



TEACHING TOOLKIT: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY OF PASADENA WALKING TOUR

AN EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT EXPLORING PASADENA'S
BLACK HISTORY THROUGH A WALKING TOUR

(STUDENT'S EDITION)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special thanks to Krystle Yu for designing and creating the toolkit.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

- 4 How to Access the Tour
- 5 About the Toolkit & Learning Objectives
- 6 Tour Overview

ACTIVITIES

- 9 Activity 1: Student-Led Presentations
- 10 Activity 2: Individual Essays
- 11 Activity 3: Extra-Credit

INTRODUCING TOUR STOPS

- 13 Introducing each tour stop
- 19 Additional research resources for tour sites

IN-TOUR Q&A

- 20 In-Tour Q&A

FEEDBACK

- ## This will be a section looking for feedback once the course has been implemented

NOTES



HOW TO GET TO THE TOUR

DOWNLOAD THE IZI.TRAVEL APP

Available on the Google and Apple Play Store

izi.



PREVIEW ONLINE

You can first preview the tour on the izi.TRAVEL website!

Search for the tour by name.



SEARCH FOR OUR TOUR BY NAME

"African American History of Pasadena Walking Tour"



SAVE THE TOUR ON THE APP

Click to save the app to your phone so that you can access it without WiFi.



EXPLORE PASADENA

Listen to NAACP's own Allen Edson explain the history behind sites on our tour



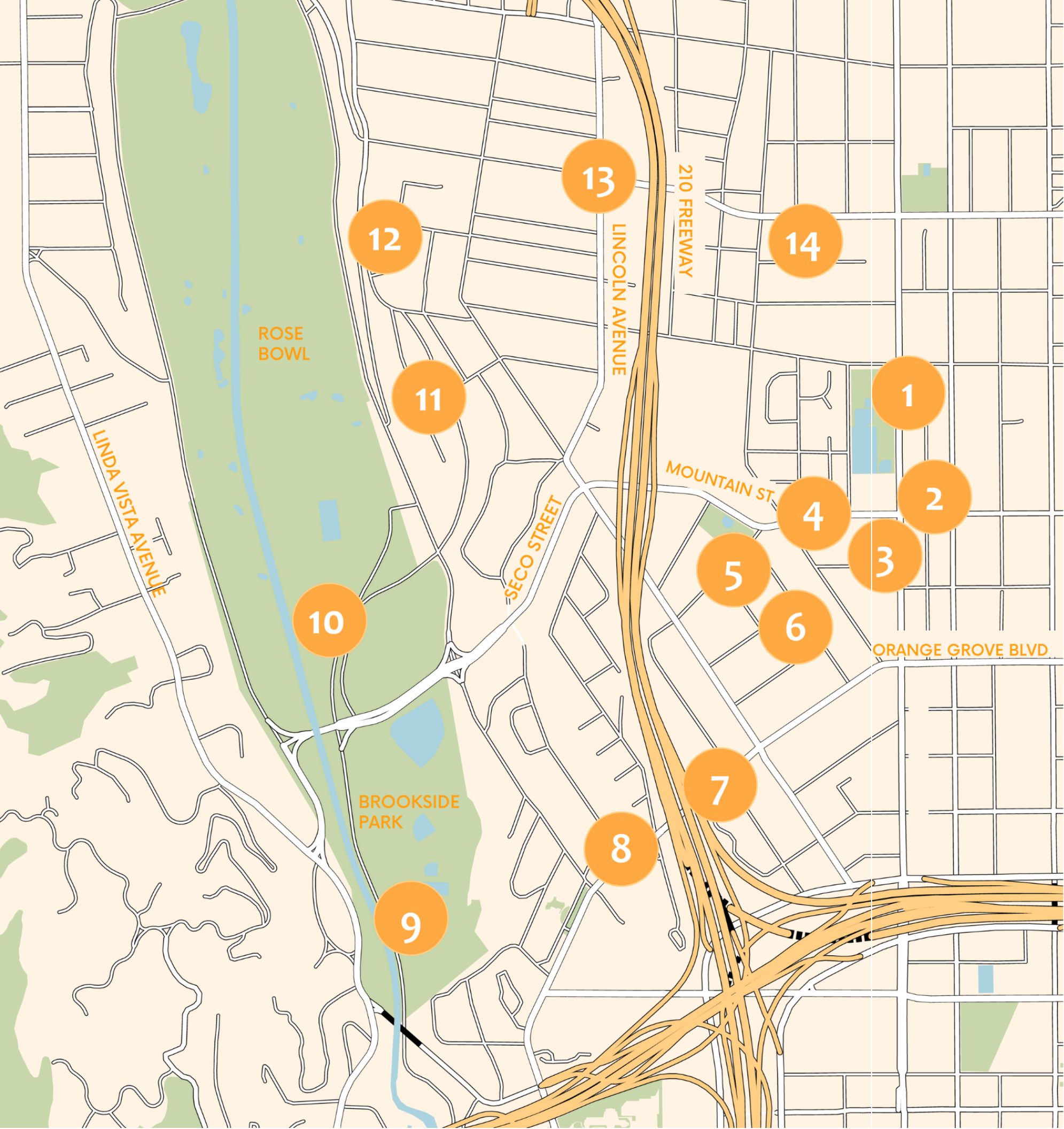
ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

The following toolkit offers activities and exercises based on the African American History of Pasadena Walking Tour, an educational tool created through a collaboration between the NAACP Pasadena Chapter, Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition, and Day One Pasadena. The materials offered here are meant to supplement students' existing understanding of Black history in the United States by helping students contextualize how these histories played out at a local level. Our goal is to support teachers in incorporating these lessons into their existing curriculum by providing them with tools and resources. Please use this toolkit however you see fit!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn how Black histories played out within the local context of Pasadena
- Students will have develop a deeper understanding of segregation, redlining, and other systemic decisions that impacted Black communities in Pasadena through local examples of community history
- Students will develop their abilities to research and/or contextualize community history

TOUR OVERVIEW



- 1** ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1062 N Fair Oaks Ave
- 2** DR. EDNA L. GRIFFIN'S MEDICAL OFFICE
891 N Fair Oaks Ave
- 3-4** CLARECNE A. JONES ESQ. & HOUSE
50 W. Mountain St. and 120 W Mountain St.
- 5-6** 855 MANZANITA AVE & WILLIAM H. HARRISON
COMPANY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
855 Manzanita Ave and 815 Manzanita Ave
- 7-8** CONSTRUCTION OF THE 210 FREEWAY
Orange Grove Viaduct over the 210 Freeway
- 9** BROOKSIDE PLUNGE
Now the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center - 360 N Arroyo Blvd,
Pasadena, CA 91103
- 10** JACKIE ROBINSON STATUE
South side of the Rose Bowl Stadium
- 11** RUBY MCKNIGHT WILLIAMS BENCH
1099 N Arroyo Blvd
- 12** DOCTOR'S ROW
Located along Solita Road
- 13** WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON PLAQUE
398 W Washington Blvd
- 14** JACKIE AND MACK ROBINSON'S CHILDHOOD
HOME
121 Pepper St



Student-led presentations

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Before embarking on the self-guided tour, ask students (in teams or individually depending on class size) to sign up to create short presentations on each of the 13 sites on the tour. Each presentation could be up to 10 minutes long, depending on grade level. In creating these short presentations, ask students to consider...

- ◆ What is the historical significance of this site?
- ◆ How does the story of this site relate to other aspects of our country's history (e.g. residential and job segregation, redlining, etc.)
 - ◆ Who was involved in this narrative?
 - ◆ Were there any conflicts involved? If so, how did these conflicts play out?
- ◆ What are the conditions of the site today?

Students can use the audio and resources provided in the tour as a starting point for their research into each site. As part of the assignment, each student can also be asked to visit their site in person to incorporate an in-person/outdoor component.

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Individual Essays

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Students should each sign up for one of the sites on the self-guided tours and write an essay (at the grade-appropriate length) on the historical significance of the site. In writing this short essay, students should answer the following questions...

- ◆ What is the historical significance of this site?
- ◆ How does the story of this site relate to other aspects of our country's history (e.g. residential and job segregation, redlining, etc.)
 - ◆ Who was involved in this narrative?
 - ◆ Were there any conflicts involved? If so, how did these conflicts play out?
- ◆ What are the conditions of the site today?

Students can use the audio and resources provided in the tour as a starting point for their research into each site. As part of the assignment, each student can also be asked to visit their site in person to incorporate an in-person/outdoor component.

Extra Credit

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Ask students in their own time to listen to parts of the tour as extra credit. For each stop that they visit, students can be asked to verify their participation through taking pictures at each stop, completing the quiz questions attached to some of the stops, or a mixture of both. **Future plan is to create a "passport" with stickers for each stop that teachers can then use to mark out which stops students have completed if this is something that would be helpful to the lesson.**

For the online quiz questions, each question is asking prompts related to the audio in the tour stops. Therefore, completing the short quiz question at each stop is meant to prove that students have also paid attention throughout the audio tour.

low, we've included a teacher's version (with answers marked) and a student version of the quiz questions.



TOUR STOP INTRODUCTION

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1

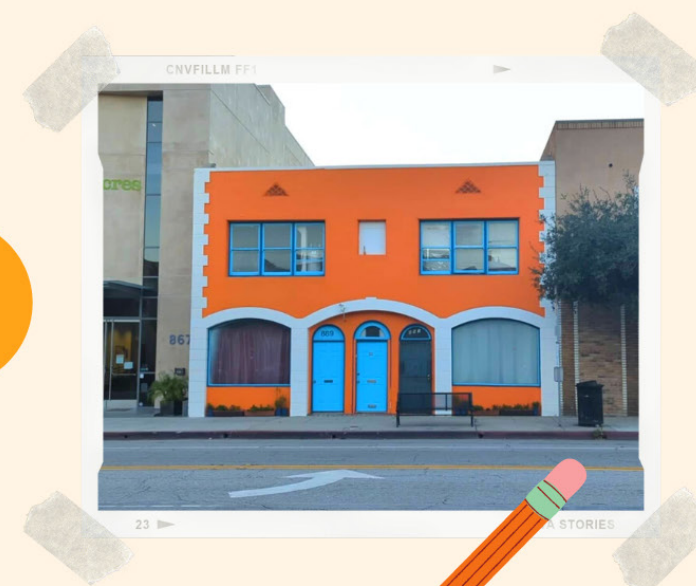
ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

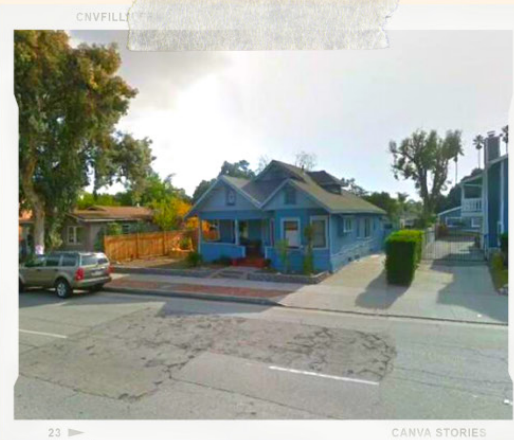
The background to the founding of St. Barnabas was the "Great Migration" of African Americans from the South throughout the 19th century. In response to white parishioners of the All Saints Episcopal church not wanting to pray alongside Black church members, the St. Barnabas Church was built in 1933 through the cooperative efforts of white and Black Episcopalians in the city of Pasadena. Today, St. Barnabas is an important site that plays a major role in the city's annual celebration of local Black history.

DR. EDNA L. GRIFFIN'S MEDICAL OFFICE

Dr. Edna L. Griffin was Pasadena's first black female physician. Dr. Griffin was also a key community leader. She was the first black woman president of Pasadena's NAACP chapter and led the effort to desegregate the Brookside Plunge swimming pool. In the 1940s Dr. Griffin also played a key role in combatting occupational segregation.

2





Clarence A. Jones Esq. (top)
Spec House (bottom)

3 & 4

CLARENCE A. JONES ESQ. & SPEC HOUSE

Clarence Jones ran for a seat on the Pasadena City Board of Directors in 1929. Although unsuccessful in his bid, it was the first time an African-American ran for a major municipal elected office. Jones commissioned a spec house at 120 W. Washington, which is a rare example in Pasadena of design collaboration involving an African-American client, contractor (Woodford H. Terry), and architect (James Garrot).

WILLIAM H. HARRISON COMPANY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & 855 MANZANITA AVENUE

Harrison made history as the first African-American Realtor in Pasadena. When talking about Harrison, former Pasadena councilmember Kennedy said, "He opened the door for Asians, Latinos and African Americans to not only own real estate, but to also have real estate as a business." (PasadenaNow). Harrison also contributed significantly to the fight to desegregate Brookside Plunge.

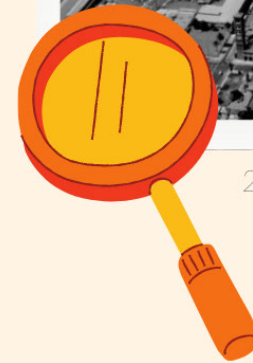
5 & 6



Manzanita Avenue House (top)
Harrison Housing Company (bottom)



210 Freeway Construction



7 & 8

CONSTRUCTION OF THE 210 FREEWAY

The construction of the 210 Freeway in Pasadena defied local community wishes and cut through communities of color in Pasadena after the area was deemed "blighted". By contrast, the wealthier communities of South Pasadena were able to successfully petition against freeway construction through their neighborhoods. Today, the Freeway plays an important role in SoCal's car-centric culture and has been shown as a contributor to disproportionate exposure to environmental harms.

BROOKSIDE PLUNGE

Brookside Plunge, now known as the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center was formerly a public pool that was racially segregated. In the late 20th century, the pool was at the center of a desegregation lawsuit that was ultimately successful. Before desegregation was pursued successfully, communities of color could only access the pool on Tuesday afternoons, a day deemed "International Day." More recently, the center was once again caught up in allegations of racial discrimination.

9



Brookside Plunge





Jackie Robinson Statue at Rose Bowl

10

JACKIE ROBINSON STATUE

Jack Roosevelt Robinson was an American professional baseball player who became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era. Robinson broke the baseball color line when he started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947.

His successes and challenges as an athlete are an important part of the story of desegregating sports in the US. Though racism is still a problem in our society, Robinson's major league debut brought an end to approximately sixty years of segregation in professional baseball, known as the baseball color line.



RUBY MCKNIGHT WILLIAMS BENCH

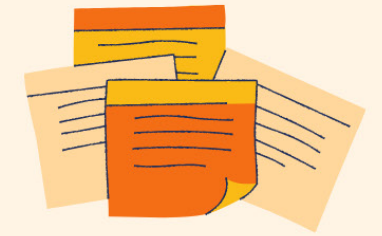
Ruby McKnight fought for housing and school desegregation in Pasadena during her time as the president of the local NAACP chapter and beyond. In 1958, the Pasadena NAACP determined that in her honor an award should be given to those who demonstrate excellence in community service.

Pasadena was the first school outside of the South to be ordered to desegregate in 1970. But even though school segregation was banned by law, in reality, it was continued by racist busing policies (A Noise Within).

11



Pocket Park with Ruby McKnight Williams Bench



12

DOCTOR'S ROW

Solita Road was also known as Doctor's Row because of the many African American doctors that would come to reside on the street. Despite their career success, these doctors were unable to live outside of this area because of the racial segregation at the time.

Dr. A.L. Traylor was the first to move to Solita Road. He lived at 1217 Solita Road and would eventually go on to become the NAACP Pasadena Branch President. Dr. IB English would move in across the street from Dr. Traylor. Dr. Wallace Moore lived just south of Dr. English.

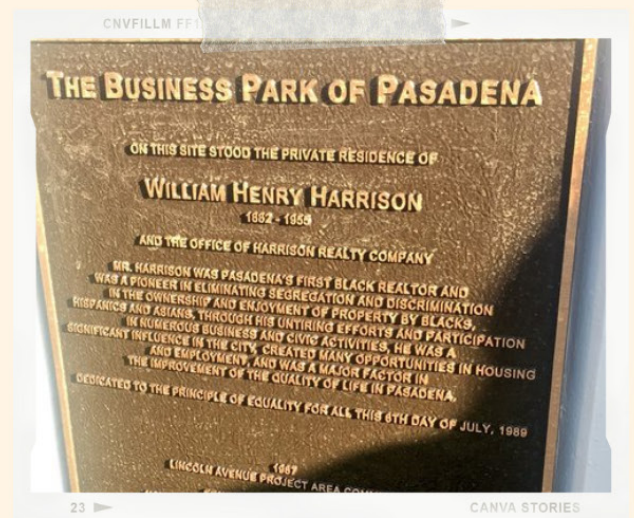


1217 Solita Rd - Dr. Taylor's House (top)
1218 Solita Rd - Dr. English's House (bottom)

13

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON PLAQUE

The dedication plaque reads in part: "He was a significant influence in the City, created many opportunities in housing and employment, and was a major factor in the improvement of the quality of life in Pasadena." For more information, see steps 5-6 of the guided learning outcomes section.



William Harrison Plaque



123 Pepper Street

Jackie and Mack Robinson
Memorial

14

JACKIE AND MACK ROBINSON'S CHILDHOOD HOME

Matthew MacKenzie "Mack" Robinson was an American track and field athlete.

He is best known for winning a silver medal in the 1936 Summer Olympics, where he broke the Olympic record in the 200-meter but still finished behind Jesse Owens. Despite this, He received little fanfare back home in Pasadena, not able to pursue an athletic career he would end up working for the city, at one point when Pasadena was ordered by the court to desegregate its public swimming pools, the city retaliated by firing all its black workers, including Mack.

When he was young his mother, Mallie Robinson, moved the family to Pasadena at what was then 121 Pepper Street. Mack Robinson would eventually go on to attend the University of Oregon and was honored as one of the school's most distinguished graduates. Today, several locations around Pasadena are named in honor of Matthew Robinson.

Additional Resources

All underlined resources are hyperlinks to websites and PDFs

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

- [Our Story - St. Barnabas Episcopal Church](#)
- [Black Churches in Pasadena - a Noise Within](#)
- [Thorns in the Roses \(Los Angeles Corral\)](#)

Construction of the 210 Freeway

- [The Interstates and the Cities: Highways, Housing and Freeway Revolt \(Pasadena Library\)](#)
- [Reparations for Pasadena Families Displaced by the 210 Freeway \(Colorado Blvd\)](#)
- [Just One Barrier, Freeway Development and the Construction of Modernity in Pasadena, CA](#)

Jackie Robinson Statue

- [Breaking the Color Line: 1940 to 1946 \(LOC\)](#)
- [Jackie Robinson Breaks Color Barrier \(History\)](#)
- [The Real Story of Baseball's Integration \(Atlantic\)](#)

Jackie & Mack Robinson's Childhood Home

- [Second to None: the Legend and Legacy of Mack Robinson \(Oregon University\)](#)
- [Mack Robinson \(CCCAA\)](#)
- [Hidden History: Mack Robinson, Jackie's long overlooked brother \(KPCC\)](#)

William Henry Harrison Plaque

- See sources for "855 Manzanita Ave. & William H. Harrison Company Housing Development "

Dr. Edna L. Griffin's Medical Office

- [Let There Be Life: The Contemporary Account of the Life of Edna L. Griffin, M.D. \(Pasadena Library\)](#)
- [City of Pasadena Black History Month](#)
- [Black History in Pasadena \(A Noise Within\)](#)

855 Manzanita Ave. & William H. Harrison Company Housing Development

- [City Honors Local African American Business Pioneer with Plaque Rededication \(Pasadena Now\)](#)
- [Pasadena Area History \(Pasadena Library\)](#)

Brookside Plunge

- [Mystery History - Solved \(Pasadena PIO\)](#)
- [Throwback Thursday | Revisiting Our Racist Past \(South Pasadena\)](#)
- [Thorns in the Roses: Race Relations and the Brookside Plunge Controversy in Pasadena, California, 1914-1947 \(Los Angeles Corral\)](#)

Ruby McKnight Williams Bench

- [Ruby McKnight Williams Award Dinner \(Pasadena NAACP\)](#)
- [Activist, 90, Sees the Fruits of Her Labor for Equality \(Los Angeles Times\)](#)
- [Ruby McKnight Williams Champion of Dignity \(Pasadena Mag\)](#)



On-Tour Q&A

Why was the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church an architecturally and historically significant site?

- A) The church is a wood frame building
- B) Was one of the first in the area to adopt its style
- C) Built through cooperation of white and Black Episcopalians

How did Dr. Edna L. Jones contribute to the Pasadena community?



- A) First Black woman doctor in the city
- B) President of the local NAACP chapter for 8 years
- C) Led efforts to desegregate Brookside Plunge
- D) All of the above

True or False: Clarence A. Jones was successful in his run for a seat on the Pasadena Board of Directors

- A) Yes, he was the first Black Pasadenan to successfully run
- B) No, he was the first Black Pasadenan to run for the seat

How did Dr. Edna L. Jones contribute to the Pasadena community?

- A) First Black woman doctor in the city
- B) President of the local NAACP chapter for 8 years
- C) Led efforts to desegregate Brookside Plunge
- D) All of the above

What were the impacts of the construction of the 210 Freeway?

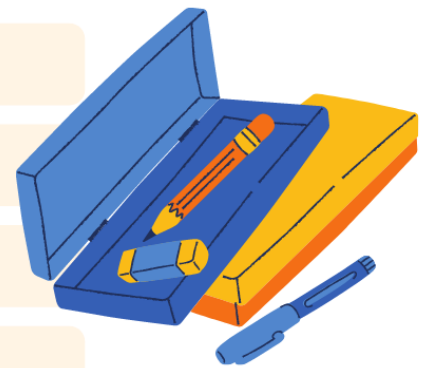
- A) Displaced thousands from their homes in northwest Pasadena
- B) Helped remove pollution from communities
- C) Freeway was welcomed by northwest residents

True or False: The case to desegregate Brookside Plunge was won in local court, not state court.

- A) True - local courts ruled in favor of the NAACP
- B) True - but it was later repealed
- C) False - the NAACP lost in local courts and appealed the state court

Trivia: what Pasadena schools did Jackie Robinson attend?

- A) John Muir High School
- B) Pasadena High School
- C) Pasadena Junior College
- D) Choices A & C



What positions did Ruby McKnight hold while in Pasadena?

- A) Kindergarten teacher
- B) Adviser to the NAACP National Youth Work Committee
- C) Choices A & B

