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. <u>Under Consideration Staff Recommendation Report</u>
- 5. <u>Historic-Cultural Monument Application</u>

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)

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.

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

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

RECOMMENDATION That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

- 1. **Declare the subject property** an Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7.
- 2. **Adopt** the staff report and findings.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP Director of Planning

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Ken Bernstein, AICP, Principal City Planner Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Shannon Ryan, Senior City Planner Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: Commission/Staff Site Visit Photos– June 30, 2022

Historic-Cultural Monument Application

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:

- 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.

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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.

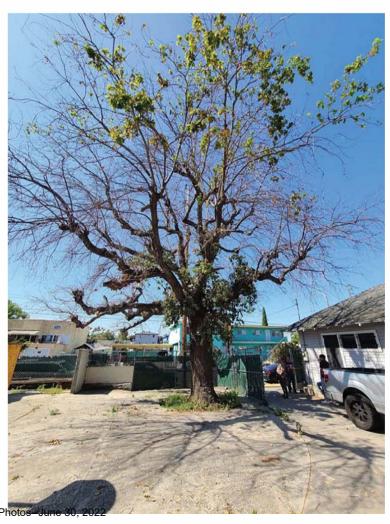
Categorical Exemption ENV-2022-3208-CE was prepared on July 7, 2022.

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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.





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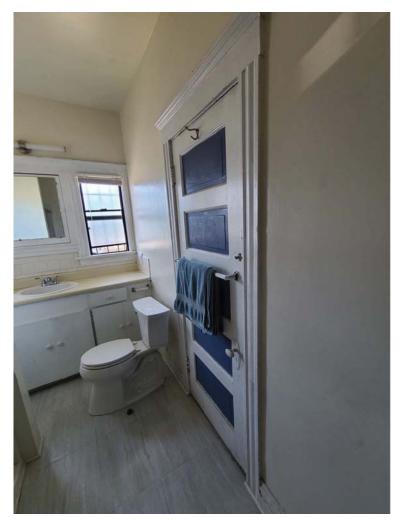


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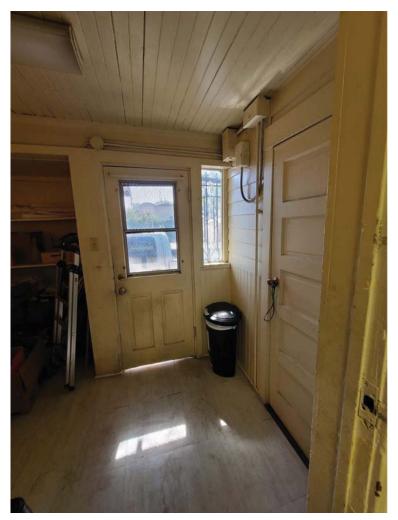


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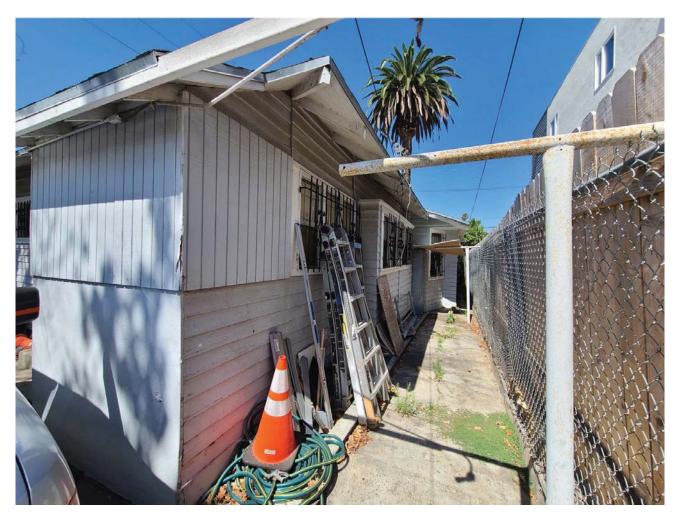


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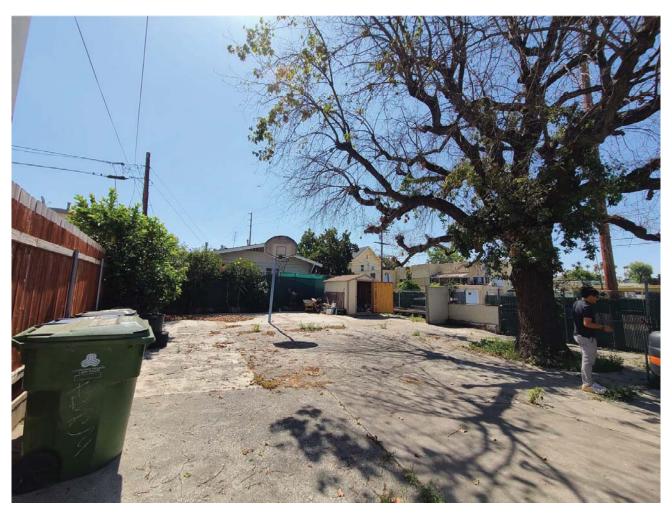


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COUNTY CLERK'S USE

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.

	o file this notice as provide			tions being extende	∍d to 180 days.	
CHC-202	CASE NUMBER(S) / REC 22-3207-HCM	QUESTED ENT	TITLEMENTS			
	TY AGENCY Los Angeles (Depar	rtment of Ci	ity Planning)		CASE NUMBER ENV-2022-3208-CE	
PROJEC Cornelius	CT TITLE s Johnson Residence and	Olympic Oak			COUNCIL DISTRICT	
	CT LOCATION (Street Add . Hobart Boulevard,			ed Map)	☐ Map attached.	
	T DESCRIPTION:				☐ Additional page(s) atta	ached.
•	ation of the Cornelius Jo		ence and Olympic Oa	ak as an Historic-	Cultural Monument.	
N/A	F APPLICANT / OWNER:					
	CT PERSON (If different from a Jones	om Applicant/O	wner above)	(AREA CODE) T 213-847-3679	ELEPHONE NUMBER)	EXT.
EXEMP.	T STATUS: (Check all box	xes, and includ	e all exemptions, that a	pply and provide re	elevant citations.)	
		STA	TE CEQA STATUTE &	GUIDELINES		
	STATUTORY EXEMPTIC)N(S)				
	Public Resources Code S	section(s)				
\boxtimes	CATEGORICAL EXEMPT	ΓΙΟΝ(S) (Staf	te CEQA Guidelines Se	ec. 15301-15333 / C	Class 1-Class 33)	
	CEQA Guideline Section(s) / Class(es) _	8 and 31			
	OTHER BASIS FOR EXE	:MPTION (E.g.	., CEQA Guidelines Sec	ction 15061(b)(3) o	r (b)(4) or Section 15378(b))	
Article 19 as author the regul rehabilita Standard Cultural I	rized by state or local ordin latory process involves pro ation, restoration, preserva is for the Treatment of Histo	of the State's G nance, to assure ocedures for pr tion, or reconst oric Buildings." protection of the	te the maintenance, rest rotection of the environr truction of historical res Designation of the Corr e environment by the er	oration, enhancem ment." Class 31 ap ources in a manne nelius Johnson Re	☐ Additional page(s) attachts of "actions taken by regulatory ent, or protection of the environm plies "to maintenance, repair, star consistent with the Secretary cesidence and Olympic Oak as a review regulations based on the	agencies, nent where abilization, of Interior's an Historic-
	of the exceptions in CEQ				on(s) apply to the Project. EQA Guidelines as cited in the ju	ustification
					NNING DEPARTMENT STATING	
THE DE	PARTMENT HAS FOUND	THE PROJEC	CT TO BE EXEMPT.			
	nt from the applicant, the id	dentity of the po	erson undertaking the p	project.		
	AFF NAME AND SIGNATI	URE			STAFF TITLE	
Melissa	Jones	[5	SIGNED COPY IN FIL	_E]	City Planning Associate	
ENTITLE N/A	EMENTS APPROVED					
FEE:		RECEIPT NO.			SC STAFF NAME)	
N/A		N/A		N/A		

DISTRIBUTION: County Clerk, Agency Record

Rev. 3-27-2019

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)

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

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.

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

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

RECOMMENDATION That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

- 1. **Take the property under consideration** as an Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.10 because the application and accompanying photo documentation suggest the submittal warrants further investigation.
- 2. Adopt the report findings.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP Director of Planning

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Ken Bernstein, AICP, Principal City Planner Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect Office of Historic Resources

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Shannon Ryan, Senior City Planner Office of Historic Resources

[SIGNED ORIGINAL IN FILE]

Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate Office of Historic Resources

Attachment: Historic-Cultural Monument Application

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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

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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.



NOMINATION FORM

1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Proposed Monument Name:							
Other Associated Names:							
Street Address:				Zip:		Council District:	
Range of Addresses on Property:				Commun	nmunity Name:		
Assessor Parcel Number: Tract:					Block: Lot:		Lot:
Identification cont'd:							
Proposed Monument Property Type: Building Structure Obj			Obje	ect	Site/Onen Space		Natural Feature
Describe any additional resources located on the property to be included in the nomination, here:							

2. CONSTRUCTION HISTORY & CURRENT STATUS

Year built:	Factual	Estimated	Threatened?	
Architect/Designer:			Contractor:	
Original Use:			Present Use:	
Is the Proposed Monument on its O	riginal Site?	Yes	No (explain in section 7)	Unknown (explain in section 7)

3. STYLE & MATERIALS

Architectural Style:			Stories:	Plan Shape:	
FEATURE	ATURE PRIMARY		SECONDARY		
CONSTRUCTION	CONSTRUCTION Type: Type:				
CLADDING	Material:		Material:		
POOF.	Туре:	Туре:			
ROOF	Material:	Material:			
WINDOWS	Туре:	Туре:			
WINDOWS	Material:	Material:			
ENTRY	Style:		Style:		
DOOR	OOR Type:		Туре:		



NOMINATION FORM

4. ALTERATION HISTORY

List date and write a brief description of any major alterations or additions. This second include copies of permits in the nomination packet. Make sure to list any major alterations are to list any major alterations.				
5. EXISTING HISTORIC RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (if known)				
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places				
Listed in the California Register of Historical Resources				
Formally determined eligible for the National and/or California Registers				
Located in an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) Contributing feature Non-contributing feature				
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 mor	nument exemplifies the following Cultural Heritage Ordinance Criteria (Section 22.171.7):
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.
	Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable ork of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.



State:

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

Nomination Preparer/Applicant's Representative

Phone Number:

Applicant

Name:

Zip:

Street Address:

Name:		Company:			
Street Address:		City:		State:	
Zip: Phone Number:		Email:			
Property Owner	Is the owner in	support of the	nomination? Yes No	o Unknown	
Name:		Company:			
Street Address:		City:		State:	
Zip:	Phone Number:		Email:		

Company:

Email:

City:



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

10. RELEASE

1	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.				
	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.				
	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.				
	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	Charf of Lay
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 Office of Historic Resources/Cultural Heritage Commission

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. Nomination Form
- 2. Written Statements A and B
- 3.

 Bibliography
- Two Primary Photos of Exterior/Main Facade (8x10, the main photo of the proposed monument. Also email a digitial copy of the main photo to: planning.ohr@lacity.org)
- 5. Copies of Primary/Secondary Documentation
- Copies of Building Permits for Major Alterations (include first construction permits)
- 7. Additional, Contemporary Photos
- 8. Historical Photos
- Zimas Parcel Report for all Nominated Parcels (including map)

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- 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

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

APPLICANTS

- Susan D. Anderson| History Curator and Program Manager California African American Museum 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90037 213-514-2584 sanderson@caamuseum.org
- Christian Kosmas Mayer
 Sculptor Building of the Republic of Austria
 Meiereistrasse 3
 1020 Vienna
 Austria
 +43 699 81215369
 mail@christiankosmasmayer.site

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.¹

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 porch²; in 1972, plaster was applied over an interior wood lath³, and; in 1972, exterior plastering, removed door, and enclosed porch⁴. 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

¹ 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.

Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Building Permit No. LA24836, July 24, 1922
 Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Building Permit No. LA43752, January 24, 1972

⁴ 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.⁵

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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⁵ 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.⁶

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.⁷

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.⁸

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."

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 $^{^{\}rm 6}$ Find his entry here: http://legacy.usatf.org/HallOfFame/TF/showBio.asp?HOFIDs=83

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

⁸ Bob Oates, "If Anybody Was Snubbed by Hitler, It was Cornelius Johnson," Los Angeles Times, July 22, 1984, H34.

⁹ 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."10 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. 11 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.¹²

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.¹³

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¹⁰ Eichbäumchen an die Olympischen Sieger", Deutsche Zeitung (German Newspaper) from June 4, 1936

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

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

¹³ 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, Shadreak¹⁴, 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.¹⁵

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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¹⁴ Also incorrectly called "Shedrick", "Sadrick" or "Shadrack" in some archives.

¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

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. To 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.¹⁸

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¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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 32.¹⁸ 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. 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.

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

¹⁹ 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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Riefenstahl, Leni. Olympia starting at about 1 hour 15 minutes into the first two hours.

Riefenstahl, Leni. Olympia starting at about 51 minutes into the first two hours.

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Primary Photographs of Exterior and Oak

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



Photo credit: Jia Yi Gu, 2022

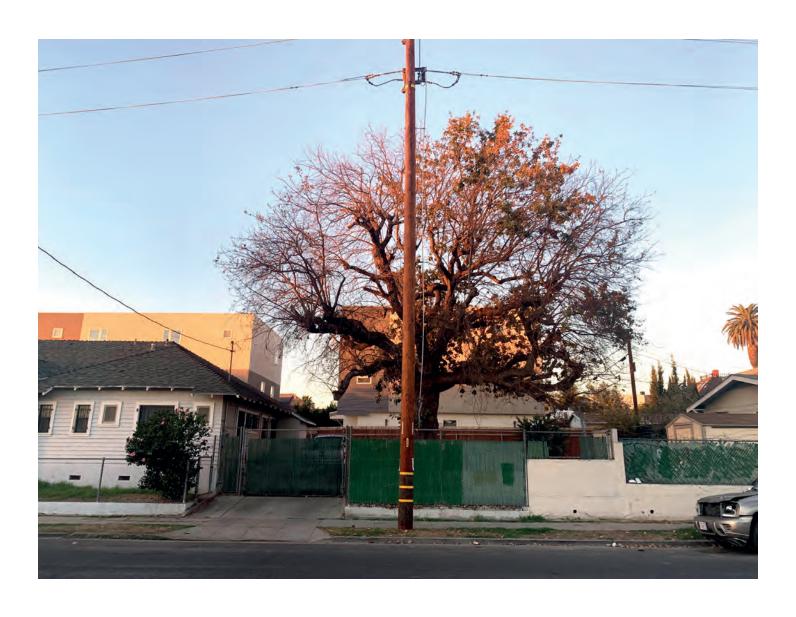


Photo credit: Jia Yi Gu, 2022

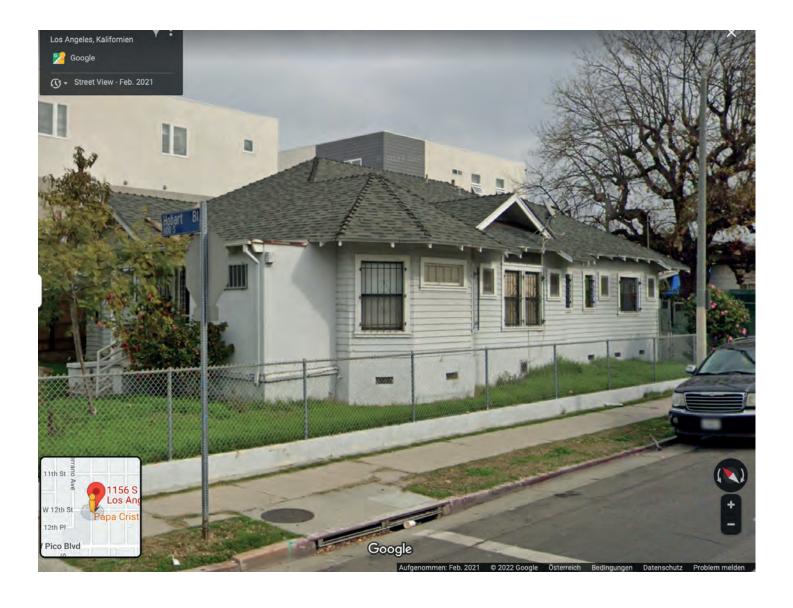


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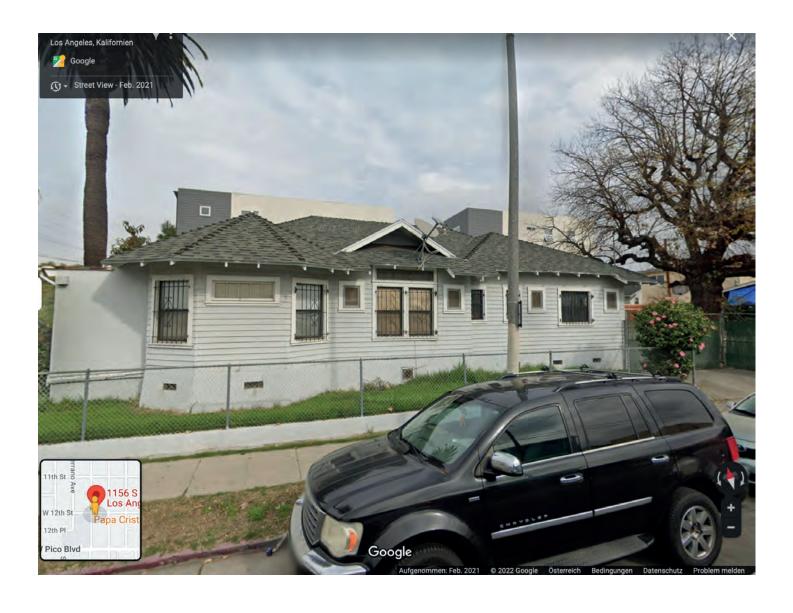


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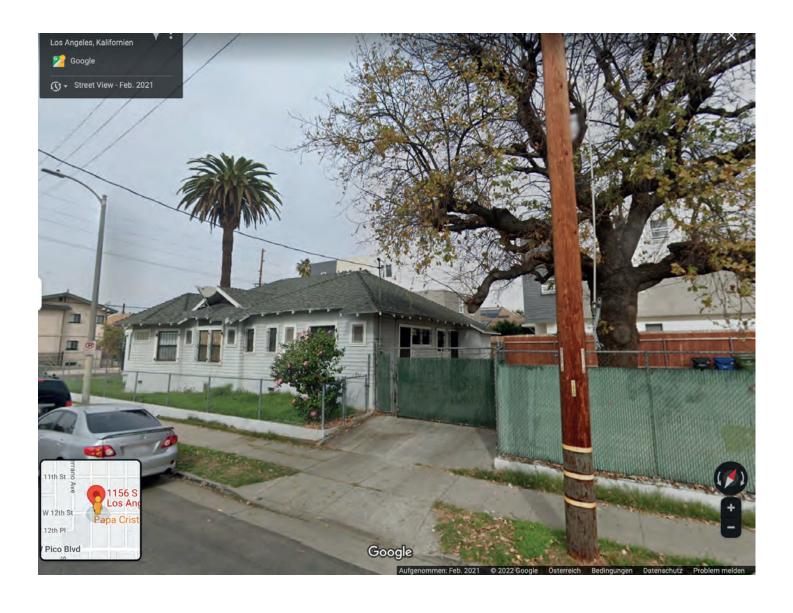


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Photo credit: mls.com



Photo credit: mls.com

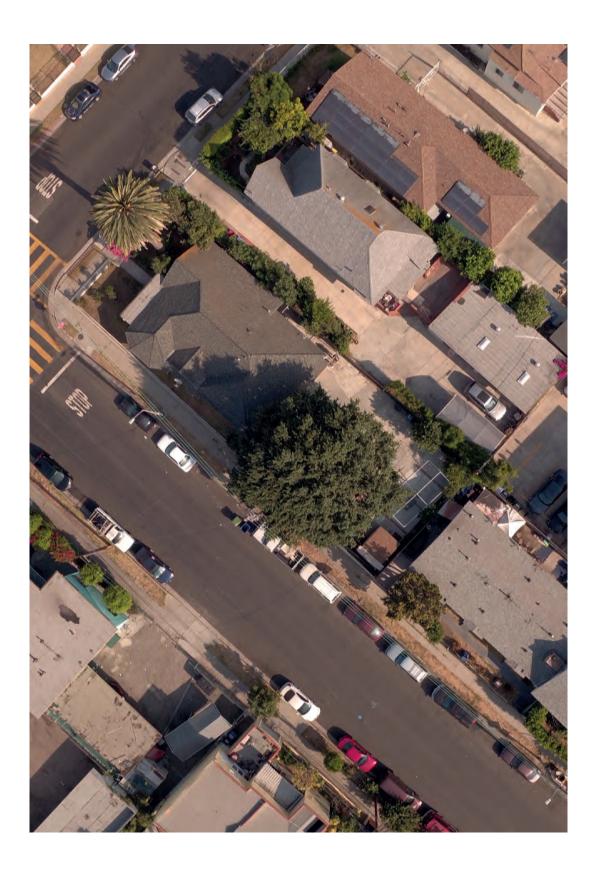
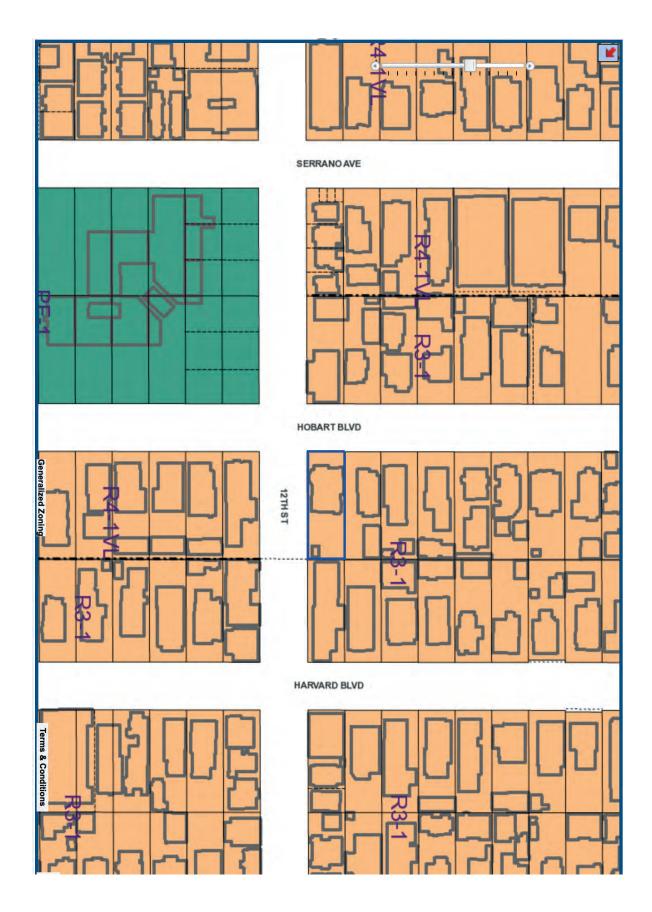


Photo credit: Christian Kosmas Mayer

Primary/Secondary Documentation



Aerial Map



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



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



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



uchdruderei "Celeja" in Celje. — Berantwortlich für den Herausgeber und vers. Für die Druderei verantwortlich: Gabriel Szenczi 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



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



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

Death Claims Former **High Jumping Champion**

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16. (AP) Cornelius Johnson, 29, member 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.

was California intercollegiate federation high jump cham-

pion 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.



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.



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

34 Part VIII/Sunday, July 22, 1984 * Ilos Angeles Times

If Anybody Was Snubbed by Hitler, It Was Cornelius Johnson

By BOB OATES. Times Staff Writer

During the months ahead of the Berlin Olympics of 1936, Adolf Hitter, the German dictator, fore-saw an Aryan landslide. Hence, the Berlin Olympic Or-

Hence, the Berlin Olympic Or-ganizing Committee, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, lined up a unique pack-age of four prizes for each champi-on a gold medal, a wreath of olive leaves, a genuine living oak tree (one foot high) and, best of all, as Hiller said at the time, a hearty handshake with the Fuehrer him-self.

American half-miler John Woodruff recalls that a "bevy of blonde native girls" stood by to hand out the wreaths and the trees

hand out the wreaths and the trees and to escort the winners up to Hitler's private box for the crown-ing 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.

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 aprinter Jesse Owens was smubbed by Hitler that day. If anybody was snubbed, it was John-son.

arubbed by Hitter that day, If anybody was shubbed, 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 homerun or George Washington's famous first in the allver-dollar throw at the Potomac.

"Cornelius and Jesse are both gone now, but the story is still allve," Johnson's sister, Ruby Braxton of Los Angeles, said the other day. "I just saw it on TY. They said Hitter 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 1508. 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 1330s

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 cak tree won by her brother in the 1936 Olympics. The tree,

an planted after Johnson returned from Berlin, now stands 45 feet.

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 anubbed by Hiller. 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 1396, that was the guy who ticked Hiller off. A Nazi like Hilter 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 Hilder to wise up. You can't selectively congraduate Aryans, the committee said. Shake every champion's hand or no-body's.
Hiller 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

One eyewitness recalls that, as of the opening hours of the 1986 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 trib-ute on June 30.

Cornelius Johnson never mar-ried. Once USC-bound, he was ried. Once USC-bound, he was detoured to the ses, 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

in track and field liked him—and, besides, he was a great competitior. He used to say: "They can the me but nobody will ever beat me."
This had proved to be a truism as early as 1832, when, as a studentable et al. Los Angeles High School, Johnson tied for first in the Olympic high jump at the Coliseum.
Since grade achool 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, Shadreak Johns

Theodore's yard now.
Their father, Shadreak Johnson, was a plastering contractor in Los Angeles for 50 years after migrating from Raleigh, N.C., in 1883.
The athlete 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 championahips as a high jumper.
Lanky (6-4, 185), smooth, poised for his age, he lied three others for first in his specialty at the 1982 Olympics. All four jumped 6-5½ and missed at 6-6%.
Under 1830e 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 1890e 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

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 Ued world records in four events in one day—the biggest day, probably, any athiete ever had— was seldom challenged in his life-time 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

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

Woodruff had better luck with his, thought 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

meters at Berlin. "My botany teacher revived (t--and they set it in the ground at my old high school stadium (in Connellswille, 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 incuriant 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 bestde it in the ionely 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 Fermestives

Different Perspectives

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
over." But he intruded into Lincoln's thoughts only once in 65',
pages, in the end when the President dreamed of his own death and,
wrote Vidal, "wondered."
The closest Vidal came to pinning down what daid came to pinning down what motivated Lincoln
was an early passage in which the



Gore Vidal on a periodic foray into state from his Italy hom

President and his former Senate rival, Stephen A. Douglas, were discussing a speech Lincoln had given years previously in Spring-field. Lincoln had said the founders of the Republic "had got all the giory that there was" and that those who came after would either merely hold office or. if they were 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 intellec-tual that is Gore Vidal willingly takes a back seat. Interviewed while on one of his periodic forays into California from his home in and cantorna from his home in Ravello, Italy, to promote his new-est book, Vidal, 59, roamed the political and literary landscapes, acerbic as ever. A writer who fancies words like hypergamous (marrying up) and quotidina (recurrent), Vidal is never banal.

Do we need sorber Lincoln?

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



ligh 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.

Black Olympians in 1932 and 1936

Men's Track and Field	Event	Medal
Eddie Tolan, University of Michigan	100 meters 200 meters	Gold Gold
Raiph Metcalfe, Marquette University	100 meters 200 meters	Silver Bronze
Edward Gordon, University of lower	broad jump	Gold
Cornelius Johnson, Les Angeles High	high jump	none
1936 — Berlin		
Men's Track and Field		
Jesse Owens, Ohio State	100 meters 200 meters broad jump 400 meter relay	Gold Gold Gold Gold
Cornelius Johnson, Compton College	high-jump	Gold
Archie Williams, uc serkeley	400 meters	Gold
John Woodruff, University of Pittsburgh	800 meters	Gold
Ralph Metcalfe, Marquesta University	400 meter relay 100 meters	Gold Silver
Mack Robinson, Pasadena College	200 meters	Silver
Dave Albritton, one State	high jump	Silver
James LuValle, ucta	400 meters	Bronze
Fritz Pollard Jr., University of North Dakota	110 meter high hurdles	Bronze
John Brooks, University of Chicego	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

BOB ALLEN / Lot Ang

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





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, Cornel-ius Johnson finished fourth in the Olympic high jump in his home-town, barely missing a medal. The school never honored him.

acnool never nonored him.
Four years later, he represented
Compton College at the Berlin
Olympics and won the gold medal.
Adolf Hiller did not shake his hand
and the city of Los Angeles staged
no peregnony when he assets.

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 athletend of black prominence in athletend. trend of black prominence in ath-letics 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

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.

In a room behind a long garden, m a room beaund 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 About 100 family friends passess 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 Essie—the music Johnson loved. Between reordings: makers described Johnmusic Johnson loved. Between re-cordings, speakers described John-son 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 un-precedented success of the black athletes in the '38 Games. Until the 1930s, medal winners George Poage in 1904 and DeBart Hubbard in 1924 had been among the few American blacks to com-pete in the Olympics. But in 1932 in Los Angeles, Eddle Tolan of the University of Michi-

Tolan of the University of Michl-gan, Ralph Metcalfe of Marquette University and Edward Gordon of

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 as both.

In 1995, nine ut of 10 black male track and field athietes 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

black females, both of whom com-peted in track and field.

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 Proce for 22 years and teaches computer science at a Bay Area high achool.

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 Dayson insurance agency.

owns at 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 restriction. eges and universities, particularly in the North.

All the male track and field

Please see JOHNSON, Page 6



MICHAEL EDWARDS / Los Angeles Tin

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

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

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Los Angeles Times

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 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."

To protect and preserve a tree rooted in Games - Los Angeles Times

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."

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To protect and preserve a tree rooted in Games - Los Angeles Times

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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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 LOS ANGELES CITY DIRECTORY

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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 At-
- lantic. Nina M, steno Fitzgerald Music & Piano Co, res 119 N Flower.
- " Norman, clk Blake, Moffit & Towne, res Alhambra.
- res Ainamora.

 "Norwood C, meat ctr Everhardy & Wreden, h 547½ Crocker.

 "Olaf, carp, h 3311 Wadsworth.
 "Olaf G, farmer, res 855 San Julian.
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- " Olof, gro 3121 Maple av, h same.
 " Oral L, with R A Rowan & Co, res
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- "Orland, carp, h 1244 E 45th.
 "Ormond H, fireman Salt Lake
 Route, res 410½ Temple.
 "Orson T, office 356 S B'way rm 205,
- h 1221 Orange.
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 "Osborn, hoseman Hose 2 L A F D, res 407½ N Los Angeles.

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- 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. Figueroa.

 "Ottie K, press feeder Out West Co, res 830 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.

 "Parley A, tray agt res 207 N B'way.

- "Palmer A, trav agt, res 207 N B'way.
 "Paul J, mining, h 923 W 39th.
 "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 910½ Crocker.
 "Peter E, tailor 223 W 2d rm 111, h 1616 W 21st.

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- Pierce F, cash Equitable Savings
 Bank, h 1014 W 16th.
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 Ralph R, clk Title Ins & Tr Co, res
 723½ 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

- Richard, lab, h 630 E 46th.
 Robt, h 545 E 36th.
 Robt, cook, res 218 Boyd.
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 Ronald W, carp, res 849 Hemlock.
- "Ronald W, carp, res 849 Hemlock.
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 "Royal M, clk, res 106½ 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.
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- Samuel N, porter F E Prior, res 1631 E 38th.
- Mrs Sanford, res 752 S Spring. Sarah (wid Thos), res 1214½ 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.
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- Signa, dom 1129 W 22d. Sigrid E, tailor C A Gibson, res 639
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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 reatumn h 1213 4 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

r Glendale

"Preston L carp r 804 Maple av

"Purler B comb 797 E 16th

"P G clk r 360 S Hill

"P J lab r 501 Gladys av

"D Indwig r 215 V 202

"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 807½ S San Pedro r 624 E 8th

"Refugio C lab h Safford 2 N of Mc
Allister

Allister Reginald dftsmn Hunt & Grey r

Pasadena
"Reinhold (Griffith & Johnson; Santa
Rita Wine Co) h 522 Woodward av
"Rhoda E (wid W S) h 730½ 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 Robt D (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 Rolle r 323 Winston

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 Tem-

"Sadie (wid H M) fur rms 1127 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 hont lle r 9 ! Hemlock
"Saml O h 840 W Adams
"Saml P lab h 1116 Temple
"Sarah r 1212 E 5th
"Sarah r 1212 E 5th
"Sarah (wid Burr) r 561 S Central
"Sarah A (wid John) r 417 E 52d
"Sarah A (wid John) r 417 E 52d
"Sarah A (wid Wesley) confy 5122
Long Beach av r 1735 F 5 t
"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 Sairwart M mach h 1781 F 71st "Shadrack C plasterer h 1156 Hobart

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 Solom T lab h 305 S Workman Sopfia 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 Susan (wid Jas) r 527 S Los An-

Susan (wid Jas) r 527 S Los Angeles
Susan M (wid M D) h 236 N Griffin
Swan r 441 Ruth av
Swan h 1330½ 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

"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 F 4th
"The fur rms 123 F 4th
"The A mining 212 W 3d rm 415 h
1818 Cimarron
"Theresa C M (wid Frank) h 1326
Reid

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.

621-622 H. W. Hellman Bldg.

Management of Estates a Specialty

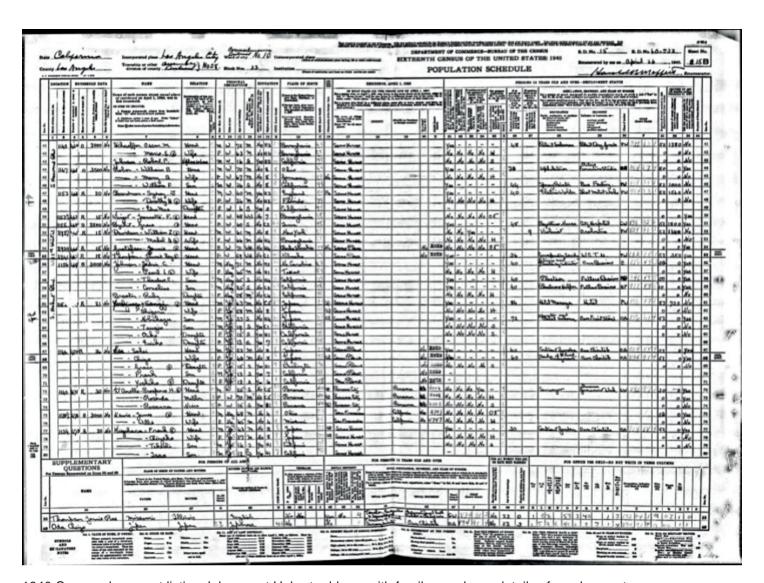
REAL ESTATE

Los Angeles City Directory 1908

Los Angeles City Directory 1908

Age	Relationship
71	Head
65	Wife
35	Son
25	Son
28	Daughter
	71 65 35 25

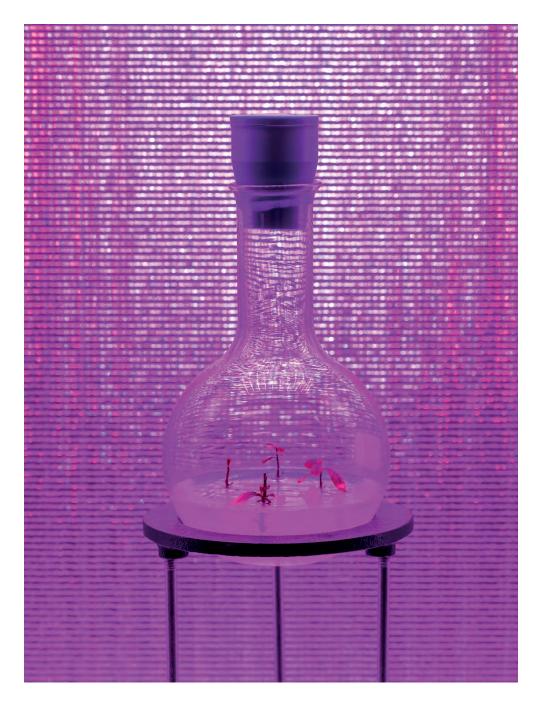
Family living in house in 1940 (via Ancestry)



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



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



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

2		BOARD OF	PUBLIC WORKS	and oth	AND SPECIFICATI
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Second: The ortion thereof, fo Third: That	at the permit does not gra r any purpose that is, or m the granting of the permi	nt any right or privile, my hareafter be prohibl t does not affect or pre-	ted by ordinance of judice any claim of	ing or other structure the City of Los Angeles. title to, or right of p	therein described, or
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3. Owner's	1/-	John	2-0	- Phone	West 13 90
4. Owner's		Tobart	Blud	/ Hone	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH
5. Architect	s name mo	Vt-	***********	Phone	
6. Contracto	r's name Janua	-t- 0	une	Phone	***************************************
7. Contracto	r's address	Some I	* A		*************************
8. VALUAT	ION OF PROPOSED	WORK Includin	g Plumbing, 62s Fi is. Flevators, Painting, etc.	ting, Sowers, } \$6	0.0,00
	resent Building	4	No. of rooms at	present5.7	***************************************
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	many buildings are on		7-1	Jan	×
	oose buildings on lot a		(Tenement Hou	se, Holel, Residence, or	any other purpose.)
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whether h	NO. Plans and S		Application checked	and found _ Stamp_	pere when agreet
OVI	NO. Plans and Stand found in nances, State	pedifications checked to conform to Ordi- to Laws, etc.	Application checked O. K.	and County attention	DILLEW BE
OVI	NO. Plans and Sand found trances, State		Application checked	JUL	24 1922

Building Permit from July 24, 1922

	APPL	CATION TO	ADD-	ALTER-F	EPAIR-I	EMOL	SH BA	5 it-3—R12
3 CITY OF LOS A	NGELES	AND FOR	CERTIFIC	ATE OF			Por ment gli	G AND SAFE
NSTRUCTIONS:	Applicant t	Complete Nu	LTRACT	ms Only.			CENSUS	TRACT
1. LEGAL LOT DESCR LOT	1	den	6 1	Pellis	sier		213	2
2. PRESENT USE OF			EW USE OF				728	AP
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6. OWNER'S ADDRE		ant Dina		CITY	2	IP	LOT SIZ	
7. ARCHITECT OR O	So, Hob	art Blvd		STATE LICE	NSE No P	HONE	46x1	.35
B. ENGINEER				STATE LICE	NSE No. P	HONE	ALLEY	
9. CONTRACTOR			_	STATE LICE	ENSE No P	HONE	BLOS L	INE
o. LENDER	e C. Joh	nson	ANCH	ADDRE	ce		AFFIDA	
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EW USE OF BUILDING			SIZE OF ADO	ATION ST	DRIES	HEIGHT	FL000	
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		G.P.J. E	n	ILF.	10.S.	-4	1/0	TVDICT
C	3.1.0.	1-	16.00		0.3.	,	3/0	TYPIST
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Building Permit from January 24, 1972

NSTRUCTION	IE. Assirance	Complete Number	TIFICATE OF OCCU	DEF 1	OF BUILDING /	
1. LEGAL LO			Pell		CENSUS TE 2132	ACT
2. PRESENT US		NEW I	SE OF BUILDING		7286	_
3. JOB ADDRES	STIINE		same		7085	_
	S. Hobart	Blvd.			R4-2	
12th	St.	AND	11th St.		FIRE DIST.	
5. OWNER'S NA		nson	737-455	9	COL	
6. OWNER'S AD			CITY	ZIP	LOT SIZE	
7. ARCHITECT	OR DESIGNER		TA STATE LICENSE I	IO. PHONE	46x1	35
8. ENGINEER			STATE LICENSE	ia. PHONE	ALLEY	
9. CONTRACTOR			STATE LICENSE I	Ió. PHONE	BLDG. LINE	_
OWNER O. LENDER	2		ADDRESS		1/	
O. LENDER		BRANCH	ADDRESS		AFF 6	
11. SIZE OF LENGTH 6(12, MATERIAL O CONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING	EXISTING BLOG.) WIDTH 35 P EXT. WALL	STORIES HEIGHT		1 FLOOR	CCP	
OF EXISTING	B ADDRESS -	h 777.4.4	l_wdl	wd	DISTRICT O	FFICE
14. VA	LUATION TO INCLUDE ALL	FIXED			GRADING	-
EQ!	DIPMENT REQUIRED TO OF	ERATE \$ 3	00.		1	
5. NEW WORK: (Describe)	exterior	plasteri	ng/remove de	oor/	CRIT, SOIL	
patch	ing & c.	1	-22 -L		HIGHWAY I	DED.
EW USE OF BUILD	DING	SIZE	OF ADDITION STORIES,	нејент	FLGOD	_
Ol dv	relling GROUP	SPRINKLERS	one /	ON ACTIVITY	CONS	
V	R-1	REQ'D SPECIFIED /	COMB GEN	MAJ. S. CONS	1	
n/c	GUEST PARK	TOTAL	PLANS CHECKED DED PLANS APPROVES		tram	el_
VITS -	I ROOMS IN I SPAC	25	TEMES ALT HOUSE		100000000000000000000000000000000000000	
1	CONT. INSP.	n/c	APPEICATION APP	0	INSPECTOR	
.C. No.	cont. Insp.	n/c	APPEICATION APP	roved	B	
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Building Permit from March 24, 1972

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.

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

Permit Application Status History

No Data Available.

Permit Application Clearance Information

Demo Preinspection Not Cleared		Department of Building and Safety	
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Contact Information

No Data Available.

Inspector Information

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

No Data Available.

Inspection Request History

Special/Order Compliance	5/6/2021	Partial Inspection	WILLIAM WREN
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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.

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
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Permit Application Clearance Information

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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



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)

Map Sheet

None

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

Planning and Zoning Information

General Plan Note(s)

Special Notes None Zoning R3-1

Zoning Information (ZI) ZI-2452 Transit Priority Area in the City of Los Angeles

Yes

General Plan Land Use Medium Residential

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

CDO: Community Design Overlay

CPIO: Community Plan Imp. Overlay

Subarea

None

CUGU: Clean Up-Green Up

None

HCR: Hillside Construction Regulation

NSO: Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay

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 (*) - 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

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

13372)

Wells None

Seismic Hazards

Active Fault Near-Source Zone

Nearest Fault (Distance in km) 0.71283576

Nearest Fault (Name) Puente Hills Blind Thrust Los Angeles Blind Thrusts Region

Fault Type В

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 25.00000000 Dip Angle (degrees) 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 https://housing.lacity.org No [APN: 5080021001] Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO)

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

The property is subject to AB 1482 only if the owner is a corporation, Notes

limited liability company, or a real estate investment trust.

Public Safety

Police Information

West Bureau 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)

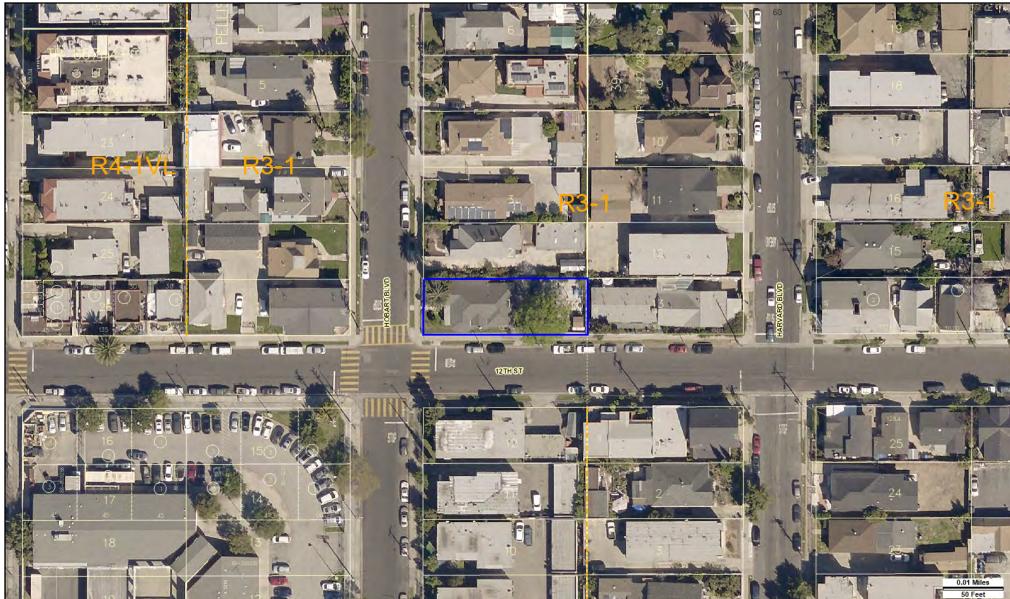
Project Descriptions(s): AB-283 PROGRAM - GENERAL PLAN/ZONE CONSISTENCY - WILSHIRE AREA- COMMUNITY WIDE ZONE CHANGES AND

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

