

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Name of Property |
| County and State |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number _____ Page _____ 1 _____

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100004116

Date Listed: 06/26/2019

Property Name: Bay Street Beach Historic District

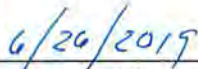
County: Los Angeles

State: CA

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Address:
Roughly bounded by Pacific Ocean, Ocean Front Walk from Vicente Ter. to Crescent Bay Park, Bicknell Ave. extending into ocean.

The CALIFORNIA SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

4116

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bay Street Beach Historic District

Other names/site number: The Inkwell; The Ink Well

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: See verbal boundary description

City or town: Santa Monica State: California County: Los Angeles

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national

 statewide

X local


Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A

 B

 C

 D

| | |
|---|----------------|
|  | <u>5/17/19</u> |
| Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer: Date | |
| <u>California State Office of Historic Preservation</u> | |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

| | |
|---|--|
| In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria. | |
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| <hr/> | |
| Title : | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State



4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

6/26/2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| <u> </u> | <u> 1 </u> | buildings |
| <u> 3 </u> | <u> 1 </u> | sites |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 8 </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> 1 </u> | objects |
| <u> 4 </u> | <u> 11 </u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, concrete, plaster, clay tile

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Bay Street Beach Historic District comprises approximately 53 seaside and nearshore acres in the City of Santa Monica within Los Angeles County, on public trust lands owned by the City of Santa Monica and the State of California. Included in the district are four contributing resources, three sites—a grass bi-level open space, a beach area, and a nearshore area (*i.e.*, below mean high tide)—and a Neo-Classical Revival style pergola (structure). Eleven noncontributing resources comprise a suite of visitor amenities and municipal facilities, including one building, one site, eight structures, and one object. While Los Angeles beaches were not legally segregated, the recreation and leisure site for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. The beach was a primary seaside public resource where its visitors felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is directly accessible from the Santa Monica Pier to the north or Venice Beach areas to the south, or through a number of public parking options. Set along a portion of Los Angeles' urbanized coast and within one of the county's oldest cities, the area is heavily developed compared to the northernmost (Malibu) and southernmost (Palos Verdes) portions of coastal Santa Monica Bay. The property's contributing structure retains all aspects of historic integrity; the contributing sites retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, design, materials, and association. As the sites are coastal geologic resources, workmanship is not applicable.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Narrative Description

LOCATION AND SETTING

The City of Santa Monica is a coastal municipality within Los Angeles County, California, comprising 8.3 square miles along 3.5 miles of coastline.¹ Incorporated in 1886, Santa Monica is one of the county's oldest cities.² Santa Monica sits near the middle of the hemispherical-shaped Santa Monica Bay and its coastal areas face west or west-southwest (**Figure 2**). Within city limits, the Bay Street Beach Historic District extends 0.2 miles along the coast and incorporates landside and nearshore public trust lands owned by either the City of Santa Monica³ or the State of California. State beach areas are managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR);⁴ submerged, state nearshore areas are managed by the California State Lands Commission⁵ (**Figures 1, 9, 11**). Immediately northeast of the district is the Phillips Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church—originally a schoolhouse purchased by church congregants and moved to its location in 1908. Phillips Chapel CME Church is Santa Monica's oldest African American church.⁶

Wave Formation and Surfing: The Bay Street area receives surfable waves from a variety of directions: from fall and winter storms originating in the northern Pacific Ocean, and spring through fall from storms formed either in the southern Pacific basin or from equatorial hurricane (cyclonic) activity. Bay Street, as with other west-oriented beaches, is among the most consistently surfable areas in the region. Surfing is an interaction with a specific, and complex, biophysical environment. Like many forms of outdoor recreation, surfing is *site-specific*. Different surfing styles or performance standards are associated with specific surf breaks. Surfing is also *site-dependent*, requiring an explicit, and often contested, set of coastal resources. Site-specific and site-dependent surfing resources incorporate (1) beaches and nearshore areas where waves collapse—or break—in shallow water and in consistent patterns as to support surfing, (2) larger surfing areas—as a complex of proximate surf breaks, and (3) other physical and associative features that collectively make a site unique.

Surfing Quality: Coastal and nearshore physical features determine specific surfing typologies. Submarine canyons, coral reefs, and prominent points of land are features associated with specific types of surf breaks and a range of surfable wave heights. Sandbar surfing areas, including the Bay Street Beach Historic District, are a wave type constituted by a sandy beach bottom with temporary bars which form through a complex combination of wave energy, sand transport, beach and nearshore bottom (bathymetry) profiles, and immediate coastal features. Sandbars represent a range of surfing opportunities across a corresponding range of surfer expertise. At Bay Street, while waves break consistently through the year, thereby offering its

¹ <http://www.smgov.net>, accessed February 1, 2019.

² Santa Monica History Museum, <http://www.santamonicahistory.org>, accessed February 1, 2019.

³ Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel No. 4289-025-900.

⁴ Parcel Nos. 4289-025-902; 4290-021-903; 4290-021-904; portions of Santa Monica State Beach.

⁵ Calif. Pub. Res. Code § 6001 et seq.

⁶ Parcel No. 4289-010-026; 2001 4th Street, Santa Monica, California, 90405-1115.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

surfers many days to surf there, it is a lower-quality wave most suitable for beginning surfers. Bay Street's lack of features—natural, such as a point of land, or engineered such as a pier, jetty, or groin—mean nearby sandbars are slow to form and quick to dissolve.⁷ Waves at Bay Street break quickly and nearly all at once, *i.e.*, waves “close out.” Where surfers can ride waves at a high-quality area such as the region's premier break, Malibu, up to 800 feet or longer, rides at Bay Street are often less than 100 feet.⁸ Bay Street's convenient access, consistent waves, relatively uncrowded lineup, and lifeguard supervision make it an attractive, and important, regional surfing area where beginners learn the sport.

BAY STREET BEACH (three contributing sites, one contributing structure)

The district includes three contributing sites: grass areas of Crescent Bay Park; the beach area between Vicente Terrace and Bicknell Avenue extending from the Ocean Front Walk promenade to the mean high tide line; and nearshore areas, possessing the same northern and southern boundaries, extending from the mean high tide line seaward 1,650 feet (500 meters) (**Photos 1-4, 22**). An open-top pergola is a primary feature of Crescent Bay Park.

Crescent Bay Park (one contributing site): Crescent Bay Park comprises 1.8 beachside acres of bi-level, landscaped open space between Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue (**Figures 3, 9, 11**). A 1.18-acre grass lawn and retaining wall forms the lower portion of Crescent Bay Park and is included in the district boundary. The area comprised a portion of the original South Side Park, which the City of Santa Monica took by condemnation suit in 1896 as part of lateral sewer construction project. The park was landscaped and a pergola constructed in 1911. The park was then renamed Crescent Bay Park to recognize these improvements. The park offers direct views of the beach and larger Santa Monica Bay, and connects to Ocean Front Walk, then to the sand and water beyond. As the topography of the park has changed through the construction of a parking lot and direct sand nourishment projects, the frequency of park use has increased and the park serves visitors from a larger Los Angeles population. Crescent Bay Park is an important reference point and defining resource of the district.

Within Crescent Bay Park at the far eastern portion of the district boundary, a thirty-five step concrete staircase (noncontributing structure) connects an upper area, including a pedestrian sidewalk to the lower, grass area (**Photo 7**). Staircase railings are welded steel, square hollow, structural sections. Its specific construction history is unknown and the staircase was rebuilt in 1981, following the period of significance.⁹ The sidewalk and the grass area connecting the sidewalk to the staircase landing mark the original upper boundary of Crescent Bay Park and are included within the district. This 0.17-acre upper level grass and sidewalk area serves as a secondary façade or backdrop, framing the lower level where the beach use for which the district is recognized took place. The 0.4-acre triangular area of grass lawn northeast of the sidewalk was developed following the period of significance by re-routing north-south traffic along Ocean Way and is not included within the district boundary. Crescent Bay Park is public trust land

⁷ For an introduction to the dynamics of breaking waves, see: Willard Bascom, *Waves and Beaches: The Dynamics of the Ocean's Surface* (New York, NY: Anchor Press, 1990).

⁸ “Malibu.” In *Surfer Magazine's Guide to Southern California Surf Spots*. (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2006).

⁹ Nina Fresco, *pers. comm.*

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

owned by the City of Santa Monica and managed by the city's Community and Cultural Services Department.¹⁰ Immediately below Crescent Bay Park, and included in the district boundary, is a portion of the city's 4 South public parking lot. The State of California owned property is managed by the city, and is sometimes noted as part of Crescent Bay Park.¹¹

Beach area (one contributing site): The beach is a 14.5-acre area, extending between Vicente Terrace and Bicknell Avenue on public trust land owned by the State of California and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation as part of Santa Monica State Beach. The area offers continuous access to the shoreline and Pacific Ocean on one side, and Ocean Front Walk, and coastal Santa Monica, on the other. The beach offers panoramic views of Santa Monica Bay as well as prominent coastal attractions like Santa Monica Pier and Venice Pier (**Photos 5, 6, 9**). The area offers traditional beach leisure in addition to active recreation, *e.g.*, walking, running, biking, through a number of public amenities. The area has been significantly widened through a number of direct sand nourishment projects completed both during and since the period of significance. The area has always been associated with, and utilized for, beach recreation, though portions of the area were at one time accessible only to members of nearby exclusive beach clubs. These restrictions effectively segregated white beach club members from African American Angelenos and other non-members, and formed a dimension of the area's history of contestation for leisure access and opportunity.

Nearshore area (one contributing site): The nearshore is a 35.3-acre area of coastal Santa Monica Bay. The area extends between Vicente Terrace and Bicknell Avenue and follows the mean high tide line extending 1,640 feet (500 meters) to sea on submerged public lands owned by the State of California and managed by the California State Lands Commission. The area can be accessed continuously from the adjoining beach. Popular forms of contact recreation—bodysurfing, paddling, wading, surfing, and swimming—are enjoyed in the area and were during the period of significance. Not all district visitors went in the water. The coastal ocean's views, salt air, and moderate temperatures are also part of a beach visit, and of the district overall.

Crescent Bay Park pergola (*one contributing structure*): A flat, open-top pergola—extending approximately 170 feet parallel to the shoreline—prominently marks the lower portion of Crescent Bay Park and thematically connects the area to Ocean Front Walk (**Photos 8, 21**). The pergola's main walkway is 12.5 feet and paved with 12 by 12 inch clay tiles. The pergola's sixty Tuscan concrete and plaster columns are 7 feet, 1 inch high, with abaci at the column base and top. Main walkway columns are spaced eleven feet apart on center, except at the ends, where they are grouped in pairs and triplets. Headers and support beams either rest directly on column abaci or, at the pergola's ends, on decorative tails. The rafters, carved tails, cross beams, and slats are all wood. Archived photographs of the beach or Crescent Bay Park area all contain the

¹⁰ <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/CCS>, accessed February 1, 2019; Parcel Nos. 4289-025-900; 4289-026-900; portions of 4289-025-902.

¹¹ The parking lot is located on a portion of Parcel No. 4289-025-902.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

pergola.¹² Constructed in 1911, the pergola is included in the City of Santa Monica's Historic Resources Inventory.¹³ A specific history of modifications during or following the period of significance is unknown.

IMPROVEMENTS AND ALTERATIONS

Typical of other popular beach sites, the district offers public improvements that provide access to, and safe enjoyment of, the area. The area also supports a piece of conspicuous municipal wastewater infrastructure, conveying storm water from adjacent coastal areas directly to the ocean. Improvements, alterations, and public amenities that do not relate to the documented significance of the property are classified as noncontributing resources.

Access Improvements: Visitors access the area directly from Ocean Front Walk or via abundant automobile parking, either hourly (street/metered) or day-use (lot). Parking lot 4 South (noncontributing structure) is an important public improvement and prominent visual feature; comprising 1,334 day-use and short-term parking spots, of which 125 are within the district boundary (**Photo 11**).¹⁴ The lot is managed by the City of Santa Monica on property owned by the State of California.¹⁵ Between Neilson Way and the beach, there are eighty-eight street and metered parking spots on Bay Street, Ocean Way, and Bicknell Avenue. Together, the plentiful street and lot automobile access in the area is consistent with visitor amenities serving a popular beach as well as a satellite option for the heavily visited Santa Monica Pier area.

Beach Nourishment: Santa Monica beaches, including the Bay Street Beach, are significantly wider than their natural condition, the result of repeated direct sand nourishment (**Figures 6, 9, 11, 12**).¹⁶ Regional nourishment projects were undertaken to reduce or recover from erosion; create wider beaches to accommodate more visitors and visitor-serving amenities; or conveniently re-distribute material excavated from major coastal construction *e.g.*, Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (1950),¹⁷ Scattergood Generating Station (1959),¹⁸ and Marina del Rey Small Craft Harbor (1965). Between 1935 and 1958, Santa Monica Beach received more than

¹² For an example of a pre-1940 photograph of the area, including the pergola, see: Santa Monica Public Library Image Archives Photograph No. #4183 img0031: "Arcade south of the Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, Calif." <http://digital.smpl.org/cdm/fullbrowser/collection/smarchive/id/2998/rv/singleitem/rec/7>, accessed February 1, 2019.

¹³ Planning and Community Development, History Resources Inventory of Individual Resources, 2018 Update - [https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Programs/Historic-Preservation/Historic-Resources-Inventory-Update-\(2017\)](https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Programs/Historic-Preservation/Historic-Resources-Inventory-Update-(2017)), accessed February 1, 2019.

¹⁴ City of Santa Monica Planning and Community Development Department, <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD>, accessed February 1, 2019.

¹⁵ Parcel Nos. 4289-025-902; 4289-024-901; 4288-033-912.

¹⁶ James G. Zoulas and Anthony Orme, "Multidecadal-Scale Beach Changes in the Zuma Littoral Cell, California." *Physical Geography* 28, no. 4 (2013): 277; Linwood Pendleton et al., "Size Matters: The Economic Value of Beach Erosion and Nourishment in Southern California." *Contemporary Economic Policy* 30, no. 2 (2012): 4-6; Anthony Orme et al., "Beach Changes Along the Southern California Coast During the 20th Century: A Comparison of Natural and Human Forcing Factors." *Shore & Beach* 79, no. 4 (2011): 5; T.D. Clayton, "Beach Replenishment Activities on U.S. Continental Pacific Coast." *Journal of Coastal Research* 7, no. 4 (1991): 1199.

¹⁷ 12000 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey, California, 90293.

¹⁸ 685 West Grand Avenue, El Segundo, California, 90245.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

1.4 million cubic yards of sand, widening some areas by more than 400%.¹⁹ Beach width has largely stabilized since that time, mainly due to the Santa Monica Breakwater and, to a lesser extent, the adjoining Santa Monica Pier.²⁰

Municipal Infrastructure: The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Flood Control District operates and maintains the Pico-Kenter municipal storm water drain (noncontributing structure) along Pico Boulevard, whose terminus and outfall extends into the district (**Photos 10, 13**).²¹ The drain is part of the county's 3,000 miles of underground storm drainage infrastructure and helps drain 4,200 coastal plain acres in Santa Monica and nearby communities of West Los Angeles and Brentwood.²² The drain is constructed of reinforced concrete cement (RCC) and enters Santa Monica Bay in a 20-foot by 8-foot reinforced concrete box. Direct access to the drain/outfall is prevented by perimeter safety, chain-link fencing. Annually, the drain is typically blocked by sand from June until the first significant storm event. Drain outfalls during storms are conspicuous and flows can be fast moving (**Photo 14**).²³ Since 2000, dry weather urban runoff has been diverted via a small pumping station to a nearby treatment and water recycling facility.²⁴ Early versions of the outfall were constructed prior to the period of significance, and some conveyance infrastructure existed through the period. The drain is largely hidden from view, especially during the summer when beach visitorship is high, and more so prior to circa 1945, when beach width was considerably narrower.

Safety Improvements: Beach and water safety services are provided by Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Division personnel stationed at two, movable lifeguard stands owned and maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors. T-18 is located at the northern end of the district; T-20 between the accessible beach path and the district's southern end (**Photos 15, 16**). Storm season beach erosion mitigation sometimes requires maintenance activities, including sand berm barrier construction, to protect the stands. Berms erode naturally throughout the storm season or are groomed away at the season's conclusion. Both T-18 and T-20 (two noncontributing structures) replaced earlier versions of Los Angeles County lifeguard stands present in the area during the period of significance. An increase in lifeguard personnel, and supporting equipment like lifeguard stands distributed more densely along managed beaches, reflect post-period growth in beach visitorship and use.

Visitor Improvements: A variety of public amenities serve beach visitors. An octagonal gazebo (noncontributing structure), twenty feet in diameter and timber framed, is located in the upper portion of Crescent Bay Park in the district's far northeast corner. The original construction date

¹⁹ Orme et al. "Beach Changes," 6.

²⁰ *Ibid*, 7.

²¹ Flood Control District Asset No. F02000459; The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region regulates storm and non-storm water discharges by the Los Angeles Flood Control District, Los Angeles County, and 84 incorporated cities (except the City of Long Beach) under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; US EPA) permit CAS004001.

²² <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/LACFCD>, accessed February 1, 2019.

²³ *Pers. obs.*; cf. Photo 14.

²⁴ The Santa Monica Urban Runoff and Recycling Facility (SMURRF)

<http://www.smgov.net/departments/publicworks/contentiveng.aspx?id=7796>, accessed February 1, 2019.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

is unknown, and the gazebo was completely rebuilt in the 1980s. A post-period of significance public restroom and outdoor shower facility (noncontributing building) is located at the district's eastern end, and includes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access and fixtures (**Photo 17**). An approximately 30-foot wide, paved promenade, Ocean Front Walk (noncontributing structure), extends through the area and connects Santa Monica Pier to the north with the Venice neighborhood to the south (**Photo 18**). Ocean Front Walk dates from the period of significance and was once much closer to the shoreline, before several sand nourishment projects widened the beach. The promenade's importance is as a continuous pedestrian path between Santa Monica and Venice Beach, rather than a specific section of it. During the period of significance, African American visitors could access Ocean Front Walk and ultimately recreated at Bay Street Beach. A portion of the 22-mile long Marvin Braude Bike Trail (noncontributing structure) also extends through the area. The trail, opened in 1989, is an approximately 19.5-foot wide, Class I path that connects northern Santa Monica at Will Rogers State Beach with the City of Torrance to the south (**Photo 19**).²⁵

At Bay Street and Ocean Front Walk, a 12-foot wide post-period of significance walkway extends approximately 390 feet across the sand toward the ocean, providing beach accessibility for persons and small vehicles (**Photo 20**). Walkway planks are 11-inch wide pressure-treated timbers spaced 1.5 inches apart. Four tabs of the same materials and design extend out from the main walkway—two are 10 by 10 feet, two are 24 by 6.5 feet. The tabs provide beach vehicles a convenient entry and exit point when crossing the path itself.

Commemorative Plaque: A small monument (noncontributing object) dedicated by the City of Santa Monica recognizes and illuminates the history of beach use by African American Angelenos at the area (**Photo 12**). The monument consists of a bronze plaque inscribed with fourteen lines of text set in a boulder (**Figure 10**). Dedicated in a public ceremony in 2008 following two years of local advocacy, the monument sits at the intersection of Bay Street and Ocean Front Walk.²⁶ The plaque was programmed and dedicated through the city's Cultural Affairs Division Public Art Program.²⁷ The City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission, responsible for implementing the city's local historic preservation programs to "protect improvements and areas...for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people" was not involved in the planning and installation process.²⁸

INTEGRITY

Location: The district's contributing resources remain in their original location and retain integrity of location.

²⁵ Class I: Paths with exclusive right of way for bicyclists and pedestrians, set apart from the roadway, and with minimal vehicle cross flow. See http://www.dot.ca.gov/d4/bikeplan/docs/caltrans-d4-bike-plan_bikeway-classification-brochure_072517.pdf, accessed February 1, 2019.

²⁶ Gary Walker, "Santa Monica: Plaque is Dedicated at Historic Inkwell Beach, Once the Only Local Beach for African Americans," *The Argonaut*, February 14, 2008, <http://argonautnews.com/santa-monica-plaque-is-dedicated-at-historic-inkwell-beach-once-the-only-local-beach-for-african-americans>, accessed February 1, 2019.

²⁷ Cataloged in the Santa Monica Public Affairs Public Art Collection, <http://www.smgov.net/portals/culture/publicArtCollection.aspx>, accessed February 1, 2019.

²⁸ City of Santa Monica, California, Municipal Code § 9.56.020.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Setting: The district retains its setting as a public recreational beach along an urban coastline. Typical of urban beaches, the suite of visitor amenities has changed and expanded post-period of significance to meet expectations and rising demand. Infill or other redevelopment occurred during the period of significance, and after, changing both the composition and visual pattern of residential, commercial, and public space. The property's essential character, as a place of seaside recreational and leisure, is present as is its continued relationships with adjacent beaches, the City of Santa Monica, and the larger Los Angeles region. While the relative spatial relationships among the sea, beach, and city have changed during, and since, the period of significance with beach widening projects, the underlying sea/beach/city connection is retained. Surrounding, panoramic views of the Santa Monica Bay in one direction, and the urban profile of Santa Monica/West Los Angeles in the other, are also retained.

Design: The district sites are public trust lands designed for seaside recreation and leisure. Connected to each other and the surrounding area, they retain their integrity of design. Crescent Bay Park retains its simple grass landscape, without significant modification of hardscape or other alterations. The park's 170-foot long, sixty-column pergola retains its integrity of design as a shade structure, identifiable feature of Crescent Bay Park, and symbolic gateway to the beach and shoreline beyond.

Materials: The district's sites consist of a beach, formed by the deposition of sand, and its proximate nearshore and seaside areas. Southern California beaches, like Bay Street Beach, are generally formed by outflows from local creeks and rivers. Sediment outflows may contain beach sand (*i.e.*, grain sizes from .08 - .003 inches) high in quartz as well as other material smaller (fine) and larger (cobble, boulder). Bay Street Beach's history of importing sand through direct nourishment projects has increased the relative amount of fine material relative to beach sand. Constructed in 1911, the specific maintenance history of the Crescent Bay Park pergola is unknown. The timber roof, concrete columns, and terra cotta tile walkway were materials common and available in area construction from circa 1930, the earliest photographs of the park clearly showing its pergola.

Workmanship: The pergola's workmanship, including details such as its carved rafter tails and tiled walkway, is retained. The district's sites are geological resources for which integrity of workmanship is not applicable.

Feeling: The district's direct and convenient visitor access, views of the ocean and surrounding coastline, the particular visitor recreation/leisure opportunities and the amenities that support them, and the area's particular biophysical environment, together convey its character as an urban, seaside recreation and leisure area. By looking either north or south, the district offers views of less-developed portions of coastal Santa Monica Bay.

Association: The property's natural and constructed resources remain intact and continue to convey their association with recreational beaches. Identifiable beach areas, including Ocean Front Walk, the grass area of lower Crescent Bay Park, and the pergola, remain intact. Access

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

from the beach to the nearshore waters is continuous and unobstructed. The area has been continuously used for beach recreation and provided to the public for that purpose. The beach areas themselves and their supporting visitor amenities easily link the site to Southern California's history of seaside recreation and leisure.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1908-1965

Significant Dates

1908

1964

1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Bay Street Beach Historic District is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Recreation/Entertainment for its contribution to seaside access, recreation, and leisure for African American Angelenos between 1908 and 1965. As a location of contestation the property is eligible in the area of Social History for its association with the broader American Civil Rights narrative—in this case a demanding of access to, and proper enjoyment of, public trust resources. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as “the Inkwell,” noting the skin color of its patrons, the beach was self-selected by African Americans as a place of recreation and leisure where its visitors felt relatively safe from harassment. In the Jim Crow era, California’s lax enforcement or overlooked civil rights laws dating back to the 1890s and Los Angeles’ *de facto* white supremacist policies manifested as restricted housing, employment, and sometimes access to public lands or facilities. The area became a recognized extension of Santa Monica African American community life and a leisure destination for the region’s larger Black population. At times, Black beach visitors recreating elsewhere faced exclusion, harassment, even violence. The period of significance begins in 1908 when the Phillips Chapel Colored Methodist Episcopal (later Christian Methodist Episcopal, CME) Church building was purchased from the Santa Monica School Board and relocated to the corner of Fourth and Bay Streets, creating an anchor for local African American spiritual and community life. The period of significance ends in 1965 with passage of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). The VRA, together with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, removed federal and state discrimination barriers in public places, housing, employment, and voting, ending most Jim Crow policy as an era of *de jure* discrimination and segregation.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

“It was a summer weekend gathering place. You would see everybody...all your friends there.”
—Mr. Ivan J. Houston, former head of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, recalling Bay Street Beach.²⁹

Establishment and Growth of Santa Monica’s African American Community

African descent people have lived in the Los Angeles region since the founding of the El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Ángeles (the Los Angeles pueblo) in 1781.³⁰ There were 1,258 Black Americans recorded in the 1890 census (2.5% of the population) and the community grew in the subsequent decades to 15,579 (2.7%) in 1920, and 170,209 (8.7%) in 1950.³¹ In the twentieth century, African Americans came to Los Angeles mainly from southern states, traveling frequently by rail to leave the country’s most severe discriminatory Jim Crow

²⁹ Quoted in: Alison R. Jefferson, “African American Leisure Space in Santa Monica: The Beach Sometimes Known as “The Inkwell,” 1900s–1960s,” *Historical Society of Southern California*, 91 no. 2 (2009): 155.

³⁰ Celia Rasmussen, “Honoring L.A.’s Black Founders,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 13, 1995, B2.

³¹ U.S. Census.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

restrictions.³² In Los Angeles, though possessing its own white supremacist practices and traditions, African Americans nevertheless found employment; a more welcoming, hospitable lifestyle; a moderate climate; and the beach. Census records indicate a slower growth of the African American community in Santa Monica: 282 (1.8%) in 1920, and 1,555 (2.2%) in 1950.³³

By the early 1900s, Santa Monica's African Americans (living alongside and among whites and other cultural communities of Chinese Americans, Eastern European Jewish Americans, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, and old Californios) had established themselves sequentially in four local areas.³⁴ African Americans first settled in the less affluent section of the Ocean Park neighborhood, centered loosely in the residential neighborhoods on Pico Boulevard between Second and Sixth Streets. California's first Colored Methodist Episcopal (later Christian Methodist Episcopal, CME) congregation formed in 1905, and worshipped at the Hull House in northern Santa Monica.³⁵ In 1908, the congregation purchased a damaged schoolhouse and moved it to the corner of Bay and Fourth Streets as the Phillips Chapel CME Church. A parsonage was added later, first on the church grounds, then later to a property across the street.³⁶ Phillips Chapel CME Church is recognized as the city's first Black church. The church, and its continuous presence at the Ocean Park site, has been an anchor of congregants' community and spiritual life.

Second were residential neighborhoods that later became parts of the Santa Monica Civic Center and portions of the Santa Monica High School campus.³⁷ The third area was farther north in Santa Monica, around Broadway between Second and Sixth Streets.³⁸ The African American Calvary Baptist Church congregation purchased meeting space from the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the 1920s.³⁹ The fourth area was the multiethnic Pico Neighborhood, centered between Pico and Santa Monica Boulevards, and between Fourteenth and Twenty Fourth Streets.⁴⁰ In 1921, the First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church of Santa Monica congregation established meeting space in the Pico neighborhood. The formation of institutions, particularly religious institutions like Phillips Chapel CME, Calvary Baptist, and First AME Church of Santa Monica provided formal spaces where congregants could develop spiritual, political, cultural, leisure, and civic identities.⁴¹ Other spaces, including the Crescent Bay Lodge

³² Alison R. Jefferson, "Leisure's Race, Power and Place: The Recreation and Remembrance of African Americans in the California Dream" (PhD diss., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2015), 199-200.

³³ U.S. Census.

³⁴ Jefferson, "African American Leisure Space," 161-162.

³⁵ Jefferson, "Leisure's Race, Power and Place," 200.

³⁶ City of Santa Monica Planning Division, *City Landmark Assessment Report: Phillips Chapel, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 2001 4th Street, Santa Monica, California* (Santa Monica, CA: PCR Services, 2005), 12.

³⁷ Jefferson, "African American Leisure Space," 163.

³⁸ *Ibid*, 163.

³⁹ *Ibid*, 163.

⁴⁰ In the 1950s, large sections of the Pico Neighborhood, including sections of African American tenancy and home ownership, were destroyed with the expansion of the Santa Monica Civic Center. In the 1960s, further destruction occurred with construction of the Interstate 10 Freeway; its western terminus is in Santa Monica.

⁴¹ Jefferson, "Leisure's Race, Power and Place," 208-209.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

No. 19 of Free and Accepted Masons (Freemasons), founded in 1910,⁴² and the Santa Monica-Venice Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), founded around 1920, formed these identities, as well.

Discrimination, Segregation, Challenge, and Contestation

During the period of significance, African American Angelenos and Santa Monicans lived under a suite of race-based policies—limiting their civil rights and uniting them with Black and ethnic communities elsewhere in the United States. There is also a history of exclusion specific to Santa Monica that determined access, use, and development in, and near, the Bay Street Beach Historic District. Prior to 1940, racial discrimination limited employment opportunities constraining African Americans largely to domestic or service occupations.⁴³ Phillips Chapel CME congregants included individuals employed as a carpenter, chauffeur/driver, bricklayer, gardener janitor, laborer, liquor store operator, and porter.⁴⁴

There were Black-owned small businesses. Among Santa Monica's first were George Hunt's barber shop and later Gilbert McCarroll's shoeshine parlor; both opened before 1910.⁴⁵ Founded in 1879, the Los Angeles weekly newspaper *The Owl* was renamed *The California Eagle* in 1912 under new ownership.⁴⁶ A multiplicity of thriving businesses under Black ownership was the exception. In housing, Los Angeles pioneered a practice of restrictive real estate covenants, private agreements limiting African Americans and other marginalized groups from occupying or owning property in certain neighborhoods.⁴⁷ Restrictive covenants were upheld by the California Supreme Court in 1919 and affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in *Corrigan v. Buckley* (1926).⁴⁸ More than twenty years later, the Supreme Court, first with *Shelley v. Kraemer* (1948), and then *Barrows v. Jackson* (1953)⁴⁹ held restrictive covenants were unenforceable and ended the policy. Not until 1950 though, post *Shelley*, did the National Association of Real Estate Boards update its Code of Ethics that heretofore explicitly prohibited agents from introducing families of color into white neighborhoods.⁵⁰

Other, unofficial intimidation—through vandalism, cross burnings, even death threats—persisted.⁵¹ In addition to private selling agreements, redlining, the practice of denying home loans within neighborhoods identified as too risky (including portions of Ocean Park and Santa

⁴² Crescent Bay Lodge No. 19 is part of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California F & M. Prince Hall Freemasonry is a branch of North American Freemasonry comprised predominantly of African American members, <http://www.mwphglcal.org>, accessed February 1, 2019.

⁴³ Jefferson, "African American Leisure Space," 163-164. Santa Monica Planning Division, "City Landmark Assessment," 5.

⁴⁴ Santa Monica Planning Division, "City Landmark Assessment," 5.

⁴⁵ Jefferson, "Leisure's Race, Power and Place," 203.

⁴⁶ Douglas Flamming. *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

⁴⁷ For a review of the variety and history of racially restrictive sales covenants, see: Michael Jones-Correra, "The Origin and Diffusion of Racially Restrictive Covenants," *Political Science Quarterly* 115, no. 4 (2000): 541-568.

⁴⁸ *Los Angeles Investment Co. v. Gary* 181 Cal. 680 (1919); *Corrigan v. Buckley*, 271 U.S. 323 (1926).

⁴⁹ *Shelley v. Kraemer*, 334 U.S. 1 (1948); *Barrows v. Jackson*, 346 U.S. 249 (1953).

⁵⁰ Stephen Grant Meyer, *As Long as They Don't Move Next Door*. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001), 80.

⁵¹ *Ibid*, 219-220.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Monica), prevented access to capital for African American and other ethnic communities.⁵² The result was a downward cycle of deferred maintenance, lower-valued housing stock, and higher loan risk. Together, the practice of redlining and restrictive real estate covenants stunted African American wealth creation, first restricting access to many coastal neighborhoods, then effectively pricing them out of the market as home values there appreciated. By 2016, when compared to the larger population of Los Angeles County, African Americans were 50% *less* likely to live less than 0.6 miles (1 kilometer) from the coast, while whites were nearly 47% *more* likely.⁵³

Among attractions, improvements, and facilities bringing visitors to Los Angeles area beaches were several membership-based beach clubs. In Santa Monica, ten clubs were developed along three miles of beach between the Bay Street Beach Historic District and Santa Monica Canyon to the north.⁵⁴ Near Pico Boulevard and the Bay Street Beach Historic District, Club Casa del Mar Club opened in 1924 and the Edgewater Club in 1925.⁵⁵

The clubs held exclusive membership, denying African Americans direct participation and access to club/clubhouse services.⁵⁶ Fencing that at times extended from the club across the sand and into near shore waters conspicuously excluded non-members (including African Americans and other beach visitors) from those areas (**Figure 5**). The barriers were effective. Members preserved and strengthened their exclusive access, while beach patrons, including African Americans at Bay Street Beach, were denied access to public trust lands and compressed into smaller beach areas, generally between Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue (**Figures 7, 8**).⁵⁷ Various forms of fencing were installed and removed several times, with formerly exclusive areas eventually becoming open to non-member visitors.

Ms. Verna Williams (née Deckard), who moved to California from Texas as a teenager, and was a visitor to Bay Street Beach, recalled in a 1991 oral history:

⁵² The Ocean Park neighborhood surrounding the Bay Street Beach Historic District was either redlined as “Hazardous” or not labeled. For an interactive map of redlined areas in Los Angeles County during the New Deal, see: “How has the Redlining Map (HOLC) Shaped Los Angeles Regarding Socio-Economic Conditions and Health Equity?” <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2a9f34991c5f4e899d217827139eb9a4>, accessed February 1, 2019.

⁵³ Dan R. Reineman et al., “Coastal Access Equity and the Implementation of the California Coastal Act” *Stanford Environmental Law Journal* 36 (2016): 106-107.

⁵⁴ Santa Monica Image Archives, Santa Monica Public Library. <http://digital.smpl.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/smarchive>, accessed February 1, 2019.

⁵⁵ Club Casa del Mar: 1910 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, CA, 90405; Parcel No. 4289-025-003. In 2019, the property is operated as the Hotel Casa del Mar. In 2000 the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as Club Casa del Mar (NRHP #00001169). Edgewater Club: 1 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA, 90405; Parcel Nos. 4290-021-007; 4290-020-042 4290-020-045. Following the Edgewater Club, the property continued operation as an exclusive beach club, first as the Waverly Club, then the Ambassador Club. After redevelopment, the property operates as a hotel, Shuttters on the Beach.

⁵⁶ Jefferson, “African American Leisure Space,” 169-171.

⁵⁷ *Ibid*, 169.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

And one day...we were playing beach ball with one of those big beach balls that you play with at the beach. And my ball went over that fence and I ran over there to get my ball. And a little old white lady comes running up to me saying, "You got no business over here." And I just looked at her, didn't say anything. I just took my ball and went on back over there in my spot, where I belonged.⁵⁸

Beyond exclusive membership and exclusive access, the popularity of beach clubs revealed another level of exclusion, capitalism itself. The Ocean Frontage Syndicate, led by two local African American entrepreneurs, Norman O. Houston and Charles S. Darden, Esq., proposed a "first-class resort with beach access," and a supporting regional marketing plan to draw upwards of 60,000 African Americans from across the country to the new facility near the western terminus of Pico Boulevard.⁵⁹ Like whites-only beach clubs, the proposed facility would be exclusive. Syndicate petitioners came before the Santa Monica City Council in 1922, appealing:

...that the colored citizens for whose benefit said improvements are to be primarily erected and constructed are without ocean frontage facilities and advantages such as bath houses, restaurants, dancing halls, and like amusements such as the abundantly owned, operated, maintained and controlled for the use and benefit of other citizens of the United States in the city of Santa Monica.⁶⁰

Unlike white clubs, though, part of its existence depended explicitly upon successfully and fully insulating members from white confrontation. The venture was never approved, its permits denied following a campaign of local, racially motivated opposition. The property was later developed as the whites-only Edgewater Beach Club in 1925.⁶¹

Despite, or perhaps affirmed by, the failure of Ocean Front Syndicate venture, Bay Street Beach developed in reputation and renown as a beach where African American Angelenos and Santa Monicans could enjoy sand and surf without fear of harassment. Visitors enjoyed swimming, bodysurfing, and even surfing, while others would not go further than getting wet. Ms. Verna Williams remembers:

Yeah, we used to go to the beach a lot. Believe it or not, I never did learn how to swim. But I used to love to go there and play in the water. And then get wet, and then come and cover up in the sand. That really made me feel good to get real wet and then cover up in that sand.⁶²

Still, Bay Street's conspicuousness as a site of African American beach recreation was itself a product of discrimination and exclusion elsewhere. African Americans visiting other beaches

⁵⁸ Verna Williams, "Shades of L.A.: A Search for Visual Ethnic History," interview by Amy Kitchener, *Oral History Project, Los Angeles Public Library*, 1991.

⁵⁹ Jefferson, "African American Leisure Space," 176.

⁶⁰ Petitioner's quote from "Negroes Ask Zone Change to Build S.M. Bath House: Syndicate Asks Council to Amend Ordinance to Permit Amusement Resort on Beach," *Santa Monica Evening Outlook*, April 19, 1922; Cited in Jefferson, "Leisure's Race, Power and Place," 235.

⁶¹ Jefferson, "African American Leisure Space," 178-179.

⁶² Williams, interview.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

were potentially subject to harassment and confrontation. On Memorial Day 1920, Mr. Arthur Valentine, an African American chauffeur, took his family and friends to Los Angeles County's Topanga Beach, just north of Santa Monica. Valentine was ordered to leave the area by sheriff's deputies. Following Valentine's resistance, deputies beat, shot, and arrested him.⁶³ Excluding African American Angelenos occurred at other public spaces, as well. Into the 1940s, Blacks were not allowed the municipal pool at Centinela Park in Inglewood.⁶⁴ At Brookside Park in Pasadena, Blacks and other ethnic minorities could only use the pool between 2 pm and 5 pm on "International Day," the last session before the pool was drained and cleaned later in the evening.⁶⁵ International Day persisted into the 1950s.

Bay Street Beach grew in popularity among African Americans because of its convenient access and its proximity to Ocean Park's African American neighborhoods. It also rose in prominence as other Southland sites of Black seaside recreation and leisure were destroyed, and subsequently became continued spaces of harassment and animus toward African American visitors. These losses included the 1924 condemnation of Bruce's Lodge and surrounding properties in Manhattan Beach (Los Angeles County) and the 1926 arson of the nearly completed Pacific Beach Club in Huntington Beach (Orange County).⁶⁶

The assertion of the right, even if passively exercised, by African American visitorship to Bay Street Beach during the period of significance—to visit, recreate at, and enjoy public trust lands—places recreation within the twentieth century civil rights movement and recognizes beach visits as claims to power and legitimacy (**Figure 13**).

Surfers of Color: Nicolas "Nick" Gabaldón

Nick Gabaldón, a product of Santa Monica's African American community and graduate of Santa Monica High School, is the first documented surfer of African American and Mexican American descent in the Santa Monica Bay area.⁶⁷ Born in 1927, Nick learned bodysurfing and surfing at Bay Street Beach. Tall, athletic, and both cool and casual in manner, he was befriended

⁶³ The deputies were initially indicted for assault with a deadly weapon, and the case was dismissed in 1923 against all three officers due to insufficient evidence.

⁶⁴ Josh Sides. *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles From the Great Depression to the Present*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003); Jean Simon, "Plan to Sue Inglewood in Pool Bias," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, July 17, 1947, 1.

⁶⁵ In a biography of American professional baseball player Jackie Robinson, who grew up in Pasadena and received the effects of the city's policies, Rampersad (1998) wrote: "City officials restricted [Brookside Park pool] use to Whites only... After a storm of protest, the city instituted "International Day" at the pool—one day each week when anyone could use it. At the end of this day, they promised, the plunge would be drained and refilled with clean water."

⁶⁶ Jefferson, "Leisure's Race, Power and Place," 238-239.

⁶⁷ Bill Cleary, "Death at Sea." *Surfwriter: A Personal History of Surfing's Golden Years*.

http://www.surfwriter.net/nick_gabaldon.htm, accessed November 25, 2018; Alison R. Jefferson, "Nick Gabaldon (1927-1951): A Southern California Surfing Pioneer" *The Ultimate History Project*.

<http://www.ultimatehistoryproject.com/nick-gabaldoacuten-southern-california-surfing-pioneer.html>, accessed August 25, 2018; Rick Blocker, "Legendary Surfers: Black Surfer Nick Gabaldon." *Surfing Heritage & Culture Center*. <http://files.legendarysurfers.com/blog/2005/02/black-surfer-nick-gabaldon.html>, accessed November 1, 2015.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

by area lifeguards Buzz Trent, Ricky Grigg, and Peter Cole—themselves expert surfers and among the first group of Californians to successfully and consistently ride large surf on Oahu's North and West sides.⁶⁸ Gabaldón eventually became friends with premier surfer and lifeguard Preston "Pete" Peterson, who loaned him a thirteen-foot paddleboard that could also be used for stand-up surfing.⁶⁹ Gabaldón used the board at every opportunity to enjoy Bay Street Beach and improve his surfing.

Gabaldón graduated high school in 1945, one of Santa Monica High School's approximately fifty Black students and one of the few Black surfers.⁷⁰ One of Gabaldón's African American surf buddies and high school classmates was Wayne King. Gabaldón entered the Naval Reserve and served 1945-46 in the Great Lakes region. Returned to Santa Monica from his service, Gabaldón enrolled in the local community college and spent time at the beach surfing.⁷¹ His surfing ability had improved to where he could move from the marginal, if consistent, surfing conditions at Bay Street Beach up the coast to Malibu—at the time, a center of California surfing and an arena for the region's expert surfers.⁷²

By the late 1940s, Gabaldón was regularly appearing at Malibu, often hitchhiking, occasionally paddling the twelve miles from Santa Monica to First Point, or driving once he got a car.⁷³ So strong was Gabaldón's enthusiasm for surfing that he was usually in the water until late in the evening. Rest breaks would be taken on the beach facing the water, watching and learning others' surfing styles. This enthusiasm was recognized and encouraged by the local elite surfers who knew him as, "a handsome, well-liked guy with great surfing ability." Les Williams, a Malibu standout surfer and friend of Gabaldón's, at least on the beach, described his surfing as, "...a little slow on his feet, as a surfer, but as an accomplished (former) Navy boxer he was powerful, and fast. As a surfer I would rate him at B+."⁷⁴

Ricky Grigg, a top Malibu surfer and another Californian who later translated his ability to Hawai'i's large surf, said of Gabaldón, "Everyone liked him. And he was a pretty smooth surfer, too."⁷⁵ Malibu surfing was a cosmopolitan and often meritocratic, if bohemian, activity. As both a good surfer and a congenial person, Gabaldón made friends at Malibu, at least they were friendly enough. Gabaldón occasionally endured racist microaggressions to get along on the beach at Malibu, moving within a coastal culture that was almost exclusively white.⁷⁶

⁶⁸ Nat Young, *The History of Surfing*. (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 1994), 79.

⁶⁹ Malcolm Gault-Williams, "Legendary Surfers: Nick Gabaldon (1927-1951)." *Legendary Surfers* <http://legendary-surfers.blogspot.com/2018/07/nick-gabaldon-1927-1951.html>, accessed August 25, 2018; Craig Lockwood, "Waterman Preston "Pete" Peterson: A Life in Three Acts," *The Surfer's Journal*, 14 no. 6 (2005).

⁷⁰ Jefferson, "Nick Gabaldon."

⁷¹ *Ibid.*; Gault-Williams, "Nick Gabaldon."

⁷² Nat Young, "Malibu," in *The Complete History of Surfing: From Water to Snow*, ed. Nat Young, (Layton, UT: Gibbs Smith, 2008), 73-77; Malibu's significant contributions to the culture and history of surfing are recognized by its designation as the first World Surfing Reserve (2010) and as the first listing in the National Register of Historic Places centered on surfing history (2018, Malibu Historic District #100002022).

⁷³ Jefferson, "Nick Gabaldon."

⁷⁴ Gault-Williams, "Nick Gabaldon."

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ Wayne King interview with Alison Rose Jefferson, Spring 2012.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

On June 5, 1951, a strong swell brought eight to ten foot waves at Malibu. In the afternoon with the swell peaking, three surfers, including Gabaldón, took off on an outside wave. Witnesses remember Nick's glide and grace, the hallmarks of a Malibu surfer, on the wave. As the three approached the Malibu Pier, two surfers pulled out of the wave. Nick remained and tried the never before attempted maneuver of surfing through, or "shooting" the pier. It was Gabaldón's last wave. His board was found immediately; his body three days later at Las Flores Beach, east of Malibu Pier.⁷⁷ Nick's Malibu friends and surfing peers attended his rosary service at St. Monica Catholic Church.⁷⁸ Mr. King, Gabaldón's African American surfing buddy, who was surfing with him the day he drowned, helped the Gabaldón family pay for the service.⁷⁹

Nick Gabaldón is recognized as a pioneer: the first documented surfer of African American and Mexican American heritage in the Santa Monica Bay area, and a Californian who expressed his love of surfing at a time when recreation and leisure opportunities for Los Angeles' people of color were intentionally, if not institutionally, limited. Since 2012, a group of activists and organizations have coordinated and produced Nick Gabaldón Day, an annual event at Bay Street Beach that honors his legacy, interprets the area's history, and advocates for equitable coastal access and recreation opportunities.⁸⁰

Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information

The City of Santa Monica is within the traditional territory of the Tongva (Gabrieleno) people, indigenous across a 4,000 square mile area including the Los Angeles Basin and Southern Channel Islands.⁸¹ The Tongva are also known as the Gabrieleño and sometimes the Fernandeseño, referring to area units of California's Spanish Missions system they were enslaved to construct (Mission San Gabriel de Arcángel; Mission San Fernando Rey de España). The Tongva's status is recognized by the state, and not as one of 573 federally recognized tribes.⁸²

Juan Cabrillo explored the Santa Monica area in 1542, claiming its land on behalf of Spain.⁸³ Cabrillo is known to have anchored off Santa Catalina Island and in Santa Monica Bay off the cities of San Pedro and Malibu. In 1769, a Spanish colonizing expedition, which included Junipero Serra and other Franciscan missionaries, returned to California as part of the Portolá

⁷⁷ *Santa Monica Evening Outlook*, "Popular Community College Youth Dies in Surf Tragedy," June 6, 1951, 1.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ King, interview.

⁸⁰ In 2018, the sixth Nick Gabaldón Day partners represented a variety of backgrounds and missions: Alison Rose Jefferson, MHP, PhD, <http://alisonrosejefferson.com>; Black Surfers Collective, <http://www.blacksurferscollective.org>; Heal the Bay, <http://www.healthebay.org>; Santa Monica Committee for Racial Justice; Santa Monica Conservancy, <http://www.smconservancy.org>; Surf Bus Foundation, <https://www.surfbusfoundation.org>; and Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA, <https://www.ymcala.org/weingart-east-los-angeles>, all accessed February 1, 2019.

⁸¹ Paula Scott, *Santa Monica: A History on the Edge* (Mt. Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 9-13.

⁸² CA Asm. Joint Res. 96, Res. Ch. 146, 1994; Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs 83 Fed. Reg. 141 (23 July 2018). *Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States*. Web. January 15, 2019.

⁸³ Scott, *Santa Monica*, 14-15.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Expedition.⁸⁴ The expedition encountered the Tongva, who led them to their holy springs to replenish stores of water. In 1839, the government of Mexico issued *rancho* land grants to the area's prominent families to recognize their patronage and service: Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica (33,000 acres to Francisco Sepulveda), Rancho Boca de Santa Monica (6,656 acres to the Reyes and Marquez families), and Rancho La Ballona (13,920 acres to the Machado and Talamantes families).⁸⁵ The three ranchos comprise lands in the later neighborhoods or cities of Culver City, Mar Vista, Marina del Rey, Ocean Park, Palms, Playa del Rey Santa Monica, Venice, and Westwood. The Bay Street Beach Historic District includes portions of the Santa Monica and Ballona land grants and is part of the Ocean Park neighborhood.

The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War, forced cessation to the United States over 50,000 square miles of Mexico's northern territories, Alta California, and Santa Fe de Nuevo México.⁸⁶ Importantly, the Treaty made provision that previously issued Spanish and Mexican land grants would be honored. By 1874, a majority of the San Vincente y Santa Monica rancho was owned by Colonel Robert Baker and partner investor Senator John Jones from Nevada, believing the area could become the "great commercial center of the southwest."⁸⁷ Baker and Jones subdivided their property and began selling plots in 1875 for \$75-\$500.⁸⁸ Santa Monica was incorporated within the County of Los Angeles in 1886. In 1897, Baker and Jones incorporated the Santa Monica Land & Water Company, which oversaw their land interests and ultimately developed over 50,000 acres in West Los Angeles, including Santa Monica.⁸⁹ The company was active through 1983. Ultimately, Jones and Baker did not realize their plan to develop Santa Monica into a commercial center. Industry settled farther south with the Port of San Pedro.⁹⁰ Jones and Baker did oversee the city's birth and initial growth as a seaside community.

While the adjoining areas of Ocean Park and Santa Monica received their land grants, and were later settled at about the same time, their histories are somewhat independent. Ocean Park grew upon an interest in seaside recreation and amusement under the development of Abbott Kinney's Ocean Park Development Company.⁹¹ There, a series of amusement piers, bathhouses, heated plunges, an event auditorium, and an ice skating rink were constructed.⁹² Kinney dissolved his interest in Ocean Park beginning in 1904, completing the process in 1907 with Ocean Park

⁸⁴ Theodore E. Treutlein, "The Portolá Expedition, 1769-1770," *California Historical Society Quarterly* 47 (1968): 291-313.

⁸⁵ Scott, *Santa Monica*, 26.

⁸⁶ United States Library of Congress. "Primary Documents in American History: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo," <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/guadalupe.html>, accessed February 1, 2019.

⁸⁷ Louise Gabriel, *Early Santa Monica* (Mt. Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 11-14; Scott, *Santa Monica*, 36.

⁸⁸ Gabriel, *Early Santa Monica*, 18.

⁸⁹ "Santa Monica Land and Water Company Archives," <http://www.smlwco.com>, accessed March 20, 2019.

⁹⁰ Scott, *Santa Monica*, 48.

⁹¹ *Ibid*, 64.

⁹² *cf.* Gabriel, *Early Santa Monica*, 66.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

incorporated into Santa Monica.⁹³ Kinney focused on the remaining portion of his holdings. He became widely recognized for the development of the town and beaches of Venice, California.

⁹³ Carolyn Alexander, *Venice, California* (Mt. Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 9.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

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Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

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Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

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Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Los Angeles County Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 53 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Latitude: 34.007002 | Longitude: -118.492252 |
| 2. | Latitude: 34.005735 | Longitude: -118.490930 |
| 3. | Latitude: 34.006006 | Longitude: -118.490495 |
| 4. | Latitude: 34.005348 | Longitude: -118.489846 |

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

5. Latitude: 34.000823 Longitude: -118.496385
6. Latitude: 34.002776 Longitude: -118.498462

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Within the City of Santa Monica, the property extends approximately 0.18 miles north-south along the Pacific coast from Vicente Terrace to Bicknell Avenue. The northern boundary is a line formed by a point 500 meters (1,640 feet) seaward from the mean high tide line to the intersection of Vicente Terrace and Ocean Front Walk, and parallel to Vicente Terrace. The eastern boundary is formed by areas extending southeast from Vicente Terrace along Ocean Front Walk to Bay Street, northeast to the intersection of Ocean Way and the Crescent Bay Park, and southeast along the sidewalk of Crescent Bay Park's upper portion to Bicknell Avenue. The southern boundary is a line formed by a point at the intersection of Bicknell Avenue and Ocean Avenue, and a point 500 meters seaward from the mean high tide line, and parallel to Bicknell Avenue. The western boundary parallels the coastline between Bicknell Avenue and Vicente Terrace 500 meters seaward below the mean high tide line. The total area is approximately 53 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

District boundaries, encompassing the three beach areas and the accesses to them, are in Los Angeles County and include portions of California Department of Parks and Recreation's Santa Monica State Beach and the City of Santa Monica's Crescent Bay Park. Through multiple beach accesses, the district boundary also encompasses subtidal areas extending 500 meters seaward from the mean high tide line on submerged lands under the authority of the California State Lands Commission. The seaward district boundary includes areas for wading as well as surfing.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Blum, Executive Director
organization: Sea of Clouds
street & number: PO Box 609
city or town: Hermosa Beach state: CA zip code: 90254
e-mail michael@seaofclouds.org
telephone: (818) 564-4217
date: February 2019; Revised March 2019, April 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bay Street Beach Historic District
City or Vicinity: Santa Monica
County: Los Angeles
State: California
Photographer: Michael Blum
Date Photographed: October 11, 2018; January 20, 2019; March 12, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 22 Lower portion of Crescent Bay Park and its pergola, with the beach area and Santa Monica Bay in the background. Visible are a portion of the public parking facility, an area restroom and shower facility (left), and lifeguard stand T-20 (right). Camera facing southwest.
- 2 of 22 Lower portion of Crescent Bay Park and its pergola, with the beach area and Santa Monica Bay in the background. Visible are a portion of the public parking facility, lifeguard stands T-20 (center) and T-18 (far right), and accessible beach path (right). Camera facing southwest.
- 3 of 22 Beach area with a breaking wave, lifeguard stand T-18, in the background. Camera facing southwest.
- 4 of 22 Beach area and Crescent Bay Park. Visible are Hotel Casa del Mar (far left), Bay Street (left), Crescent Bay Park (center), restroom and shower facility (right), and Bicknell Avenue (far right). Camera facing northeast.
- 5 of 22 Beach area and surfers in the water with the Santa Monica Pier and northern portion of Santa Monica Bay in the background. Camera facing northwest.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

- 6 of 22 Beach area and surfers in the water with lifeguard stand T-22 on the left, T-24 in the center. The southern portion of Santa Monica Bay, including Rancho Palos Verdes, is in the background. Camera facing southeast.
- 7 of 22 Concrete staircase connecting lower and upper portions of Crescent Bay Park. Camera facing northeast.
- 8 of 22 Lower portion of Crescent Bay Park and its pergola with the Santa Monica Pier and northern portion of Santa Monica Bay in the background. Visible are a portion of the public parking facility (left), lifeguard stand T-18 (center), and Hotel Casa del Mar (right). Camera facing northwest.
- 9 of 22 Beach area with the Santa Monica Pier and the northern portion of Santa Monica Bay in the background. Camera facing northwest.
- 10 of 22 Beach area and Pico-Kenter drain with Shutters on the Beach (left), Pico Boulevard (center), and Hotel Casa del Mar (right) in the background. Camera facing northeast.
- 11 of 22 A portion of the pedestrian-supported Ocean Front Walk with the beach area and the Santa Monica Pier in the background. Visible are a portion of the beach public parking facility (left), Hotel Casa del Mar (center), and the Crescent Bay Park pergola (right). Camera facing northwest.
- 12 of 22 “The Ink Well” monument and commemorative plaque at the end of Bay Street and Ocean Front Walk. Camera facing south.
- 13 of 22 Pico-Kenter drain, and surrounding safety fencing, leading to beach area with shoreline in background. Visible are a portion of the Marvin Braude Bike Trail (center) and lifeguard stand T-18 (right). Camera facing southwest.
- 14 of 22 Outflow from the Pico-Kenter drain following a winter (wet season) rainstorm. Coastal properties, including Hotel Casa del Mar (right), are in the background. Camera facing northeast.
- 15 of 22 Lifeguard stand T-18, northwest elevation with the Santa Monica Pier and northern portion of Santa Monica Bay in the background. Camera facing northwest.
- 16 of 22 Lifeguard stand T-20, northeast elevation with Hotel Casa del Mar (left) in the background. Camera facing northeast.
- 17 of 22 Restroom and shower facility. Camera facing south.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

- 18 of 22 Pedestrian-supported Ocean Front Walk. Visible Hotel Casa del Mar (right, foreground) and Shutters on the Beach (right, background). Camera facing north.
- 19 of 22 Beach area and a portion of the Marvin Braude Bike Trail, with the Santa Monica Pier and northern portion of Santa Monica Bay in the background. Visible are lifeguard stand T-18 (left) and safety fencing surrounding the Pico-Kenter drain (center). Camera facing north.
- 20 of 22 Accessible beach pathway over sand with shoreline in the background. Lifeguard stand T-20, in the background. Camera facing southwest.
- 21 of 22 Crescent Bay Park pergola with Hotel Casa del Mar in the background. Camera facing northwest.
- 22 of 22 Beach area with shoreline and Santa Monica Bay in the background. Visible is lifeguard stand T-18. Camera facing southwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

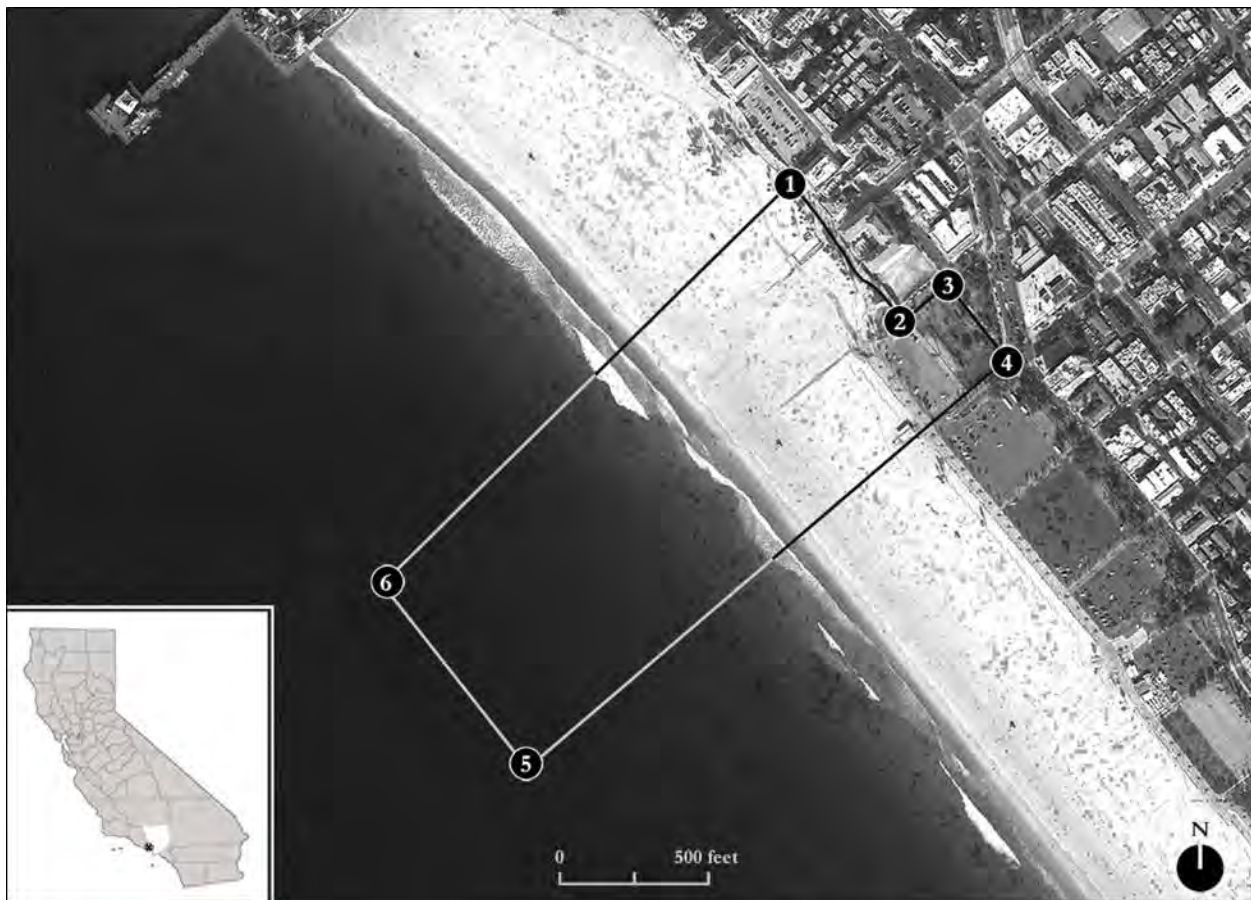
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 1a. Location Map A

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Latitude: 34.007002 | Longitude: -118.492252 |
| 2. | Latitude: 34.005735 | Longitude: -118.490930 |
| 3. | Latitude: 34.006006 | Longitude: -118.490495 |
| 4. | Latitude: 34.005348 | Longitude: -118.489846 |
| 5. | Latitude: 34.000823 | Longitude: -118.496385 |
| 6. | Latitude: 34.002776 | Longitude: -118.498462 |



Base image adapted from Google Earth Pro 7.3.2.5491. Google LLC, Mountain View, California, 2018 <http://earth.google.com>. Images retrieved November 2018.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 1b. Location Map B

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|
| 2. | Latitude: 34.005735 | Longitude: -118.490930 |
| 3. | Latitude: 34.006006 | Longitude: -118.490495 |
| 4. | Latitude: 34.005348 | Longitude: -118.489846 |

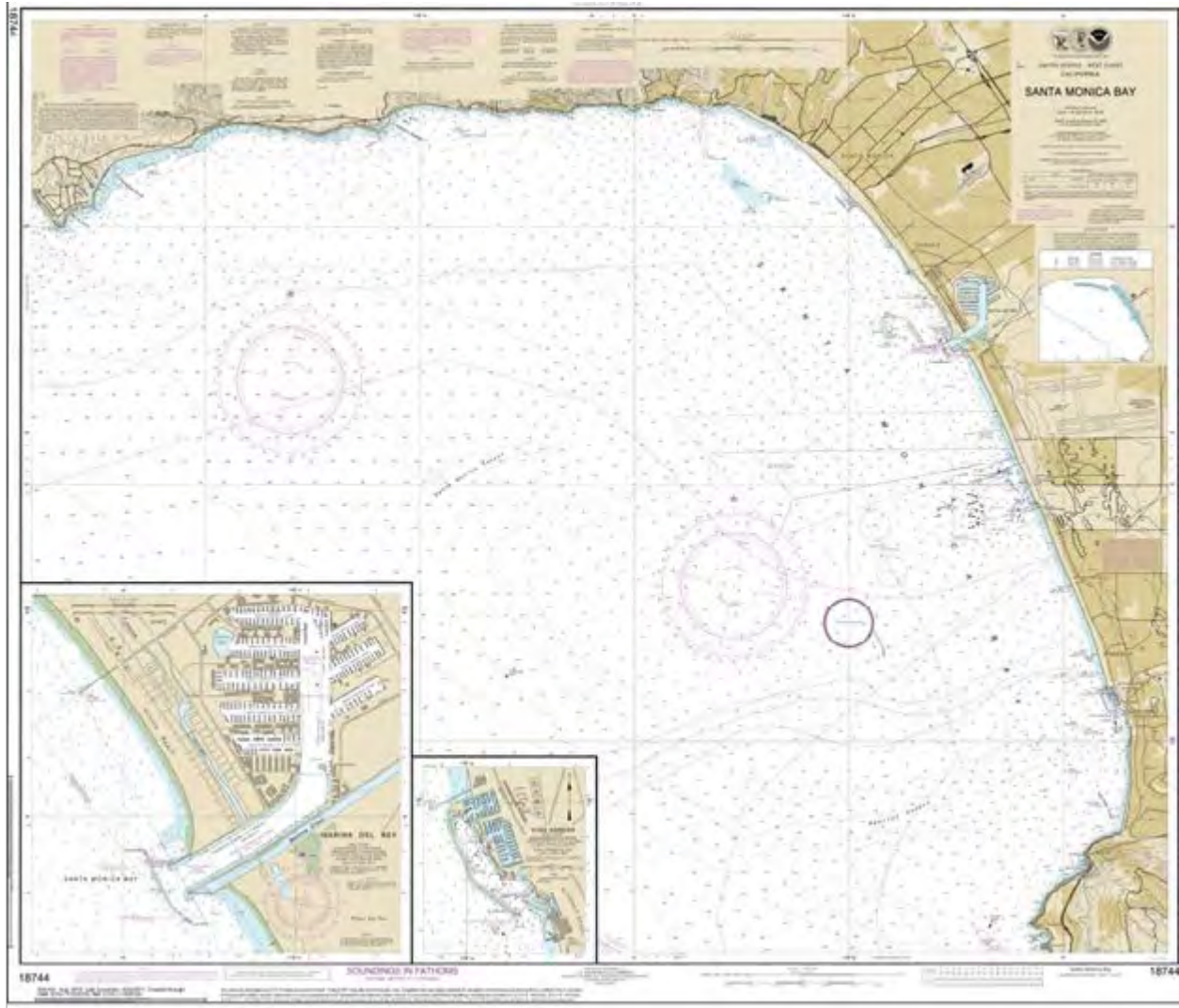


Coordinates from Figure 1a. Base image adapted from Google Earth Pro 7.3.2.5491. Google LLC, Mountain View, California, 2018 <http://earth.google.com>. Images retrieved November 2018.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

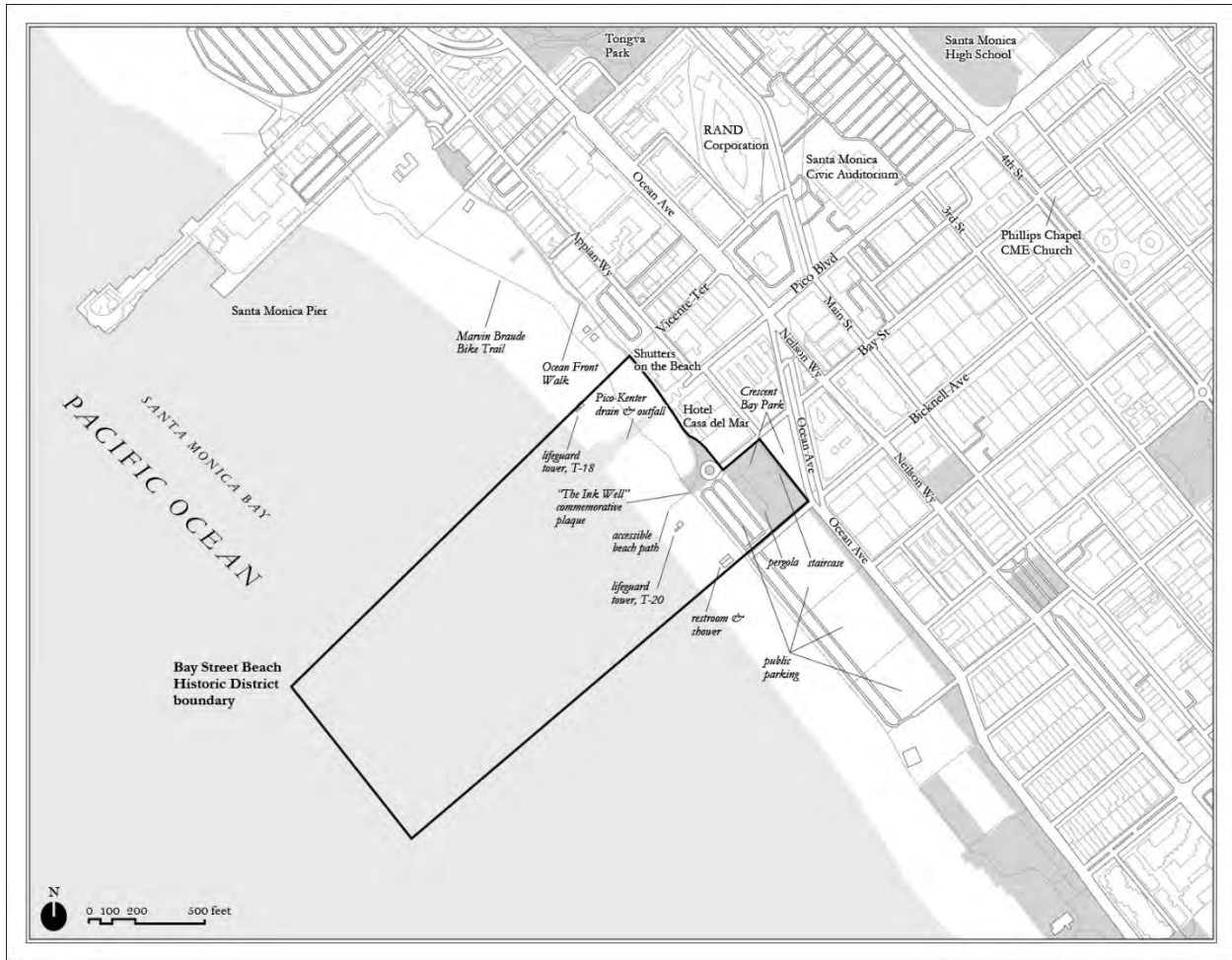
Figure 2. Nautical Chart (No. 18744) of Santa Monica Bay, showing bay's hemispherical shape. Malibu is at the northern end of the bay, Palos Verdes at the southern end. Bay Street Beach, near the middle, faces west-southwest. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov>.



Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 3. Sketch Map

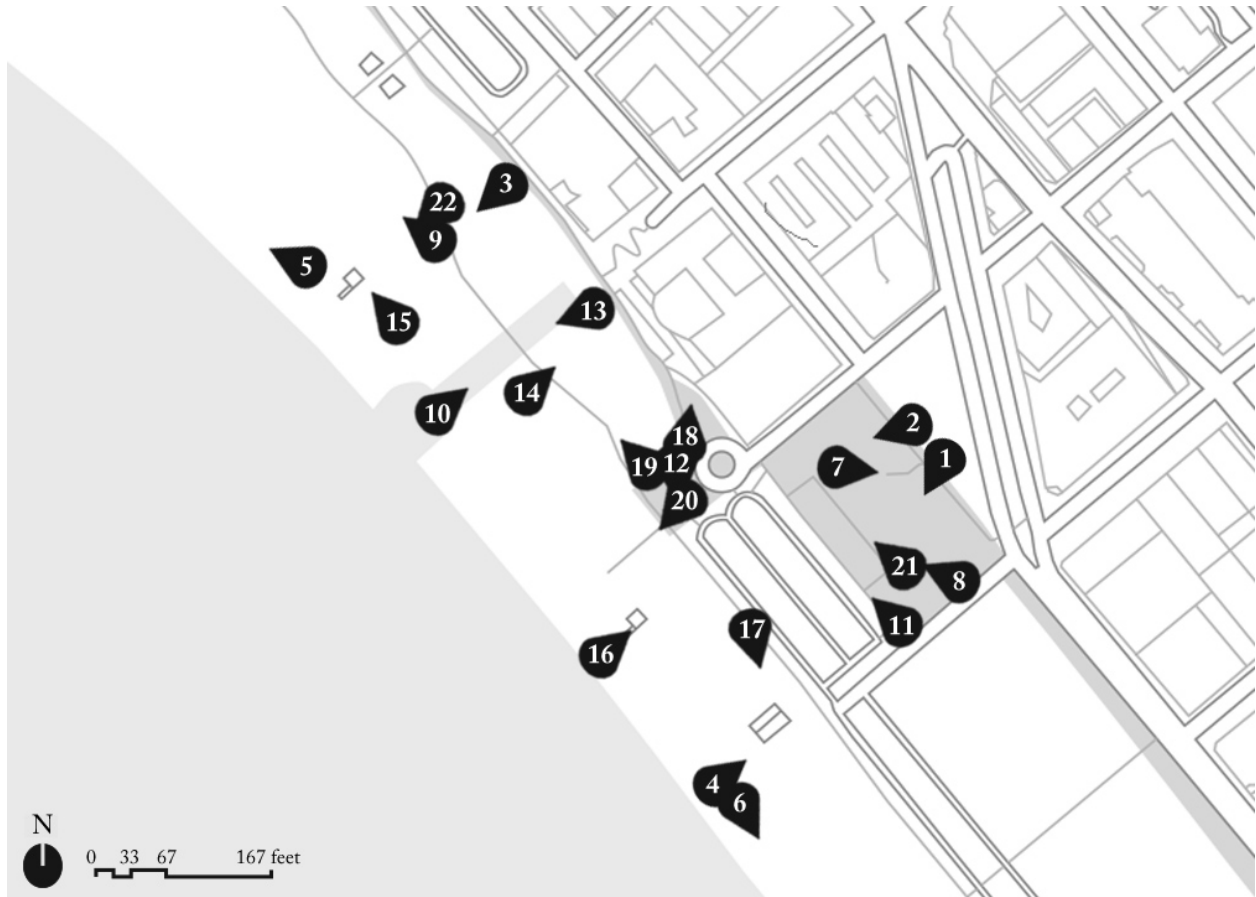


Base image adapted from Google Earth Pro 7.3.2.5491. Google LLC, Mountain View, California, 2018 <http://earth.google.com>. Images retrieved November 2018.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 4. Photo Key



Base image adapted from Google Earth Pro 7.3.2.5491. Google LLC, Mountain View, California, 2018 <http://earth.google.com>. Images retrieved November 2018.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 5. Ms. Verna Deckard and Mr. Arthur Lewis at Bay Street Beach, 1924. A sign for Club Casa Del Mar, an exclusive beach club that restricted access to areas of public beach, is in the background. From: Los Angeles Public Library Collection (Accession No. A-006-630 4x5).



Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 6. Northwest view across Bicknell Avenue showing visitors enjoying Crescent Bay Park and Bay Street Beach, c. 1930. The park's prominently placed pergola is clearly visible. Club Casa del Mar (later Hotel Casa del Mar) is on the right. An electric tram, which shuttled people across the Ocean Front Walk promenade between Santa Monica and Venice, is on the lower left. Santa Monica Pier is barely visible in the background. From the California Historical Society Collection, 1860-1960, University of Southern California Libraries Special Collections (Accession No. 14119).



Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

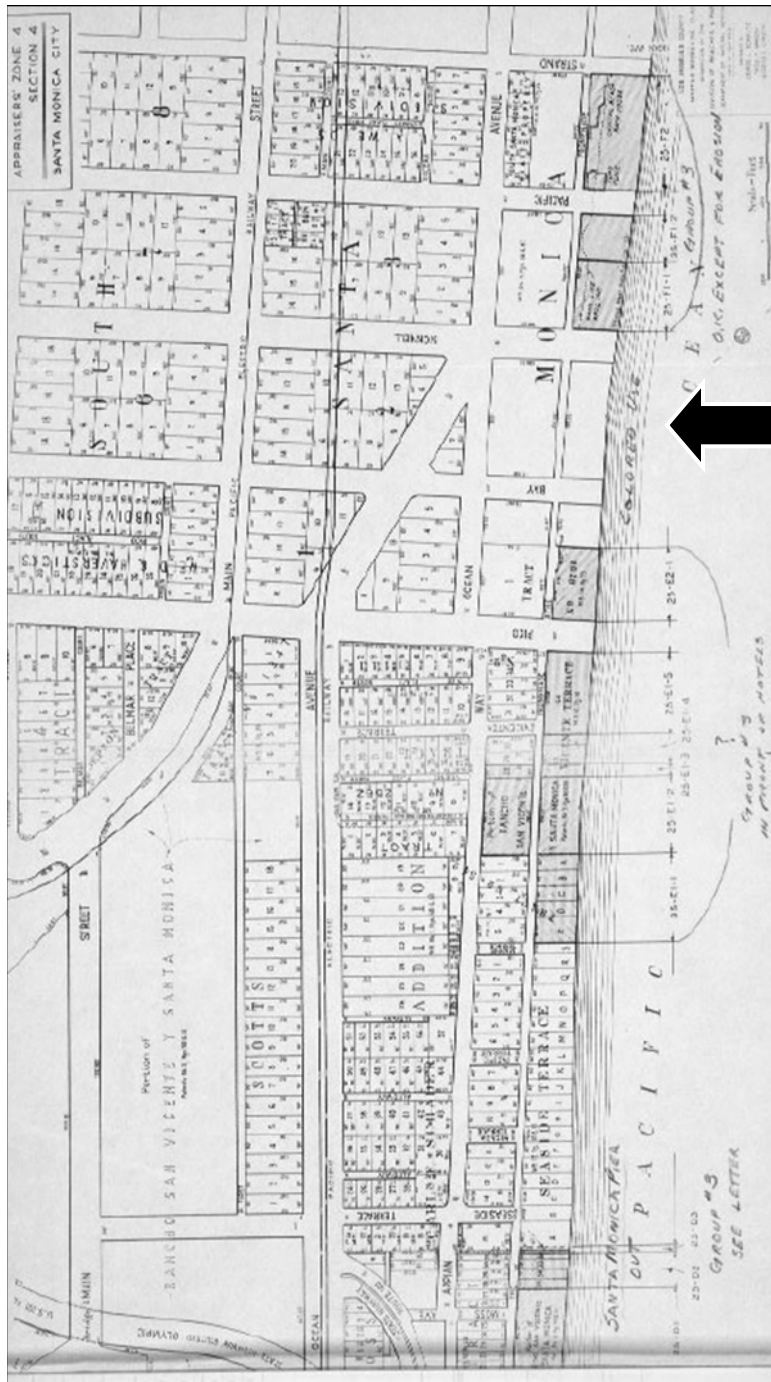
Figure 7. Friends (left to right) Verna, Sidney, Gladys, and Theopolis at Bay Street Beach, 1931. Crescent Bay Park and its conspicuous pergola, is seen in the background. From: Los Angeles Public Library Collection (Accession No. A-006-628 4x5).



Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

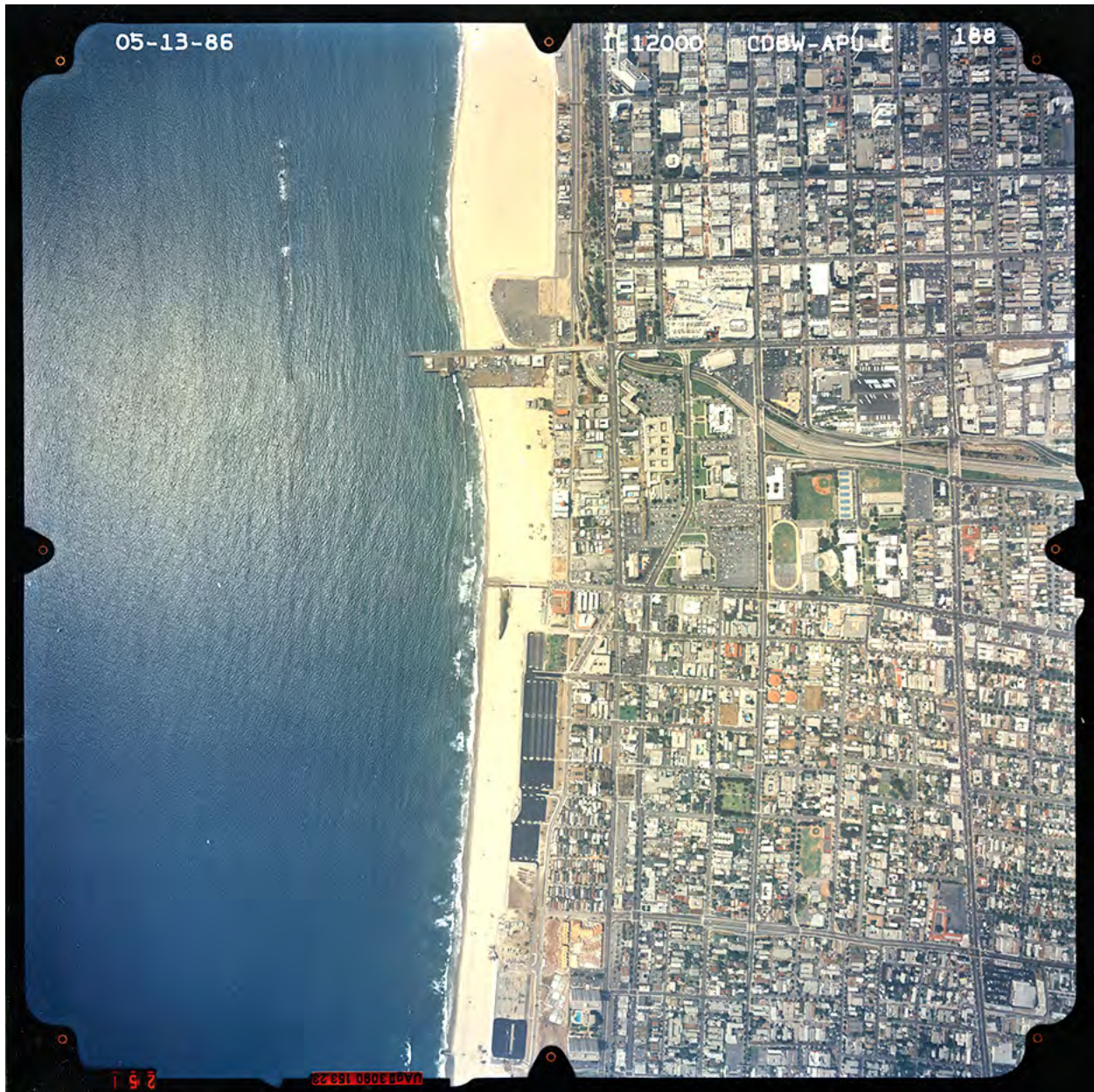
Figure 8. 1947 Master Shoreline Plan Map for the City of Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, California. Note the section labeled “Colored Use.” Map produced by the Division of Beaches and Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Engineering, State of California. From: University of Southern California Libraries Special Collections / University Archives Library.



Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 9. Aerial photograph of the City of Santa Monica, including the Bay Street Beach Historic District and surrounding Ocean Park neighborhood, May, 1986. Original photograph by the California Division of Boating and Waterways Air Flight Service. Copyright © 2002-2019 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project, www.californiacoastline.org.



Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 10. Inscription on “The Ink Well” commemorative plaque dedicated at the end of Bay Street by the City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division in 2008. Text for the plaque was developed by public historian Alison Rose Jefferson, MHP, PhD.

“THE INK WELL”

A Place of Celebration and Pain

The beach near this site between Bay and Bicknell Streets, known by some as “the Ink Well,” was an important gathering place for African Americans long after racial restrictions on public beaches were abandoned in 1927.

African-American groups from Santa Monica, Venice and Los Angeles, as early as the 1920s to the end of the Jim Crow era in the 1950s, preferred to enjoy the sun and surf here because they encountered less racial harassment than at other Southland beaches.

In the 1940s, Nick Gabaldón, a Santa Monica High School student and the first documented black surfer, taught himself how to surf here.

Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 11. Aerial photograph of the City of Santa Monica, including the Bay Street Beach Historic District, September 2010. Copyright © 2002-2019 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project, www.californiacoastline.org.



Bay Street Beach Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

Figure 12. Aerial photograph of the Bay Street Beach Historic District, September 2013. The high-rise skylines of the Wilshire Corridor (left) and Downtown Los Angeles (right) are visible in the background. Copyright © 2002-2019 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project, www.californiacoastline.org.



























THE INK WELLS
A HISTORY OF THE AREA

The Ink Wells is a natural phenomenon that has been known for centuries. It is a large, shallow, circular depression in the sand, which is filled with a dark, viscous liquid. This liquid is a natural byproduct of the weathering of the surrounding rocks, and it is known for its medicinal properties. The Ink Wells is a popular attraction for visitors to the area, and it is a testament to the natural beauty and history of the region.







LIFEGUARD
OFF-DUTY
NO BATHING
NO SWIMMING
NO SURFING
KEEP OFF

EMERGENCY ALERT IS SURE
PROVIDE YOUR LOCATION AND PHONE





BICKNELL AVE







BEACH
ACCESS
PATH





National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Bay Street Beach Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles

Date Received: 5/20/2019 Date of Pending List: 6/11/2019 Date of 16th Day: 6/26/2019 Date of 45th Day: 7/5/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004116

Nominator: Other Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 6/26/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Bay Street Beach Historic District is eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black, Recreation/Entertainment and Social History (Civil Rights) for its associations to seaside access, recreation, and leisure for African American Angelenos between 1908 and 1965. The property is significant for its association with the broader American Civil Rights narrative—in this case a demanding of access to, and proper enjoyment of, public trust resources. The beach was self-selected by African Americans as a place of recreation and leisure where its visitors felt relatively safe from harassment during an era of extreme racial prejudice and segregation.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229 Date: 6/26/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**Bay Street Beach Historic District
Santa Monica, Los Angeles County
Staff Report**

The Bay Street Beach Historic District comprises approximately 53 seaside and nearshore acres in the City of Santa Monica within Los Angeles County, on public trust lands owned by the City of Santa Monica and the State of California. Included in the district are four contributing resources, three sites—a grass bi-level open space, a beach area, and a nearshore area (*i.e.*, below mean high tide)—and a pergola (structure). The upper level grass and sidewalk area serves as a secondary façade or backdrop, framing the lower level where the beach use for which the district is recognized took place. Eleven noncontributing resources comprise a suite of visitor amenities and municipal facilities, including one building, one site, eight structures, and one object. Set along a portion of Los Angeles' urbanized coast and within one of the county's oldest cities, the area is heavily developed compared to the northernmost (Malibu) and southernmost (Palos Verdes) portions of coastal Santa Monica Bay. The property retains historic integrity.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Recreation/Entertainment for its contribution to seaside access, recreation, and leisure for African American Angelenos between 1908 and 1965. The property is eligible in the area of Social History for its association with the broader American Civil Rights narrative—in this case a demanding of access to, and proper enjoyment of, public trust resources. The beach was self-selected by African Americans as a place of recreation and leisure where its visitors felt relatively safe from harassment. In the Jim Crow era, California's lax enforcement or overlooked civil rights laws dating back to the 1890s and Los Angeles' *de facto* white supremacist policies manifested as restricted housing, employment, and sometimes access to public lands or facilities. The area became a recognized extension of Santa Monica African American community life and a leisure destination for the region's larger black population. At times, Black beach visitors recreating elsewhere faced exclusion, harassment, even violence. The period of significance begins in 1908 when the Phillips Chapel Colored Methodist Episcopal (later Christian Methodist Episcopal, CME) Church building was purchased from the Santa Monica School Board and relocated to the corner of Fourth and Bay Streets, creating an anchor for local African American spiritual and community life. The period of significance ends in 1965 with passage of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). The VRA, together with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, removed federal and state discrimination barriers in public places, housing, employment, and voting, ending most Jim Crow policy as an era of *de jure* discrimination and segregation.

The property is nominated by Sea of Clouds, a nonprofit organization whose practice spans the fields of historic preservation and environmental conservation. The City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission, in its role as representative of a Certified Local Government, unanimously supports the nomination as indicated by memorandum. Forty-one additional letters of support have been received to date and an online petition had generated almost 350 signatures as of April 23. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine the Bay Street Beach Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion A at the local level of significance with a 1908 to 1965 period of significance. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register.

Amy H. Crain
State Historian II
May 6, 2019



Coastal Conservancy

May 2, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Dear Ms. Polanco,

State Coastal Conservancy staff enthusiastically support the proposed listing of the Bay Street Beach Historic District in Los Angeles County in the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

California's coast is a world-renowned treasure, with unrivaled recreational opportunities. Californians overwhelmingly (nearly 90% in a statewide poll) consider the coast personally important to them and 75% agree that even when they are not visiting the coast, they feel a strong connection to it. The State Coastal Conservancy's enabling legislation declares that "it is the policy of the state that the right of the public to access and enjoyment of coastal resources should be effectively guaranteed." However, the public's right to coastal access and coastal recreational opportunities in California has not always been equitable or free of harassment based on race.

As described in the proposal, the 55-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District will underscore the significance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation for African American Angelenos. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwel" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The State Coastal Conservancy is committed to ensuring access to the coast for all Californians, by providing grants to plan and construct public access amenities and coastal accessways, reduce systemic barriers to coastal access, and provide programs that facilitate and enhance access to the coast. Designation of the Bay Street Beach Historic District would increase the public's understanding of the barriers that people of color have faced in accessing the California coast, the importance of access to coastal recreational opportunities for all Californians, and the specific history and cultural significance of this site for African American Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Amy Hutzel
Deputy Executive Officer



1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION***Established in 1938***EXECUTIVE OFFICE**
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202**JENNIFER LUCCHESI**, Executive Officer
(916) 574-1800 Fax (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service TDD Phone 1-800-735-2929
Voice Phone 1-800-735-2922

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 94296
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Bay Street
Beach Historic District

Dear Ms. Polanco:

California State Lands Commission staff is pleased to support the nomination of the Bay Street Beach Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The Bay Street Beach Historic District in the City of Santa Monica includes submerged lands of the Pacific Ocean owned by the State of California and managed by the State Lands Commission.

In a time of racist policies and de facto segregation, the Bay Street Beach Historic District served as an area where African Americans could enjoy California's natural beauty relatively free from harassment. The beach was a significant recreational and leisure focal point of the local African American community and gave rise to pioneers such as Nick Gabaldón, the first documented surfer of African- and Mexican-American heritage in Santa Monica Bay.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District is a potent reminder that California must continue to fight for equitable access to recreational opportunities and California's natural resources. Its history reaffirms the California State Lands Commission's commitment to preserve, protect, and expand access to public lands, especially for marginalized, disadvantaged, and tribal communities. We urge the State Historical Resources Commission to approve the nomination and forward it to the National Park Service for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Lucchesi".

JENNIFER LUCCHESI
Executive Office

April 16, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

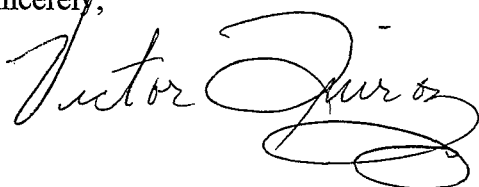
The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Quiroz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.



CURTIS BIRCH, INC.
1547 10th St. Unit A
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Tax ID# 95-481-1996

April 23, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

As the director of the award-winning historical documentary, "12 Miles North: The Nick Gabaldon Story,"--which focuses its lens on this location on the California coastline--I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District - comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services,

nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name

Richard Yelland

Founder, Director

12218 W. Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90049

T 617-417-7924
E schodal@hotmail.com

Dear Ms. Polanco:

I write to support listing of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places. I have conducted my own research on this site in relation to current development projects and concur that recognition would (1) advance the larger story of African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era; (2) illuminate the little known history of Santa Monica's larger and historic beach-adjacent African American community; and (3) add an important missing thread to the physical history of beachfront recreation and entertainment that made Ocean Park a nationally-known phenomenon.

23 May 2019

California State Parks
Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support for Bay Street Beach
Historic District (Los Angeles
County) Nomination to the National
Register of Historic Places

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" — noting the skin color of its patrons — the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a cultural focal point for the community.

The Bay Street Historic District — comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e. below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources — is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephanie Hodal
Architectural Historian

April 23, 2019

Ms. Julianne Polanco, SHPO
California State Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95816

SUBJECT: Support for Nomination of the Bay Street Beach Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places

Good Day Ms. Polanco:

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the nomination of the **Bay Street Historic District** to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a rare example of a documented seaside recreation/leisure site utilized by African Americans during the early and mid-twentieth century, when both the legal and *de facto* segregation of public space was a shameful reality across the United States and not simply in the South (as is assumed by a majority of Americans).

Bay Street Beach was a geographically definable place utilized by African Americans from Santa Monica, more particularly, as well as from the larger Los Angeles area where people of color could enjoy the beach largely free from harassment on account of their race. The NRHP nomination shows how rare such documented places are along the California coast, and will also serve as a platform, in combination with other public history tools, to preserve the public memory of an urban landscape of social historical significance and create a powerful sense of place by helping to connect people "... to the possible meanings of city life as a social bond." (a quote from author/scholar Dolores Hayden who has written brilliantly about the opportunities to reclaim largely unknown or neglected urban places through a use of public history).

Commemorating the history of this public space through NRHP designation will support continuing efforts to interpret the history of place. The poignant historical associations will serve a helpful educational purpose and as a corrective to social historical amnesia about the prevalence of racially-contested space in history of both California and United States.

Sincerely,



Carson Anderson
City Planner and Architectural Historian

CC Alison Rose Jefferson, MHP PhD
Alan Hess, AIA

April 19, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816–7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era. The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons – the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of

an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising grass, open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ada Hollie".

Ada Hollie
1518 Yale St., #6
Santa Monica, CA 90404



**SANTA MONICA
CONSERVANCY**
Celebrating Our Architectural Heritage

P.O. BOX 653
SANTA MONICA, CA 90406
310-496-3146
www.smconservancy.org

Carol Lemlein, *President*
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Libby Pachares

Ken Breisch, Ph D, *Emeritus*
Doris Sosin, *Emeritus*

April 23, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey the Santa Monica Conservancy's support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places, thus recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The Conservancy is very familiar with the research reflected in this application. Both Michael Blum and historian Alison Rose Jefferson, Ph. D. have been invited to speak at public Conservancy programs. We have considerable experience working with Dr. Jefferson, Ph. D, to interpret the history of the Bay Street Beach area to the Santa Monica community and other visitors to the site during public programs led by Heal the Bay and others. We also make materials based on Dr. Jefferson's research available to visitors to our Preservation Resource Center at 2520 2nd Street and have recently held a training session for our docents with her.

We continue to be amazed by the lack of public knowledge of this history, even among African American residents, and are delighted to support the nomination of the proposed Bay Street Beach Historic District, recognizing the significance of the area during the Jim Crow era between 1908 and 1965. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside leisure site as well as a focal point of the local African American community, which was

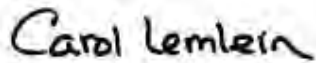
once a somewhat larger portion of the Santa Monica population than it is today.

We do have one comment on the definition of the Bay Street Beach Historic District – we support Santa Monica Planning Commissioner Nina Fresco’s recommendation that the district be slightly enlarged to include the boundaries of Crescent Bay Park as they were during the period of significance to provide appropriate context and preserve integrity of setting for the district.

In conclusion, we enthusiastically support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Lemlein". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Carol Lemlein, President



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

SHEILA KUEHL
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support Bay Street Beach Historic District Nomination to National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to express my strong support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places, and recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District underscores the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. The Bay Street beach area was sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons. In practice, it was a beach where visitors, including African Americans from Santa Monica and Los Angeles, felt comparatively safe from harassment.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District – comprised of an open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

As the Supervisor for the Third District of Los Angeles County where the Bay Street Beach Historic District is located, I strongly support listing the District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to public understanding of our history and promotes a more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Kuehl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Third District
County of Los Angeles



April 19, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The addition of the Bay Street Beach Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places would bring significance to the stories, images and lives of the generations of African Americans who made recreation and community a reality for themselves at Bay Street. The listing not only informs us of a past but provides context for the present and future of the Bay Street Beach Historic District.

To bring understanding of the significance of the Bay Street Historic District The Bay Foundation supports Nick Gabaldon Day; an annual celebration of Mr. Gabaldon as the first surfer of color. Mr. Gabaldon used "the Inkwell" as a point of coastal access to surf, often paddling miles to reach surf breaks that he was unable to access otherwise. Nick Gabaldon Day is an effort of the Black Surfers Collective, The Surf Bus Foundation and Heal the Bay to promote diversity to the sport of surfing and generate camaraderie. Each year Nick Gabaldon Day is celebrated at "the Inkwell" to remind us of past segregation, affirm the presence of African Americans as surfers and generate the cultural connection of a day at the beach as part of the African American lifestyle in Los Angeles.

Thus, the Bay Foundation supports the Bay Street Beach Historic District being added to the National Register of Historic Places as it adds solemnity to something that could be casually viewed as a day at the beach. A recognition that historically not all of us were able to freely recreate on the beach is profound in the context of Los Angeles and should be duly recognized. The acceptance of this nomination not only acknowledges this history, it retains relevance to the contemporaneous African American experience in Los Angeles. Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and for your efforts to preserve our history.

Sincerely,

Tom Ford

Executive Director, The Bay Foundation



April 23, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I am writing to you to express my support for listing Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. The 53-acre site located in Los Angeles County has a deeply rooted significance to African Americans, who during the Jim Crow Era were prevented from accessing beaches elsewhere along the Southern California coast.

As a Councilmember who represents The Historic Central Avenue Corridor, and the home of the Original Wrigley Field as well as the California African American Museum, I believe that it is vitally important that we preserve the history including peoples' individual stories, their struggles and perseverance.

We are often too quick to wipe away our history when our current ideology does not match the negativity and oppression of the past. I am a firm believer that we should not forget our past no matter how much we evolve, less we go backward.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
Councilmember, 9th District



April 23, 2019

Submitted electronically

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
c/o Amy Crain, Registration Unit
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Email: amy.crain@parks.ca.gov

523 West Sixth Street, Suite 826
Los Angeles, CA 90014

213 623 2489 OFFICE
213 623 3909 FAX
laconservancy.org

RE: National Register nomination, Bay Street Beach Historic District, Santa Monica

Dear Ms. Polanco:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, I am writing to express our support for the nomination of the Bay Street Beach Historic District for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Located at Bay and Bicknell Streets in Santa Monica and extending west from the park to include a portion of beach and adjacent waters of Santa Monica Bay, this cultural landscape is significant for its association with African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

Between 1908 and 1965, the period of significance established for the historic district, the Bay Street Beach functioned as an important public space associated with the African American experience in Los Angeles County. While Los Angeles area beaches were not legally segregated, black beach visitors sometimes encountered exclusion, harassment and even violence as they sought recreation along the coast. The Bay Street Beach, which provided convenient beach access to the **nearby community's African American neighborhoods, emerged as a public space** where visitors, including prominent African Americans, felt comparatively safe from harassment. It gained in popularity through the mid-twentieth century as other local sites of black seaside recreation and leisure were destroyed.

In addition to our strong support for the nomination, we share the same position as Santa Monica Planning Commissioner Nina Fresco and the Santa Monica Conservancy in recommending that the eastern boundary of the proposed historic district be amended to be coterminous with the boundary of Crescent Bay Park during the period of significance. This slight enlargement to include the entire cultural landscape as it existed between 1908 and 1965 will provide the appropriate context and preserve the integrity of setting for the historic district.

The Los Angeles Conservancy continues to raise awareness of Los Angeles County's diverse cultural heritage and supports the efforts of Sea of Clouds to list the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register.

About the Los Angeles Conservancy:



The Los Angeles Conservancy is the largest local historic preservation organization in the United States, with nearly 6,000 members throughout the Los Angeles area. Established in 1978, the Conservancy works to preserve and revitalize the significant architectural heritage of Los Angeles County through advocacy and education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Scott Fine". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Adrian Scott Fine
Director of Advocacy





April 23, 2019

California State Parks
Office of Historic Preservation
Ms. Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

101 THE EMBARCADERO, SUITE 120
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

415.495.0349
CPF@CALIFORNIAPRESERVATION.ORG
WWW.CALIFORNIAPRESERVATION.ORG

RE: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Bay Street Beach Historic District

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I am writing on behalf of more than 15,000 members and supporters of the California Preservation Foundation to support the nomination of the Bay Street Beach Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) is a membership-based organization whose mission is to “provide statewide leadership, advocacy and education to ensure the protection of California’s diverse cultural heritage and historic places.” Since 1977, the CPF has assisted thousands of individuals and organizations in their efforts to protect historic and cultural resources throughout California.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District is rare by National Register standards – a coastal cultural landscape that holds importance as a haven for African Americans during the pre-Civil Rights era. Nomination of this site to the National Register – which is located on public trust lands – will help ensure continued visitor access, recognition, and protection of its unique character defining features, including its grassy open space, beach areas, and pergola comprised of a series of Tuscan columns that mark the “gateway” to this unique site of African American leisure.

The nomination is submitted under Criterion A for its association with ethnic heritage, entertainment/recreation, and social history. It adroitly selects a period of significance of 1908 to 1965. The start of the period of significance coincides with the opening of the Phillips Chapel Colored Methodist Episcopal Church building nearby, which anchored the African American community within the area and led to widespread use of Bay Street Beach as a site of leisure. The ending year coincides with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which followed the 1964 Civil Rights Act – both of which led to the removal of discrimination barriers that discouraged Black participation in other coastal sites of leisure.

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Deborah Rosenthal, *Esq., Costa Mesa*
Bill Schaeffer, *Napa*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Cindy L. Heitzman

As Sea of Clouds, the nonprofit partner in the efforts has noted: “Celebrating and protecting the cultural heritage of such places promotes a richer, inclusive interpretation of a shared, but nevertheless overlooked, coastal history.”


We concur with the findings of the nomination that the property’s four (4) contributing features retain all relevant aspects of integrity. Three of the features are geologic features, so workmanship would not apply. For the one contributing structure to the proposed district (the pergola), we have reviewed historic images and agree with the nominator’s conclusion that it retains all seven aspects of integrity, including workmanship.

We are also impressed with the thorough research and documentation used in this nomination, including oral histories, landmark assessment reports, Census records, and citywide historic context statements. The nomination clearly benefitted from the collaborative efforts between public historian, Allison Rose Jefferson, MHP, PhD, and Michael Blum, Executive Director of Sea of Clouds.

Though uncharacteristic of the typical National Register District (as a site of ethnic leisure, as well as a coastal cultural landscape associated with beach activities), the Bay Street Beach site helps contribute to a broader, more inclusive telling of California’s past. It is a site that also tells the story of contested space in an era dominated by unjust *De Facto* and *De Juris* segregation, a history that deserves a larger spot and more formal recognition in the National Register.

We wholeheartedly support this site’s determination of eligibility to the National Register and are thrilled to see advocates working to ensure sites like this receive the recognition they deserve in our state and country’s past.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Haerber
Field Services Director

cc Michael Blum, Executive Director, Sea of Clouds; Alison Rose Jefferson, MHP, PhD; Carol Lemlein, Executive Director, Santa Monica Conservancy

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4076
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4026
FAX (916) 651-4926

DISTRICT OFFICE
2512 ARTESIA BLVD., SUITE 320
REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278
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FAX (310) 318-6733

WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/ALLEN
SENATOR.ALLEN@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
BEN ALLEN

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
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GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
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NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

JEWISH CAUCUS, CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

April 23, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing Santa Monica's Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen".

Ben Allen
CA State Senator, 26th District



**Robert W. Brown Council of Deliberation
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Prince Hall Affiliation**

SGIG Billy G. Harrington, 33°

Deputy

**P.O. Box 470919
Los Angeles, CA 90047
(323) 717-6001**

ILL Glen A. Campbell, 33°

**Grand Secretary & KSA
6028 West Avenue K6
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 718-8758**

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Historic District (Los Angeles County)
Nomination to the National Register of Historical Places

Greetings:

We the officers and members of the Robert W. Brown Council of Deliberation whole heartedly support the nomination of Bay Street Beach Historic District National Registry of Historic Places.

One of our local groups Santa Monica Consistory #296 holds it monthly meetings at Crescent Bay Lodge #19 Lodge Hall at 1720 Broadway in the Santa Monica Beach area. Yours truly is a former resident of Santa Monica California, as well as my late father who was a City of Santa Monica City Retiree.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Billy G. Harrington
Deputy for the Orient of California



2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612 | www.browngirlsurf.com | (510) 239-7565 | info@browngirlsurf.com

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

I am the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Brown Girl Surf, an organization that, among other goals, reclaims the relationships that we as people of color have had with the ocean and the sport of surfing. As we in the Brown Girl Surf community strengthen and celebrate our connections to the ocean, we find it essential to understand the historical forces that have aimed to separate us from it. When we know and understand that Jim Crow era segregation and violence drastically changed the way people of color, and African American people in particular, experienced nature, and in this case, the ocean, we better understand why these communities are still underrepresented in beach-going and surf culture today. When we recognize and celebrate that, amidst the Jim Crow era violence, people of color continued to have strong and joyous relationships to the ocean at places like Bay Street, we learn from this resilience and find inspiration for our current work. Elevating the Bay Street Beach Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places is an important step in illuminating this underreported history, celebrating the vibrant relationships of African American Los Angelenos with the ocean, and creating a more diverse and inclusive coastline.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwel" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mira Manickam-Shirley
Executive Director
Brown Girl Surf

CAAM

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District - comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

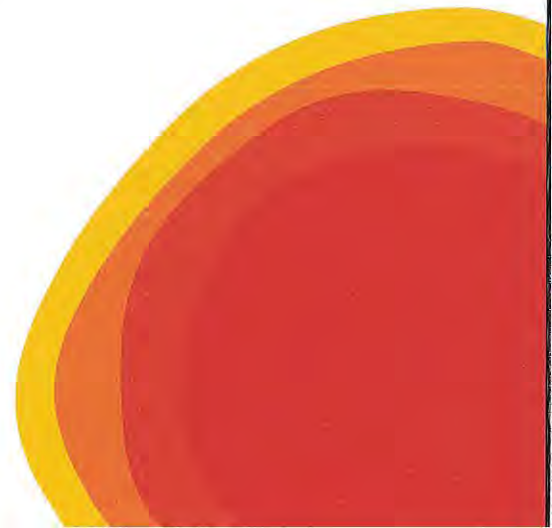
I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



George O. Davis
Executive Director
California African American Museum





MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, Eighth District

April 22nd, 2019
California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Harris-Dawson', written in a cursive style.

Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember, Eighth District

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era. From 2014-2017, I worked for the National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) as an Archaeological Technician. Some of my duties included archaeological site surveys, filling out DPR site forms, and publishing reports involving intensive historical research and National Register nomination considerations.

From 2017 to 2018, I was employed by the National Park Service to produce a comprehensive report about the African American History and Heritage of the Santa Monica Mountains as part of a President Obama era Civil Rights initiative to document "the African American struggle to gain equal rights as citizens in the 20th Century" (www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/civilrights/). The Bay Street Historic District was recognized as a significant African American cultural space within the area of the study, important to understanding the efforts of the local African American community to carve out their own place of leisure and recreation in an often racist and inhospitable environment. A sizeable portion of the report was devoted to the Bay Street area beach sometimes referred to derogatorily as "the Inkwell."

For my research, I delved into oral histories, pouring through tapes of interviews by early African American Angelenos such as Verna Deckard Williams (1906-1998), who migrated to Los Angeles from Texas in the 1920s. After a three-month stay in Los Angeles in the summer of 1924 to visit her brother, Williams was supposed to drive back to Texas with her mom and dad. However, she refused to return to the Jim Crow Era conditions of "that ole' bad Texas." Verna told her boyfriend at the time, Arthur Lewis, "I'll do anything to stay out here," to which he replied, "Well what about marry me?" So they "slipped off that day and got married" and the first thing they did together as a married couple after seeing their parents off to Texas, was spend all day at the "Inkwell Beach," followed by a walk around the nearby amusements (Verna Deckard Williams Interview, LAPL). Testimonies by Williams and other African American people living in Los Angeles suggest that the Bay Street Beach represented a beacon of newfound freedom and enjoyment, somewhat apart from the harsh realities of Jim Crow Era America.

Establishing and maintaining this section of leisure and recreation, however, was not without struggle, as discriminatory practices throughout greater Los Angeles, constrained where African American people could both live and recreate. Despite an 1893 anti-discrimination statute passed in California, de facto forms of segregation restricted where African Americans could recreate, especially during the 1920s when racial tensions heightened. The fact that African Americans such as Verna Deckard Williams and later, famous surfer Nick Gabaldón, and countless others could feel comparatively safe to relax and recreate at the Bay Street Beach is a testament to its importance to the black community.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin Ringelstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Austin Ringelstein
LT USN (Ret.)



CHANGE. THINK. GOLF.

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County)
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for Black Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contention. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell"—noting the skin color of its patrons—the Bay Street beach area was adjacent to an important Black civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent Black residents from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of a Black Angeleno seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The entire Bay Street Beach Historic District is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. As a young Black man growing up in Culver City, I, too, was drawn to the beaches of Southern California. My friends and I spent many days surfing, bodysurfing, and enjoying the sun on the wonderful beaches in the Los Angeles area. Fortunately, we were not restricted to a small sliver of sand in Santa Monica, and were free to visit any and all our local beaches. Unfortunately, even in the late 1970s and through the early 1980s, these visits were not free from struggle and contention.

Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Larry Shackelford', written in a cursive style.

Larry Shackelford
Founder
Sixtyone Golf



670 Moulton Ave., #7 Los Angeles, CA 90031 • 323.227.0955 • 323.227.0446 • urbanrock@urbanrockdesign.com

April 22, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing in support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

This proposed historic district would honor an important part of our shared history. I believe that the Bay Street Beach history is important to Santa Monica, Southern California, and our nation. It is important to recognize and memorialize our histories, so that we may express our shared common ground. This historic designation would help to elevate this important site to the prominence that it deserves in our geographic history.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jeanine Centuori'.

Jeanine Centuori, FAIA

Frank J. Gruber
2442 Beverley Avenue
Santa Monica California 90405
frankgrubersm@gmail.com

April 21, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African-Americans during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed Bay Street Beach Historic District recognizes the importance of the district between the years of 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" —noting the skin color of its patrons—the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African-American civic institution and a neighborhood that early on the history of Santa Monica was integrated with a substantial population of African-Americans. It emerged as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. African-American owned businesses catered to these visitors. The district is both a rare example of an African-American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

In the course of my own researches on the history of Santa Monica (for a weekly column I wrote for a local news website) and for a course I taught at Antioch College's Los Angeles branch, I researched and wrote about the demise of the "Belmar Triangle," a part of African-American community in Santa Monica, just a few blocks from the proposed historic district, that the City destroyed in the 1950s to build the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. I would be happy to share my research with the Office of Historic Preservation.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District—comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources—is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access,

Office of Historic Preservation
April 21, 2019
Page 2

public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment. To borrow from Dolores Hayden, listing would contribute to the "power" of this "place."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Gruber', written over a horizontal line.

Frank J. Gruber



Chasing Light Pictures, LLC

Chasing Light Pictures LLC, 1209 S. Alfred St., Los Angeles, CA 90035

April 20, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816–7100

**RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County)
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The history of African-American people in Los Angeles must not be erased. Listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places would greatly and permanently recognize its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era. It would help prevent the erasure of this important location in our history.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as “the Inkwell” - noting the skin color of its patrons – the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain

existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully, Walter Dominguez

Producer/Director/Writer

April 19, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816–7100

**RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County)
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

April 19, 2019
California State Parks
Page 2

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alicia Endo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alicia" written in a large, sweeping script and the last name "Endo" written in a smaller, more compact script.

Alicia Endo
Native Los Angeles Resident
2003 Hillcrest Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90016
818.486.7271



Nightingale & Associates, LLC
Consultants in Leadership and Change

April 19, 2019

Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

**RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County)
Nomination to National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Polanco

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

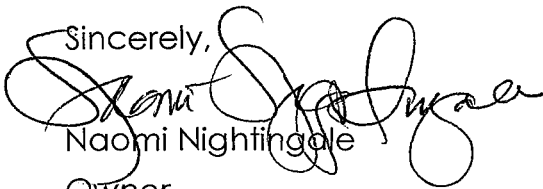
The proposed 53- Acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwel" – noting the skin color of its patrons—the Bay Street Beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District—comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e. below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources—is entirely contained on public trust land. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understand the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Naomi Nightingale

Owner

Nightingale & Associates, LLC

From: [Nina Fresco](#)
To: [Crain, Amy@Parks](mailto:Crain.Amy@Parks)
Cc: [Nina Fresco](#)
Subject: Bay Street Beach Historic District
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019 4:31:54 PM
Attachments: [CrescentBayPark-text&images-NF.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Crain,

Thank you for your help with my submission.

I fully support the listing of the Bay Street Beach Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, and respectfully as that the attached new information on the physical boundaries of the district be considered.

Sincerely,
Nina Fresco

Santa Monica Planning Commissioner (2016 - present)
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium Working Group, chair (2014 -2016)
Santa Monica Landmarks Commissioner (2002 - 2014)
Santa Monica Conservancy Board Member (2002 - present)
(titles for identification purposes only)

please make a note of my new, humans-only email address:
nina@freddyca.net.

April 18, 2019

California State Parks
Office of Historic Preservation
Attn: Julianne Polanco, State Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Support for National Register Nomination of the Bay Street Beach Historic District in Santa Monica, California, including detailed new information regarding Crescent Bay Park.

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I enthusiastically support the listing of the proposed *Bay Street Beach Historic District* in the National Register of Historic Places. The story it tells of the degradation and harassment of African Americans on Santa Monica's beaches during the Jim Crow era is layered with a portrait of the struggling population as it created a strong community while enduring those pressures. It presents a compassionate and relatable understanding of the events. The Jim Crow era has had an enduring impact on our community, which the excellent research of Dr. Alison Jefferson has brought to light for a new generation. If designated, the proposed district would continually expose Santa Monicans and the millions of visitors to our public beaches to this important story.

I would like to suggest an adjustment to the boundaries of the district area to include an omitted portion of the upper level of Crescent Bay Park that is as relevant to the significance of the proposed district as the lower portion. The adjusted coordinates would recognize the park boundaries from the time it was established in 1897, and as they existed though the period of significance of the proposed district. Attention to this technical detail simply adds more accuracy in defining the historic site where the social history it recognizes took place.

The high profile of National Register of Historic Places listing demands that these details be as accurate as possible. Thus bifurcating a portion of a historic resource by using an assumed boundary when new documented research provides the exact location of

that boundary is not in the best interest of future researchers who rely on the accuracy of National Register records.

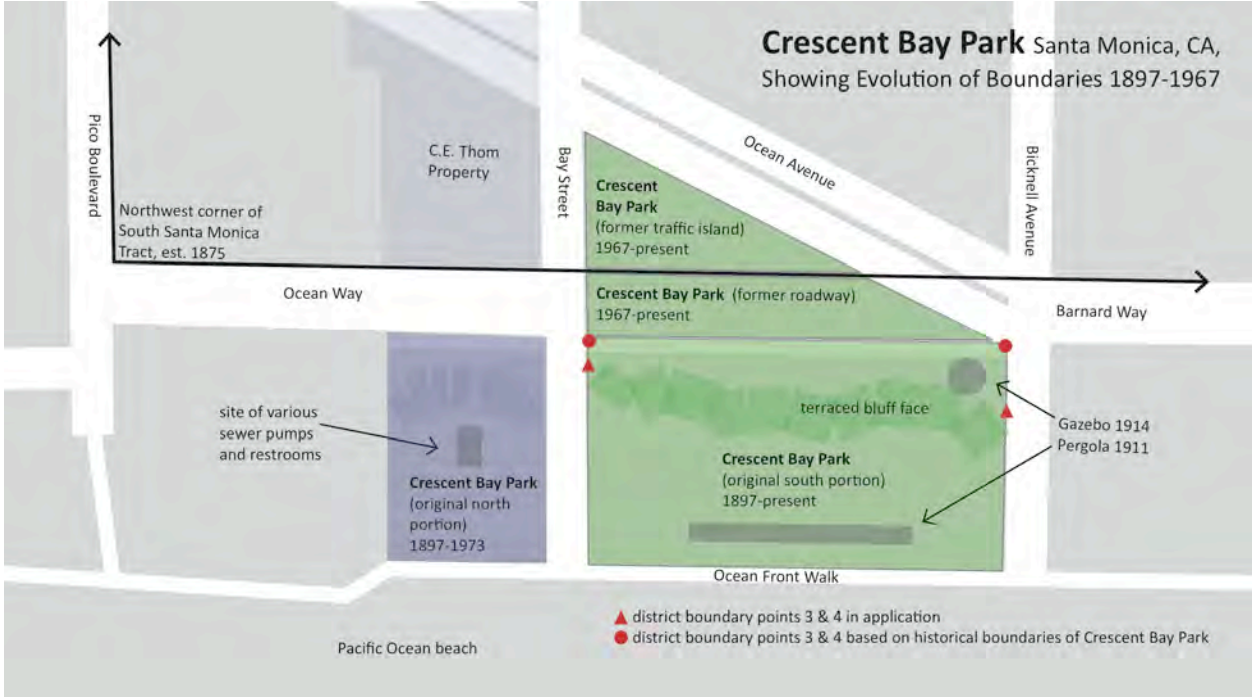
On page 33 of the application, the district boundaries stop at the top edge of the bluff and do not include a flat area on the upper level where a gazebo and walkway have always been part of the park area overlooking the lawn below and beach beyond. The northeast corner (point 3) is identified at 34.005972 N, -118.490530 W. I suggest a move of about 7 feet southeast to 34.006015 N, -118.490495 W. The southeast corner (point 4) is identified at 34.005239 N, -118.489966 W. I suggest a move of about 52 feet southeast to 34.005325 N, -118.489825 W.

Attached is a detailed narrative of the physical history of Crescent Bay Park that provides complete information to inform the adjustment of these two coordinates to map the park during the period of significance. I do not suggest this adjustment should result in any other change to the Bay Street Beach Historic District application and the well-researched narrative it documents, or that the new information adds to the cultural significance of the potential district except insofar as it defines and describes the place where the significant events occurred.

Sincerely,

Nina Fresco

Santa Monica Planning Commissioner (2016 - present)
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium Working Group, chair (2014 -2016)
Santa Monica Landmarks Commissioner (2002 - 2014)
Santa Monica Conservancy Board Member (2002 - present)
(titles for identification purposes only)



Crescent Bay Park

(also known as South Side Park, Bay Street Park)

Summary

Today, Crescent Bay Park consists of 2.7 acres along the beachfront walk in the Ocean Park Neighborhood of Santa Monica on two levels separated by a low bluff. Established in 1897, a deed stipulation restricted the area to park and sewer uses. The original park was bounded by the west edge of Ocean Way, the north side of Bicknell Avenue, the east edge of Ocean Front Walk, and a line parallel to, and 120 feet north of, the north side of Bay Street. Shortly after acquiring deeds for a right-of-way in 1939, the city extended Ocean Avenue to connect diagonally from Pico Boulevard to Barnard Way. This created a small, triangular, grassy island across Ocean Way from Crescent Bay Park. In 1967, the city vacated Ocean Way between Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue. The former roadway was combined with the traffic island to become an addition to Crescent Bay Park. A cement pathway through the park that maintains a continuous sidewalk from Ocean Way to Barnard Way memorializes the original east boundary. In 1975, the city renegotiated some of the terms of the 1897 deed with a descendant of the original owner who still held the adjacent parcels. The new terms released the portion of the park north of Bay Street from any use restrictions. It is no longer considered part of Crescent Bay Park.

Park History

Crescent Bay Park is located west of the South Santa Monica Tract, which was established in May 1875, by J.D. Bicknell and Ivar Weid, two months before the famous inaugural land auction in the Town of Santa Monica on July 15 of that year. Weid held onto his share of blocks within the tract for many years, waiting for a commercial boom he thought was imminent. Bicknell, on the other hand, began selling lots right away, often in pairs, to wealthy and influential Los Angelinos. They formed a posh enclave of summer homes concentrated adjacent to the subject park site, which they enjoyed undisturbed for more than twenty years.

The Town of Santa Monica was preparing to build its first sewer system in 1895, pending a bond vote that, having failed before, promised to be successful this time. Not waiting for election day, the city began an amicable condemnation suit for a right-of-way that would allow sewer pipes to pass near the South Santa Monica Tract over land jointly owned by John D. Bicknell, Simon Stoll, E.T. Wright, J.W. Haverstick, and Cameron E.

Thom. They all had summer homes overlooking the parcel and the beach.¹ Years earlier, they had decided the beachfront was worth more to them as an open park that preserved their ocean views, than it would be if it were sold for development. They were joint trustees of the area that became the park. The path the city had in mind for Sewer Main #1 was plotted along the base of the bluff from the Arcadia Hotel towards the south side. It shifted up to the top of the bluff, passing through this land to Strand Street. From there it was going to pass along the sand dunes to somewhere near the city limits. That was as much as was worked out before the election.

Now that the city needed something, the savvy South Santa Monica landowners took the opportunity to strike a deal selling the city their beachfront parcel. A deed restriction was negotiated so that it could be used only as a public park, and for sewer systems. The arrangement relieved the adjacent owners of annual property taxes, but also locked the parcels in perpetuity as the public park they envisioned.² On December 20, 1897, the parties closed the deal for the court-appraised price of \$50.³ The beach park trustees were represented in court by one of their own, John D. Bicknell. Bicknell was a highly regarded attorney and judge, who had represented the Southern Pacific Railroad during an illustrious career. For a moment, the new park was officially named Central Park. That name was forgotten almost immediately as the city turned its attention to the bigger projects that were on the table.⁴ The deed stipulations in the archaic legalese of the day were as follows.

*[T]he uses and purposes for which said condemnation is hereby made, are for a public park and for rights of way for sewer systems to promote the sanitary condition of said Town of Santa Monica and the inhabitants thereof. . . . [T]he court does here order, adjudge and decree, that the real property described in the complaint and in said Judgement and hereinafter described and every part and parcel thereof henceforth and forever the property of the Town of Santa Monica . . .*⁵

Now the city began to obtain deeds for the rest of the necessary rights-of-way, which

¹ Los Angeles County, California, Deed Records 1854-1920, book 1204 page 258, www.familysearch.org

² Santa Monica, Sewer Proceedings Going ahead Faster Than Anticipated, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, November 22, 1896

³ Superior Court Case #23219, Town of Santa Monica, V. J.D. Bicknell et al, decided December 20, 1897, Los Angeles Area Court Records Collection, Huntington Library, San Gabriel, California

⁴ Santa Monica Brevities, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, December 21, 1897

⁵ Los Angeles County, California, Deed Records 1854-1920, Deed Book 1204, page 258, www.familysearch.org

were owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad, Santa Monica founders Jones & Baker, and others.⁶ The trustees hired Los Angeles City Engineer John Henry Dockweiler to work on detailed design drawings for the new sewer.⁷ Securing the right-of-way south of Strand Street to the city limit was a separate project unto itself. Abbot Kinney & Francis Ryan owned that land. As soon as the route for Sewer Main #1 across their land was publically proposed, they came out in protest against sewers of any kind, “reciting, among other things, that a sewer in this city is not a public necessity.”⁸ In November 1897, the city filed a condemnation suit to acquire strips of land through Kinney & Ryan’s south beach sand dunes for the sewer main. The path picked up where the previously established right-of-way left off at Strand Street and passed over the beach establishing a city alley that eventually became Barnard Way, meeting another strip that became Pier Avenue.⁹ The outfall was at the foot of Pier Avenue. In spite of all the initial bluster, the Kinney & Ryan suit was settled before the first court date. A deed for the streets, and a release of city liability for sewer impacts was exchanged for \$4350. The city extended the sewer pipe 1250 feet into the ocean under a wharf that Kinney & Ryan turned into the city’s first successful pleasure pier.¹⁰ The sewer was ready to receive connections to transport waste in September 1898. As each lateral sewer was completed along individual streets, adjacent properties were required to immediately hook up and abate their back yard cesspools. It was a great time to be a plumber.

After the system went into operation, they discovered the need for a pumping station because the main coming from North Beach was on lower ground than the main on South Beach. The waste was backing up at the fabulous Arcadia Hotel. The city engineer determined that the best spot for a pump to address the change in elevation was in the new South Side Park, which is how the yet unnamed Crescent Bay Park was referred to for many years. Work on the pumping station began in mid-October 1900. Days later, a new lawsuit was filed against the trustees, the city engineer, and the contractors for the pump. The plaintiff was Cameron E. Thom, who owned a large and sumptuous beach home overlooking the pump site on Ocean Avenue. Thom was a pioneer resident of South Santa Monica in 1875, not to mention a former Los Angeles, Mayor (1882-1884), a former Virginia State Senator, a Civil War veteran with the rank of Captain, a Los

⁶ *Santa Monica, Proceedings For the Sewer Will be Prosecuted*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, October 13, 1896

⁷ *Santa Monica, Progress in Sewer Proceedings*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, September 15, 1897

⁸ *Santa Monica, Free Bathing for the Conductors and Their Ladies*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, May 13, 1897

⁹ *Los Angeles County, California, Deed Records 1854-1920, Deed Book 1232, page 157*, www.familysearch.org

¹⁰ *Santa Monica, Important Agreement in Matter of Trunk Sewer Outfall*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, December 30, 1897

Angeles City Attorney, and later Los Angeles County District Attorney, and more.¹¹ The sewer pump was going in directly in front of his property. The complaint asserted that the park deed allowed no obstructions to be placed there, that it must remain open space, and was only meant to be a right-of-way for underground piping, not large, smelly, noisy electrical pumps in above ground structures. The complaint also found fault with the bidding process, which proceeded before final plans were drawn up. When the plans did emerge, they included a 30 x 10 foot sewage tank, and a frame structure that would house the pumping machinery. Thom asserted that the value of his property was based solely on its location, and the beautiful ocean views that the pumping plant, from which his home was downwind, would block. The city asserted that the sewer pumping plant was very consistent with park uses because it served the public good.¹² The case went to court in January 1901. Thom lost mainly because the pump clearly fell under the category of “sewer systems,” which were also allowed according to the deed.¹³

The pumping plant was built and all seemed well until the first rain storm in late October 1901. It poured all night and all day, leaving the electric motor of the pump buried in mud.¹⁴ By February, a letter in the *Santa Monica Outlook* reported that those rains had also washed out Bay Street, which was still in disrepair; and the writer complained that South Side Park looked abandoned, and was filled with weeds and trash.¹⁵ The city engineer responded with a plan to clean up the park, and terrace and plant the bluff. That project wasn’t funded then, but a retaining wall was built near the pumping plant to control the mudflow.

By 1905, the City of Venice wanted Santa Monica to stop discharging raw sewage at Pier Avenue polluting the beaches in their new, popular beach resort; so they offered Santa Monica a free year of shared use of their septic tank, which was still under construction. When a storm took out the end of the Pier Avenue Wharf, and damaged the outfall pipe, the Santa Monica trustees took Venice up on the offer.¹⁶ City Engineer James installed an electric pump at Pier Avenue, and various other instruments to make the connection work.¹⁷ Soon the two-city septic tank was completed and put into service.

¹¹ *Notables of the West, Press Reference Library Western Edition*, Vol. II, published by International News Service, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, Atlanta, 1915

¹² *Superior Court Case #35636, Cameron E. Thom et al Vs Town of Santa Monica, et al*, filed October 24, 1900, Los Angeles Area Court Records Collection, Huntington Library, San Gabriel, California

¹³ (untitled), *Santa Monica Outlook*, Santa Monica, California, January 28, 1901

¹⁴ *The First Rain*, *Santa Monica Outlook*, Santa Monica, California, October 26, 1901

¹⁵ *More Kicks From Mr. Meigs*, *Santa Monica Outlook*, Santa Monica, California, February 5, 1902

¹⁶ *Invitation to Mix Sewage*, *Santa Monica Outlook*, Santa Monica, California, May 24, 1905

¹⁷ *Marine Street Pier Permit*, *Santa Monica Outlook*, Santa Monica, California, June 2, 1905, City Engineer Makes Report, Santa

Within weeks it was clear the engineers didn't have the science right. The stench from the system became so unbearable that people crowded into the Venice Trustee meeting hall to complain. They decided that the "bugs" in the tank were overworked and it was Santa Monica's fault, which made no sense relative to how the sewage would actually be neutralized. They wanted Santa Monica out.¹⁸ The only alternative for Santa Monica was to go back using to the old, broken Pier Avenue outfall that dumped raw sewage onto resort beaches. Neither city wanted that, so Santa Monica stayed, and began planning its own septic system to neutralize sewage. The Committee on Sewers recommended that the trustees pursue construction of a septic tank in South Side Park. It was on the shore line, not too close to the Pier Avenue amusement district to cause an ick-factor that would be bad for business, but not so far as to require too much expensive reversal of sewer line grades leading to the tank. Learning from the mistakes made in Venice, the Santa Monica Trustees and City Engineer did an extensive study of the latest septic technology of the day. All the lengthy reports were reprinted in the local papers for months in an effort to give anxious residents confidence that there was actual science that could really neutralize the sewage. The city engineer drew up plans. Six months later they were still planning as outcries from Bay Street area neighbors forced them to redesign the septic tank for Pier Avenue instead, and to consider repairing the outfall pipe there. An outcry from those quarters moved consideration to a long trunk line all the way to the Hyperion outfall built by the City of Los Angeles several years earlier. But that would require all the towns in between to organize and work together, which would be like herding cats.¹⁹

While septic tank plans were focused elsewhere, the city engineer's recommendations for South Side Park improvements surfaced again. In addition to preparing the soil, he wanted to build three incline walks with gravel surfaces that would connect the park to Ocean Avenue. These would be accomplished by terracing the bluff, not unlike what the city had just done on a larger scale when building the California Incline, and the Idaho and Oregon Trails down the face of the Palisades bluff. He would take care of the infrastructure, but the engineer suggested turning the planting and beautification of the park over to the Women's Civic Club, and the Village Improvement Society.²⁰ H. Rowland Lee, the landscaper gardener who designed the first plan for the improvement of Palisades Park including the iconic rustic fence many years earlier (much of his design

Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, June 2, 1905

¹⁸ *Every Bacillus is Overworked*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, October 24, 1905

¹⁹ *Still Talking About the Septic Sewers*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, October 2, 1906

²⁰ *Engineer's Report On Park Improvement*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, February 12, 1907

was implemented by E.H. Sweetser and still remains there today), suggested that the trustees get a professional landscaper to plan South Side Park for them, rather than an engineer and a few community groups.²¹ No action could be taken until the wandering septic tank plans came to a rest.

The Santa Monica Trustees also considered a sewer route to Port Los Angeles at Temescal Canyon, a septic tank on Eighth Street with a eucalyptus tree farm next to it to absorb the effluent, and more. Each new idea, or return to an old one, solicited another roar of opposition that stopped it in its tracks. Finally, after two years of wasted planning for waste, at a Board of Trade meeting Roy Jones, the son of one of Santa Monica's founders, offered the old Jones Wharf location at Colorado Avenue for an outfall to discharge the city's effluent. He stipulated that the wharf on his property would have to be substantial, not makeshift, the pipe would have to be secured to the wharf rather than the ocean floor so it would better withstand storms, and the septic tank would have to be on land immediately adjacent to the outfall. As the discussion progressed, it was suggested that the wharf could be made especially substantial by the use of concrete piles. The new plan would remove the need for the pumping station on Bay Street, allowing it to be a "real park."²² This was the first public appearance of the Santa Monica Municipal Pier. The trustees jumped on board.²³ And so did everybody else. On September 27, 1907, a bond measure passed by a margin of eight-to-one in favor, to build the new 1600-foot concrete Municipal Pier.²⁴

With sewage matters finally decided, South Side residents lobbied the trustees for \$2000 to spend on South Side Park in April 1908.²⁵ The request was filed, which was the trustees' polite way of ignoring it. Nine months later in February 1909, while preparing to do adjacent street work, the city discovered it had lost the title to the park to one C.W. Smith, who had purchased it at a delinquent tax sale nine years earlier.²⁶ It turned out that in 1897, when the city acquired the park from its previous South Santa Monica owners, it was on the County Tax Collector's delinquent tax list. It was sold to Smith in 1898 without proper notice to the Town of Santa Monica as owner that would have allowed the city to redeem the property from the sale.²⁷ Smith, who turned out to be somewhat of a swindler, wanted \$5000 to turn the park back over to the city, which had

²¹ *Election Ordinance Passed Last Night*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, February 19, 1907

²² *New Plan Urged for Disposal of Sewage*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, September 3, 1907

²³ *Citizens Committee Will Investigate*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, September 4, 1907

²⁴ *Heavy Majority for Sewer Bonds*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, September 28, 1907

²⁵ *Many Matters Came Before City Council at Last Night's Meeting*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, April 28, 1908

²⁶ *City Holds No Title to "South Side Park"*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, May 9, 1908

²⁷ *City's Title Is All Right*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, February 3, 1909

paid only \$50 for it eleven years earlier without having spent a dime to improve it in the intervening years.²⁸ The Los Angeles courts voided the sale to Smith, Smith appealed the decision to the Supreme Court, and the higher court upheld the first decision. All was square.²⁹ In December 1910, the very energetic Park Commissioner Edward Healey Sweetser solicited bids for construction of a pergola in South Side Park. Mr. Sweetser had only just finished a large redwood pergola that serves as a windbreak in Palisades Park to this day, which he accomplished by donating his own annual salary back to the city to pay for it. While bids were coming in for the South Side Park project, the Park Commission teamed up with the *Santa Monica Outlook* newspaper to run a contest for a new name for the beachfront parcel. The lucky winner was to receive a one-year subscription to the *Outlook*. Contestants were reminded “the park has some hard ground—the end of the Palisades—and then runs down to the surf and is washed by the waves.”³⁰ These were things to consider when crafting a name for it. Thomas Evans of Bay Street submitted the winning name, Crescent Bay Park.³¹ It was made official on February 6, 1911. The park included all the property described in the original deed, west of Ocean Avenue to the east side of Ocean Front Promenade, and from the north line of Bicknell Avenue to a line parallel with, and 120 feet north of the north side of Bay Street.³²

The Eureka Planing Mill Company of Los Angeles won the \$2000 contract to build the pergola.³³ Passersby watched as the columns rose from the sand, first twenty-three, then over forty, soon to be “multitudes.” They were purported to be over ten feet high, though in fact they are closer to seven feet. The foreman noted that his was the same team that had built the columns in Venice of America seven years earlier.³⁴ They may have been among the over 1200 workers Abbot Kinney had in his employ when rushing to ready his dream city for its opening day back in 1904.³⁵ Eureka Planing Mill Company was founded in May 1904 with \$500 subscribed and five directors, G.H. and M.J. Vosburgh, W.H. Wilkes, S.T. Davidson, and B.P.E. Wilkins.³⁶ A review of Los Angeles area newspapers, and weekly trade publications such as the *Southwest Contractor and Manufacturer* found that Eureka did not have a brisk business, nor did the company

²⁸ *Surprise, Without Title To City Park*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, February 12, 1909

²⁹ (untitled), Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, June 16, 1909, Supreme Court Saves City Crescent Park, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, February 14, 1912

³⁰ *Want Name For New City Park*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, December 19, 1910

³¹ *Many New Names For the Park*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, December 21, 1910

³² *Special Ordinance No. 149*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, February 6, 1911

³³ *New Park Is In Fine Shape*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, February 8, 1911

³⁴ *Impressions of the World's Greatest Beach Resorts*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, March 16, 1911

³⁵ *Venice California, Coney Island of the Pacific*, by Jeffrey Stanton, Donahue Publishing, Los Angeles, California, 2005

³⁶ *Planing Mill*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, May 10, 1904

contribute to any significant area architecture apart from a small role in a large Los Angeles office building built by Henry Huntington, which still stands at Sixth and Main Streets today.³⁷ In 1908, Los Angeles County Supervisor S.T. Eldridge, who was related to four members of the Board of Directors of Eureka by marriage, and was frequently fingered on suspicion of below board behavior, was accused of nepotism. It was discovered that \$16,824.29 in county funds were paid to Eureka in one year, which included all of the county projects for the fiscal year 1907-1908.³⁸ Eureka came close to being the contractor for the Grand Central Market in Los Angeles in 1910, which would have made the company a name in a less infamous way, if the project hadn't fallen to another team after a public uproar over the location.³⁹ The Eureka Planing Mill Company appears to have gone out of business in 1912, shortly after completing the pergola in Crescent Bay Park.

The pergola in Crescent Bay Park, in fact, consists of sixty identical, Tuscan-style columns arranged in an area that is approximately 170 feet long and 15 feet deep supporting an open wooden trellis. The columns stand on a concrete curb running the length of the pergola, parallel to the shore of the Pacific Ocean. Thirty feet at each end is approximately two feet wider than the connecting center span. The end caps feature groupings of two and three columns that support an extra layer of cross beams, resulting in extra height. Breaks in the curbing within the end caps provide access. The center span is supported by single, widely spaced columns supporting a simpler trellis structure. Each cross beam has an extended, carved tail. The pathway beneath the trellis is paved with square clay tiles, which do not extend all the way to the edges. Historic photos indicate that the gaps were used as planters for vines. Today, as an individual historic resource, the pergola in Crescent Bay Park has a very high degree of historic integrity.

Before long Santa Monica's third city park, and the first not granted by the founders, was listed among the seaside town's many attractions, even though it had not yet been landscaped. Mr. Sweetser's next, and last contribution to the city's parks before stepping down from the Park Commission was the Craftsman-style ornamental gateway at Idaho Avenue in Palisades Park. The new Park Commissioners picked up where the enthusiastic and productive Mr. Sweetser left off. At the top of their agenda were

³⁷ *The Contractors of the New Huntington Building*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, August 14, 1904

³⁸ *Claimed Eldridge Showed Favors To Big Mill Company*, Los Angeles Herald, Los Angeles, California, October 1, 1908

³⁹ *Contracts Awarded, Market Building*, Southwest Contractor and Manufacturer, Vol. 4, Number 12, January 29, 1910, *City Market Los Angeles, Historic Resource Report*, GPA Consulting, January 2013, Revised June 2013, and April 2014

improvements in Palisades Park, but they were also on the case in Crescent Bay Park, where in 1914, they remodeled the abandoned pump house to create a public restroom, planted grass in the lower level of both the north as south sides of the park, and installed flowerbeds, and placed benches on the south side, all under the direction of well-known landscaper Louis Le Grande, and his superintendent and nephew, Leon de Staute. Le Grande, a former Superintendent of Parks in Los Angeles, was also working on a redesign of Palisades Park at the time, which turned out to be very controversial, so that plan was only implemented in the first block of the bluff park at Colorado Avenue. On the low bluff that served as a backdrop to Crescent Bay Park, Le Grande and de Staute planted Holipensis Pines and red and white geraniums. A curb was added to the west edge along The Promenade, and a low Coprasmus hedge was planted there to prevent drifting sand from infiltrating the lawn. The pergola was planted with vines, and a rustic summerhouse was placed at the corner of Bicknell and Ocean Avenue where a similar gazebo stands today. The symmetry and formal geometry of the long pergola, the defining of the spaces in the park with low hedges (and later a low wall), and the overall simplicity punctuated by these classical details are reflective of Beaux Arts-style landscapes popular in the United States in the early Twentieth Century. Around the new restrooms on the section north of Bay Street, gravel walks were laid. There was a stone fence on the Ocean Avenue side, and a drinking fountain. But plants were not yet in the budget for the north end of the park that year.⁴⁰

In 1916, the city was working with the Andrew Carnegie Corporation to build the city's second public library on the South Side and the City Commissioners (a new city charter turned the Trustees into Commissioners in 1914) thought Crescent Bay Park would be a good location because they would not have to lay out any cash for land. Fortunately, that idea was nixed, likely because of the deed restriction, though the resolution to the question was never reported.⁴¹ The library was built at the corner of Main Street and Ocean Park Boulevard where it still stands today. In 1924, with the sacrifices veterans of the Great War made for world peace still reasonably fresh in people's minds, Santa Monica hoped to honor the local chapter of the American Legion by granting them permission to build a new clubhouse in Crescent Bay Park, assuming legal barriers could be overcome, again, the deed restriction.⁴² Instead, the Legion built a beachfront clubhouse at the foot of Wilshire Boulevard on North Beach later that year.

⁴⁰ *Grass For Parks Is Plan Now*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, January 17, 1914, *Pretty Crescent Park*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, April 18, 1914, *Park Commission's Report of Past Year*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, December 19, 1914

⁴¹ *Bay Street Park For Library Site*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, October 5, 1916

⁴² *American Legion Will Build Clubhouse In Crescent Bay Park*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, January 16, 1924

By early 1926, Santa Monica was reworking the sewer infrastructure in the city in preparation to finally connect to the Los Angeles Outfall at the Hyperion Plant. The septic tank and outfall pipe at Colorado Avenue were to remain in place in case of emergency, but would no longer be used once the city was finally hooked up with the Los Angeles system. As part of the new set up, Crescent Bay Park became the site of a new sewage receiving station and sewer pump where the 1901 unit had been replaced with 1914 restrooms. The pump was necessary to bring coastal sewage (including waste from Pacific Palisades) up to the level of Main Street where the main pipe leading to the Hyperion plant was laid. Main Street was being widened that year by moving all the buildings on the west side of the street back fifteen feet. It was the perfect time to lay a sewer conduit there. Once the new plant was installed in the park, new restrooms were added to it (they were moved south of the park in 1939). By June of 1927, Santa Monica was ready to be hooked up to the regional sewer system. But Los Angeles and the other cities working on their own parts of the connection were behind schedule, pushing the final hook-up to September 1929.

While the pump station was under construction, the Poppy group of Girl Scouts planted five trees in Crescent Bay Park.⁴³ In 1934, artist Jesse “Vet” Anderson was commissioned to carve heroic figures of buffaloes and Indians into the bluff face in Crescent Bay Park.⁴⁴ Anderson, who soon after completing the work was admitted to the West Los Angeles Soldiers Home with a nervous breakdown, had been a well-known newspaper caricaturist in New York before coming to California to work in cartoons.⁴⁵ Anderson’s relief sculptures of horses, created in 1937 for the WPA, still survive today in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.⁴⁶ Anderson’s relief sculpture was not the first carved in Santa Monica’s bluffs. In 1934, Fritz Henkel carved the face of Theodore Roosevelt into the bluff near Colorado Avenue. The very unpopular result of that effort was removed when the Olympic Tunnel was built under the bluff. No record was found of the fate of Anderson’s work in Crescent Bay Park.

In 1948, Los Angeles was forced to clean up a massive health hazard that the Hyperion Plant had made of the coastline, polluting it all the way to Santa Monica. It would be decades before the sewage was brought under control, but this was a step along the

⁴³ *Tree Planting Takes Place in Bay Street Park*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, April 12, 1926

⁴⁴ *Making Progress*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, August 15, 1934

⁴⁵ *Illness Leads to Novel Art*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica, California, April 9, 1935

⁴⁶ *San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching*, GG Park Sculptures - Vet Anderson, <http://www.sfhorseshoepitching.com/page/GG+Park+Sculptures++Vet+Anderson>

way. Santa Monica decided at that time to abandon the septic tank and outfall at Colorado Avenue that was maintained in case of emergency. The city built the new Moss Avenue Pumping Station, still in use today (though rebuilt), with a higher capacity and a more direct path to the main trunk line to the outfall south of the city.⁴⁷ The pumping plant at in Crescent Bay Park was obsolesced for the second and last time. The pump was removed and the site has remained vacant and unimproved for many decades.

In 1931, Santa Monica and Venice had announced a plan to solve the intractable traffic problems along the coast road that resulted in the PWA sponsored Roosevelt Highway Project with the accompanying Olympic Tunnel Truck Route that routed commercial traffic off the beach in 1935. The intention was to continue the tourist route along Speedway, the old sewer route, by connecting Ocean Avenue to it, and then widening Speedway to create a new avenue.⁴⁸ In 1939, in coordination with a grade separation project in front of the Santa Monica Pier that funneled traffic off the Roosevelt Highway onto Ocean Avenue, the city began a condemnation suit to acquire a right of way to open a two-block extension of Ocean Avenue that would cut diagonally from Pico Boulevard and Neilson Way to Bicknell Avenue and Speedway.⁴⁹ The broad cut resulted in small, unbuildable triangular parcels adjacent to Bay Street, one of which was just east of Crescent Bay Park, separated by Ocean Way. In 1967, the city finally completed the widening of Speedway as part of the Ocean Park Redevelopment Project, which included renaming it Barnard Way. For traffic-safety purposes, the block of Ocean Way between the traffic triangle and Crescent Bay Park was vacated. Both parcels were planted with grass and trees, becoming an addition to the upper level of the park. Only the sidewalk on the west side of the vacated block of Ocean Way was retained to create a continuous pedestrian route from Pico Boulevard south along Barnard Way, marking the original east boundary of the park.⁵⁰

In 1975, Virginia Thom Browning Kenney, a granddaughter of Cameron E. Thom who was one of the landowners that first contracted with the city for Crescent Bay Park, signed a Quitclaim Deed that compensated herself and her heirs for damages incurred

⁴⁷ *Plan and Profile, 15" Vitrified Clay Pipe Sewer in the Promenade From Colorado to Pico Boulevard*, drawn by H.O.N.M, Department of Engineering, City of Santa Monica, June 13, 1949

⁴⁸ *Four Major Road Projects Due in Bay Area*, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, February 8, 1931

⁴⁹ *Santa Monica City Deed No. 339, and Title Insurance Document Issued by Title Guarantee and Trust Company*, filed January 10, 1939, accessed through City of Santa Monica Public Portal: <https://publicdocs.smgov.net/>

⁵⁰ *Proposed Vacation of Portion of South Ocean Avenue*, Inter-Department Memo from Bartlett L. Kennedy, City Engineer to Perry Scott, City Manager, April 5, 1967, accessed through City of Santa Monica Public Portal: <https://publicdocs.smgov.net/>

from a change in use in the portion of the park north of Bay Street.⁵¹ The parcel became known as 1920 Ocean Way. In 1979, the city dedicated the parcel for affordable housing purposes. As of this writing, a mixed-use housing project is pending for the site, which remains vacant.

The rest of Crescent Bay Park between Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue remains very much intact, evoking a 1914 vision of parkage that continues to be a valuable asset on the beach today. It is also the only remaining portion of the South Beach waterfront that displays the natural topography of bluff and sand still visible through the terracing and planting of the bluff. The period of significance of Crescent Bay Park spans from its establishment in 1897, through 1967 when highway changes expanded its boundaries. A stairway on the face of the bluff in Crescent Bay Park was rebuilt in 1981. Its original construction date is not certain. The earliest record of it identified to date is an aerial photo taken in 1947; earlier aerials are not clear enough to distinguish it.⁵² The Coprasmus hedge installed in 1914 was replaced with a low, paneled concrete wall some time before 1945, according to historic photos.⁵³ The summer house (gazebo) at the corner of Bicknell and Ocean Avenue appears to have been rebuilt as part of the pergola restoration project. Recent four-foot tall chain link fencing has been added along the steep edges of the park, likely for liability purposes. In 2001 the city contracted to have the pergola faithfully restored and seismically retrofitted at a cost of \$224,700.⁵⁴ The September 25, 2001 staff report for City Council notes that the pergola was built as part of the City Beautiful Movement and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The city's Historic Resources Inventory updated in 2018, echoes that opinion.

Nina Fresco

April 14, 2019

⁵¹ *Quitclaim Deed, Browning Property*, Deed copy and Inter-Department Memo from Sheila Harrington, Legal Assistant, to Jerry Wilbur, Acting City Clerk, April 26, 1977, accessed through City of Santa Monica Public Portal: <https://publicdocs.smgov.net/>

⁵² *Aerial Photo, Flight c-11351-9, Frame 35*, University of California Santa Barbara Library, April 30, 1947, accessed through http://mil.library.ucsb.edu/ap_indexes/FrameFinder/

⁵³ *View Showing the Del Mar Club When it was Used as US Navy Relocation Center*, 1945, accessed through https://waterandpower.org/museum/Early_Views_of_Santa_Monica_5_of_6.html

⁵⁴ *Award of Construction Contract for the Crescent Bay Park Pergola Seismic Retrofit and Restoration*, Santa Monica City Staff Report to Mayor and City Council, September 25, 2001, accessed through City of Santa Monica Public Portal: <https://publicdocs.smgov.net/>



Above: Summer Residence of Captain C.E. Thom, corner of Bay Street and South Ocean Avenue. The house was set back from the road, nestled on a verdant triple lot. [Image: *Santa Monica Fire Department, Souvenir of Santa Monica, Published in the Interest of the Relief Fund of the Santa Monica Fire Department, 1902*] Below: The apartment building overlooking the abandoned park/sewer pump site north of Bay Street is located on the site of Captain Thom's residence, the trucks below are approximately where the sewer pump house was located. [Photo: NF, 2019]





Above: View southwest from inside pergola in Crescent Bay Park circa 1916. Square tile flooring surrounds planting beds for shubbery to create a shady retreat from the beach sun. [Photo courtesy of Roger Genser, The Prints and the Pauper]. Below: View south through pergola in Crescent Bay Park. Clay tile flooring and planting beds remain unchanged, although the beds are not planted today. [Photo: NF, 2019]



340:—CRYSTAL BEACH PARK, SANTA MONICA, CALIF.



Above: Postcard view of Crescent Bay Park looking southwest circa 1920. The Crystal Pier and Bathhouse are in the background. Cars are parked along the edges of the park. In the foreground is the sidewalk and parkway of Ocean Way on the east edge of the park. Below: Contemporary photo of Crescent Bay Park taken from a similar vantage point. The photographer was standing on the sidewalk that runs parallel to the east edge of the site. [Photo: NF, 2019]





Left: Newspaper photo of Crescent Bay Park looking southeast at a group of orphaned girls brought to the park as part of a day at the beach in 1928. While the materials of the gazebo are not discernable, the scale, shape and siting are documented. [*Orphans forget Troubles Here*, Santa Monica Outlook, Santa Monica California, June 15, 1928] Below: A contemporary image of Crescent Bay Park gazebo shows that the non-historic gazebo rebuilt some time in the 1980s continues to reflect the original design intention of the Beaux Arts inspired park by retaining its scale shape and siting. The old terracing also remains in place in the park. Note that the bluff is covered in low vegetation because the images were taken in springtime after an especially wet winter. [Photo: NF, 2019]





Above: View of Crescent Bay Park looking northwest with rows of parked cars in the foreground where a parking lot exists today, circa 1920. [Image Digitally Reproduced by the USC Digital Library, From the California Historical Society Collection at the University of Southern California] Below: Contemporary view of Crescent Bay Park from a similar vantage point. Where a popular electric tram passed in front of the park for many decades, the city has built additional parking facilities. [Photo: NF, 2019]





Above: Casa Del Mar with the north side of Crescent Bay Park, and Bay Street in the foreground. The image dates from some time between 1941 and 1945, when Casa Del Mar was used by the United States Navy as a recreation center for enlisted men on leave during World War II. A cement wall had been added in front of the park. [Image: Water and Power Associates, accessed through <https://waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html>] Below: View southeast towards cement wall, still extant, built circa 1940. [Photo: NF, 2019]



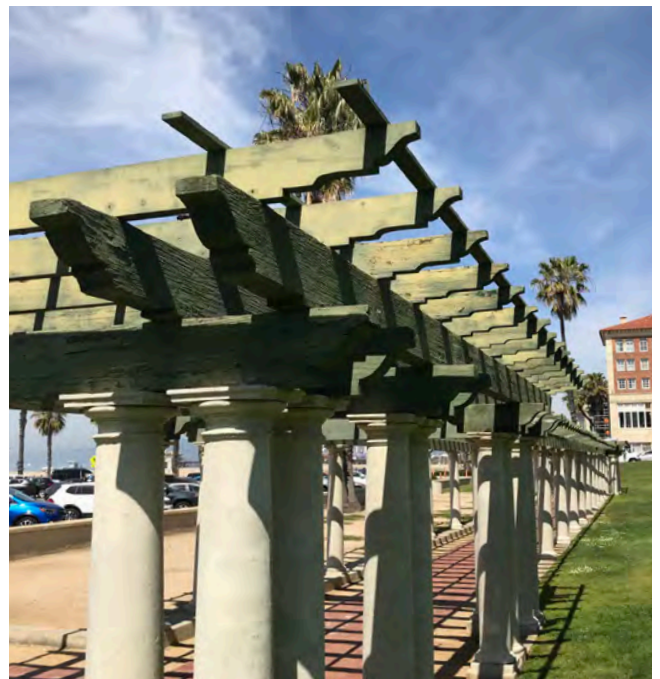


Above: Aerial of the Santa Monica coast at the beach in Ocean Park, looking southeast, 1933. Crescent Bay Park is in the center, the pergola, gazebo, and terracing are all discernable in this image. It is not clear if the stairway down the center of the bluff exists. The east park boundary clearly extends to Ocean Way. The restroom structure accessed by gravel paths is also visible. [Aerial Photo, Flight c-2773_7, University of California Santa Barbara Library, October 16, 1933, accessed through http://mil.library.ucsb.edu/ap_indexes/FrameFinder/] Inset: View of the north side of Crescent Bay Park restrooms adjacent to Casa Del Mar, circa 1953. [Image: Water and Power Associates, accessed through <https://waterandpower.org/museum/museum.html>] Below: Aerial of the Santa Monica coast at the beach in Ocean Park, looking southeast, 1947. In this image the landing for the stair down the bluff is clearly visible because of the contrasting plantings that surround it. The park is substantially unchanged from the 1933 view, but the roadway changes cutting through the blocks to the east have occurred. Note also that the Thom residence, just east of the north half of the park is still extant in both aerials. [Aerial Photo, Flight c-11351-9, Frame 35, University of California Santa Barbara Library, April 30, 1947, accessed through http://mil.library.ucsb.edu/ap_indexes/FrameFinder/]





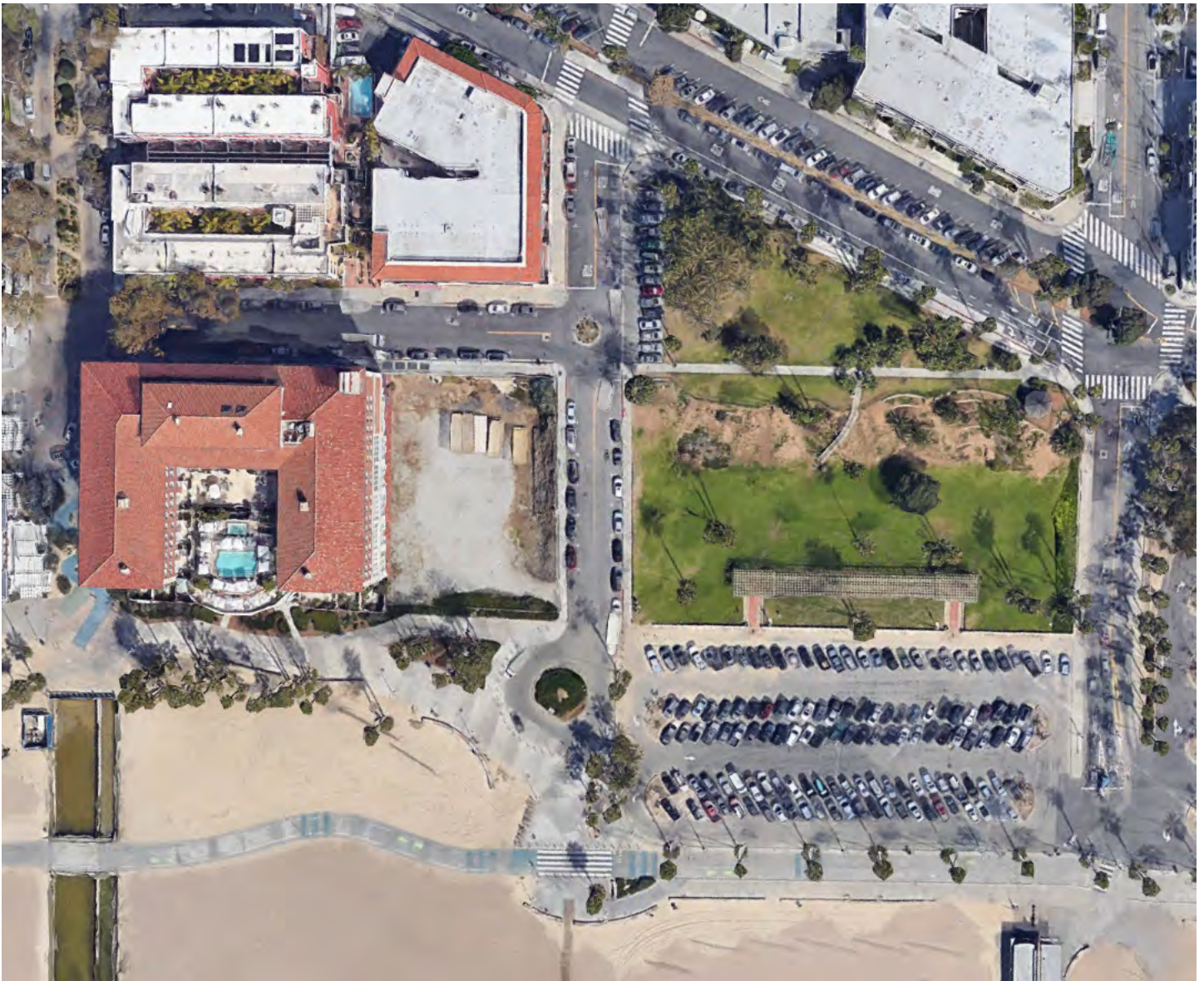
Above Left: Crescent Bay Park view northeast towards gazebo and terraced bluff. Above Right: Crescent Bay Park view east through north end of pergola. A pathway paved in clay tile leads from Ocean Front Walk through the pergola at both ends. Below Left: Crescent Bay Park view northwest toward the Pacific Ocean, stairs and pergola. Below Right: Crescent Bay Park view northwest towards Casa Del Mar. On the ends of the pergola, there are three layers of heavy cross beams with carved tails. In the distance the height of the pergola drops through the center span. [Photos: NF, 2019]



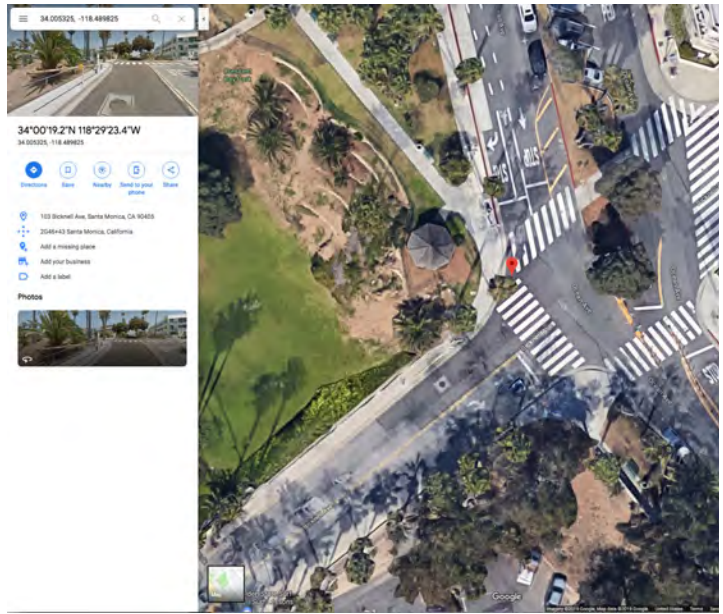
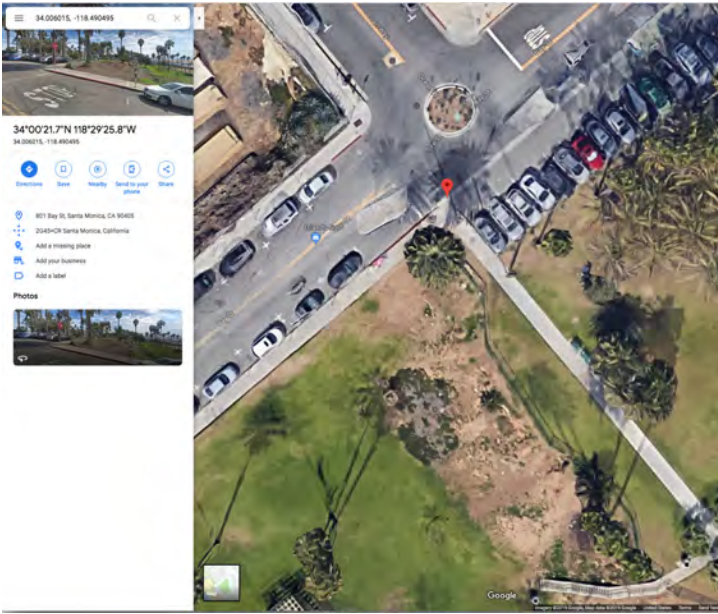


Above Left: Crescent Bay Park view northeast. The central span of the pergola has two layers of heavy cross beams. Above Right: Crescent Bay Park view west. The ends of the cross beams that comprise the trellis on top of the pergola are fluted. Below Left: Crescent Bay Park, north side, view northwest to Pacific Ocean and Casa Del Mar over north portion of park where a pumphouse and restroom were located. This parcel has been vacant since the 1950s. Below Right: Crescent Bay Park View northeast to south elevation of Casa Del Mar, which was built to take advantage of views of Crescent Bay Park. [Photos: NF, 2019]





Above: Contemporary aerial of Crescent Bay Park. Today Ocean Way has been vacated between Bay Street and Bicknell Avenue and the roadway area has been incorporated into the park along with a small adjoining traffic triangle. A sidewalk contiguous with the sidewalk on Ocean Way to the left marks the original boundaries of the park. [Image: Google Earth Pro, 2018] Below: Proposed revised coordinates for district boundaries 3 & 4 in the proposed Bay Street Beach Historic District are marked in red. [Images: Google Maps, 2019]



Philomathean Charity Club, Inc.

Lifting As We Climb, Through Deeds, Not Words

Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

April 20, 2019

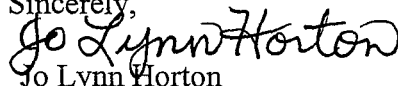
To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing this letter in support of The Sea of Clouds' efforts to have the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Santa Monica, Los Angeles County) listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Founded in 1921 in Santa Monica, California, the Philomathean Charity Club, Inc. is one of the oldest active African American Women's Charities in the State. Founding members resided in Santa Monica and some current members are residents there as well. We will celebrate 100 years of community service in two years. Our longevity is a testament to hard work and a determined commitment to our community.

The preservation of the Bay Street Beach Historic District aligns with our Club's mission to support students academically and socially and our focus on community outreach through charitable giving. We therefore applaud those who, like ourselves, feel that the history of the African American experience in this community be preserved for future generations.

We are hopeful that the California State Historical Resources Commission will agree, and vote affirmatively to recognize the cultural and historical value of this treasured site for the state and federal review process. We are grateful to and supportive of The Sea of Clouds for bringing this to the forefront.

Sincerely,

Jo Lynn Horton
President


Anise Harkey
Corresponding Secretary

JoLynn Horton
President

Veronica Hudson
Vice President

Georgia Taylor
Treasurer

La Rita Brown
Recording Secretary

Anise Harkey
Corresp. Secretary

Lee Bertha Pickett-Allen
Financial Secretary

Beverly Todd
Business Manager

Oweda Shipp
Chaplain

P.O. Box 1966

Santa Monica, CA. 90406



Q U I N N R E S E A R C H C E N T E R

*Gateway to Black Family History & Culture
in the Santa Monica-Venice Bay Area*

April 18, 2019

To: Michael Blum
Executive Director - Sea of Clouds

From: Bill &Carolyn Edwards
Quinn Research Center

To Whom It May Concern:

We the founders and members of the Quinn Research Center Board of Directors, are writing in support of recognizing the Bay Street Beach in Santa Monica as part of the National Register of Historic Places.

Our organization is comprised of people born and raised in the Santa Monica/Venice Bay Area as well as long time residents. We have all experienced first hand, life at the beach, namely Bay Street Beach. Equally we share pleasant memories of our families enjoying numerous holiday and week end picnics there.

It is our pleasure to support this endeavor and personally thank you and your committee for this culturally relevant nomination!

Sincerely,

Bill and Carolyn Edwards - Founders

Board of Directors:

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| Jayneen Buckman | John Singleton |
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| Darrell Goode | Dave Turner |

Bay Street Beach Historic District ONLINE PETITION [as of April 23, 2019]

change.org/p/ca-state-historical-resources-commission-support-the-historic-designation-of-bay-street-beach-santa-monica-calif

Please join us to support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County, CA) in the National Register of Historic Places; a primary seaside recreation and leisure site for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

ABOUT BAY STREET BEACH // The nominated 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the significance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as “the Inkwell”—noting the skin color of its patrons—the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

ABOUT THE NOMINATION // The Bay Street Beach Historic District—comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources—is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL REGISTER // The National Register of Historic Places was created through the National Historic Preservation Act more than fifty years ago and is the nation’s official list of properties worthy of preservation. More than 93,000 properties are listed in the National Register and represent 1.4 million individual resources. As only an estimated eight percent of listings represent women and communities of color, this project will contribute to the National Register better reflecting the breadth of the American story. The National Register is a program of the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior.

YOUR SUPPORT // State and national recognition of these exceptional coastal places areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Please use the COMMENTS section [see last page] to express your support and share your personal and family stories of Bay Street Beach. Your signature counts! Thank you!

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| CAROL LEMLEIN | Santa Monica | CA | 90405 | USA |
| NANCY CARTER | Santa Monica | CA | 90405 | USA |
| FRANK GRUBER | Santa Monica | CA | 90405 | USA |
| CHRIS CHARALAMBOUS | Santa Monica | CA | 90405 | USA |
| YSBELLA DIMACULANGAN | Torrance | CA | 90502 | USA |
| CINDY LEECH | Torrance | CA | 90503 | USA |
| JENNIFER LEGRAND | Torrance | CA | 90504 | USA |
| RYAN RAUZON | Torrance | CA | 90505 | USA |
| JOE GEEVER | Long Beach | CA | 90803 | USA |
| JUSTIN RAUZON | Long Beach | CA | 90804 | USA |
| ALEKS FIGUEROA | Long Beach | CA | 90813 | USA |
| LIZ CULPEPPER | Altadena | CA | 91001 | USA |
| TREASURE SHEPPARD | Pasadena | CA | 91101 | USA |
| TRACEY WILLARD | Pasadena | CA | 91102 | USA |
| KENT WHITE | Pasadena | CA | 91103 | USA |
| LESLI WHITE | Pasadena | CA | 91103 | USA |
| LINH TRAN | Calabasas | CA | 91302 | USA |
| HELMUT ZIMMER | Winnetka | CA | 91306 | USA |
| CEDRICK MEADOWS | Granada Hills | CA | 91344 | USA |
| JENNIFER TURNER | Tarzana | CA | 91356 | USA |
| JAIMIE ZIMAN | North Hills | CA | 91406 | USA |
| LYNN KRONZEK | Burbank | CA | 91502 | USA |
| GREGORY RACHAL | Universal City | CA | 91608 | USA |
| GUINEVERE PEREZ | Monterey Park | CA | 91754 | USA |
| MEGAN GEARHART | Pomona | CA | 91767 | USA |
| CADEN MERRILL | Upland | CA | 91784 | USA |
| BRONWYN MCKENNEY JARQUIN | Bonita | CA | 91902 | USA |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----|-------|-----|
| JULIA SOLA | Chula Vista | CA | 91910 | USA |
| JULIETTE SALIPHIOU | El Cajon | CA | 92019 | USA |
| KARL LUBER | La Jolla | CA | 92037 | USA |
| JILLIANN CORONADO | San Diego | CA | 92127 | USA |
| ELLEN DONALDSON | Cathedral City | CA | 92234 | USA |
| SAI KUMAR | Fontana | CA | 92336 | USA |
| BRITTANY MURRAY | Victorville | CA | 92392 | USA |
| MELANIE LINDSAY | San Bernardino | CA | 92404 | USA |
| FITU LEFEFE | Moreno Valley | CA | 92553 | USA |
| TRACYE PIERSON | Menifee | CA | 92586 | USA |
| MEGGAN KOFFORD | Lake Forest | CA | 92630 | USA |
| REBECCA SWAN | Huntington Beach | CA | 92649 | USA |
| BRET LEECE | Newport Beach | CA | 92663 | USA |
| GLENN BRUMAGE | San Clemente | CA | 92672 | USA |
| MARILYN KENNY | Laguna Niguel | CA | 92677 | USA |
| JAMES ROWAT | Trabuco Canyon | CA | 92679 | USA |
| LARRY RAUZON | Trabuco Canyon | CA | 92679 | USA |
| MELISSA HEID | Mission Viejo | CA | 92692 | USA |
| LINDA CHILDS | Anaheim | CA | 92801 | USA |
| JULIE CASTILLO | Anaheim | CA | 92801 | USA |
| DOROTHY FREDETTE | Anaheim | CA | 92801 | USA |
| BRYAN DIAZ | Anaheim | CA | 92806 | USA |
| LUIS ONFROY | Lodi | CA | 93021 | USA |
| JOSE PANTOJA | Oxnard | CA | 93030 | USA |
| STEVE MAHR | Ventura | CA | 93063 | USA |
| SHARLA RODRIGUEZ | Santa Barbara | CA | 93110 | USA |
| YOSHI KOMIYAMA | Mammoth Lakes | CA | 93546 | USA |
| SUSAN JORDAN | San Francisco | CA | 94121 | USA |
| JULIET HARRIS | East Palo Alto | CA | 94303 | USA |
| PATRICIA CHARBONNET | Concord | CA | 94520 | USA |
| MIKE CHARBONNET | Antioch | CA | 94531 | USA |
| NORMAN HENSLEY | Fairfield | CA | 94533 | USA |
| JAZMYN L | Fairfield | CA | 94534 | USA |
| ASH JONES | Fremont | CA | 94536 | USA |
| TREY MURRAY | Hayward | CA | 94543 | USA |
| CLEMINATU FIELDS | Oakland | CA | 94619 | USA |
| EDWARD STRES | Berkeley | CA | 94703 | USA |
| ROBERT DUNWOODY | Scotts Valley | CA | 95066 | USA |
| LYNN JOHNSON | Royal Oaks | CA | 95076 | USA |
| KEVIN ZENG | San Jose | CA | 95112 | USA |
| CORMIC BRENNAN | San Jose | CA | 95139 | USA |
| SARAH FATA | Stockton | CA | 95207 | USA |
| BARBARA PHAL | Ceres | CA | 95307 | USA |
| GAVIN MARTINEZ | Twain Harte | CA | 95383 | USA |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|----|-------|-----|
| STEPHANIE CURIN | Weimar | CA | 95736 | USA |
| MARTHA DOMINGUEZ | Chico | CA | 95928 | USA |
| SHERRY VICENTE | Hilo | HI | 96720 | USA |
| ALTON KAUAHI | Kailua Kona | HI | 96740 | USA |
| MATTHEW BACHELDER | Portland | OR | 97202 | USA |
| ELIAS LYONS | Portland | OR | 97203 | USA |
| CRISTIAN LUFKIN | Portland | OR | 97209 | USA |
| MACY LOOP | Portland | OR | 97223 | USA |
| JOHN LAMB | Portland | OR | 97231 | USA |
| JACK BERRYMAN | Portland | OR | 97266 | USA |
| TRAVIS NELSON | Willamina | OR | 97396 | USA |
| CHANCE HEDRICK | Eugene | OR | 97404 | USA |
| CANDIS MICHAELS | Oakridge | OR | 97463 | USA |
| ELIESHA SEBRA | Springfield | OR | 97477 | USA |
| CRYSTAL ROGERS | Central Point | OR | 97502 | USA |
| FRANCISCO MARTINEZ | Seattle | WA | 98119 | USA |
| BRENTON DAWBER | Seattle | WA | 98144 | USA |
| YVONNE STAHL | Bellingham | WA | 98229 | USA |
| ISABEL VOGT | Belfair | WA | 98528 | USA |
| LARRY ERIA | Vancouver | WA | 98686 | USA |
| JOE CRUZ | Pasco | WA | 99301 | USA |
| GINGER WIREMAN | Richland | WA | 99354 | USA |
| MICHAEL JOHNSON | Anchorage | AK | 99508 | USA |
| AHNA STEINER | Wasilla | AK | 99654 | USA |
| CINDY LOVING | | | | USA |
| AVA SUTO | | | | USA |
| JADELYNN HUSHAW | | | | USA |
| JAMES BUNCE | | | | USA |
| DEBORA REYES | | | | USA |
| LILLIAN KIELTY | | | | USA |
| MEGHAN JOHNSTON | | | | USA |
| MYRA MARKSBERRY | | | | USA |
| JODI SUMMERS | | | | USA |

| NAME | CITY | STATE | ZIP | COUNTRY | COMMENT |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|----------------|--|
| BRET LEECE | Newport Beach | CA | 92663 | USA | It is important to remember not to forget history in LA. Let it repeat itself. |
| CHRIS CHARALAMBOUS | Santa Monica | CA | 90405 | USA | As a resident of this very proposed district, proud to share the history it represents. |
| CHRIS CHARALAMBOUS | Santa Monica | CA | 90405 | USA | As a current resident of this proposed site, it's important to tell this story and to show a world in which we never want to return. |
| DON STINE | Los Angeles | CA | 90018 | USA | My family has been going to that beach since the 1940's The |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----|-------|-----|--|--|
| | | | | | | home beach of The Back Surfing Association |
| ELIZABETH HARRIS | Los Angeles | CA | 90069 | USA | | Done! |
| GLORIA GRAVES | Los Angeles | CA | 90043 | USA | | I am signing because on a daily basis African-Americans are told they do not belong in certain places and/or do not have the right to be some place. We are among the oldest inhabitants of the United States. Our history is in this soil (and sand) from coast to coast. Historical designations remind others of this fact. |
| JANIS TETT | Marina Del Rey | CA | 90292 | USA | | Un Americans for over 500 yrs. Jim Crow laws used against citizens born in USA non use of facilities |
| JENNIFER TROY | Baltimore | MD | 21217 | USA | | Our understanding of a place is richer when land and history are preserved together. |
| KENT WHITE | Pasadena | CA | 91103 | USA | | I'm down with the cause |
| LESLI WHITE | Pasadena | CA | 91103 | USA | | Because representation matters! |
| MARJORIE FORSTER | Baltimore | MD | 21217 | USA | | I want to guarantee the preservation of this historic beach. Everything possible should be done to ensure that this beach is preserved as an historic site. |
| ROMARIO RIVERA | Los Angeles | CA | 90042 | USA | | This is an important landmark for me |
| TRACYE PIERSON | Menifee | CA | 92586 | USA | | I can, and I am able, and I am proud |
| WESLEY GROVES | Los Angeles | CA | 90056 | USA | | Happy to support a piece of our iconic history which is often swept away like footsteps on the beach. |

M E M O R A N D U M

**PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
PLANNING DIVISION**

DATE: April 15, 2019

TO: State Historical Resources Commission

FROM: Landmarks Commission- Planning Staff

SUBJECT: City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission support for the nomination of the Bay Street Beach Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places recently filed with the National Park Service (NPS).

The City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission discussed the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places of the Bay Street Beach Historic District at their April 8, 2019 meeting. The Commission received comments from the public and agreed on the importance of recognizing this challenging and significant time in the history of the city and the region. Commissioners also noted appreciation for the detailed and thorough quality of the nomination.

The City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission unanimously supports the nomination of the Bay Street Beach Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.



Established 1975

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Mary Ann Powell
Pacific Park - Santa Monica Pier

Laurel Rosen
SM Chamber of Commerce

EMERITUS IN MEMORIAM
Louise Gabriel
Museum Founder

Robert M. "Bob" Gabriel
Museum Co-founder

Dr. John E. Gilmore

John M. Bohn

STAFF

John Klopping
Museum Manager

Sara Crown, MSLS
Archivist

Marc Wanamaker
Film Consultant

Ricardo Bandini-Johnson

Santa Monica History Museum

Cultural Center • Research Library • Photo Archives

Keeping History Alive

April 18, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816–7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation for Santa Monica's African American population. Many Santa Monicans have fond memories of Bay Street Beach as a welcoming gathering place that was the site of community celebrations, family picnics, and carefree days in the sun. As a quintessential beach destination, Santa Monica has long provided refuge from busy life, going back to before its founding, when Californio families hosted travelers in Santa Monica Canyon. Bay Street Beach is an integral part of our city's story.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Gabriel Potter, President
Santa Monica History Museum

Museum Address

1350 7th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

www.santamonicahistory.org

Phone: (310) 395-2290
Fax: (310) 395-2298
info@santamonicahistory.org

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 3059
Santa Monica, CA 90408

April 16, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons – the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (*i.e.*, below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marsha Smith

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 904-5200



April 15, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The California Coastal Commission staff supports listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in Los Angeles County in the National Register of Historic Places, thereby recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District was a historically significant coastal recreation area from 1908 to 1965 and was also a site of struggle, leisure, and contestation. Derogatorily nicknamed “The Inkwell” because of the skin color of its patrons, the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. This area was a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District, and its grass open space, pergola, sandy beach, and nearshore area (i.e., below mean high tide) are entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

Listing this Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places acknowledges barriers to coastal access that have existed in the development of the California coastline—especially for people of color. The Coastal Commission (through Coastal Development Permit 5-18-0267) recently authorized improvements to a portion of the California Coastal Trail in Santa Monica and required the City of Santa Monica to install additional wayfinding signage to direct coastal visitors to “The Inkwell” monument in order to increase awareness of the historic district and its significance relating to coastal access.

To reinforce the Commission’s commitment to environmental justice and racial equity across the California coast, Coastal Commission staff urges the Office of Historic Preservation to list the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Doing so will recognize an important period in California history, improve public access to and along the coast for all people, and support the mission of the California Coastal Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Ainsworth".

JOHN AINSWORTH
Executive Director



April 17, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Amy Crain
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

**RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination
to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Crain,

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains more than a million supporters, activists and members, with over 170 volunteer-led chapters and student clubs in the United States.

The Los Angeles Chapter is proud to support the listing of the Bay Street Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places, acknowledging the site's significance for African American Angelenos during Jim Crow.

One of Surfrider LA's primary focuses revolves around beach access. In addition to policing wealthy individuals and businesses that attempt to illegally block public access, our work in this area addresses some of the more subtle barriers to access that disproportionately affect communities of color in Los Angeles, impediments such as transportation, parking, and common-held misconceptions around who the beach belongs to. Through our One Watershed program, we host summertime weekend camps for kids from some of LA's most underserved communities, offering them an opportunity to play on their local beach, learn how to surf, discover coastal ecosystems and come to understand their rightful place on the California coast.

While there is no silver bullet to solve the myriad beach access issues in Los Angeles, efforts like the one before you will help to increase historical awareness and drive present-day equity for people of color along our coastal commons.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are as important today as they were during Jim Crow and the Bay Street Beach story is one worth telling. Elevating it through the National Register of Historic Places is a powerful way to honor where we've come from, where we are, and where we need to go in order for our coast to truly represent the people it belongs to.

It is with full-throated enthusiasm that we encourage you to support this important nomination, and we look forward to facilitating the designation of the Bay Street Historic District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Hamilton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Hamilton
Surfrider Foundation
Los Angeles Chapter Coordinator

April 14, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era. This will recognize the distance Los Angeles has come since the painful days of Jim Crow.


The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwel" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Lucia Edmonds, PhD
Former Neilson Avenue resident



California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

April 12, 2019

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

Our organization supports listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history in Southern California and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Krista Nicholds".

Krista Nicholds
President, Board of Directors

Preserve Orange County 206 W 4th Street, Suite 439, Santa Ana, California 92702
www.preserveorangecounty.org preserveoc@gmail.com



April 10, 2019

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816–7100

RE: Bay Street Beach Historic District

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I am writing on behalf of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) to enthusiastically support the nomination of Santa Monica’s Bay Street Beach Historic District, a public property, to the National Register of Historic Places. TCLF is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to document significant cultural landscapes throughout North America and to advocate for their stewardship. As such, the organization frequently submits testimony to municipal, state, and federal agencies regarding the stewardship of historic landscapes and acts as a consulting party under the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District represents a rare, extant example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure landscape. The district would comprise Crescent Bay Park, the Ocean Park Neighborhood Beach between Vicent Terrace and Bicknell Avenue (extending from the Ocean Front Walk promenade to the mean high-tide line), as well as nearshore areas. The district thus retains its historic setting as a public recreational beach, its relationship with adjacent beaches, and established viewsheds of the City of Santa Monica and the larger Los Angeles region. In 2008 the City of Santa Monica erected a monument at Bay Street and Oceanfront Walk officially recognizing the historic importance of the area.

The history of Bay Street beach clearly reflects the difficulties faced by African Americans in California during a period of segregation—difficulties that included gaining basic access to public space. Stretching from the western end of Pico Boulevard to Bicknell Street, this two-block-long stretch of Pacific oceanfront was established near the Ocean Park neighborhood and the Phillips Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (1905), the first African American church in Santa Monica. Called “the Inkwell,” referencing the skin color of those who frequented it, the Bay Street beach area emerged as a public resource where African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area felt comparatively safe from harassment and bigotry. The district’s association with Nick Gabaldón, California’s first

documented surfer of African American and Latino origin, who was raised in Santa Monica, further strengthens the historical significance of this cultural landscape.

As you know, historic African American cultural landscapes tend to be far more susceptible to loss from natural phenomena, such as flooding, and have frequently fallen victim to misguided municipal programs, such as urban renewal. A growing body of scholarship,¹ including assessments conducted by the National Park Service itself,² illuminates the circumstances that have prevented myriad African American sites from achieving historic designation. In fact, of the 94,364 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, only an estimated eight percent of listings represent sites of special significance to communities of color and/or women. Indeed, few cities in the nation can boast a well-preserved, 120-year-old African American leisure landscape. TCLF wholeheartedly supports listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. This site is important for understanding the broad patterns of our collective history, and its listing in the Register would promote a deeper and more inclusive understanding of the region as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR
President + CEO
The Cultural Landscape Foundation

¹ See, e.g., Barile, K. (2004). "Race, the National Register, and Cultural Resource Management: Creating an Historic Context for Postbellum Sites," in *Historical Archaeology*, 38 (1), 90-100; and see also, Jefferson, A. (2009) "African American Leisure Space in Santa Monica: The Beach Sometimes Known as the "Inkwell,"" in *Southern California Quarterly*, 91 (2), 155-89.

² See Kaufman, N. (2004) "Cultural Heritage Needs Assessment: Phase I. draft (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service); and (2008) "African American NHL Assessment Study" (Washington D.C.: National Park Service).



1444 9th Street
Santa Monica, CA
90401
(310) 451-1500

Heal the Bay

March 21, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816–7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwel" - noting the skin color of its patrons – the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.





Heal the Bay

1444 9th Street
Santa Monica, CA
90401
(310) 451-1500

This special location has been the cornerstone of our Nick Gabaldón Day celebration. The Black Surfers Collective, Heal the Bay, Surf Bus Foundation, and the Santa Monica Conservancy, partner on the Nick Gabaldón Day programming to reach out to families in under-served communities to inspire, engage and empower them through meaningful educational programming. We are helping build personal experiences with cultural, historical and nature heritage and civic engagement that are the foundation of stewardship, and the development of the next generation of civic, and heritage conservation and environmental leaders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meredith McCarthy".

Meredith McCarthy
Director of Operations





Ocean Park Association

April 11, 2019

California State Parks
Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing on behalf of the Ocean Park Association, the sanctioned Santa Monica, CA neighborhood association for the area nominated as the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) for the National Register of Historic Places.

Our community knows the proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District as "The Inkwell," and values it as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and pride for African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area. Blacks felt safe here and were able to enjoy themselves comparatively free from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site, as well as a community cultural focus.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, we understand that the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses—all factors appreciated by our members.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and membership, we support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Broad public recognition of this locally cherished area is important to understanding our history and promoting a deeper and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment—and the neighborhood we call home.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Morgenstern'.

Marc Morgenstern
President, Ocean Park Association



March 25, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The Surfrider Foundation would like to express our strong support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. The Bay Street beach area represented an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising a grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

As a coastal advocacy group, Surfrider Foundation's efforts include protecting and enhancing coastal access opportunities for all people. Coastal recreation is practiced by people from all backgrounds, races, ages, and income levels. Unfortunately, many barriers to coastal access remain for people of color in Los Angeles and throughout the United States. This is why the Bay Street Beach story is so relevant today and worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of such areas will enhance understanding of historical uses of the coast and promote more inclusive access to public resources.

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains more than a million supporters,

activists and members, with over 170 volunteer-led chapters and student clubs in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Stauffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "S".

Pete Stauffer
Environmental Director
Surfrider Foundation

April 12, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

**RE: SUPPORT OF THE BAY STREET BEACH HISTORIC DISTRICT (LOS ANGELES COUNTY)
NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I support a listing in the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as “the Inkwell” - noting the skin color of its patrons – the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District -- comprising an grass open space, a beach area, a nearshore (*i.e.*, below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area’s current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Ward
The World Stage Performance Gallery
4321 Degnan Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90008

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

I am writing in support of the Nomination
to the National Register of Historic
Places of the Bay Street Beach Historic
District, Los Angeles County, CA.

This step would help make US history more
inclusive and preserve the importance of
an important site in the history of the
beach front area in Santa Monica, CA.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith Bettelheim". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Judith Bettelheim, Ph.D.
Resident of Venice, CA.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. REC CENTER

3916 S. Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90062
(213) 847-0878 Fax (323) 290-2667



April 11, 2019

California State Parks
Attn: Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

RE: Support of the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

I'm writing to convey my support for listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District (Los Angeles County) in the National Register of Historic Places; recognizing its significance for African American Angelenos during the Jim Crow era.

The proposed 53-acre Bay Street Beach Historic District considers the importance of the area between 1908 and 1965 as a seaside site of recreation, struggle, leisure, and contestation. Sometimes derogatorily referred to as "the Inkwell" - noting the skin color of its patrons - the Bay Street beach area was proximate to an important African American civic institution and historical local neighborhood. It emerged in practice as a primary seaside public resource where its visitors, including prominent African Americans from Santa Monica and the wider Los Angeles area, felt comparatively safe from harassment. The district is both a rare example of an African American seaside recreation and leisure site as well as a community cultural focusing point.

The Bay Street Beach Historic District - comprising of a grass open space, a beach area, a near shore (i.e., below mean high tide) area, and a pergola as contributing historic resources -- is entirely contained on public trust lands. In addition to protections secured through a National Register listing, the Bay Street Beach Historic District will maintain existing visitor access, public amenities and safety services, nearby private property rights, public property ownership, and the area's current uses.

I support listing the Bay Street Beach Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Public recognition of these areas is important to understanding the broad patterns of our history and promotes a deeper, broader, and more inclusive interpretation of our coastal environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Griffin

Facility Director
Martin Luther King Jr. R.C.
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks

Should you wish to contact me, please feel free to do so at (213) 847-0878 or by email at eric.griffin@lacity.org. Have a wonderful day, and thank you again.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



May 17, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Mail Stop 7228, 1849 C Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20240

Subject: **Bay Street Beach Historic District
Los Angeles County, California
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the BAY STREET BEACH HISTORIC DISTRICT to the National Register of Historic Places. On May 8, 2019 in Palm Springs, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A with a 1908 to 1965 period of significance. The district is eligible in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Recreation/Entertainment for its contribution to seaside access, recreation, and leisure for African American Angelenos between 1908 and 1965. The property is eligible in the area of Social History for its association with the broader American Civil Rights narrative—in this case a demanding of access to, and proper enjoyment of, public trust resources.

The property is nominated by Sea of Clouds, a nonprofit organization whose practice spans the fields of historic preservation and environmental conservation. The City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission, in its role as representative of a Certified Local Government, unanimously supports the nomination. The correspondence file includes forty-one additional letters of support and a petition with almost 350 signatures. If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

Jenan Saunders
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure