

## 1810 Broadway – Philomathean Hall

### Statement of Significance

The Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club, established in 1921, is the oldest African American women’s club in Santa Monica, in Los Angeles, and perhaps in the region. The Philomathean Charity Club is an exemplary manifestation of the African American women’s club movement, which mobilized the intelligence, compassion, and financial acumen of club members to establish and support a range of social services and educational opportunities for African Americans. Women’s clubs sought to both buffer their community members from the worst impacts of racism and prepare them to lift themselves up from those circumstances through literacy, vocational training, higher education, arts, and culture. For decades the Philomathean Charity Club provided a range of services for the needy in the Santa Monica community from layettes for new mothers to walkers for the elderly. They provided baskets of food at holiday time and wrote checks to help families in financial crisis. Checks were also written to nonprofit organizations, activist groups, and educational funds that shared their goals. Programs presented by the organization featured locally-known, inspirational speakers, and dramatic and musical presentations. Club members made a wise investment in 1958 when they built a meeting hall that included two retail spaces, allowing them to engage in community building while paying their mortgage. The retail spaces have been occupied by Black-owned barber and beauty shops continuously since they were built. When the mortgage was paid off in 1970, the rental income was redirected to a college scholarship program for African American high school seniors. In the fifty years since then, Philomathean Charity Club scholarships have provided hundreds of students with hundreds of thousands of dollars. Philomathean Hall is still owned and managed by the Club. It retains a very high degree of architectural integrity both inside and out. Its mid-century modernist vernacular design is both simple and attractive. It serves as an excellent example of the hard work, community values, and sustained purpose of the Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club.

### Site History & Broadway Neighborhood Context

The subject parcel at 1810 Broadway is on the south-east corner of Eighteenth Street and Broadway in the City of Santa Monica; it is also known as lot X, block 181, Town of Santa Monica Tract, AIN 4275-013-023. In April 1914, the city installed the first lateral sewers in block 181.<sup>1</sup> By that time most of the parcels on the portion of the block fronting Nineteenth Street had changed hands several times and several cottage homes had been built. The side of block

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<sup>1</sup> *Special Ordinance No. 471*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, April 3, 1914

181 fronting Eighteenth Street was still entirely undeveloped. The first record of activity on the subject site occurred five months after the sewers went in, in September 1914, when W. Johnson built a two-room frame dwelling at 1814 Utah Avenue (Broadway) for \$150.<sup>2</sup> William Johnson lived on site until at least 1918. Due to the commonness of his name and the lack of any other details, no further records of Johnson's life were discovered. By 1920, a new resident/owner, Russell Inglehart, took over the property. Inglehart was a firefighter who had been living with his family in the Ocean Park neighborhood until his marriage in 1918.<sup>3</sup> Evidence that a second dwelling had been built on the parcel appeared in 1922. Described in a newspaper advertisement as 1503 Eighteenth Street, the parcel, with two houses now, was being offered for sale by an owner who lived on site. The owner was not named.<sup>4</sup> The Ingleharts were living at a different Santa Monica address by 1923. The chain of title for the subject property sinks into obscurity for several years after Inglehart, until 1939 when John H. Hawkins emerges as the owner. Hawkins held the property until 1952 and in 1953 it was transferred to his sister Carries Dumas. Dumas sold it to the Philomatheans.<sup>5</sup> Occupancy records obtained through city directories, the U.S. Census, and newspaper reports indicate a cavalcade of tenants over the course of the three-and-a-half decades after Inglehart sold the property.<sup>6</sup> Based on genealogical research, it appears that all documented residents of the subject property after Inglehart were African American. None of the tenants were found to have historic significance relative to designation criteria.

The United States Census shows that the African American population in Santa Monica had grown from 60 in 1900 to 282 in 1920, though remaining at 2% of the city's total population. During that twenty-year period, African Americans in Santa Monica who initially lived along the south edge of today's downtown adjacent to the railroad tracks, migrated south. They took up residence in areas surrounding the C.M.E. Church that was established in 1909 at Fourth and Bay Streets, including the Bandini Tract (Belmar and parts of Samohi today), and on Bay, Fourth and Fifth Streets in Ocean Park.<sup>7</sup> There were a growing number of Black-owned businesses in the area, as well as Black families acquiring homes and accumulating family wealth, and workers making forays into new industries and job categories that had not previously been open to them. In response to this progress, significant racially motivated events in Santa Monica in the early 1920s resulted in new restrictive zoning, and increased pressure from white

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<sup>2</sup> *Building in 1914 Till Noon Today \$507,555.50*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, September 21, 1914, *City of Santa Monica Permit Ledgers*, Archives of the Office of the Santa Monica City Clerk, 1914-1920

<sup>3</sup> *United States Census*, Santa Monica, California, 1920, *Announce Engagement*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, August 13, 1918

<sup>4</sup> *Read This*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, May 5, 1922

<sup>5</sup> *Title Search, 1810 Broadway AIN 4275-013-023*, prepared by Fidelity National title Company for Brandon Miller, October 10, 2022

<sup>6</sup> NB: No early deeds or reports of sale of any kind were found for the subject parcel.

<sup>7</sup> United States Census, Santa Monica, California, 1900, 1910, 1920, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

realtors and property owners that pushed African Americans, people of Mexican descent, and other people of color into what would become a large, segregated district between Fourteenth Street and Cloverfield Avenue from Santa Monica to Pico Boulevards. This includes part of the area we know today as the Pico Neighborhood, which was somewhat reshaped in the early 1960s after the Santa Monica Freeway cut through its center.

John Henry Hawkins arrived in Santa Monica from his native Georgia in 1922. He moved into the home of his sister, Carrie Dumas and her husband Richard at 1544 19th Street (in the same block as the subject property), where he stayed until about 1925. By 1928, Santa Monica directories indicate he was living at the subject property and working as a porter in a barber shop. He also appeared at the subject property in the 1931 Santa Monica Directory. As noted, title search records for the subject property indicate that John H. Hawkins held a mortgage on the parcel by 1939. By 1952, the 63-year-old Hawkins had been hospitalized and was under guardianship of the State because he was no longer able to make his own decisions. So, through the State of California, his sister Carrie Dumas purchased the parcel from him for \$2100. One year later, in January 1953, Dumas sold the parcel to the Philomathean Charity Literary and Art Club. The records do not indicate the total sale price, but they do list the amount financed by the Philomathean Club as \$2000.<sup>8</sup> Philomathean Club records have been lost, but oral histories indicate that the total sale price was \$5000.

Through the decades following the early 1920s, African Americans established a neighborhood commercial district along Broadway that served a residential community that grew up in the vicinity that we refer to today as the Broadway Neighborhood. The stretch of Broadway between Fourteenth and Twentieth Streets became its hub. By the time the Philomathean Club was ready to break ground on the subject property, Broadway was lined with churches, fraternal organizations, beauty salons, barbershops, groceries, restaurants, night clubs, and more. In the 1960s, The Santa Monica Freeway sliced through the city’s residential neighborhood of color and cut off the Broadway and Olympic Boulevard commercial districts from the bulk of their local clientele. The displacement and disruption that followed put most of the commercial uses out of business and resulted in the remapping of the Pico Neighborhood to be between the I-10 Freeway and Pico Boulevard and from Lincoln Boulevard to Stewart Street, in spite of civil rights laws that should have ended segregation. Today, Broadway is lined primarily with parking lots and redeveloped sites. Examples of significant original buildings that remain extant from the heyday of the Broadway Neighborhood are the subject property at 1810 Broadway, the Masonic Hall at 1720 Broadway, and the Calvary Baptist Church at the 1502 20th Street at the corner of Broadway.

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<sup>8</sup> *Short Form Deed of Trust and Assignment of Rents*, The Philomathean Charity Literary and Art Club, a California corporation, trustor, Carrie Dumas, trustee, January 6, 1953

## 1810 Broadway Building Description

Philomathean Hall is an example of a mid-century modernist vernacular commercial building. The 1957 building permit does not list an architect. Present day club members have heard that African American Architect Lester O. Bankhead designed the structure. Bankhead was a contemporary of well-known Black architect Paul Williams. While not as famous as Williams, he is similarly recognized for his pioneering success in breaking through the barriers of racism to be trained and find work as an architect.<sup>9</sup> More research would be required to confirm or deny Bankhead's association with the subject property. John H. Gross of Los Angeles is listed as the contractor. Gross does not appear to have had a career that rises to the level of historic significance based on local standards for designation.

The permit describes a 4230- square-foot (45' x 94'), one-story rectangular structure to be built at a cost of \$26,850. It portrays two small retail spaces at the west end fronting Eighteenth Street, and a club house consisting of a large auditorium and associated support features. A concrete slab foundation supports the stucco-clad walls of the relatively simple structure. A shallow parapet conceals a slightly bowed roof supported by shaped wooden joists. The Broadway elevation is set back five feet from the public sidewalk, and the Eighteenth Street elevation sits on the property line. Both of these are designed as primary elevations. The eastern 55 feet of the parcel was set aside for surface parking.<sup>10</sup> It is currently enclosed with bamboo-covered chain link fencing and serves as a play yard for the present nursery school tenant.

The Broadway elevation of the structure is designed in three distinct bays, which correspond to the layout of uses inside, resulting in an irregular pattern of fenestration that is stylistically united by wooden casings that define each bay. Heavy casings extend past openings, creating surface articulation and geometries that add modernist interest to the otherwise simple structure.

The bay on the east end of the north elevation houses the support functions of the structure including club offices facing the street, as well as restrooms and a large kitchen at the rear. This section is punctuated by three, evenly spaced, door-sized openings linked across the top by a continuous casing. The center opening is filled with a solid wooden door, and the two side openings are filled with stationary windows. Each window is divided into two unequal lights by a wood mullion. The smaller, bottom lights have been infilled with painted plywood.

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<sup>9</sup> *African American Architects, A Biographical Dictionary 1865-1945*, Edited by Dreck Spurlock Wilson, Rutledge, New York, Taylor & Francis, Inc., UK, 2004

<sup>10</sup> *Santa Monica Building Permit, B23227*, 1810 Broadway, September 26, 1957, publicdocs.santamonica.gov

A black stone plaque mounted low on the wall at the Broadway façade's east corner is engraved with the following dedication:

The Philomathean Club, Inc.  
Charity  
Literary – Art  
Organized November - 1921  
Erected - 1958  
Rose Wesson - President

Centered above the tripartite openings is a large, stuccoed volume that protrudes approximately one foot from the main façade and extends approximately one foot above the parapet. A second building permit was pulled by John E. Allen Signs in January 1958. It allowed construction of a 16-foot-long sign reading “Philomathean Club” to be installed on this volume. The drawings included with the permit show that the 14-inch-tall letters were cut from 26-gauge sheet metal. They stood on a 10-inch-deep, 12-inch-high base with rounded corners, which was mounted onto the building.<sup>11</sup> The sign is no longer extant. It is possible it was removed during the 1970s, when the Philomathean Club began renting the auditorium space to a nursery school.

The center bay fronting Broadway that houses the auditorium is the largest of the three. Three evenly spaced double-wide clerestory windows are offset at the east end by a solid door with a narrow transom light. These openings are linked and encircled by the heavy wooden casings that characterize the property. The top of this grouping of openings sits several inches higher than that of the office bay.

The west bay of the Broadway elevation houses the retail portion of the structure. Divided into a north and a south unit, both fronting on Eighteenth Street, the Broadway elevation presents a side view. A solid door topped by a narrow, fixed transom is grouped with the retail fenestration. A plate glass window approximately three feet from the ground, is divided vertically by a wood mullion. Above the window is an old-fashioned barber's pole which has been extant since 1970 or earlier (this space has been a barber shop since the building was constructed). These openings are linked across the top by a band course that continues west and south to include the whole volume at the west end of the structure. A non-original cement block planter has been added on Broadway below the plate glass window.

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<sup>11</sup> *Santa Monica Building Permit, B23227*, 1810 Broadway, January 30, 1958, [publicdocs.santamonica.gov](http://publicdocs.santamonica.gov)

The west-facing entry to the north unit is inset into the corner of the structure. An original single light wooden door with a mail slot in the lower rail below the glass remains extant. It is protected by a metal security gate that is a later addition. A large, fixed transom divided vertically into two lights is above the door. A corner window lines the setback of the entryway and continues a short distance along the Eighteenth Street elevation. Separating the two retail entrances on the west elevation, a section of solid wall has been punctuated by two in-wall air conditioning units. The entry to the second shop features an original single light wooden door with a mail slot in the bottom rail, and a large transom above that is vertically divided into two lights. The doorway is flanked by two plate glass windows, approximately four feet from the ground.

The south elevation of the subject property sits on the property line and has no openings or articulation. This elevation is prolonged by a six-foot block wall that extends it to the east to terminate at an alley. The east elevation of the structure faces the former parking lot, which is now surrounded with a six-foot, bamboo-covered chain-link fence on the remaining two sides. The area serves as a nursery school playground. The north half of the east elevation is a solid wall. The south half is punctuated by a single solid wood door leading to the kitchen and five original aluminum slider windows that light and ventilate the kitchen and adjacent restrooms.

The interior of the Philomathean Hall retains a gently peaked ceiling reflecting the bowed roof. The ceiling is plastered, and the exposed ceiling joists are painted to match. A low stage which stands against the western wall of the space is accessed by two steps that wrap around three sides. Opposite the stage, along the east wall is a large storage area behind double doors where folding tables and chairs were once stowed. The formerly solid doors have been replaced with multilight French doors to accommodate a new use. The rest of the auditorium was simple and unadorned. Non-original wainscoting, additional cabinetry and various partial height room dividers have been added to accommodate the current use. The original form and volume of the auditorium remains intact. The flooring in the auditorium appears to be original brown speckled linoleum tile. An industrial kitchen in the southeast corner of the structure retains original cabinets, counters and a stainless-steel-topped center island. Ceramic tiled work surfaces and a backsplash in the Philomathean Club colors of yellow and green finish the areas surrounding two commodious sinks. A space for a large industrial stove, no longer extant, is apparent on one wall. The blue linoleum flooring in the kitchen is non-original. The kitchen connects to the auditorium by a door and a large interior window. A doorway in the north wall of the kitchen leads to a narrow hallway with non-original wainscoting. Two restrooms and a utility closet are accessed from this hallway, which leads to office spaces that front on Broadway. The larger room connects to the auditorium with a door and interior window. A built-in cabinet purportedly original to the space stands on the south wall next to the door to the auditorium. Non-original crown molding has been added to the top of the cabinet. A much

smaller rear office is linked by a door and another interior window and features a small lavatory. Non-original blue linoleum flooring extends from the kitchen through all of these back-of-house spaces. All of the interior doors in the Philomathean Hall and its support spaces have been replaced with multi-light French doors, used singly and in pairs.

**Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club**

A Philomathean is a lover of learning. Philomathean clubs and societies were established in the United States within colleges and universities since the 1700s. These clubs were where stiff-collared, whiskered members sat around glossy tables in smoky, paneled rooms to debate the classics. But a love for learning exists well beyond the confines of those elitist, ivy-covered bastions of rich white men. African Americans, who after emancipation were prevented by law from becoming literate in some states, have always placed a very high value on education. Education was and is the key to lifting people up, to living with dignity, confidence, and self-respect, to acting on one’s own initiative to enjoy the prosperity of the United States, and to prepare children for the future. The Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club was founded to lift up and support the Santa Monica African American community through direct donations, and fellowship at events with cultural and educational programming. Having recently passed its 100th year doing this work, which today focuses on an expansive college scholarship program, Santa Monica’s Philomathean Club is among the oldest African American women’s clubs in Southern California.

The Club was established in November 1921, when seven African American women in Santa Monica, according to the traditions of their era, decided to start a women’s club. The founding president of Santa Monica’s Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club, Eleanor Layne, was newly arrived in Santa Monica from Texas by way of Calexico, California, when she invited the others to her home in 1921. Official Club histories written decades later note that the first meeting was held in Layne’s home in the 1500 block of Fifth Street in Santa Monica.<sup>12</sup> It is possible that the Laynes were staying at the Rest-A-While Apartments at 1538 Fifth Street, a Black-owned property that welcomed both long- and short-term stays, while they settled into their new city. Documentation shows that Ezra and Eleanor Layne purchased a home at 1832 Third Street in the heart of the Belmar Triangle shortly after the Club was founded, in December 1921.<sup>13</sup> Founding members Parsada Caver, Ruth Linly, Mamie Richardson, and Bessie

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<sup>12</sup> *Mortgage Burning of the Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club Clubhouse*, Souvenir Program, Quinn Research Center, 1970

<sup>13</sup> *Los Angeles County General Index of Grantees*, Melvina A. Glenny to Ezra J. and Eleanor Layne, Book 529 page 287, December 9, 1921, [www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com)

Washington were also new to the city in 1921. The seventh founding member was Julia Murrell. The Murrells had lived in Santa Monica since 1914 and were well connected in the Black community by the time the Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club was founded.

An ambitious and enriching meeting program in October 1923 was reported in the social columns of the *California Eagle* newspaper as the largest meeting held since the organization of the Club. The meeting, hosted by Flavia Whitley Craddock, took place at the Whitley home at 1654 Nineteenth Street. The Whitleys were among the pioneering African American families in Santa Monica, who along with life-long friends the Fritzes, helped found Santa Monica's Phillips Chapel C.M.E. Church. The first keynote speaker of the evening was Etta Moxley whose address was entitled "National Club Work—Wide in its Scope and Very Deep." Moxley was one of the great leaders of the African American women's club movement in California at the time. She had been a two-term president of the California State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, which had the motto "Lifting as we Climb," espousing the idea that Black women's clubs had a duty to be more than just social by doing good work in the community. Moxley's influence was clearly felt, even though she was not actually present for the founding of the club. The second address was delivered by Eleanor Layne. By then, Layne had stepped down from her seat as first president of the Philomatheans to move to Monrovia with her family, where she had started a similar women's club. She shared her experiences with her new club in her new city. Carrie Dumas followed with a talk on the importance of educating children. Others spoke on poetry, religion, and art, and two women gave musical presentations.<sup>14</sup> Reports of this meeting indicate that not all those present were Club members. Many in attendance, including some of the speakers, were guests coming to be enriched and inspired by the program.

Employment opportunities for African Americans in the 1920s were still very limited. African American women worked hard and became expert at stretching the income brought in by their husbands and themselves to meet the needs of their families. The financial management acumen, ingenuity, and resilience developed in everyday life was brought to bear allowing the Philomathean Club to raise money and distribute those funds for the aid and enrichment of others. The early charitable activities of the Philomatheans included donations of layettes for new mothers, gift baskets for the needy at Christmas and Thanksgiving, visiting the sick and the elderly, and providing direct financial assistance to people in crisis. Thanksgiving dinner events fed as many as 100 guests each year. Their community Christmas events included free holiday gifts for all. An annual mother and daughter banquet was hosted to raise money for the programs, but also built community.

Maime Richardson was the club's second president, taking over when Eleanor Layne moved to

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<sup>14</sup> *Santa Monica, Mrs. Flavia Craddock Entertains*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, November 9, 1923



Monrovia. Richardson was followed by Julia Murrell, Ruth Linly, Bessie Lawrence, and Loretta Edwards. There is very little surviving documentation of Club activity during the tenures of these presidents, but later accounts indicate the Club maintained its strong start. In 1932, the Santa Monica Philomatheans joined and sent representatives to the California State Association of Colored Women's Clubs' regional conference.<sup>15</sup> The California Association was established in 1906 in Oakland by Eliza Warner. In 1908, the group became a chapter of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, established in 1896. Santa Monica's Etta Vena Moxley served as president of the California State organization for two terms beginning in 1912. Moxley became an honorary member of the Philomathean Charity Club once they joined the rolls of the Federation.<sup>16</sup> The Philomathean Charity Club adopted the motto: "Lifting as we climb, through deeds, not words," combining the mottos of the national and state organizations they had become a part of. They adopted the club colors of green and yellow, which were two of the four colors associated with the women's suffrage movement, (the others were purple, adopted by the Federation, and white). Yellow and green were often reflected in floral arrangements and decorations at their many events and banquets.

The following year, the Santa Monica Philomatheans organized their traditional mother and daughter banquet in partnership with the California State Association. A record 150 guests attended the event at the Masonic Hall in Santa Monica. Etta Moxley spoke, followed by dramatic readings and musical performances from Club members and other special guests.<sup>17</sup> Moxley frequently spoke at Philomathean Club events, where excellent programming furthered their mission, and was critical to raising funds for the needy as the Great Depression deepened.

By 1934, when Anna Coleman took the reins as president, the group was going strong. Their meetings continued to be richly programmed, and members were called upon to bring along canned goods or other donatable items for the needy. On April 19, 1935, the Philomathean Charity Club registered with the State of California as a nonprofit organization. They were getting their affairs in order so they could purchase a parcel for a clubhouse that could accommodate their well-attended events and programs, which now included a Halloween event replete with a costume contest.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *Club Women Breakfast at South Park, Santa Monica*, by Willie Louise Gilmore, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, March 6, 1936, Philomatheans Burn Mortgage, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, January 25, 1945

<sup>16</sup> *Journal of the California Association of Colored Women, Inc.*, Compiled by Margaret M. Nottage, 1949, Quinn Research Center

<sup>17</sup> *Santa Monica*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, March 24, 1933

<sup>18</sup> *The Philomathean Charity Club*, OpenCorporates, The Open Database of the Corporate World, [www.opencorporates.com](http://www.opencorporates.com), *Santa Monica*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, May 17, 1935

The Philomathean Charity Club was founded at a time when African Americans were not permitted to assemble in local halls or gathering places in the City due to race restrictions. Thus, from the beginning, the Philomatheans, who had been meeting in each other's homes, aspired to build their own meeting place that could be shared with the broader Santa Monica African American community. In 1922, in order to shut down the highly successful African American-owned Caldwell's Recreation Hall on Third Street in the Belmar area, racist City leaders passed targeted new zoning that limited public dance uses to Santa Monica Boulevard, Ocean Avenue, Ocean Front Walk, and in the Central Business District.<sup>19</sup> The law made it impossible for any new gathering places that would welcome African Americans to be established by restricting that use to areas where a tacit agreement among white realtors allowed only Caucasians to purchase land.

Santa Monica's African American Chapter of Masons, established in 1911 and based in Hull's Hall on Third Street in downtown (where the Santa Monica Mall stands today), moved to 1720 Broadway in 1925, and built the present structure there more than a decade later. The Masonic Temple was available for banquets and meetings, but one hall wasn't enough to meet the need. Recognizing that a \$2500 asking price for a parcel at 1438 Seventeenth Street was a good value, Club president Anna Coleman did not want the Club to miss an opportunity to buy. She placed a down payment of her own money on the spot, rather than wait for the next board meeting and an official vote, a delay that could allow the deal to be snatched up by someone else.<sup>20</sup> The parcel was almost entirely vacant except for a very small dwelling tucked up against the rear property line.<sup>21</sup> Soon after the purchase, their 21-woman membership temporarily dropped to seven, which put a damper on their intention to redevelop the site, but apparently not their ability to meet mortgage payments.

Bouncing back the following year, a formal-dress event was held at Calvary Baptist Church to celebrate the Philomathean's fifteenth anniversary. The decorations featured the club colors of yellow and green. Eleanor Layne visited from Monrovia for the event and was honored along with Ruth Linly and Bessie Washington as founding members. Honorary member Etta Moxley served as mistress of ceremonies, in addition to delivering one of her inspiring addresses about the important work of club women. The program included musical performances and a rousing group rendition of the Negro National Anthem. Recognition of past and present members and an elaborate birthday cake presentation involving 15 teens from the Hi-Tri Club, also entertained the guests.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> *City Fathers to Restrict Dancing*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, July 24, 1922, *City Council Restricts Dancing*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, July 26, 1922

<sup>20</sup> *Santa Monica Charity Club Celebrates*, California Eagle, November 13, 1941

<sup>21</sup> *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*, Santa Monica CA, 1950

<sup>22</sup> *Santa Monica*, by Willie Louise Gilmore, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, March 6, 1936

In 1936, Philomathean Charity Club members visited the newly purchased airplane of the “Craftsmen of the Black Wings” in its hangar at Dycer Airport, a small field in Gardena.<sup>23</sup> Black Wings was an all-Black owned and operated aeronautical enterprise established by Lieutenant William J. Powell in 1933. Powell earned an engineering degree and then entered flight school in Los Angeles in 1928. By this time the first African American to earn a pilot’s license, the legendary Bessie Coleman had already met a tragic end.<sup>24</sup> Powell established a flight school called the “Bessie Coleman Aero Club” in her honor. There, African American students were trained to get in on the ground floor of all aspects of the burgeoning industry of aviation from flying to engineering. In 1931 Powell sponsored the first all-Black airshow in the United States. The Aero Club did not survive the Great Depression, but the persistent and resilient Powell bounced back quickly with a new enterprise called the Craftsmen of the Black Wings. To promote Black Wings and build enrollment, Lt. Powell wrote an autobiographical book which followed his rise in the field of aeronautics and based a play on it. Both works were called *Black Wings*. In Santa Monica, the play was performed at the Miles Playhouse on Lincoln Boulevard.<sup>25</sup> The vocational training program Powell developed in aeronautics found a home at Jefferson High School in Los Angeles. Sixty-two men and women enrolled. Powell noted that the women were getting higher grades.<sup>26</sup> Black Wings purchased an army surplus airplane so students could begin flight training. This was the airplane that the Philomathean Charity Club members went to see at Dycer Airport. The Philomatheans returned to Dycer Airport a month later, and along with members of the Santa Monica Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. and led the airplane christening ceremony before a cheering crowd. Philomathean President Anna Coleman had the honor of pouring the “silver liquid” over the nose of the plane as she declared its name to be *Progress*. Both organizations also made financial donations to the Black Wings.<sup>27</sup> Anna Coleman was flown to and from the event, departing from Santa Monica Airport.<sup>28</sup> While Anna Coleman shared a surname with the great flier Bessie Coleman, and both Coleman families hailed from various counties in Texas, they do not appear to be related.

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<sup>23</sup> *‘Black Wings’ Plane Gets Movie Contract*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, April 10, 1936

<sup>24</sup> NB: Bessie Coleman, licensed in 1921 in Europe, was in a plane crash at Santa Monica Airport in 1923. The plane was a total loss. Coleman sustained several broken bones and other injuries. She convalesced at St. Catherine’s Hospital on Fourth Street in Ocean Park for over two months. A second crash that was fatal occurred in Florida in 1926.

<sup>25</sup> *Black Wings is a Modern Drama of Negro Life, Critic Claims*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, June 23, 1933, *Santa Monica*, by Willie Louise Gilmore, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, July 28, 1933

<sup>26</sup> *Flying Students Free Courses*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, December 12, 1935, *Women Students of Aviation Excell [sic] Men*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, February 7, 1936

<sup>27</sup> NB: Only 55 African American pilots were licensed in the United States by 1937, more than half of whom were trained by Powell, who was receiving national attention. He began offering free tuition to a program that would qualify African American aviation educators who could fan out across the United States. Before Powell could completely fulfill his legacy, he died of suspected complications from injuries sustained during WWI.

<sup>28</sup> *Christen Airplane Sunday*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, May 22, 1936

A few months later, in October 1936, the Philomathean Club held a large fundraising banquet that drew 130 attendees. All were well-fed and entertained with music presented by gifted local musicians Bernice Lawson and Edna Heard, among others. Proceeds benefitted the Philomathean's Christmas banquet, baskets, and gifts, which were distributed at no cost to the needy.<sup>29</sup> Robust monthly meetings with food, music, and speeches continued for members, usually at members' homes. There were also public events including the Mother's Day Breakfast and Homecoming. Some of the events were reported to have taken place at their small clubhouse. The Seventeenth Street property was paid off after nine diligent years on December 7, 1944. Club legend cites the tenacity of the Philomatheans that allowed them to meet the monthly payments, "one chicken dinner at a time."<sup>30</sup> A mortgage burning party celebrated their success.<sup>31</sup>

Except for a one-year break when Ida Mae Cook took over, Coleman served as president of the Philomatheans until 1947, when she passed away.<sup>32</sup> In honor of her fruitful 13-year service, the Philomathean Charity Club sponsored a commemorative stained-glass window in her honor in the Calvary Baptist Church at Twentieth Street and Broadway, which was under construction at the time. The next Club president was Loretta Edwards. Charitable giving continued, both to individuals and service organizations. Thanksgiving and Christmas saw food basket distribution to the needy. The Christmas party fed and gifted 100 guests. With the support of board chair Rose Wesson, Edwards established a building fund to raise construction money for the long-awaited clubhouse on their Seventeenth Street parcel. In memory of the recently deceased Ella Stamps Marshall, a new microphone was donated to the nearby Calvary Baptist Church in 1949. Marshall was a 25-year Club member and established the Club's first youth program known as the Ella Marshall Girls. Etta Moxley continued to be listed as an honorary member of the Philomathean Club until she passed away in 1950.<sup>33</sup>

Instead of developing the mid-block Seventeenth Street parcel surrounded by residences, it was sold, and the money was put into a boulevard-fronting parcel at 1810 Broadway, on the corner of Eighteenth Street. The Philomathean's clubhouse was going to be in the heart of the bustling Broadway commercial district. A grant deed dated January 13, 1953, recorded the sale of Lot X in Block 181 of the Town of Santa Monica Tract from Carrie Dumas to the Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club, Inc. Club histories report the total sale price as \$5000. A Grant Deed that

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<sup>29</sup> *Santa Monica News*, by Willie Louise Gilmore, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, November 6, 1936

<sup>30</sup> *Philomathean Charity Club 95th Anniversary Program*, 2016, Quinn Research Center

<sup>31</sup> *Philomatheans Burn Mortgage*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, January 25, 1945

<sup>32</sup> *Mrs. Anna E. Coleman*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, May 15, 1947

<sup>33</sup> *Journal of the California Association of Colored Women, Inc.*, Compiled by Margaret M. Nottage, 1949, Quinn Research Center

shows that \$2000 of the purchase price was financed, is silent on the total cost of the parcel.<sup>34</sup> While she is credited as a speaker at a Philomathean Club event in 1923, it is not clear if Carrie Dumas was ever a member or was simply a friend of the organization.

Rose Wesson took over the presidency of the Philomathean Club in 1954, as the eleventh woman to serve. A new group called Junior Philomatheans was established to teach teens basic homemaking skills including cooking and sewing.<sup>35</sup> Under Wesson's leadership, the Philomathean Charity Club pulled a building permit in 1957 to construct a clubhouse which included two small retail spaces at the west end fronting on Eighteenth Street. An industrial kitchen featured tiled work surfaces in the club colors of yellow and green. They served festive meals for celebrations and fundraisers on a large set of Winfield China in the Blue Pacific pattern, made in Santa Monica, which was carefully stored in specially built cabinets.<sup>36</sup> Including restrooms, the Philomathean building contained a total of ten rooms. The address for the Philomathean Charity Club was established as 1810 Broadway. A second permit was pulled a few months later for a sign reading "Philomathean Club," in cut-out letters to be mounted on a volume on the east end of the Broadway elevation.<sup>37</sup> The building remains substantially unaltered inside and out, except for the sign, which is no longer extant.

A cornerstone-laying ceremony took place on February 16, 1958, to dedicate the new clubhouse. The Club reported over 50 members that year, with more on a waiting list. Three of the seven founding members were present at the dedication: Ruth Linly, Julia Murrell, and Parsada Caver. Santa Monica Mayor Russell K. Hart and Santa Monica School District Superintendent Dr. Glen T. Goodwill were also present to honor the achievement. The keynote address, delivered by Los Angeles Club woman Mabel V. Grey was titled "A Dream Come True." A Philomathean children's group at that time was called the Subteens led by Mattie Collins. They raised money to purchase a set of silverware to be used at banquets and events with the china. The Mother's Day Breakfast that year was celebrated in the new hall.<sup>38</sup>

A regular cycle of annual events held in Philomathean Hall continued to raise and distribute money in the manner the Club had engaged in for almost 40 years. The Club women proudly saw their new space bring the community together through events sponsored by other organizations as well, most particularly the Santa Monica Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., which

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<sup>34</sup> *Short Form Deed of Trust and Assignment of Rents*, The Philomathean Charity Literary and Art Club, a California corporation, trustor, Carrie Dumas, trustee, January 6, 1953

<sup>35</sup> *Santa Monica*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, April 28, 1955

<sup>36</sup> NB: As it appears that Winfield's Blue Pacific pattern may have been discontinued in 1946, the service for 100 acquired by the Philomatheans may have purchased the set before the construction of the clubhouse.

<sup>37</sup> *Santa Monica Building Permit, B23227*, 1810 Broadway, September 26, 1957, publicdocs.santamonica.gov, *Santa Monica Building Permit, B23227*, 1810 Broadway, January 30, 1958, publicdocs.santamonica.gov

<sup>38</sup> *Santa Monica News*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, April 28, 1955

made ample use of it. The N.A.A.C.P. held its fund-raising chicken dinners there, as well as large membership meetings.<sup>39</sup> The Philomathean Charity Club became a life member of the N.A.A.C.P., and many individuals were members of both groups. The Elks used the hall for their dances, the Fair Housing Committee of the Santa Monica Bay Area held a conference there, and churches and other fraternal organizations also made use of the building.<sup>40</sup> The two retail shops on the Eighteenth Street end of the building were rented to a Black-owned barber and beauty shops. The rents helped pay off the mortgage.

In 1969, a committee chaired by Esther Lee Coleman's daughter-in-law, Anna Coleman, was formed to raise money to retire what remained of the mortgage for the clubhouse. A "Miss Philomathean" pageant with contestants Anna Brister, Mildred Harris, and Phoebe Goolsby served as a fundraiser that brought in the \$1400 outstanding balance owed on the loan. Brister was crowned Miss Philomathean, Harris was "first princess," and Goolsby was "second princess." The coronations took place at a second fundraising event at Christmas time. A mortgage burning celebration on April 19, 1970, was attended by Santa Monica Mayor Herbert A. Spurgin, and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Education, various women's clubs and organizations, and Santa Monica N.A.A.C.P. President Ida B. Dooley. Loretta Edwards was serving a third stint as president at the time of the event. The club enjoyed 36 active members at that time, and Julia Murrell, the last of the founding members, was given an honorary membership.

With the mortgage retired, the Philomathean Club could devote all its resources to charity and other work to uplift their community, including income from the commercial storefronts in their building. Over the next few years, they helped sponsor little league baseball, and the Martin Luther King Memorial Scholarship Fund at Santa Monica City College. They also established their own college scholarship fund which as initially implemented, gave checks for \$500 to two high school students with GPAs over 3.5. Soon the program expanded to providing three students with \$1000 each. The scholarship program became, and remains, the primary focus of the Philomathean's charity work. They continued the Mother's Day Breakfasts and other banquets and luncheons at their club house. In order to increase funding for their programs, the Philomatheans returned to meeting in the homes of members in the 1970s, turning their club house into an additional source of income for their charity work by renting it

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<sup>39</sup> *Santa Monica News*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, July 2, 1955

<sup>40</sup> *Santa Monica Elks Slat Sport Dance*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, July 9, 1955, *Santa Monica News*, California Eagle, Los Angeles, California, October 6, 1960

to a Montessori School. In 1982, The First School took over, operating a nurse school at the site that continues to the present day.<sup>41</sup>

In 1981, the first scholarship awards dinner was held in the large, verdant backyard of member Brenda Heavens. The following year, under the leadership of club president Edith D. Nesby and committee chair Maude E. Ward, the Philomatheans elevated the event to a formal banquet presented annually in a rented hall to both promote and support the scholarship program. The first was held in July 1982 at the Retail Clerks Union Hall. The event theme was “Voices from the Past, People in the Present, and Faces of the Future.” Over time, the banquets became more elaborate and took place in ritzy hotel ballrooms. This both allowed the Philomatheans to include more people from the community in their work, and to raise their profile and stature.

Maude E. Ward took over the presidency of the organization in late 1982. She maintained the program of three \$1000 scholarships per year, adding a Back-to-School Picnic and an annual Father of the Year Award program as fundraisers. Fathers recognized in 1982 were Byden Maxwell, Alfonzo Evans, and Blayton Boyle. In 1983 Bertrand Staggers was recognized, followed by Oliver Fritz in 1984, and Alvin Knowles and Stanley T. Singleton in 1985.

Past President Bessie (Lawrence) Colton was recognized at a 1985 event as the Philomathean with the longest tenure at the time. A “This Is Your Life” event was also held that year in honor of Isadora Williams for her outstanding service to the Club. Williams had been a member since the late 1940s.<sup>42</sup> The Philomathean Charity Club’s Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration in 1986 was held at the W.P. Carter Education Center at Calvary Baptist Church. The event was chaired by Rosa L. Hawkins, Jackie Tolbert, and Doris Holley. Plaques were presented to all of the Club’s past presidents. Santa Monica Mayor Christine Reed presented the Club with a citation from the City for its good work.

In 1991, at the Seventieth Anniversary Celebration, host and club president Maude Ward introduced a U.C. Irvine student and Philomathean Club scholarship recipient to perform the musical entertainment for the event. Santa Monica Mayor Judy Abdo presented the organization with another citation recognizing its good work.

Brenda Heavens served as president for two years after Maude Ward stepped down. During Heavens’ tenure, former Santa Monica Mayor Nat Trives, the first African American to be elected to that office, was honored with the Philomathean’s Father of the Year Award. Heavens

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<sup>41</sup> *Haines Directory, Los Angeles West Suburban, 1973, 1982*, Santa Monica Public Library, Santa Monica Collection

<sup>42</sup> NB: Isadora Williams lost her long-time home at 1737 16th Street when the Santa Monica Freeway was built. She relocated south of Pico Boulevard to 2413 Hill Street where her family endured a racist firebombing attack. Nonetheless, she remained at the Hill Street address for several decades.

was followed as president by Esther L. Battle, who passed away during her term, which was completed by vice-president Christine Moore.

When the club celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1996, the annual direct scholarships to high school seniors had grown, and an annual donation to the United Negro College Fund was added. They also reinstated programs that had fallen away such as assistance to the elderly including donations of walkers and home visits. At the anniversary celebration that year, held at the Proud Bird Restaurant in Los Angeles, they honored retiring president Rosa L. Hawkins, who had been responsible for establishing the Club's tax-exempt status. The new Club president was Rosa Funches. Her husband, Pastor Lafayette Funches, ministered to and prayed for Club members in addition to his congregation. The Funches donated printing services for the Philomathean's annual scholarship receptions.

Cheryl Newman took over leadership of the club from 2002 through 2010. Under her leadership charitable work increased. Members contributed volunteer hours at the United Negro College Fund, and donated personal hygiene kits to the Jenesse Center, a shelter serving Black women in Los Angeles. A Christmas Toy Drive for local children instituted by Newman was originally intended to benefit the Children's Wing of the Martin Luther King Hospital in South Central Los Angeles. However, when finding that it had already been well-endowed by a celebrity, they brought the toys to the Jenesse Center as well.<sup>42</sup>

The scholarship program evolved under Newman's leadership. When she took office, each Club member could elect two qualifying students to receive a \$1000 scholarship that could be renewed for a second year at \$800 if they remained in school and kept up their grades. But students receiving these much-needed scholarships continued to need support for their third and fourth years of college. A revised policy was adopted so that each Philomathean would elect a single candidate, but they could qualify for renewals for all three subsequent undergraduate years of college. In order to fund this change and still maintain the reach of the scholarship program, the Philomatheans elected to discontinue their elaborate community Christmas celebrations, which had been a Club tradition from its earliest days. Other scholarship program policy changes allowed students to use the funds for any college-related expenses, not only for books as originally stipulated. Finally, they instituted a three-tiered system that allowed grants to students with unique abilities and needs. In 2010, 21 high school students received the award, and 26 college students had their awards renewed in grants totaling \$55,600.<sup>43</sup> College juniors and seniors benefiting from the program were selected as speakers at annual scholarship banquets.

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<sup>42</sup> *Historical Sketches of the Philomathean Charity Club*, 85th Anniversary Program, Quinn Research Center

<sup>43</sup> *Philomathean Scholarship Ceremony* – Saturday July 21, 2012, speech, Quinn Research Center, *Local Women's Charity Club*, Los Angeles Sentinel, Los Angeles California, August 19, 2010



Lee Bertha Pickett-Allen served as president of the Philomathean Charity Club from 2010-2016. During her tenure, the club's early program of providing layettes for new mothers in the community was reinstated, and on the other end of the life cycle, a program for visits and giving to senior homes was enhanced. Scholarship grants in 2014 climbed to a total of \$65,200, then \$68,000 in 2015, and \$69,000 in 2016. Before stepping down, Pickett-Allen saw the Philomathean Charity Club through its 95th Anniversary Celebration, which took place at the Santa Monica Loews Hotel.

In 2016, leadership of the Club went to Bernice Hodnett, who gave up her seat a few months later due to illness. Carolyn Edwards who served as vice-president at the time, completed Hodnett's term. The Philomathean Charity Club gave scholarships to 54 high school and college students totaling \$72,000 in 2017.<sup>44</sup> During this period the subject property was refreshed with new paint inside and out, windows screens, and other minor maintenance projects. Carolyn Edwards, who remains a member, has served as the Club's first official historian since she became a Philomathean in 2009. Jo Lynn Horton, the current (2022) president of the Philomathean Charity Club has served since 2018.

In 2020, the National Center for Education services reported that in the United States, 64% of students who began four-year college degree programs in 2014 completed their programs over the course of six years.<sup>45</sup> Over the period from 2012-2022, 90% of the 164 students who received Philomathean Charity Club Scholarships did much better than the national average, completing four-year programs in four years. Funding for those 164 scholarships totaled \$778,440. Many scholarship recipients have gone on to earn advanced degrees. Some chose careers in fields where they can specialize in work that directly supports the success of other African Americans including education, law, journalism, social work, and research into racial equity.<sup>46</sup>

The Philomathean Charity Literary and Art Club passed its 100th year of community giving and gathering in 2021. Because of the Covid-19 shutdowns, a celebration did not take place. Nonetheless, the group perseveres, providing a wide range of hands-on social services to Santa Monica's African American community according to their motto, "Lifting as we rise, in action, not words," as they have always done.

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<sup>44</sup> *History of Philomathean Scholarship* – July 2017, Quinn Research Center

<sup>45</sup> *Undergraduate Graduation Rates*, U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Winter 2020–21, Graduation Rates component. See Digest of Education Statistics 2021, table 326.10., accessed at <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=40>

<sup>46</sup> *Philomathean Scholarship over 10 years*, Email written by past Philomathean Club President Cheryl Newman, November 2, 2022

## **African American Women’s Clubs and the Philomathean Charity Club**

Since emancipation from slavery in 1865, African Americans have struggled to overcome prejudice and ensure that they and their children enjoy equal opportunities for rich lives and self-determination. Numerous inspiring and strategic leaders have arisen to support an unrelenting effort towards that goal on the national stage and in local communities. Their work to combat personal injustices with passion, dignity, and perseverance unfortunately, has had to continue to this day. African American churches as community hubs where much of this work began, did not open leadership positions to women for many decades. Instead, to exercise their influence, church women formed their own groups, societies and coalitions to bring people together, socialize, raise money, and provide community services.

In 1896 The National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs came into being at a Washington D.C. conference resulting from a national “Call to Confer” sent out by Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin. The organizing of African American club women to apply new kinds of pressure against racism and exclusion on a national level had finally begun. Women’s Clubs help fund or provide services that allowed people to face adversity with dignity, to be educated, and to be exposed to culture and art. The efforts of women’s clubs also helped African Americans get training for occupations they aspired to but were kept out of because they were barred from access to qualifications. The NACWC gave member clubs guidance and encouragement to continue that work where they lived. The NACWC’s motto “Lifting as We Climb,” spread quickly as the credo for clubs all over the United States.

In 1906, the California State Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs was formed in Oakland, California by Eliza Warner. They adopted the motto “Deeds not Words,” and joined the National Federation two years later in 1908. Santa Monica resident Etta Vena Moxley who was a well-known leader in the world of California club women, served two terms as president of the State Federation beginning in 1912. Moxley’s influence through the C.M.E. Church and the N.A.A.C.P., as well as the many women’s group she helped form or came to lead, was profound in Santa Monica. When Moxley spoke at the 1922 meeting of the fledgling Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club it was a true credit to its members and a sign of the seriousness of their intentions.

Over the years, Santa Monica hosted innumerable African American clubs for men, for women, or for couples. They pursued common interests ranging from social services to the game of bridge, and from bible study to teen dating. Their activities were tracked in the social columns of the *California Eagle* newspaper, and include the following: Modernette Club, Utopia Study Club, Royal Turks, Santa Monica Evening Couple Club, Just-For-Fun, Les Charmettes, Royal

Twelve, Just-a-Mere Club, Les Femmes Aud Oui Club, Social Sixteen Couple Club, Sportsmen Club, Popularity Club, Les Uniques Club, Garden Club, Lamplighters, Soreli Club, Social Welfare Club, and Men’s Bible Class.

Of these many Santa Monica groups, only the Philomathean Charity Club purchased land and built a clubhouse. Only the Philomathean Charity Club had the foresight to build their clubhouse with income-generating uses that both supported the building and helped raise money for the charity work they continue to do. And, only the Philomathean Charity Club has survived for over one hundred years and has provided services with consistency throughout.

Certainly, the oldest Black women’s club in Santa Monica, it also predates the purported oldest club in Los Angeles, the Wilfandel Club. The Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club appears to be the oldest Black Women’s Club in Southern California, but further research would be needed for confirmation.

### **Analysis of the Architectural Integrity of 1810 Broadway**

The following building permits were found in Planning Division records of the city of Santa Monica:

- 1957 – Building construction permit
- 1958 – “Philomathean Club” sign permit
- 1964 – Plumbing repairs
- 1965 – Plumbing repairs
- 1966 – Plumbing repairs
- 1986 – Plumbing repairs
- 1994 – Earthquake inspection
- 2002 – Block wall installed on south property line
- 2003 – In kind replacement of roof materials

A visual inspection confirms that the only substantial change to the Philomathean Charity Club building is the removal of the sign constructed in 1958, the in-kind replacement of the main entry door, and the loss of original materials in two lower window openings that are now infilled with plywood. Minor changes include objects and materials superficially installed in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards in that they could be removed without significant loss of historic fabric including air conditioning units in an exterior wall, the addition of a security gate to the doorway of one of the retail spaces, a concrete block planter

outside the north retail space, and a bamboo fence installed along part of the Broadway elevation for the protection of preschool children moving around the property.

**Location**

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The subject property has not moved from its present location since it was constructed. Therefore, it has a high degree of integrity of location.

**Design**

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The subject property has undergone very little change of any kind since it was constructed. There have been no building additions, no major alterations to the size, scale, placement, or trimmings of any of the openings, and no other features have been altered or redesigned. Therefore, 1810 Broadway has a high degree of integrity of design.

**Setting**

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. The subject property extends across an entire block fronting Broadway from street to alley. No landscaping or other features that might surround similar structures were part of the original design of the subject property. A fence that partially obscures views of the Broadway elevation, while not resulting in an alteration of any original materials or character-defining features, does impact the setting of the subject property. Therefore, 1810 Broadway has only a moderate degree of integrity of setting.

**Materials**

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. The subject property has seen very little alteration of any kind since the time of its construction. With the exception of the original sign, two lower window lights in the office, and the in-kind replacement of the main entry used for the present nursery school, the exterior materials are entirely intact. Inside, the doors have been replaced, but opening have not changed. Some, but not all of the flooring has been replaced with the same type of tile in a different color. All other interior changes have been in the form of superficial application of trims and moldings, and a half-height room divider that retains the overall sense of form and volume in the auditorium. These changes are reversible consistent with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards. While the Santa Monica Landmarks Ordinance does not have purview over the interiors of buildings that are not accessible to the public, this level of integrity of materials inside and out is notable. Therefore, 1810 Broadway has a high degree of integrity of materials.

### **Workmanship**

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. As noted, the subject property has seen very little alteration of any kind since the time of its construction leaving all the original workmanship intact. Therefore, 1810 Broadway has a high degree of integrity of workmanship.

### **Feeling**

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The subject property retains nearly all of its original physical features and materials that, taken together, convey the property's historic character. Therefore, 1810 Broadway has a high degree of integrity of feeling.

### **Association**

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Because of the highly unaltered condition of the subject property, its design, materials and workmanship effectively convey its original use as a multi-use structure from the late 1950s that includes a public gathering space and retail uses. Furthermore, the subject property remains in the ownership of the historically significant organization that built it and has maintained it intact for 64 years to date. Therefore, 1810 Broadway has a high degree of integrity of Association.

## **Application of Santa Monica Landmark Designation Findings**

### **1. It exemplifies, symbolizes, or manifests elements of the cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history of the City.**

The subject property *qualifies* for landmark designation under this criterion. The Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club, established in 1921, is the oldest African American women's club in Santa Monica, in Los Angeles, and perhaps in the region. The Philomathean Charity Club is an exemplary manifestation of the African American women's club movement, which mobilized the intelligence, compassion, and financial acumen of club members to establish and support a range of social services and educational opportunities for African Americans. Women's clubs sought to both buffer their community members from the worst impacts of racism and prepare them to lift themselves up from those circumstances through literacy, vocational training, higher education, arts, and culture. For decades the Philomathean Charity Club provided a range of services for the needy in the Santa Monica community including layettes for new mothers and walkers for the elderly. They provided baskets of food at holiday time and wrote checks to help families in financial crisis. Checks were also written to support nonprofit organizations, activist groups, and educational funds that worked towards goals they believed

in. Programs presented by the organization included locally-known and uplifting speakers, and dramatic and musical presentations. A wise investment by the Philomathean Charity Club in the 1958 construction of a meeting hall that included two retail spaces allowed them to meet their goals of community building and pay the mortgage. The retail spaces have been occupied by Black-owned barber and beauty shops continuously since they were built. When the mortgage was paid off in 1970, the rental income was redirected to a college scholarship program for African American high school seniors. In the 50 years since then, the Philomathean Charity Club scholarships have provided hundreds of needy students with hundreds of thousands of dollars. Philomathean Hall is still owned and managed by the Club. It retains a very high degree of architectural integrity both inside and out. Its mid-century modernist vernacular design is both simple and attractive. It serves as an excellent manifestation of the hard work, community values, and sustained purpose of the Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club.

**2. It has aesthetic or artistic interest or value, or other noteworthy interest or value.**

The subject property does not appear to qualify for designation under this criterion.

**3. It is identified with historic personages or with important events in local, state or national history.**

The subject property does not appear to qualify for designation under this criterion.

**4. It embodies distinguishing architectural characteristics valuable to a study of a period, style, method of construction, or the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship, or is a unique or rare example of an architectural design, detail or historical type valuable to such a study.**

The subject property *qualifies* for landmarks designation under this criterion. Philomathean Hall is a valuable example of a mid-century modernist vernacular commercial building due to its high degree of physical integrity. The structure consists of two small retail spaces at the west end fronting Eighteenth Street, and a clubhouse consisting of a large auditorium with associated support features. A concrete slab foundation supports the stucco-clad walls. A shallow parapet conceals a slightly bowed roof supported by shaped wooden joists. The irregular pattern of fenestration on the primary elevation (Broadway) of the subject property responds to the uses it was designed to support within each of three bays. The bays are stylistically united by heavy window casings that extend past openings, creating surface articulation and geometries that add modernist interest to the otherwise simple structure. A black stone plaque mounted low on the wall at the east corner of the facade is engraved with the Club's name, date of organization, date of construction, and the name of the president at the time of construction. An old-fashioned barber's pole which has been extant since 1970 or earlier is mounted on the Broadway elevation marking a retail space that has been a barber shop since the building was constructed in 1958. Original single light wooden doors with a mail

slot in the lower rail below the glass provide access to the retail spaces. Large, fixed transoms divided vertically into two lights are above each of the doors. The east elevation is punctuated by a single solid wood door leading to the kitchen and five original aluminum slider windows, that light and ventilate the kitchen and adjacent restrooms.

**5. It is a significant or a representative example of the work or product of a notable builder, designer or architect.**

The subject property does not appear to qualify for designation under this criterion.

**6. It has a unique location, a singular physical characteristic, or is an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City.**

The subject property does not appear to qualify for designation under this criterion.

Research by  
Nina Fresco  
Santa Monica Conservancy  
October 2022

Special thanks to Carolyne Edwards, Philomathean Charity Literary & Art Club Historian, Director of the Quinn Research Center and board member of the Santa Monica Conservancy.

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**Residential Occupancy Table – 1914-1954**

Year	Name	Location	Occupation	Notes
1914	Will Johnson	1814 Utah		building permit, 181X, Town of SM, 2 rooms, owner/builder
1915	Wm. Johnson	1814 Utah	laborer	SM Directory
1917	Wm. Johnson	1818 Utah		directory
1918	Will Johnson			delinquent tax list SM Outlook, lots X&W, block 181 Town of SM
	Wm. Johnson	1818 Utah		SM Directory
1919	Alex (Mary) Thornton	1814 Utah	auto opr	SM Directory
1920	Russell & Ethel Inglehart	1814 Utah	fireman, SMFD	census, owns home
1921	Russell D. (Ethel) Inglehart	1814 Utah	fireman, SMFD	SM Directory
1922	(no listing)	1503 18th		"My 2 houses, modern in every way, 1 block from Blvd., \$4000; \$1000 down, bal. \$60 mo. Come and see Owner, 1503 18th, Santa Monica" SM Outlook [might be Inglehart, might be selling this property, no deed found. this is first reference to front house, no permit found]
1923	(no listing)	1503 18th		"COMPETENT woman wants day or hour work, any kind. Call 21343 for information; res. 1503 18th St." SM Outlook



1923	Wm. A. (Annie) Albaugh	1503 18th		SM Directory
1923	Wm. C. Warner	rear		SM Directory
1925	Wm. T. (Lula) Taylor	1503 18th		SM Directory
1925	vacant	1814 Bdwy		SM Directory
1927	John R. (Laura) Gambs	1503 18th	porter, W.D. Fisher	SM Directory
1927	John W. Goodwin	1814 Bdwy	porter, SM Athl Club	SM Directory
1928	Eskoy (Daisy) Bell	1503 18th	laborer	SM Directory
1928	Wm. H. Raines	1503 18th		SM Directory
1928	John H. Hawkins	1814 Bdwy	porter, Louis Hoen	SM Directory
1930	Beatrice L. Clay	1503 18th	private cook	census
1931	Mrs. A.H. Anderson	1503 18th		SM Outlook (report on scam)
1931	Mrs. Bertha Clay	1503 18th		SM Directory
1931	John H. Hawkins	1814 Bdwy	porter	SM Directory
1933	Mrs. Lula Lodge	1503 18th	domestic	SM Directory
1933	Mrs. Inez Robinson	1503 18th	domestic	SM Directory
1933	Mrs. Helen C. Holmes	1814 Bdwy		SM Directory
1936	Mrs. Lula Lodge	1503 18th		SM Directory
1936	vacant	1814 Bdwy		SM Directory
1938	Mrs. Lulu Lodge	1503 18th		SM Directory
1939	Arthur Robinson	1503 18th		SM Outlook (was hit by car)
1940	Inez & Arthur Robinson	1503 18th	nurse	census, mother & son, SM Directory lists Mrs. Inez <i>Roberts</i> , maid
1940	Lula Lodge	1503 18th		census, mother (age 50) of Inez
1940	Roy & Marveline Wadsworth, & Robert L.	1814 Bdwy	chauffeur, maid	census, parents age 29, son age 11
1942	Henry & Henrietta Jefferson	1503 18th		Negro Directory
1950	Henry & Sally Jefferson	1503 18th		census, married, both 62 years old
1952	Henry Jefferson	1503 18th		SM Directory
1954	vacant	1503 18th		SM Directory
1954	Robert & Marveline Leake	1814 Bdwy		SM Directory, mother & son, grad mortuary school, California Eagle

### Commercial Occupancy – 1958-present

Year	1503 18th	1802 Bdwy	1810 Bdwy	Notes
1958	<i>(no listing)</i>	<i>(no listing)</i>	Philomathean Club	SM Directory
1960	vacant	barbershop <i>(no business name listed)</i>	no return	SM Directory, 1814 Bdwy (demolished) listed as vacant
1965-1972	Flamingo Beauty Salon	<i>(no listing)</i>	Philomathean Club	no listing for 1802 Broadway in any directory

1973	Flamingo Beauty Salon	<i>(no listing)</i>	Montessori Schools Philomathean Club	
1976	Flamingo Beauty Salon	Broadway Barber Shop	International Montessori School Philomathean Club	
1978- 1981	Flamingo Beauty Salon	Broadway Barber Shop	International Montessori School	
1982	Flamingo Beauty Salon	Broadway Barber Shop	The First School	
1993	Laverne's Envogue Beauty Salon	Broadway Barber Shop	The First School	
2006	<i>(no listing)</i>	Cuttin' Up! Barbershop	The First School	
2007	Mallow Hair Studio	Cuttin' Up! Barbershop	First School	
2022	Mallow Hair Studio	Cuttin' Up! Barbershop	First School	



Aerial view, 1924. Dwellings visible on subject property in the general context of the city. (Image: Dunning Air, Huntington Library, San Gabriel California, Ernest Marquez Collection, p15150coll2\_16893)



Aerial view, August 1, 1927. In this image, two residences are visible on the subject property. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight c-113\_28a)



Aerial view, January 1, 1928. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight c-300\_j-262)



Aerial view, March 31, 1937. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight c-5084-6)



Aerial view, October 6, 1940. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight c-6630\_5)



Aerial view, July 3, 1941. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight c-7220\_10)





Aerial view, December 31, 1946. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight gs-em\_6-2)



Aerial view, August 2, 1947. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight gs-em\_6-2)



Aerial view, November 3, 1952. This was the year before the subject property was acquired by the Philomathean Club. The two dwellings remain extant. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight axj-1952\_3k-130)



Aerial view, July 1, 1956. One year before permits were pulled for the Philomathean Club Buildings, the original dwellings on the site appear to have been demolished. The last record of a residential tenant appeared in the 1954 Santa Monica Directory. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight c-22555\_16-16)



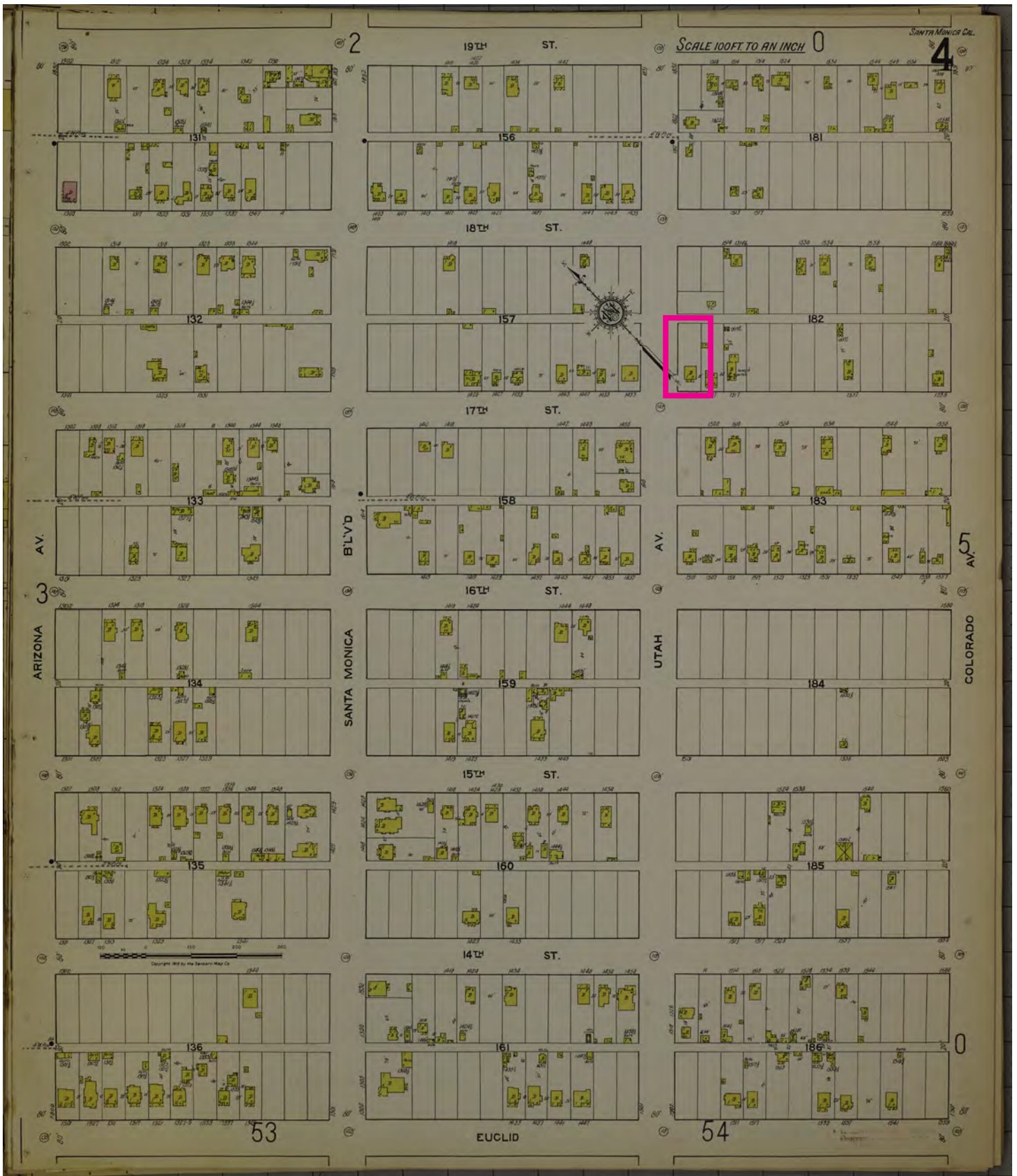
Aerial view, May 12, 1960. The completed Philomathean Club Building and associated parking lot are visible in this image. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight c-23870\_1293)



Aerial view, September 23, 1968. The Santa Monica Freeway replaced over 500 homes in Santa Monica's community of color. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight tg-2400\_5-71)

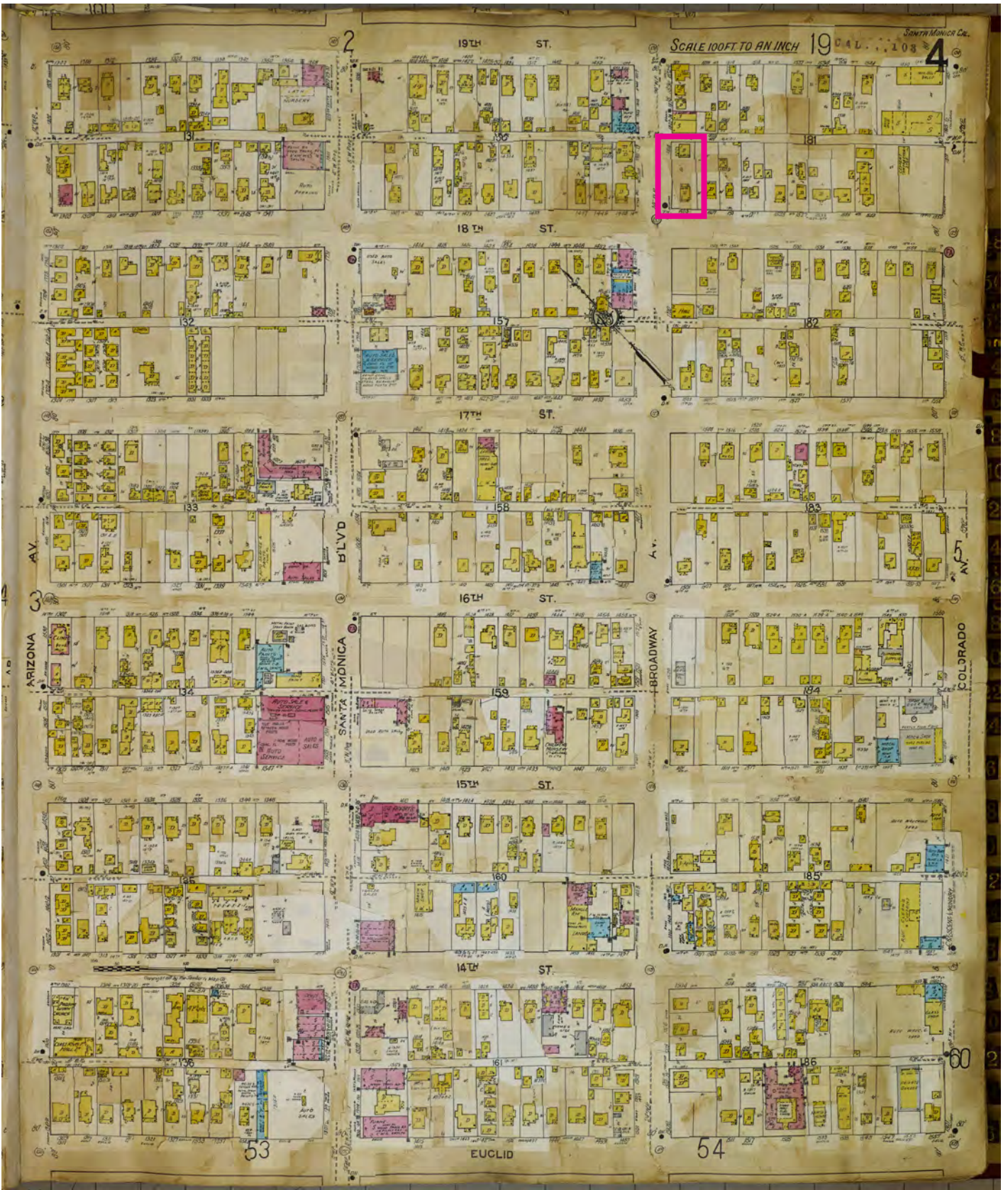


Aerial view, April 1, 1971. (Image: University of California Santa Barbara Air Photo Collection, flight ctg-2755\_16-6)



1918 Sanborn Map. This was the first iteration of Sanborn mapping of the area including the subject property. So far, only the William Johnson house has been built there. (Image: Library of Congress)

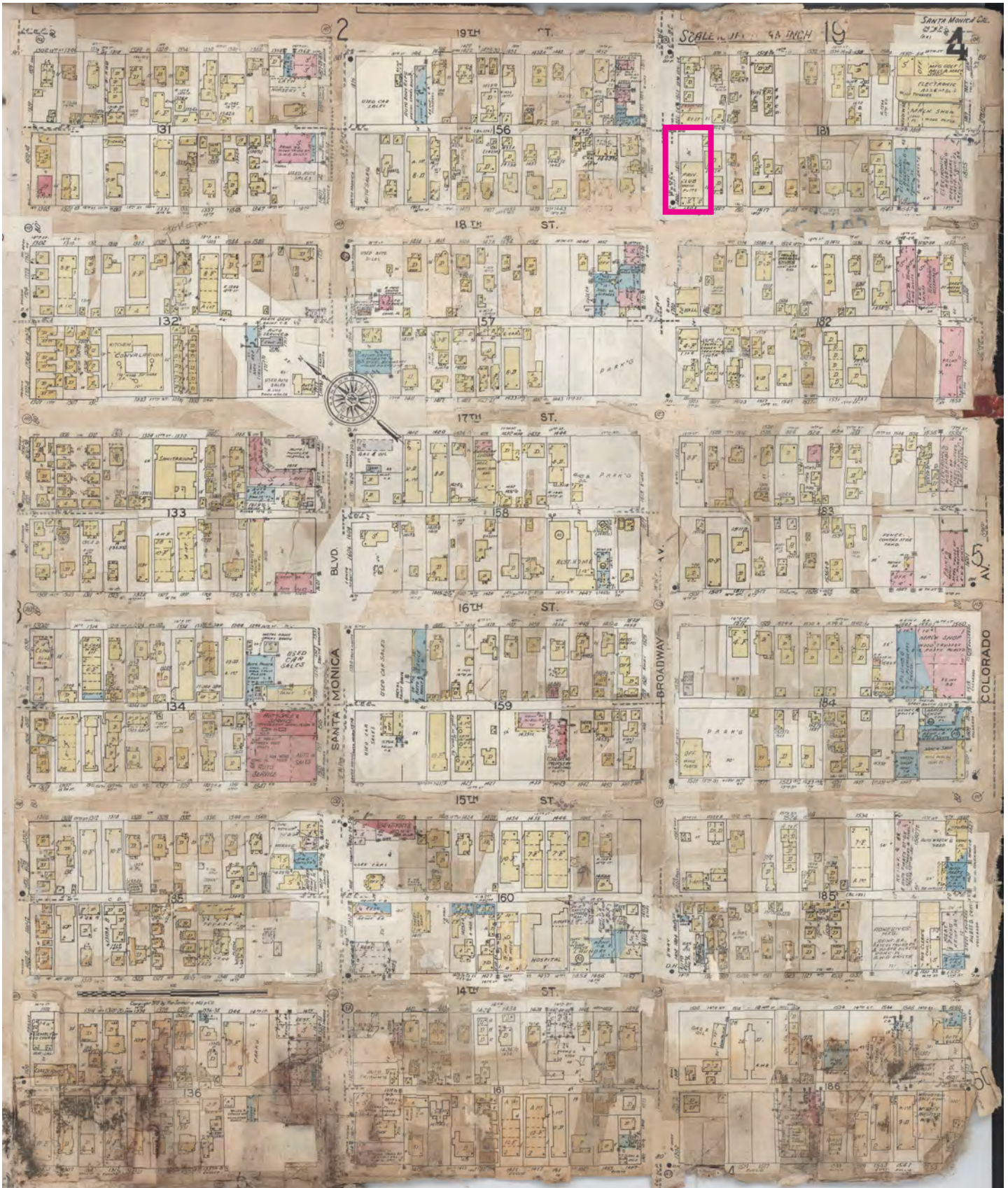




1950 Sanborn Map. (Image: Library of Congress)



1957 Sanborn Map. The newly built Philomathean Hall is documented. (Image: Santa Monica History Museum)



1963 Sanborn Map. (Image: Library of Congress)

For Dept. Use Only

# APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

BUILDING DEPARTMENT, CITY OF SANTA MONICA

This Application Must Be Filled Out In Ink

**NOTE** THIS IS NOT A BUILDING PERMIT. DO NOT START WORK BEFORE PLANS ARE APPROVED, AND PERMIT IS ISSUED.

No. <u>B22504</u>	Fire Zone <u>2</u>
Date <u>9-6-59</u>	Occup. Group <u>B-2 &amp; F-2</u>
Fee \$ <u>100.00</u>	Type Constr <u>I-14</u>
	Approved <u>10/9/59</u>

Location: Address 1810 BROADWAY

Lot X Block 18 Tract TOWN OF S.M. Size of Lot 50 x 150

List Existing Buildings On Lot and Use NONE

Will it be necessary to request permission to remove trees from parkway to install driveway (Yes... ) (No. X.)

**Nature of Work:**

Construction     Conversion    Description TWO STORES ROOMS FACING  
 Enlargement     Repair    ON 18<sup>TH</sup> ST. & CLUB FACILITIES  
 Alteration    FACING ON BROADWAY

Specific Use of Building STORES & CLUB No. of Rooms 10 No. of Families —

Material: Exterior Walls FRAME & STUCCO First Floor Joists CONCRETE Second Floor Joists —

Number of Stories ONE (1) Height to Highest Point 13'-4" Roof Material COMPOSITION

Size Width 45' ft.; by Length 94' ft.; Total Floor Area 9230 sq. ft.

VALUATION OF PROPOSED BLDG. { Including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sewers, Cesspools, Electrical, Painting, Finishing, all Labor, etc. } \$ 26,850.00

Owner PHILAMATHIAN CLUB Address 1810 BROADWAY

Contractor JOHN H. GROSS State License No. 210349

Address 10322 ALMAYO AVE L.A. 64 Phone No. CR6-9261

Architect — State License No. —

Address — Phone No. —

NOTE: The granting of a Building Permit does not grant any right or privilege to: (1) Erect any building and/or structure or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof; or (2) Use any building and/or structure or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may be prohibited by ordinance of the City of Santa Monica. The granting of a Building Permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such Permit.

I have read the above application and know the contents thereof; the same is true and correct. I further state that I am familiar with the laws governing building within the City of Santa Monica and State of California, and amendments thereto, that the above building and/or structure will be built in conformity therewith, and that legal property lines have been established.

I, the owner, certify that all labor employed on this work will be covered during course of construction by workman's compensation insurance as required by the State of California.

John H. Gross Signature of Owner or Agent    Sept 6, 59 Date

**NOTE: SHOW PLOT PLAN ON OTHER SIDE.**

(FOR ZONING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY)

Curb to Prop. Line <u>approx. 12' on 18<sup>th</sup> St.</u>	Map Sheet No. <u>19</u>	Use Classification <u>C-3</u>
Property Line to Building Line <u>0'</u>		
Side Yard Width <u>0'</u>		
Rear Yard Depth <u>15' E. Alley</u>		
Depth Off-street Loading <u>5'</u>		
Distance between Buildings <u>—</u>		
Intended use of new construction		
or alteration <u>Party Store Bldg.</u>		

1957 Santa Monica Building Permit #B22504. Contractor John H. Gross proposed 2 stores, plus club facilities with a 10 room, 45 x 94-foot structure at a cost of \$26,850. (Source: City of Santa Monica Public Portal)

For Dept. Use Only

# APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

BUILDING DEPARTMENT, CITY OF SANTA MONICA

This Application Must Be Filled Out In Ink.

**NOTE** THIS IS NOT A BUILDING PERMIT. DO NOT START WORK BEFORE PLANS ARE APPROVED. AND PERMIT IS ISSUED.

No. <u>B22636</u>	Fire Zone
Date <u>9-26-57</u>	Occup. Group
Fee, \$ <u>13.20</u>	Type Constr.
	Approved

Location: Address 1810 BROADWAY, S.M.

Lot X Block 181 Tract SANTA MONICA Size of Lot 50' x 150'

List Existing Buildings On Lot and Use NONE

Will it be necessary to request permission to remove trees from parkway to install driveway (Yes... ) (No.X.)

**Nature of Work:**

Construction  Conversion  Description BARACAPE 139 LIN FT CLUB FACILITIES & 2 STORES

Enlargement  Repair  BUILDING 45' X 94'

Alteration

Specific Use of Building COMMERCIAL CLUB FACILITIES & 2 STORES No. of Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Families \_\_\_\_\_

Material: Exterior Walls FRAME & STUCCO First Floor Joists x Second Floor Joists x

Number of Stories ONE Height to Highest Point \_\_\_\_\_ Roof Material \_\_\_\_\_

Size Width 45' ft.; by Length 94' ft.; Total Floor Area 4250 139 sq. ft.

VALUATION OF PROPOSED BLDG. { Including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sewers, Cesspools, Electrical, Painting, Finishing, all Labor, etc. } \$ 26,800

Owner Philmathean Club Address 1810 Broadway

Contractor John H. Goren State License No. 110849 City License No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address 10322 ALMAYO AVE, LAGUNA CALIF Phone No. CR6-9261

Architect \_\_\_\_\_ State License No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The granting of a Building Permit does not grant any right or privilege to: (1) Erect any building and/or structure or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof; or (2) Use any building and/or structure or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may be prohibited by ordinance of the City of Santa Monica. The granting of a Building Permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such Permit.

I have read the above application and know the contents thereof; the same is true and correct. I further state that I am familiar with the laws governing building within the City of Santa Monica and State of California, and amendments thereto, that the above building and/or structure will be built in conformity therewith, and that legal property lines have been established.

I, the owner, certify that all labor employed on this work will be covered during course of construction by workman's compensation insurance as required by the State of California.

John H. Goren Signature of Owner or Agent Date SEP 25 1957

**NOTE: SHOW PLOT PLAN ON OTHER SIDE.**

(FOR ZONING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY)

Curb to Prop. Line	Map Sheet No.	Use Classification
Property Line to Building Line		
Side Yard Width		
Rear Yard Depth		
Depth Off-street Loading		
Distance between Buildings		
	Intended use of new construction or alteration	

1957 Santa Monica Building Permit #B22636. A second, permit was filed for a construction baracade along the property line a few weeks after the first permit was issued. (Source: City of Santa Monica Public Portal)

240 ✓

For Dept. Use Only

# APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT

BUILDING DEPARTMENT, CITY OF SANTA MONICA

This Application Must Be Filled Out in Ink

**NOTE THIS IS NOT A BUILDING PERMIT. DO NOT START WORK BEFORE PLANS ARE APPROVED, AND PERMIT IS ISSUED.**

No. <u>B23227</u>	Fire Zone
Date <u>1-30-58</u>	Occup. Group
Fee. \$ <u>2<sup>25</sup></u>	Constr. Approved <u>1/30/58</u>

Location: Address 1810 BROADWAY

Lot..... Block..... Tract..... Size of Lot..... x

List Existing Buildings On Lot and Use 1 BUILDING - CLUB HOUSE - BARBER SHOP

Will it be necessary to request permission to remove trees from parkway to install driveway (Yes.....) (No.....)

Nature of Work:

- Construction
- Enlargement
- Alteration
- Conversion
- Repair

Description ERECT SIGN FLAT AGAINST WALL. (CUT OUT LETTERS)

Specific Use of Building CLUB MEETING No. of Rooms..... No. of Families.....

Material: Exterior Walls STUCCO First Floor Joists..... x Second Floor Joists..... x

Number of Stories ONE Height to Highest Point 15' Roof Material.....

Size Width..... ft.; by Length..... ft.; Total Floor Area 320' sq. ft.

VALUATION OF PROPOSED BLDG. { Including Plumbing, Gas Fitting, Sewers, Cesspools, Electrical, Painting, Finishing, all Labor, etc. } \$ 9700

Owner PHILOMATHEAN CLUB Address.....

Contractor JOHN E. ALLEN, SIGNS

State License No.....

City License No. 8343

Address 1453 16TH ST S.M.

Phone No. EX. 5-7296

Architect.....

State License No.....

Address.....

Phone No.....

NOTE: The granting of a Building Permit does not grant any right or privilege to: (1) Erect any building and/or structure or any portion thereof, upon any street, alley, or other public place or portion thereof; or (2) Use any building and/or structure or any portion thereof, for any purpose that is, or may be prohibited by ordinance of the City of Santa Monica. The granting of a Building Permit does not affect or prejudice any claim of title to, or right of possession in, the property described in such Permit.

I have read the above application and know the contents thereof; the same is true and correct. I further state that I am familiar with the laws governing building within the City of Santa Monica and State of California, and amendments thereto, that the above building and/or structure will be built in conformity therewith, and that legal property lines have been established.

I, the owner, certify that all labor employed on this work will be covered during course of construction by workman's compensation insurance as required by the State of California.

John E. Allen  
Signature of Owner or Agent

1-30-57  
Date

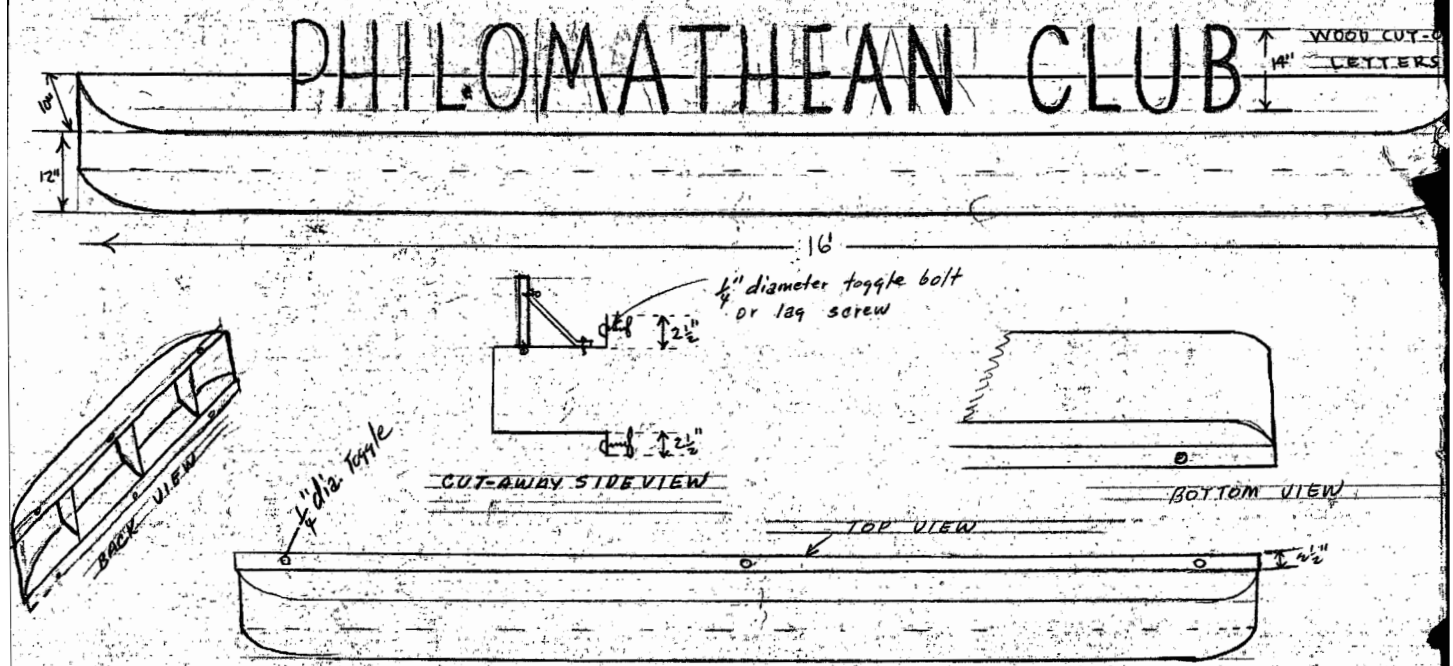
**NOTE: SHOW PLOT PLAN ON OTHER SIDE.**

(FOR ZONING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY)

Curb to Prop. Line	Map Sheet No.	Use Classification
Property Line to Building Line		
Side Yard Width		
Rear Yard Depth		
Depth Off-street Loading		
Distance between Buildings		
Plot Plans Checked	Intended use of new construction or alteration.....	
Map Approved	By.....	Date.....

1958 Santa Monica Building Permit #B23227 (page 1). John E. Allen Signs proposes a wall sign for the Philomathean Hall. (Source: City of Santa Monica Public Portal)

Can constructed of 26 gauge sheet metal



1958 Santa Monica Building Permit #B23227 (page 2). The diagram on the back of the sign permit is consistent with the sign installed and visible in historic photos. (Source: City of Santa Monica Public Portal)

**Building & Safety Use Only**      \* PROVIDE PLOT PLAN ON OTHER SIDE OF THIS FORM \*

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
No. B <u>B67482</u>	No. A _____
Date: <u>6-18-20</u>	Fee \$ _____
Fee \$ <u>74.84</u>	Date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check No. <u>6425</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check No. _____
<b>CODINGS</b>	
GIS <u>329</u>	App'd. <u>EH</u>
Occp. <u>B</u>	Date <u>6/18/20</u>
Const. <u>ALT</u>	

City of Santa Monica  
SANTA MONICA BUILDING & SAFETY  
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, Ca. 90401

**Building**      74.84 BP  
**PERMIT APPLICATION**  
(PRINT IN INK OR TYPE)  
Applicant's Name X BRENDA HEAVENS      Tel: X 310 829-4086

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION & DESCRIPTION:**

A) Street Address: 1810 Broadway      Tax Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal: Lot \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_ Tract \_\_\_\_\_ Lot Size \_\_\_\_\_ X  
 B) Class of Work: Dwlg \_\_\_\_\_ Apts \_\_\_\_\_ Comm X Other: X New Const \_\_\_\_\_ Altns \_\_\_\_\_ Repairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description: INSTALL 54'x6' Block Wall - USING STANDARD DETAILS

**FLOOR AREA - Provide floor area calculations for individual uses as well as total area.**  
 Existing Floor Area (sq. ft. of individual uses) \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPLICABLE  
 Floor area to be Removed (sq. ft. of individual uses) N/A  
 New Floor Area N/A      Total Floor Area Proposed N/A  
 Site Dimensions: NO CHANGE Site Area \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed Lot Coverage \_\_\_\_\_

**BUILDING HEIGHT** Existing N/A Proposed N/A  
**SETBACKS** Existing Setbacks - Front \_\_\_\_\_ Rear \_\_\_\_\_ Sides \_\_\_\_\_  
 Proposed Setbacks - Front \_\_\_\_\_ Rear \_\_\_\_\_ Sides \_\_\_\_\_  
**PARKING** Existing \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed \_\_\_\_\_

**RENT CONTROL STATUS:** \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate Rent Control status of the parcel.  
 The City will not process applications for which required Rent Control Permits have not been obtained.

**TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUATION OF PERMIT IMPROVEMENTS \$** 4,879.00  
 Valuation is the total \$ value of all labor, materials, & permanent equipment included in the project. Estimated \$ are compared to current construction cost indexes for determination of permit fees and transmittal to the Assessor's office.

**PRINCIPALS IDENTIFICATION:**

A) Owner's Name: Philomathean Club      Tel: (310) 829-4086  
 Address: 1810 Broadway  
 B) Contractor's Name: N/A      Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lic#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 C) Architect/Engineer: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lic#: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATIONS & DECLARATIONS:**

1. **CONSTRUCTION LENDING AGENCY:**  
 I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that there is a construction lending agency for the performance of the work for which this permit is issued (Sec.3097, Civ. C.).  
 Lender's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lender's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **ASBESTOS REMOVAL**  
 I declare that a written notice of intent to renovate or demolish has been sent to AQMD.  
 I declare that notification of asbestos removal is not required. State Lic#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ (sign): X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL DECLARATION**  
 I certify that I have read this application and declaration attachment and state under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the above and attached information is true and correct. I agree to comply with all city and county ordinances and state laws relating to building construction, and hereby authorize representatives of this city and county to enter upon the above-mentioned property for inspection purposes. I realize that this application is a request for a permit and that it does not approve or authorize the work specified therein. Also, that a permit does not authorize any violation or failure to comply with applicable laws and ordinances. Furthermore, that neither the City of Santa Monica nor any board, department officer, or employee thereof, make any warranty, nor shall be responsible for the performance, or results of any work described herein, nor the condition of the property nor the soil upon which such work is performed. (Check one box)  
 - OWNER       - CONTRACTOR  
 Name (print): BRENDA HEAVENS (sign): X Brenda Heavens      Date: June 18-20

<b>PLANNING AND ZONING USE ONLY</b>			<b>APPROVALS</b>	
Zoning _____	Relevant Permits _____	Notes: _____	RCB _____	
Use Class _____	Zoning _____	Map Sheet _____	Fire _____	
Max Height _____			GS/PW _____	
Plot Plan & Use Approved _____			Other _____	
By _____	Date <u>6/18/20</u>			

NO FURTHER TMD 6/18/20

BSF-1F

2002 Santa Monica Building Permit #B67482. Very few alterations were made to the Philomathean Hall after construction. This block wall runs along extends the southwest elevation of the structure, which is a solid wall on the property line, along the edge of the parking lot all the way to the alley. (Source: City of Santa Monica Public Portal)





BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION  
 1685 MAIN STREET  
 SANTA MONICA, CA 90401  
 310-458-8355

03STP0695  
 \$71 =  
 CL# 1142

**SINGLE TRADE PERMIT APPLICATION**

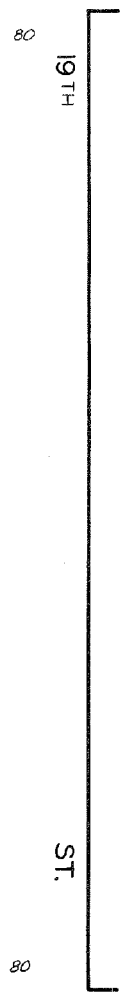
Indicate the Type of Permit that Applies.

- Demolition\*     Doors/Windows     Electrical     Fences/Walls     Mechanical     Plaster/Drywall  
 Plumbing     Roofing     Sandblasting     Signage     Seismic Retrofit- Foundation Bolting/Cripple Wall  
 Patio Cover     Temporary Structure

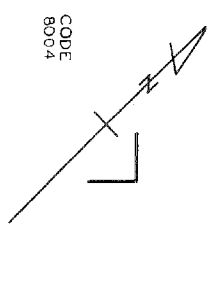
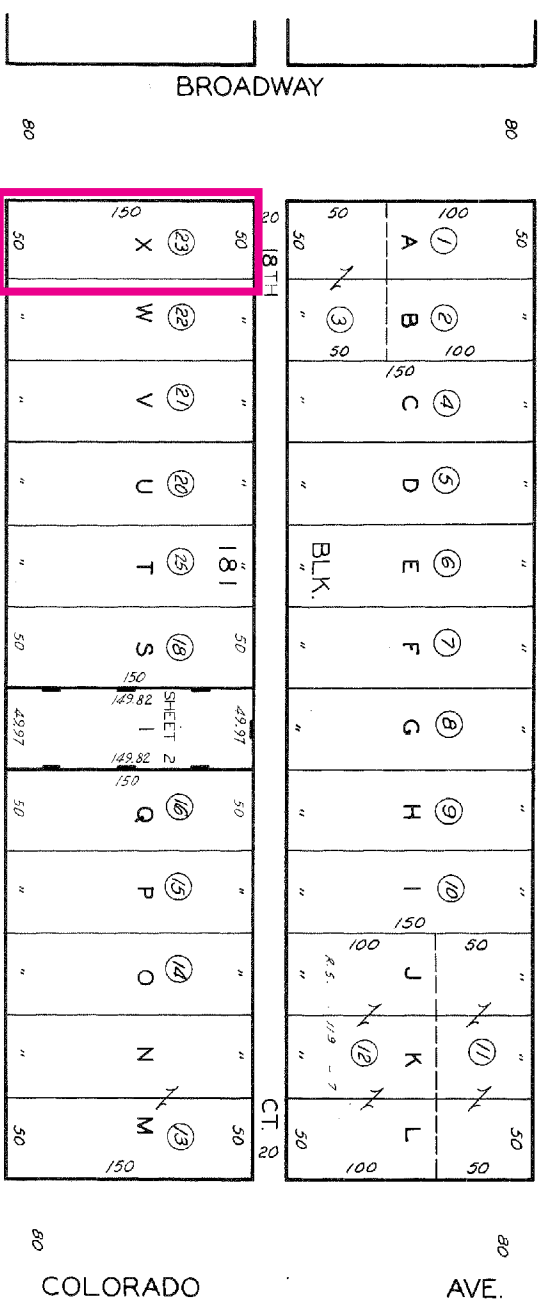
Job Address: 1810 BROADWAY		Zip Code 90404	Unit Number	Floor Number
Property Owner's Name: PHILOMATHEAN CHARITY CLUB		Phone No. 310-829-4086		Fax No.
Street Address 1810 BROADWAY		City SANTA MONICA	State CA	Zip Code 90404
Legal Name of Permit Holder DAVID E. AYALA		Phone No. 310-645-7295		Fax No. 310-645-7442
Street Address 220 SO. GLASGOW AVE.		City INGLEWOOD	State CA	Zip Code 90301
Legal Name of Contractor AYALA ENTERPRISES INC.		Phone No. 310-645-7295		Fax No. 310-645-7442
Street Address 220 SO. GLASGOW AVE.		City INGLEWOOD	State CA	Zip Code 90301
Contractor's City Business License No. 001767 <i>OK</i>		Contractor's State of California License No. 366638 <i>OK</i>		Classification C-39
Use of Building (office, retail, apartment, single family dwelling, etc): COMMERCIAL				
Building to be Occupied during Construction Work (Yes or No): NO		Number of Work Days Required to Complete the Work: 2		
*If Demolition, indicate number of Buildings:		*If Demolition, indicate number of Units:		
*If Demolition, indicate number of square feet to be demolished:		*If Demolition, indicate year of original construction:		
Description of Work: TEAR OFF EXISTING ROOFING.		Cost of Work: \$ 9,592.00		
INSTALL 3/PLY BUILTUP ROOFING OVER EXISTING SHEATHING. (52 SQS)				
For Staff Use Only - Please Print Name and Date Approved				
<i>[Signature]</i> 6-19-03		TOMY KIM 6-19-03		
Building Safety	City Planning	Transportation Mgmt	EPWM - Admin.	Civil Engineering
				Solid Waste

2003 Santa Monica Building Permit #03STP0695 (2). This in-kind roof replacement represents the second and last significant construction project to take place since the construction of the building to date. (Source: City of Santa Monica Public Portal)

4275 | 13  
 SCALE 1" = 60'  
 SHEET 1



Revised:  
 3-15-57  
 8-1-60  
 7-1-72  
 9-16-73  
 9-16-73  
 9-16-73  
 9-16-73



TOWN OF SANTA MONICA  
 M.R. 39-45-51  
 CONDOMINIUM  
 TRACT NO 47698  
 M.B. 1171-31-32

FOR PREV. ASSMT. SEE: 4275-13

ASSESSOR'S MAP  
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Parcel Map. (Source: Los Angeles County Assessor)

SPACE

FOR RECORDER'S USE

PLACE IN

NINE STAMPS IN THIS SPACE



# Grant Deed

Alta L. R. S. 0

298 1-52

THIS FORM FURNISHED BY TITLE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,

**Carrie Dumas, a widow**

hereby GRANT(S) to **The PHILOMATHEAN CHARITY, LITERARY, ART and SOCIAL CLUB,**  
a California corporation

the following described real property in the state of California, county of **Los Angeles**

Lot "X" in Block 181 of Santa Monica, as per map recorded in Book 3  
Pages 80 and 81 and in Book 29 Page 45 et seq., of Miscellaneous Records  
in the office of the County Recorder of said County.

Subject to: **Second half General and Special Taxes for the fiscal year 1952-53**

Conditions, restrictions, reservations, covenants, easements,  
rights and rights of way, of record, if any.

Date: **January 13, 1953**

*Carrie Dumas*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF

**Los Angeles**

On **January 22, 1953**  
before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in  
and for said County and State, personally appeared  
**Carrie Dumas**

known to me to be the person whose name is  
subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that  
she executed the same

WITNESS my hand and official seal

*[Signature]*  
Notary Public in and for said County and State

SPACE BELOW FOR RECORDER'S USE ONLY

INSTRUMENT NO. **1514**  
RECORDED AT REQUEST OF  
TITLE INSURANCE & TRUST CO.

**FEB 10 1953 AT 8 A.M.**

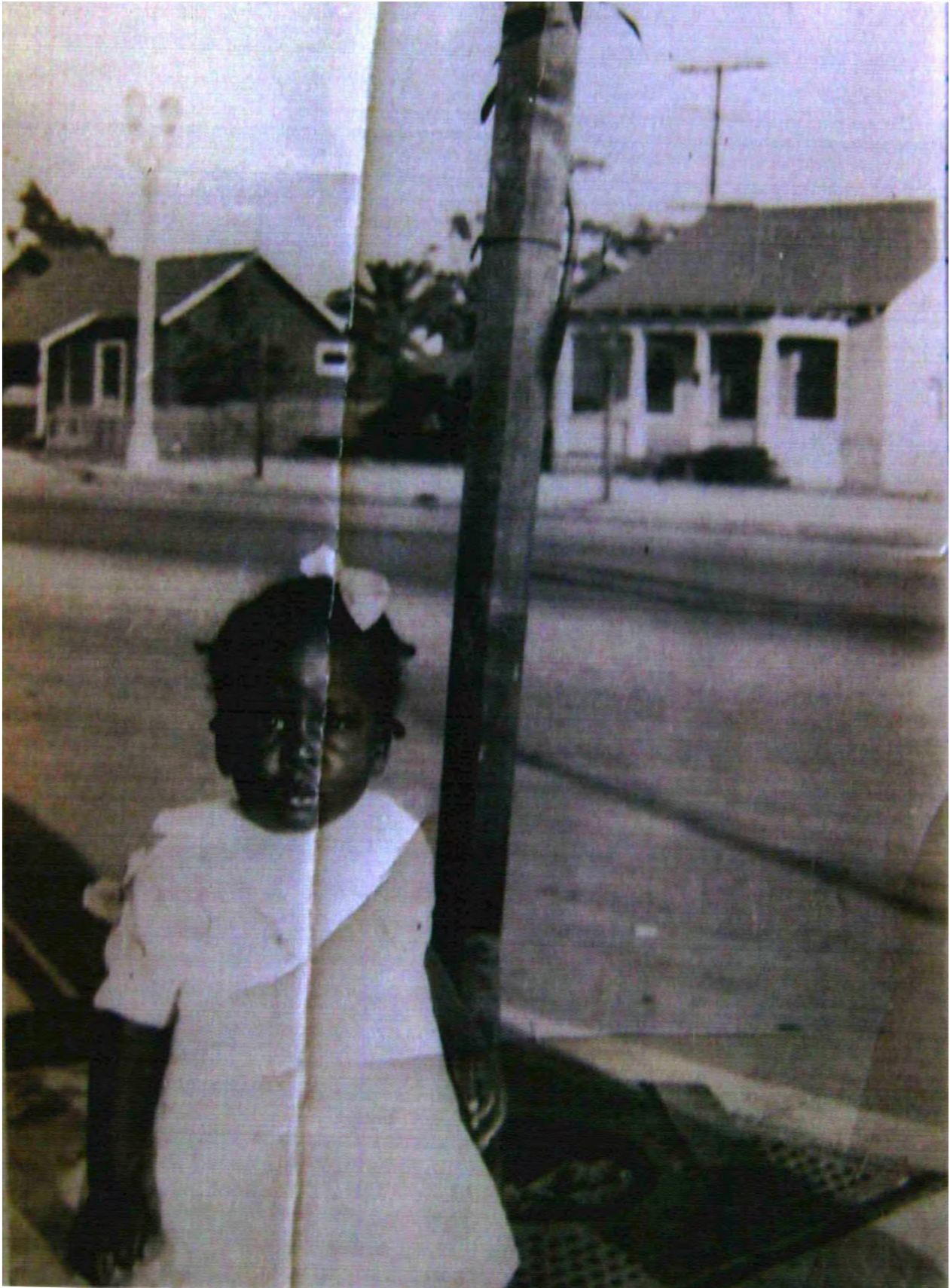
IN OFFICIAL RECORDS  
County of Los Angeles, California

Fee \$  
**MADE B. BEATY, County Recorder**

by \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

1514

1503



1933, young Celestine Clisby poses at the corner of Eighteenth Street and Broadway with the two cottages that predated the Philomathean Hall on the subject property in the background. (Image: courtesy of Quinn Research Center)

# SANTA MONICA

Mrs. Flavia Craddock entertains

On Friday evening, October 26th, Mrs. Flavia Craddock was hostess to the Philharmonic Club at the beautiful home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Whitley, of 1654 Nineteenth Street. The club was at its zenith that day. Honor guests were, Mrs. A. Bruce, Mrs. E. J. Lane, Mrs. Etta Moxley, and Ed Rickman. The special feature of the evening was the splendid program rendered, Mrs. Etta Moxley and Mrs. E. J. Lane of Monrovia, were the principal speakers. Mrs. Richard Dumas read an interesting paper on the Education of the Child. Mrs. Stanton of Venice recited several selections from Dunbar. Mrs. Mattie Peters, President of the Monday Club, spoke on Passions. Mrs. Harry Hamilton read a selection of clippings that were very appropriate for the club. Mrs. J. L. Richardson's address, "The Negro in Art" was a masterpiece. Mrs. A. L. Reese sang as only she can sing. Mrs. Moxley took for her subject, "National Club Work—Wide in Its Scope, and Very Deep". Mrs. E. J. Land depicted to us club work in Monrovia. Mrs. Yancey dealt with California and her women, full of enthusiasm, and very inspiring. Vocal solo by Mrs. Edward Rickman, was sweetly rendered and does credit to the Negro anywhere. Others were, Miss Edna Hardt, Miss Quisette Baker, of Los Angeles. Mrs. Hatfield Wobblin, Miss Louise Booth, Miss Etta Cavas, Mrs. Ed Foster, Mrs. Carrie Howard, Mrs. George Logan, Mrs. Ruth Lenley, Mrs. Mammie Murrell, Mrs. Alvin McKenny, Mrs. Olive Norman, Mrs. Sherman L. Oves, Mrs. J. S. Richardson, Mrs. S. A. Wright, Mrs. Wurd Washington. This was the largest meeting held since the organization of the club.

## Philomatheans Burn Mortgage

SANTA MONICA. The mortgage burning of the Philomathean Club was staged at Calvary Baptist Church, 20th and Delaware, recently. The club was founded by Mrs. Eleanor Layne in 1921 with the following present; Mesdames Julia Murrell, Mammie Richardson, Parsadia Washington, Carrie Howard and Ruth Linly.

Past presidents included: Mrs. Ruth L. Linly, who established many new features and was in-accepted into the California State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She served for 5 years. Also Mrs. Bessie Lawrence-Auburn and Mrs. Loretta Edwards, both of whom contributed greatly to the progress of the club.

Wishing a club home as a place of leisure for needy girls and working women in 1935 this dream was realized when the home was purchased at 1438 17th street. This was during the presidency of Mrs. Annie Coleman, elected in 1934, who still serves. Her hard work helped accomplish the aim of the club.

After seven years of struggle the home was paid for in full and the club's income boosted to \$30. per month with a membership of 13.

The club thanks all who helped and encouraged the efforts of the members in clearing the club home from debt. Mrs. Annie Coleman, president, Mrs. Erline Entwore, Corr. sec.

# Santa Monica News

(By Willie Louise Gilmore)

The Philomatheans met at the home of Mrs. Ella Stamps Friday, January 11. The president outlined a very interesting year's work in which the members are anticipating great events for the ensuing year. The president, with Mrs. Vada King, delegate, and Mrs. Ruth Linly of the Big Sister Dept. of the CSFCW clubs, attended the executive board meeting Thursday, Jan. 17 in Los Angeles.

A palatable menu was served by the hostess. Next meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Bessie Washington, 1534 12th street, Friday, January 18. Mrs. Anna Coleman is president; Mrs. Loretta Edwards, corresponding secretary.

## CHRISTEN AIRPLANE SUNDAY

The N. A. A. C. F. and the Philomathean Club of Santa Monica, in a stirring ceremony at the Dyer Airport, Sunday, christened the airplane purchased by the Craftsmen of "Black Wings." Mrs. Anna Coleman, President of the Philomathean club, poured the silver liquid over the nose of the beautiful plane, christening it Progress, as thunderous applause rose from the crowd assembled in front of the Craftsmen's hangar.

Encouraging speeches were made by Mr. Daniel Haynes, moving picture star, Mrs. Anna Mungler, sec'y of the N. A. A. C. F. which was responded to by William E. Brown, Wing Commander of the Craftsmen, and Mr. Albert Fisher, chairman of the Booster Committee.

Both the N. A. A. C. F. and the Philomathean club presented to the Craftsmen with a contribution to assist in carrying on the flight training of the students.

Assisting in the ceremonies also was Mrs. Myrtle Hill, president of the Women's Business and Civic club, and Raymond Smith, president of the Van Dykes club. Mr. Elmer Lane, vice president of the N. A. A. C. F. was master of ceremonies. Mrs. Anna Coleman flew from Santa Monica to Dyer airport in a Lambert Monocoupe to attend the ceremonies.

With student flight training well under way, the Craftsmen are now making preparations to commence construction of their first airplane.

## Santa Monica

The most enjoyable evening since the organization of the Philomathean club was Thursday evening, July 29. More than 30 persons attended.

The club house was decorated with lovely, fresh garden flowers of every variety and the president provided a lovely Stewart Warner radio for the evening. The entertaining committee spared no efforts in providing a lovely evening. Their effort was more than a success. Some of the newest and most clever games of the season were played. First, second and third prizes were won respectively, Mr. Burgess of Tulsa, Okla., Mr. Willie Moore of Santa Monica, and Mr. Hughley of Santa Monica.

The guests of the evening were introduced by the president, Mrs. Anna Coleman, the guest list included:

Moore and Mesdames C. Thompson of San Antonio, Texas; John Burgess of Tulsa, Okla.; and Mesdames C. A. Hamilton, Austin, Texas; Lillian Turner, Pasadena, Calif.; LaSalle and daughter, Berkeley, Calif.; Ozle May Freeman, Tulsa, Okla.; Howard Gossett, Dallas, Texas; Nicholas Chatwood, Tenn.

A delicious hot supper was served and during which greetings were extended by the guests and visiting friends. Most encouraging remarks came from the following: Mrs. Myrtle Hill, state parliamentarian; Mrs. Chas. Wager, editor of the Journal of the State Federation of Colored Women; Mrs. Jessica McCall, president of City Civic club and Mrs. Rose Carter, vice-pres. of Progressive Women's Club.

The closing remarks were made by the president. Every one expressed in some way their appreciation for such a lovely evening in such a lovely club house which was truly filled and almost overflowing.

The club is now on vacation until the first Friday in September. After which they will resume their work for the year.

Mrs. Anna Coleman, pres.; Birdie Coleman, cor. sec'y and reporter; Mrs. Bessie Washington, advisor; The Sunshine Girls entertained.

The Ladies with their annual outing in Lincoln Park last Wednesday afternoon. Those enjoying the delightful affair were: Mrs. and Martha Lou Warren, Mrs. Kennedy, Vivian Lawrence, Julia and Junior Celestine, Julie Driver and Elmer Bishop.

One of the season's most attractive luncheons and pre-nuptial showers was given in honor of Haze Linly by Miss Alvena at her residence in Los Angeles Sunday afternoon. The bridal motif was employed in the unique table decorations. Covers were laid for 25 guests, most of whom were Santa Monica. Miss Linly, the honoree was recipient of many useful gifts.

Mrs. and Mrs. J. Allen Reese of Fresno, Calif. visited Oakland, and Santa Cruz, Forests, also attended the Grand Lodge K. of P.'s, and Grand Court of Calanthes in Sacramento. Mr. Reese was re-elected unanimously for the 11th term, based to Chico where they were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Daley in a cabin in Mt. Lassen Nat'l Forest.

Miss Mattie Jane Peters whose birthday was this month, was presented with a gorgeous box of cosmetics by Eddie Cantor, with whom she is working in "All Stars Goes to Town". Anna Cole and Virginia Peters are now working in the film. Mattie was also recipient of a diamond bracelet presented by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bren. Mr. Bren is manager of Fanchon and Marco.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Clay hosts a Sunday evening of a most enjoyable picnic and was held on the beach at famous Castle Rock, over a glowing fire all manner of foods were boiled and roasted which was enjoyed by the guests before delicious draughts of cold drinks and watermelons. Those enjoying the affair were: Mrs. Williams of Topeka (house guest), Mrs. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. David Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Albert Fisher, Margaret Clay and Flo Kennedy.



ENERGETIC COMMITTEE.—The membership committee of the Santa Monica NAACP was honored at the annual banquet held last Friday at the Philomathean Club in Santa Monica. From left, first row: Mmes. Fannie E. Thompson, (a visitor from Topeka, Kan.) Gussie Mae Dupin, Louella Allen, Della Powell and Isadora Williams. Second row: E. G. Allen, Atty. Rayburn, Evelyn Snyder, Ruth Ryan and R. J. Hatchett. Top row: Chester Powell, M. B. Allen, Rene Crawford, Hermie Garland, Estie Garland, G. M. Garland and Ira Hilgard. (Verdell Young)

## NAACP Told To Fight for Rights Here

By C. MARIE HUGHES

Franklin Williams, assistant attorney general of California, told some 300 NAACP banquet guests at the Philomathean Club in Santa Monica last Friday evening that they must apply for better jobs and evoke the FEP law when opportunity is denied them. He said that local citizens are so complacent where civil rights locally are concerned.

Speaking of the annual banquet, which serves to pay tribute to those making outstanding contributions to the fight for freedom, Williams indicated that Californians are so concerned with race relations in the South and the nation that they have failed to cope with the growth of segregation at the local level.

Few Complaints He indicated that few complaints have been filed with the Commission since the passage of FEP and that only by filing and qualifying for better jobs and by forcing integration in housing locally, can we break up the ghetto and the last-hired policies.

Those receiving recognition at the banquet were Mrs. Della Powell, Miss Evelyn Snyder and M. B. Allen, through whose efforts more than \$500 was raised for the freedom fund.

Show Progress

E. G. Allen was cited for his long and outstanding record as president, chairman of membership and for his community leadership. The usual highlight of the evening was the presentation of payments on life memberships. Those presented were from the Knights of Phythias and the Business and Professional Men's group.

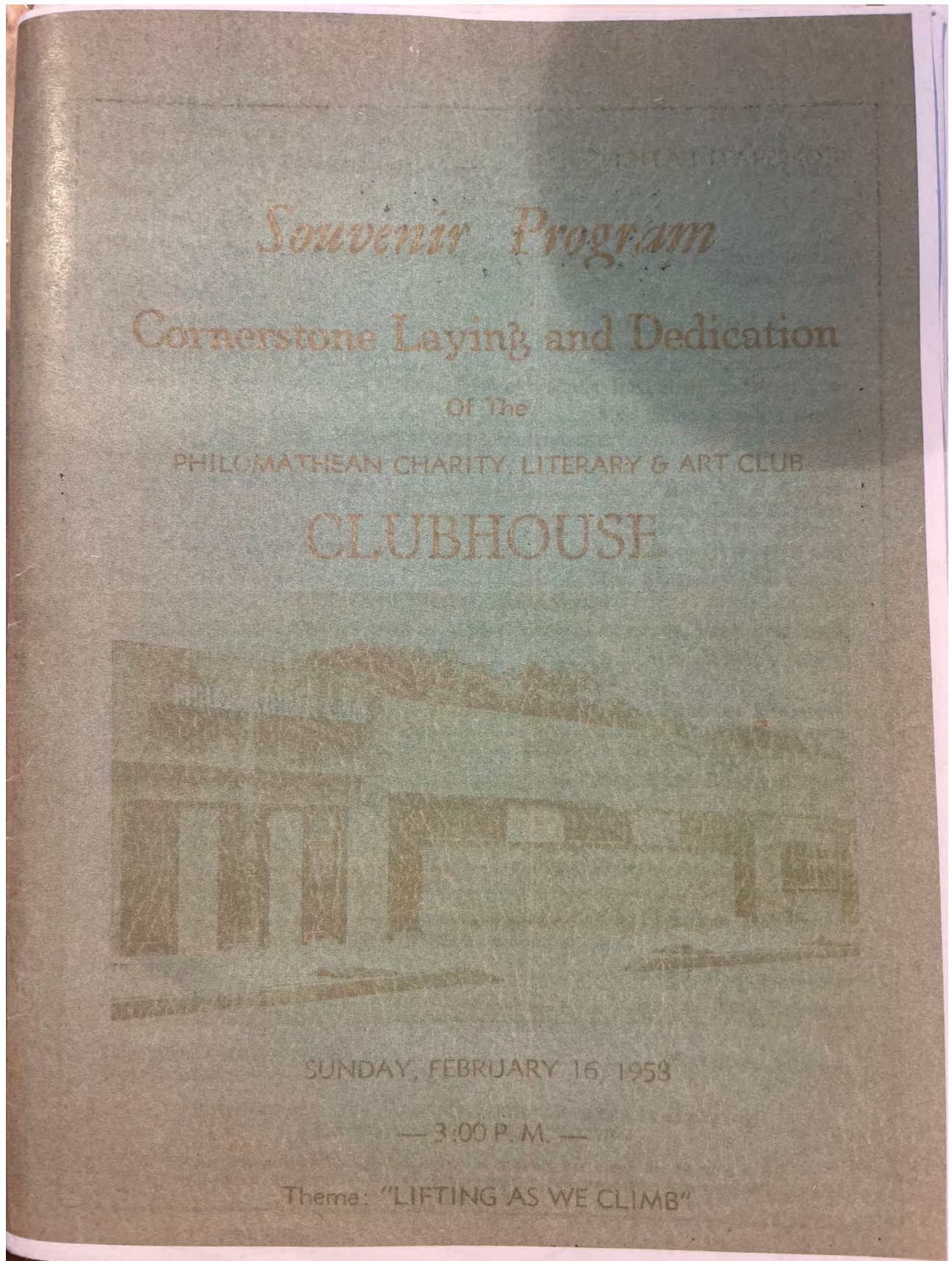


FOR FREEDOM FUND.—Mrs. Della Powell is shown presenting a check to Branch Pres. Alyce Gullattie of the NAACP for the membership committee's contribution to the association's Freedom Fund during the annual banquet. From left: E. G. Allen, Miss Evelyn Snyder, Mrs. Gullattie, Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Blanche Carter. (Verdell Young).

Examples of early Philomathean Club activities in the news. Top: California Eagle (Los Angeles, California) November 9, 1923, January 18, 1935, May 22, 1937, August 19, 1937. Bottom: California Eagle January 25, 1945, March 24, 1960.



Winfield China, Bamboo, Pacific Blue, from original set used at Philomathean Club events, later inscribed and gifted to individual club members.



Philomathean Club Souvenir Program, February 16, 1958. This photocopied image features the only original photo found to date of the exterior of the Philomathean Club Building. The original sign described in the 1958 permit is still extant and the barber's pole also appears in this image. (Image: Courtesy of Quinn Research Center, Philomathean Club Collection)

*Souvenir Program*

MORTGAGE BURNING

OF THE

PHILOMATHEAN CHARITY, LITERARY AND ART CLUB



SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1970

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

1810 BROADWAY STREET

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Theme: "LIFTING AS WE CLIMB"

Philomathean Club Souvenir Program, April 19, 1970. This photocopied image is the only original photo found to date of the exterior of the Philomathean Club Building. The original sign described in the 1958 permit is still extant and the barber's pole also appears in this image. (Image: Courtesy of Quinn Research Center, Philomathean Club Collection)





Philomathean Club Building Dedication Plaque, October 2022. A stone plaque commemorating the dedication of the Philomathean Club building is installed on the southeast end of the Broadway elevation.



Philomathean Club Building, October 2022. Views of Broadway elevation and site context within its block.



Philomathean Club Building, Oblique view of north-facing facade. February 2023



Philomathean Club Building, February 2023. Top: southeast views of Broadway elevation Bottom: window and trim details.



Philomathean Club Building, October 2022, February 2023. The commercial space at 1802 Broadway has been occupied by barbershops since the building was constructed.



Philomathean Club Building, October 2022, February 2023. The commercial space at 1503 Eighteenth Street has been occupied by women’s hair salons since the Philomathean Club Building was constructed.

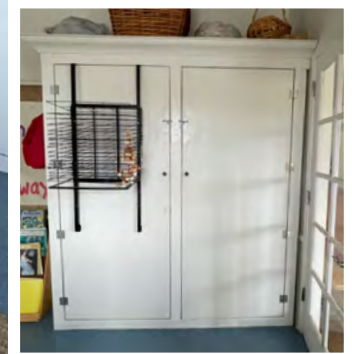


Philomathean Club Building, February 2023. Top: northwest view of elevation fronting former parking area and alley. The parking area has been repurposed as a children’s playground for the current tenant. Bottom: original windows, door, and utility enclosure remain extant.



Philomathean Club Building, October 2022, February 2023. Top: Southwest view of kitchen featuring green and yellow tiled counters, the club colors. Inset: original green and yellow tiled countertop. Bottom left: Southeast view of kitchen. Bottom right: view northeast from kitchen towards front office. Wainscoting was added by current tenant but layout of hallway and adjoining restrooms is unaltered.





Philomathean Club Building, October 2022. Top: View of front office from hallway, facing north towards Broadway. Bottom: View of front office facing south towards hallway. Rear office doorway at left. Inset left: Southwest view into small restroom adjoining rear office. Inset right: Original cabinet used by Philomathean Club is still extant, but with the addition of decorative crown molding.



Philomathean Club Building, Main Hall, October 2022, February 2023. Top: Southwest view of hall from entry off Broadway. A half-height wall divides the space at right. Doorway to the front office at left. Bottom: Northwest view inside hall. Doorway at left leads to the front office, doorway at right leads to the kitchen. The glass doors at center replaced solid doors to convert an original storage space for tables and chairs into a new use.



Philomathean Club Building, Main Hall, October 2022. Top: Northwest view showing the room divider. Bottom: Southeast view showing the room divider.



Philomathean Club Building, Main Hall, October 2022, February 2023. Top: View of west half of hall towards Broadway. Bottom: Southwest view of extant original stage used by the Philomatheans for their events.



Philomathean Club Building, Main Hall, February 2023, views from playstructure in west corner of hall, capturing volume of original space.