers donated the foundation materials, and rock and sand were hauled by the Tabor Brothers Trucking. On June 10, 1928 the new church was dedicated, with Rev. J.W. Jordan officiating."

The First Baptist Church of Venice was a major centerpiece of cultural and social life for the Venice and Santa Monica communities and is a major cultural marker of African American history to this day. A California Eagle newspaper article in 1934 announced how the First Baptist Church put on "An Evening of Music" by the George Garner Negro Chorus for 4,000 people in Venice. The article described the event:

“All in it was a beautifully arranged performance: beautifully executed and beautifully received; reflecting great credit to Arthur L. Reese, general chairman of arrangements and to George Garner, conductor, for “An evening of Music’ which will not soon be forgotten.” (Overr, O.O., reporter, California Eagle, August 10, 1934)

This is one of many cultural and social highlights of the Church’s integral relationship and significance to the community. Obviously, thousands of people near and far were profoundly touched by the cultural, educational, social and spiritual guidance of the church.

According to Jataun Valentine, grandniece of Irvin Tabor, members of the Reese/Tabor clan who were Baptist generally attended First Baptist Church in Venice at one time or another and the relatives that were Catholic still attended many family and community activities at First Baptist, as it was an important center of the community, whether one was Baptist or not.

There were 63,700 blacks in Los Angeles in 1940. This number grew to 763,000 in 1970, as World War II defense production skyrocketed in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, the working-class communities of the Oakwood section of Venice continued to grow. The population of blacks in Oakwood tripled between 1940 and 1950. By the mid-20th century, a mix of neighborhood commercial establishments had emerged in the area, including a beauty salon, repair shops, secondhand thrift stores, a barbeque restaurant and other businesses to serve the residents of the modest dwellings of Oakwood. The area attracted a diversity of organizations and political activists including the Neighborhood Adult Participation Project (NAPP), Project Action, the One Stop EDD Service Center and others. Rev. Holmes allowed community activists to hold community organizing meetings in the church.

As the Oakwood community grew, so did the congregation of First Baptist Church. Soon it needed a bigger space. In 1966, plans were filed for a new home that was to be built at 685 Westminster, directly across the street from the building that was designed by Paul R. Williams. The new building was designed by George R. Williams in a mid-century style.

It was during this period of African-American residency in Oakwood that First Baptist Church built the church at 685 Westminster, where it currently sits, almost in original condition. Residents tell of their relatives who pledged their mortgages to help raise money for the new church. Oscar Rhone, a member of a 4th generation family of Venice, attests that his grandmother, Roberta Donaldson, was one of the individuals who supported the church in this way. After raising the \$250,000 required to build the church, it was dedicated on Sunday, March 30, 1968. Dr. C. H. Hampton, President of the Western Baptist State Convention of California and Vice President of the National Baptist Convention served as the guest preacher. Music was presented by the three choirs of the church. Its mid-century architectural style spoke of the modern, forward thinking of this congregation in Venice beach. It was reported by the Santa Monica Evening Outlook newspaper on March 30, 1968 that nearly 700 persons attended the ceremony. The photo that accompanied the Evening Outlook story captured the image of Bishop Holmes at the entrance of the doorway to the new church and behind him is the throng of parishioners following him as they transitioned from the old church which stood tall in the background -- a powerful and symbolic image. (See photo on page 14 of this document)

Bishop E. L. Holmes served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice for forty-four years. He was a fixture in the Oakwood community. He built his home on Brooks Avenue in Oakwood so he could share the daily experiences of his parishioners first hand. He was a member of

various local community organizations including the Venice Rotary Club, the Venice Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Club of Venice, the Board of Judges for Venice High School and the Police Expo of Los Angeles. A center for African-American youth opened during the 1970s, serving teenagers in Oakwood many whom attended First Baptist Church. In the year 2000, City Council Member, Ruth Galanter, designated via Council resolution, 7th and Westminster as Bishop E.L. Holmes Square in recognition of his historical significance. The embossed plaque is a constant reminder of the special significance of the person, the place and the space, i.e. Bishop Holmes, the Church and the land. Bishop Holmes passed away in 1963 and memorial services were held for him in the Church.

Residents state that the church throughout its history was a haven for the black community. Music was an important element in the church services and ministry. For much of its history there were three choirs, including the Adult Choir, the Junior Choir and the Boys' Junior Choir. For many of the young men in the community, the choir was a haven. One participant, Rev. Dennis Moore, recalls that the Boys Choir was "a social and religious place where you could go and get help, have fun and not worry about negative forces on the outside." He has fond memories of the church, "I still remember Deacon McCleary and Deacon Fordham. They were both very helpful to me. I spent a lot of my growing up years at the church with my friends and older boys I looked up to.

Another congregant, David Johnson, a third generation resident of Venice, recalls that the Church was "the center of all our social lives.... It fostered our social relationships. It kept us positive. It gave us inspiration to overcome adversities. We could support each other. And it was kind of the jumping off point for all our other organizations."

Carol Ann Powell shared that her parents moved to Venice in about 1929. Her dad, Arthur Powell, passed away in July 2018 only a few days shy of his 102nd birthday and was an active member of First Baptist Church for many years until his illness kept him from attending service. Carol and her siblings attended church with her parents from the time she was 10 years old and continued throughout the years.

Carol said in an interview August 10, 2018:

"For me and by brothers and sisters it was a happy place for us to go. We wanted to go to church even when it wasn't Sunday. It kept me and my friends out of trouble. My sister Gail said it taught her how to be a lady. The Church influenced so many, so many of us. It brings tears to my eyes to think about it not being there."

Alma Collins was born in Venice in 1950 in a house on Westminster down the street from the Church. The house is no longer there. She attended First Baptist with her mom and participated in holiday plays and activities planned for Easter, Christmas and other special occasions. In an interview on August 9, 2018 with Naomi Nightingale, PhD, Alma shared what the Church means to her:

"The Church is a cultural monument. It is the church I attended as a little girl. My mom, dad and grandmother attended that church. My father was a contractor and he built that church. The Church stands for our community. Our culture and history is being systematically erased from our community and that is so wrong."

Much of the “Venice of America” history is well known and documented. It came out of the singular vision of Abbot Kinney, whose dream of a cultural and entertainment center for Venice was enhanced by the talent and artistry of Arthur Reese. Unfortunately, much of the African American history of Venice is not well known or documented. The absence of documentation makes it easier to dismiss the relevance of the rich, distinctive cultural, social, history of African Americans; but, First Baptist Church of Venice and Bishop E. L. Holmes have history, known and documented. The relevance of the church, its history, the land, and the people -- ordinary and prominent - is imprinted with the spirit of their presence and that cannot be changed.

Venice is an artistic and cultural beacon for Los Angeles. In addition, Abbot Kinney’s extension of employment opportunities to Reese and Tabor resulted in the racial and cultural diversity that the Venice community is known for and enjoys today. Venice includes Oakwood, one of the first established intentional African-American communities in the city. Historically, it has been the most socially, racially, economically and culturally diverse coastal neighborhood in California.

Summary

So what is the significance of First Baptist Church? That question is synonymous with what is the significance of the African American people and their contributions to the Venice Community over the past 108 years? The answer is as profound as the question. It speaks to the collaborative blood, sweat, tears and hard earned funds of the people who pooled their monies to build the First Baptist Church. They, then, compounded the efforts, time and money to import Pastor and Mrs. Holmes to be the Minister and First Lady of the Church. It is the heart and soul of every individual that is infused in every brick, nail, plank and plaque it took to manifest this place of worship -- this House of God, First Baptist Church. It is the spiritual cornerstone and visual monument that kept a community grounded and protected in times of separatist, racist and discriminatory practices of housing, insurance redlining, employment, education, politics, and social justice. It is a significant historical site of a people and their daily lives no different than Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, founded in 1886, or Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church in Santa Monica, CA founded in 1906 or Santa Monica African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church by the Sea, founded in 1906. All were founded by African Americans in their relegated communities on their relegated, bought or bestowed land. They are all churches built as Houses of Worship by African Americans seeking their own space where prayer, culture, beliefs, social justice, hope and religious freedom formed a collective faith of protection from societal ills. The same is true and thus is also a contributing factor to the historical significance of First Baptist Church.

In 1912 Venice, CA was an evolving community of African Americans who came to this small beach front place to work, live, raise their children and create a place representing their culture, traditions, religious freedom, recreation and social life. In this basically sand and swamp space where they were forced to live due to the redlining and discriminatory practices of the time, African Americans took the least of what was made available to them and made the most of it. They built or purchased homes, owned and operated grocery stores, worked hard for Abbot Kinney or other wealthy business persons or corporations. And, they built churches in which to nurture their religious beliefs, provide a refuge particularly when Ku Klux Klan threats reminded them they had not left the racism of the Jim Crow south in their native states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia or from whatever southern state they came, but that it was living behind its white hooded outfits just as real in Venice as it had been from where they came.

The African American pioneers of Venice, Arthur Reese and Irving Tabor, who worked for Abbot Kinney enhanced their lives and built housing for their families from the murky ground while helping Kinney build his dream world of canals, and piers and fantasy lands. The original African American settlers of Venice cultivated the 1.5 square mile of separate but unequal land that was a part of the then City of Venice, CA. In the area boundaries in which African Americans were allowed to live the First Baptist Church was built by the first black people to make Venice their home. It is significant to know that African Americans could not live anywhere else - under the threat of cross burnings by Ku Klux Klansmen - they were relegated to live in this 1.5 mile area. News articles of a 1922 Klan raid lists five men who were residents of Venice, CA and one man from Santa Monica, CA.

Brick by brick, pew by pew, stained glass by stained glass -- dedicated parishioners built it, funded it, owned it. When the membership grew too large to accommodate the Church they pooled their monies, time, talents and energy and erected their renewed First Baptist Church at the current site of the Church -- directly across the street on property owned by the Church. Pastor Holmes, of course, continued in his leadership position of the Church. It was a seamless transition; a celebration and testament for the "burning of the mortgage" signifying ownership of the property. This was the place that helped represent, unify and strengthen the community throughout the years. From the early 1900s when the first African Americans came to work in Venice and had to cling together, to barter their services, worship together and survive. With First Baptist Church as their rock, the African American people survived through the hardships and aftermath of wars, the great depression, and the daunting years of civil, economic and infrastructure neglect by the City of Los Angeles.

The Church had beautiful stained glass windows, a giant cross that reached towards the heavens accompanied by the scripted signage, "First Baptist Church" that lit up the night as a beacon for anyone who would come for the solace of worship, the comfort of communing and the spreading of the gospel that permeated the community. To have no regard for its history or for the people who are the fiber and fabric of the very foundation of the Church is reprehensible and blasphemous.

What is the significance? The people and the community, in general, would not have survived; would not have prospered to become homeowners, business owners, civil rights activists, community reformers and social leaders without the connectivity and the support of First Baptist Church, Pastor Holmes and its dedicated members. It is difficult to put to words the significance of something that is infused in the heart and soul of a people. The meaningfulness of sacrifices, the memories etched by generations of family members, the decades of attending services -- weddings, funeral services, concerts, christenings and other religious ceremonies -- that are infused within the walls and essence of this monumental historical edifice - all of these things and the people that represent the life and times of First Baptist Church are its greatest significance.

For all that it gave and has been to the people of Venice since its beginning, this Church and its land deserves to remain the spiritual legacy that it is. First Baptist Church tells the story of this special enclave of African American culture and life in this coastal city, the suburbanization of the residential development of Los Angeles, and the role of the African American church in the history of African Americans in Los Angeles. First Baptist was the spiritual, social and cultural center of the black community in Venice and is associated with individual leaders who contributed to the establishment of this unique community.

The story of the African-American community's role and the role of the church in creating and sustaining the special coastal community of Venice is one that starts in the late 1890s when blacks first moved to Venice. The story narrates the struggles and hardships suffered from discrimination, racism and segregation and of the successes of home ownership, entrepreneurship, and social celebrity experienced in spite of obstacles. Through the years the story speaks of progress born from the civil rights activism of the African-American community in Oakwood in the 1960's that produced community based programs, Head Start pre-school and 15 low-income apartment buildings. The story weaves through the 1980's and years beyond in this coastal town with First Baptist holding its space as a place of worship, refuge and tradition in the areas of ethnic heritage, religion and social history for its historical association with the African American community.

History is about the past. It is the stories that make meaning out of events and people and movements and the documentation of those things through print and through narrative. It is the ethnographical means of imprinting the past and the present for the benefit of the future. History cannot be eradicated because wealth privilege, bigotry, political bias, obfuscation or devaluing of people are promoted by self-serving power bases. Rather, stories are the voices of the past and the present and they keep alive the history that is important to one's cultural, social, and religious survival. This is indisputably true for First Baptist Church of Venice; there are 108 years of history within, around and throughout this place of worship.

Above all what must be recognized as the undeniable significance of the First Baptist Church of Venice and the rich cultural legacy of the early African American enclave of Venice is that our history matters.

###

Written by Naomi Nightingale, PhD,
Venice, California
August 28, 2018

First Baptist Church

Application for Historic-Cultural Monument

Bibliography

“American Residents,” *The Argonaut*, February 25, 2009.

“An Intimate Look at History: The Oakwood home that belongs to Thelma Tabor Brawley is a reminder of the special relationship her father had with his employer, Abbot Kinney, the founder of Venice,” *The Los Angeles Times*, October 7, 1990.

“Character, Not Color,” *Venice Vanguard*, March 27, 1920.

City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement: African American History of Los Angeles, 1862-1932,” prepared by GPA Consulting and Alison Rose Jefferson for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources (January 2018).

“Diamond Jubilee Anniversary 1910-1985 75 Years,” First Baptist Church of Venice, CA brochure, 1985.

Deener, Andrew, “The Decline of a Black Community by the Sea: Demographic and Political Changes in Oakwood,” in *Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities*. Hunt, Darnell and Ramon, Ana-Christina, eds (New York: New York University Press, 2010).

“The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History,” SaveVenice.com
<http://savevenice.me/the-first-baptist-church-of-venice-a-brief-history/>

“The Great Migration: Creating a New Black Identity in Los Angeles,” by Kelly Simpson, KCET, February 15, 2012.

Interview, David Horace Johnson, August 10, 2018.

Interview, Rev. Dennis William Moore, August 7, 2018.

Interview, Jataun Valentine, August 8, 2018.

Interview, Dr. Naomi Nightingale, August 7, 2018.

Interview, Sonya Reese Greenland-Davis, August 11, 2018.

Motion, City of Los Angeles to honor Bishop E.L. Holmes to designate the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Venice as “Bishop E.L. Holmes Square,” March 29, 2000.

“Arthur Reese, Pioneer Venice Citizen, Buried,” *Los Angeles Sentinel*, August 22, 1963, pg. A1.

“Sunday Service: Venice Baptists Will Dedicate New Church,” *Evening Outlook*, March 30, 1968, p. 6.

“SurveyLA Venice Community Plan Area,” Historic Districts and Multi-Property Resources, April 2, 2015.

Tabor Westminster Family Residences, City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument Application,

Temple Mishkon Tephilo, City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument Application, March 11, 2003.

Sunday Service

Venice Baptists Will Dedicate New Church

The new church edifice of the First Baptist Church of Venice will be dedicated at a 3 p.m. service Sunday, with the pastor, the Rev. E. L. Holmes giving the dedicatory address.

Dr. C. H. Hampton, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of San Diego, will be the guest preacher at the service. Dr. Hampton is president of the Western Baptist State Convention of California, and vice president of the National Baptist Convention.

Music will be presented by the combined three choirs of the church.

The new church building, across the street from the old church, at 7th Street and Westminster Avenue, is of frame

and stucco with 13,000 square feet of space.

The church, built at a cost of approximately \$200,000, has a seating capacity of 480. Stone facing and fixed glass beautify the front of the building. The sanctuary has a high beamed ceiling, a choir loft and an organ. On the same level are 16 classrooms.

Downstairs are the offices, an assembly room for social events with a fully equipped kitchen, and a ladies' lounge. The hallway, as well as the foyer upstairs, has terrazzo flooring.

The church was organized by the late Rev. R. S. Kelsey in 1910. Pastor Holmes of East Texas, came to the church in 1955, and began a program of expansion. In 1957, five lots were purchased for the new church, and construction started in October 1966. Today, the congregation numbers more than 600.



New Venice Church Completed

Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor, stands in front of the new First Baptist Church of Venice, which will be dedicated Sunday at a 3 p.m. service. Stone and glass form the facade of the building. Classrooms are at left of structure which has a large downstairs area for offices and assembly room. (Evening Outlook Photo.)



New Venice Church Dedicated

Dr. C. H. Hampton (left, facing camera), pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of San Diego, and the Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice, lead the congregation from the old church across the street into the new church for dedication service Sunday. Nearly 700 persons attended the ceremonies in the \$200,000 church at 7th St. and Westminster Avenue, Venice. Dr. Hampton was guest preacher, and Mr. Holmes delivered the dedication address.

Statement of Significance – Bibliography

1. "American Residents," *The Argonaut*, February 25, 2009.
2. "An Intimate Look at History: The Oakwood home that belongs to Thelma Tabor Brawley is a reminder of the special relationship her father had with his employer, Abbot Kinney, the founder of Venice," *The Los Angeles Times*, October 7, 1990.
3. "Character, Not Color," *Venice Vanguard*, March 27, 1920.
4. "First Baptist Church, Rev. E. Payne, Pastor," *The California Eagle*, January 28, 1923.
5. DuBois Addresses Large Assemblage, *Santa Monica Evening Outlook*, February 23, 1927.
6. Political Advertisement: "Elect Arthur Reese," *Venice Vanguard*, August 25, 1930.
7. "Baptist Group at Venice Gives Play Tonight," *The California Eagle*, August 19, 1932.
8. "Negro Citizens of Venice Do Themselves Proud," *The California Eagle*, August 10, 1939.
9. City of Los Angeles, "SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement: African American History of Los Angeles, 1862-1932," prepared by GPA Consulting and Alison Rose Jefferson for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources (January 2018).
10. "Diamond Jubilee Anniversary 1910-1985, 75 Years," First Baptist Church of Venice, CA brochure, 1985.
11. Deener, Andrew, "The Decline of a Black Community by the Sea: Demographic and Political Changes in Oakwood," in *Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities*. Hunt, Darnell and Ramon, Ana-Christina, eds (New York: New York University Press, 2010).
12. "The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History," SaveVenice.com <http://savevenice.me/the-first-baptist-church-of-venice-a-brief-history/>
13. "The Great Migration: Creating a New Black Identity in Los Angeles," by Kelly Simpson, KCET, February 15, 2012.
14. Interview, David Horace Johnson, August 10, 2018.
15. Interview, Rev. Dennis William Moore, August 7, 2018.
16. Interview, Jataun Valentine, August 8, 2018.
17. Interview, Dr. Naomi Nightingale, August 7, 2018.
18. Narrative of Interview with Carol Ann Powell, August 10, 2018.
19. Interview, Sonya Reese Greenland-Davis, August 11, 2018.
20. Interview, Reverend Oscar Rhone, July 2018.
21. Public Testimony, Pastor Oscar Rhone, West Los Angeles Planning Commission, August 15, 2018.

22. Motion, City of Los Angeles to honor Bishop E.L. Holmes to designate the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Venice as "Bishop E.L. Holmes Square," March 29, 2000.
 23. "First Baptist Church of Venice Celebrate Annual Women's Day," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, August 17, 1950
 24. "Arthur Reese, Pioneer Venice Citizen, Buried," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, August 22, 1963, pg. A1.
 25. "Sunday Service: Venice Baptists Will Dedicate New Church," *Evening Outlook*, March 30, 1968, p. 6.
 26. "Rites join Faye McFadden and Vermont McKinney in Marriage," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, July 20, 1972.
 27. "Zelda Wilson honored by YMCA: Woman of the Year," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, May 21, 1981.
 28. "SurveyLA Venice Community Plan Area," *Historic Districts and Multi-Property Resources*, April 2, 2015.
 29. Tabor Westminster Family Residences, City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument Application,
 30. Temple Mishkon Tephilo, City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument Application, March 11, 2003.
-

1. "American Residents," *The Argonaut*, February 25, 2009.

<https://argonautnews.com/courts-named-after-early-african-american-residents/>

2. "An Intimate Look at History: The Oakwood home that belongs to Thelma Tabor Brawley is a reminder of the special relationship her father had with his employer, Abbot Kinney, the founder of Venice," *The Los Angeles Times*, October 7, 1990.

http://articles.latimes.com/1990-10-07/news/we-3156_1_abbot-kinney

3. "Character, Not Color," *Venice Vanguard*, March 27, 1920.



Arthur L. Reese (circa 1903)

The following article appeared in the *Venice Vanguard Newspaper* March 27, 1920. It is a tribute to the positive influence and impact Mr. Arthur L. Reese had on a community that was the product of a time during which the local, state and federal governments sanctioned racial segregation and discrimination in America:

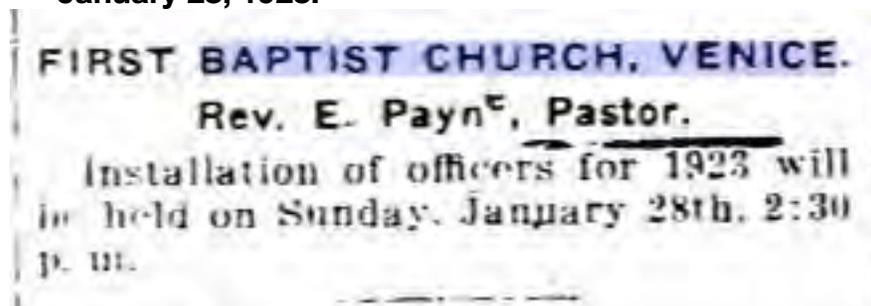
The sooner that unity and not vanity prevails in some sections of this country, the sooner will we have the results that many are striving for.

+ *Venice's signature* 3/27/20

CHARACTER, NOT COLOR

Never in the history of Venice, we believe, has there been a colored man appointed on the election board. We are proud of our town to know that its people are broad-minded and high-minded enough to recognize worth and character, and quality, instead of inequality. Mr. Arthur Reese has been in Venice for a number of years, a man of family, property owner, and is a highly respected citizen. The sooner we recognize the principles and capabilities of a man, regardless of creed or color, prejudice will be overcome. The great emancipator saw fit to free the slaves; he believed all men were born equal in God's sight, and if that great mind saw fit to work and fight for the cause, he would expect us to do the same.

4. "First Baptist Church, Rev. E. Payne, Pastor," *The California Eagle*, January 28, 1923.



5. DuBois Addresses Large Assemblage, DuBois, Santa Monica Evening Outlook, February 23, 1927.

Colored Scholar Says Races Must Assimilate or Else Have War

INTERNATIONAL VIEW

forward. Respectfully, CARL F. SCHADER

Prominent White Citizens

Also Hear Message of

Negro Leader

"The races of the United States must either live together and assimilate—or fight!"

Such was the solution to the color problem advanced by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois of New York, scholar and editor of the "Crisis" magazine, in a stirring address before 700 Bay District residents, mostly negroes, in the Ocean Park municipal auditorium last night. Dr. DuBois, an alumnus of Harvard university and internationally known for his services in behalf of the American negro, spoke on a topic in keeping with yesterday's country-wide celebration of Washington's birthday, "America's Social Problem During the Time of George Washington and at Present." He traced the origin and growth of slavery in the New World, showing that slaves formed the basis of early American trade with the "endless chain," by which rum was taken from New England and traded for slaves in Africa, the slaves brought to the West Indies and traded for brown sugar and molasses and the latter substances shipped in turn to New England to be made into rum and traded for rum to ship to Africa.

The distinguished speaker stated that "even George Washington did not care to think too deeply on the question of how the new country coming out of the Revolution could

claim liberty for its watchword when its prosperity was founded on slavery."

No Bitterness

Except for on instance, when he declared, "We know what it is to suffer a certain condescension from cur fellow beings," Dr. DuBois expressed little bitterness toward the white race. Ho stated that the negro has been kept in subjection through lack of education.

"It was not long ago that the unions kept out negroes. You never saw a colored carpenter or bricklayer or other skilled laborer working with a union man. But the colored man forced his way in by underbidding. It caused starvation to those who were used to starving and those who were not used to starving, but It was successful." Dr. DuBois declared that "you can't have separate, air-tight race.

- 6. Political Advertisement: "Elect Arthur Reese," Venice Vanguard, August 25, 1930.**

(Political Advertisement)

(Political Advertisement)

(Political Advertisement)

ELECT ARTHUR L. REESE

To Republican County Central Committee—57th District

Member—Chamber of Commerce, Church Federation,
Mason and Shriner

Among the Prominent Business and
Civic Leaders Indorsing Reese are:—

Dr. Joseph Saylin
 Mrs. James H. Davidson,
 J. R. Hunt
 C. W. Holbrook
 S. Lang
 W. D. Newcomb.
 Dr. Horace T. Foote
 Atty. Walter Rennie
 Eugene Rittenhouse
 Frank Sebastian
 Cesar Menotti
 Albert F. Voss
 Fred S. Roberts
 Harry J. Allen
 James H. Davidson
 Mrs. A. J. Mahan, Sr.
 H. J. Englebrecht
 Harry E. Hudson
 Mrs. J. D. Simpson
 Mayor Herman Michel
 Charles S. Warren
 Mrs. L. G. Poole
 Harry E. Wooding
 Mrs. Evangeline Voss
 Mrs. Ella M. Jester

Alfred A. Newton
 Edward A. Gerety, Jr.
 Dr. Geo. K. Daxey
 Tommy Jacobs
 Sherwood Kinney
 Hon. Walter Little
 Hon. John R. Quinn
 H. Hertel
 Hon. Chas. W. Lyon
 Hon. F. A. Helton
 Jack Gerety
 Mrs. Jack Gerety
 Lester Rice-Wray
 J. J. Lewis
 Ed. Papke
 William J. Starr
 George Schiscm
 Michael Fanelli
 Paul Calnory
 Joe Sempers
 Dr. J. H. Peschong
 Fred Garrigue
 Arthur Traxler
 Mrs. Wm. J. Starr
 Mrs. George Hines
 Thornton Kinney

Mrs. Thornton Kinney
 Charles Walters
 Mrs. L. R. Bassett
 Prof. D. W. Schlosser
 Mrs. D. W. Schlosser
 Will Rattray
 Sam Sarkisian
 Wm. Flynn
 Harry Leiber
 Mrs. Henrietta Cunningham
 Allen Pecham
 Mrs. Inez P. Moreland
 Mrs. S. E. Galloway
 P. Brandelli
 C. Zaccaro
 E. W. Biscailuz
 Carlton Kinney
 Mrs. Carlton Kinney
 Mrs. Leonard Hall
 Dr. J. S. Peschong
 Leonard Hall
 Mrs. R. H. Mahan
 G. W. Hildebrand
 E. R. Jester
 Mrs. May Seward

Rev. Phillip K. Swartz, Pastor, Union Congregational Church
 Rev. B. L. Jennings, Pastor First Methodist Episcopal Church
 Rev. E. Elmer Lyon, Pastor, Venice Baptist Church
 Rev. G. Albert Miller, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Venice
 Rev. E. P. Baker, Pastor, The Nazarene Church

This Advertisement paid for by the Arthur L. Reese Campaign Committee

VENICE
57th DISTRICT

BE ONE OF THE CROWD

7. "Baptist Group at Venice Gives Play Tonight," The California Eagle, August 19, 1932.

Aviatrix Sued for Divorce by Banker Mate
 Los Angeles Times (1925-1995): Aug 19, 1932; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times
 pg. A8

COSTUME BALL FEATURE OF LAGUNA'S FESTIVAL

The costume ball feature of the Laguna Festival... The festival is one of the most popular in the city... The costumes are of the most elaborate and artistic... The ball is a grand affair and is well attended... The festival is a great success and is enjoyed by all.

Baptist Group at Venice Gives Play Tonight

The Baptist group at Venice... The play is a well-acted and interesting one... The group is well known and has a long history... The play is a great success and is enjoyed by all.

Pioneer Picnic Committees at Upland on Job

The Pioneer Picnic Committees at Upland... The committees are well organized and are doing a fine job... The picnic is a great success and is enjoyed by all.

Aviatrix Sued for Divorce by Banker Mate

AVIATRIX SUED FOR DIVORCE BY BANKER MATE... The aviatrix is a well-known figure in the city... The banker mate is a prominent figure in the city... The divorce suit is a well-known one.

Charles Shaver Funeral Today

CHARLES SHAVER FUNERAL TODAY... The funeral is a well-attended one... The service is a grand affair and is well attended... The funeral is a great success and is enjoyed by all.

STATE ENGINEER FILES SUIT TO FORCE DAM REPAIRING

STATE ENGINEER FILES SUIT TO FORCE DAM REPAIRING... The state engineer is a well-known figure in the city... The dam is a well-known one... The suit is a well-known one.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

8. "Negro Citizens of Venice Do Themselves Proud," The California Eagle, August 10, 1939.

A newspaper article from 1939 announced how the First Baptist Church put on "An Evening of Music" by the George Garner Negro Chorus for 4,000 people in Venice.

Negro Citizens Of Venice Do Themselves Proud

By O. O. OVERR

The First Baptist Church of Venice, California, gave to the populace of the Beach cities, "An Evening of Music," featuring the George Garner Negro Chorus—an unusual departure from the beaten track in the field of "Resort" entertainment—at Ocean Park's Municipal Auditorium, Thursday evening August 2nd.

The more than four thousand, delighted attendants listeners, speaks volumes for, both the business acumen displayed by the Rev. G. Albert Miller and his energetic committee, and the ever-increasing popularity, of the noted Negro Conductor and his Chorus of two hundred and fifty-eight trained voices.

A beautifully designed, souvenir program of fourteen pages, announced the affair was being given for the benefit of the First Baptist church of Venice, of which the Rev. Miller is pastor, interim; and it may be said without fear of successful contradiction, there had been no saint of endeavor on his part and that of his loyal sponsors to make the evening a glowing success from every angle.

to make the evening a glowing success from every angle.

The committee constituting the usher board, had, doubtless been trained for the occasion, and did yeoman service in handling the masses that literally jammed every bit of available space. This fact was apparent, by and thru the ease and grace with which all were made comfortable. Conspicuous, they were, in evening attire, which, apparently to them, was the working garb of a craft in which they had been thoroughly schooled.

At eight-thirty, the programme was opened with Dr. W. R. Carter as Master of Ceremonies. After invocation was asked, and several impromptu speeches, by the Hon. Mayor of Ocean Park, a City Councilman and Mr. Arthur L. Reese, general chairman; Mr. Garner took up his baton and swept through—amid thunderous applause—a selection of musical art—gems from such eminent composers as: Cowen, Gounod, Raubach, Greehl; interspersed by a number of Negro Spirituals, of which, "Swing along Chillun", by Marion Cook, seemed to have won the large audience's warmest approval.

A series of readings, by Mrs. Ollie Ann Robinson, who showed distinctive merit as a dramatic reader, another departure from the ordinary was highly creditable. Her audience seemed much pleased with her rendition.

Perhaps the most gripping of all the programmed numbers, were the solo series: "Ave Maria," (Gounod); "Trees," (Rousbach) and "Song of the Soul," (Greehl); by Madam Carrie Daniels, soprano.

Mrs. Daniels, a full-throated, voluminous vocalist whose upper range is so full, so flawless, registers with an ease that belie human ability. To the writer, it would seem well to say, to those who have had the good fortune to hear, Tettrazini, and have been so unfortunate as not to have heard Madam Daniels, let it suffice to say: you have missed a valued opportunity to study the two voices from the same angle then reach your own conclusions as to comparison.

She carried her audience in the palm of her hand, as it were, from the prelude of her first number; cradled it into thralldom, then

cradled it into thralldom, then gently set it into repose by the diminishing cadence of her final note. For a moment the spell lingered—then the audience went mad in applause.

Mrs. Netta Paulyn-Garner, the accomplished wife of the conductor, rendered most excellent support. To the chorus, as accompanist; to the program in general, by her marvelous piano renditions in solo-work. She proved to be an artiste in her own right, and was given a tremendous ovation by physical applause, and also in the language of flowers.

All in all it was a beautifully arranged performance; beautifully executed and beautifully received; reflecting great credit to Arthur L. Reese, general chairman of arrangements, and to George Garner, conductor, for "An evening of Music" which will not soon be forgotten.

It requires several large buses of the sight seeing, type, to convey the two hundred seventy-odd members of the organization from their home city, Pasadena, Calif., where conductor, George Garner, international tenor, makes his permanent home.

9. **City of Los Angeles, "SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement: African American History of Los Angeles, 1862-1932,"** prepared by GPA Consulting and Alison Rose Jefferson for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources (January 2018).
https://preservation.lacity.org/sites/default/files/SurveyLAAfricanAmericanContext_February2018.pdf

 10. **"Diamond Jubilee Anniversary 1910-1985 75 Years," First Baptist Church of Venice, CA brochure, 1985.**
<http://savevenice.me/black-history/first-baptist-church-of-venice-75th-anniversary/>

 11. **Deener, Andrew, "The Decline of a Black Community by the Sea: Demographic and Political Changes in Oakwood,"** in *Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities*. Hunt, Darnell and Ramon, Ana-Christina, eds (New York: New York University Press, 2010).
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt9qfzv0>
Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities

 12. **"The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History," SaveVenice.com**
<http://savevenice.me/the-first-baptist-church-of-venice-a-brief-history/>

 13. **"The Great Migration: Creating a New Black Identity in Los Angeles,"** by Kelly Simpson, KCET, February 15, 2012.
<https://www.kcet.org/history-society/the-great-migration-creating-a-new-black-identity-in-los-angeles>
-

14. Interview, David Horace Johnson, August 10, 2018.

Jon Wolff: Please state your full name and spell your name.

David Johnson: My name is David Horace Johnson. D-A-V-I-D H-O-R-A-C-E J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

JW: And you signed the consent form. "Your interview and discussion will be recorded and/or notes will be taken of your responses and are intended to be used as testimony in the application of First Baptist Church of Venice to be designated a historical/cultural monument. Do you agree to the recording of the interview?"

DJ: Yes I do.

JW: Are you or were you ever a member of the First Baptist Church?

DJ: Yes I am and was.

JW: If so, when did your membership begin and when did it end?

DJ: My membership began probably early '50s and it has never ended.

JW: What events did you attend or participate in at the church?

DJ: I was one of the first people in the Junior Boys Chorus. They developed a Junior Choir and I was one of the first members of the Junior Boys Choir.

JW: Please talk about activities in which you were involved such as attending weekly services, served on committees, were an officer of the church, etc.

DJ: I was actually the Assistant Director and Director of the Junior Boys Chorus, which I have a picture of and I'll give it to you here. And that was at the first. Also, just a member of the church. The church was more of a home for everybody at that time. So, that meant that the church worked with the community. It was like, we always had services, we always had activities, we always had things that we could do and depend on the church to support us in doing. Actually, it was like the church was like our mother and father at that particular time. We had services constantly. Monday and Tuesday I had choir practice. Wednesday we had BTU and prayer. Thursday we had just like a timeout where everybody could come and participate and do certain activities, like at the playground. Whatever. We did that at the church as well. On the weekends, we would have our normal service during the day. And then I would sing in the choir.

JW: That sort of answers the next question: What is the significance of First Baptist Church in Venice to you?

DJ: It's like I said before; it's like a mother and a father. What it did was hold the community together. Because, we all depended on going to the church for certain things. Not just services. We could go there to get counseling. We could go there where they would help us out if we needed something. Not only that but, even at that particular time in the '50s, we had flood problems in that area. The church was almost like a Red Cross as well. When it would flood... and it would flood on Westminster going back toward the beach... and it would also flood here at 7th Street. We were safe here but it would flood from here going downhill and back down to Lincoln Boulevard. So, the church was there to support everybody who needed to be housed during that time. So, the church was sort of a way for everybody to live, and also assisted people at that time. And it also served as an eye for the community as well. Because like, if you were doing something that wasn't proper, the church would find out and they would let you know that you had to change your ways, or was there

some way they could help you change. And they were right there for you at all times. And that's what First Baptist was all about.

JW: Do you feel that First Baptist Church of Venice should be a historical/cultural monument? And if so, why?

DJ: Yes I do. I really feel that it should be historical. Not only because it has helped so many people and changed so many lives, but it was just the backbone. Not for just black people. We had Hispanics and white people here as well. As a matter of fact, I have a picture and I'll show it to you. But everybody depended on the church. So yes, it should be historical. This changed a lot of lives and helped a lot of people. And a lot of people still are in love with the First Baptist Church.

JW: What memorable activities or events of the church make it especially meaningful for you and your family?

DJ: Me being the first member of the Junior Boys Chorus. Number one. Working along with the members of the church. My father and my mother being a part of things to where activities didn't stay at the church; they would go from house to house. So, you would start at the church, and then we would say that we were going to meet at Mr. Walker's place at 3:00 and we're going to make ice cream. We would leave from there and we would go over to the Nightingales' house at 5:00. All members be there, do this, do this. So, it was just a whole thing about being a part of the membership of the church that helped the community and it kept the community together.

JW: Did you know Reverend E.L. Holmes and what do you recall of him when he was pastor?

DJ: Yes indeed, I knew Mr. Holmes. As a matter of fact, at the end of this interview, I'm going to show you his house. His house is right next door. I knew Mrs. Holmes as well. Still, the same type of thing: The church extended from the church to the house to the community. As a matter of fact, I have some of Mrs. Holmes' plants now in my back yard. I've got her roses. I got that when she passed away. They gave the roses to me.

JW: Did you know any of the pastors before Reverend Holmes? And if so, what was your experience with the pastor and the church at that time?

DJ: Well, the first pastor that was before Reverend Holmes. Yes, I knew him. And that's when I was a part, and continued to be a part, of the Junior Boys Chorus. (And then Reverend Holmes came to the church and took over.) He was a good minister. He got sick. And so he had to be replaced. Again, the church always stood for the community. Always stood for the community.

JW: Is there anything else that you think is important to be included in the application for the church to be designated a historical/cultural monument?

DJ: Yes. I think that by being a monument, a historical monument, I think it will still help the people today. Because there are a lot of the children and grandchildren and aunts and uncles that have moved away from the area but they still support First Baptist Church. So yes, I think that's very important to keep it there as a memory of what has happened and what can still continue to go on if it's made a historical monument. I think we can re-do it and bring it back. And I'll be a member of it. All we want is to be able to re-do it, put it back together, and I'll be sitting front row.

JW: When did you or your parents move to Venice, California?

DJ: We moved here in the early '50s... 1949, '50s is when we moved to Venice.

JW: Do you currently live in Venice?

DJ: Yes.

JW: Is there more information about the church's ties to the community? I think you covered all that.

DJ: I think I have.

JW: The pastor was very active in the community. Was there a philosophy of community involvement?

DJ: Yes, it was. It was like: Stay up, stay united. So that the whole community would thrive and work together to stay together. And you know, at the time, it was good because it was like being raised by a whole village. Because, what you did, everybody had seen. Unlike a lot of other areas in Los Angeles or whatever, you are what you are and people see that. Then you can be corrected and the whole bit. What I mean by that is this: You can switch from one area and then, all of a sudden, you become someone new. but being in Venice, everybody knew you from the time you came up. So therefore, you are what you are. That way we could make corrections and try to bring you to your best.

JW: Did the church partake in any social justice issues?

DJ: Well, yes. Yes they did. Like I said, if something was coming up and they thought that they could solve the problem, it would be brought to your attention. It would be private, to let you know, "Can we help you? You're kind of moving in the wrong direction. Come pray with us. Let us help you." And as a result of it, it would bring it to people's attention and they might be able to solve the problem.

JW: Do we have anything from the Reese obituary and memorial service?

DJ: I don't have anything personally of it.

JW: Was Tabor active in the church? Oh God yeah! Tabor was there. Powells were

there. There were several families. Everybody was involved. Everybody that was doing something was involved at First Baptist. The Dabbs family. The Johnsons. The Nightingales. And it goes on and on. There were families that were making a difference. And everybody contributed to First Baptist Church.

15. Interview, Rev. Dennis William Moore, August 7, 2018.

Dennis William Moore, 72 years old, and is currently the Assistant Pastor at Forever Faithful Missionary Baptist Church at 11167 So Main Street, Los Angeles, CA

Dennis having lived in Venice, CA all his life from May, 1946 until 1963 when he moved briefly to Palo Alto, CA, graduated from high school and then served in the military. He returned to Venice in June, 1968 and lived there until 1971.

He was attended First Baptist Church as a young child and was baptized at the age of 11 and continued his participation until 1963 when he moved with members of his family.

While at First Baptist Church he attended Sunday school, Baptist Training Union, Young People Baptist Training and Junior Boys Choir. Other family members attend First Baptist including my grandmother who saw that I attended Church every Sunday.

NN: What was your experience like in the Church?

DWM: The Junior Boys Choir was very important to me. I had many friends in the choir. At that time, Pastor J.D. Brown was the pastor. He would come to the park and invite us to church. He asked us to join the choir as a way to get us to church.

We were different from any other choir that I had seen. We did not wear choir robes. We wore shirts with braided lanyards hanging from the left shoulder {I think it was the left} and a badge with the name of the Church was sewn on the sleeve of our shirts. It was an honor to be in the choir. Just to be a part made you feel you were somebody. We got to go and sing in other places and we really thought we were something special when we got to go to Los Angeles to sing at another church. We sang at revivals. It was a big thing to go to Los Angeles to sing -- a big deal to go out of the area.

Pastor Brown said of the boys -- we will get them to come in and then we will clean them up later -- teach us how to be good boys. Pastor Holmes was different he wanted the boys to be saved before becoming a member of the choir.

NN: What's your opinion about the Save the Church efforts?

DWM: For me the Church was always there and you could always go to First Baptist. It was a fixture. I still remember Deacon McCleary and Deacon Fordman were very helpful to me. I spent a lot of my growing up years at the Church with my friends and older boys I looked up to: Ronnie and Pat Brown, Cornell and Johnny, Roger Burnett, Paul and Glenn McCleary; I could

go on and on. There were older and younger boys, 7-18 in the Junior Boys Choir. It was a social and religious place. A place where you could go and get help, have fun and not worry about negative forces on the outside.

They - the deacons - continuously talked about Jesus and what behavior kept you out of trouble and what it took to get to heaven. I can't imagine the Church not being there.

NN: Thank you for your time and participation.

DRW: You are welcome.

End

16. Interview, Jataun Valentine, August 8, 2018.

8/9/18 interview with Jataun Valentine by Jon Wolff.

Jon Wolff: Please state your full name and spell your name.

Jataun Valentine: Jataun Hazel Valentine. Jataun J-A-T-A-U-N. Hazel H-A-Z-E-L. Valentine V-A-L-E-N-T-I-N-E.

JW: You signed the consent form. "Your interview and discussion will be recorded and/or notes will be taken of your responses and are intended to be used as testimony in the application of First Baptist Church of Venice to be designated a historical/cultural monument. Do you agree to the recording of the interview?"

JV: Yes, I do agree.

JW: Okay. Are you or were you a member of First Baptist Church?

JV: No. But some family was.

JW: When did their membership begin?

JV: Probably Irving Tabor's wife, Ethel Tabor... probably when they first started the church.

JW: At the beginning?

JV: At the beginning. Yes.

JW: And when did that membership end?

JV: Probably when she got up in age. And then she got sick and then she was not able

to go to the church.

JW: About what year do you think?

JV: I'm not really sure.

JW: What events did you attend or participate in at the church?

JV: I went twelve years to a Catholic school out at St. Clement's, which is 1st through 8th; we could get permission to go to different churches. And then, some members of First Baptist Church would come to St. Clement's Catholic Church. So, I did that several times.

JW: How often did you attend church or participate in activities at the church?

JV: Well, when they had big things going, I always tried to attend, and also members of my immediate family.

JW: Please talk about activities in which you were involved. Such as, attended weekly services, committees, were an officer in the church.

JV: I wasn't an officer and I wasn't a member of the church but, when they had a fundraiser... let's say that they were celebrating the pastor... you know... how many years he had been there. Or a pancake breakfast or a fundraiser or something that they had for the kids... a carnival or something. I would always attend; that was something to do.

JW: What is the significance of First Baptist Church in Venice to you?

JV: Well, it's the first Black church. And I hate to see Black History leave. And a lot of the members... they really were dedicated to it. Money, volunteer, whatever was necessary. And it shouldn't go to waste.

JW: Do you feel First Baptist Church of Venice should be a historical/cultural monument?

JV: Yes. I do definitely agree.

JW: Why is that?

JV: I agree because, if it's just a structure of a church on the outside, and inside it's a residence, it's not a church, and it's history. And it should not be gone.

JW: What memorable activities or events of the church were especially meaningful for you and/or your family?

JV: Basically, it was a church that they felt at home, and they always felt like it was

their church.

JW: Did you know Reverend E.L. Holmes?

JV: Yes I did.

JW: What do you recall of him when he was pastor?

JV: What I recall of him is the respect that the members of the church showed toward him.

JW: Did you know any of the pastors before Reverend Holmes?

JV: No.

JW: Is there anything else that you think is important to be included in the application for the church to be designated a historical/cultural monument?

JV: Yes. The history of the church should not be gone. Even when you think about the stained-glass windows like most churches do... people put up their hard-earned money to have it put in the church and it should not be forgotten. It's a sacred place.

JW: Yes ma'am. A couple more questions here. When did you or your parents move to Venice, California?

JV: My grandmother came in 1924. That's when my mother also came who was eight years old.

JW: Do you currently live in Venice?

JV: Yes.

JW: About the church's ties to the community, are there any stories about that?

JV: I know the one story. When they were a small church and the congregation got bigger. And when some of the members put up their house deeds to build the new church.

JW: The pastor was very active in the community. Was there a philosophy of community involvement?

JV: Yes there was, because everybody had respect for him. He also was very respectful and had respect for the community.

JW: Did the church partake in any social justice issues?

JV: Not that I know of. But I'm quite sure they probably did. Especially when Venice

annexed with L.A. County. I'm quite sure that they were involved.

JW: Do we have anything from the Reese obituary and memorial service?

JV: Not that I know of. Talk to Sonya.

JW: Was Tabor active in the church?

JV: Irving Tabor was a member of the church, but his wife Ethel Tabor was a dedicated member of the church when it first started, until her illness.

JW: I think that covers it.

17. Narrative of Interview with Carol Ann Powell, August 10, 2018.

Narrative of Interview with Carol Ann Powell
566 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Conducted on August 10, 2018 By Naomi Nightingale, PhD

Carol Ann Powell is 55 years old and lives in Venice, CA. She believes her dad and mom moved to 540 Westminster Avenue where family members still reside.

Carol's father, Arthur Powell, her grandmother, Della Powell, and her grandfather, George Powell and Carol and three of her siblings attended First Baptist Church of Venice. Carol's grandfather was instrumental in the building of the original church.

"I stopped attending the church just before Pastor Allen came. Rev. McCleary was the minister at the time.

I began attending the church when I was about 10 years old. I attended church, Sunday school, summer vacation bible school, choir, received help with homework, hosted visiting churches -- my grandmother put us in everything. I was involved in usher board, prayer service, tutorial program, YPWW; and so on. The church was very involved in social events for the community.

At funerals the young people would serve the people attending the funeral. After funerals and also every Monday every Sunday service, we cleaned up.

As an adult I attended weddings, christenings, participated in tutoring, bible study, watched Christian films at the church and helped with the distribution of food and clothing for the homeless,

NN: What is the significance of the Church?

CAP: The church represents growth from where I came from as a child -- a safe harbor, a place to be blessed and to pray -- to where I am today. My grandmother and my uncle were funeralized at that church. It (the sight) opens your heart and keeps your memory alive. Someone was always there to listen to your prayers, to pray with you. It was a safe harbor.

NN: Should it be a historical monument?

CAP: Yes, the church was there for so many people -- a gift from God for our community. The parents before us put their blood, sweat and tears into the church for us and for our lives. It was a place of refuge. The meaning of the church is the same even though it moved across the street. The church is the same; we just needed more space to continue God's work and the involvement of the people in the church. It was the same house of worship.

NN: Did you know Rev. Holmes?

CAP: Yes, I knew Rev. Holmes. He was the Pastor. He interacted with the youth. He made sure all the youth stayed busy...took care of our needs inside and outside of the church such as in school. He gave us notebooks and pencil and pen carriers for our notebooks. He belonged to a lot of auxiliary programs such as the Boys and Girls Club and so did his wife, Mrs. Holmes.

NN: What else would you like to say?

CAP: For me and my brothers and sisters it was a happy place for us to go to. We wanted to go to church even when it wasn't Sunday. It kept me and my friends out of trouble. My sister Gail said it taught her how to be a lady. The church influenced so many, so many of us. It brings tears to my eyes to think about it not being there.

An attorney came to the church to talk about selling the church and at that time they voted. Janell's brother was there. Allen told them in order for the homeless to stay in the property they would have to vote with him. When he raised his hand for the vote, they were to raise their hand. Jeffrey said he was to get money for doing that but he never got money. He got clean clothes to wear at the time of the meeting for them to look presentable but when he came back to the church, no one was there to let him in. He was one of the people who lived on the parking lot in his van.

He (Pastor Allen) promised Antoinette Reynolds that he would make her a minister if she supported him -- and she did. Antoinette was over the food and clothes for the homeless.

End of interview.

18. Interview, Dr. Naomi Nightingale, August 7, 2018.

MVI 9831A- Dr. Naomi Nightingale

<https://youtu.be/Megml-1FTUs>

NN: Hi, my name is Naomi Nightingale Jr., and I live at 451 Sunset Ave., Venice CA. I've been a resident of Venice, actually living here, since 1994. And prior to that I moved here from Santa Monica when I was 16 years old. Prior to that we lived here on Vernon Ave. with my aunt and uncle. So all my life actually, affiliated with Venice, California.

MM: When did your extended family move to Venice?

NN: My aunt and uncle moved to Venice in 1952. We lived on Vernon Ave. The address was 750 Vernon Ave.

MVI 9832- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/rNcOTN8w4QA>

Has my family ever been members of First Baptist Church? No, I come from a long line of Baptist ministers. My grandfather and great-grandfather were Baptist ministers. So my mom decided to make us Methodist. So no, we've never members of First Baptist Church.

MVI 9833- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/UaBPpZMXXbk>

In the 60s you know, right around all of the civil rights movements and the Watts Riot, Venice residents, myself and lots of other people, became engaged in community activities and working to see what we could do to improve the community. The federal government at that time was proposing to issue money, grants for what they call the Summer Crash Program. That was in the summer of 1966. I wrote the proposal and we got funded. It was federal government's effort across the country to try to kind of quiet things down and not have a repeat of the Watts Riots. So they were putting money into the community to get jobs and the community to invest in their own selves so that people would be involved in doing positive things rather than getting involved in destructive things. So we began, we started a program called Project Action and we rented a building down on what was at that that time Washington Street, which is now Abbott Kinney. When we got the money we had programs like job preparation, teaching people how to fill out applications and go to job interviews. We also started a community beautification program where we went around to everyone's home and knocked on doors in teams to ask about what they would like to see in their community in terms of beautification and improvements. At that time we didn't have a lot of meeting places for large groups and so we had initially asked Reverend Holmes about using his church. Reverend Holmes was a very conservative reserved Baptist minister. He had a very strong upstanding demeanor and he initially said no to us. So myself and Robert Stewart went to his church on a Sunday. The church was across the street from where the existing church is, the original First Baptist Church. What's common to most churches when they have visitors, they ask you to stand up or they recognize you. So Robert and I stood up when they asked for visitors and we introduced ourselves. Then we said that Reverend Holmes had not allowed us to use his church for community

meetings and we were there to ask him formally why, and could we not use his church because it was a Community Church and he should be involved in the community. So he didn't like that at all. You could tell. He didn't say anything from the pulpit but you could see the body language and the expression. So we went back the next Sunday and we didn't get recognized as visitors. So we picketed the church. A group of us the following Sunday picketed the church with signs saying that Reverend Holmes was not being helpful to the community by allowing us to not use the facilities for the church. And so then he changed his mind.

MM: How old were you and what was your background to be in that role?

NN: I was 18, just graduated high school. I mentioned that I came from a long line of Baptist ministers. My great-great-grandfather was Taylor Nightingale and he was pastor of Bill Street Baptist Church which is a historical monument on Bill Street in Memphis Tennessee. He was a cohort with Frederick Douglass and Ida B Wells. He owned a newspaper called the Free Speech. Ida B Wells used to write stories for his paper. She later became part owner of the paper. She would write stories as you might know about the lynching's that were going on in the south. Her stories were quite upfront about the racism that was going on. She wrote a story accusing the town leadership for a lynching. That evening they broke into my great grandfather's office, his newspaper. He was not there but his partner was there. They took him to jail and locked him up. Ida B Wells was away in New York. She was a teacher. She had gone to New York for some event. Later that night the vigilante group came, took his partner out of the jail and lynched him. My great-grandfather left town and went to Oklahoma. He was a target for them because he had also told his congregation to bear arms and to protect themselves. So I think I got a lot of his DNA even though my mother made us Methodists

MVI 9834- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/-lq5iaamJJs>

MM: Was his newspaper burned?

NN: Yes, that night that they came in and drugged my great-grandfather's partner out of the newspaper office, they burned down the newspaper. The office, and all of the papers, and all the possessions, and all of the files were burned in that fire. So we don't have any historical data left for the Free Speech. But my great-grandfather is listed in the First Baptist Church booklets on who were the Southern Baptist ministers at that time. He's also mentioned in Ida B. Wells, the books about her. So his name Taylor Nightingale, lives on.

MM: What was the name of the newspaper?

NN: The Free Speech newspaper.

MM: So you became an activist at 18?

NN: I was actually an activist before 18 because I was trying to organize people in Venice at the time to become our own advocates against the police department so that we would begin to do the things that we knew we needed to do for ourselves without someone coming in telling us what to do. So when we had the opportunity for the grant, Bob Castile came to me and he said, “your always talking Naomi. Can you put some of that to paper?” And I remember all I had was some lined school paper. And I remember I wrote it actually in red ink, which I don't know if it has any meaning, but that was the only pen I had at the time. And we put it together and submitted it, and I was shocked that it got funded. But at the same time, because they were really wanting to provide the money to quell any potential violence. It was just for the summer. But fortunately, because our program was successful, we got funded again, and this funding was for a year. So Project Action continued to be funded over the next 15 years and is responsible for the building of the low-income buildings that are in Venice today, although they have become market rate buildings. But for many, many years, low-income people who didn't have jobs where they made a lot of money, we provided those facilities for them. Unfortunately, now they are for the most part market rate and a lot of people can't afford to live there anymore.

MVI 9835- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/GShiCTEnEJ8>

NN: I was on the board [Project Action]. I initially was asked to be the director but I didn't want to be the director so I agreed to be the secretary and on the board. I think that was, again, because of my age at the time. Some of the people who were vying for the leadership were older men and I just kind of acquiesced to that. But I served on the board for several years.

The other reason was because, at 19 years old, I had two children. I needed to have a job that I could depend on, that I could be assured that I could afford to take care of my children. Project Action was a federally funded program. Year to year we had to to write for an extension or to see if we were going to get funded for an additional year.

So, I took a job with L.A. Unified School District so that I could have benefits for myself and for my children, particularly health benefits. In order to go to work - that job was in Los Angeles, it was at Sunset and Grand Avenue at their administrative building - I had to move to L.A. at that time so that I could take the bus to work, because I didn't have a car.

At that time, I also relinquished my position with Project Action except that I continued to serve on a board and to be active in the community.

MM: You were 19?

NN: I was 19. With two children. Yes.

MM: When did you go back to Antioch?

NN: I went to Antioch for my undergraduate degree in... I believe it was 1979 or '80. I had been going to community college. I went to West L.A. Community College when they first opened. They were just in those trailers. I would take a class here and there. But you know, you have kids, they get the mumps, they get the flu, they get the whatever. I didn't have a car. So whenever I couldn't get to school or because my kids were sick, I would have to not finish a class. Or just take one class. I got to the point in 1987 or '90 when I said, look, I'm just going to save up enough money so that I can take a part-time job so that I can go to school and still maintain a household but take enough units so that I can complete my bachelor's degree.

But by that time, actually, I was already working for Diane Watson. I had worked for the school district. I was teaching Adult Ed in the evenings. I was credentialed to teach Adult Ed so I taught Business Education in the evenings and on Saturdays. I worked as a secretary during the day and promoted up through the school district. And that's how I met Diane Watson.

I got a job where I was on a senior secretary list. I worked at a school and they needed someone to substitute for someone, and I agreed to do it. It was for board member Richard Ferraro. He was really a mean man. I think he had a Napoleon complex. I went to work for him and his secretary used to cry a lot. She told me as she transitions for her leave that he was very difficult to work for. So I asked her why did she continue to work for him. She said she needed her job and that she learned how to deal with it.

He came in one day, he would strut in. He passed my desk and he didn't say anything. We were in a big office space with a secretary here, a secretary there, depending on what board member you worked for, their offices were around. His office was way down, all the way to the back. He called me and he said, "Did you see me come in?" I said, "Yes, I did." He said, "Well?" And I said, "Well what?"

He asked me to come see him so I did. I went back to see him. He said, "When I come in and you see me come in, you're supposed to come back here to see what I want." I said, "Oh, I didn't know that." He said, "And you didn't speak." I said, "You didn't speak."

He was getting ready to go on a trip. I would pull all his papers together and put them on his chair. He came in that day and he was going on a trip that night. He called me and he said, "You didn't get my packet together." I said, "Yes, I did." He said, "It's not here. You need to come back here." I went back there in his office and he couldn't find the packet and he was very rude. I said, "Dr. Ferraro, your packet was on your chair. I don't know what you did with it. It's probably on the desk. But I'm here to support you. But you can't talk to me like that." He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "You cannot be rude and disrespectful to me. I'm not going to be rude and disrespectful to you. But I also don't need to work for you. So I think I'll just go back to my regular position." I left his office and then he called me on the phone and said that he apologized. I said okay.

My assignment was only six weeks while the lady was out on her leave and I went back to my job as office manager at the school. And he called me and asked me if I would come work for him on a permanent basis because his secretary was now going to leave because of her illness. I said, "No."

But then Diane Watson's secretary was leaving and she recommended me to Diane. So I went to work for Diane. And this was during the time that the whole de-segregation issues were going on. Diane was a big opponent of segregated schools and she was spearheading some of the de-segregation schools. She was getting all kinds of rude negative people, phone calls. People calling her the "N" word, saying that they didn't want their kids sitting next to monkeys, you know, black kids.

I would shield her from those phone calls, I wouldn't pass them on to her. She would get letters, which, some of them I would give to her. A lot of them I wouldn't. I would be furious with people calling up. So, if I'm ever in the audience when she's speaking now, she'll bring up how they called her names and made pictures of her with a big wide nose and some stuff. And she'll say, "But Naomi shielded me." And I'll say now, which I wouldn't say then, "But you never heard what I said to them - because if you had heard what I had said to them you would not probably had me continue to work for you." Because I let them know how I really felt about some of the name-calling that they did. I was still the child of the sixties movement. So all of the attitudes and anti-racism and anti-discriminatory practices and anger, that was also a part of that movement that really kind of propelled people to do the things that they were doing in terms of fighting the injustices of our country.

MM: How old were you?

NN: 25 or 26.

MM: Had you been exposed to that kind of overt hate and racism before or did that show you a different level of it?

NN: I never had the issues like they had in the south. When I watched TV and saw the Bull Connor, and the dogs and the hoses, and what was happening to black people in the South... I have family in the South, in Georgia and Tennessee. My mom's from rural southern Georgia. So I was affected in that way. I was affected by the fact that I lived in Venice. I never saw a Ku Klux Klansman but I knew that there were certain parts of Venice that we couldn't go into.

We weren't allowed east of Lincoln Boulevard. We didn't really venture too much past Washington [Abbot Kinney Boulevard] going to the south of Venice Boulevard, and past Rose Avenue. Unless we were going to Santa Monica, you know, that transition. But as far as hanging out, living, we didn't live in those areas. Black people did not live in those areas and knew not to even dare to live in those areas. In Santa Monica, which a lot of people don't know even today, there's a black community in Santa Monica. And even there, there were the times or places where you knew you couldn't go,

especially African-American men, who were not supposed to be in a certain area after dark. "What are you doing here?"

MVI 9836- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/1Ducq93y1FE>

NN: Off limits, if you were in a predominantly white neighborhood. Part of my dissertation talks about how African-American boys were stopped and frisked just because they were driving down a certain street. So, we knew that kind of racism. We knew that we were treated a certain way because of our color. We were very clear about that. I went to Santa Monica High, which was the only public high school in Santa Monica. There was a Catholic high school. Santa Monica High was a melting pot of all cultures. We were exposed to integrated school but, at the same time, the elementary school that I went to, which was Garfield Elementary School, was predominantly black and and Hispanic. That school was closed.

And it was closed, on the premise that the freeway was going to either take the school or come too close to the school to make it safe for students to get there. But that wasn't true. That school was never torn down. It's part of an industrial park right now. And the freeway didn't come up Olympic Boulevard, it came to the side of Olympic Boulevard. And so we had to cross Olympic Boulevard every single day to get to school. We had a crossing guard. So nothing, as far as the freeway was concerned, was changed because it didn't come that close to the school, but they took all of the students. I was in the last sixth grade graduating class from Garfield Elementary. And all the black and Latino students were transferred to three different schools that had been predominantly white.

MM: What was the true purpose?

NN: It was the only predominantly black and Hispanic school in the district and I don't think they wanted that to be. That was the school that served the black community and the Hispanic community in Santa Monica.

MM: In Santa Monica? They were commuting to Garfield?

NN: It was in Santa Monica. Garfield was the elementary school that served the predominantly black community. Some Hispanics and mostly black. So that school was closed when the Santa Monica freeway came through. It came through the black community. It wiped out black businesses. The whole business avenue on Olympic Boulevard was affected by the Santa Monica freeway.

MM: But my kid went to Edison that's right there.

NN: But some of the kids from Garfield went to Edison. Some also went to Will Rogers. They also went to McKinley.

MM: But if they allow Edison, it can't be proximity to the freeway that's the issue, right?

NN: Yes, so it wasn't true. But a lot of the homes that were in Santa Monica were taken by eminent domain. People didn't have a choice because the freeway, at that time, was the priority. People that owned their homes, for the most part, we're not given market rate so that they could buy back into the community. So they moved to other places. They moved to Venice or to Los Angeles.

MM: What year, Naomi?

NN: '62 or '63.

MM: So it affected the black community more than the Hispanic community?

NN: I would say yes, because there were more blacks in the community than Hispanics. It was predominantly black but there were Hispanics that lived in the community too. We were integrated in that way. People got along. There were no issues. I remember things... there were Mexicans that I went to school with. They taught us the Pachuca Hop. We taught them how to do the Slop and Slide. It was cool. We got along fine. Not an issue.

MVI 9837- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

https://youtu.be/IW_0H6fEGPE

The significance of First Baptist Church to me is, it's sort of an anchor, it's a cornerstone of our community. It's a place that you see and you know you're home. You know where you are. You know what that church represents to the community. Even though I was not a member of First Baptist Church, I went to many events at First Baptist Church, whether it was a wedding, a funeral, or a community gathering. So, to see First Baptist Church standing there meant that it was still your community. It was still what you recognized and where you belonged. And all of the the memories and the associations and the relevance of being able to worship there. And to go there and to have community events there. And to know that the people that you knew as friends had an association with that church. It was like a part of us. It is a part of us.

MM: So in terms of adaptive reuse, does keeping the structure mean anything to you?

NN: Adaptive reuse. I just about cursed in a minute. The the term adaptive reuse is bull crap. The church is more than just a framework. The framework holds the spirituality. It holds the essence, the aura, the being-ness of the people. It holds the history of not only that existing church. But when you look at one of the documents in the paperwork, you see Reverend Holmes burning the mortgage and coming across the street, in the pictures, bringing the congregation along with him across the street to enter into the doors of the new church. That meant that the spirit of the church, the aura of it, the Holiness of it, the worshipping of it, moved to the new facility. And so it's there. It's there in the walls. It's there in the air. It's there in the history. It's there in the memories. It's there. And so for someone to say that, oh, we'll keep the

structure there. And it can be... it will be a part of the residence. It's not a church anymore. People cannot go and worship. They can't lay their prayers at the altar. They can't get on their knees and worship their God, Jesus Christ, in the home of the owner.

And for Councilman Bonin to even be able to sit there and say that his commitment was for the "structure" of the church. And he had nothing to do with or never even committed to what the goings-on of the church would be when he was asked to support the church at the rally. I thought that that was just the most ridiculous asinine comment for him to make when he said, "Oh, I was there to say I'll support the structure and the framework but not the contents." What is the church? What is the church if it's not a facility, a place of worship? What is the church if it's not a part of the identity of the people who go there and who see it as a home for them, for their spiritual development and for their peace? I mean the church means all of that. And for adaptive reuse? The church gets eradicated in that process. It's not a church anymore.

I was very disappointed to hear Councilman Bonin say that. I was shocked that he would say that. I was just dismayed that a person could even conceptualize to say, "I was supporting the framework." We never asked you to support the framework. You were never asked to say, "Can we keep the structure and forget about it being the church?" You were asked, "Will you support our efforts to save First Baptist Church?" And you're going to say, with all of your intelligence, that you meant that we just wanted the framework? I think you just really undermined your own intelligence when you made that statement. Because I can't even believe that you could say that.

MVI 9838- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/YUyL3IF-n8k>

NN: My doctorate is in leadership and change, dealing with social issues and economic issues or whatever changes, period. And leadership as it relates to helping to develop, manage change. That's what I do with companies - helping them to understand changes that they are going through, or plan for, particularly if it's a layoff. Or changes in leadership within an organization. It all has to do, a lot, with how they communicate with one another. If they do, or if they don't. Every training that I do has a foundation of communication. I don't do any training without doing a communication piece first, because I find that, in all instances where there's conflict, it is because people don't know how to talk to each other. Or they don't talk to each other. Or they don't understand what's being said because they have a closed mind. Or they don't want to understand what's being said.

So that was actually... Bonin was the poster child for that at his meeting that we went to. Because we were not talking the same language. He spoke differently than he had spoken before when he was in the limelight on that stage. And he knew full well what he was committing to at that time, but subsequent to that in the dim light of his relationships with whoever it is, he decided that he didn't really want to support that. He knew all along that he didn't want to support that. But he didn't know how to, or didn't come out and say that until he was confronted with that. And I think maybe it got a little bit too hot in there for him in terms of having to sit there and answer those

questions. Or to come up with his reasoning for the position that he was taking. It didn't make any sense. And when I said, "Well, you can give us a letter of support just for the historical application and that wouldn't harm anybody." That's when his assistant there, Krista said, "We were never asked for a letter before." And Laddie said, "Well, yes he was asked for a letter." But regardless, that's not a point to argue. We're asking you for it now.

MM: You know he gave a letter to Andy Layman, who's been running an illegal hotel on the boardwalk for years.

NN: And you showed them that, that this is the letter of support that you gave. He said "Well, I haven't seen the application, and so until I see the application...." What is there to see about an application for a historical and cultural monument? What would you need to see in that application to make you decide to support or not to support it? Can you support the concept of it? Can you support the community effort? That's a goal that we have, that that's something that we would like to see? Can you just support that? And I think when the point came up, for all of the years that you have been in the Venice community supposedly serving the Venice community, what have you done in support of maintaining, sustaining, preserving any contributions of African-Americans who lived and who still live in this community? What legacies? What effort? What have you done to help us in this effort that we have to say, "We are here, we've been here?" What can you do to help us get on the map, so to speak, get in the books, so to speak, for our legacy to be known, to be understood, to be showcased in the same way as Abbot Kinney and others? Because if it wasn't for the efforts on the part of Tabor and Reese and other families here, Laddie [Williams]'s grandfather, people who lived and worked here, people who were members of that church, this part of Venice wouldn't be what it is. And even though we were relegated, ordered, limited, restricted to live in this area, you gave us swamps and we built homes... among ourselves, black and brown people lived here and made it their homes.

And when law enforcement officers, like the LAPD officer that talked about the crime in the area... yeah, there was crime. But there's also people who didn't commit crimes. There's people who sent their kids to school. There's people who were professionals. There's people who taught school like me. You know, there's people who went to work every single day, and sent their kids to school every single day, and who worked hard whether it was being a nurse or a doctor or a mechanic or whatever. We weren't all criminals. And I understand the focus on the drugs. I was happy to see that there was a focus on drugs. A lot of our effort with Project Action was to focus on drugs, to try to get a coalition of folks who would talk about how can we police ourselves in this community. But in order to get people off drugs you have to replace it with something. We were asking for jobs. We were asking for support. We were saying that if a person serves a period of time in prison but they can't get a job when they get out, then how do you ever expect that person to be a productive citizen?

My dissertation is about African-American men who survived that gauntlet of restrictions and prohibitions and barriers and were able to stay out of prison in spite of all of those things and become productive citizens... like Michael Murray. I interviewed

him. Like Anthony Brockman. These are people who lived in Venice. Whose families lived in Venice. Helped build Venice. Yes, they got into trouble. They served some time in prison. But they were able to gather themselves up and get jobs through very very very difficult situations. Because society doesn't help that. So if you serve your time, if you've paid your dues, why should you be shut out of society? It's because the prison complex, that's their living. That's the way they make money. And so for them to have you on the recidivism wheel is a way that they can continue to be millionaires. The Koch brothers that participated in funding the prison industry. So the gang injunction that happened in Venice back in '95, '96 was all a part, I believe, of this long-range plan to get to where we are now.

MM: Which is?

NN: Which is gentrification. You know, with a significant number of African-American families that don't live here anymore. That don't live here anymore because of the gang injunction. Don't live here anymore because even if you were brothers or cousins or any kind of relatives, you were not supposed to hang together. How ludicrous is that? And now we're looking at the gang injunction under scrutiny as to whether it's constitutional or not? So that everything is put on hold while that question is decided. But it never should have happened.

MM: And damage has been done.

NN: And the damage has been done and can't be undone. People who moved out of Venice because they were subject to arrest and harassment and parents being threatened to have their homes taken away from them because their children, their kids, were dealing drugs. I am not a fan of dealing drugs. I mean, I think that there was a lot going on in Venice at that time. And I wish that we, as community folks, had been more proactive in terms of managing our own internal issues with drugs. But they closed the Teen Post which was one of the avenues for young people to go and be together and be off the streets and to do productive things... go to events, baseball games, and to have dances and things like that. They closed the Teen Post, no funding. So when you don't have resources to contribute to the positivity of what you want to do, and people live in poverty, it breeds a certain behavior, that I don't condone and I don't like to see, but at the same time, we didn't get a lot of help. And I do believe that the drugs were put in this community for that purpose. Because, as it's been said many, many times, people were dealing drugs. They weren't bringing in loads of cocaine. They didn't have money to bring in loads of cocaine. They were dealing cocaine that was given to them, by whom? By whom? And what I said to the officer that day is, "Why wasn't the the person who came to buy the drugs arrested?" They were part of the issue here. I mean, supply and demand. If you don't have it, you can't buy it. If it's not here, you can't buy it. You're coming here to buy it, but you're not getting arrested for coming here to buy it. But you're arresting the person on the corner that's selling it. It's a two-way street - arrest the person that's selling it, arrest the person that's buying it.

MVI 9839- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/8hNJLE9RaxE>

We only thought in some instances that they were coming to buy, but in other instances, as I understood, they were also coming to bring because some of the dealers were from those other places like Beverly Hills or other places where they couldn't deal in their own communities, but they brought it here. So, as an avenue of making money, to take care of whatever their needs are or were at the time, people gravitated to that as a way of survival.

Do I condone that? No.

Do I understand it? Yes, I do.

It took a lot for parents to keep their kids on the straight and narrow, to try to keep them from belonging to gangs, to getting involved in things that you didn't want them to be involved in. But in my dissertation and in interviewing people, some of the myths that they had about why people do what they do were certainly not corroborated. Because we had people who had both parents... mother, father, came from a family where they had things that they liked and needed. They weren't poor. But they still gravitated to doing wrong things, to breaking the law, because the influences of the peers were greater than the influence of their parents.

The real deal is, when can we get back into society?

When can we get back to living a life where we don't have to commit crime? When can we come out and get a job? When can we come out and be able to evolve, participate in the political processes? When can we come out and go to undergraduate programs and get a loan or a grant to go to school. You can't do that if you have a criminal record. Can't get educated. Can't get a job. Can't live in low-income housing. So what is the person supposed to do? Yeah.

MVI 9840- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/T9wn-fwk95o>

They charge the government money if they send prisoners... because California has an overcrowded injunction, you can't be overcrowded. And so they send their prisoners to other states like Oklahoma, even further east. And then we still pay for those prisoners in other states. Texas.

MVI 9841- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

<https://youtu.be/i5mGmfoqQJw>

I'm ashamed that Stephen Miller went to Santa Monica High School, my alma mater.

Anyway, I have social justice DNA because I think it's just a part of me to fight for what's right. To speak up when there is injustice. To talk about what is but shouldn't

be. And to take it to the level that it needs to go to. So, you know with this fight with First Baptist Church, you know there's a social justice piece involved in this.

One, I'm disappointed in Pastor Allen because I think he's a sellout. He sold out the community and he knew exactly what he was doing. He manipulated his own membership by expressing to them a need that wasn't as severe as he presented it at the time. I'm getting this from the court records. And he never came to the community at large. And I say that because Pastor Allen and I were at community meetings in the past together. So he knew who the community leadership is. He knew me. He knew Laddie Williams. He knew Jataun Valentine. He knew all these people who, if he had just called and said First Baptist Church needs some help to maintain the Church, we would have rallied to help do that. He never asked. He didn't want to ask. He wanted to achieve his purpose which was to sell the church. Sell out the church and go build his kingdom somewhere else so that he could be the pastor that he really wanted to be here but could not be. That's my opinion.

The fact that the church was sold to someone who wants to adapt its use and make it part of his residence is sacrilegious. I mean, it just boggles my mind that someone could even conceive of that. I mean it's like... it boggles my mind. So if that is a way of compromising or thinking that, let us offer this bit right here and maybe that will satisfy this group of people that are protesting. Let me give up something that we think is a great idea. If we just make the church sanctuary our living room but we kept the church part of the structure, it doesn't really change the footprint if it's part of our residence. You miss the whole point of the spirituality. You miss the whole religious purpose. You miss the whole part of the people and the outcry as to why they want to save the church. You miss that. And I blame Pastor Allen for that, more so than the people who bought the church. I blame Pastor Allen.

MVI 9842- Dr. Naomi Nightingale - First Baptist Church

https://youtu.be/q4fg_CrNz9c

NN: [There are] questions in the court as to the relevance of his [Kenneth Holmes] participation. He didn't understand any of that. So he was just asked to sign and he signed it and I believe he got money for signing it and that was all. That was it. I mean, he did not have a clue. And that's what I meant when I said that Pastor Allen manipulated people in the church. You know they, except for [Hermann] Clay who seemed to be really involved with the books and knew what was going on with the church financially, were just believing whatever he [Allen] said.

MM: But does it feel like it's just an unfortunate truth or do you think there is a lawsuit?

NN: I think there should be a lawsuit. He signed. He did not have authority to sign and that is fraud.

MM: Who didn't have authority to sign?

NN: Holmes fraudulently signed as if he were a trustee of the church. And remember, in reading that, Pastor Allen got rid of those people that were chairpersons or heads of committees, that would have had the say so. He took that one lady, I can't remember her name, he took her off, took him off of the committee so that he would have no power. He did the same damn thing that the reverend did after Reverend Murray left first AME Church. Took away all of the the chairpersons and the leadership on all of the missionary committees and church committees, and put people in there that were his supporters. Just like Trump. And manipulated the situation so he could take money and not have anybody say anything about it. Until he got arrested and they finally brought a lawsuit against him. Unfortunately, a lot of the programs and services that Reverend Murray had brought to the Church - a business arm of the church where they helped the development of entrepreneurs, they had other programs and services there, they had government funding for low-income housing, housing for disabled and elder care - he borrowed money against all of that. I stopped going to church because I'm not sitting up here to listening to this man.

MM: Do you think Allen drove people away from this church before this actually happened, by his nature?

NN: I don't know that. But I have a call in to Leslie who I know worked at that church. She was the secretary. We went to school together. She'll talk to me. I don't know that though. I think when Mrs. Holmes got sick and stopped being directly involved in what was going on over there, I think that's when things started falling away. And that's when Pastor Allen stepped up to start taking control.

19. Interview, Sonya Reese Greenland-Davis, August 11, 2018.

8/11/18 interview with Sonya Reese Greenland-Davis by Jon Wolff

Jon Wolff: Please state your full name and spell your name.

Sonya Reese: Sonya Reese Greenland-Davis. S-O-N-Y-A. Reese R-E-E-S-E. Greenland G-R-E-E-N-L-A-N-D. And my book is under D-A-V-I-S Davis.

JW: You've signed the consent form. "Your interview and discussion will be recorded and/or notes will be taken of your responses and are intended to be used as testimony in the application of First Baptist Church of Venice to be designated a historical/cultural monument. Do you agree to the recording of the interview?"

SR: Yes I do.

JW: Are you or were you ever a member of the First Baptist Church?

SR: I was a member when I was a child.

JW: When did your membership begin and when did it end?

SR: It began at birth and it ended with the death of my grandmother.

JW: What events did you attend or participate in at the church?

SR: Well, we cleaned the church, we went to the service. I got scared at that because they would speak in tongues. And I was scared of the baptismal because the water was black and looked like a handmade hole in the back of the pulpit. But other than that, I liked all the wood of the church. It was beautiful. But the church that I knew is not the church that's standing there right now. It was the one that was across the street designed by Paul Williams. And my grandfather was the Building Chairman. I mean, Chairman of the Building Committee.

JW: Please talk about activities in which you were involved such as, attended weekly services, served on committees, were an officer of the church.

SR: Well, I was a baby. So, I would sit there with my little white gloves. And my grandmother had been a teacher, so she knew to bring a bunch of junk for my active mind. And I had a purse full of stuff that I fiddled with as I listened to the sermon. A lot of my activities were outside of the church. My grandmother was head of the Ladies' Committee. I don't know what you call that. We cleaned the house, we made the food. The ladies came over in the afternoon, we served tea in silver. And I would listen to the conversations. In those days, kids sat around very quietly for hours and hours and listened to adults, and that's what I did. Being an only child, I was really good at it. But in church, I fiddled with things and I listened to everything that was going on. Mostly music. And I loved the chorus. And then I would clean the church with grandfather and my cousins and that was fun. And I would try to read the books, which I couldn't read. But I was interested in reading. I think that got me interested in reading because the books looked really old and tattered and were very small print and everybody was always reading them. So I wanted to know what was in them.

JW: What is the significance of First Baptist Church of Venice to you?

SR: To me it was the center of all our social life. My grandfather was a lodge member. He was Secretary of the church. He helped establish the church. Of the articles here... now these articles, I notice, were 1954. But the first church of Venice... the first of the first church of Venice was on 6th and San Juan. And it was a tiny, tiny, little building. It wasn't a house. It was just a... maybe it was like a barn. And then they all got this money together and they built the church that I went to. And I have letters or newspaper articles where even my great-grandparents, my grandmother's parents, came from New Orleans and they contributed money in 1927. Abbot Kinney and his wife contributed money to building that church. And like I said, my grandfather was on the building committee. Of course, he was in construction. And then they decided to build the church across the street. I wasn't really involved in that. I went there several

times but it was a long drive on Sunday morning. I wasn't really involved with that church. But up until they built the new church, what I call the new church, the present church building, I was involved.

JW: Do you feel First Baptist Church of Venice should be a historical/cultural monument? And if so, why?

SR: I think it should be a cultural monument because the Black Community and the history of the Black Community is not in writing. And so, this is a monument and this is a center for our culture. It allowed us... it fostered our social relationships. It kept us positive. It gave us inspiration to overcome adversities. We could support each other. And it was kind of the jumping-off point for all our other organizations. Like, my grandfather was in the Masons and whatever, a lot of the same people. The Morning Star. My grandmother was Morning Star. And a lot of the same people. And the youth organizations that they contributed to. They all bounded off from that church.

JW: What memorable activities or events of the church made it especially meaningful for you and your family?

SR: Well, for me and my family... Well, it's very important to me because it's my history, it's my childhood. And I have a daughter who's like 50 and she hardly knows my childhood. And now I have a granddaughter who's 5 and I want that church there for her to visit and say, "This is where you came from." And this is where my father came from, her grandfather. And this was established by your great-grandfather. And it's part of who she is. These Constitution and Bylaws for the First Baptist Church... because my grandfather was the Secretary... these were from 1954. So, they're all I have. I did have a plaque from the church that they picked up and sold and moved it to Los Angeles. Some people think it was on Broadway, some people think it was on Central. We'll see. I'm going to look for it.

JW: Did you know Reverend E.L. Holmes? And what do you recall of him when he was pastor?

SR: I didn't know him. By the time I knew of him and I read about him in civil rights activities, he was older and his family said he wasn't going to meet with us. They didn't say why. Maybe he was ill or whatever.

JW: Did you know any of the pastors before Reverend Holmes? If so, what was your experience with the pastor of the church at that time?

SR: I don't remember a particular pastor. I mean, I don't remember their names. I remember a lot of pillars of the community that passed through our house and my grandfather's studio. And I don't remember their names. I was too young.

JW: Is there anything else that you think is important to be included in the application for the church to be designated a historical/cultural monument?

SR: Constitution and Bylaws of the First Baptist Church.

JW: When did you or your parents move to Venice, California?

SR: I was born there.

JW: Do you currently live in Venice?

SR: No. I work there. I manage four units and I live six miles down Venice Boulevard.

JW: Is there more information about the church's ties to the community?

SR: I don't know what more we could bring. The church fed the poor, fed the homeless, rented to the homeless, catered to the youth, developed the skills of singing and social interaction. And encouraged learning how to work in a group. And I found out that this was a big thing that the kids now are missing.

JW: The pastor was very active in the community. Was there a philosophy of community involvement?

SR: I'm sure there was. If the pastor is good, there's a philosophy. And usually, a charismatic pastor is very good at it. But I understand that, when I was distracted, a pastor came that I would not have sanctioned. And I'm sorry that I was not more involved.

JW: Did the church partake in any social justice issues?

SR: In my day, they did. They encouraged... and the pulpit was religious but the groups from that... most people had these social groups, cliques, tea in the afternoon. And that's when the politics would be disseminated. I even have a news article where it says, "The Black People of Venice Voted Together." Voted in a block. So, it initiated political action, social action.

JW: Do we have anything from the Reese obituary and memorial service?

SR: The Reese obituary. I have to look for that. I had one from my grandmother, Gertrude Reese, and one from my grandfather, Arthur Reese. I'm hoping I can find them.

JW: Was Tabor active in the church?

SR: He was Catholic, so he went to another church by the time I was in Venice. My grandfather saw that the Baptists weren't doing it for me. My mother was Methodist and I was going to a Methodist church but I wasn't really inspired by the music. So he came over on Sunday and he took me to Holmes' church and it was called Guidance Church. It was at the Wilshire Ebell and it was multi-denominational universal religion and that's where I got married.

20. Interview, Reverend Oscar Rhone, July 2018.

YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE HISTORIC BLACK CHURCH IN VENICE

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with the Reverend Oscar Rhone, of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, on the upcoming appeal to the L.A. Planning Commission to oppose the proposed change of the historic First Baptist Church in Venice into a mansion for a rich couple.

Jon Wolff: You've been a part of this fight from the beginning. I remember you speaking very early in this struggle.

Reverend Rhone: My reason for being a part of this is not just because I want to be a part of it but because I was brought up in that church. However, I have another goal: I want to see the right thing be done. We know who all the players are, and what he said and what she said. But I want to see the right thing be done. Pastor [Horace] Allen had his part, the Penskes have their part. I have my part. At the time that Pastor Allen came along, the church was going through a transition. They couldn't agree on who the pastor would be. The gentleman that Pastor Holmes had brought up and had in his tutelage wasn't received well. Now, he should have stayed. Because, any time you enter into a calling, you're going to have opposition. But this young man didn't stay. He was prepared to be the pastor and he stepped up into it. But he left. They tried to get him to come back but, ever since that point, they fought about who was going to be the next pastor. So, what did they do? They did what the children of Israel did; they went out and made one. They made the golden calf. Remember that? Moses was up getting the Ten Commandments and they weren't satisfied with Moses being away from them and they wanted a god. They came up with a golden calf. Pastor Allen is the golden calf they came up with. He had ulterior motives when he came to pastor the church. It wasn't about him pastoring. It was about him being powerful and pacified. Everything is about money. So they go out and they find this guy. They show him the plans, they show him the budget. And they show him the people. He realizes that this congregation is not going to give him the opportunity to work out the goal that he has in the back of his mind. He's one of those guys that wants to be up front. He wants to have the Cadillac, the rolls Royce, and all of the nice things that come along with being pastor. The nice suits, all those things that draw you away from God rather than draw you to God. I just want to see the right thing be done with the property.

JW: Do you suppose that the Penskes saw this vulnerability and took advantage of it?

RR: Well, it was said that the church had been for sale and nobody knew it was for sale. Nobody was privy to the information but Pastor Allen and the Penskes. However, I came to find out that pastor Allen had people that were working on his side in advance too, which was wrong. The way the church is set up, if you can get enough people to vote with you, being the pastor... If you have something that you want to do, and you can get enough members of the congregation to give you an "Amen" on it, you can go ahead with it. And this is what he did with the homeless people. He went and gathered people from anywhere and everywhere and brought them right there, made them comfortable, started feeding them. Then, at the same time as he was feeding them, he was also brainwashing them.

JW: In order to vote in his favor.

RR: Right. He found out that the congregation wasn't big but that the facility was a nice size and something could be done with that. But you have to grow a congregation. You can't just come and expect the congregation to be there. You have to get out into the community. This was something that he wasn't willing to do because that wasn't in his plans. He wanted a ready-made church where he could come in and start ordering things around and getting things his way and it just didn't work like that. When this Penske situation came about, it surprised everybody. Because it was done in a shady way. And I just didn't agree with it.

JW: You have a personal history in this church.

RR: Yes. I was ministering there when Pastor Allen was there off and on, because most of the community didn't even know who he was. A lot of times, there were funeral services and other services that people wanted. But Pastor Allen was so busy doing what he had planned, he didn't really want to communicate with the people. It just turned out to be a bad thing.

JW: The situation, as it is right now, has brought much of the community together from all different places in Venice. We look forward to being able to restore this church to the community itself. But we're fighting a billionaire couple who can afford lawyers and lobbyists. What do you suggest that we hope for?

RR: We're fighting the good fight of faith. We're showing up. If we can get more people to show up and have more of what we already have, if we can get more people to come and be a part of it...

JW: To be present at the Planning Commission hearing.

RR: And to really see what's going on. Most of what people know outside of the media is second hand. I just think that if they could get down there and be a part of it, they could see the serious side of it.

JW: They would see that this is more than just a property question. It has to do with the history and the spirituality of the community.

RR: Most of them know that. But it's the money.

JW: What would you say to the Penskes at this point?

RR: I would ask them to reconsider what they're doing, because of the spiritual nature of it. Of course, I know that they probably don't care, but I'd still ask them to reconsider what they're doing. And how many lives that they're affecting. Whether they realize it or not, it has affected a lot of people, young and old. What would be the drawback to the Penskes getting their money back?

JW: Well, they're billionaires. I don't think it could hurt them in any way. Whatever they do, they're not going to go hungry. And the value of this goes beyond just a piece of property. Anybody with a sound mind can see that. Now, I can't imagine them being able to carry through with a conversion into a single-family dwelling in this atmosphere. I can't imagine them continuing, with all of the outpouring of community support we've received. I have to assume that they're reconsidering somewhat because... how can they go forward? How can they possibly go forward in this world, in this community, the way it is right now?

RR: That's why we need to get more people involved. There's been growth but we need to get more. That's what I'm trying to do; get more people involved to show up at the [Planning Commission] meeting. I'm even willing to drive people there.

JW: We have hope for the future for this. We've fought hard for this and we're on the right side.

RR: That's why I'm here with you because I believe that what we're doing is right. And I really want to see the church restored to its original use. People will come and support it once the church is put back in its original use. I've already had people say, "Whatever you guys need us to do, as far as construction, we'll come and we'll donate the time and materials," and so forth and so on. So, there are people that are willing to get involved. They just have to get past the meeting. That's the core right there. If we can get them to the meeting...

JW: To convince the Planning Commission that this is a right and just cause.

RR: The way the community is, you have young and old. You have the old-school community, which I am. Then you have the new-school community, which are the ones you saw on Community Day. They care.

JW: They signed the petition.

RR: We can't read anybody's mind but we can say, because of their actions, that they care. If people show up at the meeting, that will show that they care.

JW: Much of this is in the hands of the people in the community and the supporters of the fight.

RR: It looks like a David and Goliath thing. The Penskes being the Goliaths. But David had that one little stone and he hit him in the right place and he fell. This is where we're at. We have to look at it in a spiritual sense 'cause it's a spiritual fight. You've got these attorneys and these well-schooled people. They're going to continue with their lives and go to the next project. But then you've got a whole community in Venice, of people that are going to be affected for the rest of their lives. I think that the Penskes thought that they were going to just go ahead and go about their business. But it's deeper than that. It's much deeper than that.

21. Public Testimony, Pastor Oscar Rhone, West Los Angeles Planning Commission, August 15, 2018.

MVI 9893 - Reverend Oscar Rhone comment at First Baptist Church hearing at WLAPC on 8.15.18

<https://youtu.be/CbMN025fTqo>

My grandmother Roberta Donneson (?), she was the mother at church for over 60 years. And when Pastor Holmes had the vision in his heart to build the edifice, which was {an extension} from across the street, her and others like her gave their deeds to their homes. Pastor was a visionary who was a steward. And when they finished building, he gave them all their deeds back. And my grandmother, she went to Brentwood to work for Ms. Gretchen (?) washing clothes; to wash her dishes; to wash Ms. Gretchen (?), just to be able to give to the Church. And where did she get the strength? She got it right there at 685 Westminster under tutelage of Pastor Holmes - a great man, whose legacy will always be in my heart.

22. Motion, City of Los Angeles to honor Bishop E.L. Holmes to designate the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Venice as “Bishop E.L. Holmes Square,” March 29, 2000.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=00-0589>

LACityClerk Connect	
Council File: 00-0589	
Title BISHOP E.L. HOLMES	
Subject Mo - Bishop E.L. Holmes served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice for forty-four years until his passing on 11-12-99. A fixture in the Oakwood community of Venice, Bishop Holmes bought and built his home on Brooks Ave in Oakwood so he could share the daily experience of his parishioners and minister first-hand. In addition to being the spiritual leader, Bishop Holmes was the guiding force in a fund-raising campaign to relocate the Church to its present site at 685 Westminster Ave. In 1966, under his leadership, the Church collected \$500,000 for a new edifice, consisting of a 600-seat sanctuary, seventeen classrooms, offices and a kitchen and community room. Within one year, the Church complex was completed and all debts were paid off within ten years. In 1989, Bishop Holmes led another capital improvement campaign for the Church, which was also completed within a year. A dedicated minister and pastor, Bishop Holmes was also a member of various local community organizations including the Venice Rotary Club, the Venice Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Club of Venice, the Board of Judges for Venice High School and the Police Expo of Los Angeles. Bishop Holmes leaves Beatrice Patterson Holmes, his wife of fifty-six years, a son, Wendell Holmes and wife Julie, two grandchildren, three great grandchildren, a brother, W.J. Holmes, a nephew, Raleigh Holmes, and the congregants of the First Baptist Church of Venice. THEREFORE MOVE that, in honor of the memory and achievements of Bishop E.L. Holmes, the City Engineer be instructed to initiate proceedings to designate the intersection of Westminster Ave & 7th Ave in Venice, and that the Dept of Transportation be instructed to erect a permanent ceremonial sign on white with blue lettering on the northwest corner which reads: Bishop E.L. Holmes Square.	
Date Received / Introduced 03/29/2000	
Last Changed Date 05/31/2000	
Council District 6	
Mover	Second

Entire City Council File for Dedication of E. L. Holmes Square:

<http://savevenice.me/site/wp-content/uploads/el-holmes-2.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

MAR 29 2000

MOTION

NEW

Bishop E.L. Holmes served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice for forty-four years until his passing on November 12, 1999. A fixture in the Oakwood community of Venice, Bishop Holmes bought and built his home on Brooks Avenue in Oakwood so he could share the daily experiences of his parishioners and minister first-hand.

In addition to being the spiritual leader, Bishop Holmes was the guiding force in a fund-raising campaign to relocate the Church to its present site at 685 Westminster Avenue. In 1966, under his leadership, the Church collected \$500,000 for a new edifice, consisting of a 600-seat sanctuary, seventeen classrooms, offices and a kitchen and community room. Within one year, the Church complex was completed and all debts were paid off within ten years. In 1989, Bishop Holmes led another capital improvement campaign for the Church, which was also completed within a year.

A dedicated minister and pastor, Bishop Holmes was also a member of various local community organizations including the Venice Rotary Club, the Venice Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Club of Venice, the Board of Judges for Venice High School and the Police Expo of Los Angeles.

Bishop Holmes leaves Beatrice Patterson Holmes, his wife of fifty-six years, a son, Wendall Holmes and wife Julie, two grandchildren, three great grandchildren, a brother, W.J. Holmes, a nephew, Raleigh Holmes, and the congregants of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

I THEREFORE MOVE that, in honor of the memory and achievements of Bishop E.L. Holmes, the City Engineer be instructed to initiate proceedings to designate the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Venice, and that the Department of Transportation be instructed to erect a permanent ceremonial sign in white with blue lettering on the northwest corner which reads: Bishop E.L. Holmes Square.

Presented by: Ruth Galanter
RUTH GALANTER

President Pro Tempore
Councilmember, Sixth District

Seconded by: Romy Brimmer

March 29, 2000

23. "First Baptist Church of Venice Celebrate Annual Women's Day," Los Angeles Sentinel, August 17, 1950

First Baptist Church Of Venice Celebrate Annual Women's Day
Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-2005); Aug 17, 1950; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel
pg. A7

First Baptist Church Of Venice Celebrate Annual Women's Day

The First Baptist Church of Venice, Calif., Rev. L. D. Revoul, pastor, celebrated its fifth annual Women's Day recently. Principal speakers for the occasion were Mesdames Ruby Medlock, worker among young people, and Marie Williams, hospital missionary, both of Los Angeles.

They spoke before the special afternoon mass meeting. Both addressed themselves to the theme: "Godly Women Doing Good," and each delivered a very challenging message which can not soon be forgotten. Indeed, it would have been most difficult to secure speakers who might more fully electrify and satisfy the mixed audience of sexes and races than did these able and consecrated women.

A splendid supporting paper was read by Mrs. Charles Mac Stewart. Music was made for the occasion by the Senior choir of the First AME Church of Santa Monica, directed by Mrs. Sherman Dale Jones, well known coloratura soprano, and

by Mrs. Helen Powell, soloist, of Kansas City, Kansas.

The successful Women's Day committee was headed by Mrs. Margaret Revoul, wife of the pastor, assisted by Mrs. Ola Kirby as co-chairman.

There were 40 captains for this drive of the women—working over a period of 60 days. Mrs. Marie Watts was mistress of ceremonies for the special program occasion. The welcome address was delivered by Mrs. Zelda Wilson. Mrs. Otto D. Abbott of the Venice Baptist church responded to same.

Monies raised by the 40 captains, added to the public offering for the afternoon occasion totaled \$770, with more expected to be reported. In finance raised, attendance registered, and in enthusiasm observed, this was the church's most successful and outstanding Women's Day. The church is located at 688 Westminster avenue, Venice. Mrs. Helen Battle, reporter.

24. "Arthur Reese, Pioneer Venice Citizen, Buried," *Los Angeles Sentinel*,
August 22, 1963, pg. A1.

Arthur Reese, Pioneer Venice Citizen, Buried
Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-2005); Aug 22, 1963; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel
pg. A1

Arthur Reese, Pioneer Venice Citizen, Buried

Services were held Tuesday at First Baptist Church, Venice for Arthur L. Reese, pioneer citizen of Venice, Calif. with Angelus Funeral Home officiating.

The seventy-nine year old native of White Castle, La. came to Venice in 1887.

Active in community affairs, Reese served on the Venice Board of Elections, and the Republican County Central Committee, 61st Assembly District.

Reese, an accomplished decorator, designed award-winning floats entered in the Mardi Gras Festival and the Tournament of Roses parade. He also decorated the Grand Ballroom on the Venice pier.

A member, a past Master and Shriner of Crescent Bay Masonic Lodge, Reese owned and managed the Venice Boat

(Continued on Page A-2)



ARTHUR L. REESE

... Venice pioneer dies

25. "Sunday Service: Venice Baptists Will Dedicate New Church," *Evening Outlook*, March 30, 1968, p. 6.

6-Sat., March 30, 1968

EVENING OUTLOOK

Sunday Service

Venice Baptists Will Dedicate New Church

The new church edifice of the First Baptist Church of Venice will be dedicated at a 3 p.m. service Sunday, with the pastor, the Rev. E. L. Holmes giving the dedicatory address.

Dr. C. H. Hampton, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of San Diego, will be the guest preacher at the service. Dr. Hampton is president of the Western Baptist State Convention of California, and vice president of the National Baptist Convention.

Music will be presented by the combined three choirs of the church.

The new church building, across the street from the old church, at 7th Street and Westminster Avenue, is of frame

and stucco with 13,000 square feet of space.

The church, built at a cost of approximately \$200,000, has a seating capacity of 400. Stone facing and fixed glass beautify the front of the building. The sanctuary has a high beamed ceiling, a choir loft and an organ. On the same level are 16 classrooms.

Downstairs are the offices, an assembly room for social events with a fully equipped kitchen, and a ladies' lounge. The hallway, as well as the foyer upstairs, has terrazzo flooring.

The church was organized by the late Rev. R. S. Kelsey in 1910. Pastor Holmes of East Texas, came to the church in 1955, and began a program of expansion. In 1957, five lots were purchased for the new church, and construction started in October 1965. Today, the congregation numbers more than 600.



New Venice Church Completed

Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor, stands in front of the new First Baptist Church of Venice, which will be dedicated Sunday at a 3 p.m. service. Stone and glass form the facade of the building. Classrooms are at left of structure which has a large downstairs area for offices and assembly room. (Evening Outlook Photo.)



New Venice Church Dedicated

Dr. C. H. Hampton (left, facing camera), pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of San Diego, and the Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice, lead the congregation from the old church across the street into the new church for dedication service Sunday. Nearly 700 persons attended the ceremonies in the \$200,000 church at 7th St. and Westminster Avenue, Venice. Dr. Hampton was guest preacher, and Mr. Holmes delivered the dedication address.

26. "Rites join Faye McFadden and Vermont McKinney in Marriage," Los Angeles Sentinel, July 20, 1972.

Photos: FBCV, ceremony conducted by Reverend E. L. Holmes. Ms. McFadden was an educational aide at Westminster Elementary School. Mr. McKinney was President of National Association of Black Social Workers Los Angeles.

Rites Join Faye McFadden, V. McKinney in Marriage

Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-2005); Jul 20, 1972; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel pg. C5



McKINNEY-McFADDEN WEDDING Faye McFadden and Vermont McKinney, who were recently married, are seen at the wedding ceremony. The bride is wearing a white dress and the groom is wearing a dark suit. The wedding was held at the Westminster Elementary School. The bride is Faye McFadden and the groom is Vermont McKinney. The wedding party includes the bride's mother, Mrs. Faye McFadden, the groom's mother, Mrs. Vermont McKinney, and other family members.

Faye McFadden and Vermont McKinney were recently married. The bride is wearing a white dress and the groom is wearing a dark suit. The wedding was held at the Westminster Elementary School. The bride is Faye McFadden and the groom is Vermont McKinney. The wedding party includes the bride's mother, Mrs. Faye McFadden, the groom's mother, Mrs. Vermont McKinney, and other family members.

Rites Join Faye McFadden, V. McKinney in Marriage

Faye McFadden and Vermont McKinney were recently married. The bride is wearing a white dress and the groom is wearing a dark suit. The wedding was held at the Westminster Elementary School. The bride is Faye McFadden and the groom is Vermont McKinney. The wedding party includes the bride's mother, Mrs. Faye McFadden, the groom's mother, Mrs. Vermont McKinney, and other family members.

The ceremony was attended by the bride's mother, Mrs. Faye McFadden, the groom's mother, Mrs. Vermont McKinney, and other family members. The bride is wearing a white dress and the groom is wearing a dark suit. The wedding was held at the Westminster Elementary School. The bride is Faye McFadden and the groom is Vermont McKinney. The wedding party includes the bride's mother, Mrs. Faye McFadden, the groom's mother, Mrs. Vermont McKinney, and other family members.

The bride is wearing a white dress and the groom is wearing a dark suit. The wedding was held at the Westminster Elementary School. The bride is Faye McFadden and the groom is Vermont McKinney. The wedding party includes the bride's mother, Mrs. Faye McFadden, the groom's mother, Mrs. Vermont McKinney, and other family members.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

27. "Zelda Wilson honored by YMCA: Woman of the Year," Los Angeles Sentinel, May 21, 1981.

Zelda Wilson Honored By YWCA

Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-2005); May 28, 1981; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Sentinel
pg. C3



WOMEN OF THE YEAR—Zelda Wilson of Venice proudly displays plaque received at the fourth annual YWCA Women Of The Year awards dinner. Also pictured are Judith Hicks Stahm, honoree and Susan Hall, YWCA Board of Directors. —SUNSET PHOTO SERVICE

Zelda Wilson Honored By YWCA

Recognized for her work in education, Zelda M. Wilson has concentrated her energies and talents in helping young people in the inner city.

A resident of Venice for 37

years, she is totally committed to her community both professionally and through her many volunteer activities.

She is currently working as a parent coordinator for the

Delta Sigma Theta Headstart State Preschool where she (Please turn to Page C-7)

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

28. "SurveyLA Venice Community Plan Area," Historic Districts and Multi-Property Resources, April 2, 2015.

<https://dokumen.tips/documents/historic-resources-survey-report-venice-community-plan-area.html>



Historic Resources Survey Report
Venice Community Plan Area



Prepared for:

City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning
Office of Historic Resources



Prepared by:

HISTORIC RESOURCES GROUP
Pasadena, CA

March 2015

Table of Contents

Project Overview	1
SurveyLA Methodology Summary	1
Project Team	3
Survey Area	3
Designated Resources	20
Community Plan Area Survey Methodology	22
Summary of Findings	24
Summary of Property Types	24
Summary of Contexts and Themes	26
For Further Reading	74
Appendices	
Appendix A: Individual Resources	
Appendix B: Non-Parcel Resources	
Appendix C: Historic Districts & Planning Districts	

29. Tabor Westminster Family Residences, City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument Application, July 2017.

http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2017/17-0914_rpt_CHC_08-11-2017.pdf

**DEPARTMENT OF
CITY PLANNING**
200 N. SPRING STREET, ROOM 532
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-4801

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

RICHARD BARRON
PRESIDENT

GAIL KENNARD
VICE PRESIDENT

PILAR BUELNA
BARRY A MILOFSKY
VACANT

ROCKY WILES
COMMISSION OFFICE MANAGER
(213) 978-1300

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
DIRECTOR
(213) 978-1271

KEVIN J. KELLER, AICP
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(213) 978-1272

LISA M. WEBBER, AICP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
(213) 978-1274

JAN ZATORSKI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
(213) 978-1273

<http://planning.lacity.org>

July 26, 2017

Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: PLUM Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

**IRVIN TABOR FAMILY RESIDENCES; 605-607 EAST WESTMINSTER AVENUE;
CASE NO.: CHC-2017-1745-HCM**

At its meeting of **July 20, 2017**, the Cultural Heritage Commission took the actions below to include the above-referenced property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council:

1. **Determined** that the proposed designation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. **Determined** that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to Section 22.171.7 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code;
3. **Recommended** that the City Council consider and designate the subject property a Historic-Cultural Monument; and
4. **Adopted** the staff report findings as the findings of the Commission.

Moved: Kennard
Seconded: Buelna
Ayes: Barron
Absent: Milofsky

Vote: 3-0

30. Temple Mishkon Tephilo, City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Monument Application, March 11, 2003.

<https://preservation.lacity.org/temple-mishkon-tephilo-hcm-767-venice>

J. MICHAEL CAREY
City Clerk

FRANK T. MARTINEZ
Executive Officer

When making inquiries
relative to this matter
refer to File No.

03-1890

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



JAMES K. HAHN
MAYOR

Office of the
CITY CLERK
Council and Public Services
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Council File Information - (213) 978-1043
General Information - (213) 978-1133
Fax: (213) 978-1040

MILEN GINSBURG
Chief, Council and Public Services Division

CD 11

PLACE IN FILES

NOV 14 2003 *gf*

DEPUTY

November 7, 2003

Councilmember Miscikowski
Department of Cultural Affairs
Cultural Affairs Commission
Cultural Heritage Commission

Temple Mishkon Tephilo
206 South Main Street
Venice, CA 90291

RE: THE PROPOSED INCLUSION OF THE TEMPLE MISHKON TEPHILO IN THE LIST OF HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS

At the meeting of the Council held NOVEMBER 7, 2003, the following action was taken:

Attached report adopted.....	_____ X _____
Mayor concurred	_____
To the Mayor FORTHWITH	_____
Findings adopted.....	_____
Ordinance adopted.....	_____
Ordinance number.....	_____
Effective date.....	_____
Publication date.....	_____

J. Michael Carey

City Clerk
vdw

litemo\031890

4

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

File No. 03-1890

Your **ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE**

reports as follows:

	Yes	No
Public Comments	<u>XX</u>	—

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the proposed inclusion of the Temple Mishkon Tephilo in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

Recommendation for Council action:

APPROVE the recommendation of the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) to include the Temple Mishkon Tephilo, located at 206 Main Street, in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Summary:

In its transmittal dated August 8, 2003, the CHC recommended that the Temple Mishkon Tephilo, located at 206 Main Street, be included in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments. The Temple Mishkon Tephilo was built in 1941 and exhibits Classical Revival style features. **It is the oldest Jewish synagogue in the City of Los Angeles' west side. Further, it is a physical reminder of the history of the Jewish faith on the City's Venice community.**

At its regular meeting held October 21, 2003, the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee discussed this matter with City staff and recommended that Council approve the CHC's recommendation to include the Temple Mishkon Tephilo in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTS, PARKS HEALTH AND AGING COMMITTEE

REPT.
ADOPTED

NOV 07 2003

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

MEMBER	VOTE
LABONGE	YES
PADELLA	ABSENT
LUDLOW	YES

AA
10/21/03
CD 11

Appreciation is extended to the following people for their contributions to the completion of the First Baptist Church of Venice, Application for Historic-Cultural Monument: Dr. Naoimi Nightingale, Amanda Seward, Gabriela Ruspini, Ivy Beach, Adolfo Alzuphar, Jon Wolff and Margaret Molloy.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE – HISTORIC & CONTEMPORARY PHOTOS
685 Westminster Avenue & 688 Westminister Avenue

5th & San Juan Ave, Venice, 1911

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

This church began as a congregation that met at the Second Baptist Church of Santa Monica, on the third Sunday of July in 1910, with the Rev. R. S. Kelsey as pastor. In February of 1911 the congregation purchased property at Fifth and San Juan in Venice, which had an existing building that had been used as a barn. The congregation cleaned and refurbished the building and it became the spiritual home of the area's growing black population. Among the first persons baptised that September were Dolores Burks, Hazel Serscy, Mr. L. Steele, Mr. M. Williams and A. I. Reese, following a joint revival meeting in which the Rev. Mr. Dickson of the Nazarene Church on Brooks Ave. participated.

The Rev. R. S. Kelsey died in December, 1911 and was succeeded by the Rev. A. Liveley in February, 1912. In that year the property on San Juan was paid for in full and incorporation papers for the church were filed with the State of California.

By 1923 the growing congregation needed a larger church and property was purchased at 688 Westminister Ave. Plans were made for construction of the building which began in 1927. Mrs. Abbott Kinsey, wife of the founder of Venice, donated the lumber for framing, the Harvey Brothers donated foundation materials, rock and sand and all donations were hauled by the Tebor Brothers Trucking. On June 10, 1928 the new church was dedicated, with the Rev. J. W. Jordan officiating.

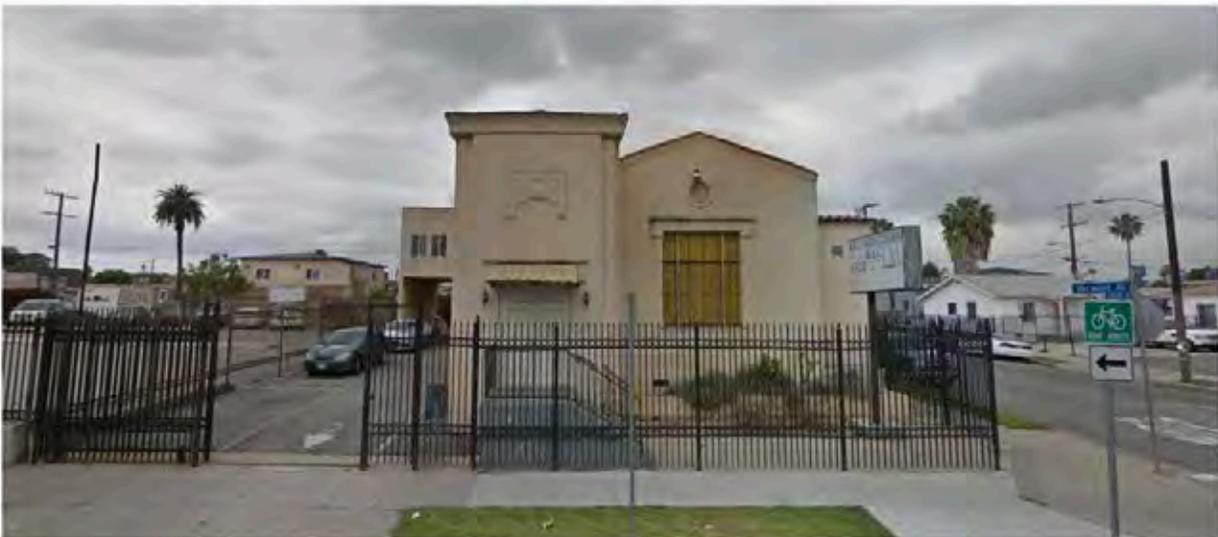
A succession of pastors served the ever larger congregation through the years to follow. A parsonage was purchased in 1940 and in 1955 the Rev. E. L. Holmes who is the present pastor, was called to serve. The lots across the street from the 1928 church were purchased and in October, 1966 construction of a larger church and educational building was begun at 685 Westminister. Dedication services were held in March, 1968. The 1928 building was given to a Los Angeles congregation, and the lot used for parking.

1911



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE at 688 Westminster Avenue, built in 1927.

Property donated by Arthur L. Reese. Architect Paul R. Williams.



THIS CHURCH WAS MOVED TO:

**New Congregation Missionary Baptist Church
11205 S Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90044**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE at 685 Westminster Avenue.
Built in 1966. Architect George R. Williams.**

6—Sat., March 30, 1968

EVENING OUTLOOK

Sunday Service

Venice Baptists Will Dedicate New Church

The new church edifice of the First Baptist Church of Venice will be dedicated at a 3 p.m. service Sunday, with the pastor, the Rev. E. L. Holmes giving the dedicatory address.

Dr. C. H. Hampton, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of San Diego, will be the guest preacher at the service. Dr. Hampton is president of the Western Baptist State Convention of California, and vice president of the National Baptist Convention.

Music will be presented by the combined three choirs of the church.

The new church building, across the street from the old church, at 7th Street and Westminster Avenue, is of frame

and stucco with 13,000 square feet of space.

The church, built at a cost of approximately \$200,000, has a seating capacity of 480. Stone facing and fixed glass beautify the front of the building. The sanctuary has a high beamed ceiling, a choir loft and an organ. On the same level are 16 classrooms.

Downstairs are the offices, an assembly room for social events with a fully equipped kitchen, and a ladies' lounge. The hallway, as well as the foyer upstairs, has terrazzo flooring.

The church was organized by the late Rev. R. S. Kelsey in 1910. Pastor Holmes of East Texas, came to the church in 1955, and began a program of expansion. In 1957, five lots were purchased for the new church, and construction started in October 1966. Today, the congregation numbers more than 600.



New Venice Church Completed

Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor, stands in front of the new First Baptist Church of Venice, which will be dedicated Sunday at a 3 p.m. service. Stone and glass form the facade of the building. Classrooms are at left of structure which has a large downstairs area for offices and assembly room. (Evening Outlook Photo.)



New Edifice

Erected and Entered

1968

75th Jubilee Anniversary Book for **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE:**

Diamond Jubilee Anniversary

1910-1985

First Baptist Church of Venice

685 Westminster Avenue

Venice, California 90291

Rev. E. L. Holmes, Pastor

October 28 — November 1, 1985



THEME: "BUILDING AND EXPANDING WITH FAITH AND VISION"

"Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." Isaiah 54:2

Pastor Holmes Speaks



Praise God for blessing me with this unique honor as pastor to celebrate this 75th Church Anniversary with you. Realizing the magnitude of this momentous event makes me cognizant of the fact that "Hither to hath the Lord helped us." I Sam. 7:12. Commendations of gratitude are expressed to all members who worked diligently in accomplishing this most outstanding feat of which, the Lord shall reward you for your unselfish deeds.

It is most befitting that special thanks are given to those Saints who received the vision and saw the need of forming an organized Christian body in this area. After being obedient to the revelation the Lord brought the vision into a living reality. Their sacrifices and labor have made us debtors. They left a legacy and lasting heritage of which we are eternally grateful.

Ancient Israel was commanded to blow a horn of jubilee. The sound of the horn meant freedom and renewal liberation and a new beginning. It meant discarding old debts and starting anew with fresh hopes, inspirations, and possibilities. Should not this time be spent during this 75th Anniversary Celebration assessing our situation. Hopefully, old bondages fears, and failures are in the past. "He whom the Son sets free is free indeed." John 8:36. "God has not

given us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and a sound mind." II Tim. 1:7. There is no failure in God; "All things are possible to him that believeth. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Mk. 9:23; Phil. 4:13.

"Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes." Isa. 54:2. The Lord spoke to me to "Build ME A HOUSE." He gave me the design of the church edifice that I had been commanded to erect. Theme: "Building and Expanding Through Faith and Vision" are words that have lingered in my heart for many years. Through faith in God, an order was heeded and in turn, a vision became a reality, and the edifice was erected.

For three-quarters of a century, God has showered His manifold blessings on the First Baptist Church of Venice. After seventy-five years, there are evidences that faith, hope, and love have been the motivating forces in the life, continuation, and success of this organization. It is the Divine Vision which perpetuates this Christian movement in the city of Venice

A commodious edifice was built to accommodate today's membership and various activities, also for those who shall turn and come to this site in the future. Not only has God blessed us materially but spiritually. A vast number of souls have come and left with their lives touched, changed, and established in righteousness. There was a new wave of preaching from the pulpit of the First Baptist Church of Venice with demonstrations following. According to Acts 2:4, the Lord has baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost with evidences of speaking with tongues and the gifts of the Spirit in operation.

There is no stopping. The greatest task lies ahead. No challenge is insurmountable, because the Lord has given each of His children "... the measure of faith." Romans 12:3b. Therefore the church is challenged during this celebration to begin stretching out, "Building up yourselves on your most holy faith" Jude 20. "Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Jn. 4:35. Souls are yet groping in darkness of sin waiting for a message of hope and peace. New horizons are in view for building and expanding our services and ministries from an enclosed facility to the streets, beaches, dens and dives, and throughout the city and world. As we look ahead, let us use the eyes of faith, march in the power of the Holy Ghost and finish the task.

God Bless You,

REV. E. L. HOLMES, *Pastor*

The City of Venice

The city of Venice was founded in 1906 by Abbot Kinny, who was one of the millionaire brothers of a tobacco company. It received its pattern after Venice, Italy. The residential streets were a system of canals upon which people traveled in boats and gondolas. The gondolas that were brought from Italy were propelled by real Italian singing gondoliers. Five hundred or more little villas dotted the banks of these canals. These waterways or canals were connected together by a lake or lagoon of three acres comprising the present area now occupied by the Venice, Post Office, gas station, and the circle of Venice.

Circling the outskirts of the canals was a miniature steam railway train, which took passengers through the residential section on a rail line that skirted the canal system.

At the head of the lagoon, the present Post Office site was the "Race Thru The Clouds," an amusement ride that fronted on a plaza now occupied by a Medical Building, adjacent to the Post Office. A musical band stand, Royal Hawaiian entertainers attracted the crowds as they poured off the Pacific Electric train from Los Angeles, bringing pleasure seekers from all over Southern California. Incidentally, in 1906, that was the only way one could travel to Venice except by horse and buggy.

A colonnaded Windward Avenue led to a pier reaching some 1500 feet over the Pacific Ocean. Near its end was a large auditorium with one of the largest stages and finest pipe organs of that day. Here educators, lecturers, and stage plays from all over the world were brought here for their educational value. The people attending these events were housed in Villa City on the canals.

At the entrance to the pier, opposite the present Owl Drugstore, was a large pavilion building housing a gorgeous Oriental Exposition. In the outside center of this building facing the drugstore was a huge band stand where the famous Ellery's Royal Italian Band entertained daily with afternoon and evening concerts.

Down on the lagoon where a Safeway once stood

was built a large salt water bathhouse. On the opposite side of the lagoon was a midway Plaisance, an amusement strip that extended to Washington Blvd. Carnival shows and a variety of attractions were located on this strip fronting on the broad waters of the lagoon.

Years have brought about many changes in the city of Venice. Many land marks yet remain in certain areas with vast changes and improvements for today's population.

The city is blessed with an excellent school system, comprising public and private schools: Four Pre-Schools, two Elementary Schools, One Junior High, and One High School.

Shopping centers are conveniently located for the good pleasure of all citizens, especially Seniors and those without transportation. Banks are situated in an easy accessible location. Health facilities, pharmacies and other services are provided for in the city of Venice.

The Rev. E. L. Holmes, First Baptist Church pastor, says things are getting better rather than worse in Oakwood.



Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Oakwood, thinks that things are getting better all the time -- not worse.

He said he has seen "vast differences" in the community during the past 20 years, most of which have been improvements.

Back in the old days, he said, there were no trash trucks in the alleys, no street sweepers, no street lighting.

"There's been quite an improvement in building structures," he said, pointing proudly to his church, which he says is now worth more than \$750,000.

Police-community relationships have also improved "somewhat" in the past few years, Holmes said.

When he first moved to Oakwood, there was very little police involvement, he said. Now, police presence is more obvious and beneficial, he said.

Despite the improvements in the community, Holmes said he was concerned about Oakwood's teen-agers.

"Educationally, the children look like a let-down," he said. "There seems to be a lack of caring and teaching of the children at home. The teachers don't have too much control."

However, Holmes said he has seen more youth involvement in the community in recent years, with more teen-agers holding down jobs and moving ahead with careers.

In some ways, Holmes said, the community is the same as it was 20 years ago, but better.

"I love living here," he said. "I have purchased land and built a home. I don't know of any other area in the metropolis I'd rather live. I appreciate it more now than when I first came," he said.



Venice, California
January 2, 1914

To the Officers and Members of the
First Baptist Church of Venice

Greetings:

I, your secretary, beg leave to submit to you my annual report for the year ending December 31, 1913.

Having been deeply interested and taking a peculiar pride in the performance of my duty as secretary of this church, I take pleasure in reviewing the work of this all important organization that has been accomplished since its birth to its present stage of development. Therefore, in assembling, compiling, and recording this mass of information concerning the events, acts, deeds and occurrences previous to and during my administration, I am unavoidably forced to assume the role of historian for this institution of which each one present is an integral part, and as such, equally interested in the historical features.

On December 31, 1911, I assumed the duties as Secretary of this Church. The only available record of the church turned over to me by my predecessor, was the minutes of a previous meeting.

Feeling as I do, some effort should be made to secure and preserve a record of the establishment of this church, its growth and development. To this end I have exerted every resource at my command to secure a reliable memorandum of its inception and the strides it has made towards perfection.

There is no church record in existence to show what actual date this work began which was so significant and essential to the residents and citizens of this bay region; but in my diligent inquiry among the members for the date and time, they all agree upon the date of the 3rd Sunday of July 1910.

Assembling in the city of Santa Monica were the following named persons who associated themselves together unfurling their religious banner to the world labeled as the 2nd Baptist Church of Santa Monica.

The following persons constitute the bay members of what is now known as the First Baptist Church of Venice:

Sister J.W. Coleman
" L. Burks
" Rainey
" Collier
" Heard
Brother C.E.A. Brunson
Rev. R.S. Kelsey - who was accepted as pastor.

The first noteworthy event of this church was its baptism in 1910 at the First Baptist Church of Santa Monica. The following persons accepting Christ in the pardoning of their sins:

Miss Beatrice Rainey
Miss Iverne Rainey
Miss Julia Rainey
Mrs. Minnie Franklin

In meeting March 10, 1920, at a business meeting of the church, a motion was made that the church be relocated in Santa Monica. Five voted no, and seven voted yes - the motion was carried.

In a business meeting of the church sometime in July 1920, a motion was made by Sister S.L. Nichols, seconded by Brother Nichols that the church rent quarters and hold all future services in Santa Monica. In the discussion that followed, many favored going to Santa Monica, but many argued that it was best to wait until we could build our new church in Santa Monica. The motion to immediately move to Santa Monica lost, a majority of those present voting against such a move.

A number of the Santa Monica members led by Sister and Brother Nichols asked for and were granted their letters of dismissal. These individuals then met and organized the Calvary Baptist Church of Santa Monica. Later that year we granted them the use of our pool for baptism purposes. So First Baptist Church of Venice can proudly claim the motherhood of the Calvary Church.

This division of a hand full of members left our church much handicapped in numbers only, but left us in custody of all of the church property.

Then we planned for our new building with the aid of assistance and encouragement from Mrs. Abbot Kenney, wife of the founder of Venice, and on Nov. 10, 1927 church ordered the trustees to proceed with the building of the new church on JAN 29, 1927.

The corner stone of the church was laid by Crescent Bay Lodge and all contributions, names and the amounts of the donations were sealed in the cornerstone of the church.

Here are a few epochal events in the history of the church:

- 1910 - Church organized 3rd Sunday in July.
- 1911 - Western Baptist Convention entertained.
- 1913 - Church incorporated for 50 years
- May 5, 1920 - Rev. H.E. Evans elected by 5 votes; loser got 3 votes
Salary was \$20.00 per month.
- March 1, 1927 - Arthur L. Reese, chairman of the trustee board, presented plans for church edifice and plans for financing construction. The entire plans were enthusiastically received and adopted.
- 1927 - Mrs. Abbot Kenney donated all lumber for framing church building.
- 1927 - Following this date, foundation materials, rock and sand was donated by the Harvey Brothers and delivered by the Tabor brothers.
- March 16, 1927, The D.E.B. DuBoise lectured at Municipal Auditorium, Ocean Park for benefit of building fund.
- Nov. 10, 1927 - Church voted to give the trustees the go ahead signal in starting building the new church.
- Feb. 28, 1928 - City Mission Society donated \$500 to the church.
- June 10, 1928 - Church dedicated.
- Aug. 1, 1928 - The Official Board was created.
- July 5, 1930 - Association Meeting
- 1930 - Friendship Bond Campaign Concert by St. Clair White Murdock
- Aug. 2, 1934 - George Garner Choruse of 258 voices.
- 1935 - Funeral of Mr. George Specht - March 12.
- 1940 - Bought Parsonage property

During the pastorate of Rev. G. Albert Miller, ministers of great stature were in services with us. Among some of them were:

The Second event attracting attention occurred on February 21, 1911, when the Pastor with his flock contracted to purchase the ground upon which this little sacred temple now stands.

The history of this building which is so precious to the hearts of every Christian present, and that of the building in which our Saviour was born, furnishes us with a remarkable coincidence in that this building sheltered many a steed pony or colt while they generously accepted the hospitality afforded them by the well filled manger as was so conspicuous of the place of the birth of Christ.

The labor spent by the pastor, Rev. R.S. Kelsey, and the faithful men and women of his flock cannot be enumerated here. For the true value of their services at that period in the church history cannot be estimated but by exemplifying a herculean spirit and manifesting a desire to eternally prosecute the work to a successful termination. We have in this crude building the results of toil, hardships and sacrifices of the hardy pioneers in the Master's Vineyard.

The third event of note was the convening of the Western Baptist Association from August 23, to August 27, 1911, which caused the church to become a nucleus for the Negro Baptist of Southern California.

When the pastor, Rev. Kelsey secured this convention, many members of the little church expressed considerable doubt as to the ability of a church of such infant proportions to handle such a herculean task. The convention came; every member was at their post, and as a result, the Western Baptist Association held one of the most successful sessions in the history of its existence.

The next event recorded in 1911, was a revival conducted in the month of September by the pastor, Rev. R.S. Kelsey, assisted by Rev. Dickson of the Nazarene Church - Venice. The following persons accepted Christ by baptism:

Sister Delores Burks
" Hazel Sercey
" M. Clisby
" Edna Heard
Brother L. Steele
Brother M. Williams
" A.L. Reese

Brother J.A. Reese was one of the converts, but on returning to New Orleans, was baptized there.

The next occasion was one of extreme sadness for both members and friends of First Baptist Church of Venice. For the first time in its history, death interrupted its long series of activities long enough to call our beloved pastor, Rev. R.S. Kelsey from labor to reward. Following notes of the event was clipped from our local paper.

The next event attracting attention was the selection of a pastor to succeed our deceased and beloved Rev. Kelsey. The responsibilities of the future destiny of this little church was unhesitatingly and unanimously placed in the keeping of our present pastor, Rev. A. Lively on February 24, 1912.

Following this event came the ordination of Brothers Brown, Brunson, Nichols, Liggins, J.A. and A.L. Reese as deacons, on April 14, 1921. The ordination sermon was preached by Rev. Wade.

Mathews, the Radio minister of the air; Josiah Hopkins from Goose Creek; Hollywood Radio Church; Sarah Hopkins appeared after Josiah (her husband) death; Dr. J. Raymond Henderson; Dr. D.H. Holmes of Kansas City, and Dr. A. Clayton Powell - Abyssinia Baptist Church - and many others.

This brings us down to a consideration what this little band of heroic followers bestowed upon the present generation as a heritage.

Financial report taken from the report of the Trustee Board
Dated December 14, 1949.

CHURCH INVENTORY:

REAL PROPERTY:

Church property, Replacement value based on following computation. Building	
44x82 3608 sq ft. @ 7.50 -----	\$27060.00
Church lot-----	2000.00
Adjoining lot	1500.00
Parsonage property (net)	3500.00
 Total value real property-----	\$33560.00

PERSONAL PROPERTY:

Auditorium inventory	1351.50
Paster's Study Inventory	23.00
Sunday School Room "	5507.00
Kitchen "	350.00
Ladies Parlor "	29.00
Parsonage Furnishings "	550.00
 Total value personal property-----	\$ 2811.00

Grand total of Real and personal property -----	\$34371.00
--	-----------------------

Next event occurring in July 1912 was the raising of money.

Next paramount occasion of events was the second master effort of the officers and members to raise money was July 13, 1912, of which a press notice was made in the local paper.

Following closely upon this event came the revival services conducted by Rev. A. Hubbs assisted by the pastor, which was so much responsible for the renewed christian vigor manifested in the church at that time.

The following persons were led to Christ:

Sister F.C. Reese
" L. Lyons
" E. Wilson
Brother E. Reese
" I. Tabor
" Peyton

Naturally the next script in the course of events was the second baptism of the church and the initial baptism of our present pastor, Rev. A. Lively.

The most recent effort at raising money culminated in Nov. 1913, at which time the sum of \$25.00 was raised.

The greatest event occurring in the history, one that will gladden the hearts of us all, so still in its embryotic state, is the fact that this property in which we convene tonight, is paid for in full and the deeds and title is in transit to the proper authorities.

The trustees, recently incorporated, have played a very important part in the transfer of the title of this property to its proper source.

Hoping that I have at least given you a few facts that have been forgotten, I close by wishing a brighter, and more successful church year in 1914 than that of the one preceeding.

Your honorable servant,

Secretary
1912-1913

Amund L. Reese
Church Clerk

**Roster of Ministers Serving as Pastor
of the First Baptist Church**

Minister	Time	Monthly Salary
Rev. R. S. Kelsey	July 1910 to December 31, 1911	\$ 20.00
Rev. A. Lively	January 1912 to December 31, 1915	22.00
Rev. H. M. Dickerson	March 1916 to January 27, 1917	22.00
Rev. R. H. Wade	May 1917 to September 11, 1918	20.00
Rev. R. A. Jackson	April 1919 to January 1, 1920	20.00
Rev. H. E. Evans	June 1920 to September 27, 1920	20.00
Rev. Hardiman	June 1921 to February 1, 1922	20.00
Rev. Elijah Payne	May 1922 to September 30, 1925	20.00
Rev. I. H. Wallace	December 1925 to December 29, 1926	20.00
Rev. J. W. Jordan	August 1927 to February 3, 1929	40.00
Rev. G. A. Miller	March 1929 to December 31, 1932	40.00
Rev. L. B. Moss	March 1933 to May 22, 1933	40.00
Rev. C. H. Duvall	June 1933 to October 31, 1939	40.00
Rev. Walter Watkins	December 1939 to January 21, 1941	50.00
Rev. Harley Duvall	March 1941 to February 28, 1945	50.00
Rev. L. D. Revoal	June 1945 to March 27, 1951	100.00
Rev. M. M. Jones	April 1951 to June 3, 1953	100.00
Rev. J. D. Brown	October 1953 to March 7, 1955	200.00
Rev. E. L. Holmes	September 1955	





FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH
OF VENICE
1912 — 1928

APRIL 23rd 1911
BY A. V. ...

COLORED BAPTIST CHURCH
OF VENICE, CALIF.
ORGANIZED JUNE 15th 1910

First Baptist Church Group---1911

Historical Highlights of the First Baptist Church of Venice

- 1925** — The church called the Rev. I. H. Wallace who served for one year.
- 1926** — Finances were raised to erect a new church building located at 688 Westminster Avenue.
- 1927** — Plans for erecting a church edifice were negotiated. The lumber for building was donated by Mrs. Abbot Kenny Foundation materials. Rock and sand were donated by the Harvey Brothers and delivered by Tabor.
- Building construction commenced.
 - Rev. J. W. Jordan was called in the month of August to serve as pastor.
- 1928** — The City Mission Society donated to the church \$500.00 to help fray building expenses.
- Church building was completed and dedicated to be used for worship. The church "CORNERSTONE WAS PLACED" in 1928.
- 1929** — Rev. G. A. Miller was elected as pastor and served the church for more than three years.
- 1930** — The First Baptist Church participated in the State Convention. Raised monies to fray home expenses.
- 1931** — Regular church activities were carried on.
- 1932** — Raised monies to pay on indebtedness of the church.
- 1933** — The church called a Rev. L. B. Moss to serve as pastor, but only remained with the church three months.
- Rev. C. H. Duvall accepted the pastorate and served for eleven months. He left in April 1934.
- 1934** — The church survived and continued to increase in numbers.
- 1935** — The Rev. G. A. Miller came and served a second term as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice.
- 1936** — Special financial efforts were put on to raise extra monies for regular expenses as well as considering buying other property.
- 1937** — The church made excellent progress under this pastor.
- 1938** — Painted and purchased furniture for church offices.



Historical Highlights of the First Baptist Church of Venice

- 1939** — In December of 1939, the church called Rev. Walter Watkins to serve as pastor.
- 1940** — The property located at 606 Westminster Avenue was purchased.
— Finances were raised to liquidate indebtedness of the church.
- 1941** — The First Baptist Church of Venice called the Rev. Harley Duvall to serve as pastor of the church.
- 1941** — The church represented in the Western Baptist State Convention.
- 1942** — Kept up financial obligations of the church.
- 1943** — The church had new members to unite with the fellowship.
- 1944** — Auxiliaries continued to function in various capacities of the church.
- 1945** — New members united with the fellowship.
— Rev. L. D. Revoal was elected to the pastorate of the church.
- 1946** — New working interest was manifested in the church.
- 1947** — Regular monthly contributions were made to a prison ministry.
— New furniture for the parsonage was purchased.
- 1948** — The parsonage was brought up to living standards.
— Ordained deacons.
Purchased pulpit furnishings.
- 1949** — A large clock was purchased and placed in the sanctuary.
- 1950** — A retainer wall was built on the vacant lot next to the church — 688 Westminster Avenue
— Bro. C. E. A. Brunson died.
- 1951** — The church adopted the NEW DISCOVERY HITCHCOCK DIRECTORS as a guide for church business.
— In April of 1961, the Rev. M. M. Jones was elected pastor.
- 1952** — The church repaired the roofing on the church edifice.
- 1953** — Rev. J. D. Brown was elected pastor of the First Church of Venice.
- 1954** — Began raising finances to purchase an organ.



Church Building

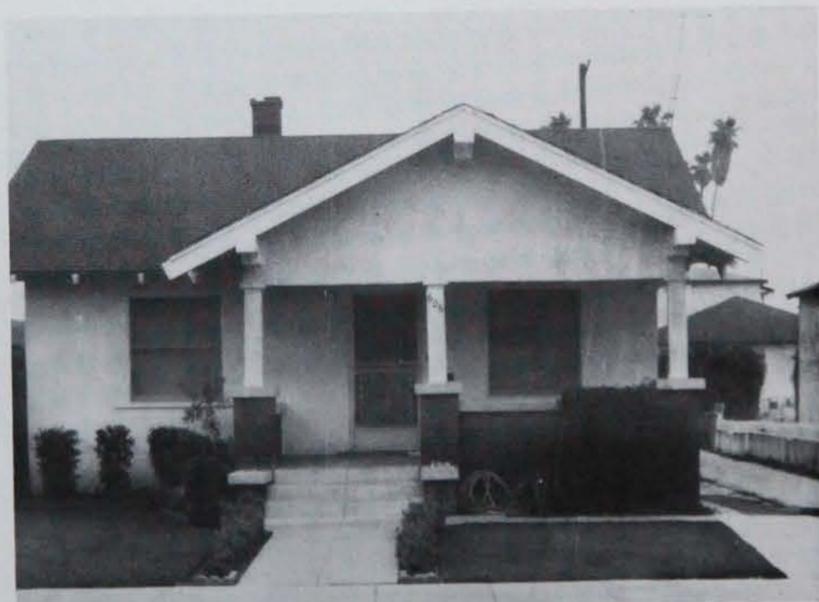
688 Westminster Avenue

Built - 1928



7th Street side — East

Entrance — North and West



Parsonage

Purchased property 1940
606 Westminster Avenue

Historical Highlights of the First Baptist Church of Venice

- 1955** — Hammond organ was purchased for the church.
— In September, 1955, the church called the Rev. E. L. Holmes to serve as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice.
- 1956** — The church paid off all indebtedness of the church, such as, organ, parsonage, and furniture.
- 1957** — The church purchased the five lots located at 685 Westminster Avenue for the sum of (\$20,000.00) twenty thousand dollars.
— Purchased a piano.
— The church experienced a mighty move of the Holy Spirit in the service and lives of the people.
- 1958** — A water system was installed on the church property. New drapery was purchased and installed in the parsonage.
- 1959** — New choir robes were purchased. (mustard) Ordained Two Ministers. Rev. W. E. Forte & Rev. E. W. Wright.
— The church built a garage and made a patio at the parsonage site. Demolished three small units at 606 Westminster Avenue.
- 1960** — Placed new flooring in the sanctuary of the church and installed new seats. Dining tables, chairs, adding machine, Public Address system, Bibles were purchased for the church.
— The church bought new usher uniforms.
— New wall to wall carpeting was installed in the parsonage.
— The First Baptist Church of Venice **corporation was made PERPETUAL.**
- 1961** — The church installed a new heating system.
— Church membership increased with young people.
— The E. L. Holmes Choir for young people was organized.
- 1962** — The exterior of the parsonage was stuccoed.
— Office furniture was purchased and installed at the church.
— Made purchases of power mower, edger and hand truck.
- 1963** — The exterior of the church building was sand blasted and painted. New roof was placed where it was needed. The interior of the church was redecorated. Built office shelves.
— At the parsonage, screened windows were placed, purchased two pieces of furniture, tiled the wall of the bathroom, and renovated the service porch.
- 1964** — The church was in the midst of a great spiritual revival.
— Items named and work began in 1963 were completed and paid for.





Installation 1956, Pastor & Mrs. E. L. Holmes



Congregation 1956 Installation Service

1972	—
1971	—
1970	—
1969	— E
1968	— T
1967	— A
1966	— T
1965	— E
	— L
	— P
	— T
	— I
	— F
	— H
	— a
	— o
	— F
	— C
	— P
	— /

Hi

Historical Highlights of the First Baptist Church of Venice

- 1965** — Entertained the Central District Association.
— Lighting fixtures, washer and dryer were purchased for the parsonage.
— Plans were drawn up and a design for a new church plant were made and city approved of the same.
- 1966** — The Ground-Breaking Ceremonies for the construction of a new church plant were held on the vacant lots — 685 Westminste Avenue.
— In the month of October, the construction of a new church plant began.
- 1967** — All efforts were given in seeing that the work of the church building progressed.
— Finances were rased to fray regular and building expenses.
— Daily prayer meetings were held for the needs to be met and for the success of the construction of this new church plant.
- 1968** — The new church structure of the First Baptist Church of Venice was completed in the amount of about (\$250,000.00) two hundred fifty thousand dollars.
— Held the entering services Sunday, March 30, 1968, at 3 p.m.
— Purchased new choir robes. (black)
- 1969** — Entertained the State Youth Convocation of the Western Baptist State Convention.
— Gave the old church building to a congregation and Pastor Jones in Los Angeles. The First Baptist Church had no expenses for the moving.
— Grounds were cleared and leveled at 688 Westminster Avenue.
— Parking areas were made and walls were built around the parking areas for the approximate amount of \$1,100.00.
— Purchased shrubbery and planted in the atrium of the church and around the church building.
— A new watering system was installed for the keeping of lawns.
- 1970** — The working groups were reorganized. New groups were formed such as, the Altar Guild and the Nurses Guild.
- 1971** — The church was in constant revival. Ministers accepted and responded to their calls.
— Finances were raised to pay off church indebtedness.
- 1972** — Took active role in the District, State, & National work of our convention.





Ground-Breaking Ceremony

In March, 1966, Pastor E. L. Holmes and the First Baptist Church of Venice Congregation assembled on a five-lot plot located across the the street at 685 Westminster Avenue and held a **GROUND-BREAKING SERVICE**.

The scripture was read by the pastor taken from Isaiah the fifty-fourth chapter and the second verse:

“Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.”

The congregation joined in singing: “What A Fellowship.” A prayer of dedication was voiced by Pastor Holmes. The actual procedure of breaking ground took place pushing the shovel into the earth in the center of the lots.



Ground-Breaking 1966

Pastor E. L. Holmes Center—holding Bible and shovel.

Standing to the right: Brother Ozalene Collins, Rev. Willie J. Miller, Deacon Isaac Jones, Brother Floyd Hood, and Rev. Glenn W. McCleary.

Standing to the rear: Deacon Lorain McCleary, Sr., Brother Columbus Clay, & Trustee Ezell Sanders.

Standing to the left: Usher J. E. Smith, Deacon Robert Bursey, Trustee Jobie Collins, and Deacon Simon Hawkins.

Location: 685 Westminster Avenue
Five lot area on which a new church
plant is to be constructed.

Sunday Service

Venice Baptists Will Dedicate New Church

The new church edifice of the First Baptist Church of Venice will be dedicated at a 3 p.m. service Sunday, with the pastor, the Rev. E. L. Holmes giving the dedicatory address.

Dr. C. H. Hampton, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of San Diego, will be the guest preacher at the service. Dr. Hampton is president of the Western Baptist State Convention of California, and vice president of the National Baptist Convention.

Music will be presented by the combined three choirs of the church.

The new church building, across the street from the old church, at 7th Street and Westminster Avenue, is of frame

and stucco with 13,000 square feet of space.

The church, built at a cost of approximately \$200,000, has a seating capacity of 480. Stone facing and fixed glass beautify the front of the building. The sanctuary has a high beamed ceiling, a choir loft and an organ. On the same level are 16 classrooms.

Downstairs are the offices, an assembly room for social events with a fully equipped kitchen, and a ladies' lounge. The hallway, as well as the foyer upstairs, has terrazzo flooring.

The church was organized by the late Rev. R. S. Kelsey in 1910. Pastor Holmes of East Texas, came to the church in 1955, and began a program of expansion. In 1957, five lots were purchased for the new church, and construction started in October 1966. Today, the congregation numbers more than 600.



New Venice Church Completed

Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor, stands in front of the new First Baptist Church of Venice, which will be dedicated Sunday at a 3 p.m. service. Stone and glass form the facade of the building. Classrooms are at left of structure which has a large downstairs area for offices and assembly room. (Evening Outlook Photo.)



New Venice Church Dedicated

Dr. C. H. Hampton (left, facing camera), pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of San Diego, and the Rev. E. L. Holmes, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Venice, lead the congregation from the old church across the street into the new church for dedication service Sunday. Nearly 700 persons attended the ceremonies in the \$200,000 church at 7th St. and Westminster Avenue, Venice. Dr. Hampton was guest preacher, and Mr. Holmes delivered the dedication address.



New Edifice

Erected and Entered

1968

Dedicatorial Service

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

685 Westminster Avenue
Venice, CA 90291

REV. E. L. HOLMES, Pastor

Sunday—March 31, 1968—3 p.m.



SOME PERSONS WHO APPEARED ON PROGRAM

- Expressions.....Mrs. Blanche Carter
2nd Vice Pres. Women's Auxiliary National
Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
- ExpressionsRepresentative Baptist Ministers
Conference of Los Angeles
- ScriptureDr. E. W. Beasley, Tiedstone
Baptist Church — Los Angeles
- Introduction of SpeakerPastor E. L. Holmes
- MessageDr. C. H. Hampton, Bethel Church
San Diego, CA. President of the Western
Baptist State Convention Vice President
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.

Historical Highlights of the First Baptist Church of Venice

- 1973** — The church parsonage was vacated by Pastor & Mrs. Holmes.
— The parsonage was rented by the church for a monthly fee.
- 1974** — Raised finances to cover running expenses and a thirteen hundred dollar note on the church. (mo.)
— Entertained the Mid-Winter Session of the Western Baptist State Convention.
- 1975** — Cement drives were laid.
— Supported Foreign Missions.
- 1976** — Purchased office furniture.
— Monies were raised to liquidate church debt.
- 1977** — Made final plans to liquidate all monthly payments for constructing the new church edifice. (1966-1967)
— Necessary papers were brought forward and presented to the church membership.
- 1978** — On the first Sunday — April 2, 1978, a special service was held to burn the mortgage of the First Baptist Church of Venice at 3 p.m. o'clock.
— A ceremony was held for the "LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE" which is located against the west front wall of the church building.
- 1979** — There was a new Public Address System installed in the church.
— Choir robes were purchased. (cream)
- 1980** — Seven thousand dollars worth of cushions were made and placed on each pew.
— Two thousand dollar heating unit was installed.
— Wall to wall carpeting was installed in the multi-purpose room in excess of fourteen hundred dollars.
- 1981** — The Century Security System (alarm) was installed.
— Termite inspection (annually)
- 1982** — Kidney-shaped tables were purchased and placed in seventeen classrooms upstairs and small chairs for beginners for the amount of \$1,499.00. Bought a piano and fire extinguishers.
- 1983** — Replaced one of the heating units.
- 19884** — Valuation of property in 1984 — \$750,000.00.
— The membership increased with men, women and children.
- 1985** — Installed air-conditioning unit. Ordained two ministers, Rev. G. W. McCleary and Rev. K. Williams. The future plans of the church are to continue to minister in the fullness of the gospel and be doers of the word.

Mortgage Burning Service

Sunday — April 2, 1978

First Baptist Church of Venice

685 Westminster Avenue Venice, CA 90291

Rev. E. L. Holmes, Pastor



Pastor E. L. Holmes burning mortgage while other guests observe.

Cornerstone Laying



For the New Edifice
Sunday, April 2, 1978

Brief Summary of

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

The First Baptist Church of Venice was organized July 17, 1910, on a Third Sunday. There were seven persons involved in its beginning: Sister J. W. Coleman, Sister L. Burks, Sister Rainey, Sister Collier, Sister Heard, Brother C.E.A. Brunson, and the Reverend R. S. Kelsey who was chosen as pastor.

From this body, The First Baptist Church of Venice, has come several new church bodies.

The church has survived and functioned under the leadership of nineteen different ministers serving as pastor. The period of each administration was rather brief; three months was the shortest time. The longest period serving as pastor is our present leader, Reverend E. L. Holmes who has just concluded his thirtieth year. (1955-)

The First Baptist Church of Venice has several working groups and auxiliaries.

Sunday School

The teaching department of the church comes mainly in the Sunday School, which is composed of all ages, saved as well as the unsaved. Classes are provided for suitable age groups. At this time the Sunday School has sixteen classes. The first superintendent, as far as a record shows was one of the charter members: Brother C. E. A. Brunson. Bro. J. E. Smith is the superintendent today.

Objectives: To teach the Holy Scriptures; To lead the lost souls to that place of making a decision for Christ; To build Christian fellowship; And to create a desire to witness for Christ outside of the walls of the church building.

Results: A workable knowledge of the Bible has been attained; A true bond of love exists among the members; New students are added to the Sunday School as a direct result of making personal contacts; Revival of Bible study is existing in the homes.

Training Union

The training department of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Objectives: To train the church members in Christian stewardship; Train persons to be able to perform specific duties, such as administrative positions, secretarial work, committee work, etc. It provides an opportunity to learn while doing; To train how to use the Bible as a teaching tool; and to build Christian fellowship.

Results: There are visible evidences of growth in Christian stewardship; Persons are able to do a better job with a task; Several decisions for Christ have been made in the Training Union; There is a strong fellowship among the members.

Missionary Society

The Women's Missionary Society is composed of all the women in the church family. It is divided into circles.

Objectives: To become aware of the need for missions; To provide an opportunity for women to study systematically the Bible in the light of mission; To allow time for Christian witnessing; And to develop talent and build fellowship.

Results: Women have become enlightened in missionary activities; A skillful knowledge of the Bible and Christian literature is manifested; Useful methods for soul-winning are being used; Many souls have accepted Christ as Lord and filled with the Holy Ghost; There is a fellowship of concern abiding among the ladies.

Brotherhood

The Brotherhood is composed of the men of the church. It assembles at the church for meetings.

Objectives: (The same as they are for the Missionary Society for women, other than, they are ministering to men.)

Results: (Same as above)

Deacon and Trustees

Deacons and Trustees are worthy, honest, men of wisdom, full of the Spirit of God. This group of men are concerned about the spiritual and financial sides of the church.

Objectives: To always pray and prepare spiritually for each worship; To take care of any of the property that belongs to the First Baptist Church of Venice; To assume responsibilities of all financial dealings for the church.

Results: The above goals are constantly reached; The groups are always aware of the needs and necessities of the church and the pastor.

Usher Board

The Usher Board is a service group that performs in all assembled worship services. It is composed of men, women and youth.

Objectives: Create a worshipful attitude in the services; Meet and welcome all who attend the services; Take care of emergencies that may occur; To always be ready to fulfill any task that is assigned by the pastor or chief.

Results: Each goal is reached in each service; Cooperation is the key to our success as a board; A strong fellowship exists among the members.

Mothers of the Church

The Mothers of the church is a group of women to minister to the needs of each others; Be helpful and examples to the young mothers and girls in the church; Constantly witnessing to the lost, slowful, and discouraged; Hold the pastor up in prayer.

Results: The mothers are faithful in fulfilling their role in the church; Souls have been saved and filled with the Holy Spirit; Young women and men have come back into the fellowship.

Nurses Guild

The Nurses Guild was organized to minister to the physical needs of the congregation.

Objectives: To offer assistance to anyone in the services who has a physical problem; Check on the shut-in members; Visit those members who are in the hospital or convalescent home; Report to the pastor any findings that might require his attention; Pray for the healing of the body and spirit.

Results: Assistance is always available to the congregation during the services; There is a manifested interest of ministering to the needs; Frequent visitations have been made; Helpful literature is made available to the congregation; Impartation of information as it may apply to particular conditions.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a working service group. It is composed of men, women, and youth.

Objectives: To keep the altar area clean; To arrange flowers for regular worship assemblies, the Ordinances: Lord's Supper, Baptismal Services, funerals, and weddings; Give special recognition to new babies born in the church family; Give recognition to Our Pastor on his birthday and Anniversary Services.

Results: The above objectives are being met from time to time, or as the need arises.

Deaconess Board

The Deaconess Board is a service group. It is composed of worthy godly women, and Deacons wives.

Objectives: To prepare the table for communion; Make sure the clothes are always ready for use. Wash glasses, etc.

Results: Each objective is reached each month.

Local Ministers

The ministerial group is composed of the ministers who hold membership in the First Baptist Church fellowship.

Objectives: To function in the ministry of helps; Any task that the Pastor or church may request or assign, it is a privilege to perform the duty; To be an example to the rest of the membership in word and deed; To proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ by preaching the gospel of salvation.

Results: The above objectives are ever in action; Faithfulness is always visible; A dedicated consecrated life is known among the people; The gospel of Christ is proclaimed.

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir is the Adult Choir. It is composed of women and men.

Objectives: To sing during regular and special services. To build fellowship through inspirational songs.

Results: The above objectives are constantly being met.

E. L. Holmes Choir

The E. L. Holmes Choir is the choir for the young people. Each member must be a baptized believer in Christ and a member of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Objectives: The same as the objectives of the Senior Choir.

Results: The objectives are being reached.

Prayer Groups

There are Prayer Meetings held Tuesday, Wednesday Night, and Friday Noon.

Objectives: To make petitions, supplications, praise and thanksgiving to God; To intercede for others conditions that may affect individuals etc. Prayers are made as a form of worship. Wait with others to receive the Holy Ghost.

Results: Each above objective is being met.

* * *

During this time of giving special thoughts and recognition to God for enabling the First Baptist Church of Venice to remain a beacon light in this community, we humbly thank God for the way that he has directed the Church-Under-Shepherd.

May we always realize that the task of the church is ever before us, and will remain until we see the Lord coming in the air.





Ordinance of Baptism



Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

Pastor Holmes is speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit "the word of knowledge."

The congregation is tuned in to the moving of the Spirit.

An invitation is made for those who have needs to form a line for prayer.



The congregation stands in a worshipful manner with uplifted hands toward heaven.



Praising God in the beauty of holiness.

Those who desired prayer formed a line believing that their needs would be met.

"... they shall lay hands
on the sick and they
shall recover."

St. Mk. 16:18



"Then were there brought unto
him little children that he should
put his hands on them, and
pray . . ."

St. Matt. 19:13

Ministering to children is a vital
part of the worship in the
First Baptist Church of
Venice.

In Remembrance Of Those That Have Paid Their Debt

Those faithful members who have passed on to that great beyond.

How they served even in the face of adverse situations and circumstances.

Their accomplishments will always be cherished by the ones who are left.

Each pillow of blessing they left shall always be a lasting monument.

May they rest in the arms of Jesus, until that great judgment day when we all shall gather around the white throne.

Therefore, on this 75th-Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE, we thank God for Jesus, for the opportunity of laboring together in love.

The vision that was received seventy-five years ago is still anew. We will not fail them. The battle is not won.

Each memory is in respect of their contributions.

Thank God! “. . . **there** shall be no more DEATH,
there shall be no more SORROW,
there shall be no more CRYING,
there shall be no more PAIN . . .”

Revelation 21:3b

We shall sing: “Thou art worthy, O Lord,
to receive glory and honour
and power: for thou hast
created all things, and for
thy pleasure they are and
were created.” Rev. 4:11.

The Pastor,
Rev. E. L. Holmes

In Loving Memory Of
Mother

Gertrude Clay



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
Son—Columbus Clay &
Family

In Loving Memory
Of
My Late Husband

Charles Brown

Member: Trustee Board

Wishing God's Richest Blessings
For the
75th Church Anniversary

*"There's a reaper whose name is death;
And with his sickle keen; He reaps whom
he will at breath, He comes but cannot be
seen."*

Wife, Sis. I. Brown

In Memory Of

Brother Nathaniel Thomas

Member: Brotherhood and
Trustee Board

"Rest in Peace"

FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY

Remembering

Mother Fannie Evans

During

"DIAMOND JUBILEE"

"A Quiet Spirit"

FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY

In Memory Of

Sister Lola Wyatt

Member: Missionary Circle

"HOSPITABLE"

The First Baptist Church

In Memory Of

Brother Johnny Carson

in

Sunday School

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*In Loving Memory Of Our
Mother and Our Grandmother
On this 75th Anniversary*

Mother Annie A. Hunter

Member of the Mothers' Board

Daughter: Clara McCleary

Grandchildren: Billy R.

Lorain, James, Stanley

Glenn, Paul, & Mary

AT REST, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



*In Loving Memory Of
Our Mother*

Mrs. Ardella Turner

Senior Choir Member

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Daughter — Everlena Funtila

Son—Charles

Remembering

Sister Lilla Miller

Member: Mission Society

Senior Choir

Sunday School

First Baptist Church Family

In Loving, Lasting

*Memory
Of
Mother*

Mrs. Anna Hamm

You Are Missed

Son—Hadley Hamm & Family

In Memory Of

Sister Beatrice Gilmore

Worked In

Altar Guild, Sunday School,

Deborah Circle Chairperson,

Choir, & Mothers.

"WELL DONE"

Co-Workers

IN MEMORY OF ALL MY
LOVED ONES
on This

"75th Church Anniversary"

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. Otis Cain, Uncle
Mrs. Era Murray, Aunt
Mrs. Clara & Bethoania Murray, Cousins
May God Forever Bless Their Memory
SISTER IDA BROWN

Remembering

Sister Harpie Carson

on This

"Diamond Jubilee"

of the

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF VENICE
Church Family**

LEST WE FORGET

Sister Minnie Thompson

on this

SEVENTY - FIFTH
Celebration

FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY

**In Memory Of
Charter Members**

Sis. J. W. Coleman
Sis. L. Burks
Sis. Rainey
Sis. Collier
Sis. Heard
Brother C.E.A. Brunson
Rev. R. S. Kelsey, Pastor



In
Loving Lasting Memory

Of

Mattie Mahalia Smith

Lovingly Known As
"Mother Smith"

on this

"75th Church Anniversary"

Member: Mother's Board
Daughter: Rosa Brown & Family

"GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN"

In Memory Of
Our Devoted Husband & Father

Robert Eartis Jackson

"75th Church Anniversary"

Member: Trustee Board

"Licensed Pilot—1971

Commerical Pilot — 1976"

Wife—Mary Lois
Sons—Joe T., Maurice &
Andrew
Daughters—Margaret, Robin Gail,
Jo Ann, Helen Maria, &
Brenda Lee

WE MISS YOU!

Scott Porter

In Loving Memory Of
Our Dear Husband & Father

on this

"75th Anniversary"
Member: Choir & Sunday School

"UNDERSTANDING"

Wife—Jessie
Children
Albertha, Scott Jr., & Clifford

In Remembrance Of

Sister Carrie Strickland

"75th Church Anniversary"

Priscilla Circle

In Loving Memory Of
Husband & Father

Rev. Paul Donaldson

as we

Celebrate 75th Church Anniversary
Sunday School & Brotherhood

**"I LOVE THE LORD, HE HEARD
MY CRY, AND PITIED
EVERY GROAN!"**

Wife—Roberta
Children
Charles—Danny—Delois—Barbara
Betty
Step-Children

In Memory Of

A

Faithful Member

Brother George Powell

"Diamond Jubilee"

The First Baptist Church

In Remembrance
Of

Brother John Chalk

"75th Celebration"

THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY

Remembering
On This Celebration

Sister Carrie Carson

First Baptist Church

In Memory Of
A Member

Brother Earnest Dabbs

"75th Celebration"

The First Baptist Church

In Memory Of
Our Loving Husband & Father

Robert Wilson, Sr.

Wife—Lucy
Children—Robert Jr., Joyce,
and Gary

In Memory
Of My Dear Son

John Edward Moore

Sang in the Junior Chorus

I MISS YOU!

Mother—Helen McCain

In Loving Memory Of
My Beloved Husband

Richard Jones

*On Our Diamond Jubilee Church
Anniversary*

Member of the Trustee Board
Wife—Bennie Mae

In Memory Of
A Couple that Loved God

Deacon & Sis Isaac Jones

The First Baptist Family

In Memory Of

Sister Frances Jackson

A Choir Member

The First Baptist Family

In Remembrance Of

Sister Willie B. Johnson

Circle Leader—Dorcus

The First Baptist Family

In Lasting Memory
Of

Sister Ethel Tabor

Leader of Magdeline Circle

THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY

Remembering One Of
Our Deacons

Bro. Robert Bursey, Sr.

President of the Choir

The First Baptist Family

Remembering

Mother Luberta Robinson

on this

75th Church Anniversary
Member: Mothers' Board

"SPECIAL FRIEND"
Sis. C. McCleary & Family

In Memory Of
A Couple

John & Vivian Credille

"Church Bulletins"

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FAMILY

In Fond Memory

Sister Gussenga Filgo

Member: Esther Circle

"Tender Heart"

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FAMILY

In Loving Memory
Of

Uncle & Aunt
Vivian & Maggie McCleary

On This

"DIAMOND JUBILEE"
Nephew: Rev. G. McCleary
& Family



In Loving Memory Of
Wonderful Christian Parents

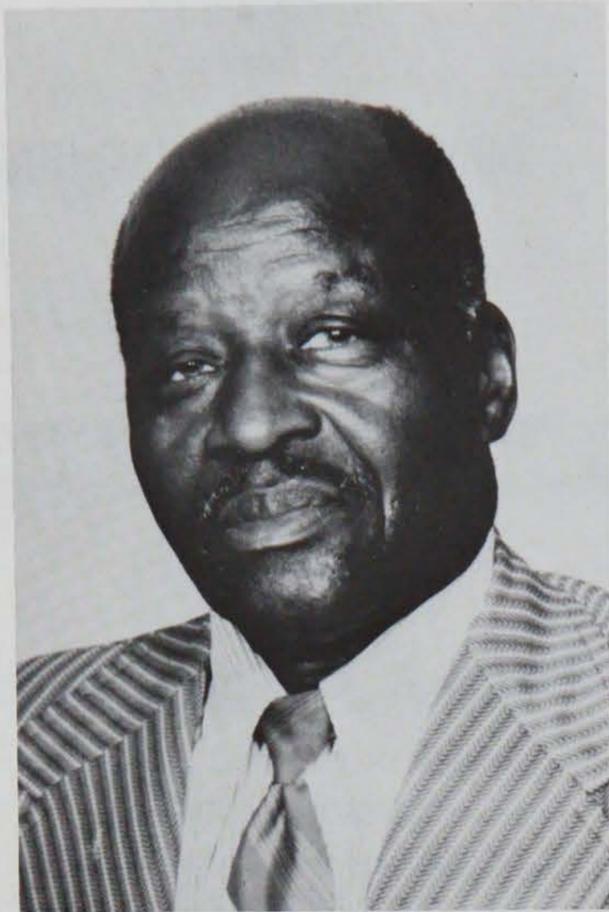
*"I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT,
I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I
HAVE KEPT THE FAITH." II Tim. 4:7*

Member: Trustee Board
Missionary Circle

Brother Jobie & Sister Sarah Collins

Children: Ida Beth, Ozalene, Jimmie Neal, Edwin, Charles, Jobie Lee, Joan, & Howard.

TWO PEOPLE WHO WERE DEDICATED AND SUPPORTIVE TO THE CHURCH



In Memory Of
Our Loving Husband & Father

Deacon Lorain McCleary, Sr.

On This
"DIAMOND JUBILEE"
Faithful Deacon & Teacher

Wife—Clara
Children—Billy Ray, Lorain, Jr. James,
Stanley, Glenn, Paul, and Mary

"PRECIOUS MEMORIES,
HOW THEY LINGER"

In Lasting Memory
Of
My Dear Mother

Lizzie Calhoun
Church: Mother Calhoun

"Precious Lord, Take My
Hand; Lead Me On, Let
Me Stand."

Daughter: Katie
Son: Ben





In Memory Of Our Dear
Beloved Mother & Grandmother

Mother Anna Irving
Lovingly Known as "Mama Peet"

'WE ALL LOVED YOU,
BUT GOD LOVED YOU
BEST.'

75th Church Anniversary!

Daughter: Harriett Benson
Son-in-Law: Edward Benson, Sr.
Grandchildren: Edward Benson,
John B. Benson, Anna B. Fort &
Addison Benson, Sr.

"GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

In Remembrance Of

Brother Arthur L. Reese

"One Of the Oldest
Members—1913"
Member: Trustee Board

CELEBRATING!
75 Years of Existing
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

In Loving Memory Of

Sister Mary E. Jones

"An Excellent Clerk"
On This
75th Celebration

FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY

In Memory Of

Mother Jenny Johnson
Brother Hugh Miller
Brother Russel Miller
Sister Fannie Miller

"75th Celebration"
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

In Memory Of

Brother Lonnie White
Sister Willie L. Smith

Who Rest in Jesus

"Diamond Jubilee"
The First Baptist Family

In Remembrance Of
Brother Arthur L. Reese

“One Of the Oldest
Members—1913”
Member: Trustee Board

CELEBRATING!
75 Years of Existing
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

In Memory Of

MEN OF THE CHURCH
CONGRATULATIONS !!

Brotherhood

Trustees

Deacons



CONGRATULATIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

on this

*“75th---Diamond Jubilee
Anniversary Celebration*

from

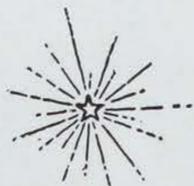
THE DEACON BOARD

May God Grant More Years To Serve
And Sincerely Perform Duties Unto Christ.
The Many Sacrifices Of Our Forefathers,
Have Left A Lasting Landmark.

We Rejoice With The Rest Of The First
Baptist Family. At this time it is
Befitting to Pay Homage to Our Most
Wonderful Loving Saviour.

*“... must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much
wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a
pure conscience.”*

I Timothy 3:8 & 9.



MEMBERS OF THE DEACON BOARD

Deacon R. T. Fort

Brother Claude Adams

Brother J. E. Smith

Brother Charles Collins

On Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting



Bible Study



Super
Assist
Assist
Secret
Secret
Secret

Numb
#

Congratulations

FIRST BAPTIST

From: Sunday Staff



OFFICIAL STAFF

Superintendent	Brother J. E. Smith
Assistant Superintendent	Brother Columbus Clay
Assistant Superintendent	Brother Claude Adams
Secretary	Sister Sallye Leffall
Secretary	Sister Vonita Adams
Secretary	Sister Doris Clay

TEACHING STAFF

Number of Class	Name of Class	Instructors
# 1	Cradle Roll.....	Sister D. Clay & Sister Q. Jackson
2	Beginners.....	Sister M McFadden & Sister E. Smith
3	Primary Girls.....	Sister M. McCowen & Sis. S Leffall
4	Primary Boys.....	Rev. G. W. McCleary
5	Junior Girls.....	Sister B. Jones & Sister H. Benson
6	Junior Boys.....	Brother Shelton Bobo
7	Intermediate.....	Sister I. Brown & Sister J. Donalson
8	Intermediate.....	Brother Claude Adams
9	Senior Girls.....	Sister M. Clay & Sister L. Collins
10	Senior Boys.....	Brother Ozalene Collins
11	Deborah.....	Sister C. McCleary & Sister K. Smith
12	Abimelech.....	Brother R. T. Fort
13	Young Women.....	Sister W. Holloway & Sister R. Jones
14	Young Men.....	Brother Columbus Clay
15	Adult Women.....	Sister Palestine Marshall
16	Adult Men.....	Brother B. F. Smith & Brother Victor Wilson



Missionary Society

Congratulations & Best Wishes

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

On Your

"Seventy-Fifth Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration"

**May God Bless You With Many
More Years Of Service In
Kingdom Building.**



NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

3201 Samuels
Oxnard, California

"A CHURCH WITH A MIND TO WORK"

Reverend Kenneth M. Williams, Pastor

Deacon E. Lewis,
Church Clerk

Deacon Sandy Massey,
Financial Secretary

Ordination Service

First Baptist Church of Venice

May 5, 1985

Minister Glenn Wayne McCleary



“The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength
of my life; of whom shall I be afraid.”

Psalm 27:1



Pastor Kenneth M. Williams

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of
Christ: for it is the power of God unto
salvation to every one that believeth.”

Romans 1:16

Happy Celebration!!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

On Our

SEVENTY-FIFTH: DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

*May the future years of this Christian body
be years of fruitfulness and great success.*

“And He Gave Some APOSTLES: And Some, PROPHETS: And Some,
EVANGELISTS; AND some PASTORS, And TEACHERS; For The
Work of the Ministry, For the Edifying of the Body of Christ; Till We
All Come in the Unity of the Faith . . .” Ephesians 4:11 & 12

The Reverend Glenn Wayne McCleary

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

On Our

"75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration"

of the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

PRAYER BAND

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14.



Leaders in the Prayer Band

Sister Willie Mae Holloway

Sister Helen McCain

Sister Palestine Marshall

Sister Olivia Fair

Sister E. L. Holmes

BEST WISHESS
&
CONGRATULATIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

On This

"75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration"



BAPTIST TRAINING UNION

Offical Staff

Brother Shelton Bobo Director
 Rev. G. W. McCleary Associate Director
 Sister Everlena Funtila Secretary
 Sister Sharon Chappell Assistant Secretary
 Sister Willie Mae Holloway Treasurer

Leaders	Unions	Number
Brother J. E. Smith	Adult Union for Men	#5
Sister Clara McCleary	Adult Union for Women	#4
Sister Sharon Chappell	Senior Union	#3
Sister Lucy Wilson	Junior Union	#2
Sister Maria Cline	Story Hour	#1
	Bible Teacher	Pastor E. L. Holmes
	Worship	Sister E. L. Holmes

**Compliments of the Usher Board of First
Baptist Church of Venice**

Greetings!!

ON OUR

75th - Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration

*"For a Day in Thy Court is Better than a Thousand. I had rather be a
Doorkeeper in the House of my God, than to dwell in the Tents of
Wickedness."* Psalm 8:10



- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Brother Ozalene Collins | Chief Usher |
| Brother Richard Holmes | Assistant Chief |
| Sister Ida Brown | Secretary |
| Sister Maria Cline | Assistant Secretary |
| Sister Minnie Clay | Treasurer |
| Sister Mary McFadden | Program Chairperson |

Female Ushers

Sister Ida Brown
Sister Minnie Clay

Sister Mary McFadden
Sister Maria Cline

Male Ushers

Brother Ozalene Collins
Brother Richard Holmes
Brother Robert Logan
Brother Mario Donalson

Brother J. E. Smith
Brother Walter Davis
Brother Charles Collins
Brother Ecedric McCowen

*"Behold
precious
down to
the moun*

Brother C
Brother C
Brother S
Brother J

Brother C
Brother H
Brother S
Brother C

HOLY GREETINGS
AND
CONGRATULATIONS

on Our

Seventy-Fifth Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Of the

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF
VENICE**

BROTHERHOOD

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for ever more."

Psalm 133:1-3

Official Staff

Brother Claude Adams	President
Brother Ozalene Collins	Vice-President
Brother Shelton Bobo	Secretary
Brother J. E. Smith	Treasurer

Members

Brother Claude Adams
Brother Hadley Hamm
Brother Shelton Bobo
Brother Columbus Clay

Brother Mario Donalson
Rev. Glenn McCleary
Brother Ozalene Collins
Brother J. E. Smith

**Congratulations First Baptist Church
75th-Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration**

May God's Blessings Continue to Be With You All Always

Second Community Baptist Church

1041 West Washington Boulevard
Venice, California 90291

Sister Armellia Hall, Church Clerk

Reverend John M. Green, Pastor

Deacon Robert Brown, Chairman of Deacons

Rev. William Porter, Assistant Pastor



**BEST WISHES
&
CONGRATULATIONS**

on your

**Diamond Jubilee
Anniversary**

First Baptist Church Venice

Thank God for the Joy
FORTY YEARS

Sister Clara McCleary



CONGRATULATIONS
AND
BEST WISHES

On Your
"DIAMOND JUBILEE
CELEBRATION

of the

First Baptist Church Venice

With Love to You
and to

Pastor & Mrs. E. L. Holmes

From

Herman Selber

A retired teacher of 37 years from
the Louisiana Public School System.

My Main Concern In Life

See what I can do for others, And not what they can do for me. I
always ask the Lord to let me give what ever I can to ease pain for
my fellow man. I want naught, but to do my part, to "lift a tired or
weary heart."

Then I will not have lived in vain.

Prayer: "DEAR LORD, LET ME GIVE, AND GIVE, AND GIVE."

**Congratulations First Baptist Church of Venice
On This "75th-Diamond Jubilee Anniversary"**

May God continue to Bless as we enter the next Seventy-Five Years

THE GENERAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

First Baptist Church

President	Sis. Bennie Jones	Vice President	Sis. Minnie Clay
Secretary	Sis. L. McCowen	Asst. Secretary	Sis. Ruby Jones
Treasurer	Sis. P. Marshall	Devotion	Sis. W. Holloway

*What More can we ask of the Savior
Than to know we are never alone
That His Mercy and Love are unfailing,
And He makes all our problems His own.*

— Helen S. Rice



Salome Circle, Los Angeles	Sis. Vonita Adams, Chairperson
Eunice Circle, Venice	Sis. Minnie Clay, Chairperson
Elizabeth Circle, Vnice	Sis. W. Holloway, Chairperson
Priscilla Circle, Venice	Sis. O. Fair, Chairperson
Phebe Circle, Venice	Sis. C. McCleary, Chairperson
Lois Circle	Sis. Rosa Hamm, Chairperson
Lydia Circle	Sis. P. Marshall, Chairperson

Sister D
Brother

GLORY & HONOR

To Our

CHURCH

On This

*Seventy-Fifth
"Diamond Jubilee"*

CELEBRATION



E. L. HOLMES CHOIR

*"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary
Praise him in the firmament of His power.
Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord."*

Psalm 150:1 & 6.

It is an honor for this choir to bear the Pastor's name. Our desire is to conduct ourselves as young people in such a way that no reflection but those that are Christian will ever be demonstrated by the members of this choir.

To be saved at this early stage of life is very precious. We realize we are stewards and responsible for our conduct.

THANK YOU, FATHER GOD!
THANK YOU, PARENTS!
THANK YOU, PASTOR HOLMES!
THANK YOU, DEAR FIRST BAPTIST!

MEMBERS

Sister De Shay Jones
Brother Geary Marshall

Sister Leia McCowen
Sister Joanna Wilson
Sister Charlette Hamm

Sister Katisha Brooks
Brother Jabu Leffall

GREETINGS & BLESSINGS

to

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

From

THE MOTHERS OF THE CHURCH

For Our

“Diamond Jubilee”

75th Church Anniversary Celebration

*“The aged women be in behavior as becometh holiness . . .
teachers of good things.”*

Titus 2:4



Board Members

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Sister Olivia Fair | Chairperson |
| Sister Willie Mae Holloway | Secretary |
| Sister Bennie Mae Jones | Member |
| Sister Roberta Donalson | Member |
| Sister Helen McCain | Member |
| Sister Harriet Benson | Member |

All Women Of the Church

Affiliate Members

BLESSINGS
&
CONGRATULATIONS!!

For Our

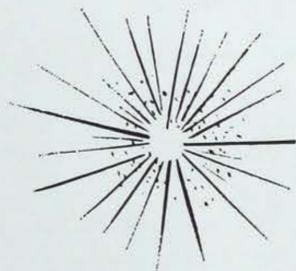
DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY

We Give Thanks to God for the Privilege
Of Serving On

TRUSTEE BOARD

to the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE



Members

Brother Ozalene Collins	.....	Chairman
Brother R. T. Fort	.....	Secretary
Brother B. F. Smith	.....	Member
Brother Columbus Clay	.....	Member
Rev. E. L. Holmes	.....	Pastor - Member

embers



Sis
Sis
Sis
Sis
Br
Br
Sis
Sis
Sis
Sis

PRAISE GOD!!

Congratulations and Much Joy

to the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VVENICE

as we

CELEBRATE

Seventy-Five Years of Praising God in Venice!!!



THE SENIOR CHOIR

Musicians

Rev. G. W. McCleary

Sister E. L. Holmes

Officers

- Brother Columbus Clay President
- Brother R. T. Fort Vice-President
- Sister Lesley M. McCowen Secretary
- Sister Ruby Jones Assistant Secretary
- Sister Palestine Marshall Treasurer

Members

Sister Lucy Wilson
 Sister Sharon Chappell
 Sister Lesley McCowen
 Sister Palestine Marshall

Sister Ardena Brooks
 Sister Elaine Norman
 Brother Columbus Clay
 Brother R. T. Fort

Brother Shelton Bobo
 Brother Eugene Brooks
 Sister Quentrilla Jackson
 Sister Ruby Jones

Praise the Lord for This Occasion

CONGRATULATIONS

BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE



DEACONESS BOARD

Members

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sister Emma Lee Smith | Chairperson |
| Sister Ann Fort | Member |
| Sister Clara McCleary | Member |
| Sister Louise Collins | Member |
| Sister Mary Lois Jackson | Member |
| Sister Harriet Benson | Member |
| Sister Vonita Adams | Member |

Sister Oliv
Sister Ma

Sister Olivi
Sister Rosa
Sister Sally
Sister Doris

Congratulations...Best Wishes

On This

75th Church Anniversary Celebration

"DIAMOND JUBILEE"

to

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE



ALTAR GUILD

The Service Of the Altar Guild
Is One Of
LOVE
&
DEVOTION

Sister Olivia Fair Chairperson

Sister Mary Lois Jackson Co-Chairperson

Members

Sister Olivia Fair
Sister Rosa Hamm
Sister Sallye Leffall
Sister Doris Clay

Sister Mary Lois Jackson
Sister Lucy Wilson
Brother R. T. Fort
Brother J. E. Smith

Brother Richard Holmes
Brother Ozalene Collins
Sister Ruby Jones
Sister Willie Mae Holloway

We Live to Serve

CONGRATULATIONS

On This

*Seventy-Fifth
Church Anniversary Celebration*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

From: NURSES GUILD



Members Of the Guild

- Sister Palestine Marshall Chairperson
- Sister Cleo Holmes Co-Chairperson
- Sister Doris Clay Member
- Sister Betty Donalson Member
- Sister Arline Ridley Member
- Sister Maria Cline Member

JULY — A SPECIAL TIME
in the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE
Pastoral Anniversary



IN
APPRECIATION



HONORING
PASTOR & MRS.
E.L. HOLMES

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
OF VENICE
1955 - 1985



Thirty years of blissful joy,
Seeing God's blessings unfold;
Looking toward a brighter future
To walk the shiny streets of gold.

CONGRATULATIONS

from

THE ADAMS & DONALSON FAMILIES

On This

75th-Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration



Mr. & Mrs. Claude Adams

Mario

Tyeshia

Mrs. Juanita Donalson



Son, Jason Adams

CONGRATULATIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

on this

"Diamond Jubilee"

THE CLAY FAMILY

Mr. & Mrs. Columbus Clay, Doris, & Herman



Congratulations

to

DR. E. L. HOLMES

&

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

75th - Diamond Jubilee Anniversary

DR. THOMAS P. LEE
President

DR. E. L. HOLMES
Administrative Dean

DR. H.A. MALLORY
Academic Dean

MRS. LOLA McCUIEN
Registrar - Secretary

DR. J. B. REESE
Trustee, Board Chairman

REED CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

1001 East Rosecrans Avenue

Compton, California 90221—537-9730

CONGRATULATIONS

to

REVEREND E. L. HOLMES

&

First Baptist Church

On Your

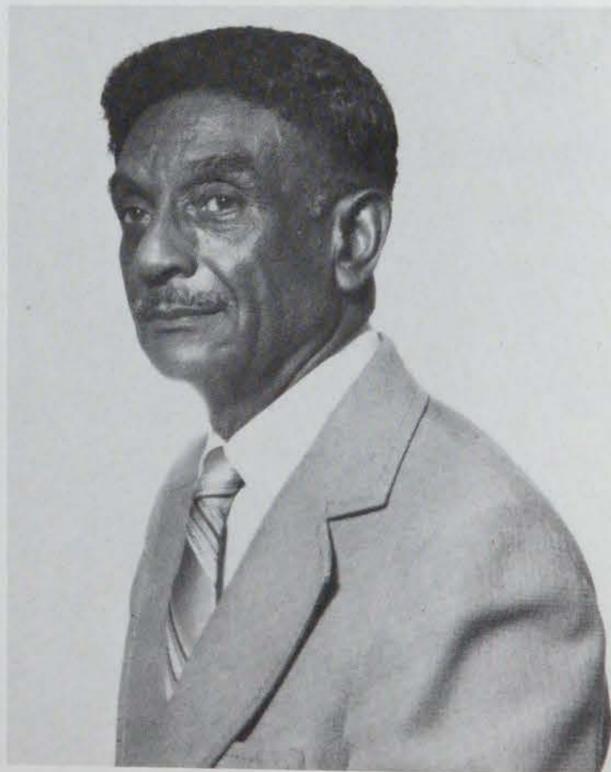
"DIAMOND JUBILEE"

May God Continue To

Direct You,

Keep You and

Protect You.



Reverend A. Patterson & Wife, Johnnie

Congratulations on the Seventy-Fifth Church Anniversary

75th - Diamond Jubilee Celebration



THE SMITH FAMILY

Center Standing: Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Smith

Left to Right Standing: Donald, Julius, Lindsey, John & William

Front Row: Warren, Betty Jean, Glinda Faye, & Etta Mae

CONGRATULATIONS

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF VENICE**

On Our Happy
75th Church Anniversary

The Collins Family

CONGRATULATIONS

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
VENICE**

On Our
"75th-Diamond Jubilee"
I LOVE YOU

Sister Olivia Fair
(Got Saved 1913)

Congratulations

**First Baptist Church of
Venice**

On Your
"75th-Diamond Jubilee"
"A Model & Blessing"

**Broadway
Elementary School**

Prin. Magdalena Guajardo

BEST WISHES

First Baptist Church Of
Venice

"75th Church Celebration"

**Westminster Avenue
Elementary School**

Prin. Deserine Bingham

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE
75th-Diamond Jubilee Celebration

MARINA STATE BANK

Open Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
24 Hour ATMs on Shared Network
Drive through Teller/Fast personalized service
Home owned and operated/Attractive C.D. Rates

Rowan Henry, President

Head Office

3206 Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey, 827-1712

Redondo Beach Office

700 N. Pacific Coast Highway, 376-0221

Member FDIC

CONGRATULATIONS & GOD BLESS the First Baptist Church of
Venice, as you celebrate your

75th - Diamond Jubilee

San Juan Avenue Head Start

Ms. Myra Cigar
Ms. Martha Strong

Ms. Sylvia Contreras
Rev. G W. McCleary

Happy 75th Diamond Jubilee!

To: The First Baptist Church of Venice

From: Vernon Head Start

Ms. Roxanne Burns

Ms. Hester Outlaw

Ms. Guadalupe Adame

Ms. Ana Galindo

CONGRATULATIONS!

First Baptist Church of Venice

75th Anniversary

First Methodist Head Start

Ms. Velma Latimore
Ms. Lucille Kellogg

Ms. Martha Bracho
Ms. Bernice Carson

BEST WISHES!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

on the
75th Church Anniversary

Indiana Head Start

Ms. Dell Andrews

Ms. Blanca Soto

Ms. Ann Schnyder

Ms. Lynell Ash

Congratulations

First Baptist Church
on your
75th Anniversary

UNIFIED HOLINESS CHURCH

Elder R. G. Hunter, Pastor

Best Wishes

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
during
75th Celebration

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. R. J. Moseley, Pastor

CONGRATULATIONS

First Baptist Church Venice
75th Anniversary

CHRIST THE ANSWER CHURCH

Missionary Baptist

Rev. George Thetford,
Pastor

CONGRATULATIONS

Pastor Holmes and the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Diamond Jubilee

Bethel Tabernacle Church

Elder S. L. Shepherd, Pastor

CONGRATULATIONS

NEAL'S FLOWER SHOP

2469 Lincoln Blvd. Venice, CA

NEIL DINGMAN
Proprietor

(213)821-4933

A SELECTED MEMBER OF FTD

NOTARY

ARGIE PATTERSON

REALTY

VA, FHA & CONVENTIONAL LOANS

722 E. Redondo Beach Blvd.
Compton, California

Residence: 324-3517

CONGRATULATIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VENICE

75th Anniversary

**The Western Ministerial Alliance
Of Santa Monica, Venice and
Vicinity**

PresidentRev. E. Hunter, Jr.
SecretaryRev. W. Taite, Sr.

CONGRATULATIONS

On Your
Church Anniversary

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A Former Member
VIOLA PERKINS

CONGRATULATIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

On Your

75th - Diamond Jubilee Anniversary

HULL LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

658 Venice Blvd.

Telephone: 823-9258

Venice, California

Congratulations & Best Wishes

on your

75th Anniversary Celebration

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

Day & Nite Pharmacy

Telephone: 399-4000

405 South Lincoln Blvd.

Venice, California

BLESSINGS
First Baptist Church Venice

On Your

SEVENTY-FIFTH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY



THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

Reverend & Mrs. Kenneth W. Williams

Qwendolyn Williams

Kishon Williams

Keosha Williams

3530 San Simeon Avenue

Oxnard, California

P R O G R A M

Revival Time October 28 - 31; November 1

75th Anniversary

Pastor E. L. Holmes, Preaching Nightly

Monday — MEN MINISTRIES in Charge

Sponsors: — Brotherhood, Trustees, Deacons

Tuesday — WOMEN MINISTRIES in Charge

Sponsors: — Missionary Society, Mothers of the Church,
Deaconess Board

Wednesday — TEACHING & TRAINING MINISTRIES in Charge

Sponsors: — Sunday School & Training Union

Thursday — MINISTRIES OF HELPS in Charge

Sponsors: — Usher Board, Nurses Guild, Altar Guild

Friday — INSPIRATIONAL, EVANGELISTIC, and PRAYER MINISTRIES
in Charge

Sponsors: — Local Ministers, Prayer Band, Senior Choir, and
E. L. Holmes Choir

Fellowship Dinner After the Services

Brother H. Hamm — Chairman of Foods in Charge

P R O G R A M

Revival Time October 28 - 31; November 1

75th Anniversary

Pastor E. L. Holmes, Preaching Nightly

Monday — MEN MINISTRIES in Charge

Sponsors: — Brotherhood, Trustees, Deacons

Tuesday — WOMEN MINISTRIES in Charge

Sponsors: — Missionary Society, Mothers of the Church,
Deaconess Board

Wednesday — TEACHING & TRAINING MINISTRIES in Charge

Sponsors: — Sunday School & Training Union

Thursday — MINISTRIES OF HELPS in Charge

Sponsors: — Usher Board, Nurses Guild, Altar Guild

Friday — INSPIRATIONAL, EVANGELISTIC, and PRAYER MINISTRIES
in Charge

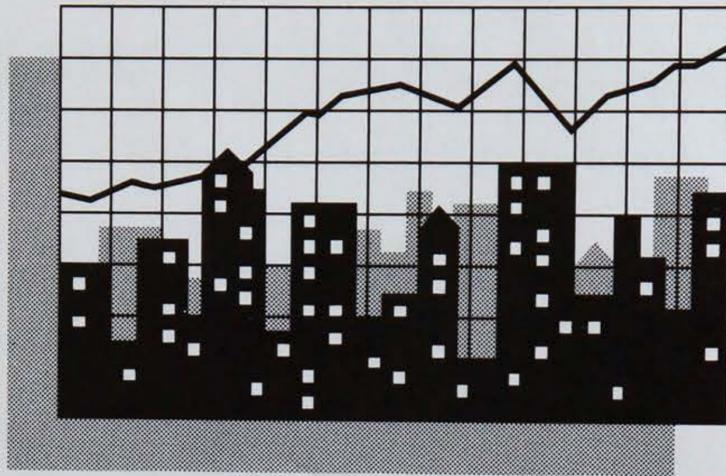
Sponsors: — Local Ministers, Prayer Band, Senior Choir, and
E. L. Holmes Choir

Fellowship Dinner After the Services

Brother H. Hamm — Chairman of Foods in Charge

CITY NATIONAL BANK

The Best Friend Your Business Can Have



CITY NATIONAL BANK

Serving Southern California

Beverly Hills
Brentwood
Century City
City of Commerce
Encino
Fairfax
La Jolla
La Mirada Gateway
Center

Lido Village
Newport Beach
Olympic/Burlington
Olympic Plaza
Palm Desert
Palm Springs
Pershing Square
Playa Vista
Santa Monica

Sherman Oaks
South El Monte
Studio City
Sunset/Doheny
Torrance
Wilshire/La Cienega
Wilshire/Westwood

Member FDIC
Member Federal Reserve

CONGRATULATIONS
AND
BEST WISHES

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

On Your

75th-DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

W E A R E T H A N K F U L

GRATITUDES

I'm thankful for being saved, I know who I am in Christ, & the Lord meets my needs.

Sis. E. Funtila

I'm thankful to have eternal salvation, & I know who I am in Christ.

Sis. C. McCleary

I'm grateful that I have comfort in Jesus, I feel the Spirit, & I can depend on the Lord.

Sis. L. Jackson

I'm thankful for being saved, for knowing who I am in Christ, & for christian fellowship.

Bro. B.F. Smith

I am thankful because I am saved, Jesus loves me, & someone watches over me daily.

Bro. R. Logan

Full of thanks for being saved, an anointed Pastor, & the Spirit speaks to me.

Sis. S. Chappell

I'm grateful to be saved, opportunity to serve, & my Pastor is anointed.

Sis. Maria Cline

I'm glad I'm saved, the Spirit moves in the services, & I hear full-gospel preaching.

Sis. Q. Jackson

Thank God His Spirit speaks to me, I can depend on the Lord, & the Pastor is anointed.

Sis. R. Donalson

We are thankful for Jesus, the church, & First Baptist Members.

Pastor & Sis. E.L. Holmes

Glad to have eternal life, the Lord gives assurance, the Spirit moves in the services, we have fellowship, & the pastor is anointed.

Bro. & Sis. C. Adams

Glad to have someone watching over me, I can depend on Jesus, & for salvation.

Sis. F. Chappell

I'm glad to be saved, my family is united in love, I can depend on Jesus.

Sis. Thelma Johnson

I am grateful for holy boldness in christian witness, & I can serve.

Sis. W. Holloway

I'm glad I know who holds my future, the Spirit moves in our services, & I'm saved.

Sis. B.M. Jones

Grateful to be saved eternally, and I know who I am in Christ.

Bro. W. Davis

Thankful I'm saved, God watches over me, & my Pastor is anointed man of God.

Sis. Betty Dukes

I'm grateful for salvation, can depend on God, & my Pastor is anointed by God.

Sis. M. McFadden

Very glad to be saved, I have assurance, & I can feel the Holy Spirit.

Bro. R.T. Fort

GRATITUDES

Grateful to be saved, Jesus lifted my burden of grief, we can depend on the Lord, & the Spirit speaks to my heart.

Sis. R. Jones & DeShay

Appreciate being saved, family is living for the Lord, we are learning to depend on God, & we have peace.

Danielle & Jennifer

I'm grateful to be saved, for christian fellowship, & learning to depend on the Lord.

Sis. I. Brown

Glad to be saved, have comfort in Jesus, can feel the Spirit, & the Pastor is anointed.

Bro. & Sis. J.E. Smith

Thankful the Bible is alive, someone cares, & the Spirit speaks.

Sis. A. Brooks & Family

Happy to be saved, love in the family, comfort in Jesus, can depend on the Lord, & the Pastor is anointed.

Tyeshia, Mario
Sis. Juanita Donalson

We're grateful for being saved, can depend on God, we hear full-gospel preaching, & the Pastor is anointed.

Bro. & Sis. O. Collins

Most grateful for salvation, the Ministry of preaching, & for someone who cares.

Rev. G.W. McCleary

Glad that Jesus loves us, united our family in love, feel the Spirit, & christian fellowship.

Sis. L. Wilson & Joanna

We're grateful for eternal life, peace, health & happiness. We can depend on God, our family is united, and the Pastor is anointed.

Sis. McCowen & Family

We are grateful for the church, a happy life, for salvation, must live holy, care about my community.

Sis. S. Leffall & Jabu

I am thankful to have comfort in the Lord, my Pastor is anointed, & I can depend on Jesus.

Sis. O. Fair

We are glad for the church, salvation, a happy life, & for someone who cares.

Bro. H. Hamm & Charlette

I'm glad for the way of holiness, can depend on Jesus, boldness in witnessing.

Sis. H. McCain

Grateful my needs are met, for full-gospel preaching, health & happiness, & someone watches over us.

Sis. P. Marshall & Geary

I'm glad I can feel the Spirit, the Lord gave me a ministry, & my pastor is anointed.

Sis. H. Benson

We're thankful for life eternal, christian fellowship, can feel the Spirit, & daily assurance.

Bro. & Sis. C. Clay

W E A R E T H A N K F U L

GRATITUDES

I'm thankful for being saved, I know who I am in Christ, & the Lord meets my needs.

Sis. E. Funtila

I'm thankful to have eternal salvation, & I know who I am in Christ.

Sis. C. McCleary

I'm grateful that I have comfort in Jesus, I feel the Spirit, & I can depend on the Lord.

Sis. L. Jackson

I'm thankful for being saved, for knowing who I am in Christ, & for christian fellowship.

Bro. B.F. Smith

I am thankful because I am saved, Jesus loves me, & someone watches over me daily.

Bro. R. Logan

Full of thanks for being saved, an anointed Pastor, & the

Glad to have eternal life, the Lord gives assurance, the Spirit moves in the services, we have fellowship, & the pastor is anointed.

Bro. & Sis. C. Adams

Glad to have someone watching over me, I can depend on Jesus, & for salvation.

Sis. F. Chappell

I'm glad to be saved, my family is united in love, I can depend on Jesus.

Sis. Thelma Johnson

I am grateful for holy boldness in christian witness, & I can serve.

Sis. W. Holloway

I'm glad I know who holds my future, the Spirit moves in our services, & I'm saved.

Sis. B.M. Jones

Grateful to be saved eternally, and I know who I am in Christ.

GRATITUDES

Grateful to be saved, Jesus lifted my burden of grief, we can depend on the Lord, & the Spirit speaks to my heart.

Sis. R. Jones & DeShay

Appreciate being saved, family is living for the Lord, we are learning to depend on God, & we have peace.

Danielle & Jennifer

I'm grateful to be saved, for christian fellowship, & learning to depend on the Lord.

Sis. I. Brown

Glad to be saved, have comfort in Jesus, can feel the Spirit, & the Pastor is anointed.

Bro. & Sis. J.E. Smith

Thankful the Bible is alive, someone cares, & the Spirit speaks.

Sis. A. Brooks & Family

Happy to be saved, love in the family, comfort in Jesus, can depend on the Lord, & the Pastor

We're grateful for eternal life, peace, health & happiness. We can depend on God, our family is united, and the Pastor is anointed.

Sis. McCowen & Family

We are grateful for the church, a happy life, for salvation, must live holy, care about my community.

Sis. S. Leffall & Jabu

I am thankful to have comfort in the Lord, my Pastor is anointed, & I can depend on Jesus.

Sis. O. Fair

We are glad for the church, salvation, a happy life, & for someone who cares.

Bro. H. Hamm & Charlette

I'm glad for the way of holiness, can depend on Jesus, boldness in witnessing.

I'm thankful to have eternal salvation, & I know who I am in Christ.

Sis. C. McCleary

I'm grateful that I have comfort in Jesus, I feel the Spirit, & I can depend on the Lord.

Sis. L. Jackson

I'm thankful for being saved, for knowing who I am in Christ, & for christian fellowship.

Bro. B.F. Smith

I am thankful because I am saved, Jesus loves me, & someone watches over me daily.

Bro. R. Logan

Full of thanks for being saved, an anointed Pastor, & the Spirit speaks to me.

Sis. S. Chappell

I'm grateful to be saved, opportunity to serve, & my Pastor is anointed.

Sis. Maria Cline

I'm glad I'm saved, the Spirit moves in the services, & I hear full-gospel preaching.

Bro. & Sis. C. Adams

Glad to have someone watching over me, I can depend on Jesus, & for salvation.

Sis. F. Chappell

I'm glad to be saved, my family is united in love, I can depend on Jesus.

Sis. Thelma Johnson

I am grateful for holy boldness in christian witness, & I can serve.

Sis. W. Holloway

I'm glad I know who holds my future, the Spirit moves in our services, & I'm saved.

Sis. B.M. Jones

Grateful to be saved eternally, and I know who I am in Christ.

Bro. W. Davis

Thankful I'm saved, God watches over me, & my Pastor is anointed man of God.

Sis. Betty Dukes

I'm grateful for salvation, can depend on God, & my Pastor is anointed by God.

Sis. R. Jones & DeShay

Appreciate being saved, family is living for the Lord, we are learning to depend on God, & we have peace.

Danielle & Jennifer

I'm grateful to be saved, for christian fellowship, & learning to depend on the Lord.

Sis. I. Brown

Glad to be saved, have comfort in Jesus, can feel the Spirit, & the Pastor is anointed.

Bro. & Sis. J.E. Smith

Thankful the Bible is alive, someone cares, & the Spirit speaks.

Sis. A. Brooks & Family

Happy to be saved, love in the family, comfort in Jesus, can depend on the Lord, & the Pastor is anointed.

Tyeshia, Mario
Sis. Juanita Donalson

We're grateful for being saved, can depend on God, we hear full-gospel preaching, & the Pastor is anointed.

Bro. & Sis. O. Collins

Most grateful for salvation, the Ministry

Sis. McCowen & Family

We are grateful for the church, a happy life, for salvation, must live holy, care about my community.

Sis. S. Leffall & Jabu

I am thankful to have comfort in the Lord, my Pastor is anointed, & I can depend on Jesus.

Sis. O. Fair

We are glad for the church, salvation, a happy life, & for someone who cares.

Bro. H. Hamm & Charlette

I'm glad for the way of holiness, can depend on Jesus, boldness in witnessing.

Sis. H. McCain

Grateful my needs are met, for full-gospel preaching, health & happiness, & someone watches over us.

Sis. P. Marshall & Geary

I'm glad I can feel the Spirit, the Lord gave me a ministry.

<p>ship. Bro. B.F. Smith</p> <hr/> <p>I am thankful because I am saved, Jesus loves me, & someone watches over me daily.</p> <p>Bro. R. Logan</p> <hr/> <p>Full of thanks for being saved, an anointed Pastor, & the Spirit speaks to me.</p> <p>Sis. S. Chappell</p>	<p>Sis. W. Holloway</p> <hr/> <p>I'm glad I know who holds my future, the Spirit moves in our services, & I'm saved.</p> <p>Sis. B.M. Jones</p> <hr/> <p>Grateful to be saved eternally, and I know who I am in Christ.</p> <p>Bro. W. Davis</p>
<p>I'm grateful to be saved, opportunity to serve, & my Pastor is anointed.</p> <p>Sis. Maria Cline</p>	<p>Thankful I'm saved, God watches over me, & my Pastor is anointed man of God.</p> <p>Sis. Betty Dukes</p>
<p>I'm glad I'm saved, the Spirit moves in the services, & I hear full-gospel preaching.</p> <p>Sis. Q. Jackson</p>	<p>I'm grateful for salvation, can depend on God, & my Pastor is anointed by God.</p> <p>Sis. M. McFadden</p>
<p>Thank God His Spirit speaks to me, I can depend on the Lord, & the Pastor is anointed.</p> <p>Sis. R. Donalson</p>	<p>Very glad to be saved, I have assurance, & I can feel the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Bro. R.T. Fort</p>
<p>We are thankful for Jesus, the church, & First Baptist Members.</p> <p>Pastor & Sis. E.L. Holmes</p>	

<p>feel the Spirit, & the Pastor is anointed.</p> <p>Bro. & Sis. J.E. Smith</p> <hr/> <p>Thankful the Bible is alive, someone cares, & the Spirit speaks.</p> <p>Sis. A. Brooks & Family</p>	<p>We are glad for the church, salvation, a happy life, & for someone who cares.</p> <p>Bro. H. Hamm & Charlette</p>
<p>Happy to be saved, love in the family, comfort in Jesus, can depend on the Lord, & the Pastor is anointed.</p> <p>Tyeshia, Mario Sis. Juanita Donalson</p>	<p>I'm glad for the way of holiness, can depend on Jesus, boldness in witnessing.</p> <p>Sis. H. McCain</p>
<p>We're grateful for being saved, can depend on God, we hear full-gospel preaching, & the Pastor is anointed.</p> <p>Bro. & Sis. O. Collins</p>	<p>Grateful my needs are met, for full-gospel preaching, health & happiness, & someone watches over us.</p> <p>Sis. P. Marshall & Geary</p>
<p>Most grateful for salvation, the Ministry of preaching, & for someone who cares.</p> <p>Rev. G.W. McCleary</p>	<p>I'm glad I can feel the Spirit, the Lord gave me a ministry, & my pastor is anointed.</p> <p>Sis. H. Benson</p>
<p>Glad that Jesus loves us, united our family in love, feel the Spirit, & christian fellowship.</p> <p>Sis. L. Wilson & Joanna</p>	<p>We're thankful for life eternal, christian fellowship, can feel the Spirit, & daily assurance.</p> <p>Bro. & Sis. C. Clay</p>

Acknowledgement

As Anniversary Committee, we take this time to express our gratitude to Pastor Holmes, each committee, and each individual for working faithfully in order to make this DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION a grand success.

We feel blessed and honored to have been selected to serve as your Anniversary Committee on such a historical event.

Thank you FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY, friends, and well-wishers for your prayers, love, and financial support in this endeavor.

May the blessings of God forever be yours to enjoy.

Committee: Bro. C. Clay, Chairperson
Bro. Claude Adams, Co-Chairperson
Sis. Juanita Donalson, Secretary

The Souvenir Book Committee
is eternally thankful to you
for helping to produce this document.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS

Sis. E. L. Holmes, Co-ordinator

PLAQUE DESCRIBING THE HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE:



Los Angeles City Council File 00-0589: Designation of Bishop E. L. Holmes Square:



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE 2017:





Address: 685 WESTMINSTER

1. To print a summary overview, check mark the column for the desired record, then click here for [printer friendly format](#).
2. To obtain the summary of the document, click on any of the result records below, (i.e. Document Type, ... Doc number).
3. To view the digital document, click on the digital icon ()
If image is not available, please come visit us at our [Records Counter Office](#).

Sort By	Doc Type	Asc
Then By	Doc Date	Asc
Then By	Doc Date	Asc
Then By	Doc Number	Asc

Pre-selected addresses:

All

All	Document Type	Sub Type	Doc Date	User Doc Number	Digital Image
	AFFIDAVIT	MISCELLANEOUS	12/11/1946	AFF 7473	
	AFFIDAVIT	ATTENDANT PARKING	10/19/1966	AFF 3246A	
	AFFIDAVIT 	LOT TIE	10/19/1966	AFF 32847	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	NEW CONSTRUCTION	10/10/1966	1966WL65561	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	BLDG-NEW	10/21/1966	1966WL65561	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	BLDG-ALTER/REPAIR	11/9/1966	1966WL65772	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	ALTERATION	11/10/1966	1966WL65772	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	SIGN	1/2/1990	1990WL86951	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	SIGN	1/2/1990	1990WL86951	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	BLDG-ALTER/REPAIR	10/17/2003	03016-40000-20988	
	BUILDING PERMIT 	BLDG-ALTER/REPAIR	9/22/2004	04016-40000-18765	
	CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY 		1/22/1971	1966WL65561	
	CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY 		1/22/1971	1966WL65561	
	GRADING	GRADING PRE-INSP REPT	3/13/2017	17030-10000-01527	
	GRADING 	SOILS & GEOLOGY FILE	8/1/2017		
	MECHANICAL PERMIT 	PLUMBING	11/30/2004	04042-90000-34283	
	MECHANICAL PERMIT 	HVAC	6/17/2014	14044-90000-05922	
	PLAN MAINTENANCE 		1/2/1990	1990WL86951	
	RANGE FILE 	MISCELLANEOUS	1/27/2015		
	ZONING ADMINISTRATOR CASE 		6/6/1966	ZA 18151	

Address of Building **685 Westminster Avenue**



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY**

NOTE: Any change of use or occupancy must be approved by the Department of Building and Safety. This certifies that, so far as ascertained by or made known to the undersigned, the building at the above address complies with the applicable requirements of the Municipal Code, as follows: Ch. 1, as to permitted uses, Ch. 9, Arts. 1, 3, 4, and 5; and with applicable requirements of State Housing Law—for following occupancies:

Issued **1-22-71** Permit No. and Year **WLA65561/66**

Two story, Type V, 102' x 105', church building, maximum occupancy in sanctuary-480 and in social hall-78. **SANCTUARY AND ASSEMBLY ROOM NOT TO BE USED AT THE SAME TIME.** 96 parking spaces required, 65 parking spaces provided at the premise and 31 parking spaces provided at 688 Westminster Avenue, B-2/J-1/G-1/G-2 occupancy. ZA 18151; Parking Aff. 3246.

EXCEPT FOR DEVIATION APPROVED PER SECTION 98.0403 L.A.M.C.
Owner **First Baptist Church of Venice**
Owner's Address **688 Westminster Avenue
Venice, California 90291**

APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION OF NEW BUILDING AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.
2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.

1. LOCAL DISTRICT		LOTS 23, 24, 25, 26, & 27		TRACT		Ocean Park Villa		CERTAIN TRACT	
2. PURPOSE OF BUILDING		Church Building		PHONE		EX 67209		DONT. BLDG. 7187	
3. JOB ADDRESS		685 Westminister Ave.		ZONE		R-3-1-0		FIRE DIST.	
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS		7th Ave. AND 6th Ave.		INSIDE KEY		SIDE ALLEY		REV. L.D. REV. COR.	
5. OWNER'S NAME		First Baptist Church of Venice		P. O. BOX		Venice		LOT SIZE	
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS		688 Westminister Ave.		STATE LICENSE NO.		C-2643 291-2944		AFFIDAVITS	
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER		George R. Williams		PHONE		G-9592 OR 12562		REAR ALLEY 10'	
8. ENGINEER		Joe Y. Sing		STATE LICENSE NO.		234641		SIDE ALLEY	
9. CONTRACTOR		Gibraltar Constr.		PHONE		750-3052		BLDG. LINE	
10. SIZE OF NEW BLDG.		11,000 sf.		NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE		1 Church Bldg.		ZONING	
11. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION		Wood & stucco		ROOF		wood		BLDG. LINE	
12. JOB ADDRESS		685 Westminister Ave.		STATE LICENSE NO.		234641		AFFIDAVITS	
13. VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING.		586,000		168,000				ZONING	
14. PURPOSE OF BUILDING		Church		VALUATION APPROVED		586,000		DISTRICT OFFICE	
15. TYPE		II		STORIES		2		WIA	
16. BLDG. AREA		578		TOTAL		578		GRADING	
17. DWELL. UNITS		GUEST ROOMS		SPACES REQ'D		76		CRIT. SOIL	
18. SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPECIFIED		CONV. INSP. LIC. FAB.		PROVIDED		76		HIGHWAY DEB.	
19. P.C. No.		14651		S.P.C.		71		FLOOD	
20. P.C.		14651		G.P.I.		-		CONV.	
21. S.P.C.		71		B.P.		335		ZONED BY	
22. G.P.I.		-		I.R.		-		Martz	
23. B.P.		335		O.S.		-		FILE WITH	
24. I.R.		-		C/D		-		INSPECTOR	
25. O.S.		-		TYPYST		tev			

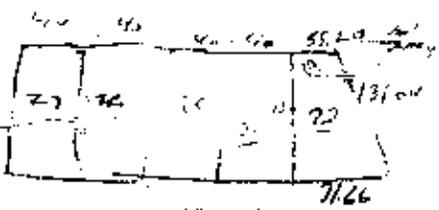
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

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.

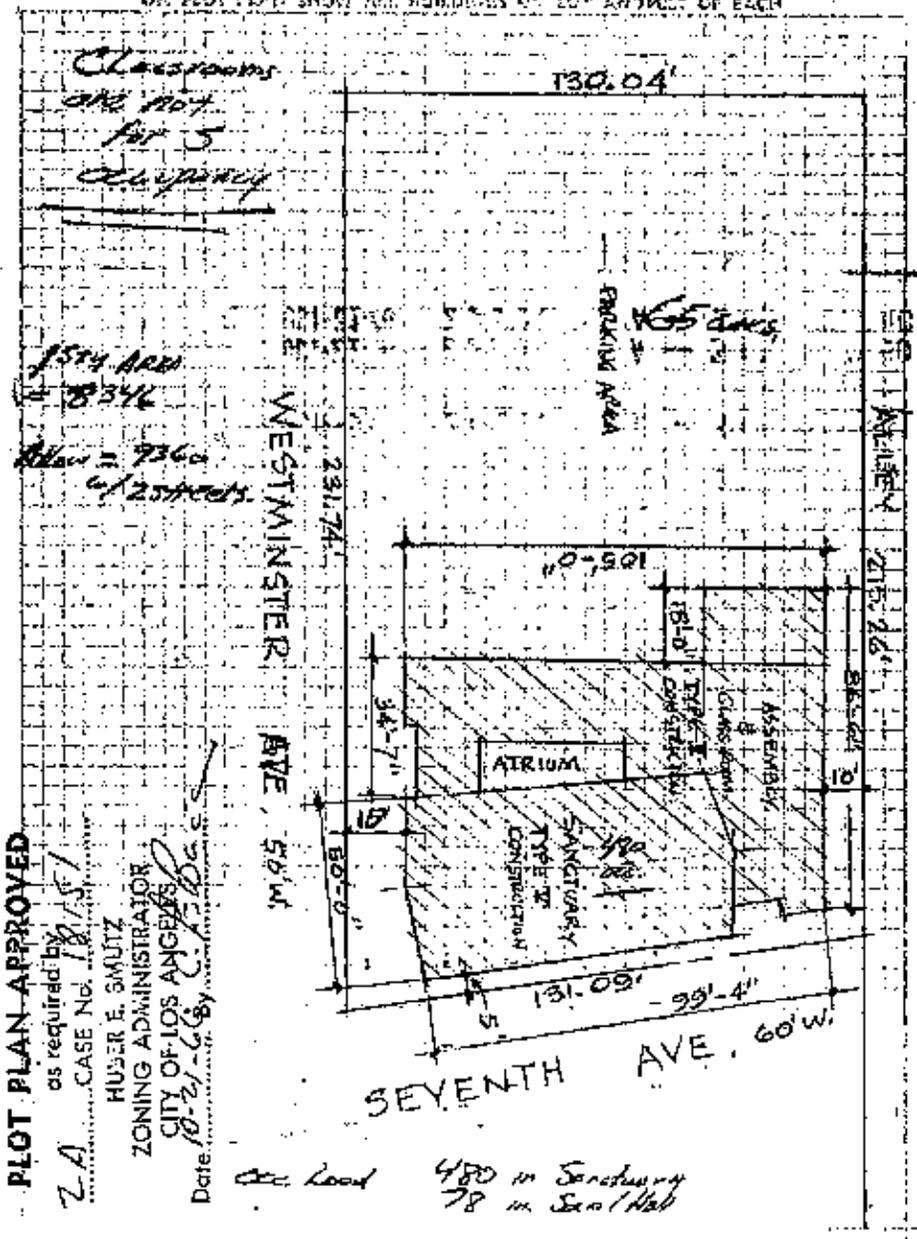
"This permit is an application for inspection, the issuance of which is not an approval or an authorization of the work specified herein. This permit does not authorize or permit, nor shall it be construed as authorizing or permitting the violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Neither 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: *George R. Williams*
Owner or Agent

Name	Date
Bureau of Engineering	
ADDRESS APPROVED	DAN 10/4/66
SEWERS AVAILABLE	DAN 10/4/66
NOT AVAILABLE	
DRIVEWAY APPROVED	DAN 10/5/66
HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED COMPLETED	
FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED	
APPROVED FOR ISSUE	
FILE #	
Conservation	
Plumbing	
PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM APPROVED	
Planning	
APPROVED UNDER CASE #	
Fire	
APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-5700)	<i>Charles W. Dwyer</i> 10-20-66
Traffic	
APPROVED FOR	



NOTE: SANCTUARY AND ASSEMBLY ROOM WILL NOT BE USED AT THE SAME TIME. *Joseph H. Wilson*
 ON PLOT PLAN SHOW ALL DIMENSIONS ON LOT AND DIST. OF EACH



PLOT PLAN APPROVED
 as required by
 CASE No. 18-11-1
 HUBER E. SMUTZ
 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
 CITY OF LOS ANGELES
 Date: 10-27-77
 By: *[Signature]*

Sec. Road 480 in Sanctuary
 78 in San/Hall

L.A.
 Fire Dept.
 Plan No. 19
 Title 19
 LAMC 60

OFFSITE pkg for 31 cars - Lots 112 B1K
 n - Ocean Park
 UHa Tract
 Permit to be obtained
 later - 2/18/77

November 9, 1966- BLDG-ALTER/REPAIR- FOOTING REVISION.

3 APPLICATION TO ALTER - REPAIR - DEMOLISH AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY				CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPT. OF BUILDINGS AND SAFETY	
INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only 2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.				CENSUS TRAC	
1. LEGAL DESOR.	LOT 23-27	BLK. L	TRACT	Ocean Park Villa 7187	
2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING	(06) Church		NEW USE OF BUILDING	06? Same	
3. JOB ADDRESS	685 Westminister Avenue				ZONE R-3-1-0
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS	7th Ave.		AND	6th Ave.	
5. OWNER'S NAME	First Baptist Church of Venice				INSIDE (COM. LOT) KEY REV. COM. LOT SIZE
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS	688 Westminister Ave.				P.O. BOX ZIP Irreg.
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER	Geo. R. Williams		STATE LICENSE NO.	C-2643 291-2944	
8. ENGINEER	Joe Y. Sing		STATE LICENSE NO.	C 9592 OR12562	
9. CONTRACTOR	Gibraltar Const.		STATE LICENSE NO.	234641 750-3052	
10. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG.	STORIES 2	HEIGHT 21	NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE 1 Church		
11. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION	EXT. WALLS wd. & stucco	ROOF wood	FLOOR wood		
12. JOB ADDRESS	685 Westminister Avenue				DISTRICT OFFICE WLA
13. VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING.	\$ 101.00				GRADING
14. NEW WORK (Describe)	Footing revision.				CRIT. SOIL
HIGHWAY DED.					
NEW USE OF BUILDING (06) Church	SIZE OF ADDITION	STORIES	HEIGHT	FLOOD	yes
TYPE	GROUP	SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPECIFIED	VALUATION APPROVED	CONS.	
BLDG. AREA	NO. OCC.	TOTAL	PLANS CHECKED	ZONED BY	Magnuson
DWELL. UNITS	GUEST ROOMS	SPACED PARKING REQ'D PROVIDED	PLANS APPROVED	FILE NO.	65561W66
P.C. No.	CONT. INSP.	APPLICATION APPROVED	INSPECTOR		
P.C.	S.P.C.	G.P.I.	B.P. 2	I.F.	O.S.
Nov 9 1966 65772W					
NOV-966 26681 B-1CK 2.00					
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	
Bureau of Engineering	ADDRESS APPROVED				
	SEWERS AVAILABLE				
	NOT AVAILABLE				
	DRIVEWAY APPROVED				
	HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED				
	COMPLETED				
Conservation	FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED				
	APPROVED FOR ISSUE				
	FILE #				
Plumbing	PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM APPROVED				
Planning	APPROVED UNDER CASE #				
Fire	APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-5700)				
Traffic	APPROVED FOR				

Jan 2, 1990- Plan Maintenance/ Pole Sign

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only. 2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.

1. LEGAL DESCR.	LOT 23	BLK. L	TRACT Ocean Park Villa Tr.	COUNTY REF. NO. MP4-23	DIST. MAP 108B145
2. TYPE OF SIGN OR NEW WORK (19)	Pole Sign			ON-SITE SIGN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OFF-SITE SIGN <input type="checkbox"/>
3. JOB ADDRESS	685 Westminister Ave			TEMP. <input type="checkbox"/>	EXP. DATE
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS	7th St		AND 6th St	LOT (TYPE) COVERED	
5. OWNER'S NAME	Mr. & Mrs. H. James			PHONE 396-7209	LOT SIZE TRP
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS	685 Westminister			CITY Venice	ST. FRONT 711
7. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	---			BUS. LIC. NO. ---	ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO. ---
8. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER ADDRESS	---			CITY ---	ZIP ---
9. QUALIFIED INSTALLER	Local Neon			BUS. LIC. NO. 155967	ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO. 394-1123
10. INSTALLER'S ADDRESS	1660 Stanford St			CITY Santa Monica	ZIP 90404
11. SIZE OF EXISTING BUILDING (TYPE)	WIDTH 50	LENGTH 125	STORIES 1	NO. OF EXIST. BLDGS. ON LOT AND USE 1-church	
12. SIZE OF SIGN	6'0" x 5'0"		TOTAL COPY AREA 30sf	OVERALL HEIGHT 42'5" ALG.	FROM GRADE FROM ROOF
13. JOB ADDRESS	685 Westminister			STREET GUIDE	
14. VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED SIGN	\$5538			AFFIDAVIT ZI 132, 1456	
15. MATERIAL OF SIGN CONSTRUCTION	SUPPORTING FRAME steel	FRAME OF COPY metal	SURFACE OF SIGN metal	DIST. OFFICE WLA	
16. TYPE OF SIGN OR NEW WORK	pole sign			HWY. DEG. ---	
17. ILLUMINATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTERNAL <input type="checkbox"/> EXTERNAL <input type="checkbox"/> FLASHING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER			ZONED BY LEE	
18. NO. OF SIGNS OR GAS TUBE SYSTEMS	7			NO. OF ADDITIONAL BRANCH CIRCUITS ---	
PERMIT FEES				PLANS CHECKED LINCOLN LEE	
SIGNS/G. T. SYSTEMS	21			TYPIST e188	
ADDITIONAL CIRCUITS	---			INSPECTOR	
ELECTRICAL SERVICE	---			8433-50988	
ISSUING FEE	10			DATE 728 31 8:01	
BLDG. PERMIT	147.31			73 06 8:00	
TOTAL	178.31			83 01 8:00	
S.P.C.	0.83			88 06 8:00	
INSP. ACTIVITY: BMI	---			93 01 8:00	
P.C. NO.	---			98 06 8:00	
<p>287.85</p> <p>DECLARATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS</p> <p>LICENSED CONTRACTORS DECLARATION</p> <p>I hereby affirm that I am licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect.</p> <p>Date 12/90 Lic. Class 046510 Lic. No. 155967 Contractor's Name James, H. & J. Contractor's Mailing Address 1660 Stanford St Venice 90404</p> <p>OWNER-BUILDER DECLARATION</p> <p>I hereby affirm that I am exempt from the Contractor's License Law for the following reason (Sec. 7031.5, Business and Professions Code): Any city or county which requires a permit to construct, alter, improve, demolish, or repair any structure, prior to its issuance, also requires the applicant for such permit to file a signed statement that he is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Contractor's License Law (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code) or that he is exempt therefrom and the basis for the alleged exemption. Any violation of Section 7031.5 by any applicant for a permit subjects the applicant to a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I, as owner of the property, or my employees with wages as their sole compensation, will do the work, and the structure is not intended or offered for sale (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code). The Contractor's License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who does such work himself or through his own employees, provided that such improvements are not intended or offered for sale. If, however, the building or improvement is sold within one year of completion, the owner-builder will have the burden of proving that he did not build or improve for the purpose of sale.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I, as owner of the property, am exclusively contracting with licensed contractors to construct the project (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code). The Contractor's License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who contracts for such projects with a contractor(s) licensed pursuant to the Contractor's License Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am exempt under Sec. _____ B. & P. C. for this reason: _____</p> <p>Date _____ Owner's Signature _____</p> <p>WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION</p> <p>I hereby affirm that I have a certificate of consent to self-insure, or a certificate of Worker's Compensation Insurance, or a certified copy thereof (Sec. 3800, Lab. C.).</p> <p>Policy No. 597454 Insurance Company The State Workmen's Comp. Fund.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified copy is hereby furnished.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Certified copy is filed with the Los Angeles City Dept. of Safety.</p> <p>Date 1-2-90 Applicant's Signature James, H. & J. Applicant's Mailing Address 1660 Stanford St Venice 90404</p> <p>CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE</p> <p>I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the Workers' Compensation Laws of California.</p> <p>Date _____ Applicant's Signature _____</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY</p> <p>I hereby affirm that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec. 3097, Civ. C.).</p> <p>Lender's Name _____</p> <p>Lender's Address _____</p> <p>I certify that I have read this application and state that the above information is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-specified property for inspection purposes.</p> <p>I realize that this permit is an application for inspection, that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, that it does not authorize or permit any violation of laws to comply with any applicable law, that neither the City of Los Angeles nor any board, department, officer or employee thereof makes 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.</p>					

June 15, 2015- VOLUNTARY PROVISM OF UNISEX BATHROOM AND SHOWER TO EXISTING CHURCH

Permit Issued- No

Permit and Inspection Report Detail

4/2/18, 2:15 PM

Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

Certificate Information: 685 E WESTMINSTER AVE 90291

Application / Permit 15016-10000-12393
Plan Check / Job No. B15LA08239
Group Building
Type Bldg-Alter/Repair
Sub-Type Commercial
Primary Use (6) Church
Work Description VOLUNTARY PROVISM OF UNISEX BATHROOM AND SHOV
Permit Issued No
Current Status PC Info Complete on 6/15/2015

Permit Application Status History

Submitted	6/15/2015	APPLI
Assigned to Plan Check Engineer	6/15/2015	EMMA
Plan Check Approved	6/15/2015	EMMA

Permit Application Clearance Information

No Data Available.

Contact Information

No Data Available.

Inspector Information

No Data Available.

Pending Inspections

No Data Available.

Inspection Request History

No Data Available.

May 4, 2015- CONVERT (E) WOMEN'S LOUNGE ROOM TO BATHROOM, SHOWER AND CREATE HALLWAY IN FIRST FLOOR OF (E) TWO STORY CHURCH

Permit Issued- No

Permit and Inspection Report Detail

4/2/18, 2:16 PM

Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

Certificate Information: 685 E WESTMINSTER AVE 90291

Application / Permit 15016-20000-09192
Plan Check / Job No. B15VN05581
Group Building
Type Bldg-Alter/Repair
Sub-Type Commercial
Primary Use (6) Church
Work Description CONVERT (E) WOMEN'S LOUNGE ROOM TO BATHROOM, S
FIRST FLOOR OF (E) TWO STORY CHURCH
Permit Issued No
Current Status Corrections Issued on 5/4/2015

Permit Application Status History

Submitted	5/4/2015
Assigned to Plan Check Engineer	5/4/2015
Corrections Issued	5/4/2015

Permit Application Clearance Information

No Data Available.

Contact Information

Contractor	Shin Simon; Lic. No.: 1002181-B	6727 SYLMAR AVENUE #301
------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------

Inspector Information

No Data Available.

Pending Inspections

No Data Available.

Inspection Request History

No Data Available.

July 9, 2015- restripe parking to provide accessible spaces add ramp from sidewalk
 correct parking wing on cert of occupancy
Permit Issued- No

Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

Certificate Information: 685 E WESTMINSTER AVE 90291

Application / Permit 15026-10000-00347
Plan Check / Job No. B15LA08250
Group Building
Type Nonbldg-Alter/Repair
Sub-Type Commercial
Primary Use (61) Use of Land
Work Description restripe parking to provide accessible spaces add ramp from cert of occupancy
Permit Issued No
Current Status Reviewed by Supervisor on 7/9/2015

Permit Application Status History

Submitted	6/15/2015
Assigned to Plan Check Engineer	7/1/2015
Corrections Issued	7/6/2015
Reviewed by Supervisor	7/9/2015
Disabled Access Plans Picked Up	8/26/2015

Permit Application Clearance Information

DAS Clearance	Not Cleared	6/25/2015
Coastal Zone	Not Cleared	7/6/2015
Eng Process Fee Ord 176,300	Not Cleared	7/6/2015
Prkng lot landscape/Water mgmt	Not Cleared	7/6/2015
Roof/Waste drainage to street	Not Cleared	7/6/2015
Specific Plan	Not Cleared	7/6/2015
Stormwater Pollution Mitigatn	Not Cleared	7/6/2015
ZA Case	Not Cleared	7/6/2015

Contact Information

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only. 2. Plot Plan Required on Back of Original.

1. LEGAL DESCR.	LOT 23	BLK. L	TRACT Ocean Park Villa Tr.	COUNTY REF. NO. MP4-23	DIST. MAP 108B145	CENSUS TRACT 2732.00
2. TYPE OF SIGN OR NEW WORK	(19) Pole Sign	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ON-SITE SIGN	<input type="checkbox"/> OFF-SITE SIGN	ZONE RD1.51		
3. JOB ADDRESS	685 Westminster Ave			<input type="checkbox"/> TEMP.	EXP. DATE	FIRE DIST. - COUN. DIST. 6
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS	7th St	AND	6th St	LOT (TYPE) corner		
5. OWNER'S NAME	Mr. & Mrs. R. Homes			PHONE 396-7209	LOT SIZE 1 RR	
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS	685 Westminster Venice			CITY Venice	ZIP	ST. FRONT 71'
7. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	BUS. LIC. NO.	ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO.	PHONE	ALLEY 10' Rear		
8. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER ADDRESS	---			CITY	ZIP	BLDG. LINE
9. QUALIFIED INSTALLER	Local Neon			BUS. LIC. NO. 155967	ACTIVE STATE LIC. NO. 394-1123	PHONE
10. INSTALLER'S ADDRESS	1660 Stanford St			CITY Santa Monica	ZIP 90404	AFFIDAVITS ZI 1312, 1466 ZA 78-238
11. SIZE OF EXISTING BUILDING	WIDTH 80	LENGTH 125	TYPE URM <input type="checkbox"/>	STORIES 1	NO. OF EXIST. BLDGS. ON LOT AND USE 1-church & residence	
12. SIZE OF SIGN	6'0" x 5'0"		TOTAL COPY AREA 39sf	OVERALL HEIGHT	FROM GRADE 42' 5" N/A	FROM ROOF N/A
13. JOB ADDRESS	685 Westminster			STREET GUIDE 49C3	CZCA: X-2A-18151 X	
14. VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED SIGN	\$ 5538					
15. MATERIAL OF SIGN CONSTRUCTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STEEL	SUPPORTING FRAME steel	FRAME OF COPY metal	SURFACE OF SIGN metal		DIST. OFFICE WLA
16. TYPE OF SIGN OR NEW WORK	pole sign			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE FACE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOUBLE FACE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
17. ILLUMINATION	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTERNAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXTERNAL	<input type="checkbox"/> FLASHING	<input type="checkbox"/> REVOLVING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER NONE
18. NO. OF SIGNS OR GAS TUBE SYSTEMS	2	NO. OF ADDITIONAL BRANCH CIRCUITS	1	NO. OF CONTROL DEVICES	1	

PERMIT FEES		CONA INSP. LIC FAD.	PLANS CHECKED LINCOLN LEE	TYPYST elsa
SIGNS/G. T. SYSTEMS	21	FREEWAY CLEARANCE	APPLICATION APPROVED	INSPECTOR
ADDITIONAL CIRCUITS	---	500' <input type="checkbox"/> 2000' <input type="checkbox"/>		
ELECTRICAL SERVICE	---	DATE CR 49		
CONTROL DEVICES	---	TRANSPORTATION DEPT. CLEARANCE		
ISSUING FEE	10	DATE CR 49		
BLDG. PERMIT	147 31	F.H.		
P.C.	73.66	INSP. ACTIVITY: BMI		
S.P.C.	0.83	P.C. NO. CC		
I.F.	S.P.I.	O.S.C.		
ISSUING OFFICE WLA # 284	S.O.S.S.			

Unless a shorter period of time has been established by an official action, plan check approval expires one year after the fee is paid and this permit expires two years after the fee is paid or 180 days after the fee is paid if construction is not commenced

CASHIER'S USE ONLY

V6707
WLA 86951

B & SB-5 (R.8.88)

287-85 DECLARATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

LICENSED CONTRACTORS DECLARATION

19. I hereby affirm that I am licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect.

Date 1/2/90 Lic. Class C45C10 Lic. No. 155967 Contractor's Signature [Signature]

Contractor's Mailing Address 1660 Stanford St. S.M. 90404

OWNER-BUILDER DECLARATION

20. I hereby affirm that I am exempt from the Contractor's License Law for the following reason (Sec. 7031.5, Business and Professions Code: Any city or county which requires a permit to construct, alter, improve, demolish, or repair any structure, prior to its issuance, also requires the applicant for such permit to file a signed statement that he is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Contractor's License Law (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code) or that he is exempt therefrom and the basis for the alleged exemption. Any violation of Section 7031.5 by any applicant for a permit subjects the applicant to a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).):

I, as owner of the property, or my employees with wages as their sole compensation, will do the work, and the structure is not intended or offered for sale (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code: The Contractor's License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who does such work himself or through his own employees, provided that such improvements are not intended or offered for sale. If, however, the building or improvement is sold within one year of completion, the owner-builder will have the burden of proving that he did not build or improve for the purpose of sale.)

I, as owner of the property, am exclusively contracting with licensed contractors to construct the project (Sec. 7044, Business and Professions Code: The Contractor's License Law does not apply to an owner of property who builds or improves thereon, and who contracts for such projects with a contractor(s) licensed pursuant to the Contractor's License Law.)

I am exempt under Sec. _____, B. & P. C. for this reason _____

Date _____ Owner's Signature _____

WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION

21. I hereby affirm that I have a certificate of consent to self-insure, or a certificate of Worker's Compensation Insurance, or a certified copy thereof (Sec. 3800, Lab. C.).

Policy No. 597454 Insurance Company State Workmen's Comp Fund.

Certified copy is hereby furnished.

Certified copy is filed with the Los Angeles City Dept. of Bldg. & Safety.

Date 1-2-90 Applicant's Signature [Signature]

Applicant's Mailing Address 1660 Stanford St. S.M. 90404

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

22. I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the Workers' Compensation Laws of California.

Date _____ Applicant's Signature _____

NOTICE TO APPLICANT: If, after making this Certificate of Exemption, you should become subject to the Workers' Compensation provisions of the Labor Code, you must forthwith comply with such provisions or this permit shall be deemed revoked.

CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY

23. I hereby affirm that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec. 3097, Civ. C.).

Lender's Name _____

Lender's Address _____

24. I certify that I have read this application and state that the above information is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes.

I realize that this permit is an application for inspection, that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, that it does not authorize or permit any violation or failure to comply with any applicable law, that 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 LAMC)

Signed [Signature] (Owner or agent having property owner's consent) [Signature] Position 1-2-90 Date

Bureau of Engineering	233301	ADDRESS APPROVED	DIAS 12-7-89
CITY PLANNING	89-4901-CZCA	HIGHWAY DEDICATION	NOT REQ'D
OFF SITE CLEARANCE:			12-15-89
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:			

X - Z1-1466, CEX, 89-0597
 * ZA 18151 conditional-use permit to allow church in RD15 sign not to exceed 5'x6' okay, [unclear] 12-20-89

COMBINED SIGN AREAS

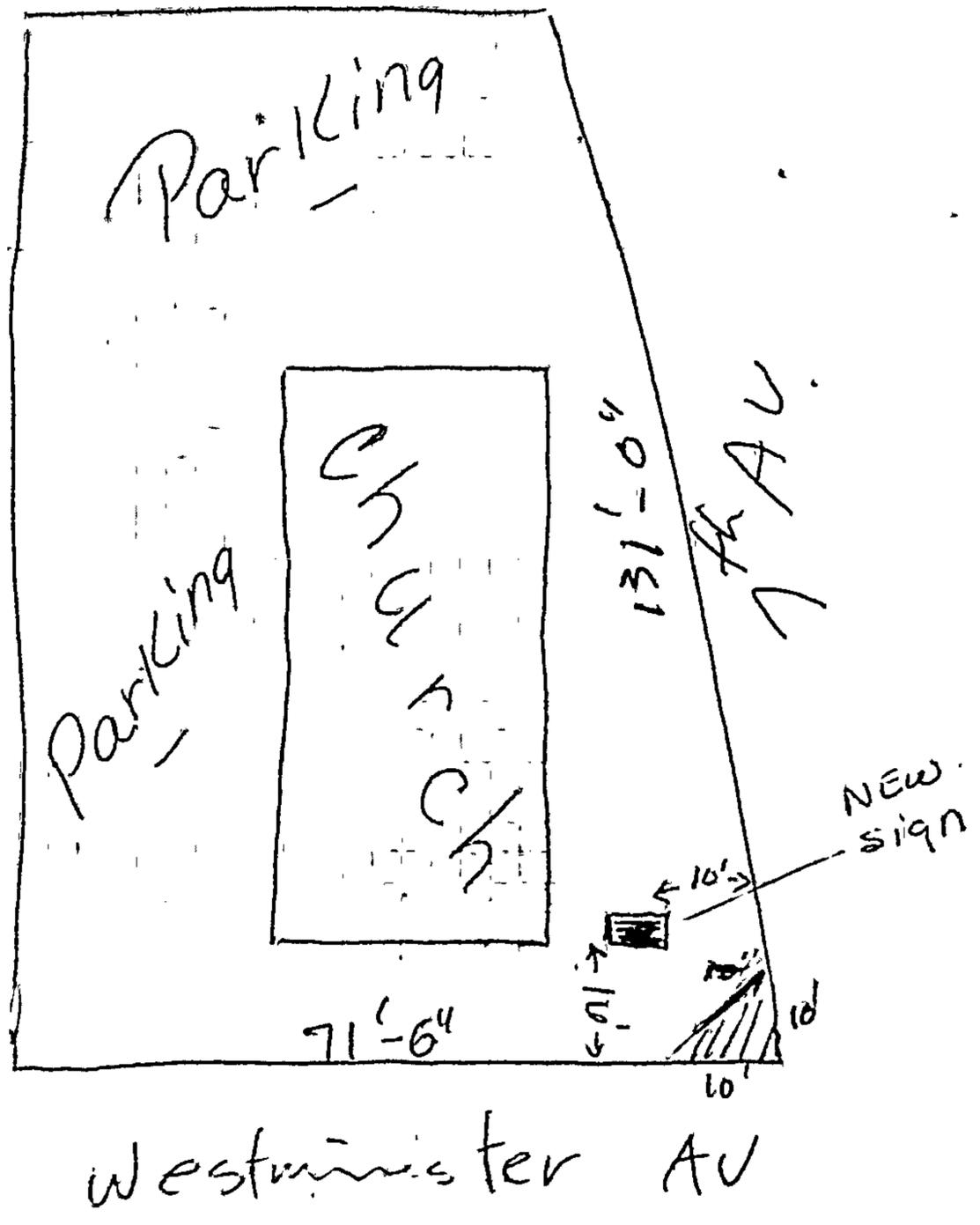
Existing Sign Area none

- 1. Illum. Canopy Sign
- 2. Monument Sign
- 3. Pole Sign
- 4. Projecting Sign
- 5. Roof Sign
- 6. Wall Sign
- 7. Window Sign
- 8. Proposed pole Sign 30^{sq}
 Total Area 30^{sq}

Signs Facing 7th West
 Allowable Combined Sign Area OK
 Actual Combined Sign Area 30
 Allowable pole Sign Area OK
 Actual pole Sign Area 30
 Proposed Sign Facing 7th & Westminster

ON PLOT PLAN SHOW ALL BUILDINGS AND SIGNS ON LOT

↑ ATTACHED PLOT PLANS SHALL NOT EXTEND ABOVE THIS LINE





September 11, 2018
Document Report

Documents**Document Number(s)**

AFF 32847

Record Description

Record ID: 1912476

Doc Type: AFFIDAVIT

Sub Type: LOT TIE

Doc Date: 10/19/1966

Status: None

Doc Version: None

AKA Address: None

Project Name: None

Disaster ID: None

Subject: None

Product Name: None

Manufacturer's Name: None

Expired Date: None

Receipt Number: None

Case Number: None

Scan Number: None

Dwelling Units: None

Comments: *LOTS 23-27 INCLUSIVE.

Property Address(es)

685 E WESTMINSTER AVE

Legal Description(s)

Tract:

Block: Lot: Arb:

Modifier: Map Reference:

PIN(s)

108B145 159

Assessor Number(s)

4239-019-021

Film RBF

Type: HIST M0014; 008; 0092

Bureau of Engineering	233301	ADDRESS APPROVED	DIAS 12-7-89
CITY PLANNING	89-4901-CZCA	HIGHWAY DEDICATION	NOT REQ'D
OFF SITE CLEARANCE:			12-15-89
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:			

X - Z1-1466, CEX, 89-0597
 * ZA 18151 conditional-use permit to allow church in RD15 sign not to exceed 5'x6' okay, [unclear] 12-20-89

COMBINED SIGN AREAS

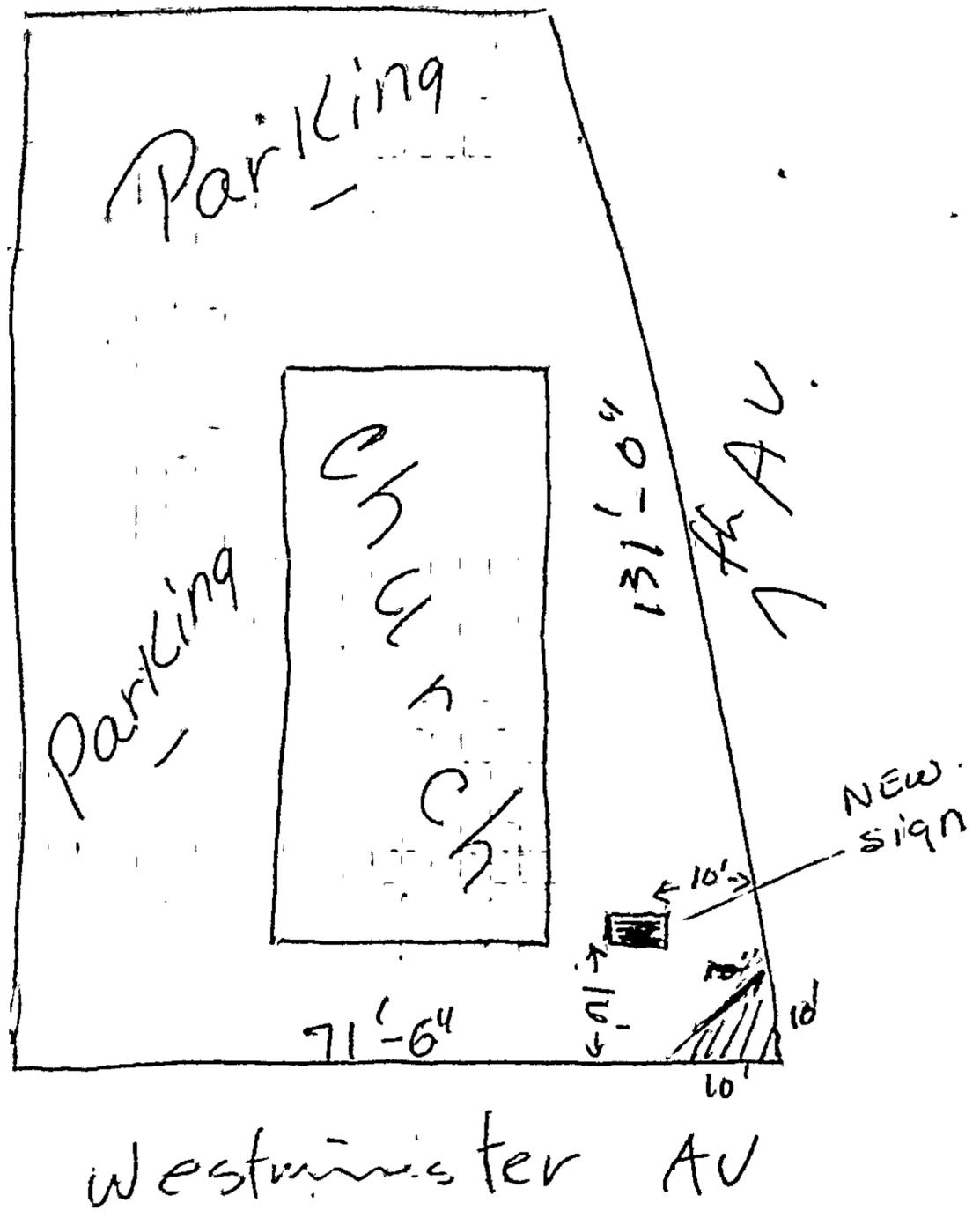
Existing Sign Area none

- 1. Illum. Canopy Sign
 - 2. Monument Sign
 - 3. Pole Sign
 - 4. Projecting Sign
 - 5. Roof Sign
 - 6. Wall Sign
 - 7. Window Sign
 - 8. Proposed pole Sign 30^{sq}
- Total Area 30^{sq}

Signs Facing 7th West OK
 Allowable Combined Sign Area OK
 Actual Combined Sign Area 30
 Allowable pole Sign Area OK
 Actual pole Sign Area 30
 Proposed Sign Facing 7th & Westminster

ON PLOT PLAN SHOW ALL BUILDINGS AND SIGNS ON LOT

↑ ATTACHED PLOT PLANS SHALL NOT EXTEND ABOVE THIS LINE



686 & 688 WESTMINSTER:

Address: 688 WESTMINSTER

1. To print a summary overview, check mark the column for the desired record, then click here for [printer friendly format](#).
2. To obtain the summary of the document, click on any of the result records below, (i.e. Document Type, ... Doc number).
3. To view the digital document, click on the digital icon ()
If image is not available, please come visit us at our [Records Counter Office](#).

Sort By	Doc Type		Asc
Then By	Sub Type		Asc
Then By	Doc Date		Asc
Then By	Doc Number		Asc

Pre-selected addresses:

All 

<input type="checkbox"/> All	Document Type	Sub Type	Doc Date	User Doc Number	Digital Image
<input type="checkbox"/>	AFFIDAVIT	PARKING	10/19/1966	AFF 3246	
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUILDING PERMIT 	BLDG-ALTER/REPAIR	2/10/1955	1955 12223	
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUILDING PERMIT 	BLDG-NEW	11/3/1927	1927LA33060	
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUILDING PERMIT 	NEW CONSTRUCTION	11/3/1927	1927LA33060	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE FILE 	MISCELLANEOUS	2/5/2015		
<input type="checkbox"/>	ZONING ADMINISTRATOR CASE 		6/6/1966	ZA 18151	

688 Westminster- First Baptist Church - new construction permit, 1927:

1. Purpose of Building: Church
2. Owner's Name: 1st Baptist Church Venice
3. Owners Address: A. L. Reese, 541 Santa Clara Ave

All Applications must be filed with by Applicant

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS and other data must also be filed

Eng. Form 2

BUILDING DIVISION

2

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

Application for the Erection of Frame Buildings

CLASS "D" VENICE ANNEX

To the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles through the office of the Superintendent of Buildings for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereafter set forth. This application is made subject to the following conditions, which are hereby agreed to by the undersigned applicant and which shall be deemed conditions entering into the execution of the permit:
 First: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to erect any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place of the City of Los Angeles.
 Second: That the permit does not grant any right or privilege to use any building or other structure therein described, or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may hereafter be prohibited by Ordinance of the City of Los Angeles.
 Third: That the granting of the permit does not affect by prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such permit.

TAKE TO ROOMS No. 6 REAR OF NORTH ANNEX 1st Floor

CITY CLERK PLEASE VERIFY

TAKE TO FIRST FLOOR 242 SO. BROADWAY ENGINEER PLEASE VERIFY

Lot No. I Block M
 (Description of Property) Clear Park Villa Tract - No. 2
 District No. _____ Al. B. Page _____ F. B. Page _____
 No. South + West 7th Ave. & 6th St. Street
 (Location of Job) 688 Westminster Ave. (S. Side)
 (USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)

C. K. City Engineer
 R. J. Deputy

- Purpose of Building Church No. of Rooms _____ No. of Families _____
- Owner's name Pop Church Service Phone 619-12-
- Owner's address 415 West Santa Monica Ave
- Architect's name Paul R Williams Phone 742-1107
- Contractor's name Rose & Rosen Phone _____
- Contractor's address 1436 West Santa Monica Calif
- VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK (Including Plaster, Gas Fitting, Kerosene, Carpets, Elevators, Painting, Milling, etc.) \$2,000
- Is there any existing building or permit for a building on lot? no How used? garage
- Size of proposed building 26 x 88.7 Height to highest point 4 ft 7 1/2 feet
- Number of Stories in height two Character of ground loam soil
- Material of foundation concrete Size of footings 22" Size of wall 8" Depth below ground 12+18"
- Material of chimneys X Number of inlets to flue X Interior size of flue X x Y
- Material of exterior walls wood + stucco
- Give sizes of following materials: REDWOOD MUDSILLS 2 x 8 Girders 4 x 6
 EXTERIOR studs 2 x 4 INTERIOR BEARING studs 2 x 4 Interior Non-Bearing studs 2 x 4
 Ceiling joists 2 x 4 Roof rafters 2 x 6 FIRST FLOOR JOISTS 2 x 6
 Second floor joists X x 8 Specify material of roof Particle Composition
- Will all provisions of State Housing Act be Complied with? Yes

I have carefully examined and read the above application and know the same is true and correct, and that all provisions of the Ordinances and Laws governing Building Construction will be complied with, whether herein specified or not.

OVER

(Sign Here) Paul R Williams
 (Owner or Authorized Agent)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

PERMIT NO. 33060	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ordinance, State L-79-59 <u>PK</u> Plan Examiner	Application checked and found O. K. <u>10-31-57 Z.B.</u> <u>88.8</u> Clerk	RECEIVED NOV 3 1957 TOWLE
----------------------------	---	--	---

17.25



City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

9/11/2018 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

685 E WESTMINSTER AVE

ZIP CODES

90291

RECENT ACTIVITY

DIR-2017-2506-VSO
CHC-2018-5305-HCM
ENV-2018-5306-CE
DIR-2008-4703-DI

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2014-1456-SP
CPC-2005-8252-CA
CPC-2000-4046-CA
CPC-1998-119
CPC-1987-648-ICO
CPC-1986-824-GPC
CPC-1984-226-SP
CPC-1961-12582
ORD-175694
ORD-175693
ORD-172897
ORD-172019
ORD-168999
ORD-164844-SA1610
ORD-121312
DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL
DIR-2014-2824-DI
ZA-18151
ENV-2017-1896-CE
ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE
ENV-2005-8253-ND
ENV-2004-2691-CE
ENV-2002-6836-SP
ENV-2001-846-ND

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	108B145 159
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	8,320.6 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 671 - GRID H5
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
Tract	OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT
Map Reference	M B 4-23
Block	L
Lot	23
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	None
Map Sheet	108B145

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	Venice
Area Planning Commission	West Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council	Venice
Council District	CD 11 - Mike Bonin
Census Tract #	2732.00
LADBS District Office	West Los Angeles

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	RD1.5-1
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2406 Director's Interpretation of the Venice SP for Small Lot Subdivisio
General Plan Land Use	Low Medium II Residential
General Plan Note(s)	Yes
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Specific Plan Area	Los Angeles Coastal Transportation Corridor
Subarea	None
Specific Plan Area	Venice Coastal Zone
Subarea	Oakwood-Milwood-Southeast Venice
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
Design Review Board	No
Historic Preservation Review	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone	None
Other Historic Designations	None
Other Historic Survey Information	None
Mills Act Contract	None
CDO: Community Design Overlay	None
CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay	None
Subarea	None
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up	None
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	No
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
RFA: Residential Floor Area District	None
SN: Sign District	No
Streetscape	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area	None
Affordable Housing Linkage Fee	

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.

Residential Market Area	High
Non-Residential Market Area	High
Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)	Not Eligible
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency	None
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	None
500 Ft School Zone	No
500 Ft Park Zone	Active: Oakwood Recreation Center

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
Ownership (Assessor)	
Owner1	685 WESTMINSTER HOLDINGS LLC
Address	11175 SANTA MONICA BLVD LOS ANGELES CA 90025
Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land Records)	
Owner	685 WESTMINSTER HOLDINGS LLC C/O JAY PENSKE
Address	11175 SANTA MONICA BLVD LOS ANGELES CA 90025
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0.666 (ac)
Use Code	7100 - Institutional - Church - One Story
Assessed Land Val.	\$8,262,000
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$408,000
Last Owner Change	02/16/2017
Last Sale Amount	\$6,300,063
Tax Rate Area	67
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	192254
Building 1	
Year Built	1967
Building Class	DX
Number of Units	1
Number of Bedrooms	0
Number of Bathrooms	0
Building Square Footage	12,311.0 (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

Additional Information

Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	Calvo Exclusion Area Coastal Zone Commission Authority
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone	YES
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	None
Watercourse	No
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties	No
Methane Hazard Site	None
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	No
Oil Wells	None

Seismic Hazards

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.

Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	4.568952
Nearest Fault (Name)	Santa Monica Fault
Region	Transverse Ranges and Los Angeles Basin
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	1.00000000
Slip Geometry	Left Lateral - Reverse - Oblique
Slip Type	Moderately / Poorly Constrained
Down Dip Width (km)	13.00000000
Rupture Top	0.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	-75.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	6.60000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	Yes
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area	No
Tsunami Inundation Zone	No

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District	None
Promise Zone	None
Renewal Community	No
Revitalization Zone	Venice
State Enterprise Zone	None
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative	None

Housing

Direct all Inquiries to	Housing+Community Investment Department
Telephone	(866) 557-7368
Website	http://hcidla.lacity.org
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No
Ellis Act Property	No

Public Safety

Police Information	
Bureau	West
Division / Station	Pacific
Reporting District	1414
Fire Information	
Bureau	West
Batallion	4
District / Fire Station	63
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-2014-1456-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT
Case Number:	CPC-2005-8252-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	CPC-2000-4046-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1998-119
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1987-648-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Descriptions(s):	INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE ENTIRE VENICE COASTAL ZONE WHICH WILL TEMPORARILY PERMIT ONLY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH REGULATIONS SUBSTANTIALLY BASED ON THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSIONS INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES FOR THE AREA
Case Number:	CPC-1986-824-GPC
Required Action(s):	GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1984-226-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	Data Not Available
Case Number:	CPC-1961-12582
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL
Required Action(s):	MEL-MELLO ACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW CDP-COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	DIR-2014-2824-DI
Required Action(s):	DI-DIRECTOR OF PLANNING INTERPRETATION
Project Descriptions(s):	DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION OF A SPECIFIC PLAN PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7.H. THE INTERPRETATION SHALL ONLY BE APPLICABLE TO THE VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN.
Case Number:	ENV-2017-1896-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE
Required Action(s):	SE-STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION EIR-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Project Descriptions(s):	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Case Number:	ENV-2005-8253-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	ENV-2004-2691-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	SMALL LOT/TOWNHOME ORDINANCE

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.

Case Number:	ENV-2002-6836-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT prepared and adopted by the City Planning Dept. in accordance with the Coastal Act provisions and guidelines.
Case Number:	ENV-2001-846-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

- ORD-175694
- ORD-175693
- ORD-172897
- ORD-172019
- ORD-168999
- ORD-164844-SA1610
- ORD-121312
- ZA-18151



Address: 685 E WESTMINSTER AVE
 APN: 4239019021
 PIN #: 108B145 159

Tract: OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT
 Block: L
 Lot: 23
 Arb: None

Zoning: RD1.5-1
 General Plan: Low Medium II Residential



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

671-685 East Westminster Avenue and 686-688 East Westminster Avenue

CHC-2018-5305-HCM

ENV-2018-5306-CE

Materials Submitted by the Applicant



Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

HCM Application Form_First Baptist Church_08.28.2018 & documents - 1

margaret molloy <mmmolloy@earthlink.net>

Tue, Sep 11, 2018 at 3:29 PM

To: Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cc: Ken Bernstein <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, "Giessinger, Lambert" <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>, Laddie Williams <cwilli7269@gmail.com>, Naomi Nightingale <nightingalenaomi@yahoo.com>, Amanda Seward <amandaseward@artvista.net>, Ivy <ivybeach@protonmail.com>, Adolfo Alzuphar <aalzuphar@scopela.org>, Jon Wolff <jonwolffusa@aol.com>

Thanks Melissa. Please add this to our case file and your staff report:

The SaveVenice community has gathered at First Baptist Church in Venice each Sunday since October 22, 2017.

Our [Change.org](#) petition for historic designation for FBCV now has 31,350 signatures.

Please confirm.

Appreciatively,

margaret molloy

https://www.change.org/p/respect-black-history-grant-historical-status-to-the-first-baptist-church-of-venice?recruiter=10984370&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=share_petition&utm_term=share_for_starters_page

<https://lasentinel.net/white-mans-mansion-may-replace-historic-black-church.html>
White Man's Mansion May Replace Historic Black Church - August 2, 2018

<https://lasentinel.net/african-americans-contribution-to-the-city...>
African American's Contribution to the City of Venice - February 22, 2018

<https://la.curbed.com/.../first-baptist-church-venice-jay-penske>
[The fight over the First Baptist Church of Venice - Curbed LA](#) - Dec 15, 2017

<https://argonautnews.com/erasing-black-venice>
Erasing Black Venice | The Argonaut Newsweekly - Apr 26, 2017

First Baptist Church_Beachhead monthly Articles December 2017 - August 2018_Jon Wolff

On Sep 11, 2018, at 2:53 PM, Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Margaret,

We have now deemed the Historic-Cultural Monument application for the First Baptist Church of Venice complete and will schedule the Under Consideration hearing before the Cultural Heritage Commission on October 4, 2018 at 10:00am. The case numbers are CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE.

I will e-mail you a copy of our staff recommendation report ahead of the hearing.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Melissa

Melissa Jones
Planning Assistant



Department of City Planning

Office of Historic Resources

T: (213) 847-3679

E: melissa.jones@lacity.org

221 North Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

On Wed, Aug 29, 2018 at 5:06 PM, margaret molloy <mmmolloy@earthlink.net> wrote:
Per our conversation, here is Page 2.

Page 2:

<HCM application_FirstBaptist Church_page 2.jpg>

On Aug 29, 2018, at 4:15 PM, Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Margaret,

The revised ordinance was adopted by City Council in March 2018 and became effective on April 28, 2018. The ordinance can be found online here: <https://preservation.lacity.org/sites/default/files/Cultural%20Heritage%20Ordinance%2C%20Revised%202018.pdf>. We are requiring that all applications that have not been deemed complete be on the updated form.

With regards to the CEQA appeals amendment, I believe the document you attached referenced Azeen Khanmalek as the contact person for questions. Below is his contact information:

<image.png>
Best regards,
Melissa

Melissa Jones
Planning Assistant

Department of City Planning

Office of Historic Resources

T: (213) 847-3679

E: melissa.jones@lacity.org



221 North Figueroa St., Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

2 attachments



FBCV HCM petition.jpg
880K

 **First Baptist Church_Beachhead Articles_Jon Wolff.pdf**
289K

Grant Historical Status to the First Baptist Church of Venice!



31,250 have signed. Let's get to 35,000!



G. H. Dimon, Jr. signed 2 minutes ago



Theresa Sabedra signed 2 hours ago



Respect Black History—Grant Historical Status to the First...

 Share on Facebook

 Send a Facebook message

 Send an email to friends



Mike Bravo started this petition to Mayor of City of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti and 5 others

THE FIGHT FOR THE OAKWOOD CHURCH

Every Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM, you can see a crowd of Venice People gathering in front of the First Baptist Church on the northwest corner of 7th Avenue and Westminster Avenue in Oakwood in the heart of Venice. They gather there to protest the shameful and illegal sale of this historic church building. There are banners, signs, and photos of the History of the church and the Community of Oakwood. There are neighbors, young and old. There are speeches and prayers and colorful chalk designs on the sidewalk. Each Sunday, the crowd grows and the word spreads. And the Venice People mean to fight for and win back this church.

The fight isn't just for the church building. There's more to it than that. This church has stood for over a century in Oakwood as a spiritual and cultural cornerstone of the Community. Built by the families of the People of Oakwood, it represents more than just a physical structure. It's a symbol of the struggles and perseverance of the original Venice Community. Perhaps that's the reason why the current members of the Venice Neighborhood Council would be so eager to let it go.

At the October meeting of the VNC, there was smiling and congratulating and backslapping by the VNC members and the buyers and their brokers and lawyers. The buyers said nothing about the History of the church. They did say that they would keep a couple of the stained-glass windows in place. And they mentioned, in passing, that the church had some "sentimental value" to some people.

Sentimental value? Does the History of Oakwood and Venice mean anything to these buyers or to the architects and businessmen on the Venice Neighborhood Council? You bet it does. It means the Continuity, Vitality, and Victory of the original Venice Community. It's just these elements that make the First Baptist Church on 7th and Westminster such a prize for them. The building itself is the physical manifestation, but it's the History of Venice that they must erase in order to drive out the last Venetians. It's this History that they omit from the books so that they can rewrite it to justify their illegal occupation.

Over the next few months, you will see stories about the fight for this church in the local realtor-sponsored press. You will find the usual vocabulary of defeatism, with words like "Gentrification" and "Progress". But don't be easily clouded by the propaganda. Read the lawsuit. Yes, there's a lawsuit. Read it at <http://savevenice.me/campaigns/save-historical-black-church-venice-ca/> .

The lawsuit was brought by the Trustees of the church. It reveals how the sale was made without the proper authority as prescribed by the church's bylaws. It tells how the sale was made behind closed doors. It shows how the money was dealt and who dealt it.

And the lawsuit was filed two years ago. So why did the VNC and the VNC's Land Use and Planning Committee approve the sale? Because they expect you to not care. They expect you to not do anything. They're hoping to wait this out until the People forget and go away. But clearly, the People of Oakwood in Venice aren't going away.

The gatherings on Sunday are gaining momentum. More and more neighbors are coming and talking. The History of the church is appearing in print and online. Even the L.A. City politicians are on notice.

At a recent demonstration on Windward Avenue, L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin was confronted and informed by Venice activists about the fight for the church. He claimed ignorance of the scandal; but now he knows. Certainly, at this time, he would like more support from voters in his district. What better way for him to get the residents of Venice on his side than to take a stand on the matter of the illegal sale of the historic church on 7th and Westminster. He would love to hear from you. He can be reached at (213) 473-7011 or councilmember.bonin@lacity.org . Or you can try Juliet Oh of City Planning at juliet.oh@lacity.org.

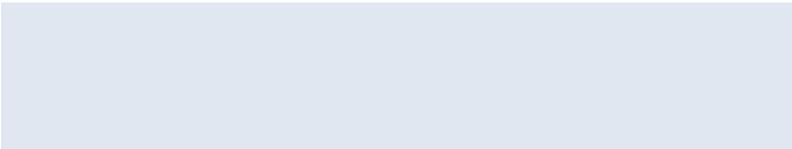
And meanwhile, the gatherings in front of the First Baptist Church will continue. You are welcome to come on Sundays and participate. You can find out more about the fight and learn more about the History of Oakwood and Venice. Hear the History as told by the elder Venetians to the Venetian children whose ancestors dug the canals and built the buildings of Venice. Hear the History and join the fight. Or be forgotten.

January 2018 - Venice Beachhead article on the First Baptist Church

THE FIGHT FOR THE OAKWOOD CHURCH CONTINUES

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with Venice Activist, Naomi Nightingale about the fight to preserve the historic First Baptist Church on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the Oakwood Community in Venice.



Naomi Nightingale: The church has always been a part of Venice. It's been here ever since I was a part of Venice. The church, which was across the street, was a smaller church of Reverend Holmes. I visited that church on a number of occasions. The church and its members were people who lived in Venice, residents. The congregation outgrew the church and moved across the street and it's been there ever since.

Jon Wolff: The location of the present building.

NN: Right. So, it was just like stepping from one side of the house to the other side of the house.

JW: The church has been there for over a century now. The Foundation of the church has been there for that long.

NN: Right. 1912, I believe.

JW: What is going on right now?

NN: I know Reverend Horace Allen. I know him from when he started working at the church because he was involved in a lot of the community meetings that I was involved in. We worked on the Police Community Relations Committee, so I know him from there.

JW: He's the pastor of the congregation that met in the church building?

NN: Right. Now he's called a bishop. I don't know how that name change occurred but I knew him as Reverend Horace Allen. He came out of Los Angeles. I think the Compton/Watts area. And he was initially requested to be the pastor of the church. There were many pastors at the church after Reverend Holmes passed away. Mrs. Holmes was the CEO of the church and she's the one who made the decisions about who the pastor would be, along with the Board of Directors of the church.

JW: And the current situation with the church is that it was sold to new owners?

NN: As I understand it, the church has been sold. Fraudulently sold, because Horace Allen did not have ownership or legal authority to sell the church.

JW: The legal authority... That would be with the Trustees?

NN: With the Trustees. With having the deed. With having the legal authority that was granted, not only by the Trustees, but by Mrs. Holmes.

JW: And in the bylaws of the church itself.

NN: Right. And when did the transaction occur? How did it occur? Was it legal? I understood, that because they were feeding homeless people there, that Horace Allen had some of the individuals sign as if they were on the Board, that they were members of the church. And that was one way that he was able to move through some of the legal processing. But I don't know that they ever did any title changes or looked into the titles to find out who the legal owners were. I understand that this is something that the court is looking into now. My position about the church is from its historical, social, and legacy standing in the Community. I don't know who they want to say owns the church. The fact to me is that the church should not be torn down, demolished, or... what's the other word?

JW: "Re-purposed" is the word they use.

NN: "Re-purposed" for residential use or a use other than that which serves the Community, which is why it's there in the first place.

JW: Absolutely. How it got there in the first place.

NN: And so, any movement on the part of anyone to make this into a residential building or a commercial operation or to remove it and put anything else there is what I am fighting against. That's my ultimate position: that the church needs to still be there for the purpose for which it was built in the first place. I see too much of Structure, Culture, and Legacy of the Black Community, and other people who built this Community, simply removed as if it never existed, and substituted by a two-story or three-story concrete glass-fronted building and, most of the time, sold. There's the footprint, the imprint, the Legacy of those people, like my grandparents and other people's grandparents, that worked hard to build this Community. They made a Legacy here to give us stories to tell about how we grew up here and the things that we went through, the schools that we went to, the events that we had. The annual activities became a part of where we are, and many of them occurred right here in this church.

JW: Do you think that some individuals would like to erase all that right now?

NN: I think they don't care. I think they don't have a clue. It doesn't matter to them. And that's the real crime. Another real crime is from Horace Allen because he knows all of that. He was here in this Community for a number of years. He served on committees. He interacted with people. He knows those

things. So, for him to set them aside, and for him to sell out the Community in the way that, apparently, he has, is disgraceful.

JW: And, most likely, fraudulent.

NN: Fraudulent. That's the reason why it's in court right now.

JW: It looks like the people on the side of preserving the church, the good guys, have a good chance of having the sale declared fraudulent.

NN: Oh, I believe they do. My understanding is that there is no document that legally says that Horace Allen had a right to sell the building.

JW: In the meantime, there have been gatherings in front of the church every week, every Sunday, plus the big one that happened on Saturday a couple of weeks ago.

NN: December 9, yes.

JW: We had a number of speakers that day.

NN: We did. We had some great speakers that day.

JW: You spoke yourself.

NN: I did speak that day. But I speak just about every Sunday. That day, Dennis Moore spoke.

JW: And Pastor Rhone.

NN: Yes. Pastor Rhone was our keynote speaker that day. Pastor Rhone grew up in this Community, and so he had a lot to say. I remember the key part of his address was that: if the Foundation be destroyed, then what can the righteous people do? That resonated with me deeply because I think that those of us who continue to come out every Sunday are representing the righteous people. Because our effort is to ensure that the Foundation of that church still remains, that the church still stands.

JW: And, in turn, the Foundation of the Community.

NN: Absolutely.

JW: Do you think that this is part of a larger picture? Is this happening because it's part of a larger effort to upset the History of this Community?

NN: Oh yeah, definitely. I think it goes back many years and it's part of the City's long reach plan. Part of the City's 30-year plan was to get to exactly where they are, in terms of Venice being a greater tax base for the City. It stood to reason that this Community, as it was, with low and middle income people living here, a diverse Community, shouldn't stay as it was for very long, with Santa Monica to our north and Marina del Rey to the south. Here sits this little beachfront Community. That's a prize.

JW: But the efforts on Sunday and the efforts in the Community are gaining strength right now. What outcome do you see for this in the long run? Does it look like we have Hope to turn this around at this point?

NN: I never give up Hope. Because I'm a person of the 60s, and you just keep fighting. Even when the days look dark, that is not something that deters you, because you know that you can continue to fight and move through the darkness. I think that there's Hope. And we've already started talking about what we would like to see happen in that church as a result of it remaining there, and what kinds of services would the church provide to the Community. There really isn't a nice place to have Community events. You could have family events, family reunions, Christmas events, things like that. We don't have a really nice place. Perhaps the church could be used for events like that.

JW: The projected use for this building is for a single family dwelling. And it's something like 13,000 square feet. Is that right?

NN: That's what I've heard. And that they would be using all four lots, which is prohibited by City Planning. How would they do that unless they got a waiver? We know that the City's not beyond giving waivers. Neither is the Coastal Commission. Neither is the Venice Neighborhood Council. After all, the Venice Neighborhood Council voted to approve the sale of the church. So, how are they in support of the Community? I think it's incredible, reprehensible, and absolutely... I can't even really find the words.

JW: Anti-social maybe?

NN: I think it's deeper than being anti-social. It's like taking a piece of the Community that's been a vital organ to the Community and throwing it away on the surgeon's table. They can't continue to just drive through the Community with their bulldozers and their million dollars and say, "You don't matter. Your voices are put aside and the Legacy that you want to leave here in the Community is meaningless." This is best demonstrated by the City agencies that should be looking out for us. They see the new sources and say that they

need the tax base and that this is going to be a better look and an upgrade and, besides, you people don't really need to live here, you can't afford to live in this Community anymore. What I hear over and over again is that it's "Supply and Demand" that's driving it. Well, whose supply and whose demand?

JW: We're gathering support in the Community. More and more, there are people walking by on Sunday and finding out what's going on and picking up literature.

NN: Right. And contacting us on Facebook. The more we can get people to come and hear what's going on and to spread the word and tell the stories, and the more we can contact people who are no longer living here in the Community but who are part of the church and who grew up here and are concerned about what's going to happen to the church, the greater is our strength. Then, of course, with our endurance, we'll continue to fight.

JW: What sort of leverage do you think we have with local government? Like say, Councilmember Bonin? Is he going to take notice at some point? I know he was confronted a few months ago about this. If people call his office, will he be inclined to take a position?

NN: I think he's a political person, so he is swayed by voters and pressure. We have to keep the pressure on. We have to give him good cause and reason as to why he should be supporting us. I believe that we'll continue to provide him with information and put pressure on him. And we're also going to include talking to Sheila Kuehl.

JW: Get the County involved in this.

NN: Absolutely.

JW: There's a good chance we'll get what we want with this then.

NN: I have to believe that we're going to get what we want. I can not believe anything else at this point. I know that we're making some headway because we're getting all kinds of accusations levied against us by those who support the sale and purchase of the church. So, we must be getting on someone's nerves.

JW: They're starting to kick because we're making a difference.

NN: We're making a difference and they're getting a little nervous about what kind of inroads we might be making.

JW: I get the feeling that they, and the VNC, think that they were going to do what they wanted to do more quickly than they have and, because the Community's fought back on so many issues, they're starting to realize that they may have bit off more than they can chew.

NN: I think that the absence of voices at the Venice Neighborhood Council, for a term, has falsely encouraged them to think that no one cared, or that they weren't going to have the kind of pushback or power, influence of action, that they are now experiencing. I served on the Venice Neighborhood Council for two terms, and that Board, that Council, has made a 180 degree turn. To me, they're all focused on self. It's about the money for them. And that the Venice Neighborhood Council was just an avenue for them to embellish their own private practices and network opportunities with the City and other entities, to help them gain what they needed to gain profit-wise. I don't see anyone on that Neighborhood Council right now, that I could say, was absolutely for the People.

JW: And there are currently zero African-American members of the VNC.

NN: Absolutely true.

JW: Less than zero.

NN: And we're looking to see if we can change that.

JW: So, the future is in our hands perhaps.

NN: Yeah. As far as the Venice Neighborhood Council is concerned.

JW: As far as Venice.

NN: As far as Venice is, absolutely. We're here. We're part of the current. We've been part of the past. And we will definitely be part of the future.

JW: Amen to that.

NN: Amen to that.

For more info on this: www.savevenice.me

Also, contact Councilman Bonin at: councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

and Supervisor Kuehl at: sheila@bos.lacounty.gov

February 2018 - Venice Beachhead article on the First Baptist Church

THE LOVE FOR THE OAKWOOD CHURCH CONTINUES

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with Venice Elder, Jataun Valentine about the fight to preserve the historic First Baptist Church on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in the Oakwood Community in Venice.

Jataun Valentine: I was raised here in Venice. There's a lot of History in Venice. I think that needs to be preserved. Especially something like First Baptist Church because it's a black church and it's been here for a while and a lot of people put their sweat into it. A lot of people. When it was a small church, the congregation got bigger. They put up their houses for deeds to get the church built. I think it's a shame what's happening now. It's just being handled like it's nothing. The Holmeses and the other people really put their heart and soul into it. It needs to be preserved. It needs to be told.

Jon Wolff: Yes. And the new owners and the Venice Neighborhood Council have plans to turn it into a single-family home.

JV: Now, the way the Neighborhood Council is, they're not what you'd call the Heart of Venice. They don't really know the History. Nor do they care. And too many things are going before them that they're voting for, for the developers. I think things like the church need to be saved.

JW: Definitely. What would you say to the ones who bought it now? What would you ask for them to do?

JV: I would ask for them to find out if it was bought legally. That's a concern of a lot of people.

JW: There's evidence that it might have been a fraudulent sale.

JV: If it was, I would ask them to back off and admit that it was wrong and let it be a church.

JW: What other History can you tell about the church and about the area itself?



JV: Everybody knows who Irving Tabor was. And his wife, Ethel Tabor. She was one of the members from the very beginning. She put a lot of time and effort and money into the church. Like a lot of what I call the "Pioneers". And it was a staple. It was something that was always respected. To the people that had lived here a long time, the First Baptist Church was their main hold.

JW: You're related to the Tabors.

JV: Yes. My grandmother is a Tabor. Jenny Tabor, who is my grandmother, was Irving Tabor's sister. Irving Tabor went on to become Abbot Kinney's chauffeur. And also a friend. Even though California wasn't a slave state, Abbot Kinney never stayed at a place where Irving Tabor couldn't stay when they were travelling and going to different places. Irving Tabor was a businessman too. All the Tabors and the sisters, they all ended up having a trade. In fact, my grandmother's husband was Alphonse Joseph Henry. That's my grandfather. He was the first black cement contractor. Irving Tabor found a way to have a place for the family to stay. Because remember, it was covenanted then that the blacks were all on certain streets. The church has always been a mainstay, especially for the black people going way back into slavery. It was one of the mainstays. Everybody has always had respect for the First Baptist Church and all of the churches that are around here.

JW: What do you think makes it so easy for the new owners to just paint over all that History?

JV: Well, they don't really know the History and they don't want to hear it. They don't try to find out. It's just a building; it's not a church, something to be respected and to worship in.

JW: What do you think it will take to change their minds?

JV: If they know the truth and if they listen. That's why, every Sunday, someone is down there at First Baptist Church to let them know what's going on.

JW: And all the people that are passing by every Sunday get the information.

JV: They're getting the information and, hopefully, the ones that own it now will find out if it was bought illegally.

JW: Maybe more and more people in Venice that learn about this will make a difference. And they can come out for the events at the Venice Library this month.

JV: We'll continue doing things every Sunday down by the church. We'll reach out with Black History Month there at the Library and they'll go to the Library and ask questions.

JW: The gatherings on Sunday are getting stronger and more people know about it. We're not slowing down.

JV: We can't. That's what they probably think we'll do. People here in Venice usually keep on until there's some sort of answer or conclusion. So we have to continue.

JW: Yes ma'am.

March 2018 - Venice Beachhead article on the First Baptist Church

VENICE BLACK HISTORY AND THE OAKWOOD CHURCH

By Jon Wolff

Venice Black History Month was celebrated this year with exhibits and presentations at the Abbot Kinney Library on Venice Boulevard in Venice. Residents, activists, and supporters turned out to see the historic photographs of the Legacy of the African-American Community of Venice. They also listened to the speakers tell the History of Venice that is somehow omitted from the history books written about Venice. There was a certain energy at the celebrations that can only be experienced here in Venice. And, foremost in the celebrations, was the topic of the First Baptist Church on 7th Avenue and Westminster Avenue in Oakwood in the heart of Venice.

The First Baptist Church has been the subject of a lawsuit concerning the legality of the sale of the church to new buyers who wish to turn it into a single-family dwelling. For many months now, there have been gatherings of Venice People every Sunday afternoon in front of the church to pray and protest and to inform the Community of the fraudulent sale of the church. The fight to save the church was the main issue at the library celebrations in February.

On Saturday, February 17, the Black History celebration at the library opened with a prayer by the Reverend Oscar Rhone. Venice Elder, Jataun Valentine then spoke eloquently about the Black History of Venice. She described the photographs in the exhibits, many of which were of her family members who were among the founding generation of Venice. She talked of a time when Black Venetians could live only on certain streets in Venice. She said that Black History should be preserved and that the stories must be told. And she reminded everyone about the gatherings in front of the First Baptist Church every Sunday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00.

Venice Activist, Laddie Williams emceed the event and spoke about the days when the Black Community of Venice was restricted to the neighborhood bounded by Rose Avenue, Lincoln Boulevard, and California Avenue. She described how the Community maintained self-sufficiency in this one square mile. She talked about a polluted portion of coastline called Inkwell Beach that was set aside for Black People. She told of her grandfather, Henry Williams and his cement-pouring business. She talked about her grandmother who fed people in Venice and contrasted this with the businesses in Venice today that sell \$40 martinis. She pointed out that no one ever comes to Venice to see the new glass-and-concrete Big Ugly Boxes that are being built now; they come to see the art and culture of Venice. She spoke of a diverse Venice and how none of the books about Venice include the African-American or Latino History of Venice. And she spoke of the First Baptist Church in Oakwood. She reminded everyone of the six families who gave their deeds to Pastor E.L. Holmes to build this church.

Reverend Oscar Rhone spoke earnestly of how he was born and raised in this church. He told of his grandfather who worked for Douglas Aircraft and of his grandmother who was a humble woman and a big supporter of Pastor Holmes. He talked about how his grandmother and five others gave their deeds to build the church and how the deeds were returned when it was paid for. He said that people did their best until they took their eyes off the Christian Community and set them on the "almighty dollar". He led the group in prayer and reminded everyone that Hell wants to take over but that God puts a shield between it and us. He declared that the fight for the church on 7th and Westminster isn't just happening for no reason but that it's happening to draw us all here together. He told us to be patient, be prayerful, be watchful, and to keep doing what we're doing and that we would see the results.

Laddie Williams thanked Reverend Rhone. She said that what Venice had produced from the African-American culture would not be ignored or whitewashed out of the history books of Venice.

Lydia Ponce, Venice Activist and Indigenous Peoples Activist, read her poem about the colonizers still conquering. She spoke of the reservations and

ghettos, the pipelines and the deforestation. She declared that the Indigenous People are still here and that "Existence is our Resistance". She talked about displacement and those who would plan to turn the sacred place of the First Baptist Church on 7th and Westminster into a 13,000 square foot single-family dwelling.

Venice Activist, Miguel Bravo spoke of the colonizers' common practice of destroying sacred spaces. He pointed out that the new arrivals say that they love Venice but always want to change it. He reaffirmed the fight for the historic sacred space that is the First Baptist Church and said that we are still here and would not be relegated to the past. He recited a Native American song about the Circle of Life where no one is above or below or in front of or behind each other. He asked that our ancestors walk with us to save the First Baptist Church.

Laddie Williams referred to a large photograph of the original members of the church. She said that they had enough "gumption" within themselves to come and build the Canals of Venice. And that, 45 years after the abolition of slavery, they built a place to worship.

On the following day, Sunday afternoon, February 18, Venice People met for the regular gathering in front of the church on 7th and Westminster in their commitment to fight to preserve this historic sacred place. The energy of the previous day was still strong.

Later that evening, the fundraiser party for the 50th Anniversary of the Free Venice Beachhead was held at Beyond Baroque in Venice. Many Venice notables, musicians, artists, and poets attended the event. There were songs and readings and reminiscences of the History of Venice and the Beachhead.

At one point in the evening, Laddie Williams was applauded and asked to come to the microphone to speak. She addressed the crowd warmly and talked about the fight for the Church in Oakwood. She spoke powerfully of this in the present moment, as a fight for something sacred that is happening right now. She called upon all to join in this fight and the People responded enthusiastically.

You who are reading this can also join in this present moment; this moment now. Right now! You can contact Councilman Mike Bonin at (213) 473-7011 or councilmember.bonin@lacity.org and tell him to roll up his sleeves of his powder-blue shirt and get on the winning side in this struggle. You can make noise on social media that sacred places are not for sale. You can come to the corner of 7th Avenue and Westminster Avenue in Oakwood on Sundays at 12:30 to learn and support.

The History of Venice, especially the Black History of Venice, will be preserved for the descendants of the People who built Venice. This is your chance to be a part of it.

VENICE BLACK HISTORY CONTINUES WITH THE FIGHT FOR THE OAKWOOD CHURCH

By Jon Wolff

The celebration of Venice Black History continued through the month of March with an event on Sunday, March 25 at Beyond Baroque in Venice. The event included an extensive photo exhibit showing the original African-American families who dug the Canals and built Venice in the days of Abbot Kinney. The accompanying captions outlined the lives and struggles of the members of the Venice Black Community over the decades. The evening's speakers related their personal experiences growing up in Venice. And much emphasis was placed on the History of the First Baptist Church on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Oakwood in the heart of Venice.

Venice Activist Laddie Williams opened the presentation with a moment of silence for the people of color and unhoused people who have been shot and killed by the LAPD in recent years. She recalled a time when the threat of police violence prevented people of color from crossing California Avenue, Rose Avenue, Lincoln Boulevard, or West Washington Boulevard (now called Abbot Kinney Boulevard). She spoke about the fact that the Black and Brown History of Venice is absent from the history books of Venice. She tied this fact to the fight to preserve the century-old, historic institution of the First Baptist Church and to the fight against gentrification.

Venice Elder Jataun Valentine spoke of her relatives in the original Venice families, the Reeses and the Tabors. These families had built the Venice Canals during the founding of Venice. They had learned various trades in order to own houses in Venice. Arthur Reese was in charge of the gondoliers and he was skilled in the art of decorating. He made the floats for the Mardi Gras in Venice. Irving Tabor was Abbot Kinney's chauffeur and friend. He built a house on Santa Clara Avenue which is now a historic monument.

Ms. Valentine's grandfather Alphonse Joseph Henry was the first black cement contractor. When he moved outside of the segregated area in Venice, the Ku Klux Klan responded by burning a cross on his lawn. Her grandfather



Arthur Valentine Sr. was shot in the leg by the police for being on a beach reserved for whites only. Black beachgoers decided to have a beach of their own, which was called Spook Beach. Later, a plaque was installed that called it Inkwell Beach.

Jataun Valentine talked about the fight to save the First Baptist Church and how it relates to the fight against gentrification. The gentrifiers' practice of offering people money for their homes and then demolishing the homes and putting up mega-mansions causes a domino effect that pushes out even more people. If this practice isn't stopped, the gentrifiers can someday rewrite the History of Venice and say that only a few Black People ever lived here. But, Ms. Valentine declared, "Money cannot buy culture and what we stand for."

Jade Walker pointed out that, often, no one even lives in the mega-mansions. The gentrifiers who build them have no History here in Venice and will eventually just move on to the next trendy place. She remembered a time when the Black Panthers, the Doors, and Janis Joplin were here and artists paid \$15 a month for rent. Now, it's \$3000 a month for a condo.

Laddie Williams introduced a series of photos of the First Baptist Church. This is a church that was established 45 years after the abolition of slavery. It's a church that was founded by the People who came to California to build the Canals. Six African-American families, including Reverend Oscar Rhone's grandmother, gave their deeds to the Founder, Reverend Holmes. He built the church, paid it off, returned the deeds, and the church thrived. Now, the current buyer, Jay Penske wants to turn it into a 13,600 square foot single-family dwelling with rooftop parking. And all the old stained glass windows and pews are gone.

But the sale of the church is being challenged. It is believed that the sale was conducted fraudulently. The congregation members are suing the seller, Horace Allen. They're alleging that certain individuals signed the deal without the authority to do so.

The current board of the Venice Neighborhood Council approved this sale. The VNC is largely made up of developers and architects who run it like a business. In fact, business owners who don't live in Venice got their employees to elect these obedient councilmembers to the VNC. It's a case of non-Venetians making decisions for Venice. Not surprisingly, the VNC won't listen to the People in the neighborhood but they're very happy to approve millionaire Jay Penske's purchase of this historic church.

Laddie Williams reminded the audience that Venice has been under siege for a long time. The City of L.A.'s gang injunction in Venice was recently declared unconstitutional. But it did much harm in the 80s and 90s. Back then, the police could say that anyone was a member of a gang and come into their home and arrest them. Ms. Williams told of her own children being taken three times

and of an elderly neighbor being carried out by the police. And this unconstitutional police action was just one of the weapons of gentrification and displacement.

Pro-Active Code Enforcement (PACE) was an effort by the City of L.A. to force out African-American homeowners by exorbitant property fines and fees. But Venice fought against this too and beat it. The People of Venice are well-known in downtown L.A. as fighters.

Laddie Williams stated forcefully that "History has not been kind to our People." And that the ancestors are crying out from the ground to "Save Venice!" She called on everyone to record everything and get it into the history books. And to get a city councilperson who doesn't take bribe money.

Venice Activist Mike Bravo gave the closing remarks for the evening. He said that the fight for the First Baptist Church is a fight for Venice itself. The church is a sacred site that must not be desecrated. The fight for the church is not about religion; it's a fight against a spirit and system of violence. The fight for the First Baptist Church sets boundaries. It's a sacred site and a beacon of hope and strength in Venice. And the People of Venice will not be relegated to the past. Mike Bravo concluded the event by reciting a song of the Indigenous People in honor of the Great Spirit and all those who came before us.

Clearly, the future of Venice will be won in this fight for our historic sacred sites. The event at Beyond Baroque wasn't just for those who attended. You who are reading this and love Venice can also take the call. Go to www.savevenice.me to learn about the First Baptist Church and about what you can do to save this sacred site. And come to the gatherings on Sundays at 1:00 PM on the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue to join the People who are making History. This is Venice. This is right now.

May 2018 - Venice Beachhead article on the First Baptist Church

VENICE BLACK HISTORY IS IN THE OAKWOOD CHURCH

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with Venice Elder, Joe Washington who was a member of the First Baptist Church on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Oakwood in the heart of Venice.



Joe Washington: My name is Joe Washington.

Jon Wolff: You were a member of the First Baptist Church.

Joe: From the old church to the new church; I helped build the new church.

Jon: Yes sir. What are your memories of the church?

Joe: Reverend Holmes had a dream. He was a good preacher. He talked to my stepfather and my mother and all of them. And they started on building the church. Mrs. Holmes... I worked for her too. She was 97 when she died. I was there the night she died and I was there the night Reverend Holmes died. I used to take care of him when he got old.

Jon: What was life like in the church?

Joe: The music was fantastic. But now, you have thieves around. The new pastor that came in... he stole everything. And he should be prosecuted now.

Jon: That's Horace Allen?

Joe: Yeah. But Reverend Holmes was cool. I used to drive him around... him and Mrs. Holmes. She lived a little while longer after he died. They were very happy together. You respected him. He was opinionated. He had a dream. And he had the followers. Most of the families, like the McClarys, like the Jacksons and the Washingtons and the other families around here, they believed in Reverend Holmes. He had a dream. He lived his dream.

Jon: That was to establish this church.

Joe: That's it. He wanted that church there.

Jon: Here in Venice.

Joe: Yes. And they're taking the name now, the First Baptist Church, and using it up there at the other church. The signs were put here by Reverend Holmes. The windows... what happened to all the windows?

Jon: There's a lot of History in this church.

Joe: The McClarys were a big strong influence. And Johnny and Mrs. Sanders. Basically, we worked as a group. It started down the street there by Oakwood in 1908, if I'm not mistaken.

Jon: Do you remember a lot of activities here?

Joe: Wednesday night was prayer meeting night. On Sunday mornings, Sunday school started at 9:30. Sometimes you'd have 3:00 service. Then you'd come back at night for B.T.U.

Jon: B.T.U.?

Joe: Bible Training.

Jon: Yes.

Joe: Reverend Holmes lived at that place. 24 hours a day. He had a dream.

Jon: This church was very strong in the Community at that time.

Joe: But now... if the leadership is not there. There's been a lot of crooks around here. That's all it is. Everybody wants money and wants this and wants that. It's not the Community I used to know. We worked as a team. We were Baptists. We were family members, in a sense. It's like a family.

Jon: Would you like to see the church revived somehow?

Joe: I want it to stay a church. I want it to be a church. It's supposed to be a church.

Jon: It was built that way.

Joe: That's right. Why is he [Horace Allen] selling it? What did he do? He got the greed. He's over there on a storefront church trying to play the game. And he took the pulpits out there. He took everything. They wouldn't even let me in the church the last few months. It's all about greed.

Jon: There's a big fight to revive the church and restore it to the Community.

Joe: I think that's a good idea.

Jon: Support is building for that. Do you think we can manage?

Joe: Yes. It's supposed to be for the Community.

Jon: A lot of people believe there's Hope.

Joe: You've got to have Faith. Faith is the essence of all things. If you don't have Faith, you're not going to make it.

Jon: Then there's a good chance we'll make it.

Joe: If you believe. If you pray on it.

June 2018 - Venice Beachhead article on the First Baptist Church

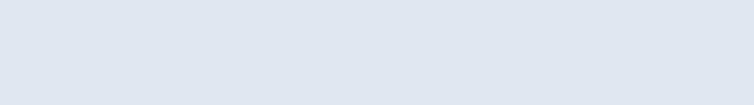
THE VISION OF THE OAKWOOD CHURCH

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with the Reverend George B. Ellis, Jr. of Zion's Hope Ministries about the First Baptist Church on Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue in Oakwood in the heart of Venice.

Reverend Ellis: Twelve months before Pastor Allen [Horace Allen] was called, I submitted a resume to be considered as a pastor. I was living in Minneapolis at the time and I received a letter back. It said that they wanted me to come to preach. The flight that I signed up for to get me there two hours ahead of time ended up getting me there a half-an-hour after church started. When I finally realized this, I called the coordinating secretary. She said that they could not wait for me to come. I said that I'd be coming into town a few months later and that I would at least like to meet with her if that was okay. She said that I could come to church but that she couldn't guarantee anything. I said, "Okay." Because, normally, when a church is interested in you as a candidate, they'll consider that. So, it is what it is.

I eventually preached there and I saw that the church congregation was going through a transition from predominantly African-American to a mixed congregation of African-Americans and Anglos. The Anglos that were there probably lived in Venice and were unemployed or under-employed. Some of the ones who lived around the Community had been there for awhile. The rest of the people that were there... The majority of them were African-Americans. There was a harmony but you could tell the church needed to be healed. It was not what we call a healthy church. What I mean by that is: A



healthy church is a church that celebrates Jesus Christ in the worship. It's a church that will do some evangelism. It's a church that will financially support. I wasn't seeing all that. So I knew we had to do some work. And I'm a church planner, so it's not a big deal for me to go there. I know what to do. Just get in there and start preaching the Word and loving people. And that's what runs a church; consistently loving people.

The man behind the pulpit has to be a man of integrity. Especially if you're going to have a multi-cultural church. You can't play around with anything that's on the borderline, like you're a charlatan. The other piece is, in order for a church to grow, whoever the leadership is, they have to buy into your trust as their pastor. Just because a man is called by the pastor doesn't mean the people accept him right away. Every once in awhile that happens, but not usually. You have to earn the right to be their pastor. That usually takes between five to seven years. And then you'll find out what happens.

If you trust a man to be a man of integrity... When you're trusting him to feed you spiritually, you would assume you would be able to trust him with finances. And that's not always the case.

Jon Wolff: If you had become the pastor of this congregation and the steward of this church, how do you think things would have turned out, as far as where we are today?

RE: Oh man, it wouldn't even be... Because I'm connected too well. And I have a passion. I gave up a career in marine biology to be a minister. My passion is evangelism. So I'm going to do everything in my power to win as many different people as we can to Jesus Christ. When I say evangelism, I mean this: I believe evangelism is where you share your faith with those individuals who are seeking the truth of God's love. And then you disciple them, you train them like little babies on how to grow up to be self-fulfilling, stable adults. Christians need to be mature in that way. And you have all different kinds of people. You can go through a period of maybe twelve years... People go through a lot of changes that reflect their situation. But I'll tell you this: It [the church] wouldn't be in the situation it's in right now...

JW: You wouldn't then have turned from the Community that's the origin of this church.

RE: Absolutely not. See, God put that Community there. Whether it was changed or not, that's where God wants that place.

JW: With the Community now undergoing assault from those who want to disrupt the Community and split up the Community, what role do you think the church should have?

RE: Let me just tell you my history. I have not had the luxury of pastoring wealthy people. Most of my ministry has been with people who need a leader, someone who is an advocate for justice.

JW: What do you think will happen if the spiritual heart goes out of the Community in Venice?

RE: Just like all the other communities up and down the West Coast, it'll turn into a drug-infested, criminalized place where people are cold and they'll see crime go up. If the people don't speak out, the whole area will turn commercial.

JW: All this at the expense of a Community that's been there for five or six generations. What would you like to say to the ones who bought the church building, now that they want to turn it into a single-family dwelling with rooftop parking?

RE: Look, I'd tell that guy, "You've got a lot of nerve." I don't think he's going to live there all the time.

JW: Some people believe he'll eventually sell it. And it'll be torn down completely and turned into condominiums or something.

RE: Sure. That's a great place for a condominium, if that's what your goal is. But God didn't plan that church to be a condominium. And this is what happens when preachers stop preaching the truth. I don't care who you are. When a preacher's preaching the truth and the love of Almighty God... You've got to preach about sin. You've got to preach about heaven. You've got to preach about God and the Trinity. You've got to preach about hope and how God can make us better and give us strength. When you stop doing that, everything dies.

JW: The people who've been fighting to keep this hope alive... keep this church alive for all these months, believe that this fight can be won.

RE: I think it can if God wants it. I mean... Here's what I'm saying to you, man... 100+ years; I think God's in that. Do you know how many churches die who are not even close to being that old? When a place has been around for 100+ years... Somebody needs to archive all that and save it. There needs to be a wing in that church just as a museum where the public can go in and out and

just see what's going on. Because there's going to be more than just the church. There's going to be a little bit about history. We're talking about the art, what kind of people were there, how they got there, what they went through. That's something we need to know. People don't know what's going on with Venice. They don't know about the Canals. They don't know about the whole journey there.

JW: Do you think there are many, new to Venice, who would like to erase that history?

RE: I don't know. I think, when people really understand history, they don't want to change it, they want to add to it.

JW: But they're doing everything they can to erase the history of that church by changing the church itself.

RE: That's because the person who went there didn't understand the history. Here's what some other deacons in all the areas told me: Whenever a man sits down, everything falls over. Whenever the men of the church don't stand up and be the men that God called them to be, everything falls down. Where there's no vision, the people perish.

JW: If we retain that vision, then we can...

RE: ...bring the church back. We're fighting the fight. The bottom line is this, brother: Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord. Whether it's Penske or whether it's Pablo. God created everybody. Whether you believe it now... Just like the oil filter commercial. You can pay me now or you can pay me later. But you're gonna pay.

JW: Yes sir.

July 2018 - Venice Beachhead article on the First Baptist Church

Winning Round One for the Oakwood Church

By Jon Wolff



Venice's Juneteenth event was held in Oakwood Park on Saturday, June 16, 2018. An estimated 2000 Venetians turned out for this day of celebration in the heart of Venice. There was music and barbecue food. There were T-shirts and various fashionable clothing items for sale. There were hundreds of large photographs on display in memoriam of beloved Venetians, old and young, who have passed on. And there was an extensive exhibit of pictures and documents that told the History of the church across the street from Oakwood Park. This, of course, is the First Baptist Church on the corner of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue.

The First Baptist Church has been at the center of a controversy for some time. It's been the subject of many articles in the Beachhead since November of last year. Besides the Beachhead coverage though, little media attention has been paid to the Legacy of this historic African-American house of worship in Venice. Until now.

News cameras and reporters were on the scene on Wednesday, June 20, to cover the West Los Angeles Planning Commission meeting in the Henry Medina Facility in West L.A. The Planning Commission met this evening to hear an appeal from the Venice Community to oppose the conversion of this historic Black church into an 11,760 square-foot single-family dwelling with a rooftop deck and attached four-car garage.

A protest rally was held before the meeting with signs and speeches against the violation of the sacred sites and History of the Black and Brown Communities of Venice. The meeting room was filled, with Venetians opposed to the project on one side, and the current owners and their collaborators on the other side. Present on the Commission were President Esther Margulies, Vice President Michael Newhouse, and Commissioners Heather Rozman and Adele Yellin. Absent this evening was Commissioner Lisa Waltz Morocco.

The proceedings began with Venice's Lydia Ponce giving prayers and offerings in the tradition of the Indigenous Tongva People. She reminded all in attendance that they were sitting on Tongva land.

The designated speakers spoke first. Venice Activist Laddie Williams clarified an error made by Juliet Oh from the City Planning Department about the number of lots involved in the proposed project. Juliet Oh had identified the property as three lots when, in fact, it consists of five lots, with two more across the street. This will be significant in the Commission's decision as it pertains to the standards of Mass, Scale, and Character for the zone in which the building is located. A conversion of an historic church building into a single-

family dwelling would not be the same as a 24-unit dwelling. She also spoke of the church's role as a beacon of light in the Community.

Dr. Naomi Nightingale addressed the issue of the proposed conversion being defined as a "change of use". She pointed out the trivializing intent of this term and how it ignores the History of the Black Community of Venice. She reminded everyone that the building is called the First Baptist Church of VENICE; built by senior architect Henry Williams; to serve the Community in the 1.5 mile area bounded by Lincoln Boulevard, Rose Avenue, California Avenue, and Main Street; and how this Black Community has been under attack for decades to make way for the infiltration of the wealthy who have no regard for History or Culture. She talked about the destruction of the contributions made by the African-American pioneers of Venice and how important it is to see that this church means more than just 11,000 square feet.

Speaking for the other side was lawyer Elisa Paster. She spoke disparagingly of the building itself, as if to say that the current owners will upgrade it from the state of neglect that they've caused since purchasing it. She mistakenly said that no application had been submitted to deem it an historic structure when, actually, that application is now being processed.

Then spoke Elaine Irwin, the ex-underwear model and current wife of the current owner Jay Penske. She talked about doing community outreach and receiving emails and letters of support from residents. She said that she had 100 signatures from the individuals that she had met. Of course, none of this "outreach" had reached to the Venetians in the meeting, or those in the Community, or those who had signed the 1000 signatures on the petitions opposing the conversion that were circulated at the Juneteenth event in Oakwood Park.

Many people in the room spoke out against the proposed conversion. Lydia Ponce talked about the lawsuit that is challenging the legitimacy of the sale of the church, and how one broker had handled both the sale and purchase of the church.

Margaret Malloy said that historic photos had already been submitted to the Office of Historic Resources. Also, she told of the pastor, Horace Allen, receiving rent money from low-income tenants in the church building. Under the Mello Act of 1982, this would restrict a conversion in the Coastal Zone and would require a replacement of affordable units in the building.

Beth Allyn let Ms. Penske (Irwin) know that she had never received or seen any notification anywhere in Venice about the proposed conversion.

David Ewing called the project a "crime wrapped in a court case, complicated by a contested land sale, all wrapped up in a City Planning case, a CEQA case, a Coastal Development case, and a Mello case."

Sonny Lloyd, a teacher at Venice High School, said that the teachers would be ready to fight this.

Bertha Williams said that when the Penskes sent a man around the neighborhood to find support for the conversion, the man himself was unaware that the building was a church.

David Busch pointed out that the intersection of Westminster Avenue and 7th Avenue has historic designation as E.L. Holmes Square. He invited the Penskes to come to the ongoing gatherings in front of the church on Sundays to pray with the People there.

Pamela Anderson, a seventh-generation Venetian, talked of her grandfather's work in building Venice. She called attention to the fact that none of those sitting on the Penske's side of the room were black.

Judy Branfman, the documentary video producer, described how the City of L.A. indiscriminately awards fast rubber-stamp approvals, called Venice Sign Offs, for these conversions. And she asked Commission Vice President Michael Newhouse to recuse himself from this hearing because of his extensive relationships with developers.

Holly Mosher said that a conversion of this size would exceed the standards of Mass, Scale, and Character for the area. She told the Commission that if they approve the conversion, they would take it with them forever as a shameful act.

Mairym Llorens of the L.A. Tenants Union spoke of how working people are being pushed out of Venice. She boldly told the Penskes that it is a sickness to want to go into a Community and care more about your own dreams to have a huge mansion than about a neighborhood.

Dawn Hicks from Venice Community Housing wondered how this church would not be an historic landmark and be considered just a building. She talked about institutional displacement and the taking away of a part of African-American History.

Edward Ferrer said that the title was in dispute and that the broker didn't do his due diligence.

Sheperd Stern called the 11,000 square-foot project too ostentatious for even Bel Air. He said that the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) who approved it are all white, and how the architect for the project (Robert Thibodeau) is a member of the VNC, which is a violation of the Brown Act.

A man identifying himself as The People of California called the Venice Neighborhood Council the "Vichy" Neighborhood Council, in reference to the French government that collaborated with the Nazis during World War II.

Mike Bravo saw all this as just a matter of "Money versus a sacred historic site". He defined Gentrification, not as a force of nature, but as a system of patterns and practices that include Jim Crow laws and gang injunctions. And he

spoke of the resilience of the Venice Community whose ancestors had built Venice.

Ingrid Miller reminded everyone that she and the other tenants from the Lincoln Place Apartments were helped by the People of the Oakwood Community when the tenants struggled to keep their homes. She said that she would now do the same in return.

Robin Rudisill spoke of the "adverse cumulative impact" that a project of this size would have on the area. She said that the Coastal Act exists to protect against such projects. She recommended that the Commission defer their decision until the lawsuit over the sale is settled.

Mary Jack talked about the hypocrisy of governments regarding housing and how millionaires don't need more housing options.

A frequent speaker at city meetings, known as Wayne from Encino, brought his hand puppet to the meeting. The puppet did the speaking. It asked why anyone would need an 11,600 square-foot house. It called for the money changers to be thrown out of the church. And it accused Commission Vice President Michael Newhouse of supporting the project for his own gain. This performance won applause and laughter from the Venetians opposed to the project.

Venice Elder Jataun Valentine spoke. She told the Commission that a vote in favor of the conversion is a vote against Black History.

The Reverend Oscar Rhone recalled Pastor Holmes' original vision for the First Baptist Church.

Larry Williams told of his grandfather who had lived 104 years and had brought in Pastor Holmes at the beginning. He suggested that everyone look into the allegations surrounding the sale of the church.

Ivy Beach pointed out how the Penskes' side of the room was all white and called the church "a landmark threatened by racism".

Community organizer Adolfo Alzuphar talked about L.A.'s reputation for not preserving historic buildings.

Asia Carr said that this "change of use" would spit in the face of 100 years of the Black Community.

Sabrina Venskus, an environmental land use attorney, said that the Director of Planning had erred in exempting this project from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. She explained how the project conflicts with the Land Use Plan by being out of Mass, Scale, and Character.

Dr. Judith Goldman asked the Commission if they had supported the historic designation that was granted to Temple Mishkon Tephilo, a Jewish house of worship in Venice.

Sue Kaplan implored the Commission to not make a premature decision but to wait until a settlement is reached in the lawsuit regarding the sale of the church.

Those who supported the Penskes' proposed conversion of this historic Black Church into a single-family dwelling also spoke.

Jim Murez, a member of the Venice Neighborhood Council, denied that the project would set a precedent in the area.

Will Hawkins, Chair of the VNC's Homeless Committee, did not think that the project would be out of Mass, Scale, and Character with the neighborhood.

Matthew Royce, VNC member and architect, claimed that the Penskes had done outreach to find support for their project. When asked by Commission President Esther Margulies how he knew that their outreach effort had reached anyone, he mumbled that they had had many meetings.

George Francisco, Vice President of the VNC, called the Penskes "assets to the community". He labeled the People of Venice as being too emotional.

Charles Gorten said that he would rather have a single-family dwelling on the site than a... a... a... Here, he stumbled for words when he realized that he was about to say, "church".

Vivian Lee saw no need for this historic church building and declared that people can have church without any walls.

Antoinette Reynolds unwittingly mentioned transitional housing for the low income people who had lived on the church property. This admission would certainly raise the issue of Mello Act compliance for the project and its requirement to replace affordable housing onsite.

Tim Grey commended Jay Penske for starting a work program for volunteers. But no one asked Mr. Grey why a billionaire should need volunteers.

Nelson Anderson approved of growth and development.

Carl Walter believed that the Penskes will revitalize the building.

Raul Nuñez thought that the project would improve the quality of life in the area.

Rose Spanlock said that the project would honor Venice.

Cesar Rodarte called the Penskes wonderful people.

Sofia Hastings called the Penskes creative and respectful.

Louise Falconer said the Penskes are a loving family.

Eric Schiff said the Penskes love Venice.

Karin Anderson called the Penskes great people.

Gabriella Fasch called the Penskes kind people.

Lauren Krasny supported the project.

Hud Mellencamp, Elaine Irwin's adult son, also supported the project.

And Lauren Gullian just felt the emotions in the room that night.

Also present at the meeting was Lambert Giessinger, with the Office of Historic Resources. He confirmed that he is working closely with the Venetians who are seeking historic status for the First Baptist Church. He explained that he is waiting for the application to be finished. When it is finished, all permits for the building's conversion will be frozen until the process is completed. Then the matter will be sent to the L.A. City Council.

Commissioner Heather Rozman called the proposed project an anomaly unlike any other, in terms of Mass, Scale, and Character. She declared that she would not approve the project.

Commission Vice President Michael Newhouse, a real estate lawyer and former VNC President, pretended to have sympathy with the People of the Community. He called the loss of this historic African-American house of worship a tragedy and a shame, but said that nothing could be done about it. He did not believe that the project would be out of Mass, Scale, and Character. He intends to vote against the appeal and allow the Penskes to build their single-family dwelling on this sacred site.

Commissioner Adele Yellin agreed with Mr. Newhouse for now.

Commission President Esther Margulies commented on the recent concerted effort to recognize the Black Community in Venice. She felt that the cultural issue should be factored in to the decision. She agreed with Commissioner Rozman on the question of Mass, Scale, and Character. She made clear that this is not a standard case and that this building has always served as a church. She forecast that, if the project were to be approved, there would be no guarantee that the building would stay up. The Penskes might decide to move out later and the next owner might demolish it completely. Ms. Margulies mentioned another church building in Mar Vista that was bought by a religious community and kept "as is".

With the Planning Commission having only four commissioners seated for this appeal hearing, a tie vote was reached. Ms. Margulies and Ms. Rozman were for the appeal; Mr. Newhouse and Ms. Yellin wanted to deny the appeal. The tie resulted in the decision being postponed until the next meeting scheduled for August 15. By that time, Commissioner Lisa Waltz Morocco will be the tie breaker. Or perhaps Commissioner Yellin will see the landmark significance that her vote will have and choose to save the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Upon hearing the decision to postpone the vote, the Venetians on the side of saving the church erupted with applause and singing. The delay gave new hope to the People of the Community. Not surprisingly, the Penskes and their

cohorts, including their pet VNC members, were not happy with the outcome. They sat with stone faces resenting Venice's Victory.

Now there is work to be done. The Community is coming together more than ever. A press conference was held in front of the historic church on Westminster and 7th on Sunday, June 24 to gather more signatures and spread the news to the watching world. Will History in Venice be saved? Only if good people work for it. As the ancestors of the Black Community of Venice built the First Baptist Church of Venice, the People of today will work to save it. You too can lend a hand. You can sign the petition to save the church at <https://vog.news/fbcv-petition> . You can stay informed at www.savevenice.me . You can attend the next Planning Commission hearing on August 15, 2018 to stand with the Venice Community. This is Venice History. And you're in it.

August 2018 - Venice Beachhead article on the First Baptist Church

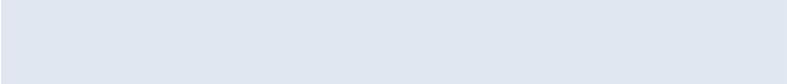
YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE HISTORIC BLACK CHURCH IN VENICE

By Jon Wolff

The following is from a recent conversation with the Reverend Oscar Rhone, of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, on the upcoming appeal to the L.A. Planning Commission to oppose the proposed change of the historic First Baptist Church in Venice into a mansion for a rich couple.

Jon Wolff: You've been a part of this fight from the beginning. I remember you speaking very early in this struggle.

Reverend Rhone: My reason for being a part of this is not just because I want to be a part of it but because I was brought up in that church. However, I have another goal: I want to see the right thing be done. We know who all the players are, and what he said and what she said. But I want to see the right thing be done. Pastor [Horace] Allen had his part, the Penskes have their part. I have my part. At the time that Pastor Allen came along, the church was going through a transition. They couldn't agree on who the pastor would be. The gentleman that Pastor Holmes had brought up and had in his tutelage



wasn't received well. Now, he should have stayed. Because, any time you enter into a calling, you're going to have opposition. But this young man didn't stay. He was prepared to be the pastor and he stepped up into it. But he left. They tried to get him to come back but, ever since that point, they fought about who was going to be the next pastor. So, what did they do? They did what the children of Israel did; they went out and made one. They made the golden calf. Remember that? Moses was up getting the Ten Commandments and they weren't satisfied with Moses being away from them and they wanted a god. They came up with a golden calf. Pastor Allen is the golden calf they came up with. He had ulterior motives when he came to pastor the church. It wasn't about him pastoring. It was about him being powerful and pacified. Everything is about money. So they go out and they find this guy. They show him the plans, they show him the budget. And they show him the people. He realizes that this congregation is not going to give him the opportunity to work out the goal that he has in the back of his mind. He's one of those guys that wants to be up front. He wants to have the Cadillac, the rolls Royce, and all of the nice things that come along with being pastor. The nice suits, all those things that draw you away from God rather than draw you to God. I just want to see the right thing be done with the property.

JW: Do you suppose that the Penskes saw this vulnerability and took advantage of it?

RR: Well, it was said that the church had been for sale and nobody knew it was for sale. Nobody was privy to the information but Pastor Allen and the Penskes. However, I came to find out that pastor Allen had people that were working on his side in advance too, which was wrong. The way the church is set up, if you can get enough people to vote with you, being the pastor... If you have something that you want to do, and you can get enough members of the congregation to give you an "Amen" on it, you can go ahead with it. And this is what he did with the homeless people. He went and gathered people from anywhere and everywhere and brought them right there, made them comfortable, started feeding them. Then, at the same time as he was feeding them, he was also brainwashing them.

JW: In order to vote in his favor.

RR: Right. He found out that the congregation wasn't big but that the facility was a nice size and something could be done with that. But you have to grow a congregation. You can't just come and expect the congregation to be there. You have to get out into the community. This was something that he wasn't willing to do because that wasn't in his plans. He wanted a ready-made church where he could come in and start ordering things around and getting things his way and it just didn't work like that. When this Penske situation

came about, it surprised everybody. Because it was done in a shady way. And I just didn't agree with it.

JW: You have a personal history in this church.

RR: Yes. I was ministering there when Pastor Allen was there off and on, because most of the community didn't even know who he was. A lot of times, there were funeral services and other services that people wanted. But Pastor Allen was so busy doing what he had planned, he didn't really want to communicate with the people. It just turned out to be a bad thing.

JW: The situation, as it is right now, has brought much of the community together from all different places in Venice. We look forward to being able to restore this church to the community itself. But we're fighting a billionaire couple who can afford lawyers and lobbyists. What do you suggest that we hope for?

RR: We're fighting the good fight of faith. We're showing up. If we can get more people to show up and have more of what we already have, if we can get more people to come and be a part of it...

JW: To be present at the Planning Commission hearing.

RR: And to really see what's going on. Most of what people know outside of the media is second hand. I just think that if they could get down there and be a part of it, they could see the serious side of it.

JW: They would see that this is more than just a property question. It has to do with the history and the spirituality of the community.

RR: Most of them know that. But it's the money.

JW: What would you say to the Penskes at this point?

RR: I would ask them to reconsider what they're doing, because of the spiritual nature of it. Of course, I know that they probably don't care, but I'd still ask them to reconsider what they're doing. And how many lives that they're affecting. Whether they realize it or not, it has affected a lot of people, young and old. What would be the drawback to the Penskes getting their money back?

JW: Well, they're billionaires. I don't think it could hurt them in any way. Whatever they do, they're not going to go hungry. And the value of this goes beyond just a piece of property. Anybody with a sound mind can see

that. Now, I can't imagine them being able to carry through with a conversion into a single-family dwelling in this atmosphere. I can't imagine them continuing, with all of the outpouring of community support we've received. I have to assume that they're reconsidering somewhat because... how can they go forward? How can they possibly go forward in this world, in this community, the way it is right now?

RR: That's why we need to get more people involved. There's been growth but we need to get more. That's what I'm trying to do; get more people involved to show up at the [Planning Commission] meeting. I'm even willing to drive people there.

JW: We have hope for the future for this. We've fought hard for this and we're on the right side.

RR: That's why I'm here with you because I believe that what we're doing is right. And I really want to see the church restored to its original use. People will come and support it once the church is put back in its original use. I've already had people say, "Whatever you guys need us to do, as far as construction, we'll come and we'll donate the time and materials," and so forth and so on. So, there are people that are willing to get involved. They just have to get past the meeting. That's the core right there. If we can get them to the meeting...

JW: To convince the Planning Commission that this is a right and just cause.

RR: The way the community is, you have young and old. You have the old-school community, which I am. Then you have the new-school community, which are the ones you saw on Community Day. They care.

JW: They signed the petition.

RR: We can't read anybody's mind but we can say, because of their actions, that they care. If people show up at the meeting, that will show that they care.

JW: Much of this is in the hands of the people in the community and the supporters of the fight.

RR: It looks like a David and Goliath thing. The Penskes being the Goliaths. But David had that one little stone and he hit him in the right place and he fell. This is where we're at. We have to look at it in a spiritual sense 'cause it's a spiritual fight. You've got these attorneys and these well-schooled people. They're going to continue with their lives and go to the next project. But then you've got a whole community in Venice, of people that are going to be affected for

the rest of their lives. I think that the Penskes thought that they were going to just go ahead and go about their business. But it's deeper than that. It's much deeper than that.

Come to the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 4:30 PM at 11214 Exposition Blvd. in West L.A. to show your support for this historic Black church in Venice. For more details, go to www.savevenice.me .



Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Addendum to: HCM Application Form_First Baptist Church_08.28.2018

1 message

margaret molloy <mmmolloy@earthlink.net>

Fri, Sep 14, 2018 at 2:28 PM

To: Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>, Ken Bernstein <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, "Giessinger, Lambert" <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>, chc@lacity.org

Cc: Laddie Williams <cwilli7269@gmail.com>, Naomi Nightingale <nightingalenaomi@yahoo.com>, Amanda Seward <amandaseward@artvista.net>, Ivy Beach <ivybeach@protonmail.com>, Adolfo Alzuphar <aalzuphar@scopela.org>, Jon Wolff <jonwolffusa@aol.com>

Melissa,

Please include these 31, 655 petition signatures significant in support of the historic designation for First Baptist Church application in your staff report:

Please confirm receipt of this email.**Appreciatively,****margaret molloy****laddie williams****naomi nightingale****miguel bravo****ivy beach****adolfo alzuphar****jon wolff**

https://www.change.org/p/respect-black-history-grant-historical-status-to-the-first-baptist-church-of-venice?recruiter=10984370&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=share_petition&utm_term=share_for_starters_page

Grant Historical Status to the First Baptist Church of Venice!

32K supporters

Petition details ▾

Grant Historical Status to the First Baptist Church of Venice!



31,655 have signed. Let's get to 35,000!



 Andrew Hall signed 8 minutes ago

 Julia Johansen signed 3 hours ago

 Respect Black History—Grant Historical Status to the First...

 Share on Facebook

 Send a Facebook message

 Send an email to friends

 Mike Bravo started this petition to [Mayor of City of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti](#) and [5 others](#)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE

671-685 East Westminster Avenue and 686-688 East Westminster Avenue

CHC-2018-5305-HCM

ENV-2018-5306-CE

Materials Submitted by the Owner's Representative



685 Westminster Avenue, Los Angeles

Supplemental Information

6 November 2018

Introduction

This supplemental report has been prepared by Architectural Resources Group (ARG) in support of its finding that the former First Baptist Church of Venice, located at 685 Westminster Avenue in the Oakwood neighborhood of Venice, is not eligible under Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) criteria.

ARG prepared a Historical Resources Assessment for the property, dated July 27, 2018, in which it evaluated the church against HCM, California Register of Historical Resources, and National Register of Historic Places criteria. ARG found that the property is not eligible under any of these local, state, or national designation criteria.

In response to questions that arose at the Cultural Heritage Commission hearing on October 4, 2018, ARG conducted supplemental research about the property in order to further investigate potential cultural significance of the 1968 church building. This research focused on potential direct association of the 1968 church building with significant events, patterns of development, and significant individuals.

ARG also conducted supplemental research to confirm the property's construction chronology, and the migration of the First Baptist Church of Venice's congregation, from their first to their current location.

Upon further review of supplemental documentation, ARG continues to find that the property does not meet Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument criteria, nor any state or federal designation criteria.

685 Westminster Avenue: *Los Angeles Sentinel* Research

There were a number of newspapers and periodicals in Los Angeles that served its various ethnic communities, who were, historically, often omitted from coverage in the *Los Angeles Times*. The *Los Angeles Sentinel* and the *California Eagle* served the area's African American community. Upon conducting supplemental research in the archives of the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, ARG did not find any evidence that the 1968 First Baptist Church of Venice is directly associated with any significant events or individuals such that the property meets HCM eligibility criteria. There are a handful of articles in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* that date from 1968 to the late 1990s and mention the church and/or its pastor, Reverend E. L. Holmes. However, these articles speak of typical church functions (weddings, funerals, and typical religious celebrations) and do not provide evidence of significant events occurring at the church, or significant patterns of events, after 1968.



Nor did evidence suggest that the church building is associated with significant persons after 1968. Reverend E.L. Holmes is mentioned as an active member of the Western State Baptist Convention of California and as an attendee or speaker at various religious ceremonies at other churches in Los Angeles; however, his contributions were not more significant than any other church leader of a similar position.

The California Eagle ceased publication in 1964, thus its archive predates the 1968 property.

A complete list of articles from the *Los Angeles Sentinel* related to the First Baptist Church of Venice between 1968 and 1998 is as follows:¹

- "Calvary Baptist to Install H. Mitchell," 22 Feb 1968
- "Calvary Baptist Installs Mitchell," 7 March 1968
- "El Bethel Honors Pastor and Wife," 20 March 1969.
- "Davis Sets Installation," 30 April 1970.
- "Of Pulpit and Pew," 11 May 1972.
- "Ethel Tabor Succumbs," 27 April 1972.
- "Rites Join Faye McFadden, V. MicKinney in Marriage," 20 July 1972.
- "Ministers Plan 2nd Institute," 31 May 1973.
- "Obituary," 17 April 1980.
- "Obituary," 25 March 1982.
- "Black Agenda Shares its Budget Goals for 1982: Businesses, Clergy, Doctors, Dentists Support Black Agenda," 24 June 1982.
- "Black Agenda Surpasses Lofty \$100,000 Goal," 5 August 1982.
- "Obituary," 2 December 1982.
- "Honors Set for Reese," 4 August 1983.
- "Obituary," 29 March 1984.
- "Obituary," 12 July 1984.
- "Obituary," 5 May 1986.
- "Obituary," 15 May 1986.
- "Obituary," 15 June 1989.
- "Obituary," 14 October 1993.
- "Prayer Event Slated," 21 November 1996.
- "Obituary," 4 July 1996.

¹ Search terms in *The Sentinel* included "First Baptist Church of Venice," "First Baptist Church in Venice," "Rev. E.L. Holmes," and "685 Westminster."



First Baptist Church of Venice Development Chronology

The 1968 location of the First Baptist Church of Venice was its third Venice location, and the congregation continues to meet today in its new facility Westchester, Los Angeles. The following chronology tracks the origins of the First Baptist Church of Venice and the development chronology of the properties at 685 and 688 Westminister Avenue.

1910: The congregation began as the Second Baptist Church of Santa Monica, and met at an unknown location in the City of Santa Monica.

1911: In 1911, the congregation purchased property at the corner of Fifth and San Juan Avenues in Venice and changed their name to the First Baptist Church of Venice.

There was an existing barn at this location that the congregation refurbished and used for services.

1923: The congregation needed a larger facility and purchased property at 688 Westminister Avenue.

1927: Construction of the new church building, designed by Paul R. Williams, began.

1928: The new church at 688 Westminister Avenue was dedicated and services commenced.

ND Sometime between 1928 and 1950, the barn in which the congregation met at Fifth and San Juan Avenue was demolished, as it does not appear in the 1950 update of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

1966: Lots were purchased across the street from the church at 688 Westminister for the construction of a new church. The address of the new property was 685 Westminister.

The property at 685 Westminister was vacant land at the time of its purchase by the congregation in 1966. The most recent use was that of a woodworking shop, which appears to have been demolished sometime between 1952 and 1963.

1968: The new church building at 685 Westminister was dedicated, and the 1928 church was given to a congregation in South Los Angeles, who relocated it to 11205 S. Vermont Avenue in unincorporated Los Angeles County (it still exists at this location). The lot at 688 Westminister was then converted to surface parking to serve the church.

1971: The Certificate of Occupancy for the church at 685 Westminister was issued.

2017: The First Baptist Church of Venice sold its building at 685 Westminister and relocated the congregation to 8946 Sepulveda Eastway in Westchester, Los Angeles. The congregation now goes by the First Baptist Church of Venice (F.B.C.V.) Worship Center.



The first First Baptist Church of Venice location: a barn located near the corner of Fifth Avenue and San Juan Avenue, about two blocks from 685 Westminster Avenue. Photo date, ca. 1911.



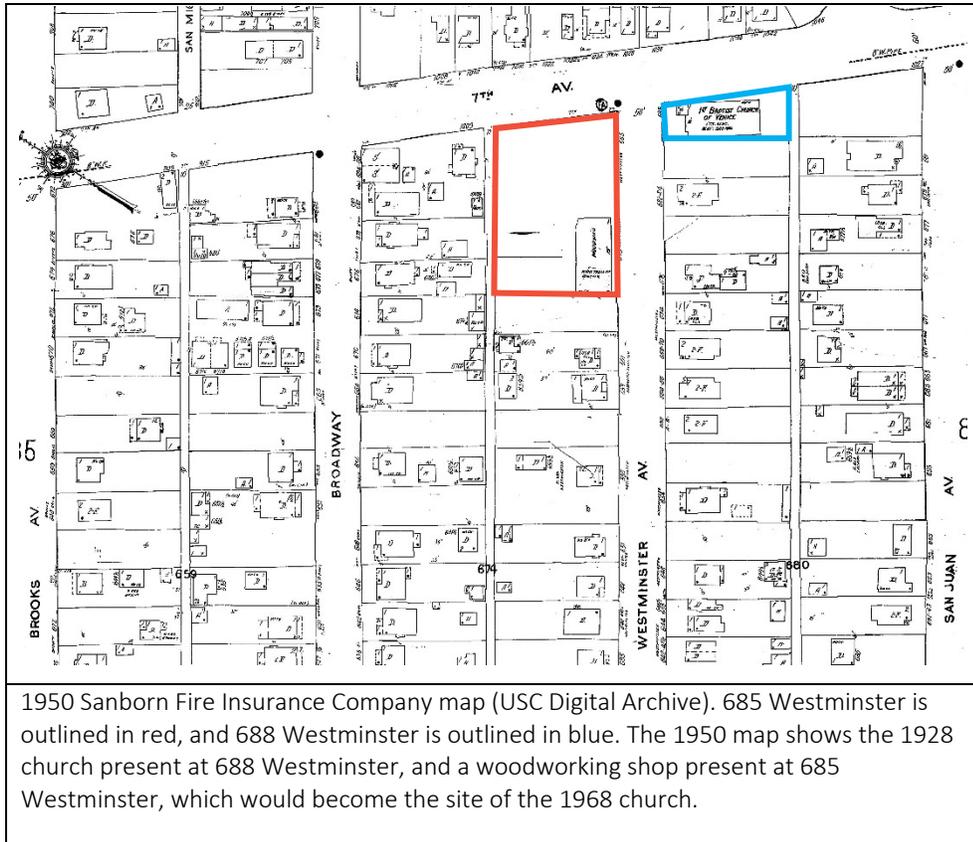
Second church: 688 Westminster Avenue, designed by Paul R. Williams and dedicated in 1928.



Third church: 685 Westminster Avenue, dedicated in 1968.



Fourth and current church: 8946 Sepulveda Eastway, Westchester, Los Angeles.



Oakwood: defining the period of significance of the African American enclave

In summary, as stated in ARG’s Historic Resource Assessment and as confirmed upon the supplemental review of primary and secondary source documentation, ARG finds that although the Venice community of Oakwood is a significant early African American enclave in the history of Los Angeles, and although the First Baptist Church of Venice congregation was one of the earliest to serve this community in the first decades of the twentieth century, the subject church building at 685 Westminister, constructed in 1968, is not directly associated with events, patterns of development, or individuals significant in the history of the community.

Scholarship on the history of Oakwood describes a significant African American community that settled in the Venice neighborhood in waves, beginning in the 1910s with the migration of blacks from the American South, where they faced extremely hostile conditions. They found a safe haven and opportunities for work in Venice, helping to build the growing community under the vision of Abbott Kinney. The second wave of growth occurred in the 1940s, as African Americans came to Los Angeles for its accelerated job prospects related to defense and other wartime industries. Venice was an attractive neighborhood for black settlement during this time due to its established African American community and proximity to Hughes Aircraft in Culver City and McDonnell Douglas in Santa Monica.



The third and final wave of expansion of the African American community in Oakwood occurred in the 1950s, with the construction of Interstate 10 (Santa Monica) Freeway from downtown to the Pacific coast, which forced, by eminent domain, many non-white Angelenos out of neighborhoods in the path of the freeway development. The Oakwood community experienced growth and prosperity during the 1950s and early '60s.

By 1970, Oakwood's African American population entered a period of steady decline in numbers, as the loosening of restrictive housing practices enabled black migration to other parts of the City previously off-limits to non-whites, and as property values near the coast began to climb.

Taking Oakwood's broader history into consideration, in the context of the larger development of Los Angeles and the development of its African American community, the Oakwood story is very much tied to significant patterns of development and the African American experience in Los Angeles at early twentieth and mid-twentieth century. Churches were an important part of this story, and there were a number of church congregations that served the African American community in Venice. There are several church buildings from the first half of the twentieth century that still exist in Oakwood.

A thorough review of documentation does not suggest that the 1968 First Baptist Church of Venice, though the history of its congregation dates to the early decades of the twentieth century, has a direct association to significant historic patterns of events during its history from 1968 to the present day.



685 Westminster Avenue, Los Angeles Historical Resources Assessment

Prepared for:

685 Westminster Holdings, LLC

Prepared by:



Architectural
Resources Group

Los Angeles, California
July 27, 2018

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	1
2. Assessment Methodology.....	1
2.1 Research.....	1
2.2 Field Methods.....	2
2.3 Project Team	2
3. Previous Evaluations and Designations	2
4. Project Description	2
5. Property Description.....	3
5.1 Site and Setting	3
5.2 Architectural Description.....	4
6. Historical Context	12
6.1 Historical Background.....	12
6.2 Context: African American History of Los Angeles	14
6.3 Context: Architecture and Engineering, 1850-1980.....	16
7. Regulatory Framework	17
7.1 National Register of Historic Places	17
7.2 California Register of Historical Resources	18
7.3 City of Los Angeles, Cultural Heritage Ordinance	20
8. Evaluation of Eligibility	23
8.1 Evaluation of Significance.....	23
8.2 Evaluation of Integrity	27
8.3 Conclusion	28
9. Recommendations.....	28
10. References	29
11. Attachments.....	30

1. Executive Summary

At the request of 685 Westminster Holdings, LLC, Architectural Resources Group (ARG) has prepared this Historical Resources Assessment for the building located at 685 Westminster Avenue in the neighborhood of Venice, City of Los Angeles (referred to herein as 685 Westminster). The building is a two-story church constructed in 1966-67 and occupied by 1971.

This assessment includes an evaluation of the building against federal (National Register of Historic Places), state (California Register of Historical Resources), and local (City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance) eligibility criteria.

Upon thorough analysis 685 Westminster Avenue, ARG finds that the building is neither eligible for listing in the National or California Registers, nor as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

Therefore, it is ARG's professional opinion that the church building is not a historical resource for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15000, et seq.).

2. Assessment Methodology

2.1 Research

For preparation of this assessment, ARG performed the following tasks for research, documentation, and analysis:

- Conducted a search in California's Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) for previous surveys and evaluations of the property.
- Reviewed state and local technical bulletins, ordinances, and other materials related to the evaluation of historical resources.
- Conducted primary and secondary source research related to the history of the building.
- Evaluated 685 Westminster against eligibility criteria of the National Register, California Register, and the City of Los Angeles' Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

ARG staff consulted the following archives and repositories as part of their research for this assessment: Los Angeles Public Library (multiple collections); ProQuest, including the historic Los Angeles Times and the historic Los Angeles Sentinel databases; Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Online Building Records; United States Census Records; Los Angeles City Directories; and ARG's in-house library collection. A complete list of references is included in Section 10 of this assessment.

2.2 Field Methods

In addition to primary and secondary source research, ARG conducted a site visit of 685 Westminster on July 12, 2018. During the site visit, the property was photographed, and notes were taken on its physical appearance and condition.

2.3 Project Team

This report was prepared by Katie Horak, Principal and Architectural Historian, Evanne St. Charles, Associate and Architectural Historian, and Lakan Cole, Architectural Historian, all of whom meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards* in Architectural History.

3. Previous Evaluations and Designations

685 Westminster is not designated as a historic resource under any local, state, or federal registration program. The building was not identified as a potential historic resource in 2015 during the Los Angeles Citywide Survey (SurveyLA) of the Venice Community Plan Area (CPA), or in any previous historic resources survey or assessment.¹² The property is not located within a previously identified National Register or California Register eligible historic district or Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ).

4. Project Description

The proposed project would change the use of 685 Westminster from a church and parking lot to a single-family residence with a four-car garage. The proposed work involves retaining the overall building footprint and massing; however, the exterior façades and interiors would be rehabilitated with a residential aesthetic.

Hardscape and landscaping across the front, side, and rear yards, and across the west parking lot would be removed and replaced with new landscaping. Stone cladding on the south façade would be removed, and fenestration across the south, east, and north façades would be infilled. The altered façades would be clad in unarticulated stucco to match the existing. Two new rectangular openings with paired doors would be installed on either side of first floor of the south façade, and a new pair of doors would be installed within an existing opening at the first floor of the northern, east façade. The first floor of the west façade would be refinished with glazed exterior walls. The flat roof and upper portion of the second floor would be removed and replaced with an open roof terrace. Two new bands of projecting glazed walls would be constructed across the east and west sides of the steeply pitched roof.

¹ SurveyLA findings can be viewed at www.historicplacesla.org.

² Historic Resources Group, "SurveyLA Historic Resources Survey Report: Venice Community Plan Area," prepared for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources (2015).

On the interior, the center atrium would be absorbed into a new open, first floor plan. A 3,381 square foot addition would be constructed within the upper level of the sanctuary, and as described above, 1,991 square feet of the western second floor would be replaced with a roof deck. The addition of the eastern second-story space combined with the western floor area removal would reduce the overall square footage of the property from 12,311 square feet to 11,760 square feet. New partitions, finishes, and features would be installed throughout the interiors.

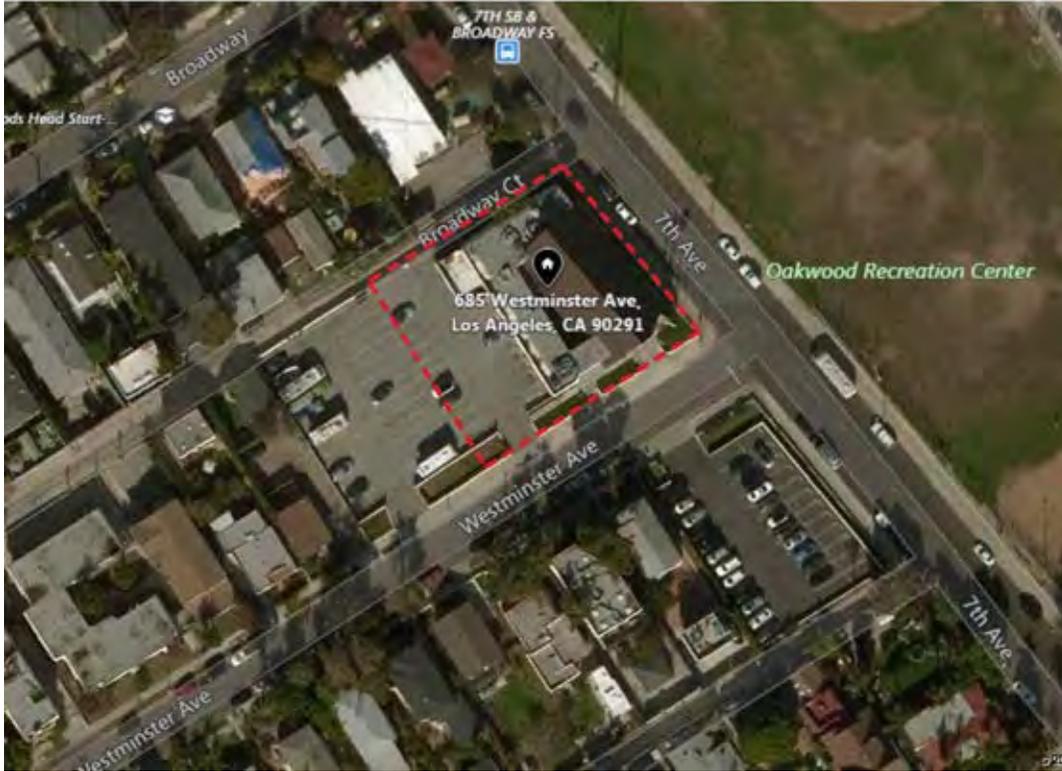
5. Property Description

This section describes 685 Westminster, including the site, setting, exterior, interior, and history of alterations. Photos are also included for reference.

5.1 Site and Setting

The subject property is located at 685 Westminster Avenue, at the corner of 7th Avenue, in Venice, which is approximately 15 miles west of downtown Los Angeles. Streets in the immediate vicinity of the property generally adhere to a rectilinear grid pattern, aligned on a northwest-southeast axis. The property sits at the east end of Block L, on Lot 23, bound between Broadway Court to the north, Westminster Avenue to the south, 7th Avenue to the east, and 6th Avenue to the far west. The total lot area measures approximately 18,746 square feet and is composed of the two-story church on the east end and a paved parking lot on the west end. The property is set back from the street by a sidewalk along Westminster and 7th Avenues. To the north, the property meets the edge of a narrow street, Broadway Court. The topography of the lot slopes downward from north to south.

The neighborhood setting is low to medium residential consisting of one- and two-story, single-family and multi-family residential properties dating from the 1910s to the 2000s, and the Oakwood Recreation Center, which borders the property across 7th Avenue.



Site map: 685 Westminister is outlined in red. Base image: maps.bing.com.

5.2 Architectural Description

Exterior

The church is a two-story, reinforced concrete structure on a concrete foundation. Due to the sloping topography, the foundation has been leveled so that the south, primary façade, and entrances are elevated above grade and accessible by stairs, a ramped walkway, and a sloped driveway to the parking lot. Along the south and east sides, the building is set back from the street and sidewalk by the aforementioned hardscape and a lawn with low trees and shrubs. The lawn is enclosed by a concrete block retaining wall and iron fencing. A tall steel sign pole stands at the southeast corner of the lawn. Historically a metal cross structure intersected with a rectangular opening in the southeast roofline of the church, but this feature has been removed.³ At the northeast corner of the property, the lawn is enclosed on all sides by a tall iron fence. Another concrete block wall runs the remaining length of the north side of the building, fronting Broadway Court, and grounds are paved in asphalt from the northwest corner through the western parking lot. The concrete perimeter walls are all painted beige, except at the interior side of the south entrance ramp, which was a later alteration. All railing is painted black.

The church has an irregular, trapezoid-shaped plan composed of two main volumes: a roughly rectangular, off-axis sanctuary to the east and a U-shaped education wing to the west. There is an atrium

³ Google Maps, "685 Westminister Ave, Los Angeles, California, Street View-2011," Maps.google.com (Accessed July 2018).

between the sanctuary and education wing, and a small square addition projecting from the northwest side of the education wing.

A steeply pitched gable roof, which evokes an “A-frame” form, covers the sanctuary. The roof’s broad eaves at the north and south overhang the primary façade and north façade. The roof is constructed of clapboard sheathing and finished with a wood rake, all painted white. It is covered in non-historic composite shingles dating to 2004.

The roof on the education wing is flat and capped with wood trim. The roofing material appears to be built-up/asphalt roofing. HVAC equipment, installed in 2014, and other mechanical equipment are visible over the south and west façades.

The church has two street façades: the primary south façade along Westminster Avenue and the secondary east façade along 7th Avenue. The west and north façades are tertiary, facing the parking lot and a rear yard. Overall, the building’s exterior is intact from its original 1966 construction date, although some significant character-defining features have been lost.

South Façade

The south, primary façade fronts Westminster Avenue and is composed of two sections: the sanctuary (east) and education wing (west). The primary façade of the sanctuary is defined by its steeply pitched roofline, which creates a triangular form that lends itself to a symmetrical, tripartite division. The east and west bays are clad in beige-painted stucco and a natural stone veneer. The center bay has a slightly curved articulation and features the building’s main entrance with a clerestory above. All fenestration is framed in thin wood trim, painted white.

The center bay has a vertical orientation and is subdivided into four sections by three projecting wood piers. At the first floor, the main entrance is rectilinear and composed of two center entrances and flanking sidelights. Paired hollow-wood swing doors are installed in the center entrances, and the doors have been stripped of paint and hardware. The glazing in the sidelights have been lost. The doors were historically painted red and finished with bronze hardware, and multi-color stained glass panels were installed in the sidelights.⁴ Above the main entrance is a tall clerestory composed of 26 fixed, rectangular and triangular windows divided by flat, wood mullions.

The east and west bays also have a vertical orientation and are sub-divided into two vertical sections. Course natural stone veneer frames the center bay and comprises the majority of the east and west bays. Two bronze lanterns are attached to the stone adjacent to the main entrance. On either side of the stone are rectangular sidelight openings and fixed trapezoidal windows set within a stucco façade. The glazing in the sidelights have been lost, but historically multi-color stained glass panels were installed in these openings as well. The clear glazing in the trapezoidal-shaped windows remain.

Projecting west from the sanctuary is the education wing. The south façade is clad in beige-painted stucco and divided into two asymmetrical sections. The east section is recessed and features a secondary entrance to the sanctuary, with a canopy and windows at the second floor. It is shorter than the

⁴ Ibid.

sanctuary and meets the east building at the center of the roof. The west section projects forward, in line with the sanctuary, and is slightly taller than the east section.

At the first floor of the east section, the secondary entrance is rectilinear and composed of an entrance on the west and three sidelights to the east. All fenestration is framed in thin wood trim, painted white. Similar to the sanctuary, paired hollow-wood swing doors, stripped of paint and hardware, are installed in the west entrance. The glazing in the sidelights have been lost, and the openings have been boarded up. The doors were historically painted red and finished with bronze hardware, and multi-color stained glass panels were installed in the sidelights.

Above the entrance is a stucco canopy with a wood cornice. Building address numbers, a non-historic camera, electrical conduits, and a gutter are attached to the canopy. Above the canopy, the second floor is composed of a group of four rectangular fixed windows, framed in thin white-painted trim and fitted with clear glass. A simple white-painted, wood cornice caps this section of the façade.

The west section of the education wing is unarticulated, with the exception of electrical conduit, a utilitarian light fixture, and a downspout. Historically a brick and glass reader board was attached at the southwest corner of the first floor.⁵ The reader has been removed, but its footprint is ghosted into the stucco.

East Façade

The secondary east façade, facing 7th Avenue, is composed of two beige-painted, stucco-clad sections: the sanctuary (south) and education wing (north). The sanctuary's east façade is low-slung, defined by the long horizontal edge of the roof. Fenestration includes four large rectangular window openings to the south and a single entrance to the north. While the thin wood trim remains, the windows have been removed, and the openings are boarded up. Simulated, arch-head, multi-color stained glass windows were historically installed in the openings.⁶ A hollow-wood swing door that is unfinished and warped is located in the single entrance, north of the window openings. A utilitarian light fixture is attached to the stucco façade north-adjacent to the door, and downspouts run down the north and south sides of this façade.

Projecting north from the sanctuary is the education wing. Similar to the south façade, the education wing's east façade is divided into two asymmetrical sections: the southern shorter and recessed and the northern taller and projecting forward, in line with the sanctuary. Fenestration at the southern recessed section includes a rectangular first-floor entrance and two punched window openings at the second floor. The entrance is framed in thin wood trim, painted white, and paired hollow-wood swing doors are installed within the opening. The doors are painted brown and missing hardware. Second floor windows are two-light aluminum-framed sliders. A simple wood cornice caps this section of the façade. The north projecting section appears to be unarticulated, but the exterior first floor is obscured from view by an iron fence.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

West Façade

The west façade is adjacent to the parking lot, and it is composed of two plain, beige-painted stucco-clad sections: the education wing and northwest square addition. The education wing has an elongated horizontal orientation and comprises the majority of the west façade. Fenestration includes five groups of punched windows at the first and second floors. The windows are two-light aluminum-framed sliders. Black-painted iron bars are attached outboard of the first-floor windows. The remaining area of the stucco façade is punctuated with various sized vents, electrical conduit, utilitarian light fixtures, a camera, and downspouts.

A small square addition with three exterior sides consumes the northwest corner of the education wing. The south side is unarticulated with the exception of utility appurtenances. At the west side, fenestration includes a single punched window opening to the north, two rectangular entrances toward the center, and a garage to the south. The window is a two-light aluminum-framed slider with black-painted iron window bars. Unmatched hollow-wood swing doors are installed within the two single entrances. The door to the north is paneled, painted white, and appears to have been added at a later date. A contemporary light fixture is attached to the stucco façade south-adjacent to this door, and a black-painted metal vent is installed above. The door to the south is plain, painted beige, and set within a thin, beige-painted wood frame. South of the entrances, the garage is fitted with a corrugated metal, single panel door within a thin, white-painted wood frame. Electrical conduit, a utilitarian light fixture, a camera, and downspouts are attached across the remaining stucco.

The north side of the small square addition is flush with the north façade of the education wing. There is a single punched window opening to the east and a bump-out entrance vestibule to the west. The window is fitted with a two-light aluminum-framed slider and has iron window bars. A single hollow-wood swing door is installed within the entrance. An electrical post and line is attached above the entrance vestibule. Various sized electrical conduit, a meter, utilitarian light fixtures, a camera, and downspouts are attached across the remaining stucco.

The west façade of the sanctuary fronts the interior atrium. It is configured similarly to the sanctuary's east façade with rectangular window openings in which the glazing has been removed.

North Façade

The north façade, facing Broadway Court, is composed of two beige-painted stucco-clad sections: the education wing (north) and the sanctuary (south). The north façade, in the foreground, is partially obscured from exterior view by a rear yard fence and an overgrown tree. Fenestration includes four punched windows and a single entrance across the first floor, and five punched windows across the second floor. All windows are two-light aluminum-framed sliders. Stained-glass film has been applied to the interior side of some windows. The single entrance is fitted with a hollow-wood swing door, which is unfinished and warped. Downspouts run down the east and west sides of this façade.

The sanctuary's north façade is largely consumed by the education wing's volume. It is defined similarly to the south façade by the roofline and has a symmetrical triangular form with a tripartite division. The east and west bays are clad in beige-painted stucco. The center bay features a narrow clerestory window opening. The clerestory is framed in thin wood trim, painted white, but the glazing has been removed.

Existing Conditions Photos, Building Exterior



Primary south façade, overall view northwest (ARG, 2018).



Primary south façade, overall view northeast (ARG, 2018).



Secondary, east façade, overall view northwest (ARG, 2018).



West façade, overall view east (ARG, 2018).



North façade, overall view southeast (ARG, 2018).



North façade, overall view southwest (ARG, 2018).

Interior

The building is 12,311 square feet, and as described in plan, configured with the sanctuary to the east, education wing to the west, an atrium between the sanctuary and education wing, and a small square addition projecting at the northwest. Overall, the building's interior reflects the original 1966 plan, but most significant character-defining features have been removed.

First Floor

The primary entrance is located off the south façade and leads to the first floor of the sanctuary. The sanctuary is a double-height space with exposed timber framing. It is configured with a narrow, rectangular entrance vestibule to the south and a large rectangular room to the north. In the main entrance vestibule, the floors are multi-color terrazzo tile, the walls are either painted plaster or non-historic wood paneling, and the ceilings are exposed clapboard supported on brown-painted timber framing spanning from east to west. Three rectangular, wood-framed openings in the vestibule's north wall provide access into the main room of the sanctuary. A pair of wood-and-glass panel doors are installed within the west opening, a pair of paneled hollow-wood doors are installed within the east opening, and the center opening is missing a single door. The existing doors and frames are painted red.

In the main room of the sanctuary, an exposed concrete subfloor shows evidence of being previously covered in carpet. The walls are painted plaster with non-historic wood wainscoting, and ceilings are exposed clapboard supported on brown-painted timber framing spanning from east to west. Brass candelabra chandeliers are suspended from the ceiling, and various appurtenances are attached to the walls and ceilings. Building records dating to 1966 note that the sanctuary was permitted for 480 seats; however, neither these furnishings nor other historic furnishings remain.

The education wing is two stories and has a U-shaped plan, which is defined by a central corridor with two circulation cores at the north and south ends. On the first floor, a secondary entrance located off of the south façade leads to a double-height entrance vestibule. The education wing's entrance vestibule is finished with multi-color terrazzo tile floors, painted plaster walls, and textured acoustic ceilings. A non-historic, open concrete-and-metal stair leads to the second floor. An interior window to the sanctuary is located at the east wall of the vestibule. The window glazing has been removed. The north wall is fenestrated with three large, rectangular fixed windows with clear glass in wood frames. Three smaller, recessed, rectangular fixed windows with clear glass in aluminum frames are located at the second floor. These windows look out into a central atrium and the interior west façade of the sanctuary.

Beyond the first-floor vestibule, an L-shaped corridor wraps the interior atrium. The east wall is fenestrated with rectangular, fixed windows with wire glass in wood frames. The north wall is fenestrated with aluminum-framed multi-light, wire glass sliding doors and a wood-framed wire glass transom. The corridor has painted plaster walls, textured acoustic ceilings, and non-historic vinyl tile flooring. The corridor is single loaded on the west side with rooms of various size and use, fronted by wood-framed doors. The rooms have no significant features, and finishes include non-historic strip-wood, tile, carpet or exposed concrete sub-floors, painted plaster walls, and textured acoustic ceilings.

At the north side of the first floor is in a large, rectangular assembly room. The assembly room is finished with exposed concrete sub-floors, painted plaster walls, and textured acoustic ceilings with concrete

beams spanning from north to south. A center beam is embellished with painted text reading, “Bishop E.L. Holmes Assembly Room.” West of the assembly room is the interior space of the one-story northeast square addition. This room serves as a kitchen and is finished with beige terrazzo tile floors, painted plaster walls and ceilings, and metal kitchen fixtures. East of the assembly room, the corridor culminates in a second stair constructed of scored concrete and metal rails.

Second Floor

The second floor of the education wing is configured with a double-loaded, U-shaped corridor. The corridor is finished with exposed concrete sub-floors, painted plaster walls, and a textured acoustic ceiling. At the south end, the corridor forms a narrow mezzanine around the stair in the entrance vestibule below. At the north end, the south wall features two large, rectangular fixed windows with clear glass in wood frames that look into a light well between the north wing and the sanctuary. The remaining majority of the corridor is configured with rooms of various sizes and uses, entered through wood-framed doors. The rooms have no significant features, and finishes include floors of non-historic strip-wood, tile, carpet, or exposed concrete sub-flooring, painted plaster walls, and textured acoustic ceilings.

Existing Conditions Photos, Building Interior



Sanctuary main entrance vestibule, view west (ARG, 2018).



Sanctuary main room, view south toward main entrance (ARG, 2018).



Assembly room, view east (ARG, 2018).



Kitchen, view west (ARG, 2018).

5.3 Chronology of Development and Use

Following is a chronology of development and use of 685 Westminster Avenue. Source materials include online building permits from the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, and *Los Angeles Times* newspaper articles.

- 1966: Permit issued to 1st Baptist Church of Venice for the construction of a new two-story church building and parking lot at 685 Westminster Avenue (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 1966WL65561). George R. Williams was listed as the architect and Joe Y. Sing as the engineer.
- 1966: Permit issued for a footing revision (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 1966WL65772).
- 1971: Permit issued for Certificate of Occupancy (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 1966WL65561).
- 1990: Permit issued for the construction of a steel pole sign with a 6'x5' metal fascia by Local Neon to be located at the southeast corner of the lot (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 1990WL86951).
- 2003: Permit issued for the installation of a fiberglass mineral sub-face cap sheet at the flat roof by Midwest Roofing (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 03016-40000-20988).
- 2004: Permit issued for the installation of class "A" composite roofing by Midwest Roofing (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 04016-40000-18765).
- 2004: Permit issued the installation of an earthquake valve by Stephan Jack Plumbing & Heating (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 04042-90000-34283).
- 2014: Permit issued the installation of a 5-ton HVAC unit by Reliance Home Services (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 14044-90000-05922).
- 2017: Permit issued for grading (City of Los Angeles Permit No. 17030-10000-01527).

In addition to these alterations, ARG noted alterations to the exterior of the building that were not documented in building permits or other source materials. These alterations were identified by visual inspection of the property conducted by ARG staff on July 12, 2018. In the absence of building permits, ARG was not able to determine when these alterations occurred. The following is a list of the alterations noted by ARG during visual inspection of the building:

- stained glass panels are missing from the window openings across all façades of the sanctuary and at the main entrance of the education wing
- primary and secondary entrance doors at the south façade have been stripped of paint and hardware
- a metal cross structure historically intersecting with the southeast roofline, fronting the primary façade, has been removed

- a new concrete ramp has been installed in front of the primary façade
- a new door, light fixture, and vent have been installed at the center of the northeast square addition
- various utility appurtenances have been installed across all sides of the education wing
- ecclesiastical furnishings and iconography have been removed
- a non-historic concrete and metal stair has been installed within the education wing’s secondary entrance vestibule
- original wall coverings and flooring have been stripped or replaced with non-historic finishes throughout the building

6. Historical Context

This section discusses 685 Westminster as a religious institution within the historic context of the Oakwood community of Venice. The property is also relevant under two contexts/themes within the Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement, including: “African American History of Los Angeles: Religion and Spirituality, 1869-1980” and “Architecture and Engineering, 1850-1980: LA Modernism, 1850-1980: Postwar Modernism, 1946-1976: Mid-Century Modernism, 1945-1970.” Though located in Venice, a pre-consolidation community of Los Angeles, the church was constructed after Venice consolidated with Los Angeles, and therefore the context/theme “Pre-Consolidation Communities of Los Angeles: 1862-1932: Venice, 1901-1925” does not apply; however, it was used in the development of the Historical Background section of this report.

6.1 Historical Background

The history of the First Baptist Church of Venice is tied to the development of the community of Oakwood as an African American enclave on the periphery of Venice in the early 20th century. In the late 1800s, the land south of Santa Monica consisted of “wetlands, with sand dunes and marshes.”⁷ The area’s transformation into present-day Venice began in 1891, marked by the southern extension of the Trolleyway from Santa Monica, which led developer and entrepreneur Abbot Kinney and his partner, Francis G. Ryan, to purchase the land surrounding the railroad for private development.⁸

By the early 20th century, Abbot Kinney was the sole land owner. Under Kinney’s leadership, the City of Venice was incorporated in 1904, and plans were laid for the ambitious oceanfront development that

⁷ Jeffrey Stanton, *Venice, California: ‘Coney Island of the Pacific’* (Los Angeles: Donahue Publishing, 1993), 4; Historic Resources Group, “SurveyLA Historic Resources Survey Report: Venice Community Plan Area,” 5.

⁸ City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement, Context: Pre-Consolidation Communities of Los Angeles, 1862-1932,” prepared by Daniel Prosser for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources (2016), 153.

would become his legacy.⁹ Venice of America was Kinney's grand vision for an American oceanfront city patterned after the Italian City of Venice, featuring salt water canals, Venetian Renaissance style architecture and high forms of amusement such as singing gondoliers.

To the east of Kinney's oceanfront amusement zone, the Trolleyway maps show large plots of land identified as the "Back Country."¹⁰ The Back Country consisted of former marshland, which had been drained as part of the Venice of America canal system construction. It was in the Back Country that early African Americans of Venice made their home. The community they established is now known as Oakwood.

Early African American residents in Oakwood were largely Southern migrants moving west to California in search of better opportunity. Settlement on the outskirts of Venice, whether restricted to this area by racial covenants or de facto segregation practices, provided proximity to work for construction laborers, service providers, and servants to wealthy white residents; and businesses and the Venice of America development to the west.¹¹ Arthur L. Reese, a Louisiana-born black artist and sculptor, was an early Oakwood resident known for his role in decorating parade floats and as town decorator for Venice of America.¹² His cousin, Irving Tabor, was Abbot Kinney's chauffeur and confidant.¹³ Kinney left his home to Tabor after his death. The home was moved to Oakwood in 1916 and is a designated Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM #926).

Oakwood continued to develop as a predominately African American residential community through the first quarter of the 20th century, as transportation infrastructure spurred subsequent waves of westward migration. Public and private institutions, including religious institutions, were established to serve the growing community during this time. The First Baptist Church of Venice and the Nazarene Church (now New Bethel Baptist Church of Venice) were two of the earliest congregations.¹⁴

By the post-World War II era, the African American population in Oakwood soared due to a third wave of migration during World War II, and it was a known enclave on the west side of Los Angeles. However, the second half of the century introduced significant changes. New racial demographics, specifically Latinos, moved into the area creating a shift in the historic community culture.¹⁵ Additionally, challenges of racism and disinvestment in the 1960s and '70s led to unemployment, crime, and drugs amongst third- and fourth-generation African American residents.¹⁶

⁹ *Los Angeles Times*, February 13, 1904; City of Los Angeles, "Pre-Consolidation Communities of Los Angeles, 1862-1932," 153.

¹⁰ Myers, "Central Venice Circa 1918," 73; City of Los Angeles, "Pre-Consolidation Communities of Los Angeles, 1862-1932," 151-152.

¹¹ Historic Resources Group, "SurveyLA Historic Resources Survey Report: Venice Community Plan Area," 44.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History." SaveVenice.com (Accessed July 2018). <http://savevenice.me/the-first-baptist-church-of-venice-a-brief-history/>

¹⁵ Andrew Deener, "The Decline of a Black Community by the Sea: Demographic and Political Changes in Oakwood," in *Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities*. Darnell Hunt and Ana-Christina Ramon, eds. (New York: New York University Press, 2010).

¹⁶ "Renewal, Gangs, Poverty Fuel Area Crisis," *Los Angeles Times*, March 4, 1979.

The Rumford Fair Housing Act of the late 1960s opened new housing opportunities for non-white homebuyers, and many African American residents left Oakwood for communities in Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills, and multiple cities in the San Fernando Valley.¹⁷ In this way, the 1970s brought a period of steady decline in the African American population of Oakwood, which has consistently decreased in numbers since that time.

6.2 Context: African American History of Los Angeles

Theme: Religion & Spirituality, 1869-1980

Historically, African American churches represent “spaces of racial autonomy and freedom, where blacks could worship in their own spaces and according to their own traditions. They also represented springboards for community leadership, as well as centers of social life, business networks, and civil rights activism.”¹⁸

In the early 20th century, Los Angeles’ African American community was small and centered in downtown, and therefore the first African American churches in the City’s history developed in the downtown area. The first of these was the First African Methodist Church (First AME Church), which dated to 1869. The church was founded by wealthy and prominent African American society members, and was a center for early community development and civil rights activity.¹⁹ Following, in 1885, was the Second Baptist Church. Prominent members included the first black real estate mogul, Harriot Owens-Bynum, and her son John Wesley Coleman, known as the “Employment King of Los Angeles.”²⁰ The Baptist denomination, Southern in origin, served a growing black constituency primarily migrating from the South.

As the African American population of the City and surrounding developing areas, like early Venice, increased; the establishment of “spin-offs” from the main African American institutions or from white-majority institutions proliferated.²¹ “By the end of the 1920s, there were more than 15 African American churches serving the diverse tastes in the celebration of black Christianity.”²²

In 1911, the First Baptist Church of Venice and the Nazarene Church (now New Bethel Baptist Church of Venice) were two religious institutions serving the Oakwood community. The First Baptist Church of Venice began in 1910 as a small congregation founded by the Reverend R.S. Kelsey. Early meetings were held at the Second Baptist Church of Santa Monica, and in February of 1911 the congregation moved to Oakwood. The first church home was a former barn at Fifth Street and San Juan Avenue.²³

¹⁷ City of Los Angeles, “SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement: African American History of Los Angeles, 1862-1932,” prepared by GPA Consulting and Alison Rose Jefferson for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources (January 2018), 6.

¹⁸ City of Los Angeles, “African American History of Los Angeles, 1862-1932,” 120.

¹⁹ Ibid, 13.

²⁰ Ibid, 17.

²¹ It is unknown if the First Baptist Church of Venice was established as a “spin-off” church in the early 20th century.

²² City of Los Angeles, “African American History of Los Angeles, 1862-1932, 107.

²³ “The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History.” SaveVenice.com.

“Among the first persons baptized that September were Delores Burks, Hazel Sercey, Mr. L. Steele, Mr. M. Williams and A.L. (Arthur) Reese, following a joint revival meeting in which the Rev. Mr. Dickson of the Nazarene Church on Brooks Ave. participated.”²⁴

In 1913 the *Los Angeles Times* announced the incorporation of the First Baptist Church of Venice with the State of California.²⁵ Over the next ten years, as Oakwood continued to grow as an African American enclave in Venice, so too did the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Venice. By the 1920s, the Church was in need of a larger space.

In 1927, building permits were issued for a new, one-story wood and stucco building at 688 Westminster Avenue. Sanborn maps show the building situated on a narrow rectangular lot, south adjacent to the vacant lot that would later become the property.²⁶ This second church was designed by Paul R. Williams, a notable architect and native to Los Angeles who is best known for his work on the LAX Theme building, a large number of notable institutional buildings serving the city’s African American community, and countless Hollywood mansions and grand single-family residences for Angelenos during the 1920s-30s. The church was one of Williams’ earliest commissions after becoming the first black man admitted to the American Institute of Architects (AIA).²⁷

Arthur L. Reese signed the building application as a Trustee of the Board. Building the new church was a community effort:

“Mrs. Abbott Kinney, wife of the founder of Venice, donated the lumber for framing, the Harvey Brothers donated the foundation materials, and rock and sand were hauled by the Tabor Brothers Trucking. On June 10, 1928 the new church was dedicated, with Rev. J.W. Jordan officiating.”²⁸

The Church was prolific from the 1920s to the 1960s, with its congregation consistently increasing in numbers, parallel with the African American population of Los Angeles through the post-World War II era. By 1962, the membership of the First Baptist Church of Venice “had grown to include over six hundred members.”²⁹ In 1966, plans were filed for the third home in the church’s history. Located on a larger lot on the north side of Westminster, the church was designed in the Mid-Century Modern style as a two-story wood and stucco building with sanctuary seating for 480. The new building cost the congregation \$168,000 and was designed by architect George R. Williams. The volume of the new church was erected by the following year.³⁰ Rev. E.L. Holmes, who joined the church’s service in 1955, saw the dedication of the new building in March of 1968.³¹ However, a Certificate of Occupancy was not issued until 1971. The

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ “Public Service: City Hall, Courts; Incorporations,” *Los Angeles Times*, October 17, 1913.

²⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, “Los Angeles, Venice District, California, 1918-1950,” Sanborn Map Company. Sheet 86.

²⁷ Williams designed the historic Second Baptist Church in 1926.

²⁸ “The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History.” SaveVenice.com.

²⁹ Andrew Deener, *Venice: A Contested Bohemia in Los Angeles* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012), 52; Historic Resources Group, “SurveyLA Historic Resources Survey Report: Venice Community Plan Area,” 12.

³⁰ Aerial Map, “685 Westminster Ave, Los Angeles, California, 1967,” HistoricAerials.com (Accessed July 2018).

³¹ “The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History.” SaveVenice.com.

former church building at 688 Westminster Avenue was moved to a new location in South Los Angeles by 1972.³²

By the time of the third building's occupation in 1971, the African American population in Oakwood was entering an era of perpetual decrease due to political and social challenges outside of the sanctuary. Nonetheless, "remaining residents and community institutions continued to serve as a magnet for family members and friends who had moved away."³³ The First Baptist Church of Venice was active in the community until 2017, when declining membership and debt led the congregation to sell the property to a private owner.³⁴

6.3 Context: Architecture and Engineering, 1850-1980

Sub-Context: L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980

Theme: Postwar Modernism, 1946-1976

Sub-Theme: Mid-Century Modern, 1945-1970

Mid-Century Modern is a term used to describe the various post-World War II iterations of Modernism, which proliferated in popularity during the postwar era. Pre-war Modernism was characterized by simple geometric forms, smooth wall surfaces, and an absence of exterior decoration. Mid-Century Modern represents the further adaptation of these elements to the local climate and topography, as well as to the postwar need for efficiently built, moderately priced homes. Mid-Century Modernism is often characterized by a clear expression of structure and materials, large expanses of glass to encourage a blurring between indoor and outdoor space, and open interior plans.³⁵

The roots of the style can be traced to early Modernists like Richard Neutra and Rudolph Schindler, whose local work inspired "second generation" Modern architects like Gregory Ain, Craig Ellwood, Harwell Hamilton Harris, Pierre Koenig, Raphael Soriano, and more. These postwar architects developed an indigenous Modernism that was born from both international and American precedents, but matured into a fundamentally regional style, popularized in large part by *Art and Architecture* magazine's pivotal Case Study Program (1945-1966). The style gained popularity because of its use of standardized, prefabricated materials, which permitted quick and economical construction. It became the predominant architectural style in the postwar years and is represented in almost every property type, from single-family residences to small-scale commercial buildings to religious institutions.³⁶

Employed in ecclesiastical architecture, the Mid-Century Modern style often features dramatic roof forms conveying an exterior expression of the interior structure, typically post-and-beam. Overhanging eaves,

³² Aerial Map, "685 Westminster Ave, Los Angeles, California, 1972," HistoricAerials.com.

³³ Deener, "The Decline of a Black Community by the Sea," 83.

³⁴ "The First Baptist Church has closed, a symbol of Venice's shrinking black population," *Los Angeles Times*, June 8, 2018.

³⁵ Architectural Resources Group and Historic Resources Group, "City of Santa Monica: Historic Resources Inventory Update Historic Context Statement," prepared for the City of Santa Monica, Planning and Community Development Department, City Planning Division (March 2018), 366.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

expansive clerestories, unadorned stretches of exterior walls, and geometric fenestration patterns are also typical features. Ecclesiastic references are found in the form of stylized steeples and sculpture.

The church at 685 Westminster Avenue reflects a Mid-Century Modern style that reflects the postwar period of its design. Its character-defining features include a steeply pitched roof that references an “A-frame” form, unadorned stucco walls with stone accent cladding, geometric fenestration and clerestories articulated with a subtle curve, and the stylized cross structure intersecting with the rectangular roof opening (no longer extant). However, the building is a modest representation of the style. The steeply pitched roof does not reflect a true “A-frame,” and the curve of the clerestory windows is not pronounced. Furthermore, the building has experienced alterations, including the removal of its original stained glass windows and stylistic cross, which have resulted in a loss of integrity and its ability to effectively convey its original design intent.

7. Regulatory Framework

7.1 National Register of Historic Places

The National Register is the nation’s master inventory of known historic resources. Created under the auspices of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and includes listings of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level. As described in National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, in order to be eligible for the National Register, a resource must both (1) be significant and (2) retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance.

Significance is assessed by evaluating a resource against established criteria for eligibility. A resource is considered significant if it satisfies any one or more of the following four National Register criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of significant persons in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Once significance has been established, it must then be demonstrated that a resource retains enough of its physical and associative qualities – or integrity – to convey the reason(s) for its significance. Integrity is best described as a resource’s “authenticity” as expressed through its physical features and extant characteristics. Whether a resource retains sufficient integrity for listing is determined by evaluating the seven aspects of integrity defined by the NPS:

- Location (the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred);
- Setting (the physical environment of a historic property);
- Design (the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property);
- Materials (the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular manner or configuration to form a historic property);
- Workmanship (the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory);
- Feeling (a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time); and
- Association (the direct link between an important historic event/person and a historic property).

Integrity is evaluated by weighing all seven of these aspects together and is ultimately a “yes or no” determination – that is, a resource either retains sufficient integrity or it does not.³⁷ Some aspects of integrity may be weighed more heavily than others depending on the type of resource being evaluated and the reason(s) for its significance. Since integrity depends on a resource’s placement within a historic context, integrity can be assessed only after it has been established that the resource is significant, and under which criteria.

Generally, a resource must be at least 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the National Register. Exceptions are made if it can be demonstrated that a resource less than 50 years-old is (1) of exceptional importance or (2) is an integral component of a historic district that is eligible for the National Register.

7.2 California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is the authoritative guide to the State’s significant historical and archeological resources. In 1992, the California legislature established the California Register “to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify the state’s historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change.”³⁸

The California Register program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural significance; identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes; determines eligibility for historic preservation grant funding; and affords certain protections under CEQA. All resources listed on or formally determined eligible for the National Register are automatically listed in the California Register. In addition, properties designated under municipal or county ordinances, or through local historic resources surveys, are eligible for listing in the California Register.

³⁷ Derived from National Register Bulletin 15, Section VIII: “How to Evaluate the Integrity of a Property.”

³⁸ California Public Resource (CPR) Code, Section 5024.1 (a).

The structure of the California Register program is similar to that of the National Register, but places its emphasis on resources that have contributed specifically to the development of California. To be eligible for the California Register, a resource must first be deemed significant at the local, state, or national level under one of the following four criteria, which are modeled after the National Register criteria listed above:

1. It is associated with events or patterns of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States; or
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history; or
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area state or the nation.³⁹

Like the National Register, the California Register also requires that resources retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing. A resource's integrity is assessed using the same seven aspects of integrity used for the National Register. However, since integrity thresholds associated with the California Register are generally less rigid than those associated with the National Register, it is possible that a resource may lack the integrity required for the National Register but still be eligible for listing in the California Register.

There is no prescribed age limit for listing in the California Register, although California Register guidelines state that "sufficient time must have passed to obtain a scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource."⁴⁰

Resources may be nominated directly to the California Register. They are also automatically listed in the California Register if they are listed in or have been officially determined eligible for the National Register. State Historic Landmarks #770 and forward are also automatically listed in the California Register.⁴¹

The California Historical Resource Status Codes are a series of ratings created by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) to identify the historic status of resources listed in the State's historic

³⁹ California Public Resources Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852.

⁴⁰ California Office of Historic Preservation, *Technical Assistance Series #6: California Register and National Register: A Comparison* (Sacramento, CA: California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2001), 3. According to the *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources* (Office of Historic Preservation, March 1995), "Any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old may be recorded for purposes of inclusion in the OHP's filing system. Documentation of resources less than 45 years old may also be filed if those resources have been formally evaluated, regardless of the outcome of the evaluation." This 45-year threshold is intended to guide the recordation of potential historical resources for local planning purposes, and is not directly related to an age threshold for eligibility against California Register criteria.

⁴¹ California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation, *Technical Assistance Series #5: California Register of Historical Resources, The Listing Process* (Sacramento, CA: California Department of Parks and Recreation, n.d.), 1.

properties database. These codes were revised in August 2003 to better reflect the many historic status options available to evaluators. The following are the seven major status code headings:

1. Properties listed in the National Register or the California Register.
2. Properties determined eligible for listing in the National Register or the California Register.
3. Properties that appear eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register through survey evaluation.
4. Properties that appear eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register through other evaluation.
5. Properties recognized as historically significant by local government.
6. Properties that are not eligible for listing or designation.
7. Properties that are not evaluated for listing in the National Register or California Register or that need reevaluation.

Under each status code heading, properties are then given a letter code, which indicates whether the resource is eligible individually (S), eligible as part of a district (D), or both (B).

7.3 City of Los Angeles, Cultural Heritage Ordinance

The local designation programs for the City of Los Angeles include Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) designation for individual resources and the adoption of Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs) for concentrations of buildings, commonly known as historic districts. The City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance (Chapter 9, Section 22.171 *et seq.* of the Los Angeles Administrative Code) defines an HCM as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon), building, or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City, meaning that it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. It reflects or exemplifies broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community; or
2. It is identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state, or local history; or
3. It 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 City established its HPOZ ordinance in 1979. The ordinance was revised in 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2018. According to §12.20.3.B.17 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), a *Preservation Zone* is “any area of the City of Los Angeles containing buildings, structures, landscaping, natural features or lots having historic, architectural, cultural or aesthetic significance.”

Local historic preservation ordinances often include standards for determining whether a resource retains sufficient integrity to merit local historic designation, and this language can vary widely from municipality to municipality. Some local ordinances do not mention integrity at all. The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Ordinance does not include language about integrity. When evaluating historic resources in municipalities where the historic preservation ordinance does not provide guidance for assessing integrity, in accordance with best professional practices it is customary to use the National Register’s seven aspects of integrity to assess whether or not a resource retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance at the local level.

As with the National and California Registers, in assessing integrity at the local level, some aspects may be weighed more heavily than others depending on the type of resource being evaluated and the reason(s) for its significance. For example, if a property is significant as an excellent example of an architectural style, integrity of design, workmanship and materials may weigh more heavily than integrity of setting. In contrast, if a property is significant for its association with an important event or person, integrity of setting, feeling, and association may weigh more heavily than integrity of design.

Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement

The following tables include the relevant Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement contexts/themes, including eligibility standards, character-defining/associative features, and integrity considerations, that were used to evaluate the significance of the property.

Context: African American History of Los Angeles Theme: Religion and Spirituality, 1869-1980
Eligibility Standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was constructed or used by African Americans during the period of significance • Represents an important association with the African American community in Los Angeles • Under Criterion B, individual must be proven to have made an important contribution to the history of religion • Under Criterion B, directly associated with the productive life of the person who made important contributions to the history of religion
Character-Defining/Associative Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains most of the essential character-defining features from the period of significance • As a whole, retains most of the essential character-defining features from the period of significance (for campuses) • Under Criterion B, the individual must have resided in or used the property during the period in which he or she achieved significance • May be important for its association with numerous historic personages for the cumulative importance of those individuals to the community • May reflect the changing demographics of a Los Angeles neighborhood

- May represent a significant event or movement in the social history of Los Angeles
- May also be a significant example of an architectural style and/or the work of a noted architect/designer
- For National Register, properties must meet Criteria Consideration A
- For National Register, properties associated with events that date from the last 50 years must possess exceptional importance

Integrity Considerations

- Should retain integrity of Location, Feeling, Design, and Association from the period of significance
- Under Criterion B, integrity is based on the period during which the significant person occupied the property
- Adjacent setting may have changed
- Some original materials may have been altered or removed

Context: Architecture & Engineering, 1850-1980⁴²

Sub-Context: L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980

Theme: Postwar Modernism, 1946-1976

Sub-Theme: Mid-Century Modern, 1945-1970

Property Type: Institutional

Eligibility Standards

- Exhibits quality of design through distinctive features
- Retains the essential character-defining features of Mid-Century Modernism from the period of significance
- Was constructed during the period of significance

Character-Defining/Associative Features

- Direct expression of the structural system, often wood or steel post-and-beam
- Flat roof, at times with wide overhanging eaves
- Floor-to-ceiling windows, often flush-mounted metal framed
- Horizontal massing
- If Expressionistic: sculptural forms intersecting with geometric volumes
- If Expressionistic: curved, sweeping wall surfaces
- If Expressionistic: dramatic roof forms, such as butterfly, A-frame, hyperbolic paraboloid, folded plate or barrel vault
- Simple, geometric volumes
- Unornamented wall surfaces

⁴² Note: the “Architecture and Engineering, 1850-1980: LA Modernism, 1850-1980: Postwar Modernism, 1946-1976: Mid-Century Modernism, 1945-1970” context/theme within the Los Angeles Citywide HCS is still being drafted. Thus, the above eligibility standards, character-defining/associative features, and integrity considerations may change following completion of the context/theme.

- For National Register, properties associated with events that date from the last 50 years must possess exceptional importance

Integrity Considerations

- Original garage doors may have been replaced
- Original setting (surrounding buildings, landscape) may not be intact (this applies to individual resources only; buildings associated with corporate or institutional campuses must maintain integrity of setting)
- Original use may have changed
- Replacement of some windows and doors may be acceptable if the openings have not been resized and original fenestration patterns have not been disrupted
- The addition of decorative elements to originally sparse façades
- The addition of security features such as screen doors and bars at windows
- The painting of surfaces (wood) that might have originally been unpainted

8. Evaluation of Eligibility

8.1 Evaluation of Significance

Due to its late date of construction relative to important patterns of institutional development associated with the African American community in Oakwood, its modest architecture, and sustained alterations that have compromised its ability to convey its original design intent, 685 Westminster does not appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register, National Register, or as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. In addition, it does not appear to be a contributor to a potential Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.

National and California Register

National and California Register Criteria A/1: associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history.

Research suggests that the period of significance for the Oakwood community as an African American enclave dates from the 1910s to early 1960s, marked by the early settlement of black Southern migrants on the periphery of Venice to the point at which Oakwood shifted from reflecting a predominately African American population. Along with the Nazarene Church (now New Bethel Baptist Church of Venice), the First Baptist Church of Venice was one of the earliest congregations to serve the African American community that settled in the area; and the Church was prolific from the 1920s to post-World War II era, with its congregation consistently increasing in parallel with the African American population in Oakwood and Los Angeles as a whole.

The church at 685 Westminster Avenue is the congregation's third location in the Venice area. It was constructed in 1966 and occupied in 1971, which post-dates Oakwood's period as a significant African American enclave. Beyond being a place of local spiritual practice, the property is not associated with any singular significant religious or social events. Furthermore, there are other 1920s and late 1930s religious

institutions extant in the vicinity that are better able to convey their importance to Oakwood's early development.

The other early churches include: The Nazarene Church (now New Bethel Baptist Church, 505 E. Brooks Avenue); Friendship Baptist Church (606-608 E. Broadway); and the Pentecostal, Bethel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ (1209 E. Sixth Avenue). These three churches were identified in SurveyLA survey of the Venice Community Plan Area (CPA) as conveying the early institutional development history in the African American enclave of Oakwood. The earliest extant building belongs to Bethel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ dating to 1926; however of these, the Nazarene Church may have the longest history as an institution in the community dating back to at least 1911.⁴³

For the above reasons, 685 Westminster is not directly associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. Specifically, the building is not significant under the "African American History of Los Angeles: Religion and Spirituality, 1869-1980" context/theme because it does not meet the eligibility standards or retain the character-defining/associative features. Most notably, the church does not date to the period of significance for the Oakwood community as an African American enclave or directly represent an important association with events in African American history, as outlined in the table above. It therefore does not appear eligible under Criteria A/1 of the National/California Registers.

National California Register Criteria B/2: associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

In its early history, the First Baptist Church of Venice had peripheral associations with notable persons, including Arthur L. Reese, a well-known African American artist and Oakwood resident who served as a Church Trustee, and the wife of Abbot Kinney who donated supplies for the 1927 building's construction.

These early associations were lost with the demolition/relocation of the earlier buildings. During the history of the subject property, the church was led by local leader Reverend E.L. Holmes and attended by local community members. Neither Reverend Holmes' nor any church members are known to have made significant contributions to the history of religion or broad history of the nation, state, or the African American community during the occupation of the property.

For the above reasons, 685 Westminster is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Specifically, the building is not significant under the "African American History of Los Angeles: Religion and Spirituality, 1869-1980" context/theme because it does not meet a significant number of eligibility standards or character-defining/associative features, including being associated with the productive life of a person (or persons) who made an important contribution to the history of religion, or with the lives of numerous personages of cumulative importance to the community, as outlined in the table above. It therefore does not appear eligible under Criteria B/2 of the National/California Registers.

National and California Register Criteria C/3: embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

⁴³ "The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History." SaveVenice.com.

685 Westminster was designed by relatively unknown architect, George R. Williams, in the Mid-Century Modern style. Though constructed during the period of significance for Mid-Century Modern architecture, the building is a modest representation of the style, only employing subtle characteristics. For example, the steeply pitched roof does not reflect a true “A-frame,” and the curve of the clerestory windows is not pronounced. Additionally, the building has experienced alterations, including the removal of its original stained glass windows and a stylistic cross structure, which were the few features that effectively conveyed the Mid-Century Modern and ecclesiastical architectural design intent.

Furthermore, there are other examples of Mid-Century Modern buildings in Venice that are rare or unique employment of the style, as well as other religious buildings in Los Angeles that reflect the style in a significant way with bold, rare or unique features. The SurveyLA survey of the Venice Community Plan Area (CPA) identified four Mid-Century Modern buildings in Venice: a commercial building with a true “A-frame” construction (4144 Lincoln Boulevard); an excellent representation of residential Mid-Century Modern architecture (3607 South Pacific Avenue); a pumping plant (314 Brooks Avenue); and a church with a uniquely curved-slope roof (1020 West Victoria Avenue).⁴⁴

Other churches recognized for their Mid-Century Modern design through the SurveyLA survey in other CPAs include: the Redeemer Baptist Church in the Palms CPA and Epiphany Lutheran Free Church in the Canoga Park-West Hills CPA. The Redeemer Baptist Church possesses the distinctive features of curved screen block walls and a stylized steeple.⁴⁵ The Epiphany Lutheran Free Church was designed by noted architect Edward Davies, and possesses a distinctive and dramatic A-frame construction.⁴⁶

For the above reasons, 685 Westminster does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master; or possess high artistic values. Specifically, the building is not significant under the “Architecture and Engineering: Mid-Century Modern, 1945-1970” context/theme because it does not meet a significant number of eligibility standards or character-defining/associative features including, being associated with a master builder, exhibiting a high quality of design through distinctive features and retaining essential character-defining features of Mid-Century Modernism, as outlined in the table above. It therefore does not appear eligible under Criteria C/3 of the National/California Registers.

National and California Register Criteria D/4: has yielded or may likely yield information important in prehistory or history.

An archaeological assessment was not within the scope of this study. However, since 685 Westminster has previously been graded and possesses no known archaeological resources, the likelihood of its ability to yield information important in prehistory or history is minimal. It therefore would not likely be eligible under Criteria D/4 of the National/California Registers.

In summary, 685 Westminster does not appear to be eligible under Criteria A, B, C, or D of the National Register, or 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the California Register.

⁴⁴ Historic Resources Group, “SurveyLA Historic Resources Survey Report: Venice Community Plan Area.”

⁴⁵ Resource Description, “Redeemer Baptist Church,” HistoricPlacesLA.org (Accessed 12 July 2018).

⁴⁶ Resource Description, “Epiphany Lutheran Free Church,” HistoricPlacesLA.org (Accessed 12 July 2018).

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument

Local Criterion 1: reflects or exemplifies broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community.

For the reasons stated above under National Register and California Register Criterion A/1, 685 Westminster does not reflect or exemplify broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community. Specifically, the building is not significant under the “African American History of Los Angeles: Religion and Spirituality, 1869-1980” context/theme because it does not meet the eligibility standards or retain the character-defining/associative features. Most notably, the church does not date to the period of significance for the Oakwood community as an African American enclave or directly represent an important association with events in African American history, as outlined in the table above. It therefore does not appear eligible under local Criterion 1.

Local Criterion 2: identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state, or local history.

For the reasons stated above under National Register and California Register Criterion B/2, 685 Westminster is not associated with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, state, or local history. Specifically, the building is not significant under the “African American History of Los Angeles: Religion and Spirituality, 1869-1980” context/theme because it does not meet a significant number of eligibility standards or character-defining/associative features, including being directly associated with the productive life of a person (or persons) who made an important contribution to the history of religion, or with the lives of numerous personages of cumulative importance to the community, as outlined in the table above. It therefore does not appear eligible under local Criterion 2.

Local Criterion 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.

685 Westminster was designed in the Mid-Century Modern style. Though constructed during the period of significance for Mid-Century Modern architecture, the building is a modest representation of the style, only employing subtle characteristics. For example, the steeply pitched roof does not reflect a true “A-frame,” and the curve of the clerestory windows is not pronounced. Additionally, the building has experienced alterations, including the removal of its original stained glass windows and a stylistic cross structure, which were the few features that effectively conveyed the Mid-Century Modern and ecclesiastical architectural design intent.

Furthermore, there are other examples of Mid-Century Modern buildings in Venice that are a rare or unique employment of the style, as well as other religious buildings in Los Angeles that reflect the style in a significant way with bold, rare, or unique features. The SurveyLA survey of the Venice Community Plan Area (CPA) identified four Mid-Century Modern buildings in Venice: a commercial building with a true “A-frame” construction (4144 Lincoln Boulevard); an excellent representation of residential Mid-Century Modern architecture (3607 South Pacific Avenue); a pumping plant, a rare example of the Mid-Century

Modern style, (314 Brooks Avenue); and a church with a uniquely curved-slope roof (1020 West Victoria Avenue).⁴⁷

Other churches recognized for their Mid-Century Modern design through the SurveyLA survey in other CPAs include: the Redeemer Baptist Church in the Palms CPA and Epiphany Lutheran Free Church in the Canoga Park-West Hills CPA. The Redeemer Baptist Church possesses the distinctive features of curved screen block walls and a stylized steeple.⁴⁸ The Epiphany Lutheran Free Church was designed by noted architect Edward Davies, and possesses a distinctive and dramatic A-frame construction.⁴⁹

For the above reasons, 685 Westminster does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction. Specifically, the building is not significant under the “Architecture and Engineering: Mid-Century Modern, 1945-1970” context/theme because it does not meet a significant number of eligibility standards or character-defining/associative features, including exhibiting a high quality of design through distinctive features and retaining essential character-defining features of Mid-Century Modernism, as outlined in the table above.

685 Westminster was designed by architect, George R. Williams, who is not known as a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age. Therefore, the building is not significant under the “Architecture and Engineering: Mid-Century Modern, 1945-1970” context/theme and it does not appear eligible under local Criterion 3.

In summary, 685 Westminster does not appear to be eligible for listing as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument under any local eligibility criteria.

Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zone

Properties adjacent to 685 Westminster represent a wide range of ages and architectural styles. Many were constructed recently, after the decline of Oakwood as an early African American enclave of Venice. Overall the area lacks the cohesion for a historic district. Therefore, 685 Westminster is not eligible as a contributor to a potential Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.

8.2 Evaluation of Integrity

In order for a property to be eligible for listing in the National and California Registers, or as a local Historic-Cultural Monument, it must first meet one or more eligibility criteria and also retain sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance. As stated in *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, “Only after significance is fully established can you proceed to the issue of integrity.”⁵⁰ In accordance with best professional practices, it is customary to apply this same methodology when evaluating resources at the state and local levels. Because 685 Westminster is not eligible against any of the federal, state, or local criteria, an assessment of integrity is not necessary.

⁴⁷ Historic Resources Group, “SurveyLA Historic Resources Survey Report: Venice Community Plan Area.”

⁴⁸ “Redeemer Baptist Church,” HistoricPlacesLA.org.

⁴⁹ “Epiphany Lutheran Free Church,” HistoricPlacesLA.org.

⁵⁰ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, 1990, revised 1991, 1995, 1997), 45.

8.3 Conclusion

Upon documentary research, site analysis, the development of historical background, and an evaluation against federal, state, and local eligibility criteria using relevant Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement contexts/themes, ARG finds that 685 Westminster is not individually eligible for listing in the National Register, California Register, as a Los Angeles HCM, or as a contributor to a potential HPOZ.

9. Recommendations

According to Section 21084.1 of the California Public Resources Code, a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.

For the purposes of CEQA, the term “historical resources” shall include the following as set forth in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15000, et seq.):

A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.

A resource included in a local register of historic resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.

Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency’s determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources.⁵¹

For the reasons outlined in this report, 685 Westminster does not appear to be eligible against federal, state, or local eligibility criteria. Therefore, according to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the property does not warrant further consideration and additional analysis as a historic resource.

⁵¹ California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5

10. References

Architectural Resources Group and Historic Resources Group. "City of Santa Monica: Historic Resources Inventory Update Historic Context Statement." Prepared for the City of Santa Monica, Planning and Community Development Department, City Planning Division. March 2018.

California Code of Regulations (Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387).

California Office of Historic Preservation. *Technical Assistance Series #5: California Register of Historical Resources, The Listing Process*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Parks and Recreation, n.d.

California Office of Historic Preservation. *Technical Assistance Series #6: California Register and National Register: A Comparison*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2001.

California Public Resource Code (Section 21000-21177).

City of Los Angeles. "SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement, Context: African American History of Los Angeles, 1862-1932." Prepared by GPA Consulting and Alison Rose Jefferson for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources, January 2018.

City of Los Angeles. "SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement, Context: Pre-Consolidation Communities of Los Angeles, 1862-1932." Prepared by Daniel Prosser for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources, 2016.

City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (Chapter 9, Section 22.171).

County of Los Angeles. Los Angeles County Tract Maps.

County of Los Angeles. Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Online Building Permits.

Deener, Andrew. "The Decline of a Black Community by the Sea: Demographic and Political Changes in Oakwood." In *Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities*. Darnell Hunt and Ana-Christina Ramon, eds. New York: New York University Press, 2010.

Grimmer, Anne E. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Revisions to Kay D. Weeks and Anne E. Grimmer, 1995). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, 2017. <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/treatment-guidelines-2017.pdf>.

Historic Resources Group. "SurveyLA Historic Resources Survey Report: Venice Community Plan Area." Prepared for the City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources, 2015.

Los Angeles Times and *Los Angeles Sentinel*, multiple dates.

National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, 1990, revised 1991, 1995, 1997.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Los Angeles, California. New York: Sanborn Company, 1918-1950.

“The First Baptist Church of Venice: A Brief History.” SaveVenice.com. (Accessed July 2018).
<http://savevenice.me/the-first-baptist-church-of-venice-a-brief-history>

11. Attachments

Exhibits attached.



Architectural
Resources Group

Exhibit 1. Parcel Profile Report (APN: 4239019021)



City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

7/27/2018 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

685 E WESTMINSTER AVE

ZIP CODES

90291

RECENT ACTIVITY

DIR-2017-2506-VSO

DIR-2008-4703-DI

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2014-1456-SP

CPC-2005-8252-CA

CPC-2000-4046-CA

CPC-1998-119

CPC-1987-648-ICO

CPC-1986-824-GPC

CPC-1984-226-SP

CPC-1961-12582

ORD-175694

ORD-175693

ORD-172897

ORD-172019

ORD-168999

ORD-164844-SA1610

ORD-121312

DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL

DIR-2014-2824-DI

ZA-18151

ENV-2017-1896-CE

ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE

ENV-2005-8253-ND

ENV-2004-2691-CE

ENV-2002-6836-SP

ENV-2001-846-ND

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	108B145 159
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	8,320.6 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 671 - GRID H5
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
Tract	OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT
Map Reference	M B 4-23
Block	L
Lot	23
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	None
Map Sheet	108B145

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	Venice
Area Planning Commission	West Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council	Venice
Council District	CD 11 - Mike Bonin
Census Tract #	2732.00
LADBS District Office	West Los Angeles

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	RD1.5-1
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2471 Coastal Zone ZI-2406 Director's Interpretation of the Venice SP for Small Lot Subdivisio
General Plan Land Use	Low Medium II Residential
General Plan Note(s)	Yes
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Specific Plan Area	Los Angeles Coastal Transportation Corridor
Subarea	None
Specific Plan Area	Venice Coastal Zone
Subarea	Oakwood-Milwood-Southeast Venice
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
Design Review Board	No
Historic Preservation Review	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone	None
Other Historic Designations	None
Other Historic Survey Information	None
Mills Act Contract	None
CDO: Community Design Overlay	None
CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay	None
Subarea	None
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up	None
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	No
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
SN: Sign District	No
Streetscape	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area	None
Affordable Housing Linkage Fee	

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.

Residential Market Area	High
Non-Residential Market Area	High
Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)	Not Eligible
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency	None
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	None
500 Ft School Zone	No
500 Ft Park Zone	Active: Oakwood Recreation Center

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0.666 (ac)
Use Code	7100 - Institutional - Church - One Story
Assessed Land Val.	\$8,262,000
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$408,000
Last Owner Change	02/16/2017
Last Sale Amount	\$6,300,063
Tax Rate Area	67
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	192254
Building 1	
Year Built	1967
Building Class	DX
Number of Units	1
Number of Bedrooms	0
Number of Bathrooms	0
Building Square Footage	12,311.0 (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

Additional Information

Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	Calvo Exclusion Area Coastal Zone Commission Authority
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone	YES
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	None
Watercourse	No
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties	No
Methane Hazard Site	None
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	No
Oil Wells	None

Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	4.568952
Nearest Fault (Name)	Santa Monica Fault
Region	Transverse Ranges and Los Angeles Basin
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	1.00000000
Slip Geometry	Left Lateral - Reverse - Oblique
Slip Type	Moderately / Poorly Constrained

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.

Down Dip Width (km)	13.00000000
Rupture Top	0.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	-75.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	6.60000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	Yes
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area	No
Tsunami Inundation Zone	No

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District	None
Promise Zone	None
Renewal Community	No
Revitalization Zone	Venice
State Enterprise Zone	None
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative	None

Housing

Direct all Inquiries to	Housing+Community Investment Department
Telephone	(866) 557-7368
Website	http://hcidla.lacity.org
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No
Ellis Act Property	No

Public Safety

Police Information

Bureau	West
Division / Station	Pacific
Reporting District	1414

Fire Information

Bureau	West
Batallion	4
District / Fire Station	63
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-2014-1456-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT
Case Number:	CPC-2005-8252-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	CPC-2000-4046-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1998-119
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1987-648-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Descriptions(s):	INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE ENTIRE VENICE COASTAL ZONE WHICH WILL TEMPORARILY PERMIT ONLY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH REGULATIONS SUBSTANTIALLY BASED ON THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSIONS INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES FOR THE AREA
Case Number:	CPC-1986-824-GPC
Required Action(s):	GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1984-226-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	Data Not Available
Case Number:	CPC-1961-12582
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL
Required Action(s):	MEL-MELLO ACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW CDP-COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	DIR-2014-2824-DI
Required Action(s):	DI-DIRECTOR OF PLANNING INTERPRETATION
Project Descriptions(s):	DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION OF A SPECIFIC PLAN PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7.H. THE INTERPRETATION SHALL ONLY BE APPLICABLE TO THE VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN.
Case Number:	ENV-2017-1896-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE
Required Action(s):	SE-STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION EIR-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Project Descriptions(s):	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Case Number:	ENV-2005-8253-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	ENV-2004-2691-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	SMALL LOT/TOWNHOME ORDINANCE

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.

Case Number:	ENV-2002-6836-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT prepared and adopted by the City Planning Dept. in accordance with the Coastal Act provisions and guidelines.
Case Number:	ENV-2001-846-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

- ORD-175694
- ORD-175693
- ORD-172897
- ORD-172019
- ORD-168999
- ORD-164844-SA1610
- ORD-121312
- ZA-18151



Address: 685 E WESTMINSTER AVE Tract: OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT Zoning: RD1.5-1
 APN: 4239019021 Block: L
 PIN #: 108B145 159 Lot: 23
 Arb: None



City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

7/27/2018 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

679 E WESTMINSTER AVE

ZIP CODES

90291

RECENT ACTIVITY

DIR-2008-4703-DI

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2014-1456-SP

CPC-2005-8252-CA

CPC-2000-4046-CA

CPC-1998-119

CPC-1987-648-ICO

CPC-1986-824-GPC

CPC-1984-226-SP

CPC-1961-12582

ORD-175694

ORD-175693

ORD-172897

ORD-172019

ORD-168999

ORD-164844-SA1610

ORD-121312

DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL

DIR-2014-2824-DI

ZA-18151

ENV-2017-1896-CE

ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE

ENV-2005-8253-ND

ENV-2004-2691-CE

ENV-2002-6836-SP

ENV-2001-846-ND

PKG-3246

AFF-32847

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	108B145 178
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	5,213.1 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 671 - GRID H5
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
Tract	OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT
Map Reference	M B 4-23
Block	L
Lot	24
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	None
Map Sheet	108B145

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	Venice
Area Planning Commission	West Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council	Venice
Council District	CD 11 - Mike Bonin
Census Tract #	2732.00
LADBS District Office	West Los Angeles

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	RD1.5-1
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2471 Coastal Zone ZI-2406 Director's Interpretation of the Venice SP for Small Lot Subdivisio
General Plan Land Use	Low Medium II Residential
General Plan Note(s)	Yes
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Specific Plan Area	Los Angeles Coastal Transportation Corridor
Subarea	None
Specific Plan Area	Venice Coastal Zone
Subarea	Oakwood-Milwood-Southeast Venice
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
Design Review Board	No
Historic Preservation Review	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone	None
Other Historic Designations	None
Other Historic Survey Information	None
Mills Act Contract	None
CDO: Community Design Overlay	None
CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay	None
Subarea	None
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up	None
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	No
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
SN: Sign District	No
Streetscape	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area	None
Affordable Housing Linkage Fee	

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.

Residential Market Area	High
Non-Residential Market Area	High
Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)	Not Eligible
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency	None
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	None
500 Ft School Zone	No
500 Ft Park Zone	Active: Oakwood Recreation Center

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0,666 (ac)
Use Code	7100 - Institutional - Church - One Story
Assessed Land Val.	\$8,262,000
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$408,000
Last Owner Change	02/16/2017
Last Sale Amount	\$6,300,063
Tax Rate Area	67
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	192254
Building 1	
Year Built	1967
Building Class	DX
Number of Units	1
Number of Bedrooms	0
Number of Bathrooms	0
Building Square Footage	12,311.0 (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

Additional Information

Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	Calvo Exclusion Area Coastal Zone Commission Authority
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone	YES
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	None
Watercourse	No
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties	No
Methane Hazard Site	None
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	No
Oil Wells	None

Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	4.5716952
Nearest Fault (Name)	Santa Monica Fault
Region	Transverse Ranges and Los Angeles Basin
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	1.00000000
Slip Geometry	Left Lateral - Reverse - Oblique
Slip Type	Moderately / Poorly Constrained

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.

Down Dip Width (km)	13.00000000
Rupture Top	0.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	-75.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	6.60000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	Yes
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area	No
Tsunami Inundation Zone	No

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District	None
Promise Zone	None
Renewal Community	No
Revitalization Zone	Venice
State Enterprise Zone	None
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative	None

Housing

Direct all Inquiries to	Housing+Community Investment Department
Telephone	(866) 557-7368
Website	http://hcidla.lacity.org
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No
Ellis Act Property	No

Public Safety

Police Information

Bureau	West
Division / Station	Pacific
Reporting District	1414

Fire Information

Bureau	West
Batallion	4
District / Fire Station	63
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-2014-1456-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT
Case Number:	CPC-2005-8252-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	CPC-2000-4046-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1998-119
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1987-648-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Descriptions(s):	INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE ENTIRE VENICE COASTAL ZONE WHICH WILL TEMPORARILY PERMIT ONLY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH REGULATIONS SUBSTANTIALLY BASED ON THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSIONS INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES FOR THE AREA
Case Number:	CPC-1986-824-GPC
Required Action(s):	GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1984-226-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	Data Not Available
Case Number:	CPC-1961-12582
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL
Required Action(s):	MEL-MELLO ACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW CDP-COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	DIR-2014-2824-DI
Required Action(s):	DI-DIRECTOR OF PLANNING INTERPRETATION
Project Descriptions(s):	DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION OF A SPECIFIC PLAN PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7.H. THE INTERPRETATION SHALL ONLY BE APPLICABLE TO THE VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN.
Case Number:	ENV-2017-1896-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE
Required Action(s):	SE-STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION EIR-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Project Descriptions(s):	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Case Number:	ENV-2005-8253-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	ENV-2004-2691-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	SMALL LOT/TOWNHOME ORDINANCE

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.

Case Number:	ENV-2002-6836-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT prepared and adopted by the City Planning Dept. in accordance with the Coastal Act provisions and guidelines.
Case Number:	ENV-2001-846-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-175694
ORD-175693
ORD-172897
ORD-172019
ORD-168999
ORD-164844-SA1610
ORD-121312
ZA-18151
PKG-3246
AFF-32847



Address: 679 E WESTMINSTER AVE Tract: OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT Zoning: RD1.5-1
 APN: 4239019021 Block: L
 PIN #: 108B145 178 Lot: 24
 Arb: None



City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

7/27/2018 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

PROPERTY ADDRESSES

677 E WESTMINSTER AVE

ZIP CODES

90291

RECENT ACTIVITY

DIR-2008-4703-DI

CASE NUMBERS

CPC-2014-1456-SP

CPC-2005-8252-CA

CPC-2000-4046-CA

CPC-1998-119

CPC-1987-648-ICO

CPC-1986-824-GPC

CPC-1984-226-SP

CPC-1961-12582

ORD-175694

ORD-175693

ORD-172897

ORD-172019

ORD-168999

ORD-164844-SA1610

ORD-121312

DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL

DIR-2014-2824-DI

ZA-18151

ENV-2017-1896-CE

ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE

ENV-2005-8253-ND

ENV-2004-2691-CE

ENV-2002-6836-SP

ENV-2001-846-ND

PKG-3246

AFF-32847

Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	108B145 189
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	5,212.9 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 671 - GRID H5
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
Tract	OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT
Map Reference	M B 4-23
Block	L
Lot	25
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	None
Map Sheet	108B145

Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	Venice
Area Planning Commission	West Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council	Venice
Council District	CD 11 - Mike Bonin
Census Tract #	2732.00
LADBS District Office	West Los Angeles

Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	RD1.5-1
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2471 Coastal Zone ZI-2406 Director's Interpretation of the Venice SP for Small Lot Subdivisio
General Plan Land Use	Low Medium II Residential
General Plan Note(s)	Yes
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Specific Plan Area	Los Angeles Coastal Transportation Corridor
Subarea	None
Specific Plan Area	Venice Coastal Zone
Subarea	Oakwood-Milwood-Southeast Venice
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
Design Review Board	No
Historic Preservation Review	No
Historic Preservation Overlay Zone	None
Other Historic Designations	None
Other Historic Survey Information	None
Mills Act Contract	None
CDO: Community Design Overlay	None
CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay	None
Subarea	None
CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up	None
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	No
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
SN: Sign District	No
Streetscape	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area	None
Affordable Housing Linkage Fee	

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.

Residential Market Area	High
Non-Residential Market Area	High
Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)	Not Eligible
CRA - Community Redevelopment Agency	None
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	None
500 Ft School Zone	No
500 Ft Park Zone	Active: Oakwood Recreation Center

Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	4239019021
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0,666 (ac)
Use Code	7100 - Institutional - Church - One Story
Assessed Land Val.	\$8,262,000
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$408,000
Last Owner Change	02/16/2017
Last Sale Amount	\$6,300,063
Tax Rate Area	67
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	192254
Building 1	
Year Built	1967
Building Class	DX
Number of Units	1
Number of Bedrooms	0
Number of Bathrooms	0
Building Square Footage	12,311.0 (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

Additional Information

Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	Calvo Exclusion Area Coastal Zone Commission Authority
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone	YES
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	None
Watercourse	No
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties	No
Methane Hazard Site	None
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	No
Oil Wells	None

Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	4.5738288
Nearest Fault (Name)	Santa Monica Fault
Region	Transverse Ranges and Los Angeles Basin
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	1.00000000
Slip Geometry	Left Lateral - Reverse - Oblique
Slip Type	Moderately / Poorly Constrained

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.

Down Dip Width (km)	13.00000000
Rupture Top	0.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	-75.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	6.60000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	Yes
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area	No
Tsunami Inundation Zone	No

Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District	None
Promise Zone	None
Renewal Community	No
Revitalization Zone	Venice
State Enterprise Zone	None
Targeted Neighborhood Initiative	None

Housing

Direct all Inquiries to	Housing+Community Investment Department
Telephone	(866) 557-7368
Website	http://hcidla.lacity.org
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No
Ellis Act Property	No

Public Safety

Police Information

Bureau	West
Division / Station	Pacific
Reporting District	1414

Fire Information

Bureau	West
Batallion	4
District / Fire Station	63
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-2014-1456-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT
Case Number:	CPC-2005-8252-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	CPC-2000-4046-CA
Required Action(s):	CA-CODE AMENDMENT
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1998-119
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1987-648-ICO
Required Action(s):	ICO-INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE
Project Descriptions(s):	INTERIM CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE ENTIRE VENICE COASTAL ZONE WHICH WILL TEMPORARILY PERMIT ONLY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH REGULATIONS SUBSTANTIALLY BASED ON THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSIONS INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES FOR THE AREA
Case Number:	CPC-1986-824-GPC
Required Action(s):	GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	CPC-1984-226-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	Data Not Available
Case Number:	CPC-1961-12582
Required Action(s):	Data Not Available
Project Descriptions(s):	
Case Number:	DIR-2017-1895-CDP-MEL
Required Action(s):	MEL-MELLO ACT COMPLIANCE REVIEW CDP-COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	DIR-2014-2824-DI
Required Action(s):	DI-DIRECTOR OF PLANNING INTERPRETATION
Project Descriptions(s):	DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION OF A SPECIFIC PLAN PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7.H. THE INTERPRETATION SHALL ONLY BE APPLICABLE TO THE VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN.
Case Number:	ENV-2017-1896-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 12.20.2 TO REQUEST A COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE SINGLE PERMIT JURISDICTION OF THE COASTAL ZONE; PURSUANT TO LAMC SECTION 11.5.7 TO REQUEST A PROJECT PERMIT COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR THE CHANGE OF USE FROM A CHURCH TO A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE & ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS; AND MELLO COMPLIANCE REVIEW.
Case Number:	ENV-2014-1458-EIR-SE-CE
Required Action(s):	SE-STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION EIR-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Project Descriptions(s):	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Case Number:	ENV-2005-8253-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MELLO ACT IN THE COASTAL ZONE.
Case Number:	ENV-2004-2691-CE
Required Action(s):	CE-CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
Project Descriptions(s):	SMALL LOT/TOWNHOME ORDINANCE

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.

Case Number:	ENV-2002-6836-SP
Required Action(s):	SP-SPECIFIC PLAN (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS)
Project Descriptions(s):	VENICE COASTAL SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT prepared and adopted by the City Planning Dept. in accordance with the Coastal Act provisions and guidelines.
Case Number:	ENV-2001-846-ND
Required Action(s):	ND-NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Descriptions(s):	

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-175694
ORD-175693
ORD-172897
ORD-172019
ORD-168999
ORD-164844-SA1610
ORD-121312
ZA-18151
PKG-3246
AFF-32847



Address: 677 E WESTMINSTER AVE Tract: OCEAN PARK VILLA TRACT Zoning: RD1.5-1
 APN: 4239019021 Block: L
 PIN #: 108B145 189 Lot: 25
 Arb: None



Architectural
Resources Group

Exhibit 2. Existing Condition Photos



Architectural
Resources Group



Primary (south) façade, view northwest (ARG, 2018).



Primary (south) façade, view northeast (ARG, 2018).



View north at the sanctuary south façade (ARG, 2018).



View north at the sanctuary main entrance (ARG, 2018). Doors have been stripped and sidelights have been removed.



View northwest at the education wing south façade (ARG, 2018).



View east at education wing, secondary entrance canopy and walkway (ARG, 2018).



View north at the education wing entrance (ARG, 2018). The three sidelights to the east of this entrance have been removed.



Detail view at the western south façade of the education wing (ARG, 2018). The original church reader board has been removed and leaves a ghost in the stucco.



Secondary (east) façade, overall view northwest (ARG, 2018).



View west illustrating the rectangular roof opening where a stylized metal cross sculpture historically stood adjacent to the primary façade (ARG, 2018).



Secondary (east) façade, view southwest (ARG, 2018).



View southwest at a secondary entrance to the sanctuary (ARG, 2018). The door is warped and the windows to the south have been removed.



Architectural
Resources Group



Secondary (east) façade, view west at northern education wing (ARG, 2018).



North façade, view southwest (ARG, 2018). The sanctuary's north clerestory, partially visible in the background, has been removed.



West façade, overall view east across the parking lot (ARG, 2018).



View of the fenestration at the southern west façade featuring aluminum slider windows (ARG, 2018).



West façade, view northeast at small square addition and garage (ARG, 2018).



North façade, view east (ARG, 2018).



View of the north façade fenestration (ARG, 2018).



View west, at the north property line fronting Broadway Court.



Sanctuary main room, view north (ARG, 2018). The glazing in the north clerestory has been removed.



Sanctuary main room, view northeast (ARG, 2018).



Sanctuary main room, view northwest (ARG, 2018).



Sanctuary main room, view south toward main entrance (ARG, 2018).



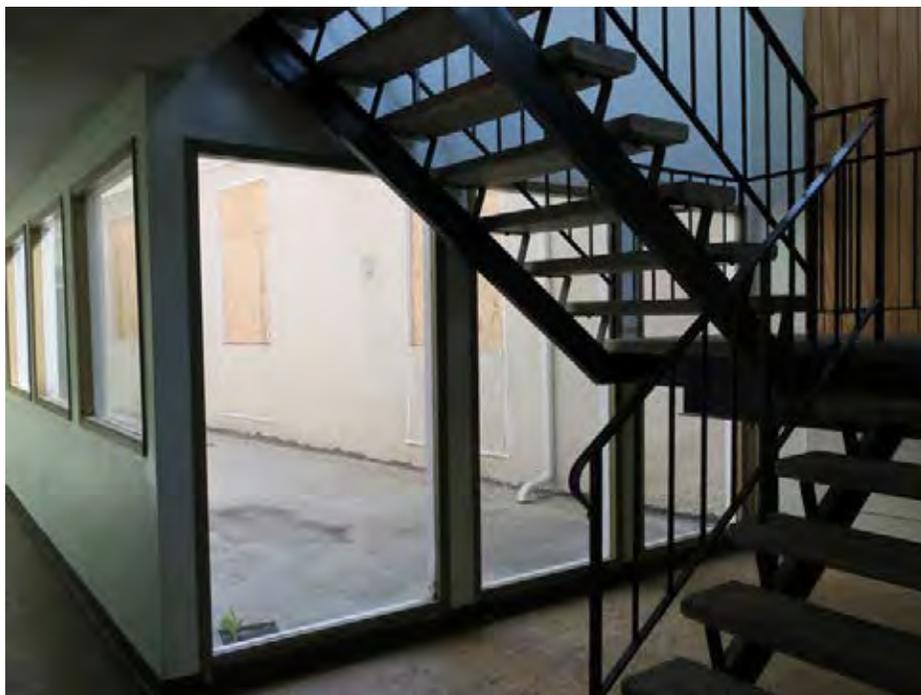
Sanctuary main entrance vestibule, view west (ARG, 2018).



Sanctuary main entrance vestibule, view east (ARG, 2018).



Education wing secondary entrance vestibule, view east (ARG, 2018).



Education wing secondary entrance vestibule, view northeast toward central atrium (ARG, 2018).



View east in the first-floor assembly room (ARG, 2018).



View west in the first-floor kitchen (ARG, 2018).



View west in the south second-floor corridor (ARG, 2018).



View west in a typical room on the second floor (ARG, 2018).



View east in the north second-floor corridor (ARG, 2018).



View north at the education wing's northeast stair (ARG, 2018).



Exhibit 3. Building Permits

**APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION OF NEW BUILDING
AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY**

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.
2. Fees Plus Required on Back of Original.

1. **LEGAL DESCR.** LOT 25, 26, & 27, BLK L, TRACT Ocean Park Villa
PURPOSE OF BUILDING Church Building
JOB ADDRESS 685 Westminister Ave.
BETWEEN CROSS STREETS 7th Ave. AND 6th Ave.
OWNER'S NAME First Baptist Church of Venice PHONE EK 67209
OWNER'S ADDRESS 688 Westminister Ave. Venice ZONE Irreg.
ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER George R. Williams STATE LICENSE NO. C-2643 PHONE 291-2944
ENGINEER Joe Y. Sing STATE LICENSE NO. C-9592 OR 12562 PHONE
CONTRACTOR Gibraltar Constr. STATE LICENSE NO. 234641 PHONE 750-3052
SIZE OF NEW BLDG. 17,000 sq. ft. STORIES 2 HEIGHT 21' NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE 1: Church Bldg.
MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION EXT. WALLS wood & stucco ROOF wood FLOOR wood
JOB ADDRESS 685 Westminister Ave.
VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING. ~~88,000.00~~ 168,000
PURPOSE OF BUILDING Church
TYPE I
BLDG. AREA 796 sq ft in Sect 78 in
DWELL. UNITS 96
SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPECIFIED
P.C. No. AA3078
P.C. 14651 **S.P.C.** 7150 **G.P.I.** - **B.B.** 335 **I.F.** OS **C.I.O.** **TYPIST** tev

CASHIERS' BOOK ONLY	OCT-5-66	24102	A - 3 CK	146.51
	OCT-21-66	25305	A - 3 CK	71.50
	OCT-21-66	25306	A - 1 CK	335.40

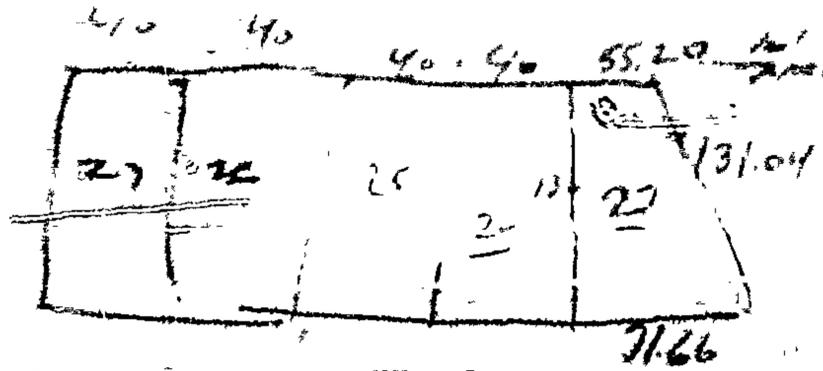
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

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.)

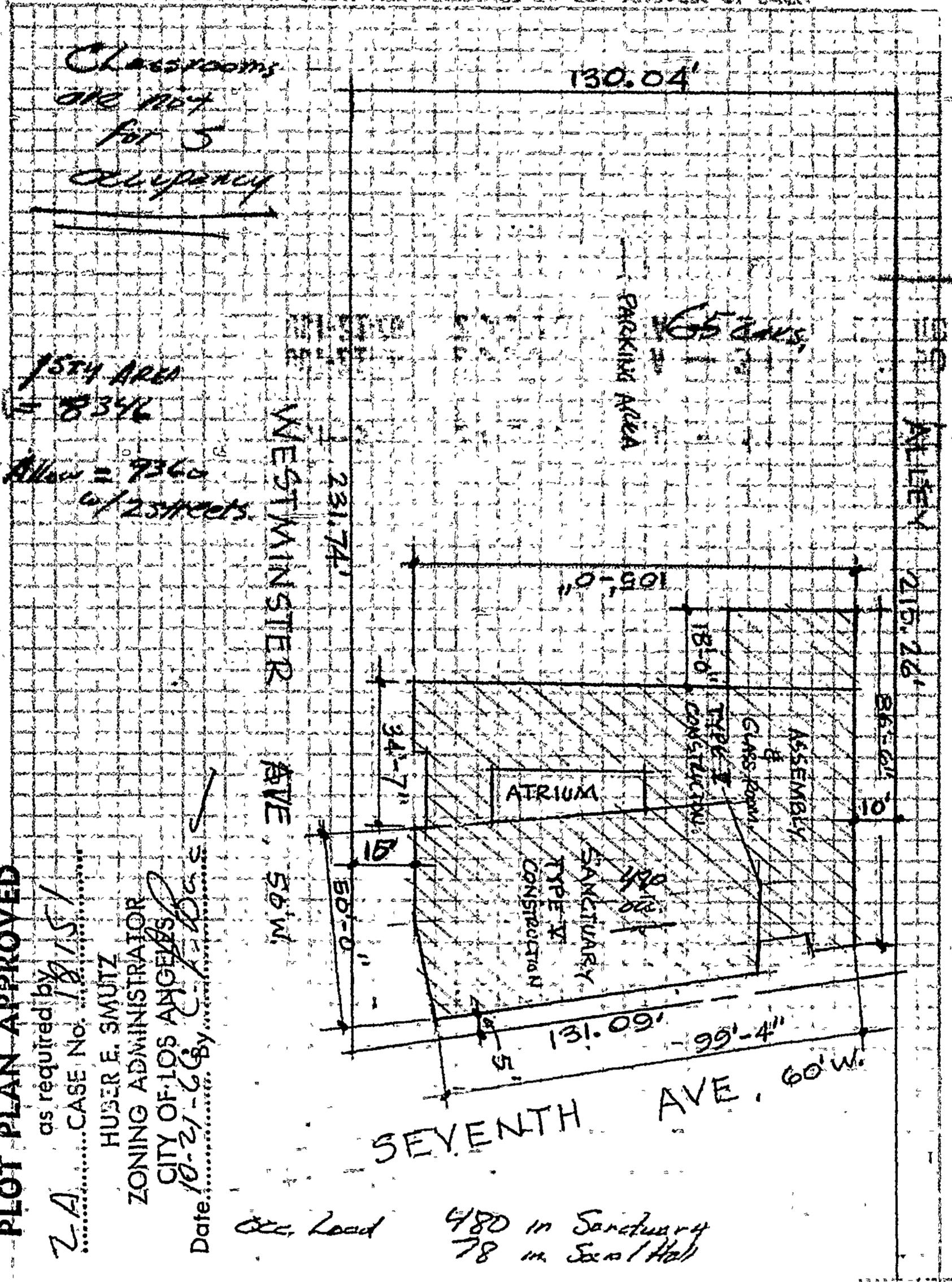
Signed George Williams (Owner or Agent)

	Name	Date
Bureau of Engineering	DAN	10/4/66
ADDRESS APPROVED	DAN	10/4/66
SEWERS AVAILABLE	DAN	10/4/66
NOT AVAILABLE		
DRIVEWAY APPROVED	DAN	10/5/66
HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED COMPLETED		
FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED		
Conservation		
APPROVED FOR ISSUE FILE #		
Plumbing		
PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM APPROVED		
Paving		
APPROVED UNDER CASE #		
Fire	Charles W. Casper	10-20-66
APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-5700)		
Traffic		
APPROVED FOR		



NOTE: SAUCUARY AND ASSEMBLY ROOM WILL NOT BE USED AT THE SAME TIME. *George L. Willison*

ON PLOT PLAN SHOW ALL BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE OF EACH



PLOT PLAN APPROVED

as required by
 Z.A. CASE No. 18151
 HUBER E. SMUTZ
 ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
 CITY OF LOS ANGELES
 10-27-68 By *[Signature]*
 Date: 10-27-68

Occ. Load 480 in Sanctuary
 78 in Sec 10 Hall

OFFSITE PKG for 31 cars - Lots 1 & 2 BIK

L. A.
 Fire Dept.
 Plan No. 19
 Title 19
 LAMC 1900

n - Ocean Park
 Villa Tract
 Permit to be obtained
 later - See 2A 18151

3

APPLICATION TO ALTER - REPAIR - DEMOLISH
AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES 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 23-27	BLK. L	TRACT Ocean Park Villa	GEN. TRAC. 7187
2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING (06) Church	NEW USE OF BUILDING (06) Same		ZONE R-3-1-0
3. JOB ADDRESS 685 Westminister Avenue			FIRE DIST.
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS 7th Ave. AND 6th Ave.		INSIDE (COR. LOT) KEY REV. COR.	
5. OWNER'S NAME First Baptist Church of Venice			LOT SIZE Irreg.
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS 688 Westminister Ave.			REAR ALLEY IO
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER Geo. R. Williams		STATE LICENSE NO. C-2643	PHONE 291-2944
8. ENGINEER Joe Y. Sing		STATE LICENSE NO. C 9592	PHONE OR12562
9. CONTRACTOR Gibraltar Const.		STATE LICENSE NO. 234641	PHONE 750-3052
10. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG. 102x105	STORIES 2	HEIGHT 21	NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE 1 Church
11. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION	EXT. WALLS wd. & stucco	ROOF wood	FLOOR wood
12. JOB ADDRESS 685 Westminister Avenue			DISTRICT OFFICE WLA
13. VALUATION: TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING. \$ 101.00			GRADING
14. NEW WORK: (Describe) Footing revision.			DRIFT SOIL
NEW USE OF BUILDING (06) Church			SIZE OF ADDITION
TYPE			STORIES HEIGHT FLOOD
BLDG. AREA			SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPECIFIED
DWELL UNITS			MAINTENANCE APPROVED
F.C. No.			PLANS CHECKED
P.C.			PLANS APPROVED
S.P.C.			APPLICATION APPROVED
G.P.I.			INSPECTOR
B.P. 2			INSPECTOR
I.F.			INSPECTOR
O.S.			INSPECTOR
C/O			INSPECTOR
TYPIST JS			INSPECTOR

Nov 9 66 65772W
NOV--966 26681 B - 1 CK 2.00

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	Name	Date
Bureau of Engineering	ADDRESS APPROVED	
	SEWERS AVAILABLE	
	NOT AVAILABLE	
	DRIVEWAY APPROVED	
	HIGHWAY DEDICATION REQUIRED	
	COMPLETED	
	FLOOD CLEARANCE APPROVED	
Conservation	APPROVED FOR ISSUE	
	FILE #	
Plumbing	PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM APPROVED	
Planning	APPROVED UNDER CASE #	
Fire	APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-5700)	
Traffic	APPROVED FOR	

Address of 685 Westminster Avenue
Building

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY



NOTE: Any change of use or occupancy must be approved by the Department of Building and Safety. This certifies that, so far as ascertained by or made known to the undersigned, the building at the above address complies with the applicable requirements of the Municipal Code, as follows: Ch. 1, as to permitted uses, Ch. 9, Arts. 1, 3, 4, and 5; and with applicable requirements of State Housing Law—for following occupancies:

Issued **1-22-71** Permit No. and Year **WLA65561/66**

Two story, Type V, 102' x 105', church building, maximum occupancy in sanctuary-480 and in social hall-78. SANCTUARY AND ASSEMBLY ROOM NOT TO BE USED AT THE SAME TIME. 96 parking spaces required, 65 parking spaces provided at the premise and 31 parking spaces provided at 688 Westminster Avenue, B-2/J-1/G-1/G-2 occupancy. ZA 18151; Parking Aff. 3246.

EXCEPT FOR DEVIATION APPROVED PER SECTION 98.0403 L.A.M.C.
Owner's **First Baptist Church of Venice**

Address **688 Westminster Avenue
Venice, California 90291**

Bureau of Engineering	253301	ADDRESS APPROVED	DIAS 12-7-89
CITY PLANNING	89-4901-07CA	HIGHWAY DEDICATION	NOT REQ'D
OFF SITE CLEARANCE:			Revised 12-15-89
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:			
X - E1-1466 CEX-89-0597			
X ZA 10151 Conditional use permit to allow structure in RPLS sign not to exceed 5' in height along 12-10-89			

COMBINED SIGN AREAS

Existing Sign Area none

- 1. Illum. Canopy Sign
 - 2. Monument Sign
 - 3. Pole Sign
 - 4. Projecting Sign
 - 5. Roof Sign
 - 6. Wall Sign
 - 7. Window Sign
 - 8. Proposed pole Sign 20'²
- Total Area 20'²

Signs Facing W/West

Allowable Combined Sign Area OK

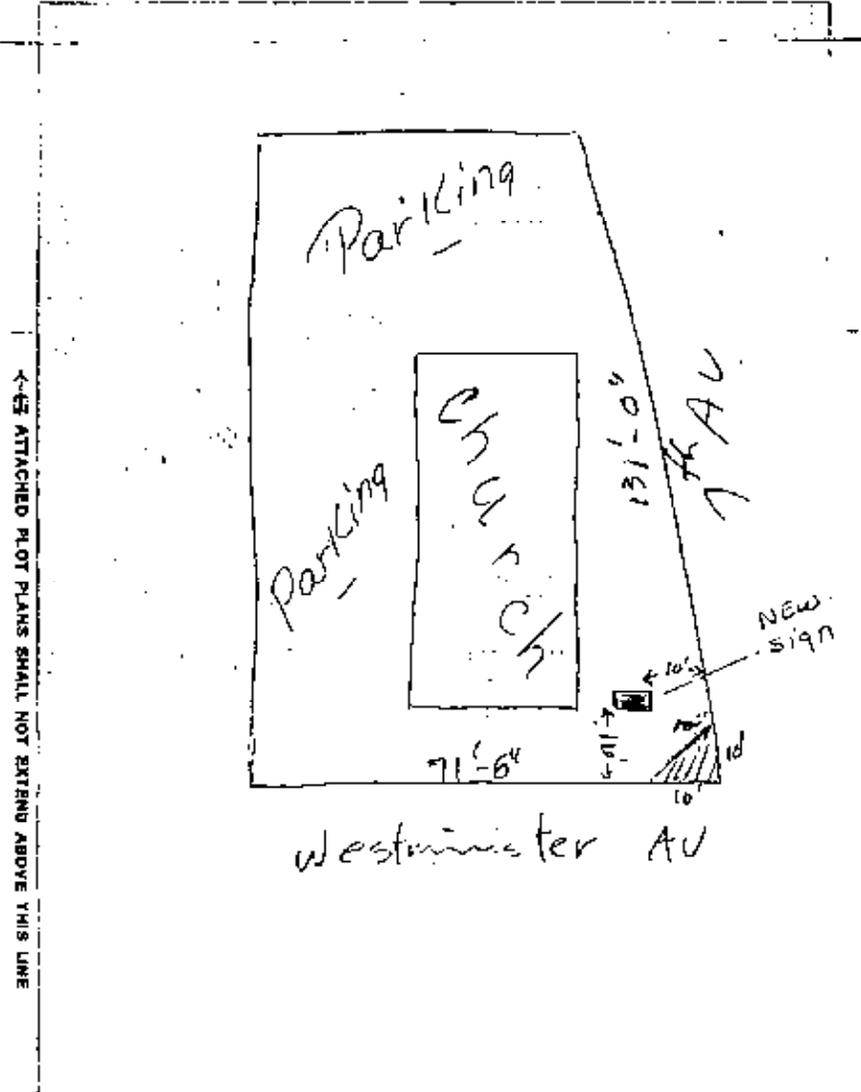
Actual Combined Sign Area 20'²

Allowable pole Sign Area OK

Actual pole Sign Area 20'²

Proposed Sign Facing 1st & Westminister

ON PLOT PLAN SHOW ALL BUILDINGS AND SIGNS ON LOT





Bldg-Alter/Repair Commercial Express Permit No Plan Check	City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY	Last Status: Ready to Issue Status Date: 10/17/2003
--	--	--

1. TRACT	BLOCK	LOT#	ARB	COUNTY MAP REF#	PARCEL ID # (PIN #)	2. ASSESSOR PARCEL #
OCEAN PARK VILLA TRAC	L	23		M B 4-23	108B145 159	4239 - 019 - 021

3. PARCEL INFORMATION Area Planning Commission - West Los Angeles LADBS Branch Office - WLA Council District - 11 Certified Neighborhood Council - Grass Roots Venice Community Plan Area - Venice	Census Tract - 2732.000 Coastal Zone Cons. Act - YES District Map - 108B145 Energy Zone - 6 Earthquake-Induced Liquefaction Area - YES	Near Source Zone Distance - 5.7 Thomas Brothers Map Grid - 671-H5
ZONE(S): RD1.5-1/		

4. DOCUMENTS		
ZI - ZI-1874 ZI - ZI-2273 ZA - ZA-18151 SPA - Los Angeles Coastal Transportatio	SPA - Venice Coastal Zone ORD - ORD-172019 ORD - ORD-172897 ORD - ORD-174995	CPC - CPC-1987-648-ICO CPC - CPC-1998-119-LCP CPC - CPC-2000-4046-CA CDBG - LARZ-Venice

5. CHECKLIST ITEMS

6. PROPERTY OWNER, TENANT, APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Owner(s) First Baptist Church Of Venice 685 Westminster Ave VENICE CA 90291		
Tenant Applicant (Relationship Contractor) -		

7. EXISTING USE	PROPOSED USE	8. DESCRIPTION OF WORK
(06) Church		T/O, INSTALL FIBERGL. MINERAL SUB FACE CAP SHEET-60SQRS(FLAT ROOF)

9. # Bldgs on Site & Use: CHURCH

10. APPLICATION PROCESSING INFORMATION	
BLDG. PC By: OK for Cashier: Ida Miranda Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	DAS PC By: Coord. OK: Date: 10/7/03

For information and/or inspection requests originating within LA County.
Call toll-free (888) LA4BUILD
 Outside LA County, call (213) 482-0000. (LA4BUILD - 524-2845)

For Cashier's Use Only W/O #: 31620988
 LA Department of Building and Safety
 SP 12 11 060489 10/17/03 10:46AM

11. PROJECT VALUATION & FEE INFORMATION Final Fee Period	
Permit Valuation: \$10,940	PC Valuation:
FINAL TOTAL Bldg-Alter/Repair 226.72 Permit Fee Subtotal Bldg-Alter/Repa 177.50 Fire Hydrant Refuse-To-Pay E Q Instrumentation 2.30 O.S. Surcharge 4.00 Sys. Surcharge 11.99 Planning Surcharge 5.93 Planning Surcharge Misc Fee 5.00 Permit Issuing Fee 20.00 Permit Fee-Single Inspection Flag	BUILDING PERMIT COMM \$177.50 BUILDING PLAN CHECK \$20.00 EI COMMERCIAL \$2.30 ONE STOP SURCH \$4.00 SYSTEMS DEVT FEE \$11.99 CITY PLANNING SURCH \$5.93 MISCELLANEDUS \$5.00 CHK #6007
Subtotal: \$226.72	
Carry Over FROM Tran# 060488 \$318.00	
Total Due: \$544.72 Check: \$544.72	
Sewer Cap ID:	Total Bond(s) Due:

12. ATTACHMENTS

	\$177.50 \$20.00 \$2.30 \$4.00 \$11.99 \$5.93 \$5.00 ----- \$226.72 \$318.00 ----- \$544.72 \$544.72
--	--



14. APPLICATION COMMENTS

** Approved Seismic Gas Shut-Off Valve may be required. **

In the event that any box (i.e. 1-16) is filled to capacity, it is possible that additional information has been captured electronically and could not be printed due to space restrictions. Nevertheless, the information printed exceeds that required by Section 19825 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

15. Building Related Firm:

16. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT, & ENGINEER NAME	ADDRESS	CLASS	LICENSE#	PHONE#
(C) Midwest Roofing Co Inc	1502 West 132nd Street,	Gardena, CA 90249	C39 769615	310-515-1464

PERMIT EXPIRATION

This permit expires two years after the date of the permit issuance. This permit will also expire if no construction work is performed for a continuous period of 180 days (Sec. 98.0602 LAMC). Claims for refund of fees paid must be filed within one year from the date of expiration for permits granted by the Dept. of Building & Safety (Sec. 22.12 & 22.13 LAMC).

17. LICENSED CONTRACTOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that I am licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect. If doing work on a residential property, I certify that I hold a valid certification as a Home Improvement contractor per Business and Professions Code, Section 7159.2. The following applies to B contractors only. I understand the limitations of Section 7057 of the Business and Professional Code related to my ability to take prime contracts or subcontracts involving specialty trades.

License Class: C39 Lic. No.: 769615 Contractor: MIDWEST ROOFING

18. WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION

I hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury, one of the following declarations.

I have and will maintain a certificate of consent to self insure for workers' compensation, as provided for by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued.

I have and will maintain workers' compensation insurance, as required by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued. My workers' compensation insurance carrier and policy number are:

Carrier: STATE FUND Policy Number: 1577JAL-01

I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the workers' compensation laws of California, and agree that if I should become subject to the workers' compensation provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code, I shall forthwith comply with those provisions.

WARNING: FAILURE TO SECURE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE IS UNLAWFUL, AND SHALL SUBJECT AN EMPLOYER TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL FINES UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000), IN ADDITION TO THE COST OF COMPENSATION, DAMAGES AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 3706 OF THE LABOR CODE, INTEREST, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES.

19. ASBESTOS REMOVAL DECLARATION

I certify that notification of asbestos removal is either not applicable or was sent to the AQMD or EPA as per section 19827.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

20. CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY DECLARATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec. 3097, Civil Code).

Lender's name (if any): _____ Lender's address: _____

21. FINAL DECLARATION

I certify that I have read this application INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS and state that the above information INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes. I realize that this permit is an application for inspection and that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, and it does not authorize or permit any violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Furthermore, neither the City of Los Angeles nor any board, department officer, or employee thereof, make any warranty, nor shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, nor the condition of the property nor the soil upon which such work is performed. I further affirm under penalty of perjury, that the proposed work will not destroy or unreasonably interfere with any access or utility easement belonging to others and located on my property, but in the event such work does destroy or unreasonably interfere with such easement, a substitute easement(s) satisfactory to the holder(s) of the easement will be provided (Sec. 91.0106.4.3.4 LAMC).

By signing below, I certify that:

I accept all the declarations above namely the Licensed Contractor's Declaration, Workers' Compensation Declaration, Asbestos Removal Declaration, Construction Lending Agency Declaration and Final Declaration, and

This permit is being obtained with the consent of the legal owner of the property

Print Name: NORMAN TANGEN Sign: [Signature] Date: 10-17-03 Contractor Authorized Agent



Bldg-Alter/Repair Commercial Express Permit No Plan Check	City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY	Last Status: Ready to Issue Status Date: 09/22/2004
--	--	--

TRACT	BLOCK	LOT(s)	ARB	COUNTY MAP REF #	PARCEL ID # (PIN #)	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL #
OCEAN PARK VILLA TRAC	L	23		M B 4-23	108B145 159	4239 - 019 - 021

1. PARCEL INFORMATION

Area Planning Commission - West Los Angeles LADBS Branch Office - WLA Council District - 11 Certified Neighborhood Council - Grass Roots Venice Community Plan Area - Venice	Census Tract - 2732.00 Coastal Zone Cons. Act - YES District Map - 108B145 Energy Zone - 6 Earthquake-Induced Liquefaction Area - YES	Near Source Zone Distance - 5.7 Thomas Brothers Map Grid - 671-H5
--	---	--

ZONING: RD1.5-1/

4. DOCUMENTS

ZI - ZI-1466 Venice Coastal Zone ZI - ZI-1874 LA Coastal Transportation ZI - ZI-2273 Venice Coastal Zone ZA - ZA-18151	SPA - Los Angeles Coastal Transportation CSPA - Venice Coastal Zone ORD - ORD-164844-SA1610 ORD - ORD-172019	ORD - ORD-172897 ORD - ORD-175693 ORD - ORD-175694 CPC - CPC-1986-824
		CPC - CPC-1987-648-ICO CPC - CPC-1998-119-LCP CPC - CPC-2000-4046-CA CDBG - IARZ-Venice

5. CHECKLIST ITEMS

6. PROPERTY OWNER, TENANT, APPLICANT INFORMATION

Owner(s):
 First Baptist Church Of Venice 685 Westminster Ave VENICE CA 90291

Tenant:
 Applicant (Relationship Contractor):
(310) 515-1464

7. EXISTING USE	8. DESCRIPTION OF WORK
(06) Church	T/O(E) & REROOF W/CLASS 'A', COMP - 62SQS

9. # Bldgs on Site & Use: CHURCH

10. APPLICATION PROCESSING INFORMATION

BLDG. PC By: *Roscann Budesa* DAS PC By:
 OK for Cashier: *Roscann Budesa* Coord. OK:
 Signature: *Roscann Budesa* Date: *9.22.04*

For information and/or inspection requests originating within LA County,
Call toll-free (888) LA4BUILD
 Outside LA County, call (213) 482-0000. (LA4BUILD - 524-2845)

For Cashier's Use Only W/O #: **41618765**
 LA Department of Building and Safety
 SP 12 11 073792 09/22/04 11:54AM

11. PROJECT VALUATION & FEE INFORMATION Final Fee Period

Permit Valuation: \$12,000	PC Valuation:
FINAL TOTAL Bldg-Alter/Repair 240.82	
Permit Fee Subtotal Bldg-Alter/Repa	190.00
Fire Hydrant Refuse-To-Pay	
E.Q. Instrumentation	2.52
O.S. Surcharge	4.25
Sys. Surcharge	12.75
Planning Surcharge	6.30
Planning Surcharge Misc Fee	5.00
Permit Issuing Fee	20.00
Permit Fee-Single Inspection Flag	

Sewer Cap ID: Total Bond(s) Due:

BUILDING PERMIT COMM	\$190.00
BUILDING PLAN CHECK	\$20.00
EI COMMERCIAL	\$2.52
ONE STOP SURCH	\$4.25
SYSTEMS DEVY FEE	\$12.75
CITY PLANNING SURCH	\$6.30
MISCELLANEOUS	\$5.00
CHK #007328	
Total Due: \$240.82	
Check: \$240.82	
04SF 42744	

10113002507

14. APPLICATION COMMENTS

** Approved Seismic Gas Shut-Off Valve may be required. **

In the event that any box (i.e. I-16) is filled to capacity, it is possible that additional information has been captured electronically and could not be printed due to space restrictions. Nevertheless, the information printed exceeds that required by Section 19825 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

15. Building Relocated From:

16. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT, & ENGINEER NAME ADDRESS

(C) Midwest Roofing Co Inc

1502 West 132nd Street,

Gardena, CA 90249

CLASS LICENSE#

C39 769615

PHONE

PERMIT EXPIRATION

This permit expires two years after the date of the permit issuance. This permit will also expire if no construction work is performed for a continuous period of 180 days (Sec. 98.0602 LAMC). Claims for refund of fees paid must be filed within one year from the date of expiration for permits granted by the Dept. of Building & Safety (Sec. 22.12 & 22.13 LAMC).

17. LICENSED CONTRACTOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that I am licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect. If doing work on a residential property, I certify that I hold a valid certification as a Home Improvement contractor per Business and Professions Code, Section 7150.2c. The following applies to B contractors only: I understand the limitations of Section 7057 of the Business and Professional Code related to my ability to take prime contracts or subcontracts involving specialty trades.

License Class: C-39 Lic. No.: 749615 Contractor: MIDWEST ROOFING INC

18. WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION

I hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury, one of the following declarations:

I have and will maintain a certificate of consent to self insure for workers' compensation, as provided for by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued.

I have and will maintain workers' compensation insurance, as required by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued. My workers' compensation insurance carrier and policy number are:

Carrier: STATE FUNDPolicy Number: 157741-01

I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the workers' compensation laws of California, and agree that if I should become subject to the workers' compensation provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code, I shall forthwith comply with those provisions.

WARNING: FAILURE TO SECURE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE IS UNLAWFUL, AND SHALL SUBJECT AN EMPLOYER TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL FINES UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000), IN ADDITION TO THE COST OF COMPENSATION, DAMAGES AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 3706 OF THE LABOR CODE, INTEREST, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES.

19. ASBESTOS REMOVAL DECLARATION

I certify that notification of asbestos removal is either not applicable or was sent to the AQMD or EPA as per section 19827.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

20. CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY DECLARATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec. 3097, Civil Code).

Lender's name (if any): _____ Lender's address: _____

21. FINAL DECLARATION

I certify that I have read this application INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS and state that the above information INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes. I realize that this permit is an application for inspection and that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, and it does not authorize or permit any violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Furthermore, neither the City of Los Angeles nor any board, department officer, or employee thereof, make any warranty, nor shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, nor the condition of the property nor the soil upon which such work is performed. I further affirm under penalty of perjury, that the proposed work will not destroy or unreasonably interfere with any access or utility easement belonging to others and located on my property, but in the event such work does destroy or unreasonably interfere with such easement, a substitute easement(s) satisfactory to the holder(s) of the easement will be provided (Sec. 91.0106.4.3.4 LAMC).

By signing below, I certify that:

- (1) I accept all the declarations above namely the Licensed Contractor's Declaration, Workers' Compensation Declaration, Asbestos Removal Declaration, Construction Lending Agency Declaration and Final Declaration; and
- (2) This permit is being obtained with the consent of the legal owner of the property.

Print Name: ADAM TANGENSign: [Signature]Date: 9-22-01 Contractor Authorized Agent



Plumbing
Commercial
Express Permit
No Plan Check

City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety

Issued On: 11/30/2004

**APPLICATION FOR PLUMBING
PLAN CHECK AND INSPECTION**

Last Status: Issued

Status Date: 11/30/2004

1. PROPERTY OWNER

First Baptist Church Of Venice 685 Westminster Ave VENICE CA 90291

2. APPLICANT INFORMATION (Relationship: Net Applicant)

Russell Stephan - 7516 S Crenshaw Blvd LOS ANGELES, CA 90043 (323) 789-2206

3. TENANT INFORMATION

4. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT, & ENGINEER NAME

(C) Stephan Jack Plumbing And Heatin P O Box 43279, Los Angeles, CA 90043 CLASS LICENSE# PHONE #
C36 194130 3237892206

5. APPLICATION COMMENTS

E-Permit paid by credit card, fax number-> (323)789-2240.

6. DESCRIPTION OF WORK

EARTHQUAKE VALVE 2"

7. COUNCIL DISTRICT: 11

For information and/or inspection requests originating within LA County,

Call toll-free (888) LA4BUILD

Outside LA County, call (213) 482-0000. (LA4BUILD = 524-2845)

8. APPLICATION PROCESSING INFORMATION

PC OK By:

OK for Cashier:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Cashier's Use Only

W/O #: 44234283

NOTICE: The work included in this permit shall not be construed as establishing the legal number of dwelling units or guest rooms. That number is established by a Building Permit or a Certificate of Occupancy.

In the event that any box (i.e. 1-10) is filled to its capacity, it is possible that additional information has been captured electronically and could not be printed due to space restrictions. Nevertheless, the information printed exceeds that required by Section 19825 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

9. FEE INFORMATION **Inspection Fee Period**

Permit Fee: **43.40**

INSPECTION TOTAL Plumbing	43.40
Permit Total	43.40
Permit Fee Subtotal Plumbing	40.00
Permit One Stop Surcharge	1.00
Permit Sys. Development Surcharge	2.40
Permit Issuing Fee	0.00

Payment Date: 11/30/04
Receipt No: IN050151211
Amount: \$43.40

10. FEE ITEM INFORMATION**WATER HEATERS AND GAS SYSTEMS**

Earthquake Valve (1) 16.00

PERMIT EXPIRATION

This permit expires two years after the date of the permit issuance. This permit will also expire if no construction work is performed for a continuous period of 180 days (Sec. 98.0602 LAMC). Claims for refund of fees paid must be filed within one year from the date of expiration for permits granted by LADBS (Sec. 22.12 & 22.13 LAMC).

11. LICENSED CONTRACTOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that I am licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, and my license is in full force and effect. The following applies to B contractors only: I understand the limitations of Section 7057 of the Business and Professional Code related to my ability to take prime contracts or subcontracts involving specialty trades.

License Class: **C36** Lic. No.: **194130** Contractor: **JACK STEPHAN PLBG & HTG. INC**

12. WORKERS' COMPENSATION DECLARATION

I hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury, one of the following declarations:

I have and will maintain a certificate of consent to self insure for workers' compensation, as provided for by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued.

I have and will maintain workers' compensation insurance, as required by Section 3700 of the Labor Code, for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued. My workers' compensation insurance carrier and policy number are:

Carrier: **STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE F** Policy Number: **1622969-04**

I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued, I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the workers' compensation laws of California, and agree that if I should become subject to the workers' compensation provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code, I shall forthwith comply with those provisions.

WARNING: FAILURE TO SECURE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE IS UNLAWFUL, AND SHALL SUBJECT AN EMPLOYER TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL FINES UP TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000), IN ADDITION TO THE COST OF COMPENSATION, DAMAGES AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 3706 OF THE LABOR CODE, INTEREST, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES.

13. ASBESTOS REMOVAL DECLARATION / LEAD HAZARD WARNING

I certify that notification of asbestos removal is either not applicable or was sent to the AQMD or EPA as per section 19827.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Due to the possible presence of lead-based paint, lead safe work practices are required on all repairs in pre-1979 buildings that disturb paint. Failure to do so could create lead hazards that violate California Health and Safety Code Section 17920.10 and 105256 and may be subject to a \$1000 fine or criminal prosecution. For more information call LA County's Department of Health Services at (800)524-5323. In order to locate a Lead Certified Professional and obtain additional information, call California DHS at (800)597-5323 or go to the DHS Website at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/html/GENclst.html>.

14. CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY DECLARATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec. 3097, Civil Code).

Lender's name (if any): _____ Lender's address: _____

15. FINAL DECLARATION

I certify that I have read this application **INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS** and state that the above information **INCLUDING THE ABOVE DECLARATIONS** is correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes. I realize that this permit is an application for inspection and that it does not approve or authorize the work specified herein, and it does not authorize or permit any violation or failure to comply with any applicable law. Furthermore, neither the City of Los Angeles nor any board, department officer, or employee thereof, make any warranty, nor shall be responsible for the performance or results of any work described herein, nor the condition of the property nor the soil upon which such work is performed. I further affirm under penalty of perjury, that the proposed work will not destroy or unreasonably interfere with any access or utility easement belonging to others and located on my property, but in the event such work does destroy or unreasonably interfere with such easement, a substitute easement(s) satisfactory to the holder(s) of the easement will be provided (Sec. 91.0106.4.3.4 LAMC).

By signing below, I certify that:

- (1) I accept all the declarations above namely the Licensed Contractor's Declaration, Workers' Compensation Declaration, Asbestos Removal Declaration / Lead Hazard Warning, Construction Lending Agency Declaration and Final Declaration; and
- (2) This permit is being obtained with the consent of the legal owner of the property.

Print Name: **RUSSELL STEPHAN** Sign: **Internet ePermit System Declaration** Date: **11/30/2004** Contractor Authorized Agent



HVAC Commercial Express Permit No Plan Check	City of Los Angeles - Department of Building and Safety	Issued On: 06/17/2014 Last Status: Issued Status Date: 06/17/2014
APPLICATION FOR HVAC PLAN CHECK AND INSPECTION		

1. PROPERTY OWNER			
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE	685 WESTMINSTER AVE	VENICE CA 90291	
2. APPLICANT INFORMATION (Contractor/ Subcontractor)			
JOSEPH M	8599 VENICE BLVD SUITE A	LOS ANGELES, CA 90034	(310) 623-4888
3. TENANT INFORMATION			

4. CONTRACTOR, ARCHITECT, & ENGINEER NAME	ADDRESS	CLASS	LICENSE #	PHONE #
(C) RELIANCE HOME SERVICES	8599 VENICE	LOS ANGELES, CA	90034	C20 193955 (310) 623-4888

5. APPLICATION COMMENTS Structural plan check is required for new or replaced equipment weighing 400 lbs. or more when supported by a building and in case of a replacement, the new equipment exceeds the weight of the old one. LAMC Section 91.1632 E-Permit paid by credit card. Tax number: (310)674-4896	6. DESCRIPTION OF WORK 5-ton package unit / 4-ton package unit
--	--

7. CHECKLIST ITEMS

8. COUNCIL DISTRICT: 11

9. APPLICATION PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION
Plan Check By:
OK for Cashier:
Signature: _____ Date: _____

For inspection requests, call toll-free (888) L.A.BUILD (524-2845).
Outside LA County, call (213) 482-0000 or request inspectors via www.ladhs.org. To speak to a Call Center agent, call 311 or (818) 452-2489.
Outside LA County, call (213) 473-2231

For Cashier's Use Only W/O #: 44405922

NOTICE:
The work included in this permit shall not be construed as establishing the legal number of dwelling units or guest rooms. That number is established by a Building Permit or a Certificate of Occupancy. In the event that any box (i.e., 1-70) is filled to its capacity, it is possible that additional information has been captured electronically and could not be printed due to space restrictions. Nevertheless, the information printed exceeds that required by Section 19623 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

685 E Westminster Ave
14044 - 90000 - 05922

10. FEE INFORMATION	Inspection Fee Period
	Permit Fee \$97.20
INSPECTION TOTAL HVAC	97.20
Permit Total	97.20
Permit Fee Subtotal HVAC	90.00
Permit One Stop Surcharge	1.80
Permit Sys. Development Surcharge	5.40
Permit Issuing Fee	0.00

Payment Date: 06/17/14
Receipt No: ON56692
Amount: \$97.20

EXPRESS PERMIT INSPECTION RECORD



Your feedback is important. Please visit our website to complete a Customer Survey at www.ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/customer-survey.htm. If you would like to provide additional feedback, need clarification, or have any questions regarding plan check or inspection matters, please call our Customer Hotline at (213) 482-0055.

PERMIT #: 14044 - 90000 - 05922
 ADDRESS: 685 E Westminster Ave
 OWNER: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VENICE
 685 WESTMINSTER AVE
 VENICE CA 90291

HVAC
 Commercial
 Express Permit
 No Plan Check

For use by cashier only

Payment Date: 06/17/14
 Receipt No: ON56692
 Amount: \$97.20
 Method: Credit Card

JOB DESCRIPTION: 5ton package unit / 4ton package unit

INSPECTION RECORDS AND PLANS MUST BE AVAILABLE DURING INSPECTION

GRADING INSPECTIONS		
TYPE	DATE	INSPECTOR
Initial Grading		
Top or Bottom		
Soils Report Approved		
DO NOT PLACE FILL UNTIL ABOVE IS SIGNED		
Backfill		
Fill		
Excavation		
Drainage Devices		
Rough Grading		
Approved Compaction Report		
FOOTING INSPECTIONS		
Footing Excavation		
Forms		
Reinforcing Steel		
OK to Place Concrete		
GROUNDWORK INSPECTIONS		
Electrical		
Plumbing		
Plumbing Methane		
Gas Piping		
Heating & Refrigeration		
Fire Sprinklers		
Disabled Access		
Methane		
OK to Place Floor		
DO NOT PLACE FLOOR UNTIL ABOVE IS SIGNED		
ROUGH INSPECTIONS		
Green Code		
Electrical		
Plumbing		
Fire Sprinkler		
Heating & Refrigeration		
Roof Sheathing		
Disabled Access		
Framing		
Insulation		
Suspended Ceiling		
OK to Cover		

DO NOT COVER UNTIL PREVIOUS IS SIGNED		
TYPE	DATE	INSPECTOR
Exterior Lathing		
Interior Lathing		
Drywall		
DO NOT COVER UNTIL ABOVE IS SIGNED		
WORK OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING		
Electrical Underground		
Gas		
Heating & Refrigeration		
Sewer		
Disabled Access		
POOL INSPECTIONS		
Excavation		
Reinforcing Steel		
Bonding		
Piping		
Pre-Gunite		
Deck		
Enclosure/Fence		
Pool/Spa Cover		
DO NOT FILL POOL UNTIL ABOVE IS SIGNED		
FINAL INSPECTIONS		
Grading		
Electrical		
Plumbing		
Gas Test		
Gas		
Heating & Refrigeration		
Pressure Vessels		
Elevator		
Fire Sprinkler		
Disabled Access		
Green Building		
LAHD (1 tile 19 only)		
LAHD Fire Life Safety		
Pool Final		
AQMO Sign-off Provided		
Public Works		
Building		
PROJECT FINAL		

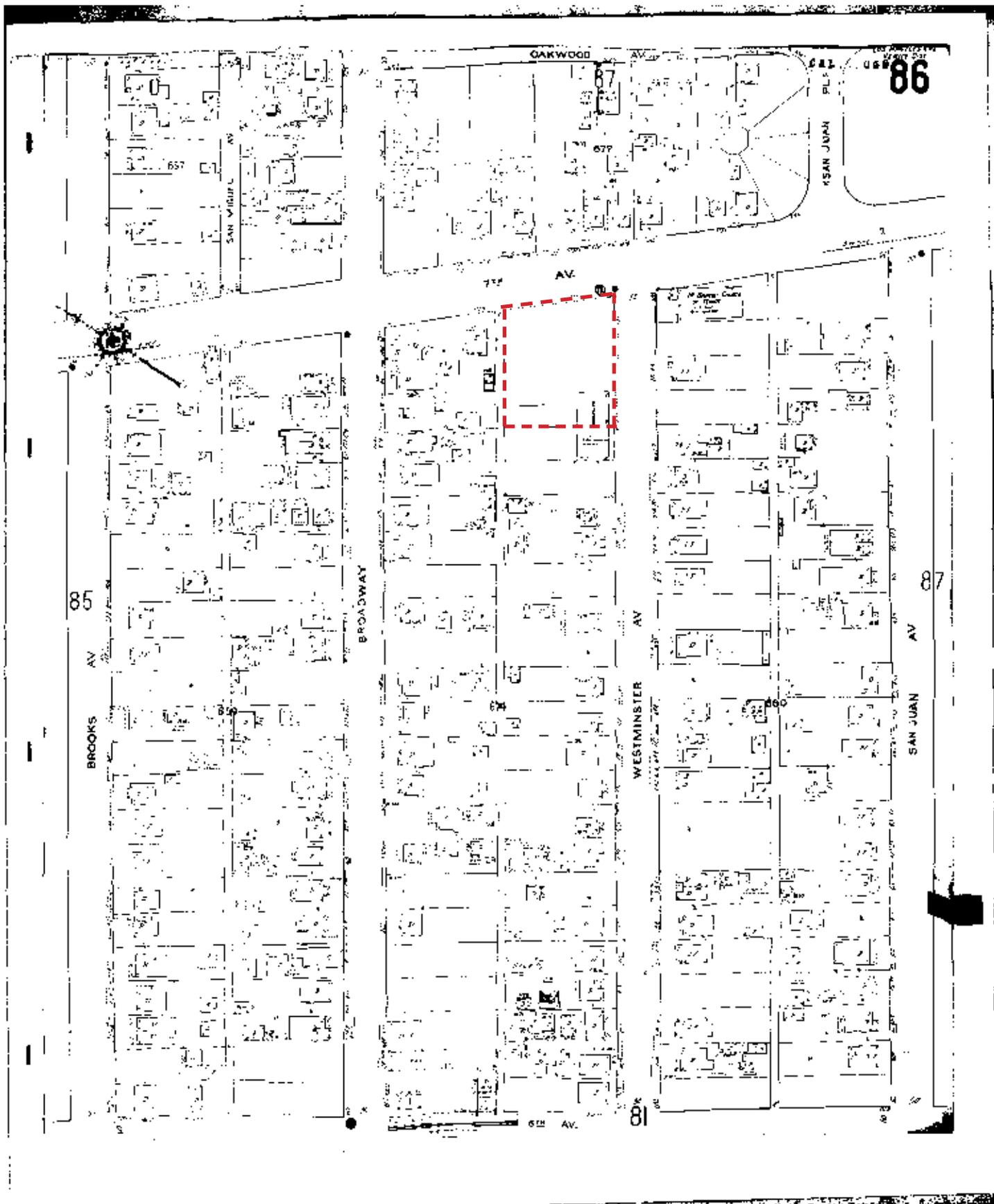
FOR INSPECTION REQUESTS, PLEASE CALL
 3-1-1 OR OUTSIDE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
 888-LA4-BUILD (888)524-2845 or www.ladbs.org

Certificate of Occupancy Required YES NO



Architectural
Resources Group

Exhibit 4. Sanborn Map



Sanborn Insurance Map, 1918. Lot comprising subject property is outlined in red.
Note: Map precedes construction of subject property.



Architectural
Resources Group

Exhibit 5. Articles

INCORPORATIONS. First Baptist Church of Venice, incorporators, Leui Burks, Alex Brown, Seymour Nichols. Stereo Advertising Company, incorporators, H. S. Gay, E. W. Duke, F. H. Duke; capital stock, \$20,000; subscribed, \$300. Moses-Starr Company, incorporators, George W. Ketchen, P. T. Moses, Baldwin Starr; capital stock, \$25,000; subscribed, \$300. Panama Lubricants Company, incorporators, S. D. Graves, A. McLaughlin, Raymond Z. Fahs, Della C. De Laney, V. A. Martin; capital stock, \$50,000; subscribed, \$250. American Cactus Company, incorporators, R. C. Hoggins, Durlin S. Benedict, George H. Polling, Robert McKay, John A. Lohmann; capital stock, \$200,000; subscribed, \$5. Kellastone Manufacturing Company, incorporators, H. A. Jones, T. J. Collins, T. J. Collins, Jr., I. N. McNay; no capital stock; none subscribed. Los Robles Electric Garage

Resume

KATIE E. HORAK

Principal | Architectural Historian & Preservation Planner

Katie is a Los Angeles-area native and Architectural Historian and Preservation Planner in ARG's Pasadena office. She has more than twelve years experience in the field of historic resource management in both the public and private sectors. Katie is a recognized leader in the industry, bringing creative and innovative solutions to complex issues related to historic site documentation, management, and adaptive re-use.

Relevant Project Experience

- Century Plaza Hotel, Historical Resources Technical Report under CEQA, Los Angeles, CA
- 710 Wilshire, Historical Resources Technical Report under CEQA, Santa Monica, CA
- Claremont McKenna College Master Plan EIR, Historical Resources Technical Report under CEQA, Claremont, CA
- Pomona College Master Plan EIR, Historical Resources Technical Report under CEQA, Claremont, CA
- Los Angeles Union Station, Historic Structures Report, Los Angeles, CA
- SurveyLA, Los Angeles Citywide Historic Resources Survey: Citywide Historic Context Statement (The Ranch House and Los Angeles Modernism), Pilot Survey, Groups 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 Surveys
- Santa Monica Citywide Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) Update, Santa Monica, CA
- University of California, San Diego, Campus-Wide Historic Resources Survey, San Diego, CA
- View Park Historic District National Register Nomination, Los Angeles County, CA
- La Rosita Drive-Thru, Historic Resource Assessment and Design Review for compliance with *The Standards*, Redlands, CA
- YMCA of the East Valley, Historic Resource Evaluation under Section 106, Redlands, CA

Selected Lectures

- "Historic Surveys and Designation: From Identification to Nomination." California Preservation Foundation Workshop, January 2016.
- "How to Measure Integrity in Historic Resources," Palm Springs Modernism Week, February 2015, and California Preservation Conference, May 2015.
- "Garden Apartments: Rehabilitating 20th Century Multifamily Garden Apartments for the 21st Century," Traditional Building Conference, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 2013.
- "Current Trends in Historic Resources Surveys for Preservation Planning," California APA Conference, Visalia, CA Oct. 2013.



Education

Master of Heritage Conservation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

University of Oregon, Eugene
Historic Preservation Field School in Canova, Italy

Bachelor of Arts, Art (Painting/ Drawing), Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington

Meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards* in Architectural History and History

Memberships

Founding President, Docomomo US, Southern California Chapter

Los Angeles Conservancy

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Society of Architectural Historians, Southern California Chapter

Claremont Heritage

Academic Involvement

Adjunct Lecturer, University of Southern California.

Current courses taught:
Introduction to Historic Site Documentation, and *Advanced Documentation: Historic Resources Surveys*

EVANNE ST. CHARLES

LEED AP O+M | Architectural Historian & Preservation Planner

Evanne is an architectural historian and preservation planner in ARG's Pasadena office with academic and professional training in historic preservation planning. Evanne graduated from the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation program in 2013. Since 2013, Evanne has worked with ARG, first as a planning intern and later hired as a full time staff member. Her experience includes National Register nominations, Historic-Cultural Monument nominations, historic resource evaluations, historic resources surveys, and historic structure reports. Evanne is also a LEED Accredited Professional in the area of Operations and Maintenance; she has worked on several LEED projects for existing as well as historic buildings.

Relevant Project Experience

- Lassen and Mason Redevelopment, Historical Resources Assessment Report under CEQA, Los Angeles, CA
- 1828 Ocean Avenue/1920 Ocean Front Walk, Evaluation of Impacts to Historic Resources under CEQA, Santa Monica, CA
- Pomona College Master Plan, Environmental Impact Report, Claremont, CA
- Citywide Historic Resources Survey Report, Arcadia, CA
- Miracle Mile Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) Historic Resources Survey, Los Angeles, CA
- SurveyLA, Los Angeles Citywide Historic Resources Survey: Group 6 Survey (Arleta-Pacoima, and Mission Hills-Panorama City-North Hills); Group 7 Survey (Wilshire, Boyle Heights, Venice, and Westwood); Group 8 Survey (Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks, Chatsworth-Porter Ranch, Northridge, Reseda-West Van Nuys, Granada Hills-Knollwood, and others)
- Los Angeles Union Station, Historic Structures Report, Los Angeles, CA
- 433 Spring Street, Rehabilitation Study, Los Angeles, CA
- Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, Rehabilitation Study, Los Angeles, CA
- Wayfarers Chapel, Historic Structures Report, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- Joel McCrea Ranch House, Building Rehabilitation Study, Thousand Oaks, CA
- Henry Singleton Estate, Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination, Los Angeles, CA
- Zane Grey Pueblo, Historic Resource Evaluation and Project Impacts Analysis, Avalon, CA
- Burbank Commercial Signs, Historic Resources Survey, Burbank, CA



Education

Master of Science, Historic Preservation, University of Oregon, Eugene

Bachelor of Arts, Art History with Architecture and Environment Emphasis; Bachelor of Arts, Geography, University of California, Santa Barbara

Meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards* in Architectural History and History

Memberships/Conferences

Association for Preservation Technology (APT), Member

APT - Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation, OSCAR Working Group, Member, January 2014-present

California Higher Education Sustainability Conference, University of California Student Keynote Speaker, 2011

California Higher Education Sustainability Conference, Speaker, LEED EBOM Track, 2010



LAKAN FRANCESCA COLE

Architectural Historian & Preservation Planner

Lakan is an Architectural Historian and Preservation Planner in ARG's Los Angeles office with academic and professional training in historic preservation planning. Lakan joined ARG as a full-time staff member in 2018, bringing preservation experience working in New York City. Her experience includes Historic Preservation Certification Applications (HPCA) for federal tax incentives, Section 106 reviews, Certificate of Appropriateness (COFA) & Certificate of No Effect (CNE) reviews, City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) documentation, historical resources surveys, historic research reports, and preservation consulting.

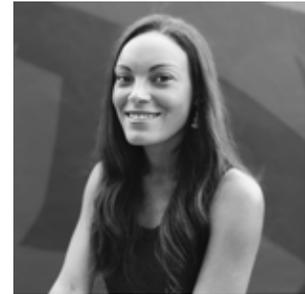
*Relevant Project Experience**

- U.S. General Post Office, HPCA & Section 106, New York, NY
- Lincoln Building, HPCA, New York, NY
- Staten Island Lighthouse Depot, HPCA, Staten Island, NY
- Starrett-Lehigh Building, COFA, New York, NY
- Ford Foundation Building, COFA, New York, NY
- American Museum of Natural History, CEQR & COFA, New York, NY
- Grand Central Post Office, Section 106, New York, NY
- Rockefeller Center, CNE, New York, NY
- 60-66 White Street, COFA, New York, NY
- Farley Redevelopment Area of Potential Effect, Survey, New York, NY

* work performed prior to joining ARG

Relevant Work Experience

- Associate, Higgins Quasebarth & Partners, New York, NY
Supported Partners in consulting clients through local, state and federal historic preservation review processes, including NYC Landmarks, environmental review, Section 106 & federal tax credit applications.
- South Street Seaport Working Group Facilitator, NYC Economic Development Corporation
Assisted Urban Planner in facilitating meetings with community members, private developer and elected officials toward the goal of drafting redevelopment guidelines for the South Street Seaport Historic District and adjacent lots.
- Graduate Fellow, Municipal Arts Society, New York, NY
Supported Director of Preservation & Planning with reviewing rehabilitation proposals and preparing advocacy testimony. Conducted historic resource surveys and research reports.
- Graduate Assistant, Pratt Center, Brooklyn, NY
Assisted Professor of Historic Preservation Law & Policy with developing course content and presentations. Conducted research for planning policy reports.



Education

Master of Science, Historic Preservation, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Art History, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards* in Architectural History

Memberships/Conferences

National Trust for Historic Preservation, Member

Docomomo US, Member