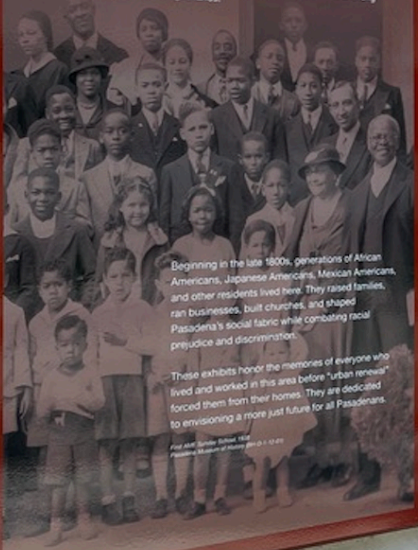


Remembering Real People, Places, and Faces

This small neighborhood reflects big chapters in Pasadena's past. It has been a corporate headquarters, a multiracial, multiethnic neighborhood, and long before that, Indigenous Tongva lands.



Beginning in the late 1800s, generations of African Americans, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, and other residents lived here. They raised families, ran businesses, built churches, and shaped Pasadena's social fabric while combating racial prejudice and discrimination.

These exhibits honor the memories of everyone who lived and worked in this area before "urban renewal" forced them from their homes. They are dedicated to envisioning a more just future for all Pasadenans.

Photo: 1911, Courtesy: Robert S. Taylor

Building Freeways, Dividing Communities

Freeways connect cities yet divide communities. Pasadena is no exception. It built the nation's first freeway to connect to downtown Los Angeles and also cut itself in half to ease access to the suburbs.

In the late 1950s and 1970s, thousands of people living in Pasadena's central and downtown neighborhoods were forced to move to make way for new freeways under eminent domain. Used by governments to acquire private property for "urban renewal" and infrastructure projects, eminent domain uprooted the urban neighborhood and permanently altered the city's landscape and community life.



EXPLORING PASADENA'S PAST

Visit the first site to the left. Located in Pasadena's historic 1910s-era Plaza, the site is a significant landmark. It was the first site to be built in Pasadena's historic 1910s-era Plaza. The site is a significant landmark. It was the first site to be built in Pasadena's historic 1910s-era Plaza.

The Heart of Pasadena's Communities of Color

Mapping Prejudice in Pasadena

This map highlights areas of historical significance related to racial prejudice in Pasadena. It shows the locations of various landmarks and neighborhoods that were affected by urban renewal and eminent domain.

EXPLORING PASADENA'S PAST

At Home in Old Pasadena

Beginning in the late 1800s, generations of African Americans, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, and other residents lived in this neighborhood. They raised families, ran businesses, built churches, and shaped Pasadena's social fabric while combating racial prejudice and discrimination.

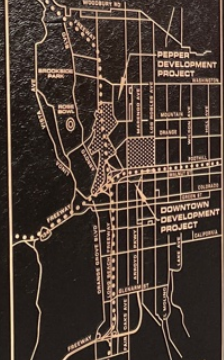


These exhibits honor the memories of everyone who lived and worked here before "urban renewal" forced them from their homes. They are dedicated to envisioning a more just future for all Pasadenans.



EXPLORING PASADENA'S PAST Forced from Home

Historic preservation is a noble endeavor, but it is not always done with the best of intentions. Original residents of Pasadena were often displaced by the city's central corridor and federal and state governments completed the Federal Freeway in the 1970s. Many who had lived here for generations were forced to leave. Too often, homeowners were not afforded to say to Pasadena with the funds they received through eminent domain. Many left the city altogether.



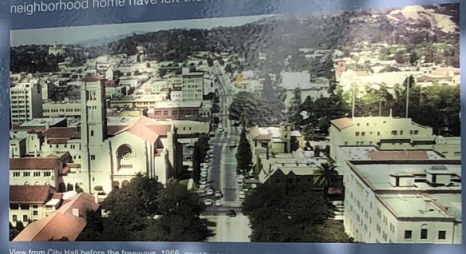
During and after World War II, the few neighborhoods in northwest Pasadena that were open to people of color became even more densely populated as immigrants. All too often, federal housing projects like the Pepper Project were sited in areas that remained controlled by predominantly white politicians throughout the 1980s.



EXPLORING PASADENA'S PAST

Places Change, People Endure

It's hard to envision this neighborhood before freeways sliced through the landscape. Instead of massive overpasses, imagine quiet streets, busy churches, and small businesses. Although their family homes and familiar places have been erased, the people who once called this neighborhood home have left their marks in countless ways.



View from City Hall before the freeways, 1966. *Open House*



First AME Sunday School - November 21, 1933
Pasadena Museum of History (BH-D-1-12-01)

The few people pictured here honor the many whose stories we honor.



Alice Brown grew up in this neighborhood, ran track for John Muir High School, and won medals in the 1964 and 1968 Olympic Games.
Alice Brown Papers



Fred Henshaw worked at Lincoln Market, was interned during World War II, and became the first Japanese American engineer at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1957.
Pasadena Heritage



Arthur Prince's family helped establish the First AME Church. Arthur later served as superintendent of the Enterprise School District in Redding.
Alison Matthews Photograph Collection, OBERLINIA



Jesúsita Mijares (best center) started making tortillas out of her home on South Fair Oaks Avenue, expanding her business into the family-owned Mijares Restaurant.
The Mijares Family



Pasadena Union Presbyterian Church (formerly Japanese Union Church), 1962
Pasadena Family Collection, OBERLINIA



EXPLORING PASADENA'S PAST

Pioneers & Entrepreneurs

Cattle drivers, entrepreneurs, health workers, Pasadena Black pioneers arrived with a host of skills and high hopes for a better life. Joseph Holmes drove cattle from Missouri to Los Angeles in 1849, buying a vineyard in Pasadena with the proceeds. William and Frank Pittman left Tennessee in 1868 to find work in Pasadena's nearby neighborhood. Like thousands of other early migrants, Boone and Camie McClain came here for health reasons. From a population of 200 in 1870, Pasadena's Black population grew to 2,000 by the 1970s.



ONE OF PASADENA'S OLDEST BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES STARTED HERE

One of Pasadena's oldest Black-owned businesses started here. In 1908, the first Black-owned business in Pasadena, the Pasadena Black Book Store, was founded by [Name]. The store was a success, and it remained a prominent part of the community for many years.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that [Name] was one of the first Black entrepreneurs in Pasadena? He founded the [Business Name] in 1908, which became a landmark in the city's history.



OLD PASADENA

LEASING

Public Parks and Open Space

Baldy Forest, a Living Classroom

EXPLORING PASADENA'S PAST

From the early days of settlement to the early 1900s, Pasadena was a physical and cultural center for the region. The city's history is a story of growth, change, and resilience. This panel explores the city's early days, from its founding in 1821 to the early 1900s. It features a map of the city's early layout, a timeline of key events, and a list of historical landmarks. The panel also includes a section on the city's early industries, such as agriculture and mining.

The Heart of Pasadena's Communities of Color

Mapping Prejudice in Pasadena

Neighborhoods, public schools, jobs, restaurants, movie theaters, swimming pools, and even the color barrier in real estate. Pasadena is a city of diversity, and it's time to acknowledge the role of prejudice in shaping our city's history. This panel explores the history of prejudice in Pasadena, from the early days of settlement to the present. It features a map of the city's early layout, a timeline of key events, and a list of historical landmarks. The panel also includes a section on the city's early industries, such as agriculture and mining.

TRACT EXCLUSIVE AND RESTRICTED

EXPLORING PASADENA'S PAST

Places Change, People Endure

It's hard to envision this neighborhood before freeways sliced through the landscape. Instead of massive overpasses, imagine quiet streets, busy churches, and small businesses. Although the buildings and familiar places have been erased, the people who once called this neighborhood home have left their marks in countless ways.



The few people pictured here honor the many whose stories we honor.

<p>Her dedication to the community led her to found the first high school in Pasadena in 1887.</p>	<p>His vision led to the founding of the first African American church in Pasadena in 1887.</p>	<p>Arthur Proctor's family helped establish the first A.M.E. Church in the city, which later served as a predecessor of the Emmanuel School District in Pasadena.</p>	<p>Her dedication to the community led her to found the first high school in Pasadena in 1887.</p>
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Passadena Senior Presbyterian Church (formerly Abbeville United Church), 1922

SIGN LOCATIONS

1 Before the Freeways
 Location: Pieroni and Walnut
 Sign type: Upright bronze line-art map
 Before freeways bisected the city, the corner of Lincoln and Fair Oaks — called the triangle or the tip — was a busy shopping and transportation hub for Northwest Pasadena and the central business district. *Note: This bronze panel features a line-art map locating streets and rail lines before and after the freeways.*

2 Black Entrepreneurs and Business Owners
 Location: Fair Oaks and Holly
 Sign type: Upright porcelain enamel panel

3 Forced from Home: Eminent Domain and "Urban Renewal"
 Location: Pieroni and Union
 Sign type: Upright porcelain enamel panel

4 Creating Community, Combatting Prejudice
 Location: Pasadena and Holly
 Sign type: Upright porcelain enamel panel
 Please note: this panel tells the story of the neighborhood along Kensington Place and Vernon Avenue (where the 210/134 intersects) and could mention some individual families, if that is the decision of the Northwest Commission's ad-hoc committee.

5 Redlining in Pasadena
 Location: Pieroni (closer to Holly)
 Sign type: Upright bronze line-art map
 Racial segregation shaped daily life in Pasadena throughout the 1900s. All too often, skin color dictated where people lived, worked, went to school, shopped, dined, and relaxed. Most Blacks, Asian Americans, and Mexican Americans lived in racially restricted neighborhoods, enforced through covenants, unfair real estate and lending practices, and prejudiced political representation. *Note: This bronze panel features a line-art map locating the redlined neighborhoods, the historically Black neighborhood on Vernon and Kensington Avenues, and the central business district. It may also feature the 1935 population chart assembled by the Pasadena Planning Commission showing where most African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Asian Americans lived.*

6 Keeping the Faith
 Location: Pieroni (closer to Mary Street)
 Sign type: Upright porcelain enamel panel
 Numerous churches ministered to the families in this neighborhood: Scott Methodist (Mary Street; now Orange Grove), Japanese Union Church (formerly Kensington Place, now Altadena), First AME (Kensington and Vernon), Friendship Baptist (Dayton St.), and St. Andrews.

