

**CORNELIUS JOHNSON RESIDENCE AND OLYMPIC OAK**  
1156 South Hobart Boulevard  
CHC-2022-3207-HCM  
ENV-2022-3208-CE

Agenda packet includes:

1. [Final Determination Staff Recommendation Report](#)
2. [Commission/ Staff Site Inspection Photos—June 30, 2022](#)
3. [Categorical Exemption](#)
4. [Under Consideration Staff Recommendation Report](#)
5. [Historic-Cultural Monument Application](#)

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-2022-3207-HCM  
ENV-2022-3208-CE

**HEARING DATE:** August 4, 2022  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Teleconference (see agenda for login information)

Location: 1156 S. Hobart Boulevard  
Council District: 10  
Community Plan Area: Wilshire  
Land Use Designation: Medium Residential  
Zoning: R3-1  
Area Planning Commission: Central  
Neighborhood Council: Olympic Park  
Legal Description: Pellissier Tract, Block G, Lot 1

**EXPIRATION DATE:** The original expiration date of August 16, 2022, is tolled, and a revised date will be determined pursuant to *the Mayor's March 21, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling of Deadlines Prescribed in the Municipal Code and April 17, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling HCIDLA Deadlines and Revising Expiration of Emergency Orders*

The time to act on this item has been tolled for the duration of the local emergency period.

Please note that other State law provisions may also apply.

**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the CORNELIUS JOHNSON RESIDENCE AND OLYMPIC OAK

**REQUEST:** Declare the property an Historic-Cultural Monument

**OWNER:** KLD Investment, LLC  
1717 S. Hoover Street, Suite 202  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

**APPLICANTS:** Susan D. Anderson  
California African American Museum  
Exposition Park  
600 State Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Christian Kosmas Mayer  
Sculptor Building of the Republic of Austria  
Meiereistrasse 3  
1020 Vienna  
Austria



## FINDINGS

- The Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the residence of Cornelius Johnson, two-time Olympic athlete and gold medalist in the high jump in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, for which he received the oak tree planted in the rear yard.

## 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 Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak is a one-story single-family residence and oak tree located on the corner of S. Hobart Boulevard and W. 12th Street in the Olympic Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Constructed in 1903, the residence was designed in the Craftsman architectural style for Shadreak and Pearl Johnson and their family. Shadreak, a professional plasterer, constructed the residence, which appears to be one of the earliest extant residences built and lived in by an African American family in Los Angeles. Shadreak and Pearl’s son, Olympic track and field athlete, Cornelius Cooper Johnson (1913-1946), planted in the rear yard an oak tree he was gifted by the German government after winning a gold medal in the 1936 Summer Olympic games in Berlin. Cornelius resided at the subject property until 1945, one year prior to his passing, and the Johnson family continued to live at the residence until it was sold in 1994. The oak tree is one of 25 known remaining oaks worldwide that the German Olympic Committee presented to all 129 gold medalists at the 1936 Olympics.

Irregular in plan, the single-family residence is of wood-frame construction with horizontal wood siding and has a combination hipped and gabled roof with composition shingles and exposed rafter tails. The primary, front façade faces west towards Hobart Boulevard and features three bays, a projecting front porch with a flat roof that is accessed by concrete stairs, and the main entrance flanked by partial-height sidelites. The northern bay has a gabled roof with a gable vent and fenestration consisting of a fixed window and two double-hung windows. The southern bay has plaster cladding and a fixed transom window. Fronting W. 12th Street, the south-facing elevation features varied fenestration that includes divided-lite transom windows, casement windows, and double-hung windows. At the rear of the residence is the Olympic oak and a small shed. There is a low concrete wall topped with a chain-link fence that bounds the property on the south and east. Cornelius Johnson was born in Los Angeles in 1913 and attended Berendo Junior High School, where he first competed in organized track and field events. While a junior at Los Angeles High

School, he competed statewide in sprinting and the high jump, and his success earned him a position on the 1932 United States Olympic team. One of four Black athletes representing the United States in track and field at the Olympic Games, Johnson placed fourth in the high jump after a tie break. In 1933, he graduated high school and entered Compton Junior College in Pasadena, where he won Amateur Athletic Union high jump championship titles for four straight years, from 1933 to 1936. Becoming the first Black American to set a world record in the high jump and qualifying for the 1936 Olympic team, Johnson went on to win the gold medal in the high jump at the Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Although Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Games, Johnson was the first Black athlete on the United States team to win a gold medal. For that reason, contrary to popular memory, it was not Jesse Owens who was famously snubbed by Adolf Hitler at the 1936 Games, but rather, Cornelius Johnson. Chancellor Hitler personally congratulated German and Finnish champions going before him in his private box, but, after Johnson won the gold medal in the high jump, he was informed that Chancellor Hitler had left the stands. In response, Cornelius Johnson coordinated with his fellow American medalists in the high jump— David Albritton, who won silver, and Delos Thurber, bronze medalist – to rebuke the Chancellor’s snub by saluting the United States flag with a palm-out salute also known as the Bellamy salute during the playing of the national anthem. At the Olympic medal ceremony, Johnson received a potted, one-foot-tall living German oak sapling (*Quercus robur*) in a ceramic pot inscribed with the words “Grow to honor the victory—Call out to further action,” which he planted at his family home, the subject property, upon his return to Los Angeles. Later, he became a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service in Los Angeles, and in 1945, Johnson joined the United States Merchant Marines as a ship cook on the Santa Cruz. A year later, in 1946, he developed bronchopneumonia while aboard the ship and passed away. Johnson was posthumously inducted into the national USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1994, and the California Community College Track Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998.

Based on permit records, the subject property has experienced alterations that include additions to the dining room, kitchen, and bedrooms, the enclosure and conversion the front porch into a bedroom, and a new front porch extension in 1922; the application of plaster to a portion of the front of the residence, the removal of the front door, and the enclosure of the porch in 1972; and the replacement of the original tongue and groove wood siding and the installation of security bars to windows, all at unknown dates. During the Cultural Heritage Commission site visit, it was also noted that the original service porch at the rear had been enclosed, the bathroom was remodeled, carpet was installed throughout, and flooring in the kitchen and bathroom were replaced.

## DISCUSSION

The Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak meets one of the Historic-Cultural monument criteria.

The subject property “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history” as the residence of Cornelius Johnson, two-time Olympic athlete and gold medalist in the high jump in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, for which he received the oak tree planted in the rear yard. Despite facing much segregation and racism as a Black athlete during the Jim Crow era in the United States, Johnson had a highly successful career as a world-class track and field athlete. The height of his career was him winning the gold medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, which is represented by the oak tree that has stood in the rear yard of his residence and family home for over 80 years. The oak tree is one of only six remaining Olympic Oaks in the United States, and one of 25 remaining worldwide. The single-family home was constructed by Johnson’s father, and was where he resided for 32 years; Johnson passed away prior to his 33rd birthday.

Despite interior and exterior alterations over the years, the subject property retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance.

### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) FINDINGS**

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 *“consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.”*

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 *“consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings.”*

The designation of the Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak as an Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”) will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of an irreplaceable historic site/open space. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The City of Los Angeles has determined based on the whole of the administrative record, that substantial evidence supports that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 and Class 31, and none of the exceptions to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies. The project was found to be exempt based on the following:

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

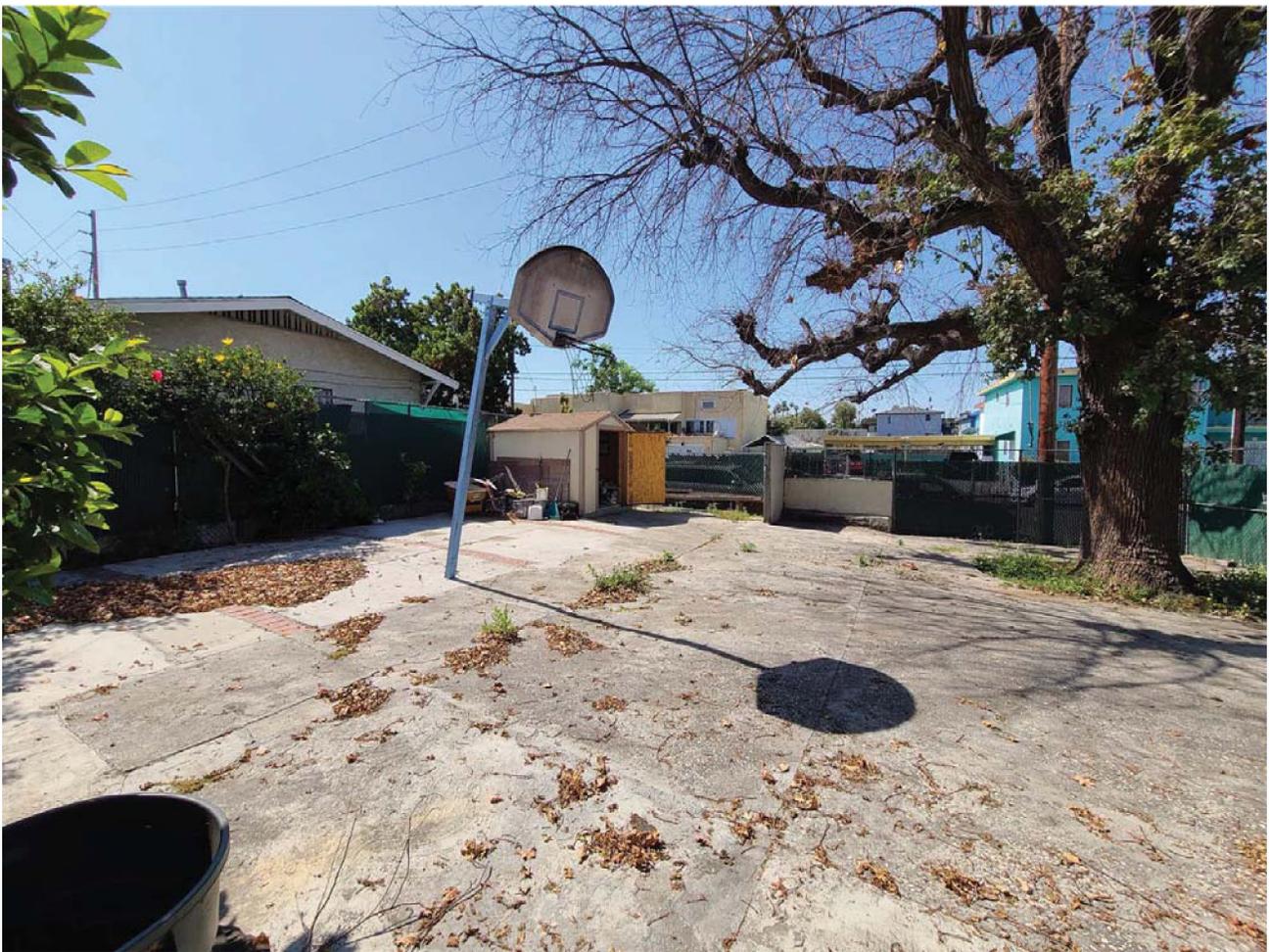
The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of historic buildings and sites in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Categorical Exemption ENV-2022-3208-CE was prepared on July 7, 2022.

**BACKGROUND**

On May 5, 2022, the Director of Planning determined that the application for the proposed designation of the subject property as an Historic-Cultural Monument was complete. On June 2, 2022, the Cultural Heritage Commission voted to take the property under consideration. On June 30, 2022, a subcommittee of the Commission consisting of Commissioners Barron and Buelna conducted a site inspection of the property, accompanied by staff from the Office of Historic Resources. The original expiration date of August 16, 2022, is tolled, and a revised date will be determined pursuant to *the Mayor's March 21, 2020 Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling of Deadlines Prescribed in the Municipal Code and April 17, 2020 Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling HCIDLA Deadlines and Revising Expiration of Emergency Orders*. The time to act on this item has been tolled for the duration of the local emergency period. Please note that other State law provisions may also apply.



















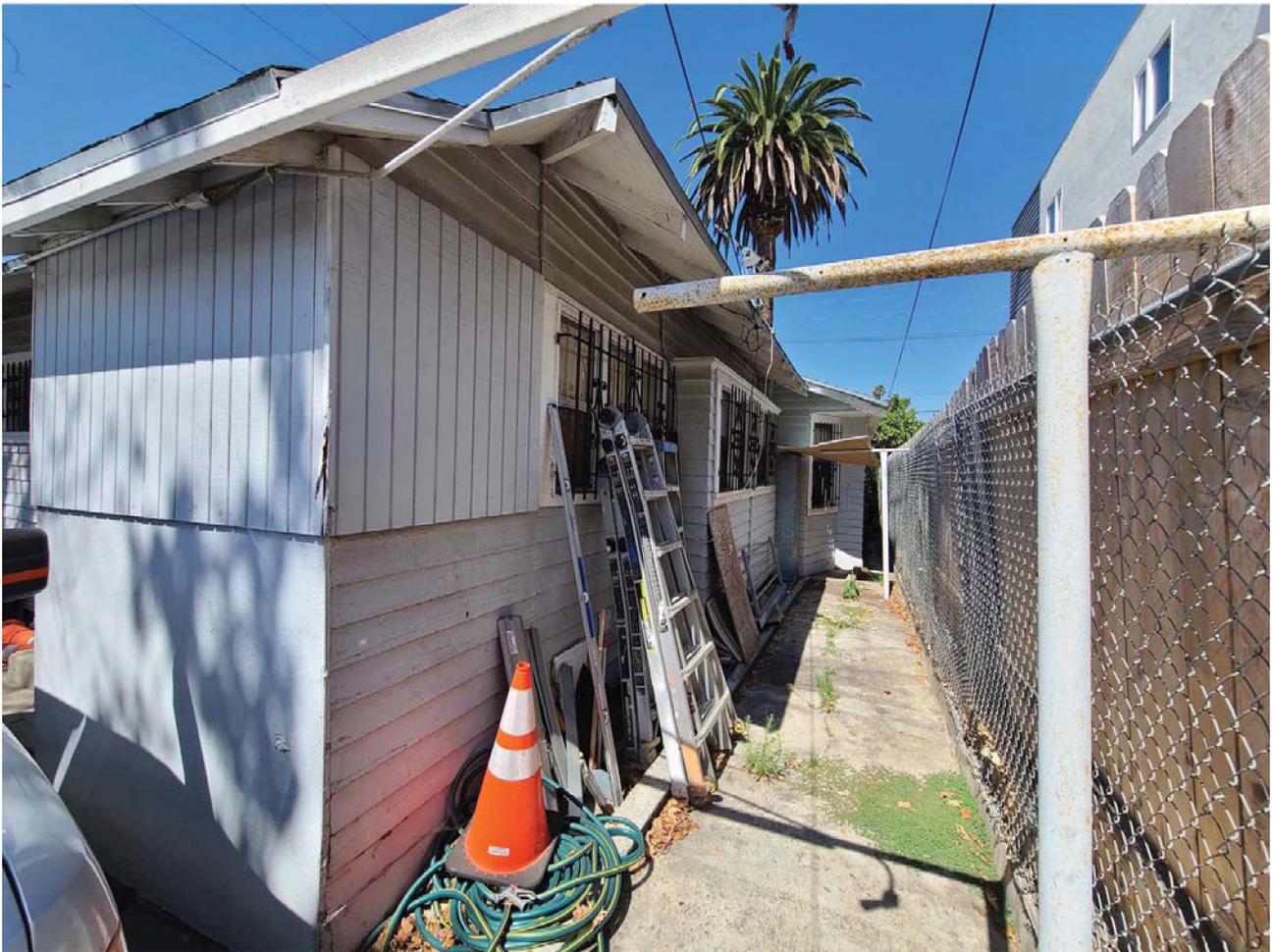






















COUNTY CLERK'S USE

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 395  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**  
(PRC Section 21152; CEQA Guidelines Section 15062)

Filing of this form is optional. If filed, the form shall be filed with the County Clerk, 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152(b) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15062. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21167 (d), the posting of this notice starts a 35-day statute of limitations on court challenges to reliance on an exemption for the project. Failure to file this notice as provided above, results in the statute of limitations being extended to 180 days.

PARENT CASE NUMBER(S) / REQUESTED ENTITLEMENTS  
CHC-2022-3207-HCM

LEAD CITY AGENCY  
**City of Los Angeles (Department of City Planning)**

CASE NUMBER  
ENV-2022-3208-CE

PROJECT TITLE  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

COUNCIL DISTRICT  
10

PROJECT LOCATION (Street Address and Cross Streets and/or Attached Map)  Map attached.  
**1156 S. Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90006**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:  Additional page(s) attached.  
Designation of the Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak as an Historic-Cultural Monument.

NAME OF APPLICANT / OWNER:  
**N/A**

CONTACT PERSON (If different from Applicant/Owner above)  
**Melissa Jones**

(AREA CODE) TELEPHONE NUMBER | EXT.  
213-847-3679

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check all boxes, and include all exemptions, that apply and provide relevant citations.)  
STATE CEQA STATUTE & GUIDELINES

- STATUTORY EXEMPTION(S)  
Public Resources Code Section(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION(S) (State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15301-15333 / Class 1-Class 33)  
CEQA Guideline Section(s) / Class(es) 8 and 31
- OTHER BASIS FOR EXEMPTION (E.g., CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) or (b)(4) or Section 15378(b) )  
\_\_\_\_\_

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT EXEMPTION:  Additional page(s) attached  
Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 of the State's Guidelines applies to where project's consists of "actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment." Class 31 applies "to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Buildings." Designation of the **Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak** as an Historic-Cultural Monument will assure the protection of the environment by the enactment of project review regulations based on the Secretary of Interior's Standards to maintain and preserve the historic site.

- None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 to the categorical exemption(s) apply to the Project.
- The project is identified in one or more of the list of activities in the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines as cited in the justification.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT, ATTACH CERTIFIED DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THE PROJECT TO BE EXEMPT.  
If different from the applicant, the identity of the person undertaking the project.

**CITY STAFF USE ONLY:**

CITY STAFF NAME AND SIGNATURE  
**Melissa Jones** [SIGNED COPY IN FILE]

STAFF TITLE  
City Planning Associate

ENTITLEMENTS APPROVED  
N/A

FEE:  
N/A

RECEIPT NO.  
N/A

REC'D. BY (DCP DSC STAFF NAME)  
N/A

# Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

CASE NO.: CHC-2022-3207-HCM  
ENV-2022-3208-CE

**HEARING DATE:** June 2, 2022  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Teleconference (see agenda for login information)

Location: 1156 S. Hobart Boulevard  
Council District: 10  
Community Plan Area: Wilshire  
Land Use Designation: Medium Residential  
Zoning: R3-1  
Area Planning Commission: Central  
Neighborhood Council: Olympic Park  
Legal Description: Pellissier Tract, Block G, Lot 1

**EXPIRATION DATE:** The original 30-day expiration date of June 4, 2022, per Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171.10(e)1 is tolled, and a revised date will be determined pursuant to *the Mayor's March 21, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling of Deadlines Prescribed in the Municipal Code and April 17, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling HCIDLA Deadlines and Revising Expiration of Emergency Orders*

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**PROJECT:** Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the CORNELIUS JOHNSON RESIDENCE AND OLYMPIC OAK

**REQUEST:** Declare the property an Historic-Cultural Monument

**OWNER:** KLD Investment, LLC  
1717 S. Hoover Street, Suite 202  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

**APPLICANTS:** Susan D. Anderson  
California African American Museum  
Exposition Park  
600 State Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Christian Kosmas Mayer  
Sculptor Building of the Republic of Austria  
Meiereistrasse 3  
1020 Vienna  
Austria



## SUMMARY

The Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak is a one-story single-family residence and oak tree located on the corner of S. Hobart Boulevard and W. 12th Street in the Olympic Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. Constructed in 1903, the residence was designed in the Craftsman architectural style for Shadreak and Pearl Johnson and their family. Shadreak, a professional plasterer, constructed the residence, which appears to be one of the earliest extant residences built and lived in by an African American family in Los Angeles. Shadreak and Pearl's son, Olympic track and field athlete, Cornelius Cooper Johnson (1913-1946), planted in the rear yard an oak tree he was gifted by the German government after winning a gold medal in the 1936 Summer Olympic games in Berlin. Cornelius resided at the subject property until 1945, one year prior to his passing, and the Johnson family continued to live at the residence until it was sold in 1994. The oak tree is one of 25 known remaining oaks worldwide that the German Olympic Committee presented to all 129 gold medalists at the 1936 Olympics.

Irregular in plan, the single-family residence is of wood-frame construction with horizontal wood siding and has a combination hipped and gabled roof with composition shingles and exposed rafter tails. The primary, front façade faces west towards Hobart Boulevard and features three bays, a projecting front porch with a flat roof that is accessed by concrete stairs, and the main entrance flanked by partial-height sidelites. The northern bay has a gabled roof with a gable vent and fenestration consisting of a fixed window and two double-hung windows. The southern bay has plaster cladding and a fixed transom window. Fronting W. 12th Street, the south-facing elevation features varied fenestration that includes divided-lite transom windows, casement windows, and double-hung windows. At the rear of the residence is the Olympic oak and a small shed. There is a low concrete wall topped with a chain-link fence that bounds the property on the south and east.

Cornelius Johnson was born in Los Angeles in 1913 and attended Berendo Junior High School, where he first competed in organized track and field events. While a junior at Los Angeles High School, he competed statewide in sprinting and the high jump, and his success earned him a position on the 1932 United States Olympic team. One of four Black athletes representing the United States in track and field at the Olympic Games, Johnson placed fourth in the high jump after a tie break. In 1933, he graduated high school and entered Compton Junior College in Pasadena, where he won Amateur Athletic Union high jump championship titles for four straight years, from 1933 to 1936. Becoming the first Black American to set a world record in the high jump and qualifying for the 1936 Olympic team, Johnson went on to win the gold medal in the high jump at the Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Although Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Games, Johnson was the first Black athlete on the United States team to win a gold medal. For that reason, contrary to popular memory, it was not Jesse Owens who was famously snubbed by Adolf Hitler at the 1936 Games, but rather, Cornelius Johnson. Chancellor Hitler personally congratulated German and Finnish champions going before him in his private box, but, after Johnson won the gold medal in the high jump, he was informed that Chancellor Hitler had left the stands. In response, Cornelius Johnson coordinated with his fellow American medalists in the high jump— David Albritton, who won silver, and Delos Thurber, bronze medalist – to rebuke the Chancellor's snub by saluting the United States flag with a palm-out salute also known as the Bellamy salute during the playing of the national anthem. At the Olympic medal ceremony, Johnson received a potted, one-foot-tall living German oak sapling (*Quercus robur*) in a ceramic pot inscribed with the words "Grow to honor the victory—Call out to further action," which he planted at his family home, the subject property, upon his return to Los Angeles. Later, he became a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service in Los Angeles, and in 1945, Johnson joined the United States Merchant Marines as a ship cook on the Santa Cruz. A year later, in 1946, he developed bronchopneumonia while aboard the ship and passed away. Johnson was

posthumously inducted into the national USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1994, and the California Community College Track Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998.

Based on permit records, the subject property has experienced alterations that include additions to the dining room, kitchen, and bedrooms, the enclosure and conversion the front porch into a bedroom, and a new front porch extension in 1922; the application of plaster to a portion of the front of the residence, the removal of the front door, and the enclosure of the porch in 1972; and the replacement of the original tongue and groove wood siding and the installation of security bars to windows, 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.

### **BACKGROUND**

On May 5, 2022, the Director of Planning determined that the application for the proposed designation of the subject property as an Historic-Cultural Monument was complete. The original 30-day expiration date of June 4, 2022, per Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171.10(e)1 is tolled, and a revised date will be determined pursuant to *the Mayor's March 21, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling of Deadlines Prescribed in the Municipal Code and April 17, 2020, Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority re: Tolling HCIDLA Deadlines and Revising Expiration of Emergency Orders*. The time to act on this item has been tolled for the duration of the local emergency period. Please note that other State law provisions may also apply.

# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM



## 1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Proposed Monument Name: <b>Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak</b>		Former residence of notable person(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other Associated Names:			
Street Address: <b>1156 So. Hobart Blvd</b>		Zip: <b>90006</b>	Council District: <b>10</b>
Range of Addresses on Property:		Community Name: <b>Koreatown</b>	
Assessor Parcel Number: <b>5080021001</b>	Tract: <b>PELLISSIER TRACT</b>	Block: <b>G</b>	Lot: <b>1</b>
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:			
<b>Natural feature, the Cornelius Johnson Olympic Oak Tree</b>			

## 2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

Year built: <b>1903</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Factual	<input type="radio"/> Estimated	Threatened? <b>Private Development</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architect/Designer: <b>Mort</b>	Contractor: <b>The owner, Shadreak Johnson</b>			
Original Use: <b>Single-Family Residence</b>	Present Use: <b>Single-Family Residence</b>			
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: <b>Craftsman</b>		Stories:	Plan Shape: <b>Select</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
FEATURE	PRIMARY	SECONDARY			
CONSTRUCTION	Type: <b>Wood</b>	Type: <b>Select</b>			
CLADDING	Material: <b>Select</b>	Material: <b>Select</b>			
ROOF	Type: <b>Select</b>	Type: <b>Select</b>			
	Material: <b>Select</b>	Material: <b>Select</b>			
WINDOWS	Type: <b>Double-hung</b>	Type: <b>Select</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Material: <b>Select</b>	Material: <b>Select</b>			
ENTRY	Style: <b>Select</b>	Style: <b>Select</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
DOOR	Type: <b>Select</b>	Type: <b>Select</b>			



# 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.

1922	Additions to dining room, bedrooms, kitchen, enclosed front porch
1972	Plaster interior over wood lath
1972	Exterior plastering, removed door, enclosed porch

## 5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)

<input type="checkbox"/> Listed in the National Register of Historic Places	
<input type="checkbox"/> Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources	
<input type="checkbox"/> Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Registers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)	<input type="radio"/> Contributing feature <input type="radio"/> Non-contributing feature
<input type="checkbox"/> Determined eligible for national, state, or local landmark status by an historic resources survey(s)	Survey Name(s):
Other historical or cultural resource designations:	

## 6. APPLICABLE HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT CRITERIA

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

<input 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: See attached for the two applicants' information		Company:	
Street Address:		City:	State:
Zip:	Phone Number:	Email:	

### *Property Owner*

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

Name: KLD INVESTMENT LLC		Company:	
Street Address: 1717 S HOOVER ST STE 202		City: Los Angeles	State: CA
Zip: 90006	Phone Number:	Email:	

### *Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative*

Name:		Company:	
Street Address:		City:	State:
Zip:	Phone Number:	Email:	



# 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

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

## 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.

Christian Kosmas Mayer

5/2/22

Name:

Date:

Signature:

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

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

Phone: 213-874-3679  
Website: [preservation.lacity.org](http://preservation.lacity.org)



# HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT NOMINATION FORM

## 9. SUBMITTAL

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

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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

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<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.

SUSAN D. ANDERSON

Name:

Date:

Signature:

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

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

Phone: 213-874-3679  
Website: [preservation.lacity.org](http://preservation.lacity.org)

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# Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application

Cornelius Johnson Residence  
and Olympic Oak

## **A. Proposed Monument Description**

### **The Cornelius Johnson Residence**

The Cornelius Johnson residence is located at 1156 S. Hobart Blvd, near the corner of 12th Street, south of Olympic Blvd. and east of Western Avenue between Koreatown and the HPOZ Harvard Heights in the City of Los Angeles. It is surrounded by a mixture of one or two-story single and multi-family craftsmen-era residences as well as small mid-century two-story apartment units. The area is residential and bordered by commercial thoroughfares. In the vicinity of the property, many historic properties have been demolished in recent years to build condominiums. The Cornelius Johnson residence itself has a pending motion for demolition by the current owner who plans to replace it by a condominium.

The single-family home is a Craftsman bungalow, 1,592 sq. feet, 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence on a 6,220 sq. ft. lot. It is a one-story structure with a modest-size open front porch flanked by windows, and double-hung windows distributed throughout. It is surrounded by cyclone fencing, and has bushes in its front yard, a lawn on its side yard facing Hobart Blvd., and a backyard including a concrete driveway where the Cornelius Johnson Olympic Oak stands.<sup>1</sup>

The property has not been substantially altered from the period when it was built in 1903 to the present. According to building permit records, alterations to the house were undertaken by successive members of the Johnson family, including the following: in 1922, additions to dining room, bedrooms, kitchen, enclosed front porch<sup>2</sup>; in 1972, plaster was applied over an interior wood lath<sup>3</sup>, and; in 1972, exterior plastering, removed door, and enclosed porch<sup>4</sup>. The original horizontal wood siding across most of the exterior appears intact. The house has some exterior plaster over the foundation in areas but still retains its original shiplap siding for much of the mid-range of the house. There appear to be some additions made to the front of the house for elderly accessibility and stucco on the front of the house that may have possibly widened the

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<sup>1</sup> This link provides 360-degree aerial and ground-level drone views of the tree and house: <https://vimeo.com/251486002>. Source: "The Life Story of Cornelius Johnson's Oak and Other Matters of Survival," Courtesy: Christian Kosmas Mayer, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Building Permit No. LA24836, July 24, 1922

<sup>3</sup> Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Building Permit No. LA43752, January 24, 1972

<sup>4</sup> Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Building Permit No. LA47706, March 24,

front entryway. Typically, these renovations are not entirely destructive to the bones and original exterior, in some cases preserving the original materials underneath the stucco. Visibly, bars have been added over the original windows as well as a new roof, which may imply that new electrical has been added as well.

Behind the main house, it has a newer concrete parking area and garage spaces. The yard still reflects the period style of the neighborhood: groomed crabgrass and a historic King Palm, which were typically planted in Los Angeles until the 1930s. There are other healthy flower bushes such as roses and hibiscus.

The property retains all aspects of integrity. It was observed from the public right-of-way with no access to the interior of the residence. The condition of the interior is not known.

### **The Cornelius Johnson Olympic Oak**

The Cornelius Johnson Olympic Oak is a mature, majestic 86-year-old oak tree from the genus of *Quercus robur* in the side yard on the residential property lot at 1156 So. Hobart Blvd in Los Angeles. At 46 feet high, the tree towers 50' wide above the pavement, houses, and stores in its mid-city neighborhood. Its roots reach deep into the ground of the property and neighboring properties with much of its root zone covered by concrete. The tree has a diameter at breast height of 36" and is in fair condition with a ca. 15% crown dieback related to the polyphagous shot hole borer and powdery mildew. Due to a lack of care for the tree by the current owner, the condition of the tree has deteriorated over the last year.

### **B. Statement of Significance**

The Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak are significant under Criteria 2 of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance for their association with Cornelius Cooper Johnson (1913 – 1946), nickname, "Corny," a two-time Olympic athlete, and gold medalist in the high jump in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.<sup>5</sup>

During the Jim Crow era in which he was active as an athlete, Johnson enjoyed a spectacular career as a world-class track and field athlete despite racism he encountered in the U.S.. Johnson's accomplishments as an athlete in a segregated sports

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<sup>5</sup> For Johnson's place in the history of track and field, consult Roberto L. Quercetani, *A World History of Track and Field Athletics* (1964).

world are well documented in collections such as the LA 84 Foundation archive, and the Library of Congress. In 1994, Johnson was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in Indianapolis.<sup>6</sup>

The peak of Johnson's career occurred during the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936. He won the gold medal in the high jump competition, adding to the fourteen medals brought home by African American athletes on the team.<sup>7</sup>

Contrary to popular memory, it was not Jesse Owens who was famously snubbed by Hitler at the 1936 Games, but rather, Cornelius Johnson. Johnson was the first African American athlete on the U.S. team to win a gold medal at the Games. Going before him, everyone could see Hitler personally congratulating the German and Finnish champions in his private box. But, after Cornelius Johnson won the gold medal in the high jump, he was informed that Hitler had left the stands. The International Olympic Committee reacted to this action by telling Hitler to either shake all champion's hands or none, and Hitler thereafter congratulated nobody.<sup>8</sup>

In response, Cornelius Johnson used the occasion of his victory in Berlin and worked with his fellow American medalists in the high jump - David Albritton, who won silver, (also African American) and Delos Thurber (white), bronze - to rebuke Hitler's snub. Long before the famous Black Power fists raised by Californians Tommy Smith and John Carlos at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968, the three American medalists protested on the winner's stand in 1936 Nazi Berlin. During the playing of the national anthem, they saluted the U.S. flag with the Bellamy salute, used routinely in the 1930s, originating in 1892 with Frances Bellamy, author of the Pledge of Allegiance. It resembled the Nazi salute, but with palms upwards, a salute Americans at the time would recognize. As one scholar writes, the gesture was an act of defiance, "This was an act of the moment, their moment."<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Find his entry here: <http://legacy.usatf.org/HallOfFame/TF/showBio.asp?HOFIDs=83>

<sup>7</sup> His Olympic achievements are chronicled in David Wallechinsky, *The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics* (1996).

<sup>8</sup> Bob Oates, "If Anybody Was Snubbed by Hitler, It Was Cornelius Johnson," *Los Angeles Times*, July 22, 1984, H34.

<sup>9</sup> Raymond T Stefani, "Johnson, Albritton, and Thurber's Patriotic and Defiant Bellamy Salute in Response to Hitler's Snub at Berlin in 1936," *The Sport Journal*, September 22, 2015

Also see: Steven J. Niven, "Cornelius Johnson and a Forgotten US Protest Against Hitler at the 1936 Olympics," *The Root*, February 24, 2016

At the medal ceremony, Cornelius Johnson received a potted, one-foot-tall living oak sapling. It was Berlin gardener Hermann Rothe's idea to present each gold medal winner of the 1936 Games with a „German oak“ sapling. The German Olympic Committee approved it, calling it a „beautiful symbol of German character, power, strength, and hospitality.“<sup>10</sup> This symbolism ties on a long history of worshipping of the oak as a sacred tree which is reaching back to Celtic and Germanic tribes in Roman times. German romantics of the late 18th century rediscovered this emotional bond and turned it into a symbol for the struggling nation. A century later, it became the favorite emblem of right-wing Germans and their martial nationalism. The National Socialists continued this abusive line and used the oak as a symbol for the strength and endurance of the nation under Nazism.<sup>11</sup> The idea to gift oak saplings fit perfectly into Joseph Goebbels' and Adolf Hitler's plan to use the Games as a propaganda tool to make the Nazis' brutal treatment of Jews, political opponents and others seem benign. Even though they were not excited about the prospect of Jewish or black athletes competing against Germans, they understood the potential benefit of this international stage for their regime. The Nazis put an enormous effort into presenting Germany as a peaceful, kindhearted host, only three years before their soldiers invaded Poland and started World War II.

The ceramic pots for the Olympic Oak saplings were inscribed with the words: „Grow to honor the victory—Call out to further action.“ In the end, 129 gold medals and oaks were awarded to athletes from 20 different countries, among them 24 for US athletes. Today only 25 Olympic Oaks are known to be alive: fourteen in Germany, six in the USA (among them the Cornelius Johnson Olympic Oak in Los Angeles), and one each in Argentina, Finland, Great Britain, New Zealand, and Switzerland. All others have either died of natural causes, been killed for their symbolic meaning, or simply had their whereabouts forgotten.<sup>12</sup>

Upon his return to Los Angeles, Johnson planted the tree at his family home on Hobart Blvd. as a living monument to his own win, and a remembrance of a time when Black athletes from the U.S. symbolized victory over the racist Aryan supremacist credo of the Nazi government that sponsored the 1936 games.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> „Eichbäumchen an die Olympischen Sieger“, Deutsche Zeitung (German Newspaper) from June 4, 1936

<sup>11</sup> Olaf Kühne, *Landscape and Power in Geographical Space as a Social-Aesthetic Construct*, Springer (2018).

<sup>12</sup> J.R. Constandt, *The 1936 Olympic oaks: Where are they now?*, Eagle M. (1994).

<sup>13</sup> Bob Oates, „If Anybody Was Snubbed by Hitler, It was Cornelius Johnson,“ Los Angeles Times, July 22, 1984, H34.

Cornelius Johnson was born on August 28, 1913, in Los Angeles. The house Johnson grew up in, located at 1156 S. Hobart Blvd., was built in 1903. Building permit records document that Johnson's father, Shadreak<sup>14</sup>, a contractor and plasterer by profession, built the home himself. The house is possibly among the earliest extant residences built and lived in by an African American family in Los Angeles.

Starting in grade school, Johnson had practiced running and jumping in the same backyard where he would later plant the Olympic Oak. At Berendo Junior High School, he developed into a star and grew up to win four interscholastic firsts for Los Angeles High School in the high jump, 220, 440 and sprint relay before going on to state and national championships as a high jumper. In the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, he cleared 6 feet, 5 inches while still a high school junior, tying with three other athletes for first in the high jump. He was placed fourth after a tiebreak.

Johnson then went to Compton Junior College and continued to compete. He won the national outdoor AAU title during his freshman year at Compton and kept winning the national championships. He also won the Amateur Athletic Union outdoor championship outright in 1933 and 1935 and tied for the title in 1932, 1934 and 1936. In 1936, at the trials for the Berlin Olympics, he qualified with the height of 2.07m, 6 feet 9 3/4 inches, becoming the first African-American high jumper to set a world record in high jump.<sup>15</sup>

When Cornelius was born in 1913, his family had already resided in Los Angeles for three generations. His maternal grandfather, William Henry Cooper, was a chaplain in a Buffalo Soldier infantry unit, and is buried in the National Cemetery in Westwood. His maternal grandmother, Bessie Cooper, was an entrepreneur who owned rooming houses in Los Angeles. His paternal grandmother, Charlotte Johnson, was eulogized in the November 21, 1913 issue of the Los Angeles New Age, an African American newspaper owned by the first Black member of the California State legislature, Frederick M. Roberts.

Cornelius Johnson's parents, Shadreak Johnson and Pearl Johnson, arrived in Los Angeles in 1891 from Raleigh, North Carolina and Austin, Texas, respectively. When they acquired the property upon which they built their home in 1903, and where the

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<sup>14</sup> Also incorrectly called "Shedrick", "Sadrick" or "Shadrack" in some archives.

<sup>15</sup> For Johnson's place in the history of track and field, consult Roberto L. Quercetani, *A World History of Track and Field Athletics* (1964).

Cornelius Johnson tree thrives, the area on Hobart Blvd. near 12th Street was considered rural, where Shadreak and other hunters went after ducks and squirrels. Shadreak and Pearl had three sons and two daughters; Cornelius was the youngest child in the family. The family were members of the historic congregation at First AME Church, established in 1872. Shadreak was a church trustee.<sup>16</sup>

In 1936, at age 23, Cornelius Johnson was nominated for the US team for the Olympic Games in Berlin. Across the U.S., African Americans debated whether to boycott the games because of the Nazis' racist views, and possible danger to the athletes.<sup>17</sup> Once the International Olympic Committee quelled concerns about the safety of black athletes in Nazi Germany, most African American newspapers opposed a boycott. Many pundits underscored the hypocrisy of pro-boycotters who did not first address discrimination against black athletes in the USA. Fearing a mass boycott, the International Olympic Committee pressured the German government and received assurances that qualified Jewish athletes would be part of the German team and that the Games would not be used to promote Nazi ideology. Adolf Hitler's government, however, routinely failed to deliver on such promises. Only one athlete of Jewish descent was a member of the German team; pamphlets and speeches about the natural superiority of the Aryan race were commonplace; and the Reich Sports Field, a newly constructed sports complex that covered 325 acres (131.5 hectares) and included four stadiums, was draped in Nazi banners and symbols.

On his return to the U.S., Johnson, along the other African American athletes, in addition to being snubbed by Hitler in Berlin, also faced affront when Franklin D. Roosevelt failed to include African American Olympians in his invitation to the White House.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Information about the Johnson-Cooper family was derived from interviews that Susan Anderson lead with the late Halvor Miller, Esq. and retired Jimmy Braxton, a nephew of Cornelius Johnson.

<sup>17</sup> David K. Wiggins examined the debate among African Americans over participation in the 1936 Olympic Games in "The 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin: The Response of America's Black Press," *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport* 54 (1983): 279-82.

<sup>18</sup> David Clay Large, "Nazi Games: The Olympics of 1936", W. W. Norton & Company (2007). He quotes Jesse Owens: "Hitler didn't snub me—it was our president who snubbed me. He didn't even send me a telegram."

For the impact of racism and inopportunity on Johnson, as well as those of many of the African American trackmen of the late 1920s and 1930s, see William J. Baker, *Jesse Owens: An American Life* (1986). Eighty years after the Berlin Games, President Obama met with the families of the African American athletes who competed at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin and offered praise: "It wasn't just Jesse. It was other African Americans athletes in the middle of Nazi Germany under the gaze of Adolf Hitler that put a lie to notions of racial superiority—whooped'em- and taught them a thing or two about democracy and taught them a thing or two about the American character." Source: <https://www.nps.gov/vama/blogs/the-1936-berlin-olympics-and-the-controversy-of-u-s-participation.htm>

Returning to Los Angeles, Johnson moved back into his parent's' house where he planted his Olympic Oak sapling in the same backyard where he had practiced as a kid. He worked as a letter-carrier and in 1945 joined the U.S. Merchant Marine as a ship cook. In 1946, while working on board the Grace Line's „Santa Cruz,“ Johnson developed bronchopneumonia. En route from the ship to a California hospital, Johnson died, aged 32.<sup>18</sup> He is buried at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery.

After Cornelius Johnson's death, his family continued to live in the residence until selling it in 1994. The Johnson family which built the house, occupied the dwelling for 91 years. From 1936 until 1994, the family cared for the Olympic oak tree, treating it like a living memory of their dead son and brother. They installed a small sign that reminded visitors of the tree's significance. The Tomas family, who had bought the house in 1994, continued to take good care of the tree until they sold it in 2019.<sup>19</sup> Since then, the tree is neglected and highly endangered.

The Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak Tree are living memorials for a great African American athlete whose life story has not been adequately recognized. Its story is also a reminder of a group of brave African American athletes who went to Berlin to show the world the falsity of the Nazi ideology of racial superiority. In L.A.'s multi-cultural Koreatown, amongst people and plants from different geographical locations, the residence and the oak tree are landmarks for an important historic person; memorials for significant civil rights events, and; reminders for future generations to rebel against racism and nationalism that divide and destroy.

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<sup>18</sup> Jerry Crowe, "To protect and preserve a tree rooted in Games", Los Angeles Times, August 20, 2007.

<sup>19</sup> From an interview with Joaquim and Teresa Tomas that Christian Kosmas Mayer lead on August 13, 2016, at the Cornelius Johnson residence.

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## Primary Photographs of Exterior and Oak



Photo credit: Jia Yi Gu, 2022

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Photo credit: Jia Yi Gu, 2022

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Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

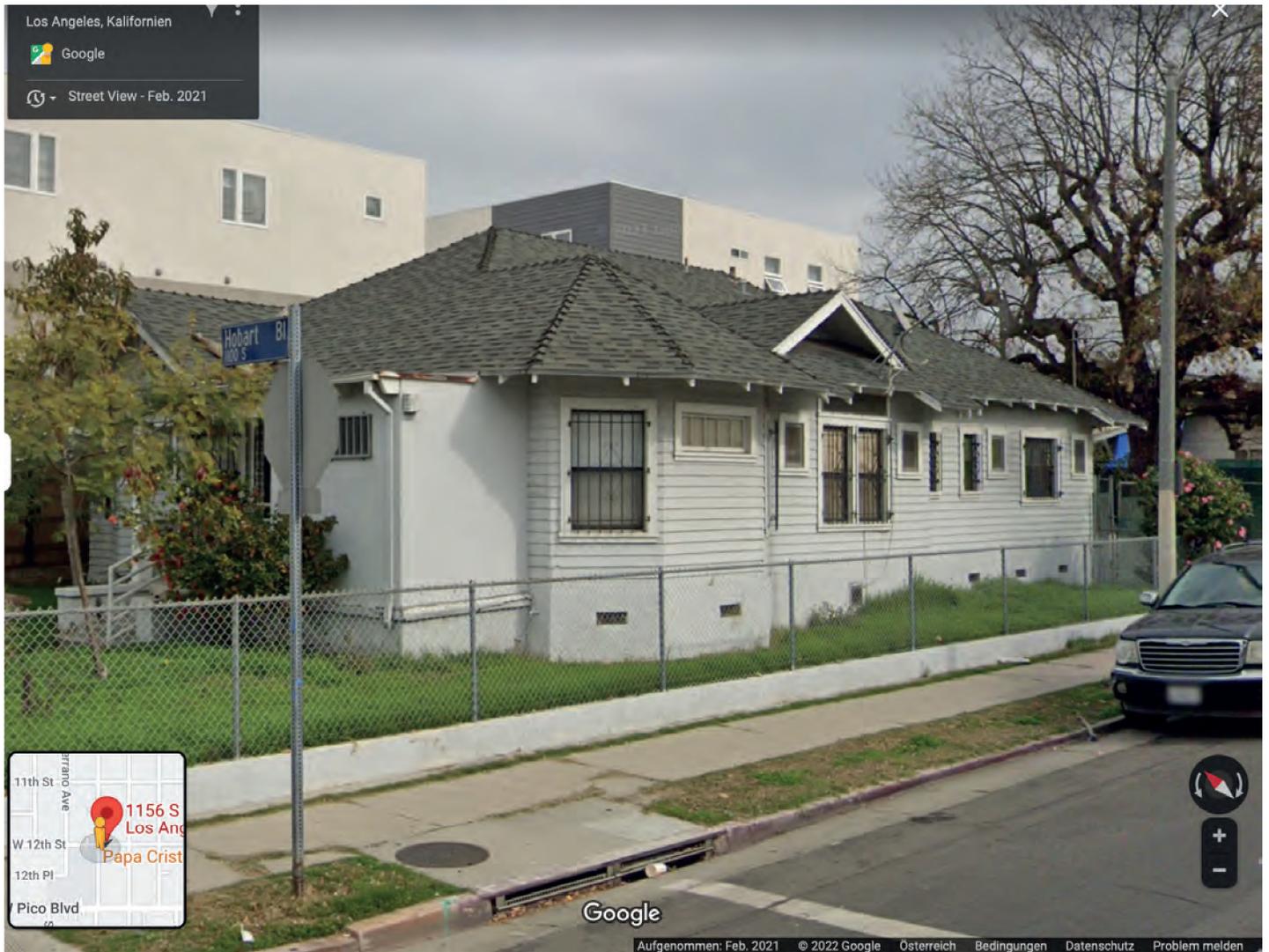


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Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Photo credit: Google Maps

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

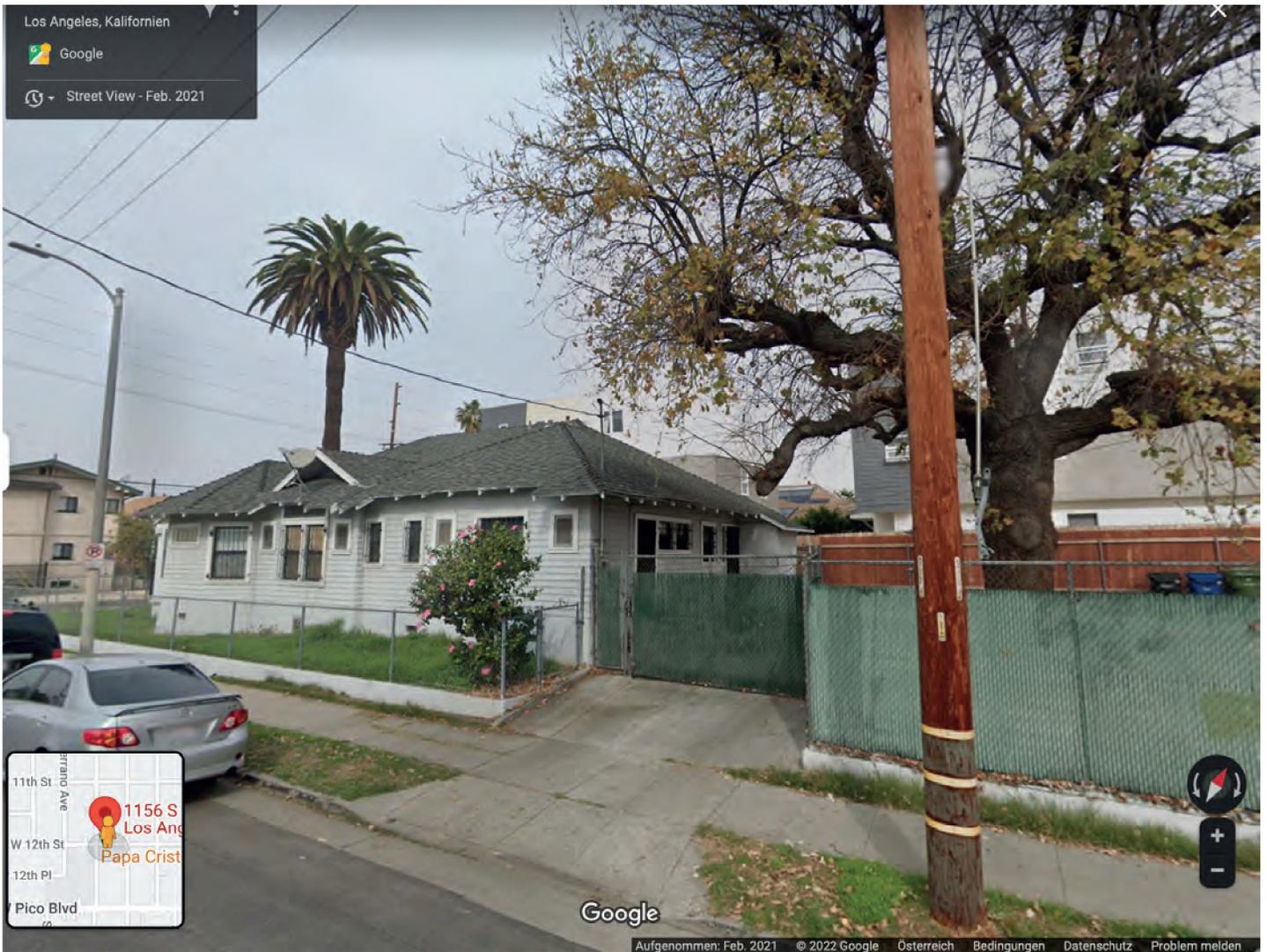


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Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



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Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Photo credit: Christian Kosmas Mayer

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

## Primary/Secondary Documentation



Aerial Map



Cornelius Johnson during the high jump competition at the Berlin Olympic Games, August 2, 1936  
Photo credit: Getty images

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Delos Thurber, Cornelius Johnson and David Albritton (from left to right) at the medal ceremony in Berlin, August 2, 1936. Johnson holds the small potted oak sapling in his left hand. Photo credit: Getty images

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Delos Thurber, Cornelius Johnson and David Albritton (from left to right) performing the Bellamy salute at the medal ceremony in Berlin, August 2, 1936.  
Photo credit: Getty images



Cornelius Johnson (left), Jesse Owens (middle) and Forrest Towns (right) presenting their Olympic Oaks in the Olympic village in Berlin, 1936.

Photo credit: Associated Press

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Ausgleich mit Muerberg eingenommen ist und mit größtem Interesse der Entwicklung dieses Streites entgegen sieht.

### Eichbäumchen an die Olympischen Sieger

Das Organisationskomitee hat, einem guten Vorschlag des Gärtners Hermann Rothe zufolge, beschlossen, den teilnehmenden Nationen für jeden Olympischen Sieg ein Eichbäumchen zu überreichen, das sie in ihre Heimat mitnehmen und an geeigneter Stelle zur Erinnerung einpflanzen sollen. Die Eichbäumchen sind seit einem Jahr in Pflege und haben sich zu kleinen Stämmchen mit kräftigen Trieben entwickelt. Sie messen etwa 70 cm. Sie sind in besonders dafür geschaffene Keramiktöpfe gesetzt. Diese tragen graviert die Olympische Glocke und den Spruch:

„Wachse zu Ehre des Sieges,  
Rufe zu weiterer Tat!“

Die Eichen werden in einem dafür geschaffenen und bequem zu handhabenden Karton geliefert mit genauer Anweisung für die Pflege. Bei den überseeischen Mannschaften übernehmen die Schifffahrtslinien die Pflege während des Transportes.

Nach den bisherigen Erfahrungen darf damit gerechnet werden, daß solche Eichen an allen Teilen der Erde abgehen und sich zu kräftigen Bäumen entwickeln und so ein Jahrhundert lang oder mehr das Andenken an die Olympischen Spiele in Berlin wachhalten können.

weiter. Josef bettern ist nur überen s Ar- gtschaft rsfür- in zur Mutter on der ist er- den

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uchdruderei „Geleja“ in Celje. — Verantwortlich für den Herausgeber und vera  
für die Druderei verantwortlich: Gabriel Szencal in Celje.

Deutsche Zeitung (German Newspaper) from June 4, 1936

Translation:

“Oak trees to the Olympic winners

According to a good suggestion from the gardener Hermann Rothe, the organizing committee decided to give the participating nations an oak tree for every Olympic victory that they should take back to their homeland and plant in a suitable place as a souvenir. The oak trees have been in care for a year and have developed into small trunks with strong shoots. They measure about 70 cm. They are placed in specially created ceramic pots. These are engraved with the Olympic bell and the saying:

Watch for the glory of victory,  
Call for further action.

The oaks are delivered in a specially designed and easy-to-use cardboard box with precise instructions on how to care for them. In the case of the overseas crews, the shipping lines take care of maintenance during the transport.

According to previous experience, it can be expected that such oaks will grow all over the world and develop into strong trees and thus keep the memory of the Olympic Games in Berlin alive for a century or more.“



Front page, San Francisco Chronicle newspaper, August 9, 1936.

The 17"x 21" page has a large racist cartoon about the 1936 Olympics. The cartoon shows Hitler with derogatory figures intended to represent the Black American Track stars as they run circles around Hitler.



From left, Mack Robinson, Dave Albritton, Jesse Owens, Cornelius Johnson and John Woodruff are shown at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

Credit: The Ohio State University Archives

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Cornelius Johnson with two German athletes during the Berlin Olympic Games, August 1936.  
Photo credit: Getty images

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Cornelius Johnson's grave at the Angelus Rosedale Cemetery- Robert McLeign, Dr.  
Photo: Christian Kosmas Mayer, 2016

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

# Death Claims Former High Jumping Champion

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16. (AP)—Cornellus Johnson, 29, member of American Olympic games teams in 1932 and 1936 and former Compton Junior College high jump star, died yesterday. He was a member of the merchant crew of the S. S. Santa Clara.

Johnson was California intercollegiate federation high jump champion in 1936 and 1937.



Unpublished 46 min long video interview by Christian Kosmas Mayer with family members of the Tomas family, previous owners of the house, made in August 2016. They speak about the time they bought the house (1994) and how they were informed about the tree's history. They also mention that it had a plaque when they first saw it which was commemorating the tree's history.

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Shadreak Johnson (ca. 1920)

Shadreak was a licensed plastering contractor who worked on buildings ranging from the Tally Theater which became the May Co. on Wilshire Blvd. and Fairfax Avenue, to estates designed by the architect, Paul R. Williams, to a convent in the Hollywood Hills (possibly Monastery of the Angels). Pearl was known for participating in what was considered the "Black" float during the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena. They owned a vacation home at Lake Elsinore, an all-Black resort in Riverside County.

Photo credit: Private photo collection of the Johnson family



Friends pose together on Lake Elsinore in 1946, Walter L. Gordon Jr./William Beverly Jr. photograph collection, UCLA Library Special Collections.

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Birdielee V. Bright Elementary School on 1771 West 36th St. is named for a first cousin of Johnson's mother, educator Birdielee V. Bright.

# If Anybody Was Snubbed by Hitler, It Was Cornelius Johnson

By BOBOATES,  
Times Staff Writer

During the months ahead of the Berlin Olympics of 1936, Adolf Hitler, the German dictator, foresaw an Aryan landslide.

Hence, the Berlin Olympic Organizing Committee, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, lined up a unique package of four prizes for each champion: a gold medal, a wreath of olive leaves, a genuine living oak tree (one foot high) and, best of all, as Hitler said at the time, a hearty handshake with the Fuehrer himself.

American half-miler John Woodruff recalls that a "bevy of blonde native girls" stood by to hand out the wreaths and the trees and to escort the winners up to Hitler's private box for the crowning handshake.

At the end of the first day, Cornelius Johnson won the high jump for America, clearing 6-8 to collect most of his booty, including the little oak tree, which, today, rises 45 feet and spreads across most of his old back yard in Los Angeles.

Hitler did not stay around to congratulate Johnson, and a myth was born. For the last 48 years, much of the world has believed that sprinter Jesse Owens was snubbed by Hitler that day. If anybody was snubbed, it was Johnson.

Although nobody knows how the transference happened, Owens was a natural replacement. For that was the year he won four oak trees (not to mention four gold medals) to one of each for Johnson.

In any case, Woodruff points out that it was the good-natured Owens himself who, during years of public speaking, whimsically preserved a myth that is reminiscent of Babe Ruth's called-shot home run or George Washington's famous first in the silver-dollar throw at the Potomac.

"Cornelius and Jesse are both gone now, but the story is still alive," Johnson's sister, Ruby Braxton of Los Angeles, said the other day. "I just saw it on TV. They said Hitler refused to shake Jesse's hand. The truth is that he refused my brother. It had to be my brother because Cornelius was the first American winner in 1936. The American flag was first raised for Cornelius Johnson."

Or as Woodruff, speaking from New Jersey, said: "Jesse was still out on the course (running heats) when Cornelius beat us all to the victory stand."

That isn't exactly how Marty Glickman remembers it. A 1930s



Ruby Braxton of Los Angeles, Cornelius Johnson's sister, stands in the family

backyard near the oak tree won by her brother in the 1936 Olympics. The tree,

16 inches when planted after Johnson returned from Berlin, now stands 45 feet.

HARRY FISHER / Los Angeles Times

sprinter who was on the American Olympic team at Berlin, Glickman, a broadcaster, said.

"The way I've told the story all these years, it was Owens who was snubbed by Hitler. But if John and Ruby think it was Cornelius, I'll tell you how you can tell for sure. Refer to the chronicle of events. Whoever was the first black athlete to win a gold medal in 1936, that was the guy who ticked Hitler off. A Nazi like Hitler would never wait to insult Jesse Owens if he could insult another black athlete first."

According to the Olympic records for 1936, the high jump was an Aug. 2 event on the first day of competition. Owens won his first oak tree in the 100-meter sprint on Aug. 3.

On the night of Aug. 2, the IOC got word to Hitler to wise up. You can't selectively congratulate Aryans, the committee said. Shake every champion's hand or nobody's.

Hitler thereafter congratulated nobody.

Thus, in the end he did get to insult Owens, in a manner of speaking—four times.

One eyewitness recalls that, as of the opening hours of the 1936 Games, Owens didn't even know anyone had been insulted.

Down on the track, warming up for an early heat, "Jesse waved to Hitler in his box," Woodruff said. "I couldn't see if Hitler waved back, but I did see Jesse wave to him."

A free oak tree, at least one foot high, will be awarded to everyone who thinks Hitler waved back.

□

Cornelius Johnson died at 32 on Feb. 15, 1946, less than 10 years after his hour in the sun at Berlin.

He died on a San Francisco ship while serving in the Merchant Marine. He had signed on as a cook—following a tour as a post office letter carrier—"because he was always adventurous," his sister Ruby said.

Stricken with bronchial pneumonia on the steamship Santa Cruz,

"he wasn't treated for what was wrong," Braxton said.

Braxton, a retired schoolteacher, is a Los Angeles realtor who, with her son James, a deputy sheriff, and 300 family friends, attended a Cornelius Johnson memorial tribute on June 30.

Cornelius Johnson never married. Once USC-bound, he was detoured to the sea, some said, by an unhappy love affair.

Woodruff remembers, "Cornelius was a fine athlete with a delightful personality—everybody in track and field liked him—and, besides, he was a great competitor. He used to say, 'They can tie me but nobody will ever beat me.'"

This had proved to be a truism as early as 1932, when, as a student athlete at Los Angeles High School, Johnson tied for first in the Olympic high jump at the Coliseum.

Since grade school he had practiced running and jumping in the back yard where the big, spreading oak tree now stands. It was his father's yard. It is his brother

Theodore's yard now.

Their father, Shadreck Johnson, was a plastering contractor in Los Angeles for 50 years after migrating from Raleigh, N.C., in 1893.

The athletic one in a family of three sons and two daughters, Cornelius developed into a star at Berendo Junior High School and grew up to win four interscholastic firsts for Los Angeles High School in the high jump, 220-, 440- and sprint relay before going on to state, national and Olympic championships as a high jumper.

Lanky (6-4, 165), smooth, poised for his age, he tied three others for first in his specialty at the 1932 Olympics. All four jumped 6-5½ and missed at 6-9¼.

Under 1830s rules, the bar was alternately raised and lowered until jumpers achieved heights to break the tie; Johnson was placed fourth. He didn't even get a medal, let alone one-fourth of the gold.

Under 1980s rules, which use number of misses as the tiebreaker, Johnson would have been honored

with a silver medal, as well as the cheers, and handshakes, of many.

The 1980s—bringing these and other rewards, including hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages for "amateur" athletes—were never to come for Cornelius Johnson.

And, bitterly, his survivors have added up the cost.

What they remember is a gifted amateur athlete who tragically died young, on a faraway ship, after carrying the mail for the post office on world-class legs.

What they're sure of is that in a more just world, with a group of Olympic committeemen who over the years had been more just, the amateur athlete they knew and loved wouldn't have spent his last days in his early 30s as a ship's cook.

□

Jesse Owens, the man who once set or tied world records in four events in one day—the biggest day, probably, any athlete ever had—was seldom challenged in his lifetime on the story of his trouble with Adolf Hitler.

When on one rare occasion a Philadelphia reporter asked him if Hitler had declined to shake his hand, Owens said, no, there was no truth to that.

But, he added, smiling, "It's a good story." So he kept using it to warm up his audiences.

In the fall of 1936, proudly, Owens also planted his four Olympic oak trees at different sites in Ohio, although his friends say only one of them survives.

Woodruff had better luck with his, though not right at first.

"I thought that scrawny little tree was dead when I got it home," said Woodruff, who won the 800 meters at Berlin. "My botany teacher revived it—and they set it in the ground at my old high school stadium (in Connelleville, Pa.). Today that tree is 40 feet tall."

In Los Angeles, where 48 years ago Cornelius Johnson tenderly planted his present from Germany, his family can point to the most illustrious of the surviving 1936 Olympic oaks.

The Games themselves are a fading memory, having been overtaken by the events of a great war. Many of the champions, including Cornelius Johnson, also exist only in memory. His tree lives.

There is a plaque beside it in the lonely lawn. Reminding visitors of Johnson's one day on the victory stand, the sign reads, in part, "It was his finest hour."

Bob Oates, "If Anybody Was Snubbed by Hitler, It Was Cornelius Johnson," Los Angeles Times, July 22, 1984.

## Gore Vidal: His Life Is an Opened Book

By KAY MILLS,  
Times Staff Writer

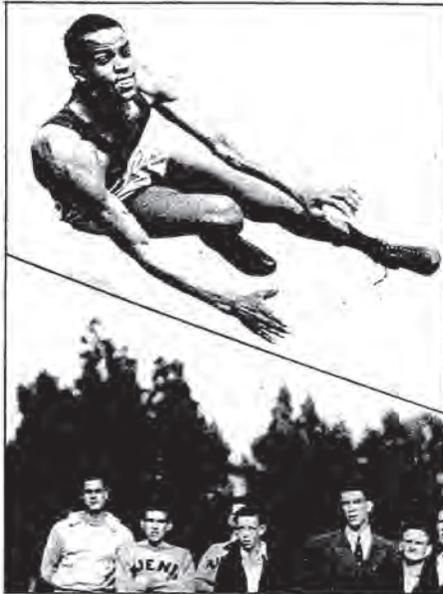
Abraham Lincoln had the kind of complex political mind and pivotal role in history that inevitably would fascinate author Gore Vidal. Even after spending six years, off and on, researching his current novel, "Lincoln," Vidal still isn't sure how the 16th President conceived "the notion of the indissolubility of the Union."

It was the guiding idea that carried Lincoln through the Civil War and would have eased the South's reconstruction, yet its origin is a mystery. "Where did it come from? There was nothing like that floating around until he made a religion of it," Vidal said. "Yes, there were those who said, 'We don't want the Union broken,' but they always had sort of practical reasons. He has a mystical reason, and where it comes from, I don't know."

### Different Perspectives

Vidal examined Lincoln from half a dozen perspectives, including that of his wife, Mary, who was going mad. "That was the most daring of all. . . . That took a lot of work." But he intruded into Lincoln's thoughts only once in 657 pages, in the end when the President dreamed of his own death and wrote Vidal, "wondered."

The closest Vidal came to pinning down what motivated Lincoln was an early passage in which the



High jumper Cornelius Johnson showed his form clearing the bar in a meet in Long Beach in the spring of 1936. A few months later in Berlin he used that form to win the Olympic gold medal.



JEFF SHARIS



LORI SHEPLER / Los Angeles Times

Ruby Braxton with brother's picture and medal and Theodore Johnson by his brother's oak tree.

## Pioneer Olympian Gold Medalist Helped Set Pace for Black Athletes

By GARY LIBMAN

In 1932, after his junior year at Los Angeles High School, Cornelius Johnson finished fourth in the Olympic high jump in his hometown, barely missing a medal. The school never honored him.

Four years later, he represented Compton College at the Berlin Olympics and won the gold medal. Adolf Hitler did not shake his hand and the city of Los Angeles staged no ceremony when he came home.

As a member of these Olympic teams, Johnson was among the first American blacks to compete in the Games in large numbers. Preceding Jackie Robinson's integration of major league baseball in 1947 by more than a decade, they won medals by the bushel and often went on to impressive careers outside athletics. They were the first sizable groups of black athletes to gain significant attention for the United States, setting off a trend of black prominence in athletics that has become an integral part of American life.

### Died of Pneumonia at 32

Johnson's life was cut short by acute bronchial pneumonia at age 32, a decade after winning his gold medal, and little attention has been given to his achievements. But this Olympic year, his sister, Ruby Braxton, decided it was time his memory receive proper recognition.

On a recent Saturday evening, 48 years after his Berlin triumph, Braxton, a tall woman with gray hair, organized a memorial tribute in the First African Methodist Episcopal Church that Johnson attended.

In a room behind a long garden, the real estate saleswoman and retired teacher hung mementos including a photograph of her handsome 6-foot-4 brother in a suit and tie and a handwritten list of his accomplishments.

About 100 family friends passed through the room into the garden surrounded by high walls. They sat amid lush trees and fragrant flowers in the chill twilight, listening to recordings of Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton and Count Basie—the music Johnson loved. Between recordings, speakers described Johnson as likable and easy to be around with a personality resembling Magic Johnson's.

The speakers included Mack Robinson, brother of Jackie Robin-

son and a 1936 Olympic teammate of Johnson, who recalled the unprecedented success of the black athletes in the '36 Games.

Until the 1930s, medal winners George Poage in 1904 and DeHart Hubbard in 1924 had been among the few American blacks to compete in the Olympics.

But in 1932 in Los Angeles, Eddie Toian of the University of Michigan, Ralph Metcalfe of Marquette University and Edward Gordon of

black females, both of whom competed in track and field.

Many went on to extraordinary careers. James LuValle of UCLA, who finished third in the 400-meter run in 1936, earned a Ph.D. in chemistry and mathematics at Caltech and recently retired as a professor of chemistry at Stanford University.

Archie Williams, who won the 400-meter run that year, earned an engineering degree at UC Berkeley, flew for the Air Force for 22 years and teaches computer science at a Bay Area high school.

David Albritton of Ohio State, who finished second to Johnson in the high jump in 1936, served 16 years in the Ohio Legislature and owns a Dayton insurance agency. Ralph Metcalfe, who won two medals in 1932 and two more in 1936, was a well-known Chicago congressman before his death in 1978.

The impetus for increased black participation in the '32 and '36 Games apparently came from growing black enrollment in colleges and universities, particularly in the North.

All the male track and field Please see JOHNSON, Page 6

*'He could out-jump most everybody while still in his sweat suit.'*

the University of Iowa accounted for five medals, including three golds, and Cornelius Johnson almost won a sixth.

In 1936, nine out of 10 black male track and field athletes on the American team won 13 medals, including four golds by the incomparable Jesse Owens.

The 16 black United States team members also included three boxers, a weight lifter and the first two



MICHAEL EDWARDS / Los Angeles Times

James Braxton, left, Cornelius Johnson's nephew, and Mack Robinson, his Olympic teammate, talked at service for Johnson.

### Black Olympians in 1932 and 1936

#### 1932 — Los Angeles

Men's Track and Field		
	Event	Medal
Eddie Toian, University of Michigan	100 meters	Gold
	200 meters	Gold
Ralph Metcalfe, Marquette University	100 meters	Silver
	200 meters	Bronze
Edward Gordon, University of Iowa	broad jump	Gold
Cornelius Johnson, Los Angeles High	high jump	none

#### 1936 — Berlin

Men's Track and Field		
Jesse Owens, Ohio State	100 meters	Gold
	200 meters	Gold
	broad jump	Gold
	400 meter relay	Gold
Cornelius Johnson, Compton College	high jump	Gold
Archie Williams, UC Berkeley	400 meters	Gold
John Woodruff, University of Pittsburgh	800 meters	Gold
Ralph Metcalfe, Marquette University	400 meter relay	Gold
	100 meters	Silver
Mack Robinson, Pasadena College	200 meters	Silver
Dave Albritton, Ohio State	high jump	Silver
James LuValle, UCLA	400 meters	Bronze
Fritz Pollard Jr., University of North Dakota	110 meter high hurdles	Bronze
John Brooks, University of Chicago	broad jump	none

#### Women's Track and Field

Tidye Pickett, Chicago, Illinois	80 yard hurdles	none
Louise Stokes, Malden, Massachusetts	unknown	none

#### Boxing

Jackie Wilson, Cleveland, Ohio	bantamweight	Silver
James Clark, Jamestown, New York	middleweight	none
Arthur Wilson, unknown	heavyweight	none

#### Weightlifting

John Terry, New York City	featherweight	none
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BOB ALLEN / Los Angeles Times

Jesse Owens won four gold medals, as nine black athletes captured a total of 13 medals in 1936, a remarkable showing.



ANTONIO JOSE BARRERA

Gore Vidal on a periodic foray into state from his Italy home.

President and his former Senate rival, Stephen A. Douglas, were discussing a speech Lincoln had given years previously in Springfield. Lincoln had said the founders of the Republic "had got all the glory that there was" and that those who came after would either merely hold office or, if they were great men—lions and eagles—be unsatisfied. Those would achieve distinction only by emancipating slaves or enslaving free men. Douglas told Lincoln he had that choice; Lincoln knew it.

### Not Shakespeare

"Were I Shakespeare, I might have done his mind," said Vidal. "But I'm not, so I didn't."

Shakespeare is one of the few to whom the precise, urbane intellectual that is Gore Vidal willingly takes a back seat. Interviewed while on one of his periodic forays into California from his home in Ravello, Italy, to promote his newest book, Vidal, 59, roamed the political and literary landscapes, acerbic as ever. A writer who fancies words like *hypergamous* (marrying up) and *quotidian* (recurrent), Vidal is never banal.

—Do we need another Lincoln? Please see GORE, Page 10

Gary Libman, "Pioneer Olympian Gold Medalist Helped Set Pace for Black Athletes," Los Angeles Times, July 15, 1984.



# To protect and preserve a tree rooted in Games

BY JERRY CROWE  
AUG. 20, 2007 12 AM PT



TIMES STAFF WRITER

A majestic oak tree towers over the gritty neighborhood and shades the backyard of a modest home on a corner lot in Koreatown, its branches and limbs spreading out over the adjacent street and its roots reaching back into history.

Though a backboard and basketball hoop are nailed to a low-lying branch, there is no indication that the tree is linked to the 1936 Olympics.

No plaque or other marking explains that it was awarded to high jump gold medalist Cornelius Johnson at the Berlin Games, made famous by Jesse Owens' magnificent debunking of Adolf Hitler's theory of Aryan supremacy. Nothing indicates that it was planted at the home where Johnson, a Los Angeles High graduate and, like Owens, an African American, grew up to become a champion.

Johnson and 129 other gold medalists in Berlin were given 1-year-old oak seedlings from the German people, a gift unprecedented in Olympic history.

More than 70 years later, the fate of many of the Olympic oaks is unknown, but one of two planted on the USC campus survives to this day as a living legacy to record-breaking Trojans discus champion Ken Carpenter.

Others reportedly were destroyed during and after World War II because of anti-German sentiment and the oaks' "Hitler Tree" reputation, while a few of the 24 that

<http://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2007-aug-20-sp-crowe20-story.html>

1/6

were awarded to U.S. gold medalists were victims of urban sprawl, inattentiveness or carelessness. One never made it through U.S. customs.

A few died of natural causes, which was the fate of the other USC tree -- the one awarded to the record-setting 400-meter relay team consisting of Owens, Ralph Metcalfe and Trojans alums Foy Draper and Frank Wykoff.

But a random few of the Olympic oaks are known to be standing tall all around the world, mostly in public settings such as the Palermo Polo Field in Argentina, the 1928 Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam and at James Ford Rhodes High School on the west side of Cleveland, where Owens practiced.

And then there's the one in Koreatown, which should be designated a historic landmark before somebody comes along and unknowingly destroys it.

"Absolutely," says James Constandt, a financial specialist for the Michigan Department of Education whose research of the Olympic oaks was the subject of a 1994 book. "Let's have some historical perspective. Let's honor the past."

The Los Angeles branch of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's Assn. for the Study of African American Life and History, known as Our Authors Study Club, stops every February at the Johnson oak on its annual Southland bus tour of African American-related historic sites. It is considering applying for landmark protection for the tree.

At the property, the family that lives in the little white house that once was the Johnson family is vaguely aware of the tree's significance.

"It's cool to know that we have a tree from the Olympics," Joaquin Tomas, 22, tells a visitor, noting that his parents, Joaquin and Gisela, were informed of the tree's history a few years ago. "I was amazed when I found out."

<http://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2007-aug-20-sp-crowe20-story.html>

2/6

As a youngster, Johnson practiced running and jumping in the yard where the tree now stands. Son of a plastering contractor, he was still in high school when he placed fourth in the high jump at the 1932 Olympics at the Coliseum.

Still, despite the obvious abilities of African American standouts such as Owens, Johnson and others, Hitler anticipated an Aryan landslide in Berlin. And when Germans and a Finn won the first three events on the opening day of the competition, the excited Fuehrer personally congratulated them.

But after Johnson cleared 6 feet 8 inches to win the high jump, Hitler left the stadium without greeting him. Whether it was a deliberate snub is still debated, but the German dictator met with no other winners the rest of the Games.

Back home in Los Angeles, Johnson's Olympic triumph brought neither fame nor fortune. He delivered mail after the Games and was only 32 in 1946 when he died of bronchial pneumonia while serving as a ship's cook in the Merchant Marine.

But his Olympic tree endures, and it should be preserved.

In New Zealand, Constandt says, the tree won by 1,500-meter gold medalist John Lovelock is a national treasure. "Kids go there every fall, grab the acorns and go back to their villages to plant them," Constandt says.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, says that the Jewish human rights organization he founded is not opposed to the Olympic trees, as long as they are not labeled as shrines to Hitler or Nazism.

"It depends on what the plaque says," Hier notes. "But a tree planted for an Olympic champion, I would not advocate that the tree come down."

At USC a few years ago, after the tree won by the 400 relay team died of root rot, another was planted in its place and a new plaque dedicated. It lists little more than the names of the champions and the event they won.

Michael L. Jackson, the school's vice president for student affairs, says of the simply worded monument, "What we focused on was honoring the U.S. athletes, in particular those affiliated with USC, who represented our nation, represented freedom and represented the best in youth of that era."

In Koreatown, another champion's tree deserves no less.

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[jerome.crowe@latimes.com](mailto:jerome.crowe@latimes.com)

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Jerry Crowe, "To protect and preserve a tree rooted in Games", Los Angeles Times, August 20, 2007

Online version.

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

## OCEAN PARK

Read Page Six

**JOHNSON**

- " Nicholson A, switchman S P, h 644 E 21st.
- " Nicolena, res 1315 Bond.
- " Niles, carp, res 737 Central av.
- " Nils M, emp Bishop & Co, h 2110 Atlantic.
- " Nina M, steno Fitzgerald Music & Piano Co, res 119 N Flower.
- " Norman, clk Blake, Moffit & Towne, res Alhambra.
- " Norwood C, meat ctr Everhardy & Wreden, h 547 1/2 Crocker.
- " Olaf, carp, h 3311 Wadsworth.
- " Olaf G, farmer, res 855 San Julian.
- " Oliver A, truck bldr S P, h 128 W Ann.
- " Olof, gro 3121 Maple av, h same.
- " Oral L, with R A Rowan & Co, res Alhambra.
- " Orland, carp, h 1244 E 45th.
- " Ormond H, fireman Salt Lake Route, res 410 1/2 Temple.
- " Orson T, office 356 S B'way rm 205, h 1221 Orange.
- " Osborn, hoseman Hose 2 L A F D, res 407 1/2 N Los Angeles.
- " Oscar A, bartndr Jonathan Club, res 639 S Westlake av.
- " Oscar E, bottler H W Stoll & Co, res 432 Bonnie Brae.
- " Oscar F, blksmith Capito Carr Co, res 622 E 8th.
- " Oscar F, car clnr S P, res 443 Gladys av.
- " Oscar F, stereo Times, res 330 S Flower.
- " Oscar S, hostler Coulter's, res 439 S Figueroa.
- " Ottie K, press feeder Out West Co, res 880 N Figueroa.
- " O Eugene, contr, h 1716 E 24th.
- " O T Building, 356 S B'way.
- " Parker T, h 1796 Downey av.
- " Parley M, office 356 S B'way rm 205, h 749 Garland av.
- " Palmer A, trav agt, res 207 N B'way.
- " Paul J, mining, h 923 W 35th.
- " Paul W, clk Wittenberg Pharmacal Co, res 1345 E 49th.
- " Perry, mech, h ns Princeton 1 E of Indiana.
- " Peter, h 2729 San Marino.
- " Peter, tailor, h 430 E 43d.
- " Peter C, carp Nat Mill and Lmbr Co, h 910 1/2 Crocker.
- " Peter E, tailor 223 W 2d rm 111, h 1616 W 21st.

**JOHNSON**

- " Pierce F, cash Equitable Savings Bank, h 1014 W 16th.
- " Purley B, carp, h 941 Staunton av.
- " Ralph R, clk Title Ins & Tr Co, res 723 1/2 S Hope.
- " Mrs Rebecca, h 147 N Central av.
- " Reckert, car bldr P E Ry, res 630 E 46th.
- " Reinhold, contr, h es Woodward av 2 S of Clinton.
- " Rhoda E (wid Wiley), res 441 Ruth av.
- " Richard, lab, h 630 E 46th.
- " Robt, h 545 E 36th.
- " Robt, cook, res 218 Boyd.
- " Robt B, janitor, h 1263 W 24th.
- " Robt D (Westside Gro Co), h 1322 Valencia.
- " Robt J, mason, h 144 Avenue 29.
- " Robt R, waiter, res 731 E 17th.
- " Robt W, helper Llewellyn Iron Wks, res 140 S Avenue 18.
- " Ronald W, carp, res 849 Hemlock.
- " Roy C, clk Haas, Baruch & Co, res 128 W Ann.
- " Royal M, clk, res 106 1/2 S B'way.
- " Ruth, nurse Pac Hosp.
- " Mrs R C, res 427 W 7th.
- " R P, collr Ind Mut Aid Assn.
- " Sadie (wid Hensley), fur rms 1129 Temple.
- " Samuel, h 456 Carolina.
- " Samuel, lab, res 1107 W 11th.
- " Samuel, lab, h rear 1045 E 43d.
- " Samuel E, engineer Severance Bldg, h 512 S Flower.
- " Samuel N, porter F E Prior, res 1631 E 38th.
- " Mrs Sanford, res 752 S Spring.
- " Sarah (wid Thos), res 1214 1/2 E 23d.
- " Mrs Sarah, janitor Grant Bldg, res 540 Crocker.
- " Sarah E (wid Wm L), res 917 Fedora.
- " Sarah J (wid Gustavus), h 153 Rose Lawn drive.
- " Scott, hlpr Thomas Haverty Co.
- " Seigvert M, mach Auto Vehicle Co, res 738 E 8th.
- " Shedrick C, contr, h 1156 Hobart blvd.
- " Signa, dom 1129 W 22d.
- " Sigrid E, tailor C A Gibson, res 639 E 21st.
- " Simon P, lab, h 2326 E 8th.
- " Simon P, mach, h 1116 Temple.
- " Solen, clk, res 917 Wall.

## ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE

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 For Young Men and Boys  
 COR. GRAND AVE. & WASHINGTON STREET  
 LOS ANGELES, CAL.

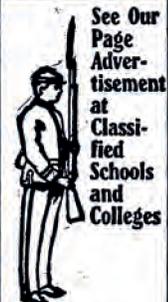
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 Springs Line  
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 A. M.  
 PRINCIPAL  
 Tel. Main 1556

## BAY CITY ENGINEERING & SUPPLY CO.

OILS, PACKING, BELTING  
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**H. R. BOYNTON  
COMPANY**

214-216 N. LOS ANGELES ST.

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FLAT AND CORRUGATED  
PAINTED CORRUGATED SHEETS  
BESSEMER SHEETS**

**BRUNTON**

754

LOS ANGELES CITY DIRECTORY

**CO.**

**California Wall Paper Co.**

TELEPHONES  
HOME A 4533  
B'WAY 1572

**G. J. VIEIRA, President**

**709 S. BROADWAY**

**OIL  
PROPERTIES**

**JOHNSON**

" Otto W janitor h 1719 S Figueroa  
" Owen E carp h 1716 E 24th  
" O G r 821 1/2 S Olive  
" O S emp Santa Fe r 500 Gladys av  
" O T Bldg 356 S B'way  
" Palmer A slsmn Zellerbach Paper Co r 429 Temple  
" Parker T h 1796 Downey av  
" Parley M office 356 S B'way rm 206 h 749 Garland av  
" Paul W emp Santa Fe r 1345 E 49th  
" Pearl nurse Angelus Hosp  
" Pearl waiter r 772 Ruth av  
" Pearle E cash Royal Theatre r 453 Wall  
" Percy C janitor Home T & T Co  
" Peter painter r 137 N Olive  
" Peter paperhgr r 569 S Central av  
" Peter real est h 2729 San Marino  
" Peter E tailor 223 W 2d rm 111 h 1616 W 21st  
" Peter W motmn h 1213 1/2 Industrial  
" Philip R student r 749 Garland av  
" Philip V K phys h 1913 Ocean View  
" Phoebe waiter r 810 W 6th  
" Mrs Phoebe h 1818 E 52d  
" Pierce F cash Equitable Sav Bank r Glendale  
" Preston L carp r 804 Maple av  
" Puole B co h 797 E 16th  
" P G clk r 360 S Hill  
" P J lab r 501 Gladys av  
" P Ludwig h 215 W 22d  
" Ralph R clk r 1829 W 24th  
" Ray T (Carew Real Estate Co) r Portland Or  
" Raymond insp h 5861 S Flower  
" Mrs Raymond housekpr 830 E 29th  
" Mrs Rebecca J rest 807 1/2 S San Pedro r 624 E 8th  
" Refugio C lab h Safford 2 N of McAllister  
" Reginald dftsmn Hunt & Grey r Pasadena  
" Reinhold (Griffith & Johnson; Santa Rita Wine Co) h 522 Woodward av  
" Rhoda E (wid W S) h 730 1/2 S San Pedro  
" Richd carp h 630 E 46th  
" Robt lab h 652 Antonia  
" Robt A lab h 2237 Legrand  
" Robt B janitor h 1263 W 24th  
" Robt D (Westside Gro Co) h 1322 Valencia  
" Robt E elev opr r 1332 Thalia  
" Robt G clk r 1322 Valencia  
" Robt H clk h 3533 S Flower  
" Robt H janitor r 1001 E 53d  
" Robt W r 911 W 11th  
" Robt W blksmith h 1807 Albion  
" Rolie r 323 Winston

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LIGHT  
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CYCLES**

**Motorcycle Parts  
AND SUPPLIES**

**John T. Bill  
& Co.**

**N. W. COR. TENT  
AND MAIN STS.**

**PHONES:  
B'WAY 5582  
F 8954**

**JOHNSON**

" Rosine r 741 Temple  
" Rowena tailor r 527 E 16th  
" Ruth E nurse r 1380 W 38th pl  
" R Griffin (Laukota, Johnson Co) 406 S Main rm 520  
" R H brakemn r 152 S Av 18  
" R M firemn r 738 New Depot  
" Sadie (wid H M) fur rms 1129 Temple  
" Sadie E (wid H M) h 1357 E 48th  
" Sallie (wid F C) h 1307 E 51st  
" Saml mason r 625 E 8th  
" Saml F trucker Santa Fe h 737 Ruth  
" Saml N boot lk r 9 1 Hemlock  
" Saml O h 840 W Adams  
" Saml P lab h 1116 Temple  
" Sarah r 1212 E 5th  
" Sarah (wid Burr) r 561 S Central  
" Sarah A (wid John) r 417 E 52d  
" Sarah A (wid J J) h 1604 E 36th  
" Sarah A (wid Wesley) confy 5122 Long Beach av r 1735 W 5  
" Sarah D (wid Thos) r 1337 E 28th  
" Sarah E (wid Albt) janitor h 424 Bell  
" Sarah E (wid W L) h rear 1229 Fedora  
" Sarah J (wid Gustavus) h 153 Rose Lawn dr  
" Salvart M mach h 1781 E 21st  
" Shadrack C plasterer h 1156 Hobart blvd  
" Sidney H real est r 1115 Wall  
" Simon P lab h 2326 E 8th  
" Solen W clk r 917 Wall  
" Solomon millhd h 927 Towne av  
" Solon T lab h 305 S Workman  
" Soppia dom 2673 Menlo av  
" Stanley A printer r 129 Rose Lawn dr  
" Stena (wid John) r 2305 Rodgers av  
" Stephena (wid G A) h 962 E 38th  
" Sumner G stainer r 1111 Harvard blvd  
" Susan (wid Jas) r 527 S Los Angeles  
" Susan M (wid M D) h 236 N Griffin  
" Swan r 441 Ruth av  
" Swan h 1330 1/2 Myrtle av  
" Swan tmstr r 1048 S Olive  
" Swan P carp h 155 W 43d  
" Swan P lab h 1817 E 3d  
" Sye carp h 618 Austin  
" Sylvester mining r 1246 New Hampshire av  
" S Fred (Chamberlin & Johnson) h 1739 Lenox av  
" S G ironwkr r 305 S Workman  
" Talbot W (Johnson-Harlow Co) h 1829 W 24th  
" The fur rms 123 W 4th  
" Theo A mining 212 W 3d rm 415 h 1818 Cimarron  
" Theresa C M (wid Frank) h 1326 Reid  
" Thos carp h 354 Cornwell  
" Thos elec h 1220 Winfield  
" Thos lab h 279 N Av 21  
" Thos mining r 156 W 38th  
" Thos B solr Bernard Donelly r 217 W 51st  
" Thos J r 452 S Hill  
" Thos J express h 620 N Evergreen  
" Thos L lab h Benefit sw cor Hoover

**W. B. Merwin & Co. REAL ESTATE**

621-622 H. W. Hellman Bldg.

Management of  
Estates a Specialty

Household Members	Age	Relationship
-------------------	-----	--------------

Sadric C Johnsen	71	Head
------------------	----	------

Pearl L Johnsen	65	Wife
-----------------	----	------

Theodore C Johnsen	35	Son
--------------------	----	-----

Cornelius Johnsen	25	Son
-------------------	----	-----

Ruby Braxton	28	Daughter
--------------	----	----------

Family living in house in 1940 (via Ancestry)

The image shows a full page of a 1940 Census document. At the top, it identifies the location as California, Los Angeles City, and the census as the Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. The document is a 'POPULATION SCHEDULE' for a household. The main table lists individuals with columns for name, sex, age, race, marital status, and occupation. The household members listed are Sadric C. Johnsen (Head, 71), Pearl L. Johnsen (Wife, 65), Theodore C. Johnsen (Son, 35), Cornelius Johnsen (Son, 25), and Ruby Braxton (Daughter, 28). Below the main table are sections for 'SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS' and 'POPULATION SCHEDULE FOR THE HOUSEHOLD'. The document is handwritten and includes various notations and stamps.

1940 Census document listing Johnson at Hobart address with family members, details of employment

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
 Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Cornelius Johnson's shoe from the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936.  
Courtesy: adidas

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



Installation view: The Life Story of Cornelius Johnson's Olympic Oak and Other Matters of Survival, Museum of Modern Art Vienna, 2017.

For his exhibition Christian Kosmas Mayer combines the story of Cornelius Johnson's Olympic Oak with contemporary themes that can be seen in relation with it. This oak was abused by the Nazis as a symbol of nationalist hegemony, but today it seems to be showing how absurd this original idea was. Los Angeles is one the most multicultural and popular cities in the world, representing the victory of a reality that is diametrically opposed to everything the Nazis dreamed of. With the help of a plant physiologist, Mayer was able to clone small shoots from the oak in a Los Angeles laboratory. In Mayer's installation these in-vitro seedlings return to Europe as a sign of the future, in order to transform the story into a family history that has not yet come to an end. The fact that official permission to bring these seedlings into Europe due to the risk of introducing a tree disease rampant in California was refused, and thus they had to be brought to Vienna unofficially, is a further significant part of this story about questions of existence and survival over the years.

Photo: Klaus Pichler

## Building Permit Records

# Building Permit Records

Bldg. Form 3

# 3

**All Applications must be filled out by Applicant**

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS  
and other data must also be filed

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

## Application to Alter, Repair or Demolish

To the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles:

Application is hereby made to the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles, through the office of the Chief Inspector of Buildings, for a building permit in accordance with the description and for the purpose hereinafter 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 exercise 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 or portion thereof.
- 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 or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such permit.

	REMOVED FROM	REMOVED TO
TAKE TO REAR OF NORTH ANNEX 1st FLOOR CITY CLERK PLEASE VERIFY	Lot..... Block..... Tract.....	Lot..... Block..... Tract.....
TAKE TO ROOM No. 405 SOUTH ANNEX ENGINEER PLEASE VERIFY	Book..... Page..... F. B. Page..... From No. <u>1156 Robert Blvd</u> Street To No. <u>North east corner 12</u> Street	Book..... Page..... F. B. Page..... From No. .... Street To No. .... Street

(USE INK OR INDELIBLE PENCIL)

1. What purpose is the present Building now used for? Res. 1 fam
2. What purpose will Building be used for hereafter? Private home
3. Owner's name S. C. Johnson Phone West 1390
4. Owner's address 1156 Robert Blvd
5. Architect's name Smart Phone .....
6. Contractor's name Smart Phone .....
7. Contractor's address Smart
8. VALUATION OF PROPOSED WORK (including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sewers, Stencils, Elevators, Painting, Finishing, all Labor, etc.) \$ 600.00
9. Class of present Building D No. of rooms at present 22
10. Number of stories in height ONE Size of present Building 32' x 60'
11. State how many buildings are on this lot one fam.
12. State purpose buildings on lot are used for domestic life  
(Tenement House, Hotel, Residence, or any other purpose.)

STATE ON FOLLOWING LINES EXACTLY WHAT ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC., WILL BE MADE TO THIS BUILDING:

3 x 14 addition to dining room  
3 x 16 addition to bed room 3 x 5 addition to kitchen  
4 x 14 addition to front bedroom  
enclose present front porch into bed room  
extend side of new front porch two hall ways

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) Mar S C Johnson  
(Owner or Authorized Agent.)

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
PERMIT NO. <u>24836</u> <u>34836</u>	Plans and Specifications checked and found to conform to Ordinances, State Laws, etc.  Plan Examiner <u>Chas. Fuller</u>	Application checked and found O. K. <u>H. P. Warner</u> Clerk

RECEIVED  
 JUL 24 1922  
 A. Bldg. Div.

Building Permit from July 24, 1922

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

3 APPLICATION TO ADD-ALTER-REPAIR-DEMOLISH AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY										B&S B-3-R12-70	
CITY OF LOS ANGELES										FOR BUILDING AND SAFETY	
INSTRUCTIONS: Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.											
1. LEGAL DESCR	LOT	BLK.	TRACT	Pellissier						GENSUS TRACT	
2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING		NEW USE OF BUILDING		As same						DIST MAP	
3. JOB ADDRESS		1156 So. Hobart Blvd.						ZONE		R-4-20	
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS		AND		12th St.						FIRE DIST	
5. OWNER'S NAME		Theodore C. Johnson						LOT (TYPE)		corner	
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS		CITY		ZIP		1156 So. Hobart Blvd.				LOT SIZE	
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER		STATE LICENSE No.		PHONE						46x135	
8. ENGINEER		STATE LICENSE No.		PHONE						ALLEY	
9. CONTRACTOR		STATE LICENSE No.		PHONE		Theodore C. Johnson				BLDG LINE	
10. LENDER		BRANCH		ADDRESS						AFFIDAVITS	
11. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG		STORIES		HEIGHT		NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE				CCPBist	
12. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING BLDG		EXT. WALLS		ROOF		FLOOR				6109	
13. JOB ADDRESS		1156 So. Hobart Blvd.						DISTRICT OFFICE		LA	
14. VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING		\$		1880.00						GRADING	
15. NEW WORK (Describe)		Plastering interior over wood lath						CRIT. SOIL		HIGHWAY DED	
NEW USE OF BUILDING		SIZE OF ADDITION		STORIES		HEIGHT		FLOOD			
TYPE		GROUP		SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPECIFIED		INSPECTION ACTIVITY		CONV.			
BLDG. AREA		MAX. OCC		TOTAL		PLANS CHECKED		ZONED BY		Jacobo	
DWELL UNITS		GUEST ROOMS		PARKING REQ'D SPACES		SPANS APPROVED		FILE WITH		Jacobo	
P.C. No.		CONT. INSP.		APPLICATION APPROVED		INSPECTOR					
P.C.		S.P.C.		G.P.I.		B.P.		I.F.		O.S.	
						16.00		/		C/O	
										TYPIST	
										a.c.m.	
PLAN CHECK EXPIRES SIX MONTHS AFTER FEE IS PAID. PERMIT EXPIRES ONE YEAR AFTER FEE IS PAID OR SIX MONTHS AFTER FEE IS PAID IF CONSTRUCTION IS NOT COMMENCED.											
CASHIERS USE ONLY											
JAN-24-72 03846 E •43752 U-2CK 16.00											
<b>STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY</b>											
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		Theodore C. Johnson						Name		Date	
		(OWNER OR AGENT)						Dalton		1-24-72	
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									
		APPROVED UNDER									
Planning		CASE #									
Fire		APPROVED (TITLE 19) (L.A.M.C.-5700)									
Traffic		APPROVED FOR									

Building Permit from January 24, 1972

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

**3 APPLICATION TO ADD-ALTER-REPAIR-DEMOLISH AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY** BAS B-3-112-70

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPT. OF BUILDING AND SAFETY

**INSTRUCTIONS: Applicant to Complete Numbered Items Only.**

1. LEGAL DESCR. LOT 1	BLK. G	TRACT Pell	CENSUS TRACT 2132
2. PRESENT USE OF BUILDING 01 dwelling	NEW USE OF BUILDING 01, same		DIST. MAP 7286
3. JOB ADDRESS 1156 S. Hobart Blvd.			ZONE R4-2-0
4. BETWEEN CROSS STREETS 12th St. AND 11th St.			FIRE DIST. /
5. OWNER'S NAME Theodore C. Johnson		PHONE 737-4559	LOT (TYPE) cor
6. OWNER'S ADDRESS same		CITY LA	LOT SIZE 46x135
7. ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER		STATE LICENSE No. /	PHONE /
8. ENGINEER		STATE LICENSE No. /	PHONE /
9. CONTRACTOR owner		STATE LICENSE No. /	PHONE /
10. LENDER		BRANCH /	ADDRESS /
11. SIZE OF EXISTING BLDG. LENGTH 60 WIDTH 35 STORIES 1 HEIGHT 10 NO. OF EXISTING BUILDINGS ON LOT AND USE 1 dwell			AFFIDAVITS AFF 6109 CCPD
12. MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING BLDG. → EXT. WALLS wd ROOF wd FLOOR wd			DISTRICT OFFICE TA GRADING
13. JOB ADDRESS 1156 S. Hobart Blvd.			CRIT. SOIL /
14. VALUATION TO INCLUDE ALL FIXED EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND USE PROPOSED BUILDING \$ 300.			HIGHWAY DED. /
15. NEW WORK: (Describe) exterior plastering/remove door/ patching + enclos. porch			FLOOD /
NEW USE OF BUILDING 01 dwelling		SIZE OF ADDITION none	STORIES /
TYPE V GROUP R-1		SPRINKLERS REQ'D SPECIFIED /	INSPECTION ACTIVITY COMB GEN MAJ. S. CONS. /
BLDG. AREA n/c		MAX. OCC. TOTAL /	PLANS CHECKED /
DWELL. UNITS 1		GUEST ROOMS 0 PARKING REQ'D SPACES n/c PROVIDED /	PLANS APPROVED /
P.C. No. none		CONT. INSP. none	APPLICATION APPROVED <i>numbers</i>
P.C. S.P.C. G.P.I. B.P. 695 I.F. / O.S. / C/O /		TYPYST KG	

PLAN CHECK EXPIRES 12-31-72 AFTER 12:00 P.M. PERMIT EXPIRES 12-31-72 AFTER 12:00 P.M. FEE IS PAID IF CONSTRUCTION IS NOT COMMENCED.

CASHIER'S USE ONLY

**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 <i>Theodore C. Johnson</i>	Name Dalton	Date 3-24-72
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	

Building Permit from March 24, 1972

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

# Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

## Certificate Information: 1156 S HOBART BLVD 90006

**Application / Permit** 21019-10000-02113  
**Plan Check / Job No.** B21LA10537  
**Group** Building  
**Type** Bldg-Demolition  
**Sub-Type** 1 or 2 Family Dwelling  
**Primary Use** ()  
**Work Description** \*\*Plan check fees have not been paid within 6 months of fees being sent to applicant. Fees were sent on 6/4/2021. Plans have been recycled and applicant will have to re-submit a new set of plans to continue with plan check process.\*\* DEMO (E) 1- story Building  
**Permit Issued** No  
**Current Status** Application Withdrawn on 3/14/2022

## Permit Application Status History

Application Withdrawn	3/14/2022	CHRISTOPHER KOMANCHECK
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## 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.

## Permit Application Status History

# Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

## Certificate Information: 1156 S HOBART BLVD 90006

**Application / Permit** 21019-10000-01003  
**Plan Check / Job No.** B21LA04878  
**Group** Building  
**Type** Bldg-Demolition  
**Sub-Type** 1 or 2 Family Dwelling  
**Primary Use** ()  
**Work Description** \*\*\*DPI and Posting Required\*\*\* DEMO 1- story Building and shed  
**Permit Issued** No  
**Current Status** Application Submittal on 3/16/2021

## Permit Application Status History

No Data Available.

## Permit Application Clearance Information

Demo Preinspection	Not Cleared	3/17/2021	Department of Building and Safety
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## Contact Information

No Data Available.

## Inspector Information

KATHRYN BUTTERWORTH, (213) 202-3433	Office Hours: 7:00-8:00 AM MON-FRI
-------------------------------------	------------------------------------

## Pending Inspections

No Data Available.

## Inspection Request History

Special/Order Compliance	5/6/2021	Partial Inspection	WILLIAM WREN
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## Permit Application Status History

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

## Certificate Information: 2949-2951 W 12TH ST 90006

**Application / Permit** 21010-10000-00622  
**Plan Check / Job No.** B21LA02224  
**Group** Building  
**Type** Bldg-New  
**Sub-Type** 1 or 2 Family Dwelling  
**Primary Use** (2) Duplex  
**Work Description** NEW 3 STORY DUPLEX WITH ATTACHED GARAGE (FRONT) 1 OF 2  
**Permit Issued** No  
**Current Status** Verifications in Progress on 3/8/2022

### Permit Application Status History

Submitted	2/9/2021	APPLICANT
Assigned to Plan Check Engineer	2/25/2021	STARR CHEN
Corrections Issued	2/28/2021	STARR CHEN
Reviewed by Supervisor	3/4/2021	JASON HEALEY
Building Plans Picked Up	3/12/2021	APPLICANT
Applicant returned to address corrections	3/8/2022	STARR CHEN

### Permit Application Clearance Information

Frnt yard landscape/Water mgmt	Cleared	3/5/2021	JOE LUCKEY
Address approval	Cleared	3/8/2021	RENZ SORIANO
Permit	Cleared	3/9/2021	WALLIE JONG
Eng Process Fee Ord 176,300	Cleared	3/11/2021	WALLIE JONG
Hydrant and Access approval	Cleared	5/11/2021	JOHN CONNEALLY
Trees in Parkway	Cleared	8/11/2021	JOHN KIM
Low Impact Development	Cleared	8/19/2021	SARAH YOUSSEF
Roof/Waste drainage to street	Cleared	9/16/2021	JEANIE LAM
Sewer availability	Cleared	10/1/2021	RENZ SORIANO
Disturb/Remove Protected Trees	Not Cleared	2/14/2022	Bureau of Street Services

### Contact Information

No Data Available.

### Permit Application Status History

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak

# Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

## Certificate Information: 2945-2947 W 12TH ST 90006

**Application / Permit** 21010-10000-00623  
**Plan Check / Job No.** B21LA02224  
**Group** Building  
**Type** Bldg-New  
**Sub-Type** 1 or 2 Family Dwelling  
**Primary Use** (2) Duplex  
**Work Description** NEW 3 STORY DUPLEX WITH ATTACHED GARAGE (REAR) 2 OF 2  
**Permit Issued** No  
**Current Status** Verifications in Progress on 3/8/2022

### Permit Application Status History

Submitted	2/9/2021	APPLICANT
Assigned to Plan Check Engineer	2/25/2021	STARR CHEN
Corrections Issued	2/28/2021	STARR CHEN
Reviewed by Supervisor	3/4/2021	JASON HEALEY
Building Plans Picked Up	3/12/2021	APPLICANT
Applicant returned to address corrections	3/8/2022	STARR CHEN

### Permit Application Clearance Information

Frnt yard landscape/Water mgmt	Cleared	3/5/2021	JOE LUCKEY
Address approval	Cleared	3/8/2021	RENZ SORIANO
Permit	Cleared	3/9/2021	WALLIE JONG
Eng Process Fee Ord 176,300	Cleared	3/11/2021	WALLIE JONG
Hydrant and Access approval	Cleared	5/11/2021	JOHN CONNEALLY
Trees in Parkway	Cleared	8/11/2021	JOHN KIM
Low Impact Development	Cleared	8/19/2021	SARAH YOUSSEF
Roof/Waste drainage to street	Cleared	9/16/2021	JEANIE LAM
Sewer availability	Cleared	10/1/2021	RENZ SORIANO
Construction near power lines	Cleared	10/16/2021	RIDWAN HARDY
Disturb/Remove Protected Trees	Not Cleared	2/14/2022	Bureau of Street Services

### Permit Application Status History

Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Application  
 Cornelius Johnson Residence and Olympic Oak



# City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning

## 5/5/2022 PARCEL PROFILE REPORT

### PROPERTY ADDRESSES

1156 S HOBART BLVD

### ZIP CODES

90006

### RECENT ACTIVITY

ENV-2022-3208-CE

CHC-2022-3207-HCM

### CASE NUMBERS

CPC-19XX-16920

CPC-1986-823-GPC

ORD-165331-SA9410

ORD-128036

AFF-6109

### Address/Legal Information

PIN Number	129B193 939
Lot/Parcel Area (Calculated)	6,219.6 (sq ft)
Thomas Brothers Grid	PAGE 633 - GRID J4
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5080021001
Tract	PELLISSIER TRACT
Map Reference	M R 15-70
Block	G
Lot	1
Arb (Lot Cut Reference)	None
Map Sheet	129B193

### Jurisdictional Information

Community Plan Area	Wilshire
Area Planning Commission	Central
Neighborhood Council	Olympic Park
Council District	CD 10 - Office of District 10
Census Tract #	2132.02
LADBS District Office	Los Angeles Metro

### Permitting and Zoning Compliance Information

Administrative Review	None
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### Planning and Zoning Information

Special Notes	None
Zoning	R3-1
Zoning Information (ZI)	ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the City of Los Angeles
General Plan Land Use	Medium Residential
General Plan Note(s)	Yes
Hillside Area (Zoning Code)	No
Specific Plan Area	None
Subarea	None
Special Land Use / Zoning	None
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
HCR: Hillside Construction Regulation	No
NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay	No
POD: Pedestrian Oriented Districts	None
RFA: Residential Floor Area District	None
RIO: River Implementation Overlay	No
SN: Sign District	No
Streetscape	No
Adaptive Reuse Incentive Area	None

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](http://zimas.lacity.org)  
(\* ) - APN Area is provided "as is" from the Los Angeles County's Public Works, Flood Control, Benefit Assessment.

Affordable Housing Linkage Fee	
Residential Market Area	Medium-High
Non-Residential Market Area	High
Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)	Tier 2
RPA: Redevelopment Project Area	None
Central City Parking	No
Downtown Parking	No
Building Line	None
500 Ft School Zone	Active: Los Angeles Elementary
500 Ft Park Zone	No

#### Assessor Information

Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5080021001
Ownership (Assessor)	
Owner1	KLD INVESTMENT LLC
Address	1717 S HOOVER ST STE 202 LOS ANGELES CA 90006
Ownership (Bureau of Engineering, Land Records)	
Owner	KLD INVESTMENT LLC
Address	1717 S HOOVER ST STE 202 LOS ANGELES CA 90006
APN Area (Co. Public Works)*	0.143 (ac)
Use Code	0100 - Residential - Single Family Residence
Assessed Land Val.	\$756,432
Assessed Improvement Val.	\$194,888
Last Owner Change	05/01/2019
Last Sale Amount	\$927,009
Tax Rate Area	67
Deed Ref No. (City Clerk)	6-383 2153237-39 1711535 1209625 1-606 0395163
Building 1	
Year Built	1903
Building Class	D55A
Number of Units	1
Number of Bedrooms	3
Number of Bathrooms	2
Building Square Footage	1,592.0 (sq ft)
Building 2	No data for building 2
Building 3	No data for building 3
Building 4	No data for building 4
Building 5	No data for building 5
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No [APN: 5080021001]

#### Additional Information

Airport Hazard	None
Coastal Zone	None
Farmland	Area Not Mapped
Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone	YES
Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone	No
Fire District No. 1	No
Flood Zone	Outside Flood Zone
Watercourse	No
Hazardous Waste / Border Zone Properties	No

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Methane Hazard Site	None
High Wind Velocity Areas	No
Special Grading Area (BOE Basic Grid Map A-13372)	No
Wells	None

### Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone	
Nearest Fault (Distance in km)	0.71283576
Nearest Fault (Name)	Puente Hills Blind Thrust
Region	Los Angeles Blind Thrusts
Fault Type	B
Slip Rate (mm/year)	0.70000000
Slip Geometry	Reverse
Slip Type	Moderately / Poorly Constrained
Down Dip Width (km)	19.00000000
Rupture Top	5.00000000
Rupture Bottom	13.00000000
Dip Angle (degrees)	25.00000000
Maximum Magnitude	7.10000000
Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone	No
Landslide	No
Liquefaction	No
Preliminary Fault Rupture Study Area	No
Tsunami Inundation Zone	No

### Economic Development Areas

Business Improvement District	None
Hubzone	Qualified
Opportunity Zone	No
Promise Zone	None
State Enterprise Zone	None

### Housing

Direct all Inquiries to	Los Angeles Housing Department
Telephone	(866) 557-7368
Website	<a href="https://housing.lacity.org">https://housing.lacity.org</a>
Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)	No [APN: 5080021001]
Ellis Act Property	No
AB 1482: Tenant Protection Act	See Notes
Assessor Parcel No. (APN)	5080021001
Address	1156 S HOBART BLVD
Year Built	1903
Use Code	0100 - Residential - Single Family Residence
Notes	The property is subject to AB 1482 only if the owner is a corporation, limited liability company, or a real estate investment trust.

### Public Safety

Police Information	
Bureau	West
Division / Station	Olympic
Reporting District	2063
Fire Information	
Bureau	Central
Batallion	11
District / Fire Station	26
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-19XX-16920

Required Action(s): Data Not Available

Project Descriptions(s):

Case Number: CPC-1986-823-GPC

Required Action(s): GPC-GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CONSISTENCY (AB283)

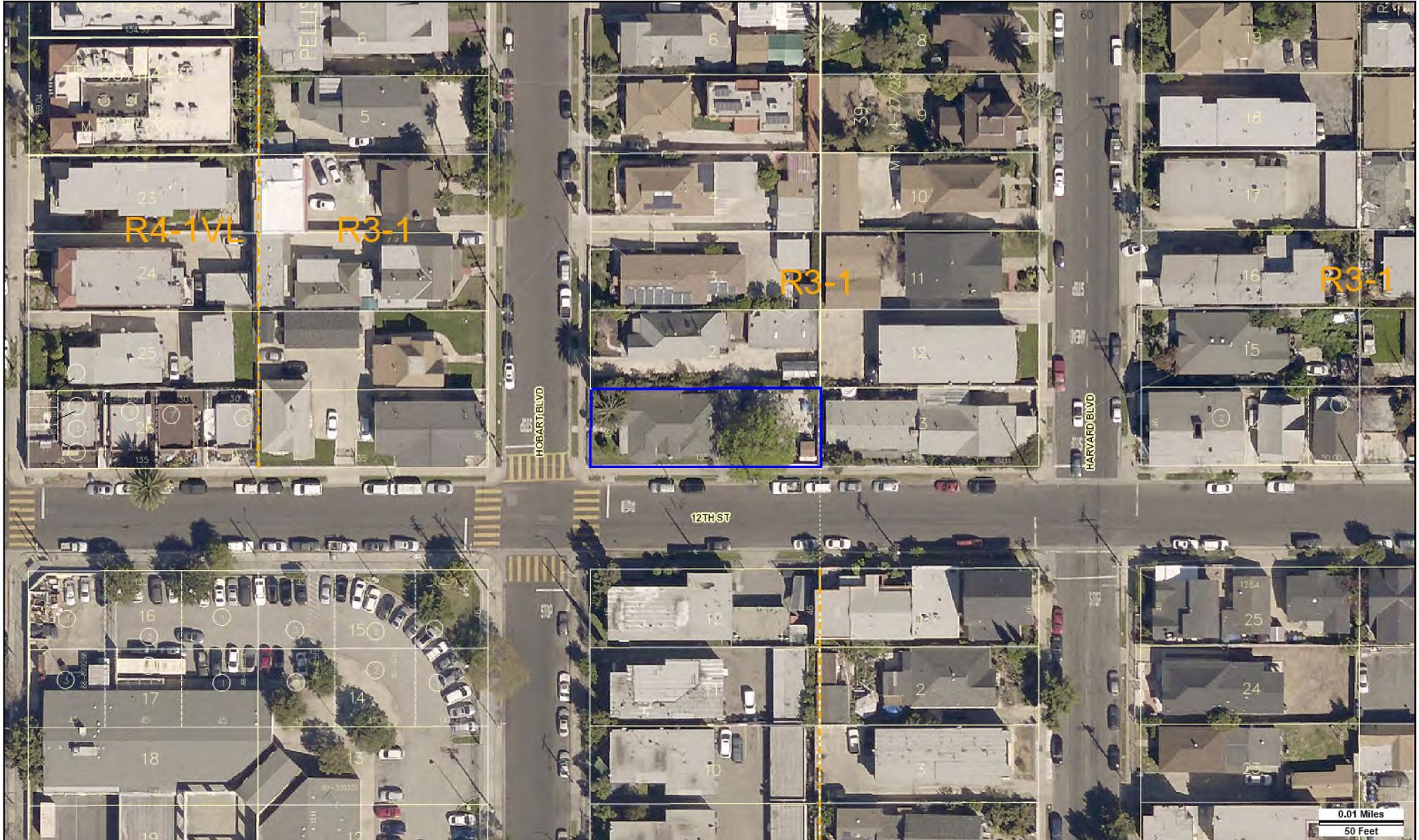
Project Descriptions(s): AB-283 PROGRAM - GENERAL PLAN/ZONE CONSISTENCY - WILSHIRE AREA- COMMUNITY WIDE ZONE CHANGES AND COMMUNITY PLAN CHANGES TO BRING THE ZONING INTO CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMMUNITY PLAN. INCLUDES CHANGES OF HEIGHT AS NEEDED. REQUIRED BY COURT AS PART OF SETTLEMENT IN THE HILLSIDE FEDERATION LAWSUIT

## DATA NOT AVAILABLE

ORD-165331-SA9410

ORD-128036

AFF-6109



Address: 1156 S HOBART BLVD

APN: 5080021001

PIN #: 129B193 939

Tract: PELLISSIER TRACT

Block: G

Lot: 1

Arb: None

Zoning: R3-1

General Plan: Medium Residential

