



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Landmark Designation Case Report

*Hearing Date:* March 16, 2016  
*Case No.:* 2015.007219DES  
*Project Address:* 1345 Ocean Avenue  
*Zoning:* (NCT) Neighborhood Commercial Transit  
*Block/Lot:* 6942/050  
*Property Owner:* Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center and  
*The Great Cloud of Witnesses*  
1345 Ocean Avenue  
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### PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS & SURROUNDING LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

1345 Ocean Avenue, known as Ingleside Presbyterian Church, is located on the south east corner of Ocean and Granada avenues, in San Francisco's Ingleside neighborhood. Irregularly shaped in plan, the building is almost rectangular except for following the diagonal of Ocean Avenue and at the northwest corner where it bows to rounded corner. Designed in the Neoclassical style by master architect/developer Joseph Leonard, the two-story-over basement church building was constructed of concrete in 1923. 1345 Ocean Avenue also contains culturally and artistically significant interior "collage-mural," a folk artists environment entitled *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. Begun in 1980, the collage-mural is a work-in-progress, created by church pastor Reverend Roland Gordon to inspire the community and highlight the accomplishments of African Americans.

The subject building is located towards the middle of the Ocean Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Transit (NCT) District that is characterized by variety of multi-family residential, garages, formula retail, and commercial buildings dating from the 1900s to the 2010s.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The case before the Historic Preservation Commission is a consideration to initiate landmark designation of 1345 Ocean Avenue, Ingleside Presbyterian Church and *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* as a San Francisco landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code, Section 1004.1, and recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve of such designation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS

The Planning Department has determined that actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment (specifically in this case, landmark designation) are exempt from environmental review, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class Eight - Categorical).

The Urban Design Element of the San Francisco General Plan contains the following relevant objectives and policies:

- OBJECTIVE 2: Conservation of Resources that provide a sense of nature, continuity with the past, and freedom from overcrowding.
- POLICY 4: Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

Designating significant historic resources as local landmarks will further continuity with the past because the buildings will be preserved for the benefit of future generations. Landmark designation will require that the Planning Department and the Historic Preservation Commission review proposed work that may have an impact on character-defining features. Both entities will utilize the Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* in their review to ensure that only appropriate, compatible alterations are made.

## SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1 – GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Planning Code Section 101.1 – Eight Priority Policies establishes and requires review of permits for consistency with said policies. On balance, the proposed designation is consistent with the priority policies in that:

- a. The proposed designation will further Priority Policy No. 7, that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved. Landmark designation of 1345 Ocean Avenue will help to preserve an important architectural resource associated with architect Joseph A. Leonard and an interior artistic resource, a work-in-progress interior folk artists environment dedicated to African American history and role models, that was created by Reverend Roland Gordon.

## BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS ACTIONS

In early 2013, the Historic Preservation Commission added Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center and *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, at 1345 Ocean Avenue to its Landmark Designation Work Program – acting on the request of San Francisco Heritage and the church's pastor, Reverend Roland Gordon.

## OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

IF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ADOPTS A RESOLUTION TO INITIATE DESIGNATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AS AN ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK AT ITS March 16, 2016 HEARING AND DIRECTS STAFF TO FINALIZE THE LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT, A SECOND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL OF THE DESIGNATION. AT THE

SECOND HEARING, IF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE DESIGNATION, ITS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE SENT BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. THE NOMINATION WOULD THEN BE CONSIDERED AT A FUTURE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING FOR FORMAL ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK DESIGNATION.

## APPLICABLE PRESERVATION STANDARDS

### ARTICLE 10

Section 1004 of the Planning Code authorizes the landmark designation of an individual structure or other feature or an integrated group of structures and features on a single lot or site, having special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value, as a landmark. Section 1004.1 also outlines that landmark designation may be initiated by the Board of Supervisors or the Historic Preservation Commission and the initiation shall include findings in support. Section 1004.2 states that once initiated, the proposed designation is referred to the Historic Preservation Commission for a report and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve, disapprove or modify the proposal.

Pursuant to Section 1004.3 of the Planning Code, if the Historic Preservation Commission approves the designation, a copy of the resolution of approval is transmitted to the Board of Supervisors and without referral to the Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors shall hold a public hearing on the designation and may approve, modify or disapprove the designation.

In the case of the initiation of a historic district, the Historic Preservation Commission shall refer its recommendation to the Planning Commission pursuant to Section 1004.2(c). The Planning Commission shall have 45 days to provide review and comment on the proposed designation and address the consistency of the proposed designation with the General Plan, Section 101.1 priority policies, the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation, and the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Bay Area. These comments shall be sent to the Board of Supervisors in the form of a resolution.

Section 1004(b) requires that the designating ordinance approved by the Board of Supervisors shall include the location and boundaries of the landmark site...a description of the characteristics of the landmark...which justify its designation, and a description of the particular features that should be preserved.

Section 1004.4 states that if the Historic Preservation Commission disapproves the proposed designation, such action shall be final, except upon the filing of a valid appeal to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days.

### ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK CRITERIA

The Historic Preservation Commission on February 4, 2009, by Resolution No. 001, adopted the National Register Criteria as its methodology for recommending landmark designation of historic resources. Under the National Register Criteria, the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association, and that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or that have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## PUBLIC / NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

There is no known opposition to designation of 1345 Ocean Avenue as an Article 10 landmark. The Department will provide any public correspondence received after the submittal of this report in the Historic Preservation Commission's correspondence folder.

## PROPERTY OWNER INPUT

The property owner is Ingleside Presbyterian Church Session, the ruling body of Ingleside Presbyterian Church. On February 25, 2016, Department Staff received a letter from Elder Lillian Hamilton, Clerk of the Session, on behalf of the Session stating their full support for landmark designation of the church and the interior collage-mural. (*Attachment C: Letter of Support*)

## STAFF ANALYSIS

1345 Ocean Avenue provides a tangible connection to the life and work of architect Joseph Leonard who has made significant architectural contributions to the development of San Francisco as well as the artistic contributions that Reverend Roland Gordon's *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* has made to art history. Intangibly, the building highlights the community-focused ethos of the church from its post-Earthquake reconstruction through the present day and the interior collage-mural, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, provides is an extraordinary documentation of San Francisco's cultural heritage, specifically African American history. Landmark designation will highlight and celebrate both aspects of the church's significance.

The case report and analysis under review was prepared by Department preservation staff based upon the attached draft Landmark Designation Report as well as staff site visits, research, and photography. The draft Landmark Designation Report was prepared pro-bono by Desiree Smith, Deputy Director, San Francisco Heritage, architectural historian Erika Schultz, with assistance, review, and editing conducted by Department preservation staff. All authors meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards.

The Department has determined that the subject property meets the requirements for Article 10 eligibility as an individual landmark. The justification for its inclusion is outlined below under the Underrepresented Landmark Types, Significance, Integrity, and Conditions Assessment sections below.

## UNDERREPRESENTED LANDMARK TYPES

The proposed landmark designation addresses two previously identified underrepresented landmark types: landmarks significant for cultural associations and landmarks located in geographically underrepresented areas of San Francisco. There are currently four San Francisco landmarks specifically



related to African American history: the Madame C. J. Walker House (2066 Pine St.); Leonard/Poole House (90 Cedro Ave.); Sam Jordan's Bar (4004-4006 Third Street); and Marcus Books/Jimbo's Bop City (1212-1716 Fillmore Street). In addition, the Eucalyptus trees at 1661 Octavia Street are landmark trees and "Structures of Merit" due to their association with Mary Ellen Pleasant. In regards to geography, there is currently one landmark in the Ingleside Neighborhood: Leonard/Poole House (90 Cedro Ave.). In nearby Balboa Park, there are two landmarks: Balboa High School (100 Cayuga Avenue) and the San Francisco San Mateo Railroad Company Office Building (2301 San Jose Avenue).

To address underrepresented landmark property types, the Historic Preservation Commission, at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 15, 2011, added 16 properties to its Landmark Designation Work Program. Many of these properties are significant for cultural associations such as organized labor, the Works Progress Administration, and ethnic and cultural histories including properties associated with African American, Jewish, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons, institutions, and events. Several properties, including Ingleside Presbyterian Church, are located in underrepresented areas of the City.

The Department believes that 1345 Ocean Avenue meets the established eligibility requirements landmark designation for its high architectural artistic values. The building and mural-collage respectively convey their significance as a representation of the Neoclassical style that was popular in the decades following Chicago's World Columbian Exposition (1893) and for its embodiment as a living Folk Art Environment dedicated to African American history and inspirational role models.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1923, 1345 Ocean Avenue is a church and community center that appears significant for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of type, period, and method of construction and represents the work of local master architect Joseph A. Leonard. Designed in the Neoclassical style, Ingleside Presbyterian Church expresses the distinctive architectural characteristics that were popular in the decades following Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian exposition. When Leonard was chosen as the church's architect, he was already well known in San Francisco and the Bay Area for his residential developments including the Queen Anne "Leonardville," in Alameda, and his Craftsman style "Richmond Heights" and "Ingleside Terraces" residence parks. Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center is one of Leonard's few extant religious structures, one of two known in the city.

Anchoring this section of the Ocean Avenue streetscape, the church's monumentality and unusually strong street presence is commensurate with its original post-Earthquake need to house nine protestant congregations and a community center for the "western Twin Peaks district of the city." When the church was completed, this programmatic need was said to be "different among churches", "offer[ing] to the church world...a new ideal." The church's first pastor chose to build a gymnasium, instead of including a pipe organ, in order to reach out to youth – the same community-oriented philosophy that attracted Reverend Gordon to the church almost sixty years later.

Begun in 1980, the church's interior collage-mural, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, is significant for its high artistic and traditional cultural values that embody the distinct characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. As a collage-mural created by the church's pastor, Reverend Roland Gordon,

the artwork makes significant contributions to the study of American Folk Art, African American Muralism, and particularly as a Folk Artists' Environment in San Francisco dedicated to African American history.

The designation report has revealed Reverend Roland Gordon as a not only a pillar of his community, but as a significant, self-taught Folk Artist for his artistic contributions to the study of American Folk Art, African American Folk Art, African American Muralism and Folk Artists' Environments. Among all of these topics, his techniques, subject matter, and inspiration, make *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* an exceedingly rare composition. The overall arrangement across multiple rooms and floors, expansive size that encompasses most of his church's interior, the distinctive choice of media (predominately paper clippings and copies, mixed with painted murals, and found objects) is unparalleled on this scale. Additionally, the creation of constructed themes (such as legacy rooms and rooms dedicated to individual role models), and the mix of contemporary pop-culture icons, combined with San Francisco political leaders, and working-class church family members was initially intended to provide all-inclusive range of role models. In retrospect, those 35 years of role models, now provide a comprehensive view of African American achievements and accomplishments. A work-in-progress since 1980, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* is a rare tribute and the largest, most imaginatively executed Folk Artists' Environment dedicated to religion, culture, African American history, and role models in the country.

## INTEGRITY

The building retains integrity of association, as it has remained in continual use as a church and community center since its construction. It, likewise, retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling. Based on review of the building permit history and visual inspection, known exterior alterations are relatively limited in scope and remain subordinate to the building's overall design and ornamentation. Similarly, interior spaces including the entry lobby, most of the meeting rooms and much of the upper stories have experienced few alterations. One major change has been the remodeling of the church sanctuary to include an octagonal dome, redwood details and multi-colored stained glass windows in 1957.

The most impactful change to the building has been *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* collage-mural, which has been applied to much of the plastered/drywalled areas of the church's interior, including the ceilings and some of the interior millwork. Based on visual inspection, the 35-year-old paper-based, mural-collage appears to retain good integrity, though some clippings are peeling or yellowing. Overall, the collage-mural, as an alteration, has gained significance in its own right as a work of art.

## CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

In March 2015, pro-bono conservators with Architectural Resources Group, Inc. (ARG) conducted a conditions assessment on the building and the mural-collage. The exterior and interior were assessed visually through notes and photo documentation. Moisture readings of the interior walls were recorded, analyzed and recommendations for repair were drafted. Any repairs to the building or the mural-collage should follow the recommendations of this report, attached as Appendix B: Existing Conditions Assessment to the Landmark Designation Report.

## CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

Whenever a building, site, object, or landscape is under consideration for Article 10 Landmark designation, the Historic Preservation Commission is required to identify character-defining features of the property. This is done to enable owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

### **All exterior elevations, architectural ornament and rooflines of 1345 Ocean Avenue, and identified as:**

- Compound cornice, including the pediment, cornice, frieze, dentils, and molding details.
- Configuration of the symmetrical entry portico: including:
  - six Ionic columns (two central columns flanked on either side by an engaged column and pilasters) three stairways located between the portico's column bases, with terrazzo treads and risers,
  - mosaic tile landing with the word "WELCOME;" and
  - three sets of wood paneled, half-glazed, double-leaf doors with single light transoms above;
  - brass cornerstone located in the column base;
  - three hanging globe-style pendant lights centered above each entry door; and
- Configuration of the bays, pilasters, and corresponding breaks in the entablature across the primary and secondary elevations.
- Wooden cross located between the first and second floors at the curving corner.
- Lettering on the building including:
  - At the front of building the word "INGLESIDE," centered within the portico's pediment; "PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTER" is centered within the portico's entablature;
  - "INGLESIDE CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTER," centered in the entablature at the curving corner; and
  - "WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT. II COR. 5:7," centered in the entablature of the first bay on the Granada Avenue façade.
- Fenestration at the primary elevation, including the double-hung wood-sash windows set in wood surrounds.
- Fenestration at the secondary elevation, including:
  - the two sets of wood paneled double-leaf sanctuary exit doors and one single-leaf wood paneled exit door;
  - the configuration of six multi-light, multi-colored glass sanctuary windows at the first and second floor level, divided by a stucco spandrel panel with stucco casings;
  - the configuration of double-hung, wood-sash windows, including those in the last bay above the exit door, that are currently covered in plywood.

### **The character-defining interior features of the building are identified as:**

- Those associated with the 1923 Joseph Leonard architectural design that have historically been accessible to the public, and depicted in the floor plans or photos of the designation report dated March 16, 2016; including:

- The Entry Lobby, including the stairs to the lobby level, main staircase materials and configuration, wood wainscot, paneled doors, and casings with pediments above;
  - The Gymnasium, including its open volume, trusses, skylights, basketball goals, wooden flooring with basketball court markings, light fixtures, and light pendants.
  - The Sanctuary space, including its open volume, the balcony, octagonal dome, supporting wooden knee brackets, redwood coffers, and colored glass skylights, and the configuration and materials of the six-multi-light, multi-colored colored glass windows at the main level and balcony level.
- **The character-defining interior features of the building are those associated with the collage-mural located within the building entitled *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* that have historically been accessible to the public, and depicted in the floor plans or photos the designation report dated March 16, 2016; including:**
    - All wall surfaces, doors, doorways, casings, moldings, ceiling, and ceiling beams covered with paper clippings or posters, framed artwork, objects and painted portraits and lettering. All millwork throughout the church including wood wainscoting, baseboards, and door casings with entablatures, chair rails and picture rails including finishes (painted or stained).
      1. The Reverend Roland Gordon Fellowship Hall
      2. The Michael Jackson Room
      3. The Barack Obama Technology Center
      4. The Mayor Willie Brown Room
      5. Legacy Room I and Legacy Room II
      6. The Nelson Mandela Bathroom.

It should also be noted that all future conservation and stabilization work to the collage-mural shall be guided by the Architectural Resources Group (ARG) *Existing Conditions Assessment and Recommendations Report*, included as Appendix B within the designation report dated, March 16, 2016.

## INTERIOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Because these principal interior spaces are publically-accessible and largely unaltered, except for the addition of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, landmark designation of these interior features is authorized under Section 1004(c) of the Planning code, which states that: (c) The property included in any such designation shall upon designation be subject to the controls and standards set forth in this Article 10. In addition, the said property shall be subject to the following further controls and standards if imposed by the designating ordinance:

- (1) For a publicly-owned landmark, review of proposed changes to significant interior architectural features.
- (2) For a privately-owned landmark, review of proposed changes requiring a permit to significant interior architectural features in those areas of the landmark that are or historically have been accessible to members of the public. The designating ordinance must clearly describe each significant interior architectural feature subject to this restriction.

## BOUNDARIES OF THE LANDMARK SITE

The proposed landmark site encompasses the entire lot – Assessor’s Block 6942, Lot 050 – on which the subject building is located.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Based on the Department’s analysis, 1345 Ocean Avenue is individually eligible for landmark designation, as it retains sufficient integrity to convey its architectural and artistic associations.

Based on the Department’s analysis, 1345 Ocean Avenue, known as Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center and its interior mural-collage, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, is individually eligible for Article 10 Landmark designation as a San Francisco as the embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction – for both architecture and artistry. The Department recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission approve the proposed designation of 1345 Ocean Avenue.

The Historic Preservation Commission may recommend approval, disapproval, or approval with modifications of the proposed designation of 1345 Ocean Avenue as a San Francisco landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Planning Code Section 1004.1. If the Historic Preservation Commission approves the designation, a copy of the motion of approval is transmitted to the Board of Supervisors, which holds a public hearing on the designation and may approve, modify or disapprove the designation (Section 1004.4). If the Historic Preservation Commission disapproves the proposed designation, such action shall be final, except upon the filing of a valid appeal to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days (Section 1004.5).

## ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Landmark Designation Report
  - Appendix A: Designated Folk Art Environments and Murals
  - Appendix B: Existing Conditions Assessment prepared by ARG
  - Appendix C: Additional Photos of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*
- B. Draft Motion initiating designation
- C. Letter in Support of Designation from Ingleside Presbyterian Church Session



# DRAFT LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT



## Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center and *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* 1345 Ocean Avenue

Draft Article 10 Landmark Designation Report submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission, February 17, 2016

City and County of San Francisco  
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Planning Department  
John Rahaim, Director

Landmark No.  
**XXX**

Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center and *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*  
Draft Designation Report, March 7, 2016

**Cover:** Reverend Roland Gordon standing in front of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* (Photo Credit: KQED)

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is a seven-member body that makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the designation of landmark buildings and districts. The regulations governing landmarks and landmark districts are found in Article 10 of the Planning Code. The HPC is staffed by the San Francisco Planning Department.

*This Draft Landmark Designation Report is subject to possible revision and amendment during the initiation and designation process. Only language contained within the Article 10 designation ordinance, adopted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, should be regarded as final.*

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# **Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center** **and *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*** **1345 Ocean Avenue**

**Church construction date: 1923**  
**Architect: Joseph A. Leonard**

**Mural creation date: 1980-present**  
**Artist: Reverend Roland Gordon**

## **OVERVIEW**

Constructed in 1923, Ingleside Presbyterian Church and Community Center at 1345 Ocean Avenue, which anchors the corner of Ocean and Granada avenues, is individually eligible for Article 10 Landmark designation as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period and method of construction and represents the work of a master architect. With its tripartite composition, symmetrically composed façade, dentiled cornice, and centrally located, full-height portico capped with a pediment and supported by Ionic columns and pilasters, the Ingleside Presbyterian Church illustrates the distinctive characteristics of the Neoclassical style that was popular in the decades following Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian exposition.<sup>1</sup> Architect Joseph A. Leonard was well known in the area for the "magnificent" Craftsman homes he built in his Richmond Heights (circa 1910) development and subsequent venture, Ingleside Terraces, (1912) where he also resided when he was chosen as the church's architect. The temple and Ingleside Presbyterian Church stand as one of the few extant examples of Leonard's ecclesiastical and institutional architecture.

The property also embodies high artistic values. Self-taught folk artist Reverend Roland Gordon created the church's most significant interior feature, a "collage-mural," entitled *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. Looking for a way to inspire the community's youth, Reverend Gordon pasted one image of his hero, Muhammad Ali, to the wall of the gymnasium in 1980. Over the past 35 years, his artwork has grown to cover the entire gymnasium, multiple rooms, stairways, hallways, and all three levels of the church. The collage-mural consists of newspaper and magazine clippings, posters, framed prints, painted murals, and other objects that depict prominent African Americans throughout history. What began as Reverend Gordon's simple mission to provide images of role models to the community's youth has resulted in an awe-inspiring Folk Artist Environment that greatly contributes to the body of American and African American Folk Art and serves as an extraordinary, unparalleled visual documentation of national and San-Francisco-specific African American history.

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<sup>1</sup> McAlister, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Knopf), 1984.

## CHAPTER 1: INGLESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTER



*Exterior of Ingleside Presbyterian Church, April 2013. (Photo Credit: Planning Department)*

### Building Description

Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center is located at 1345 Ocean Avenue (Assessor's Block and Lot 6942/050) at the southeast corner of Ocean and Granada avenues in San Francisco's Ingleside neighborhood. The two-story-over-basement, 17,600 square foot concrete building occupies the majority of the 9,931 square foot lot.

The Neoclassical style building is sited and shaped according to its irregularly shaped lot. The front façade follows the diagonal orientation of Ocean Avenue and bows to a curving corner along the Granada Avenue elevation. The building's solid massing and classically inspired architecture contribute to its monumental presence within the commercial corridor. The two-story-over basement building features a symmetrically arranged façade with a tripartite design composed of a water table with a beltcourse to separate it from the main stories. The building is crowned by classical, dentiled entablature at the roofline. Though most of the roof is flat and unseen from the street, there is a visible low-height, octagonal dome at the southwest corner, above the church's sanctuary.



*View of the primary façade along Ocean Avenue.*

#### **North Facade – Primary Elevation**

The Ocean Avenue façade is the main entrance to the building. The symmetrical façade has an inset, two-story entry portico that is composed of two, centrally located Ionic columns, flanked by a pair of Ionic engaged columns, flanked by Ionic pilasters, all of which support a pediment. Each of the columns rests on a plain bases that extend from the sidewalk to the beltcourse. On the western (right-facing) engaged column's base is a cornerstone inscribed with the words, "Other Foundation Can No Man Lay Than That Which Is Laid, Which Is Jesus Christ I COR. III. XI." and "U.P. MAR. 1909." At the street level, an elevator entrance is located between the western pilaster and engaged column. A later addition to the building, the elevator doors slice through the beltcourse and most likely replace an original wood-sash window; remaining windows are visible behind metal grates. At the outer edges of the building, matching pilasters demarcate the corners. At both of the main levels, symmetrically arranged, vertically oriented punched fenestration is composed of wood-sash, double-hung windows with simple wood sills.



*Detail of the staircase ascending from Ocean Avenue to one of three main entry doors. (Top Left); Detail of the cornerstone. (Bottom Left)*

*Detail of the terrazzo entry stairs. (Top Right); Detail of the elevator that is accessible from the sidewalk. (Bottom Right)*

Within the entry portico, a terrazzo staircase with plain metal handrails ascends from Ocean Avenue to the building's three entrances. The landing is covered in a polychromatic mosaic that spells the word "Welcome." The three entrances consist of half-glazed, half-paneled, double-leaf wooden doors surmounted by an operable wood-sash transom. From a secondary, projecting cornice with a band of dentils, three globe light fixtures are suspended above each set of entry doors. At the portico's second story, there is a wood-sash, double-hung window centered above each pair of doors. The portico is topped with the pediment, which displays the word "Ingleside" in pin-mounted letters. The gable end of the pediment is capped with a small gold cross. Centered beneath "Ingleside" in the pediment, are the words "Presbyterian Church & Community Center," (also pin-mounted letters) located in the frieze of the building's entablature.

The primary façade bows at the northwest corner towards the west façade. Pairs of wood-sash, double-hung windows, like on the primary façade, are located at each story on the curved corner. Pin-mounted letters that spell “Presbyterian Church & Community Center” are repeated within the entablature’s frieze. A wooden cross is centrally mounted between the composition of windows.



*View of the building's curved northwest corner.*



*Detail of the wooden cross.*

#### **West Façade–Secondary Elevation**

Starting from the right-most pilaster of the bowed corner bay, the west façade is divided into 6 semi-equal bays by simple pilasters with no capital. The base rises to the level of the beltcourse where, like the primary elevation, the shaft extends across the two stories of the church to the entablature. In the first bay of the entablature’s frieze, are the words “We Walk by Faith, Not By Sight. II COR. 5:7” made, again, of mounted pin letters. The bay contains two double-hung wood-sash windows at the first and second stories. The second bay contains a small pair of double-hung, wood-sash windows at the second story, and double-leaf, wood paneled doors at the first story, which serve as the sanctuary’s egress doors. The center bay contains a group of 6 stained glass windows, with three at each story. The first story windows are square and comprised of 12 equally sized pieces of glass in various colors (in red, blue, green, and yellow) that surround a larger central square of colored glass. The second floor features the same style of windows; only they are rectangular and comprised of 14 pieces of colored glass surrounding one larger piece of glass. The windows are framed together by a continuous lentil, pilasters, and sill. The fourth bay mirrors the second bay, with a small pair of double hung windows and egress doors below. And the fifth bay mirrors the first bay with its configuration of two pairs of windows.





*View of the west façade. (Top Left); Detail of the colored glass windows at the Sanctuary (Top Right); Detail of the lettering at the entablature (Bottom Left); Egress doors from the Sanctuary (Bottom Right).*

#### **South Façade–Side Elevation**

Most of the south façade abuts the adjacent building, except the lightwell and a rear yard space. A set of colored glass windows, like those on the secondary elevation, look from the sanctuary onto the lightwell.

### East Façade–Rear Elevation

The rear, alley-facing elevation is more utilitarian in style and is only accessible from the gym’s egress doors and through a metal security gate on Granada Avenue. The main body of the elevation is finished in stucco, and has two second-story wood-sash double-hung windows separated by exposed mechanical ducts. A small projection, covered in wood shiplap siding, displays a small wood-sash, double-hung window.

## General Features of the Interior

The church’s entry lobby is accessed through the portico of the primary elevation on Ocean Avenue. Many walls in the church are clad with a four-and-a-half foot tall, stained board and batten wainscoting with plaster or drywall above. Typically, the plaster or drywall above the wainscoting has been covered with *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* collage-mural. The doors are cased with wood trim and entablatures. Typically, the historic wood throughout the church displays, what appears to be, the historic dark-reddish-brown finish. At some places, non-historic faux wood paneling is installed, and in others, the paneling has been painted.

Throughout most of the church, the floor is covered in non-historic maroon carpeting. One hallway, leading to the gymnasium has non-historic tile flooring, while the gym appears to have its original wood floors. The basement level has vinyl composition flooring and lacks the wainscoting, door surrounds, and picture rail found on the floors above. Aside from the lobby’s brass chandelier, florescent tube light fixtures light most of the rest of the church.



Entrance Lobby, April 2013. (Photo Credit: San Francisco Planning Department)

### Sanctuary

The sanctuary is accessible from the lobby through centered double-leaf, wood paneled doors mirrored on either side by roll-up style wooden “garage doors” and a second set of double-leafed, wood paneled doors. All of the doors and casings have the same historic dark stain.

Overall, the interior of the sanctuary is rectangular in form with a raised dais at the front, curving second-story balcony at the back, and an octagonal dome spanning the ceiling. The floor plan is symmetrically composed with a center aisle, flanked by two sets of seven curving wooden pews – each set separated by a small aisle. The floor slopes downward to the dais where the pulpit, communion table, and two sets of pews are located. A red velvet curtain with a wooden cross serves as a backdrop. The sloped floor, curved orientation of the pews, and balcony level seating ensure that each person has an accessible view of the pulpit, similar to the layout of a concert hall.

The rest of the Sanctuary dome features a new pallet of materials, as it was remodeled and “modernized” in the 1950s. The octagonal dome is comprised of multi-colored glass skylights and redwood surrounds and supports.

Large knee brackets run from the center of the dome, down the octagon's corners, and meet the wall at the balcony level to provide support. The balcony houses five rows of three pews and is faced in vertically laid board and batten panels, matching the dome. On either side of the room, are two sets of 6 geometrically patterned, colored glass windows – one side looks onto the lightwell and the other onto Granada Avenue.



*View toward the pulpit from the entry doors.*



*View from the pulpit toward the entry doors with balcony above.*



*View of the sanctuary's balcony.*

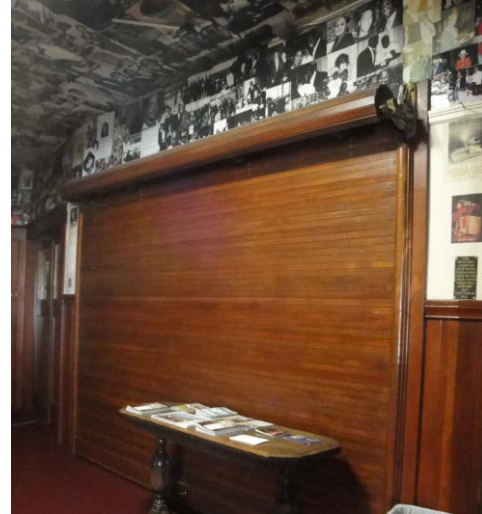


*Detail of a knee bracket at the balcony.*





*Detail of the dome's skylights.*



*Detail of a wood roll-up door, as seen from the lobby side that provides access to the sanctuary.*

## **Architectural Influences**

Neoclassical style architecture became the dominant style for domestic, civic and institutional buildings across the country between 1895 and 1955. It was directly inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where the era's most notable architects designed classically inspired buildings to house the fair's many exhibits. The Beaux Arts style originated at Paris' legendary design school, *L'Ecole des Beaux Arts*, as a French combination of Greek and Roman architectural vocabularies that focused on symmetry and monumentality. The proliferation of Beaux Arts civic and institutional designs after the World's Fair led Neoclassicism to become a versatile version classicism that could be scaled down to suite small-scale projects such as banks, residences, and churches.

## **Architect/Developer Joseph Leonard**

By 1920, when Leonard was selected for the job, he was already a very well-known architect and developer, particularly in the Ingleside neighborhood. A little more than a decade before, Leonard had designed houses in Jordan Park, in the Inner Richmond neighborhood. The project was a short-lived partnership with James Jordan and was Leonard's first foray into San Francisco developments. Jordan Park has been touted for its large lots, and idyllic Mediterranean Revival and Neoclassical styles with Arts and Crafts influences. Leonard left the project to undertake his own nearby residential development, Richmond Heights. There, Leonard drew "the most drastic restrictions" around his two-black development to ensure that the homeowners knew their homes would always be in a residential neighborhood.<sup>2</sup>

His most well-known development, Ingleside Terraces, was in the church's backyard. When the refugee camp was dismantled from the site of the former Ingleside Racetrack in 1910, Leonard, through his Urban Realty Improvement Company, purchased the site and constructed a new private "Residence Park" called Ingleside Terraces. Characterized by "entrance gates to separate it from the existing urban fabric, curvilinear streets, elaborate landscaping, and large irregular shaped lots," Ingleside Terraces became one of the city's most exclusive residential neighborhoods. A newspaper said, "Ingleside Terraces was destined, because of the magic Leonard touch, to be the

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<sup>2</sup> "The Story of Joseph Leonard, Homebuilder." *The San Francisco Call*, February 23, 1913.

most desirable residence neighborhood west of Chicago.”<sup>3</sup> Its curving streets contrasted with Leonard’s previous developments that had strictly adhered to the orthogonal street grid. Leonard was the first developer to bring the concept of the residence park to San Francisco and with it he not only ushered in a new era of urban design in the city, but he introduced restrictive residential covenants. These were legally binding obligations written into the deed of a property that included mandating single-family residency, side yard clearances, street setbacks and even racial restrictions that prohibited non-whites from living or owning a property.<sup>4</sup>

Leonard and his family lived at 90 Cedro Avenue<sup>5</sup> in Ingleside Terraces.<sup>6</sup> As he was beginning the project, he appealed to the United Railroads to run a new line to Ingleside and assured them that his new residence park would



1913 View of Ingleside Terraces along Victoria Street. (Photo Credit: California Historical Society, North Baker Research Library, Ephemera Collection)

be desirable and would generate continual income for the railroad. Well aware that adequate transportation was essential to the development’s success he advocated for the Twin Peaks Tunnel and, with other developers, established a special assessment district to finance the tunnel project, although his was the farthest of any neighborhood from the new streetcar line.<sup>7</sup> Hugely successful, Leonard homes were sold as “a well ordered private park, a place of beautiful dwellings on ample grounds, free from the dangers of crowded streets, with plenty of room for the little ones to romp and play.”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> “The Story of Joseph Leonard, Homebuilder.”

<sup>4</sup> Racial covenants were found to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1949 (*Shelley v. Kraemer*, 1949). Restrictive covenants were found to be unconstitutional by the California General Assembly’s passing of the Rumford Fair Housing bill in 1963; they were reinstated in 1964, when the bill was overturned. It wasn’t until 1968, through the Federal Fair Housing Act, that the practice became illegal.

<sup>6</sup> Kelly.

<sup>7</sup> “The Story of Joseph Leonard, Homebuilder.”

<sup>8</sup> “The Story of Joseph Leonard, Homebuilder.”

Born near Dallas, Texas, in 1850, Leonard studied mechanical engineering in New York and later architecture in Philadelphia, before moving to the Bay Area. Initially, he concentrated his efforts in Alameda where he constructed the “Leonardville” neighborhood. A newspaper article wrote that under the Leonard touch, with the Leonard genius to shape things, artistic little homes, bungalows, mission styles, and Gothic palacettes began to dot the Alameda map.”<sup>9</sup> And when he had built 365 homes in Alameda, he moved to Berkeley, where he “built a house on almost every lot he could find and peopled it with San Francisco families” before abandoning the industry for the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush. Upon his return, he briefly worked for the Suburban Homebuilding Society, where in 1906 he and his colleagues were one of five firms to build the first “earthquake shacks.”

From 1905 to 1908, one of his most prominent architectural commissions was the Vedanta Society Temple (extant, 2963 Webster Street) an Edwardian-era temple in an Exotic Eclectic combination with Indian/Mogul-influenced arcading and elaborate ogee-arched windows. The first two stories were constructed in 1905 and the exuberant third story in 1908 – just before Leonard began Ingleside Terraces.<sup>10</sup> His work across the Richmond and in Ingleside made him a household name. By the time the Twin Peaks Tunnel opened in 1918, Ingleside Terraces was fully established and Leonard had become a very wealthy man. He retired shortly after in 1920 and died in his second home in Ingleside Terraces, 344 Moncada Way, in 1929.<sup>11</sup>

Leonard’s diverse portfolio and influences within the realms of architecture, engineering, and city planning can be seen across the city. His Ingleside Terraces, complete with racial covenants, were used as a model for other elite residential parks in the city for decades. His engineering experience provided the infrastructure improvements needed for the city to expand West of Twin Peaks, and his ecclesiastical architecture responded to the unique needs of his clients. He was a skilled architect, but a more acute businessman, who took advantage of development opportunities and designed contemporary residences to attract buyers.



*Vedanta Society Temple located at 2963 Webster Street. (Photo Credit: Collection of the Meridian International Center, Kindred Nations Gallery)*

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Kelly.

<sup>11</sup> “Joseph A. Leonard.” Western Neighborhoods Project. Accessed January 4, 2016. <http://www.outsidelands.org/leonard.php>

## History of the Ingleside Neighborhood

Development of the Ingleside neighborhood can be traced back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when this area of the city was part of Rancho San Miguel, a Mexican land grant that was awarded to Jose de Jesus Noé in 1845. The land was primarily used for farming and agriculture, but other uses included bars, restaurants, roadhouses, and illegal gambling establishments. The area's isolation from the city center enabled such businesses to thrive.<sup>12</sup> One path served as the main access point to the area:<sup>13</sup>

All [roadhouses, gambling venues, restaurants, bars] were reached via a path running west from the San Jose Road, through the valley between Mount Davidson and Merced Heights, to Lake Merced. This 'Lake House Road' or 'Ocean House Road' was mentioned in newspapers as early as 1853, and accommodated coach-lines by 1854.<sup>14</sup>

The "Lake House Road" or "Ocean House Road" eventually became known as "Ocean Avenue," which, today, is the area's primary commercial corridor and thoroughfare through the Ingleside neighborhood. The area underwent a major period of development when the County of San Francisco established the Industrial School (1859); and the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad Company built a new single-track railroad line through the area to connect San Francisco with San Jose (1864), which later became a line of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company (1868); and then the County built a juvenile detention facility and House of Correction (1876). With the changing infrastructure, Ingleside's population transitioned from primarily farm workers to railroad workers, corrections officers, saloonkeepers, and operators of illegal gambling businesses – all of whom comprised a new economy.<sup>15</sup>

Land developer Adolph Sutro purchased a section of the rancho in 1881 to build a new residential development he dubbed, "Lakeview." The neighborhood more popularly became known as "Ingleside" after the Ingleside Inn, a popular stop on the route to the Cliff House. Today, much of Ingleside's street grid, including many street names, is derived from Sutro's Lakeview.<sup>16</sup> More changes came when the Pacific Jockey Club opened the Ingleside Racetrack in 1895. With an established concentration of gambling places in the area, Ingleside was ideal for the club's new racetrack and it soon became the region's top destination for horseracing. Two rail lines were constructed in 1895; the first by the Southern Pacific Railroad and the second the Market Street Railway, which ran along Ocean Avenue as the western extension of the Mission Street Line to accommodate growth in the area. The following year, in 1896, Ingleside Coursing Park, a dog-racing facility opened, which further cemented Ingleside as a gambling destination. The number of restaurants, bars, saloons, and roadhouses in the neighborhood increased as well. With the many new job opportunities and easy access to transportation, came an increase in residential development.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Brandi, Richard and Woody LaBounty. *San Francisco's Merced Heights, and Ingleside (OMI) Neighborhoods, 1862-1959*, prepared for the San Francisco Historic Preservation Fund Committee (San Francisco Planning Department: 2010), 22.

<sup>13</sup> TBA West, *Balboa Park Area Plan and Historic Resource Survey: Historic Context Statement*, prepared for the San Francisco Planning Department (San Francisco: 2008), 12.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Brandi and LaBounty, 11-12.

<sup>16</sup> TBA West, 12-13.

<sup>17</sup> Brandi and LaBounty, 23-24.



*Ingleside Racetrack in the 1890s. (Photo Credit: Western Neighborhoods Project)*

The following year, San Francisco was struck by the 1906 Earthquake and Fire and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people were suddenly displaced and without shelter. Thomas Williams, owner of the Ingleside Racetrack offered the recently closed track as a refugee camp for earthquake and fire victims, a purpose it served for approximately 15 months.

## Founding of the Church

During this time, the area's new refugees prompted the founding of Ingleside United Presbyterian Church by Reverend W.E. Dugan of the Second United Presbyterian Church in the Mission District. In 1907, he and missionary Laura Sawhill established the Ingleside Sabbath School to provide spiritual and educational needs to the growing community. The Sabbath School convened in the basement of a nearby apartment building, Robinson Apartments,<sup>18</sup> where Reverend Dugan gave Sunday sermons until 1908—when the United Presbyterian Board announced the purchase of the property at 1345 Ocean Avenue for a permanent church. After Dugan's death, a new pastor, Reverend D.A. Russell, led the construction of the new church from 1909 to 1910.<sup>19</sup> Due to a debilitating illness, he was never able to lead the church, so Reverend W.E. Gordon stepped in as the first pastor.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> "The History of Ingleside Presbyterian Church," Ingleside Presbyterian Church, accessed August 12, 2013. <http://inglesidepresbyterian.org/History.php>.

<sup>19</sup> "Ground Broken for Presbyterian Church." *San Francisco Call*, January 1909.

<sup>20</sup> "The History of Ingleside Presbyterian Church."

Now fully operational, the church provided critical assistance to the re-settled refugees. The church's next pastor, Reverend W.R. McKnight, focused a significant amount of energy and resources on expanding the church's outreach to local youth. He added a gymnasium to the building in 1914 to provide a safe space youth to recreate, away from the dangers and temptations of Ocean Avenue's bars and roadhouses.<sup>21</sup> In September 1920, the church was destroyed in a massive fire and the congregation was forced to rebuild.

Under the direction of Reverend McKnight, and with assistance from the United Presbyterian Mission (the equivalent of a diocese), church leaders envisioned a "radically different church building."<sup>22</sup> The following passage describes the rebuilding process:<sup>23</sup>

The new church building would house 9 protestant congregations, and would also include a "community service center." The United Presbyterian Mission and Church Building Board offered \$25,000 provided that the community would provide a similar amount. Ingleside Presbyterian along with the eight other congregations raised the money and met the challenge. Much of the money came from donations from the community who were in great need of the community service center. The new building was to be built by renowned "Arts and Crafts" architect, Joseph Leonard...<sup>24</sup>

## Construction History

In 1920, the congregation selected architect/developer Joseph A. Leonard to design the new building. When it was completed in 1923, the church was called the "Ingleside Community Church and Social Service Center." It was built at a cost of \$65,000, through the cooperation of nine Protestant congregations, including Ingleside United Presbyterian Church.<sup>25</sup> The San Francisco Examiner described the new building in 1923:

The new house of worship is "different" among churches—for it does not alone aim to perform service for the soul of its worshippers. Those who build[ed] [sic] it sought as well the physical imperfection of its members of numerous denominations to this end the imposing structure houses variously a gymnasium with locker, showers and dressing rooms, a ladies club room and rest room and a gathering room for boys...When there came an occasion – thru the lack of funds – that Rev. A.E. Kelly the religious director, had to choose between gymnasium or a pipe organ for the hall of worship, he yielded to the little fellows who will someday be big men, and they got their parallel bars, Indian clubs, dumbbells and rings. That's why there is no pipe organ.<sup>26</sup>

## Ingleside Presbyterian Church after Construction

In the years after construction, Ingleside Community Church and Social Service Center focused heavily on youth development, particularly after Reverend R.H. Gordon became pastor in 1926. He immediately formed new after-school clubs, which "filled the church with children during the afternoons and evenings."<sup>38</sup> During the first several years in the new building, the church congregation was continually growing, but the revival was short-lived. The Great Depression of the 1930s took a toll, as did the construction of new transportation routes that connected

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<sup>21</sup> "The History of Ingleside Presbyterian Church."

<sup>22</sup> "The History of Ingleside Presbyterian," *The Ingleside Insider*, Vol. 3. Issue 2 (June 24, 2007), 8. (Church newsletter)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> "9 Religions use 1 New Church for Worship," *SF Examiner*, 1923.

<sup>38</sup> "Our History," Ingleside Presbyterian Church, accessed May 13, 2015. <http://inglesidepresbyterian.org/OurPastor.php>.

Ingleside residents to their old neighborhoods and old churches. Use of the building continued to wane over the ensuing decade, as many of the other congregations gradually moved out into their own church buildings.<sup>39</sup> From 1935 to 1937, during Reverend John Alvin Campbell's tenure, several attempts were made for Ingleside United Presbyterian to do the same. Through the end of the 1930s, the congregation relied heavily on the financial support of the United Presbyterian Mission and its sister church in the Mission District to maintain operations.<sup>40</sup>

## Shifting Demographics in the Neighborhood

While residential development in Ingleside slowed drastically during the Great Depression, as it did across the country, the neighborhood began to recover in the 1940s and was almost completely built out by 1950.<sup>41</sup> African Americans had begun moving into the neighborhood in significant numbers during the 1940s, and by the 1970s, Ingleside had become San Francisco's first Black middle-class neighborhood—something “San Francisco did not have ... until World War II.”<sup>42</sup>

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, African Americans lived throughout the city, but the most thriving neighborhood was located just north of today's Chinatown. When the area was destroyed in the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, and many residents relocated to the Western Addition. The city's Black population began to grow during the war years, as San Francisco became a hub of wartime shipbuilding and attracted thousands seeking new jobs. Federal agencies and private employers recruited workers from across the country and San Francisco gained tens of thousands of new residents as a result. Between 1941 and 1945, roughly 27,000 African Americans moved to San Francisco.<sup>43</sup> Two large African American neighborhoods emerged – the Fillmore in Western Addition and Bayview-Hunters Point, near the shipyards.<sup>44</sup>

Significant numbers of African American professionals such as doctors, dentists, and attorneys, moved San Francisco during and immediately following the war years. Unfortunately, they could find few options for purchasing their own home.<sup>45</sup> Ingleside and the adjacent neighborhoods of Merced Heights and Ocean View generally did not have racial covenants, aside from the residence parks, like Ingleside Terraces. Houses in those areas were generally affordable and thus, it became known as one of the few places where middle-class Black families could buy homes.<sup>46</sup> Most others areas of the city remained off-limits to African Americans.<sup>47</sup>

In 1950, African Americans comprised only five percent of the census tracts in the Ocean View, Merced Heights and Ingleside neighborhoods; by 1970 the population had grown to 62 percent.<sup>48</sup> Brian Godfrey documented the shift in *Neighborhoods in Transition: The Makings of San Francisco's Ethnic and Nonconformist Communities* (1988):

Apparently aided by block-busting realtors, several parts of the Ingleside began to experience an influx of middle-income blacks in the 1940s, beginning in the southerly-neighborhood and spreading northwest into Merced Heights.

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Brandi and LaBounty, 37.

<sup>42</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department. [Draft] *African American Historic Context Statement* (Unpublished: 2015), 66.

<sup>43</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department. 84.

<sup>44</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department. 90-91.

<sup>45</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department. 96.

<sup>46</sup> Brandi and LaBounty, 40.

<sup>47</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department. 66-67.

<sup>48</sup> Brandi and LaBounty, 40.



The Ingleside District (not to be confused with the more exclusive Ingleside Terraces neighborhood, directly to the north) soon became San Francisco's middle-class black district, as opposed to the lower-income Fillmore and Hunters Point areas.<sup>49</sup>

African Americans eventually were able move into the private residence park of Ingleside Terraces, but not without resistance from neighbors. In the most infamous instance, Cecil F. Poole, who had recently been hired to serve as the head of the Superior Court Trial Division of the District Attorney's office, attempted to purchase a home in Ingleside Terraces in 1958. After local real estate agents refused to help him, he and his wife worked directly with the property owner to arrange the purchase.<sup>50</sup> Poole and his family were the first Blacks to move into the private residence park, paving the way for its eventual integration. Their move was not without incident, and shortly after moving in, the family were victims of a cross burning in their front yard. The house, 90 Cedro Avenue, is a San Francisco Landmark for its association with Cecil F. Poole as well as the building's architect, who, of course, is Joseph A. Leonard—the man responsible for creating Ingleside Terraces' racial covenants.<sup>51</sup>

The early 1960s witnessed the passage—and overturning—of several fair housing laws that had significant impacts on Black settlement patterns in San Francisco and the Bay Area. In 1963, the California State Legislature passed the Rumford Fair Housing bill, which prohibited discrimination during the sale, or rental, of housing based on race, among other factors. In 1964, voters overturned the bill. It wasn't until passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act, in 1968, that race-based housing discrimination became illegal and was actively combated across the country. Even afterwards, though, many realtors and private property owners continued to discriminate against African Americans.<sup>52</sup>

The African American population continued to grow during the 1960s and 1970s, with most new residents arriving from the South.<sup>53</sup> By 1970, Ingleside was a majority African American neighborhood, when the population peaked at 78.2 percent.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Brian Godfrey, *Neighborhoods in Transition: The Makings of San Francisco's Ethnic and Nonconformist Communities* (Berkeley: UC Press, 1988), 101.

<sup>50</sup> "Streetwise: The Burned Cross," Western Neighborhoods Project, accessed May 12, 2015. <http://outsidelands.org/sw25.php>

<sup>51</sup> Kelly.

<sup>52</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department, 97.

<sup>53</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department, 129-131.

<sup>54</sup> Kelly, VerPlank, and the San Francisco Planning Department, 127.



## The Church Congregation Post-War

Ingleside United Presbyterian Church's membership increased in the years following World War II and the church was finally able to become self-supporting after years of financial dependence. From 1953 to 1957, under Reverend Dwight A. White, the sanctuary and gym were remodeled and a new Pastor's study was constructed.<sup>55</sup>

With African Americans becoming a large percentage of the neighborhood, Ingleside United Presbyterian Church attempted to become a multi-racial congregation and reached out to the neighborhood's Black residents. Reverend Albert Damon (pastor, 1958-1964) heavily emphasized inviting nearby residents into the church. According to longtime church member, Donald J. Mattade, Reverend Damon visited his home to invite him and his family to attend church services. Mattade, who is white, was married to an African American woman, and with their children they decided to attend services after the reverend's visit.<sup>56</sup>



*Ingleside Presbyterian Sunday School Class, 1966. (Photo Credit: "The History of Ingleside Presbyterian Church")*

In addition to the Mattades, the congregation welcomed many, new African American and interracial families during that time.<sup>59</sup> In 1972, the church decided to hire its first African American pastor, Reverend Alvin Mills, who joined Reverend Washburn (1962-1974) as co-pastor.<sup>60</sup> The partnership was not without its challenges, and their disagreements eventually led to Reverend Washburn's departure. From that, the congregation became more divided than ever and membership dwindled as white families began leaving the neighborhood to move to the suburbs, while newly settled Black families continued to attend church services in their old neighborhoods.<sup>61</sup> By 1976, the church had only ten members. Interim and temporary pastors were hired to preach on Sundays but by 1978, the church had only four members. Threatened with closure, the church's solution was to hire first-year seminary student Roland Gordon to preach on Sundays for a cost of \$50 per week.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Donald J. Mattade, oral history interview, October 23, 2014.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

## Reverend Roland Gordon

Service to God is service to humanity. It does not matter what a person's background is or what religion or status they are, love is the common ground. If people are genuinely motivated by good and love, then no matter what the barrier we can talk the same language.<sup>63</sup>

— Reverend Roland Gordon

When Roland Gordon joined the church in August 1978, he was still a student at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. In a 2003 interview with the Western Neighborhoods Project, he said,

The church had died off to four members, the property was the eyesore of the community, the community called it the 'pink elephant.'<sup>64</sup> Our presbytery pretty much had given up on the Presbyterian witness here at this site... I saw a bigger picture that the Higher Power was calling me [here]. I liked the community. I saw the potential of the building, although it was outdated. The bathroom was so dilapidated; the women wouldn't even go downstairs to use it.

Upon completion of his master's degree, Gordon was ordained as the church's full-time pastor on July 31, 1983.<sup>65</sup> The new reverend worked hard to recruit new members, and to keep operations going, and from that he quickly ushered in a new era that energized and strengthened the church. Throughout his tenure, Reverend Gordon has made outreach, particularly to African American boys, his priority. When he first saw his new church, its gymnasium was one of the biggest attractions, as he saw its potential for youth engagement.<sup>66</sup> He recalled;

Well, when I saw the indoor gymnasium ...I knew. There was no doubt in my mind that the spirit had called me here, because, I mean, growing up, I still love basketball, but I was about thirty-four years old then. [I knew from playing the game myself, that basketball can teach kids to] transfer those things you learn on the court – team ball and team play and all that stuff – carry over to life, that that could be a tool for training children.<sup>67</sup> Basically the way I got the word out here was I pretty much opened the doors... the children came to me. This is part of my strategy. Predominately black, but all races would come and play.

What I would do was, use that as a teaching method to instill principles, self-discipline and teamwork, and the importance of education. I would always pull them all aside, and we would pray before we'd begin any games. I mean, like on one day there'd be maybe five games played, let's just say, so before everything started, we would pray. I would require that the kids would have to come to worship service at least once, I don't know how many times, out of the season. When the season was over, everybody got trophies. I had a banquet, so all the families came, all races. We brought them together and everybody got trophies. So the word got out. So I think it was more of that strategy of the word spreading about there's a young minister here who cared about all the people and the children, and that the people spread the word about the ministry here.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Mullaney, Alexander. "Walking with Reverend Roland Gordon." *The Ingleside-Excelsior Light*, January 7, 2015.

<sup>64</sup> When Reverend Gordon first saw the church, it was painted pink on the inside and outside..

<sup>65</sup> "Our Pastor," Ingleside Presbyterian Church, accessed May 13, 2015, <http://inglesidepresbyterian.org/OurPastor.php>.

<sup>66</sup> Harper, Nile, *Urban Churches, Vital Signs: Beyond Charity toward Justice* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999), 264.

<sup>67</sup> LaBounty, Woody. "Interview with Reverend Gordon. Western Neighborhoods Project. May 21, 2003. Accessed via <http://www.outsidelands.org/gordon-interview.php>

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.



Reverend Gordon and a church member stand in front of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. (Image Credit: Raymond Rudolph, *The Ingleside Light*)

Not limited to the walls of his church, Reverend Gordon has served as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization; his efforts were documented in Frederick Nile Harper's *Urban Churches, Vital Signs: Beyond Charity toward Justice* (1999), a book of urban church success stories. Harper points out seven initiatives that he believes were key to the church's renaissance. Three of those include: the founding of the Ingleside Youth Basketball League; reviving the existing Ingleside Senior Center (established 1964), which provided seniors with hot lunches; and the founding of the Ingleside Community Center in 1986 as a 501(c)3 non-profit arm of the church that raised funds for a "variety of education, advocacy, and employment programs for youth and young adults."<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Harper, 266.



## CHAPTER 2: THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

“My charge is to help our children  
–especially at-risk youth–  
Become responsible citizens.  
Working together  
–government schools, the arts, sports–  
All of us can help our young people reach their potential.  
The Great Cloud of Witnesses is about ROLE MODELS.  
Our children need mentors... and role models.  
They need our support.  
Their future is the world’s future.”

- Reverend Roland Gordon<sup>81</sup>



Reverend Gordon in the Entrance Lobby. (Photo Credit: Raymond Rudolph, *The Ingleside Light*)

*The Great Cloud of Witnesses* collage-mural is Ingleside Presbyterian Church’s most significant interior feature. It consists of thousands of newspaper and magazine clippings, posters, framed prints, painted murals, and other

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<sup>81</sup> Ingleside Presbyterian Church. *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* (City and County of San Francisco, n.d.)

objects that tell the stories of inspirational African Americans. It spans across the entire church, encompassing portions of the lobby, basement-level rooms, second floor offices, and the entire gymnasium. It contains portions that are dedicated to the history of the church, church pastors, and church family; prominent African Americans in San Francisco, and rooms dedicated to individuals such as Mayor Willie Brown and Michael Jackson; and compilations of images dedicated nationally-known athletes, such as the gymnasium full of African American sports ephemera. The wide variety of rousing images is intended to inspire a wide array of interests – an inspirational figure to appeal to one’s particular interest. Too long to catalogue, the list of individuals includes scientists (such as George Washington Carver), politicians and civil rights leaders (such as Thurgood Marshall and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.), entertainers and performers (such as Billie Holiday and Whitney Houston), authors and poets (such as Langston Hughes), and athletes (such as Wilma Rudolph and Jackie Robinson).

## Defining Folk Art and Folk Art Environments

To art historians, Reverend Gordon’s *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* would be considered “self-taught folk art” that conveys the history and legacy of African Americans through murals and collage techniques. Art of this type has been labeled as many things throughout the last one-hundred years, including *self-taught*, *primitive*, *naïve*, and *folk*, to *isolated*, *visionary*, *intuitive*, *art brut*, *outsider*, and *vernacular*. All of these terms are intended to convey the same idea; for this discussion, the term “Folk Art” will be used. Folk Art can be defined as the art of the everyday, it is often rooted in community and cultural traditions, and it expresses cultural identity and shared community values using a range of utilitarian objects and decorative media. It is made by individuals who use their creative skills to convey a message, most often the artist’s interpretation of his or her community’s authentic cultural identity.<sup>82</sup>

American Folk Art was first defined as a field of art history during the early 1900s when artists, critics, and curators were searching for an authentic style of American art. Folk Art presented a distinctive picture of “national identity, faith, progress, ingenuity, community, and individuality.” Initially, the term referred to work that was created in the past, by rural, vernacular, or uneducated artists; overtime, it has expanded to include the present day. For the last twenty years, the term “self-taught” has more regularly been used to address those “artists whose inspiration emerges from unsuspected paths and unconventional places giving voice to individuals who may be situated outside the social mainstream.”

John Beardsley, in *Gardens of Revelation* (1995), traces the recognition and reception of “outsider art” as “art” by the American art world to a series of publications and exhibitions of the late 1960s and the 1970s. Beardsley’s survey and interpretation focuses on outsider art environments in an international context. He characterizes these sites as handmade environments that express a personal, moral, or religious vision typically fabricated of found material by people who aren’t necessarily identified by themselves or by others as artists. “These environments... often have an obsessive character and are the result of many years of work... Part architecture, part sculpture, part landscape, visionary environments seem insistently and purposefully to defy the usual categories of artistic practice.”<sup>83</sup>

Often folk artists are labeled as eccentric outsiders, obsessive visionaries, or something similar, when their artwork begins to encompass, and even become, the world around them. Art historians refer to these manifested “worlds” as Folk Art, Visionary, or Outsider Environments. As Reverend Gordon is a pillar of his community, his work cannot be described as outsider, so this discussion will refer to *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* as a “Folk Art Environment.”

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<sup>82</sup> “What is Folk Art?” The International Folk Art Museum, accessed August 30, 2014.

<http://www.internationalfolkart.org/about/whatisfolkart.html>

<sup>83</sup> Beardsley, John. *Gardens of Revelation*. (New York: Abbeville Press, 1995), 7.

A number of Folk Art Environments in California, including Watts Tower, *Nitt Witt Ridge*, and *Salvation Mountain*, are recognized at the local, state, and federal levels for their high artistic and traditional cultural values. Across the country, many are run and maintained by non-profit art organizations, such as *The Orange Show Monument* in Houston, Texas; *Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village* in Simi Valley, California; and the *Taya Doro Mitchell Home*, in Berkeley, California in order to promote the works and to support their continued operation and ongoing maintenance. Similarities with these recognized environments are evident in *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. (See Appendix A: Case Studies of Designated Folk Artist Environments and Murals) Like other the Folk Artists, Reverend Gordon uses his art to convey an idea, for him it is his spirituality and inspirational role models, for others it is an opportunity to highlight their found treasures. And, like most other examples of Folk Art and Folk Art Environments, Reverend Gordon has chosen to communicate a story three-dimensionally, through a monumentally scaled artwork comprised of found objects, obsessively assembled over the course of many years, and sometimes decades. *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* is unique among Folk Artists Environments in that Reverend Gordon uses the relatively uncommon medium of paper clippings combined with painted murals, objects, and signs on the interior of his church – a technique he refers to as “collage-mural.”<sup>84</sup>

Author Jon Beardsley’s description of another artist’s environment, Jeff McKissack’s the *Orange Show*, seems to apply to Reverend Gordon and *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* perfectly; “[He] did not identify himself as an artist and had obsessive tendencies; the show took many years to construct; and it is part architecture, part landscape and is difficult to categorize using traditional artistic methods of expression.” Beardsley goes on to compare aspects of the *Orange Show* to Howard Finster’s *Paradise Garden*; and Herman Rusch’s *Prairie Moon Museum and Garden* (1960s-70s) in Cochrane, Wisconsin; Harry Andrews’s *Chateau La Roche* in Loveland, Ohio (begun 1929, 1955-81); and Edward Leedskalnin’s *Rock Castle Park/Coral Castle* in Homestead, Florida (1936-51). Speaking collectively of these environments, he says;

These are all profoundly symbolic spaces in which their creators sought refuge from the world, creating a safe place in which to articulate idiosyncratic variations on political or moral philosophy, notions of wholesome living, or ideas about love.

*The Great Cloud of Witnesses’* combination of unique artistic techniques; monumental size, including expansion into multiple rooms and various locations; and the usage of constructed themes and religious overtones fit well within this definition. *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* is rare among artist environments in that it is also located within a building identified for its significant as the work of a master architect, Joseph A. Leonard. *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* is an expansive and easily legible story in mural form; that as an alteration to the historic church, has gained significance in its own right.

## Examining African American Muralism

African American Muralism must be addressed in order understand the artistic merit of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. Early African American muralists used murals to tell a personal, first-hand version of Black history and the Black experience in a manner that anyone could understand, even those who could not read. Reverend Gordon chose the technique knowing that his population of young boys *could*, but would not read Black history. Though his artistic technique and choice of media differs from that of the traditional painted murals described below, his ambitions,

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<sup>84</sup> Beardsley, 7.



inspirations, and cultural focus are in keeping with the spirit of 20<sup>th</sup> century African American muralism. Author Floyd Coleman writes:

The mural serves as a means of publicly communicating ideals, values, hopes, and aspirations of a people. For Blacks in particular, the mural has been a symbol of pride, dignity, endurance, and hope. It has served as an alternative vision of history as well as a major medium of social criticism and protest.<sup>85</sup>

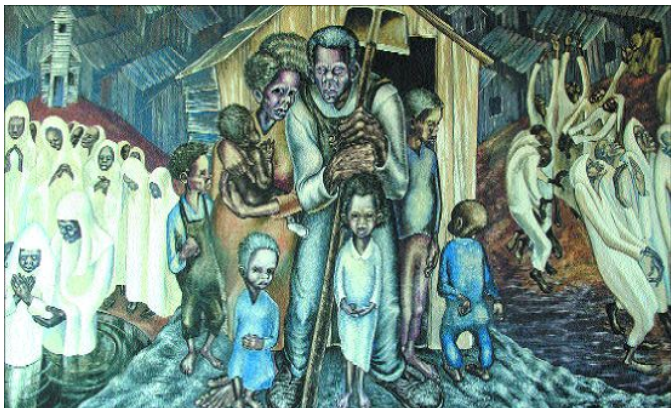
Notable muralists include Hale Woodruff (1900-1980), well known for his triptych *Amistad Murals* (1938), located in Talladega College in Alabama, and Charles White (1918-1979), best-known for his mural, *The Contribution of the Negro to Democracy in America* (1943) at Hampton University in Virginia, where he presented “historical personalities in heroic action.”<sup>86</sup> John Biggers (1924-2001), used murals to disseminate the stories, feats, and accomplishments of ordinary Black people.



*Amistad Murals, Mural No. I, The Revolt; Hale Woodruff, 1938. (Photo Credit: Talladega University)*



*The Contribution of the Negro to Democracy in America; Charles White, 1943. (Photo Credit: Hampton University)*



*The Sharecroppers, John Biggers, 1947. (Photo Credit: Pennsylvania State University)*



*The Wall of Respect; William Walker, et al. 1967. (Photo Credit, Getty Images)*

A critical point in the field occurred in 1967, when William Walker, an art school graduate, used a community-based method to create the *Wall of Respect* with muralists Jeff Donaldson, Wadsworth Jarrell, Barbara Jones, Carolyn

<sup>85</sup> Coleman, Floyd, “Keeping Hope Alive: The Story of African American Murals,” in *Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride: African American Murals*, Robin J. Dunitz and James Prigoff (San Francisco: Pomegranate, 2000), 10.

<sup>86</sup> Dunitz, Robin J. and James Prigoff, *Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride: African American Murals*, (San Francisco: Pomegranate, 2000), 7.

Lawrence, Norman Parish, Eliot Hunter, and others. Painted on the wall of a building at a highly visible intersection in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood, the *Wall of Respect* was one of the first Black murals to be painted in the public realm. Many of its precedents, as seen in the above examples, had been located primarily on interior walls of Black institutional spaces.<sup>87</sup> *Wall of Respect* became a particularly pivotal work that impacted the African American mural movement and spurred "people's art" projects across the country. On the subject of urban murals, author Michael Harris writes:

Urban murals were, and continue to be, vehicles for empowerment for African Americans. They signify a resistance to victimization and a refusal to act the part. They articulate hope, celebrate history and achievement, and show off the creativity of artists. They teach, inspire, affirm, critique, document and sometimes just plain strut their colorful stuff. Many of them emblemize the conditions and potential of African Americans.<sup>88</sup>

## Inspiration for *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

The Cloud of Witnesses began very modestly when, as student pastor, in 1980, a young Roland Gordon glued a single newspaper clipping of his hero, Muhammad Ali, to the gymnasium wall in order to inspire the youth who played basketball there after school. He had previously tried many techniques to get the kids' attention but, with this one, they took notice.<sup>89</sup> In a January 2015 interview, Reverend Gordon said, "these guys might not read their Black history book, but they'll read the wall."<sup>90</sup> The title of the work derives its name from Hebrew's 12:1-3 in the Bible, which reads:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us... Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

The story of the cloud of witnesses is a favorite among Christians, which has served as a popular theme in religious art since the Renaissance. It seems that Reverend Gordon never set out to create a "cloud of witnesses," but with a bit of hindsight, the title suited, and later guided the artwork.

As an independent, self-taught artist, Reverend Roland Gordon may not have directly drawn inspiration from the African American muralists that preceded him, but it is clear that he shares similarities with them in his inspirational motivations and goals while creating of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. His use of murals to document and present alternative historical narratives and instill pride in African American youth is certainly in keeping with the 20<sup>th</sup> century African American tradition of mural-making. It is unknown as to what extent Reverend Gordon may have been aware of this movement, but based on conversations, his efforts to recreate this type of art were not intentional. It appears that his goal was simply to find a way to get young people to pay attention and to identify positive role models around them. Like many muralists, the Reverend was motivated and influenced by the community that surrounded him. In turn, his artwork serves as a reflection of the community and social climate in which it was created.

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<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Harris, Michael D. "Urban Totems: The Communal Spirit of Black Murals," in *Walls of Heritage, Walls of Pride: African American Murals*, Robin J. Dunitz and James Prigoff (San Francisco: Pomegranate, 2000), 42.

<sup>89</sup> Ingleside Presbyterian Church. *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*.

<sup>90</sup> Kwong, Jessica. "Ingleside Church Seeks to Preserve Inspirational Symbols as Area Demographics Shift." SF Examiner, January 5, 2015. Accessed via <http://archives.sfoxaminer.com/sanfrancisco/ingleside-church-seeks-to-preserve-inspirational-symbols-as-area-demographics-shift/Content?oid=2915903>



## ***The Great Cloud of Witnesses* as a Living Folk Artist Environment**

As a living folk artist environment, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* (1980–present) is still growing and adapting as Reverend Gordon continues to add layers to his masterpiece. His work is significant as an example of self-taught folk art that simultaneously embodies the characteristics of 20<sup>th</sup> century African American Muralism. Contributions from Susan Cervantes, well-known artist, founder of Precise Eyes Muralists, and a pioneer of San Francisco’s mural movement; along with Selma Brown, Ronnie Goodman, and prominent African American artist, Eugene White, add to the significance of the mural.

A complexly interwoven account of “witnesses,” each section of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* tells a chapter of the story. For instance, the Church Family Room, provides the viewer with the history of the church, its founding, and the genealogy of the church family through historic newspapers, photos and church records. Much of this section includes information on the founding congregation to serve, not only as inspiration, as a visual reminder of the church’s history and previous congregations. In the Willie Brown Room, Jr. Room, Reverend Gordon honors the work and political career of his friend, and San Francisco’s first African American Mayor. In the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Reverend Gordon has used stark black-and-white images to create a somber, breathtaking tribute to the civil rights leader; in this room the power of his artistry is on display. More than any other room, he uses a handful of images repetitively and orthogonally for maximum impact, the recessed light highlighting a colorful painting of Jesus and a cross. In the Obama Technology Center, the style adapts to tell the best story in honor of the first African American president. A life-size cut out of the President is glued to wall, and as a work-in-progress, the mural-collage’s composition is more sparsely arranged. In here, Reverend Gordon uses a palette of red, white, and blue and American flags to convey pride and patriotism.

Typically, in *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, Reverend Gordon presents a chronological story of the role model’s rise to success and their biggest achievements. Common themes include Xeroxed repeating images, free-floating faces/heads, the Pan-African colors of red, black, and green, and honorary tributes to parishioners in the form of candid photos, newspaper clippings, and obituaries. The Gymnasium and Legacy Rooms are more thematic and dedicated to pop-culture icons and provide a more general overview of African American accomplishments in recent decades. For instance, the door to the Women’s Restroom is more feminine with shades of pinks and purples and covered with images of female entertainers throughout history. To identify all of the themes and interwoven symbolism of the Great Cloud of Witnesses would be a rewarding and challenging undertaking.

## **Documentation of African-American History**

Overall, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* provides an unprecedented glimpse into Black life, achievements, and icons throughout history and across disciplines. It demonstrates Reverend Gordon’s view of life as an urban spiritual leader and portrays the community interests, while cataloging broader American pop-culture trends, particularly those of the past four decades. It illustrates Black life, including successes and struggles and life in San Francisco when African American’s were the neighborhood’s majority population. Every legend of the recent past has a presence, from famous performers, such as Michael Jackson, to sports stars, such as Muhammad Ali. Reverend Gordon has managed to keep the mural very current, and unexpectedly secular, while simultaneously weaving religious overtones throughout. Drawing its name from the Bible, Reverend Gordon’s interpretation of the verse presents every person in his collage-mural, famous or common, as a “witnesses” – a testament to the success of avoiding sins, such as crime and drugs, which may impede the viewers’ accomplishments. Through its vastness,

Reverend Gordon encourages the viewer to find a story or role model that speaks to them and, to illustrate that adversities, such as poverty, lack of opportunities, and race are no excuse for greatness.

As a collage-mural of photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, and painted portraits of African American leaders, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* is the pride of the church congregation. It is one of the few tangible reminders of San Francisco's first Black middle-class neighborhood and it demonstrates the church's important role of promoting accountability, success, and education among Black youth – particularly boys, in San Francisco. Reverend Gordon calls this his "greatest work" and a "labor of love." A quote from his booklet on the mural helps to articulate his sentiments:

Former Mayor Willie Brown considers it my legacy to San Francisco. My prayer is that people of all races (especially African American youths) will be blessed by learning the truth about the rich contributions the sons and daughters of African descent have made to civilization and most especially to our country.<sup>91</sup>

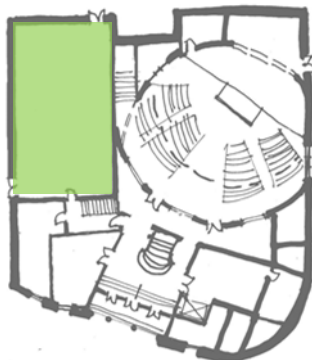
## Description of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

*The Great Cloud of Witnesses* begins in the entrance lobby, and features a blue sky and cloud themed painted ceiling with the artwork's title prominently painted in black, serified letters. A patchwork of multi-colored clippings and photos are glued to the walls. From the lobby, the collage-mural spreads throughout the building covering walls, ceilings, doors, support beams, and even exposed ductwork. Much of the collage-mural has been adhered with Elmer's glue, although some portions are attached with thumbtacks, are in picture frames, or include plaques that have been nailed to the walls. The majority of the ceilings at both the first and second floors are painted sky blue as an extension of the lobby ceiling; however, some ceilings are covered with the collage-mural.

All of the walls covered in the collage-mural are considered to be part of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. Reverend Gordon's efforts are an ongoing work-in-progress. At this time, the only rooms not covered with the collage-mural are the sanctuary and the kitchen. The following section provides a detailed description of the main rooms included in *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, including unique situations, predominant themes, and a not-to-scale floor plan to indicate the rooms' location (highlighted in green).

## First Floor Description of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

On the first floor, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* covers portions of the lobby, The Ingleside Church Family Room, The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Study, and the Gymnasium.



### Gymnasium (now known as the Rev. Gordon Fellowship Hall)

The gym is, by far, the most impressive and impactful portion of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. The walls of the gymnasium are entirely covered in clippings, plaques, and framed artwork and form the largest, most powerful concentration of images within the building. The collage-mural spans from the floor to approximately 25 feet up to the base of the trusses, where a painted, commissioned portion of the collage-mural is located.

<sup>91</sup> "Our Pastor," Ingleside Presbyterian Church, accessed July 2, 2015, <http://www.inglesidepresbyterian.org/OurPastor.php>

Located at the building's southeast corner, the Gymnasium is a full-height gym with hardwood floors that have been painted with lines and markings typical of a basketball court. The ceiling is covered in Thermax silver foil-colored sheathing and is supported by a series of wooden trusses. Between the trusses are four equally spaced skylights and several hanging pendant lights. At this point, a painted mural lines the top 6 feet of the gym across all four walls. The background is composed of colors reminiscent of a sunset sky, and features 10 painted portraits of civil rights leaders, activists, and athletes: Joe Louis, Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune, Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Du Bois, Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. and Jesus Christ – these two embrace with their arms outstretched as if they are preaching the same message. Below them are the words, “The Great Cloud of Witnesses” and below that are the words “...and shall call his name Im-man’u-el’ Is. 7:14”<sup>92</sup>, both are painted in a cursive script. Susan Cervantes of Precita Eyes Muralists completed the mural, with assistance from Selma Brown and Ronnie Goodman (with assistance by Marta Ayala and Patricia Rose). The painted commission was funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the San Francisco Mayor’s Office.

The congregation refers to the Gymnasium as the “Rev. Gordon Fellowship Hall,” a name coined by parishioner Martha McCune, to recognize the work and contributions that Reverend Gordon has made to both the church building and the community. When the space is not used for afterschool programs and basketball games, it is the congregation’s fellowship hall, where dinners, meetings, and workshops are held.

In 2010, Reverend Gordon commissioned Eugene White, a San Francisco-based African American artist, to add another layer to the mural; a series of 13 circular portraits painted on plywood that were then screwed into the wall on top of the 1992 mural. These cartouche-like portraits were commissioned by the church to pay tribute to local and national leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. The mural includes depictions of: Reverend Amos C. Brown, leader of the largest Black Baptist Church in San Francisco and the oldest in the western United States; Thad Brown, Tax Collector for the City and County of San Francisco; Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., San Francisco’s 41<sup>st</sup> mayor (and first African American mayor); Robert L. Demmons, Chief of the San Francisco Fire Department (the first African American to serve as such); Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, physician and activist; Leonard “Lefty” Gordon, Executive Director of Ella Hill Hutch Community Center; Geraldine Johnson, labor leader and community activist; Martha McCune, San Francisco Unified School District educator; Lulann McGriff, social worker and civil rights leader; Alex Pitcher, attorney and civil rights leader; Doris Ward, past member and president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Eugene White, artist and studio/gallery proprietor; and Reverend Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide Memorial Methodist Church.



*Panorama of The Great Cloud of Witnesses covering the walls of the gymnasium.*

<sup>92</sup> This verse is taken from Isaiah 7:14 of the Bible. Isaiah 13-15 (as excerpted from the New International Version) reads as follows; *“13 Then Isaiah said, ‘Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. 15 He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,”*

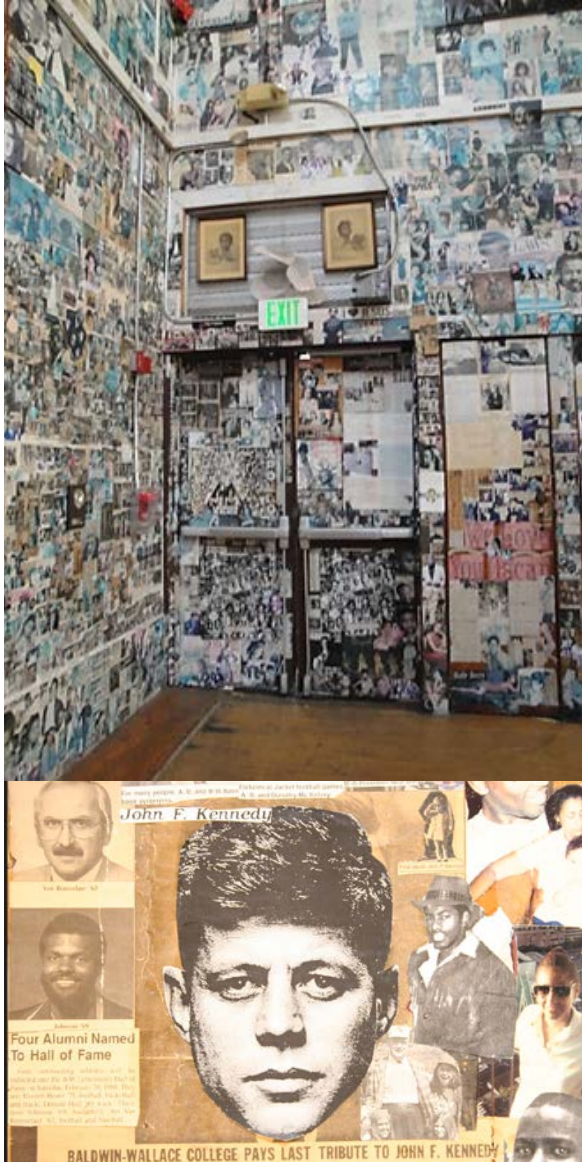


*View of the gym looking towards the north wall.*



*View of the gym looking towards the south wall.*





View of the Southwest corner; note that the collage covers the exit doors. (Top Left); View of the northeast corner near the basketball goal. (Top Right); Detail of the collage-mural featuring John F. Kennedy. (Bottom left); Reverend Gordon points to the first image that he pasted of Muhammad Ali. (Photo Credit: KQED)





Detail of the collage-mural's layers of images. (Photo Credit: KQED)

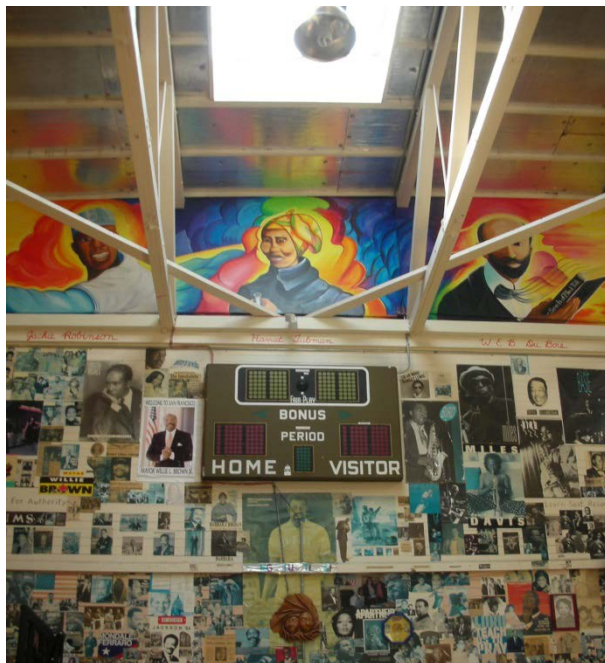


Detail of the collage-mural's layers of images and clippings. (Photo Credit: KQED)

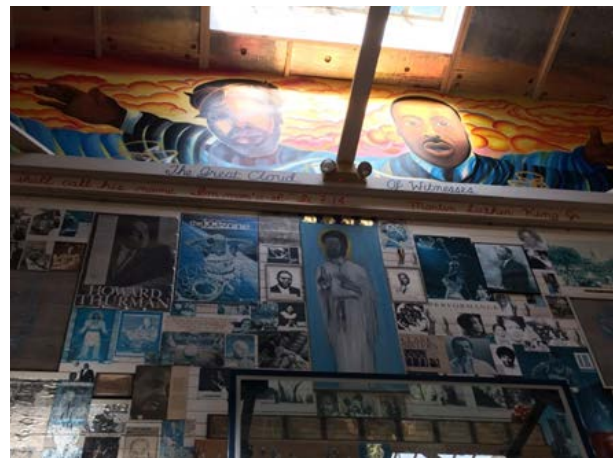




Overall view of the eastern wall showing the collage-mural below and a portion of the 1992 mural above.



A portion of the 1992 mural, above, depicts Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman and W.E.B. Du Bois (from left to right). (Photo Credit: Planning Department)



Detail of painted portraits of Jesus Christ (left) and Martin Luther King Jr. (right), by Susan Cervantes, Selma Brown, and Ronnie Goodman.





Detail of the painted mural featuring portraits of Mary McLeod Bethune (left, painted in 1992); and Thad Brown (right, painted in 2010).

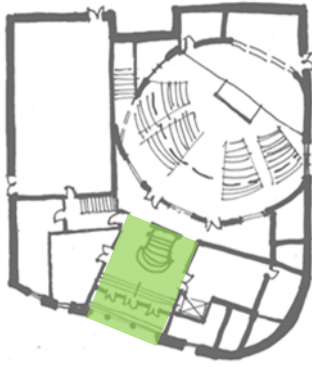


Detail of the painted mural featuring Doris Ward (far left, painted in 2001); Frederick Douglass (left, painted in 1992); Luanne McGriff (right, painted in 2001); and Thurgood Marshall (far right, painted in 1992).



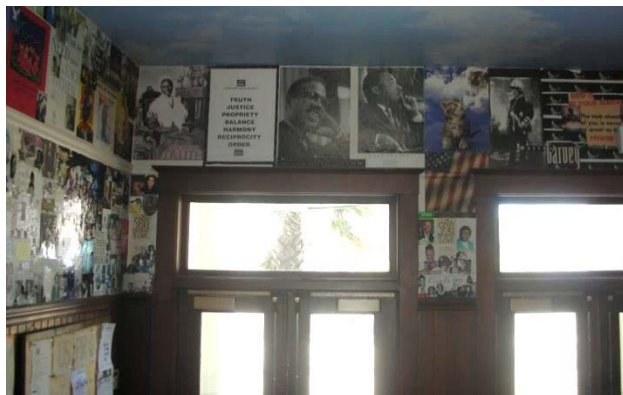
Reverend Roland Gordon in front of The Great Cloud of Witnesses in the gymnasium. (Photo Credit: internationalmediatv.com)



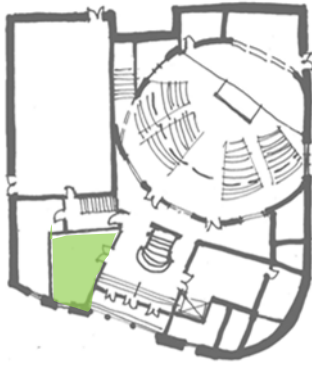


#### Entrance Lobby

The mural originated in the gymnasium, but as parishioners and visitors enter the church, the mural is first seen in the entrance lobby. In this room, the ceiling is painted sky blue with white clouds. Large black letters that read, "The Great Cloud of Witnesses" greet visitors. The entrance lobby also features a brass and crystal chandelier with a collage of faces glued to the ceiling to form a ceiling medallion around it.



View toward the vestibule from the main entrances (Top Left); Chandelier and ceiling medallion (Top Right); View towards the entrance doors (Bottom Left) (Photo Credit: Planning Department); Detail of the collage-murals clippings and images (Bottom Right) (Photo Credit: Planning Department)



### Ingleside Church Family Room

Located to the east of the entrance lobby this room features a patchwork of 4x6 inch photographs, black and white Xeroxed copies, and framed portraits, depicting members of the church's congregation. The collage-mural is largely concentrated on the south wall between the wainscoting (appears to be non-historic) and electrical conduit that forms a picture rail, of sorts. *The Cloud of Witnesses* extends to the east and west walls as well, but more sparsely and with bigger photographs. The room has a central crystal chandelier and linoleum flooring. A paneled wood door, in its historic configuration, is one on the east wall leading to the kitchen (known as the "The Larry Mitchell Kitchen"). The kitchen is not discussed as it does not currently contain *The Great Cloud of*

*Witnesses*, and there are no plans to extend the collage-mural into this room.)



*The largest concentration of the collage-mural is found on the south wall of the Ingleside Church Family Room.*



*View of the east wall. The paneled wood door leads to the kitchen.*

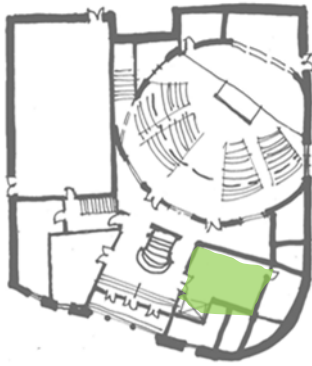


*Detail of the double doors leading to entrance lobby.*



*Detail of the church family portion of The Great Cloud of Witnesses. (Photo credit: Planning Department)*





#### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Study

Located to the right of the entrance lobby, through a set of half-glazed, wooden double doors, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Study is dedicated to civil rights leaders. Compared to other portions of *The Cloud of Witnesses*, the west and south walls of the Memorial Study have fewer images, are more structured and orthogonally organized, with space between each image, and they are adhered to faux-wood paneling. The images in this area are typically obituaries of church members pasted along the curving south wall and posters on the west wall. The room's biggest impact can be found at the ceiling near the small elevator alcove, where Reverend Gordon has pasted on the ceiling multiple, repetitive black-and-white copies of an orating Martin Luther King, Jr., along with photos of his assassination at the Loraine Motel, and the Memphis sanitation workers strike with the iconic "I am a man" signs. Contrasting with somber black-and-white images, is a colored copy of a painting of Jesus and the Last Supper centered above the elevator doors with gold-painted, wooden cross above. Interestingly, in the Gymnasium, Reverend Gordon has also placed Jesus and Martin Luther King, Jr. next to each other.



View of the west wall.



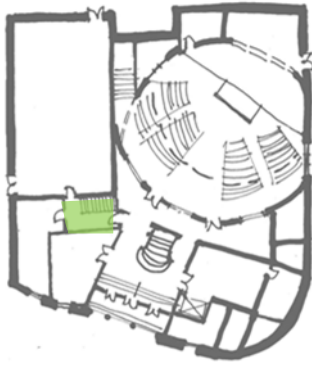
View of the south wall.



*Detail of the elevator entrance on the north wall.*



*Detail of the black and white tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. (Photo credit: Planning Department)*



#### Hallway to the Gymnasium

From the entrance lobby, a cased opening leads to a narrow hallway, with a stair case with a historic wood balustrade descends to the basement. The wall at the right has historic three-quarter-high, board and batten wainscoting. Straight ahead is the cased opening (the door has been removed) that leads to the Gymnasium. A brass plaque that reads, "Rev. Gordon Fellowship Hall" has been nailed to the casing. Deviating from his usual tactics, Reverend Gordon has used thumbtacks and glue to attach several photos to the casing. The collage-mural covers the wainscoted wall only above the chair rail, the other three walls from floor to ceiling, and spans across the entire ceiling. The hallway has been tiled sometime recently with a roughly 6x6 inch ceramic tile.



View of the east wall looking into the Gymnasium. Note the brass plaque above the doors, which reads, "The Reverend Gordon Fellowship Hall." (Photo Credit: Planning Department)



View of the west wall looking into the entrance lobby.





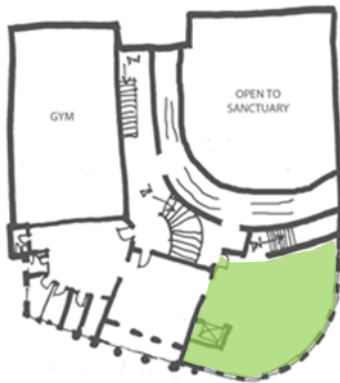
*Detail of The Great Cloud of Witnesses. (Photo Credit: Planning Department)*



*Detail of The Great Cloud of Witnesses, note the images pasted to the ceiling.*

## Second Floor Description of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

The main functions and public spaces of the church are found on the first floor, but the second floor does provides access to the sanctuary's balcony and some of the church's offices, restrooms, and meeting spaces. The second floor can be accessed from the main staircase (in the entrance lobby) and from the elevator (in the MLK, Jr. Study). *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* continues throughout this level and can be found in the Willie Brown, Jr. Community Room; the Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins Education Library; the Legacy Room II; the Michael Jackson Room (referred to by Roland Gordon as "Michael's Room"); and the Nelson Mandela Bathroom.



### Willie Brown, Jr. Community Room

Located at the northeast corner of the building, above the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Study, this large room serves as the second floor elevator lobby and conference room. It features a curving wall at the northeast corner that responds to the building's curving corner floor plan. A narrow beam supported by two round lally columns running east-west through approximately center of the room. All walls in the room are covered in the historic three-quarter height wood wainscoting that is capped with a chair rail, mural-collage covered drywall, and a picture rail that is approximately one foot from the ceiling and aligns with the top of the door and window casings.

The picture rail is painted with green, red, and black bands. The drywall between the picture rail and the ceiling is currently painted white and the ceiling is painted blue (though no clouds have been painted, as of yet).

Named in honor of Mayor Willie Brown, Jr., the room features a chronologically arranged mural of the Mayor's life. According to Reverend Gordon, Willie Brown has seen the mural a number of times. While in office, Mayor Brown sponsored the publication of a small booklet about *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* and referred to it as a "special treasure" that is "truly magical."<sup>93</sup> Over the years, Mayor Brown has been a strong supporter of Reverend Gordon's work.

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<sup>93</sup> City and County of San Francisco Mayor's Neighborhood Beautification Fund and the San Francisco Office of Children, Youth and Families, "The Great Cloud of Witnesses," print version, also available online: <http://www.inglesidepresbyterian.org/GreatCloud/index.php>

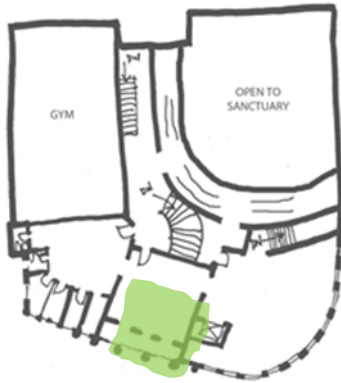




*View towards the western wall (Top Left); Detail of the Mural-collage on the south wall (Top Right). Detail of the Elevator entrance on the north wall (Bottom Left). Reverend Gordon standing in the room; the building's exterior curving wall is behind him. (Photo Credit: Planning Department)*



*Detail looking into an alcove. (Photo Credit: Planning Department)*



### Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins Education Library

Located to the east (left) of The Willie Brown, Jr. Community Room, the library's collage relates to the life and career of the Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins, who served in the California Assembly from 1935-1963 and was the first black politician west of the Mississippi River to serve in the United States House of Representatives (1963-1991).

Like the Willie Brown Jr. Community Room, the library's walls are covered in a three-quarter high, wood wainscoting that is capped with a chair rail, and mural-collage covered drywall. A picture rail, painted in red, green, and black bands, is located approximately one foot from the ceiling and aligns with the top of the door and window casings. The space between the picture rail and the ceiling is currently painted white, and the ceiling is painted sky blue (though no clouds have been painted, as of yet). *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* is largely concentrated on the south wall, between the wainscoting and the picture rail. Two wooden, paneled doors that lead to the Legacy Room are located on the east wall, along with built-in cabinetry, that appears to be a later addition.



View of the south wall; note the painted picture rail.



View towards the east wall.



This room is currently a work-in-progress. Many bottles of Elmer's glue were found in the room.





### Legacy Room II

Accessed from the library, Reverend Gordon refers to this room as the Legacy Room II. In contrast to some of the other rooms, here, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* does not focus on a specific theme or person; rather it showcases a collage of personal photographs along with historical and contemporary figures. Like the previous two rooms, the Legacy Room II's walls are covered in a three-quarter height wood wainscoting that is capped with a chair rail, mural-covered drywall, and a picture rail that is approximately one foot from the ceiling and aligns with the top of the door and window casings. The wainscoting and chair rail are painted white and covered with the collage mural, while the picture rail is painted with green, red, and black bands. The

space between the picture rail and the ceiling is currently painted white, and the ceiling is painted blue (though no clouds have been painted, as of yet). *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* collage is throughout the room, and covers the walls, wainscoting, chair rail and space above the picture rail in some places.

The larger Legacy Room II, contains the "Nelson Mandela Bathroom" (also described below) that is located at the east end of the room along with a series of three, smaller rooms created by a non-historic partition wall. At this time, only the small, center room, known as the "Michael Jackson Room" (described below), is included as part of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*.



View looking towards the west wall.



Detail of the south wall. Note the inclusion of the zodiac plaque into *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*.



*Looking across the north wall towards the east wall. This (non-historic) partition wall creates three smaller rooms within the Legacy Room.*



*Detail of a collection of Whitney Houston photos at one of the doors along the north wall.*



### Michael Jackson Room

This small room serves as an upstairs kitchen; it houses a refrigerator, microwave, and table with chairs. As it was a later alteration, the walls are only drywalled and do not have the historic millwork found in the other rooms. A strip of blue painter's tape (located at approximately the same height as the wainscoting in other rooms) creates a faux chair rail. Above this, clippings and posters of Michael Jackson cover the walls up to the ceiling. Just above the painter's tape on the west wall, Reverend Gordon has hand-written a message that reads, "Tribute to My Home Boy, Michael. 'For Shining to the Glory of God.' Much Love! Roland (aka) 'Rev. G. 8/25/09.'" Two other messages in the room read, "We are the World," and "We are the Children."



View looking into the Michael Jackson Room.



Detail of the west wall of the Michael Jackson Room.



Detail of Reverend Gordon's handwritten message on the west wall.

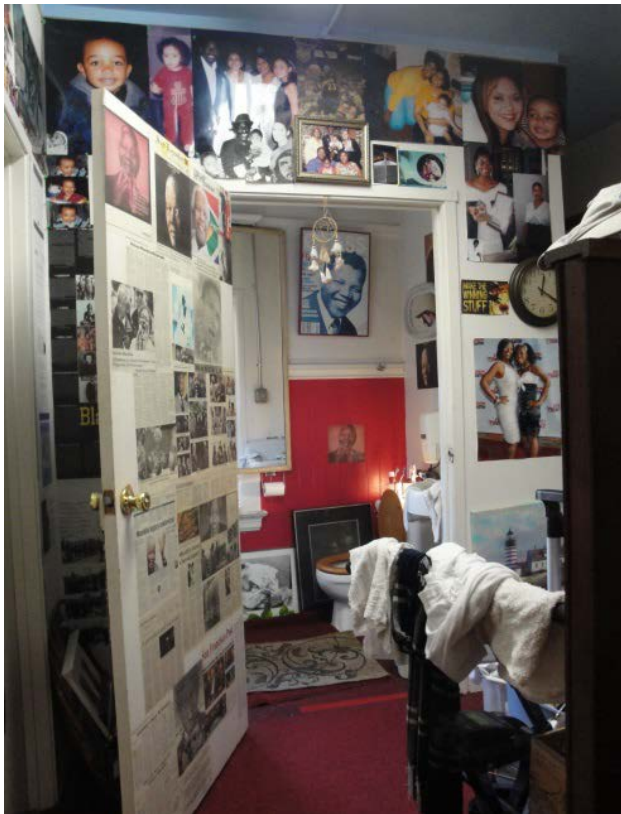




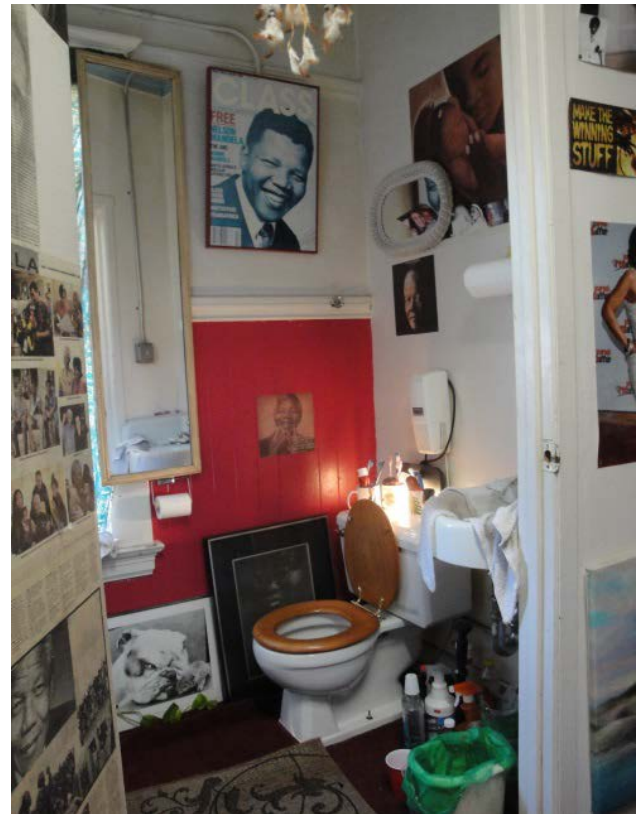
#### Nelson Mandela Bathroom

A later addition to the church, this small half-bathroom has a toilet and a very small, wall-mounted sink. The bathroom has one historic wall with the typical millwork composition of three-quarter height paneling, capped with a chair rail, with mural covered drywall, and a picture rail that aligns with the window casings. The door and other partition walls were added sometime later.

The picture rail and chair rail are painted white, and the wainscoting has been painted red. Images of Nelson Mandela have been adhered to the interior walls and the inside door; but according to Reverend Gordon, the room is still a work-in-progress.



*View looking into the bathroom.*



*View of the east wall of the bathroom with the historic wood millwork configuration.*

## Basement Description of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

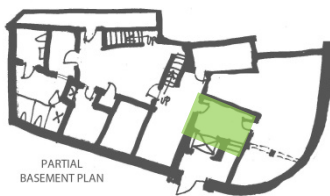
The basement spaces span across the northern half of the basement, as the other half is not habitable space. This level houses The President Barack Obama Technology Center, a lobby area with an attached side room, and Legacy Room I, all of which feature pieces of *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*. The basement is accessible from the first floor via the elevator in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Study and via two staircases. The walls above the wainscoting of the western staircase are largely covered with anniversary announcements, event programs, obituaries of Ingleside's church family along with other San Francisco residents, and newspaper articles about the church and Reverend Gordon.



View of the western staircase ascending from the basement.



Detail of obituaries on the western staircase's east wall.



### Basement-Level Elevator Lobby

The small elevator lobby with an adjacent side room is located between the technology center and Legacy Room I. The elevator opens into the room from the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library above. Here, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* covers the walls, from floor to ceiling – the collage-mural is often found at the basement level spanning from floor to ceiling and covering the ceiling and any support beams and ductwork. There is no dominant theme to this area it appears to be a miscellaneous collection of clippings and posters. There is one painted wooden paneled door where the raised panels have been covered with the collage-mural and one flat, presumably hollow-core, door with cut out HVAC vents that have been covered with photos of Muhammad Ali – Reverend Gordon calls this door “Ali’s Door.”





*View looking towards the west wall (towards the Obama Technology Center).*



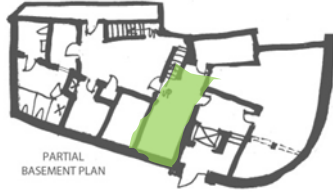
*View looking towards the elevator doors on the north wall.*



*Views looking towards the west wall from the far east wall near the staircase.*



*Detail of "Ali's Door."*

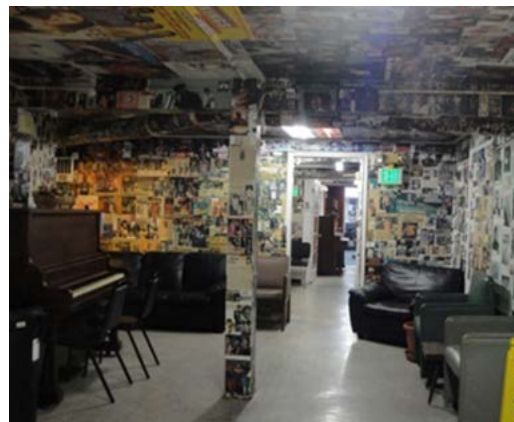


## Legacy Room

Accessed from the Basement-Level Elevator Lobby, the Legacy Room is similar to the Legacy Room II on the second floor, as it contains a mixture of portraits, rather than a unified theme. The mural-collage covers all four walls, the ceiling, ductwork, a square support column in the middle of the room, and the raised panels of a wooden door. Two wood paneled doors lead to the men's and women's restrooms, along the north and east walls.



Detail of the door to the women's restroom. (Photo Credit: KQED) (Top Left); Corner of the room (Top Right)



View of the collage-mural from floor to ceiling (Top Right); View looking east across the Legacy Room (Bottom Right).





### President Barack Obama Technology Center

The technology center is located at the building's northeast curving corner (below the Willie Brown, Jr. Community Room). The walls are drywalled and, typical of the basement; lack any of the traditional ornamental millwork. The walls are painted white and display clippings and posters of President Barack Obama from floor to ceiling. The ceiling is painted sky blue and features a number of surface mounted fluorescent tube light and ceiling mounted fixtures. The floor is covered in black and white checkerboard-patterned vinyl composition tile.



*View looking towards the curving west wall.*



*View looking towards the east wall.*

Images of President Obama cover the walls from floor to ceiling, though they tend to be larger images and more sparsely placed as compared to some of the older portions of the collage-mural. Multiple American flags are hung in the room. A sign, by artist Eugene White dated August 10, 2011, has been painted with red, white, and blue letters that read "President Barack Obama Technology Center." The flags and the painted signs are considered contributing elements to *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*.



*View looking towards the south wall; note the almost-full height image of Obama pasted to the wall.*



*Detail of the hand-painted lettering by Eugene White above the bi-fold closet doors.*



Reverend Gordon in the Legacy Room. (Photo from the San Francisco Examiner (Photo Credit: Mike Koozman. January 2015.)



## ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK DESIGNATION

This section of the report is an analysis and summary of the applicable criteria for designation, integrity, period of significance, significance statement, character-defining features, and additional Article 10 requirements.

### CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

Check all criteria applicable to the significance of the property that are documented in the report. The criteria checked are the basic justification for *why* the resource is important.

- Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

### Statement of Significance

#### Characteristics of the Landmark that justify its designation:

Anchoring this section of the Ocean Avenue streetscape, the church's monumental scale and unusually strong street presence is commensurate with its original post-Earthquake need to house nine protestant congregations and a community center for the "western Twin Peaks district of the city." When the church was completed, this programmatic need was said to be "different among churches", "offer[ing] to the church world...a new ideal." The church's first pastor chose to build a gymnasium, instead of including a pipe organ, in order to reach out to youth – the same community-oriented philosophy that attracted Reverend Gordon to the church almost sixty years later.

#### Significant Architecture and Work of a Master

Constructed in 1923, Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center is architecturally significant for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and as the work of a master architect and developer, Joseph A. Leonard. With its tripartite composition; symmetrically composed façade; dentiled cornice; and centrally located, full-height portico capped with a pediment and supported by Ionic columns and pilasters, Ingleside Presbyterian Church illustrates the distinctive characteristics of the Neoclassical style that was popular in the decades following Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian exposition.<sup>95</sup> Ingleside Presbyterian Church is a unique example of Neoclassical style ecclesiastical architecture in the city. Architect Joseph A. Leonard was well-known locally for his Craftsman style Richmond Heights (1908) and Ingleside Terraces (1910) residence parks when he was chosen as the church's architect. Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center is one of Leonard's few extant religious structures.

#### High Artistic Values

The interior collage-mural, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, embodies high artistic values and is culturally significant. As a collage-mural created by Reverend Roland Gordon, the artwork makes significant contributions to the study of American Folk Art, African American Muralism, and particularly as a Folk Artists' Environment in San Francisco dedicated to African American history. The composition and the techniques used make *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

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<sup>95</sup> McAlister, Virginia and Lee.

makes it an exceedingly rare Folk Artists' Environment. Reverend Gordon's overall arrangement across multiple rooms and floors, the expansive size that encompasses most of his church's interior, his distinctive choice of media (predominately paper clippings and copies, mixed with painted murals, and found objects) and collage techniques is unparalleled on this scale. The creation of constructed themes (such as legacy rooms and rooms dedicated to individual role models), and the mix of contemporary pop-culture icons, combined with San Francisco political leaders, and working-class church family members was initially intended to provide all-inclusive range of role models. In retrospect, those 35 years of role models now provides a comprehensive view of African American achievements and accomplishments throughout history. *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* provides an illustrated history of the church itself, and its post-1906 Earthquake beginnings, the community at large and highlights prominent people who have helped to shape San Francisco. A work-in-progress since 1980, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* is a rare tribute and the largest, most imaginatively executed Folk Artists' Environment dedicated to religion, culture, African American history and role models in the country.

## Periods of Significance

Ingleside Presbyterian Church & Community Center and *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* each have one period of significance.

**1923:** The first period of significance is 1923, representing the construction date of Ingleside Community Church at 1345 Ocean Avenue by master architect/developer Joseph A. Leonard.

**1980 - Present:** The second period of significance is 1980 to the present-day, representing the start of Reverend Roland Gordon's collage-mural, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, until the present day and as it continues to be a work-in-progress.

## Integrity

The seven aspects of integrity are location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association in relation to the period of significance established above. Cumulatively, the building at 1345 Ocean Avenue retains a high degree of integrity to convey its architectural significance, as well as its continual use by the Ingleside Presbyterian Church.

It, likewise, retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Based on a review of the building permit history and visual inspection, the exterior alterations are relatively limited in scope and remain subordinate to the buildings overall design and ornamentation. Similarly, interior spaces have experienced few alterations, excluding the ongoing *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, and readily convey their associations with the buildings historic use.

The original setting has also been maintained as Ocean Avenue remains an active commercial corridor and surrounding area has remained a residential neighborhood.

*The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, begun in 1980, retains a high degree of integrity to convey its artistic and cultural significance. The collage-mural retains integrity of association, design, workmanship, and feeling. It retains a strong degree of integrity of materials, as some of the older portions have faded or yellowed due to sun exposure. The original setting has been maintained, however as it is work-in-progress, it will grow to include more interior rooms as Reverend Roland Gordon continues to add to the work.

Overall, the Department has determined that the building's primary character defining features, at the exterior are largely unaltered since the building's construction in 1923. At the interior, *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* retains a high degree of integrity to convey its historical and cultural significance.

## ARTICLE 10 REQUIREMENTS SECTION 1004 (B)

### Boundaries of the Landmark Site

Encompassing all of and limited to Lot 50 in Assessor's Block 6942 on the south side of Ocean Avenue, 129.4' east of Granada Avenue.

### Character-Defining Features

Whenever a building, site, object, or landscape is under consideration for Article 10 Landmark designation, the Historic Preservation Commission is required to identify character-defining features of the property. This is done to enable owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

#### **All exterior elevations, architectural ornament and rooflines of 1345 Ocean Avenue, and identified as:**

- Compound cornice, including the pediment, cornice, frieze, dentils, and molding details.
- Configuration of the symmetrical entry portico: including:
  - six Ionic columns (two central columns flanked on either side by an engaged column and pilasters)
  - three stairways located between the portico's column bases, with terrazzo treads and risers,
  - mosaic tile landing with the word "WELCOME;" and
  - three sets of wood paneled, half-glazed, double-leaf doors with single light transoms above;
  - brass cornerstone located in the column base;
  - three hanging globe-style pendant lights centered above each entry door; and
- Configuration of the bays, pilasters, and corresponding breaks in the entablature across the primary and secondary elevations.
- Wooden cross located between the first and second floors at the curving corner.
- Lettering on the building including:
  - At the front of building the word "INGLESIDE," centered within the portico's pediment;
  - "PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTER" is centered within the portico's entablature;
  - "INGLESIDE CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTER," centered in the entablature at the curving corner; and
  - "WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT. II COR. 5:7," centered in the entablature of the first bay on the Granada Avenue façade.
- Fenestration at the primary elevation, including the double-hung wood-sash windows set in wood surrounds.
- Fenestration at the secondary elevation, including:
  - the two sets of wood paneled double-leaf sanctuary exit doors and one single-leaf wood paneled exit door;
  - the configuration of six multi-light, multi-colored glass sanctuary windows at the first and second floor level, divided by a stucco spandrel panel with stucco casings;
  - the configuration of double-hung, wood-sash windows, including those in the last bay above the exit door, that are currently covered in plywood.

#### **The character-defining interior features of the building are identified as:**

- Those associated with the 1923 Joseph Leonard architectural design that have historically been accessible to the public, and depicted in the floor plans or photos of the designation report dated March 16, 2016; including:



- The Entry Lobby, including the stairs to the lobby level, main staircase materials and configuration, wood wainscot, paneled doors, and casings with pediments above;
  - The Gymnasium, including its open volume, trusses, skylights, basketball goals, wooden flooring with basketball court markings, light fixtures, and light pendants.
  - The Sanctuary space, including its open volume, the balcony, octagonal dome, supporting wooden knee brackets, redwood coffers, and colored glass skylights, and the configuration and materials of the six-multi-light, multi-colored colored glass windows at the main level and balcony level.
- **The character-defining interior features of the building are those associated with the collage-mural located within the building entitled *The Great Cloud of Witnesses* that have historically been accessible to the public, and depicted in the floor plans or photos the designation report dated March 16, 2016; including:**
    - All wall surfaces, doors, doorways, casings, moldings, ceiling, and ceiling beams covered with paper clippings or posters, framed artwork, objects and painted portraits and lettering. All millwork throughout the church including wood wainscoting, baseboards, and door casings with entablatures, chair rails and picture rails including finishes (painted or stained).
      1. The Reverend Roland Gordon Fellowship Hall
      2. The Michael Jackson Room
      3. The Barack Obama Technology Center
      4. The Mayor Willie Brown Room
      5. Legacy Room I and Legacy Room II
      6. The Nelson Mandela Bathroom.

It should also be noted that all future conservation and stabilization work to the collage-mural shall be guided by the Architectural Resources Group (ARG) *Existing Conditions Assessment and Recommendations Report*, included as Appendix B within the designation report dated, March 16, 2016.

## PROPERTY INFORMATION

**Historic Name:** Ingleside Community Church, Ingleside Presbyterian Church, Ingleside Presbyterian Church and Community Center

**Popular Name:** Ingleside Presbyterian Church

**Address:** 1345 Ocean Avenue

**Block and Lot:** 6942050

**Owner:** Ingleside United Presbyterian

**Original Use:** church/community center

**Current Use:** church/community center

**Zoning:** NCT – Ocean Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Transit

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Reverend Roland Gordon, October 30, 2014

Vickie Lewis, October 23, 2014

Donald J. Mattade, October 23, 2014

Crystal E. Morris, October 17, 2014

### **Photography**

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Susan Parks, San Francisco Planning Department





## Appendix A: Case Studies of Designated Folk Artist Environments & Murals

### Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village

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**Location:** Simi Valley, California

**Period of Significance:** 1956-1966

**Artist:** "Grandma" Tressa Prisbrey

**Designation:** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

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*(Photo Credit: Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village)*

---

Located on one-third of an acre, this artist's environment is composed of wishing wells, follies, cactus gardens, sculptures, connected walkways, and a series of 16 "buildings." All of the structures were created by Grandma Prisbrey from glass bottles and were built as shrines to house her various collections of found objects including; lipstick cases, glasses, golf tees, dolls and over 17,000 pencils. All of the ornamental structures were created from an "assemblage of hundreds of thousands of mass consumer throwaway objects from the late 1950's and early 1960's, most of which were salvaged by Mrs. Prisbrey through her daily treks to the local dump for years."<sup>1</sup> When it was listed on the National Register, it was considered a "work in progress"<sup>2</sup> and found to have significance in the areas of art, architecture, and landscape architecture.

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<sup>1</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village, prepared by Daniel Dereck Paul, 1996, <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/96001076.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

# Salvation Mountain

---

**Location:** Niland, California

**Period of Significance:** 1980-2012

**Artist:** Leonard Knight

**Designation:** National Treasure

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(Photo Credit: NarrowLarry.com)

---

For almost thirty years, Leonard Knight piled up trash, hay bales, tree trunks, and other discarded objects and covered them with sand to create a mountain. Referred to as Outsider Art, Knight used He then used brightly colored adobe and leftover paint to form flowers, waterfalls, and rivers to enhance biblical verses, such as the Lord's Prayer, the Sinner's Prayer, and John 3:16 in order to proclaimed his message "God is Love."<sup>3</sup> "From its Sea of Galilee at the bottom, to the big red heart in the middle, to the cross at the very top, the reoccurring theme of "Love" is everywhere at Salvation Mountain."<sup>4</sup> Initially decried as an environmental hazard and an unauthorized use of state land, in 2002 it was entered into the Congressional Record as a National Treasure.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> "Leonard Knight, Salvation Mountain," Spacesarchives.org:

<http://www.spacesarchives.org/explore/collection/environment/salvation-mountain>

<sup>4</sup> "Salvation Mountain," <http://www.salvationmountain.us/>

<sup>5</sup> "Salvation Mountain," <http://www.narrowlarry.com/nlsalv.html>

## Holy Ghost Park (“The Dickeyville Grotto”)

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**Location:** Dickeyville, Wisconsin

**Period of Significance:** 1918-1930

**Artist:** Father Mathias Wernerus

**Designation:** National Treasure

---



(Photo Credit: [Dickeyvillegrotto.com](http://www.dickeyvillegrotto.com))

---

Working with his parishioners, Father Mathias Wernerus, a Catholic priest, designed and built a series of grottoes and shrines on the grounds of the Holy Ghost Church in Dickeyville, Wisconsin, between 1918 and 1930. Much like Reverend Gordon, when Wernerus became pastor of the Holy Ghost Church in Dickeyville, in 1918, he wanted to engage his parishioners in building projects that transformed a nondescript church into a glittering devotional landscape. He started by embellishing flower vases with colored glass, and then in 1924, he began adorning the concrete shrine *Grotto of the Holy Eucharist*, with glass, shells, tile, and other materials. From 1925 to 1930 he and his parishioners created and embellished three other structures; the *Grotto of Christ the King and Mary His Mother*, the *Grotto of the Sacred Heart*, and the *Patriotism Shrine*. Each structure became so heavily covered with objects that the original Classical Revival architecture was hardly legible.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> “Dickeyville Grotto,” <http://www.dickeyvillegrotto.com/>

# The Orange Show

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**Location:** Houston, Texas

**Period of Significance:** 1968-1979

**Artist:** Jefferson Davis McKissack

**Designation:** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

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*(Photo Credit: NarrowLarry.com)*

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The Orange Show is a two-story folk art environment created with a walled enclosure surrounding several distinct sections. Jefferson Davis McKissack built the highly decorated, unique maze-like construction with a base of concrete and steel. McKissack incorporated found and purchased materials, including stone, tile, metal, paint, antiques and tractor seats and wheels. He created The Orange Show as a tribute to his favorite fruit, which he believed to be the perfect food. He used repeating kaleidoscope patterns, displays showing the nutritional value of the fruit along with many hand painted signs encourage visitors to eat more oranges.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for *The Orange Show*, prepared by Rebecca J. Jacobs-Pollez, Lauren Kern, et al. [http://ftp.thc.state.tx.us/nr\\_program/Houston,%20Orange%20Show%20NR.pdf](http://ftp.thc.state.tx.us/nr_program/Houston,%20Orange%20Show%20NR.pdf)



# Chicano Park Murals

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**Location:** Los Angeles, California

**Period of Significance:** 1970-1989

**Artist:** Various

**Designation:** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

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(Photo Credit: Murals Chicano Park)

---

Located in San Diego's historically Chicano neighborhood, Barrio Logan, the Chicano Park is a seven-acre park that runs beneath the approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. The park has been used by the Chicano community since 1970 for political and social events; the mural consists of an assemblage of multiple vibrant colored paintings. 49 murals are painted on 24 piers; the murals and their iconography depict images of Pre-Columbian Mexican mythology, botanical elements, animals, the Mexican colonization experience, cultural and spiritual affirmations, and political heroes such as Cesar Chavez, La Adelita, Father Miguel Hidalgo, and Che Guevara. These murals were intended as a way to commemorate the struggle to reclaim the park for the neighborhood, and they represent exceptionally significant works of public art that transformed the gray concrete support pillars into a public gathering space filled with color and imagery. The majority of the murals were painted between 1973 and 1989 by major Chicano artists of California, including: Salvador Torres, Mario Torero, Victor Ochoa, Esteban Villa, Ricardo Favela, Guillermo Rosette, Juanishi Orosco, Jose Montoya, Charles "Gato" Felix, Rupert Garcia, Yolanda Lopez, Celia Herrera Rodriguez, Irma Barbosa, Glory Sanchez, Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, Norma Montoya, Victor Cordero, Jari Alvarez, Alvaro Milan, Jose Cervantes, Isaias Crow and many others. <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> National Register Nomination for *Chicano Park Monumental Murals*, prepared by Josie S. Talamantez, 2012.  
[http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly\\_features/2013/CA\\_12001192.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/weekly_features/2013/CA_12001192.pdf)

## *Epic of American Civilization* Frescoes

---

**Location:** Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

**Period of Significance:** 1932-1934

**Artist:** Jose Clemente Orozco

**Designation:** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark

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(Photo Credit: Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College)

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The *Epic of American Civilization* mural by was designated as a National Historic Landmark in March 2013.<sup>9</sup> In this fresco, Orozco was reacting to the horrors of World War I and the Mexican Civil War in a vision that portrayed the negative impacts of nationalism and the rapid pace of industrialization on the human spirit. The prescient nature of this mural anticipated the rise of militaristic ideologies leading to World War II. At the same time, he was a major figure in bringing Mexican art and culture to the forefront of North American artistic consciousness, leading to the mural movement of the New Deal. Orozco, along with Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros, was responsible for introducing and popularizing Mexican mural art in the United States.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for *The Epic of American Civilization Murals*, Baker Library, prepared by Roger Reed and Alexandra Lord, National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service, 2012, <http://www.nps.gov/nhl/news/LC/fall2012/EpicOfAmericanCiv.pdf>

# Mural at City Lights Bookstore

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**Location:** 261-271 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, California

**Artist:** Various

**Designation:** City Landmark No. 228

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*(Vesuvio mural, Photo Credit: Library of Congress)*

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While no mural in San Francisco has been designated as a City Landmark, the City Lights Bookstore landmark designation does identify a mural within the designation ordinance. City Lights Bookstore is significant for its contribution to major Post World War II literature as a publisher of Beat Generation writers, such as Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. Beginning in 1953, City Lights became a gathering place for Bay area writers, small publishers, painters, and poets. The designation ordinance identifies a painted mural located on the ground floor as a character-defining feature. It states:

“The ground floor wall on the south elevation of the building (along Jack Kerouac Street/formerly Adler Alley) currently serves as a place for murals of a political nature. Because such murals are changed from time to time at the discretion of the owners of City Lights Bookstore, they should not be subject to a Certificate of Appropriateness, provided that all future murals be non-commercial in content and non-advertising in nature, and be compatible with the landmark’s cultural significance as an icon of bohemian literary culture, free intellectual inquiry and alternative politics.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Landmark Designation Case Report for City Lights Bookstore, prepared by Tim Kelly, 2000, [http://ec2-50-17-237-182.compute-1.amazonaws.com/docs/landmarks\\_and\\_districts/LM228.pdf](http://ec2-50-17-237-182.compute-1.amazonaws.com/docs/landmarks_and_districts/LM228.pdf)

## **Appendix B: Existing Conditions Assessment by ARG**



## Appendix C: Additional Photos

## **Attachment A: Landmark Designation Report and Appendices**

## **Attachment B: Resolution to Initiate Landmark Designation**

**Attachment C: Letter in Support of Designation from the Ingleside  
Presbyterian Church Session**



# **EXISTING CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT**

**Ingleside Presbyterian Church/**

**Great Cloud of Witnesses**

1345 Ocean Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94112

*Conducted by:*

Architectural Resources Group (ARG) and

ARG Conservation Services

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

San Francisco Architectural Heritage is compiling a National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination report for Ingleside Presbyterian Church. Architectural Resources Group (ARG) and ARG Conservation Services (ARG/CS) joined the team in the winter of 2014, to create a conservation plan for the building and the interior artwork. This document is an appendix to the NHL nomination report. ARG and ARG/CS performed an existing conditions assessment in March of 2014, and results are included in the NHL nomination report and summarized in this conservation plan.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

On March 11, 2015, conservators from ARG and ARG/CS conducted an existing conditions assessment of Ingleside Church. The exterior and interior of the building were assessed visually using notes, photo documentation, and hand drawings. Moisture readings of the interior walls were recorded. All gathered information was thoroughly analyzed and recommendations for repair were drafted.

## **III. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Building**

The current building functions as a church, community center, and gym. It is constructed of concrete and was built approximately in 1923, after an electrical related fire had burned down the previous church. The building was designed by Joseph Leonard, an Arts and Crafts architect. Although the exterior of the church is Classical Revival in design with its large entry portico and columns, the wood interiors with stained glass and amber colored light fixtures are Arts and Crafts in design. During the 1950-60s, renovations to the church were carried out in the sanctuary, gym, and Pastor's study.

### **B. Artwork**

The artwork that covers much of the interior walls is collages comprised of murals, paintings, newspapers, magazines, posters, photographs, and printed copies. Reverend Roland Gordon started the collages in 1982, and has been continuously adding to them ever since. By continuously adding to the collages and utilizing all the rooms, the Reverend makes the artwork a living and interactive piece of art. Each collaged room has a theme that commemorates and memorializes prominent African-Americans in history related to religion, politics, entertainment, popular culture, and family.

## **VI. MODES OF DETERIORATION**

Before proceeding with the existing conditions of the interior and exterior of Ingleside Church, it is important that the different modes of deterioration related to the central piece, the collage, be discussed. There are both external and internal or intrinsic conditions that contribute to the deterioration of the collage. Internal or intrinsic conditions pertain to the actual physical composition of the paper itself and methods of its production. Exterior conditions that cause the collage to deteriorate involve the surrounding environment. This section outlines these different modes of deterioration experienced by the collage throughout Ingleside Church.

## A. Internal or Intrinsic Conditions of Deterioration

Internal or intrinsic conditions of deterioration pertain to the actual physical compositions of the different materials of the collage that contribute to their deterioration. The collage is comprised of five different materials: newspapers, magazines, posters, photographs and copies. Except for the photographs, all these materials are similarly composed and therefore similarly deteriorate. Internal/intrinsic and external conditions of deterioration will be explained in the following paragraphs.

### 1. Composition

Modern paper fabrication (newspapers, magazines, posters, and copies) is the result of techniques developed during the Industrial Revolution (early 19th century), which aimed to mass produce a more affordable paper to cope with the increasing demand. These advances in technology during the Industrial Revolution made possible to produce abundant and inexpensive paper, but its quality and durability was significantly compromised.

During the Industrial Revolution, early paper fabricated from rag fibers was replaced by machine-made modern paper composed entirely of ground wood pulp. Ground wood pulp contains cellulose and other materials that occur naturally in wood such as lignin, an inherently unstable plant protein that generates acid as it deteriorates. These acids in modern paper breakdown cellulose fibers that cause the paper to weaken. In addition to the acids produced by the deterioration of the lignin, some acids used during the actual papermaking process cause paper to become weak, brittle, and stained overtime. Cellulose, the other main component of wood-pulp, is highly hygroscopic, thus making paper susceptible to any source or atmospheric or superficial moisture. Of all the different paper types, newspapers are the least processed and therefore very rich in lignin and the most prone to deterioration.

### 2. Structure

A sheet of paper is a web of fibers (particularly of cellulose fibers) held together by physical and chemical bonds. Some materials are added to the fibers to control the properties of paper, such as absorbency and smoothness. Materials added include chemicals to make the paper less absorbent (so ink will not bleed), and clay to create a smooth and shiny surface. In general, every paper observed in the collection is a combination of fibers, adhesives, and media. If any of these elements are unstable, the paper will be inheritably unstable and will deteriorate over time.

## B. External Conditions of Deterioration

The rate of the previously discussed internal or intrinsic deterioration will increase if external conditions like temperature, relative humidity, and light are present at high levels. These external conditions catalyze the internal or intrinsic deterioration through chemical and physical reactions. The main agents of external deterioration found in the Ingleside Church collages, are an interaction between physics (temperature, relative humidity and light), chemicals, and anthropogenic factors.



## 1. Humidity

Humidity is an external condition that contributes to the deterioration of the collages. Humidity is the amount of moisture or water in the air and is measured in terms of relative humidity. Paper contains water in its chemical structure and surface structure. Paper's moisture content tries to keep an equilibrium with the moisture in the air. For example, if air's relative humidity drops, paper will give up water to the air to maintain equilibrium with the air, thus the paper contracts and becomes smaller as it loses its water to the air. Paper gives up its loosely bound surface water first and then, if the conditions persist, it also gives up its structural water. While the surface water can be regained after the humidity rises, the loss of structural water is permanent and causes irreversible damage.

Although certain amounts of humidity are necessary for the flexibility of paper, exposure to prolonged levels of high humidity will weaken the paper's fibers and propitiate physical damages when inappropriately handled. Prolonged levels of high humidity will also cause the solubilization of the sizing (superficial adhesive) that causes inks to bleed, and the acceleration of various types of internal chemical reactions that result in the paper becoming yellow and stained with spots. Lastly, high humidity levels promote the growth of fungus, bacteria, and insects.

## 2. Temperature

Temperature is a measurement of heat and an external condition that contributes to the collages' deterioration. The main sources of heat found in the Church are from windows and heaters. Heat can also be produced when spaces are being occupied by large groups of people. In combination with humidity, temperature can result in different kinds of paper deterioration. For example, high temperature with low humidity will dehydrate cellulose fibers, thus creating brittle paper. This combination causes the paper to lose its flexibility to the point that it may crumble to the touch. On the other hand, high temperature with high humidity creates the conditions for the growth of microorganisms.

## 3. Light

Natural and artificial sources of light are other external factors that cause paper to deteriorate. UV, fluorescent, and infrared light coming from both natural (sunlight) and artificial sources (interior lighting) are responsible for the photochemical degradation of paper. This degradation breaks down the paper's structure of long cellulose chains, thus making the paper brittle and weak. Also, accumulative exposure to light causes paper, pigments, and ink to physically deteriorate; the paper becomes faded and yellowed. The amount of damage caused by light varies according to the nature, intensity, duration of exposure, and distance from the source of light. In general, the effect of light on paper objects is cumulative and irreversible.

## 4. Chemical

The intrinsic/internal chemical deterioration of external materials on which the collage is mounted, such as cardboard, plywood, adhesives, push pins, staples, and wood

paneling, emit acids as they deteriorate or age. These acids migrate into the collage contributing to the collage's deterioration. In sum, the collage's intrinsic/internal chemical rate of deterioration is then accelerated by the intrinsic/internal chemical deterioration of adjacent materials on which it is adhered.

#### 5. Anthropogenic

Anthropogenic causes of deterioration relate to the interaction between the building and its users. Collaged rooms with high pedestrian traffic are places where paper is more susceptible to abrasion, scratches, tears, holes, losses and planar deformation. Collaged areas of high pedestrian traffic and use are located on the first floor and basement levels.

### **V. EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### A. Exterior

The exterior envelope of the structure is in overall fair condition. All painted finishes on doors, windows, hardware, railings, and concrete are in fair to poor condition. Painted concrete throughout the exterior building elevations has peeled away leaving exposed concrete. Spalling concrete and staining at the roof suggests inadequate drainage.

None of the windows or skylights are weather-stripped. All windows have deteriorated paint and putty. One cracked window pane was noted to be on the east elevation. However, all other glass panes, including stained glass panes, appear to be undamaged.

The concrete entry portico and stairway, located on the north elevation, have general soiling, cracking, and failed repairs. The concrete column bases exhibit cracking and failed repairs. Staining of the ceiling from atmospheric pollution is evident on the portico ceiling. The concrete stairs show signs of general soiling, cracking, and water damage from insufficient roof drainage.

Although the roof was not accessed, it was assessed from the ground using photography and appears to be in very poor condition. Spalls and cracking of the stucco and deteriorated flashing were spotted from the west elevation. Also, areas of water damaged plaster located on the 2nd floor ceiling of the Legacy Room, indicate that the roof has leaking issues. At the foot of the exterior of the northwest wall, biological growth is evident and most likely due to inadequate drainage of the building.



Figure 1: Portico ceiling and walls have general soiling and staining.



Figure 2: Cracking of concrete column at base.



Figure 3: Staining and cracking at roofline suggest roofing issues.



Figure 4: Biogrowth at base indicates possible inadequate drainage.



Figure 6: Window frames are not weatherstripped.

## B. Interior

### *Vestibule (1st floor)*

The collage in the vestibule area is in fair condition. Collage areas near the windows and front doors of the vestibule are the most faded and discolored, most likely due to UV-light related exposure from outside. The discoloration and fading of certain areas of the college near the doors could also be related to the poor air quality (due to automobile traffic) coming inside from the outside. The collage back area of the vestibule with no windows receives fluorescent tube light related exposure and experiences the same fading and discoloration, but to a lesser extent than the front area of the vestibule. The intrinsic chemical deterioration of the adhesive used to attach the collage to the walls could also be contributing to the fading and discoloration of the paper. This form of deterioration of the collage is accelerated in heat and sunlight, thus explaining why the regions located near the entry doors and windows are more faded than the back of the vestibule where there are no windows.

Scrapes and tears on the collage at eye level and below are due to pedestrian traffic and poor handling. The wainscoting of vertical wood panels also has some scrapes and scratches from pedestrian traffic and furniture. As expected, doorway areas have the most

scrapes and mechanical abrasions due to high pedestrian traffic. Moldings near the main entry doors have tiny holes which are most likely due to the pinning of flyers and notices over time.

The painted ceiling appears to be in good condition. The ceiling, fluorescent tube light fixtures, and conduits have been painted light blue with white clouds to imitate the sky. No paint is flaking and no visible signs of light exposure such as fading were evident. Despite the room having carpeting and no weather-stripping of windows and doors, no signs of mold were evident and the relative humidity of the room was at an acceptable level.



Figure 7: Painted ceiling appears to be in good condition with no flaking or chipping paint.



Figure 8: Collages near the front doors experience general wear and tear from pedestrian traffic and UV-light as well as florescent light damage.

### *Vestibule (2nd floor)*

The vestibule area upstairs is in overall good condition. The collage upstairs is more sporadic and less clustered than the downstairs vestibule collage. The collage upstairs has also been applied using adhesives. The wood moldings and wainscoting of vertical wood panels have minimal impact related damages from pedestrian traffic. The walls are of painted white plaster and also have minimal impact related damages.

The ceiling has also been painted blue with white clouds similar to the downstairs vestibule ceiling. The conduits on the ceiling have also been painted blue. No paint was found to be peeling, scratched or missing. No light related deterioration to the ceiling and collage, such as fading and discoloration, was visible. Circular light fixtures dimly illuminate this region and emit minor light damage to the collage.

The glass skylight in the upstairs vestibule region is in fair to poor condition. Its wood frame has been cut into to accommodate space for a circular light fixture. The skylight is said to have leaks and has no weatherstripping or putty. Each of the skylight's window panes are of textured wire glass. The glass panes are all intact with no cracking, however they are heavily soiled and debris has collected on its exterior surface.





Figure 9: Wood paneling and wainscoting are in good condition with minor abrasion marks.



Figure 10: Skylight of textured wire glass has no weatherstripping or putty. Debris has collected on glass. Light fixture cuts into wood frame.

#### *Ruth Fellowship Hall (1st floor)*

The collage of Ruth Fellowship Hall is in fair condition. The collage on the north wall is mainly comprised of photographs, attached directly to the plaster wall with adhesive above the wainscoting. The four single double hung windows on the south wall let in UV-light from outside that directly hit the photographs of the collage. While these photographs are at high risk of UV-light related deterioration, they are not as faded or discolored as other photographs in the building because they were installed more recently.

Scrapes and tears on the collage at eye level and below are due to pedestrian traffic and poor handling. The wainscoting of vertical wood panels also has some scrapes and scratches from pedestrian traffic and furniture. However, doorway areas have the most scrapes and tears due to their high pedestrian traffic. Moldings near the main entry doors have tiny holes, most likely due to the pinning of flyers and notices over time.

The painted plaster ceiling appears to be in good condition. The ceiling is light blue in color like the vestibule ceiling, but with no painted white clouds. No blue paint is flaking or appears to have visibly faded just yet due to light exposure. Paint on the conduits and light fixtures is also in good condition and still intact. The plaster walls have minor cracking, the largest crack is located on the east wall.

Despite the room having no weather-stripping of its windows, no signs of mold were evident and the relative humidity of the room was at acceptable levels. The wood window sills exhibit signs of UV-light and water damage due to the windows having no weather-stripping. Exposure to UV-light and water has deteriorated the wood windows and surrounding wood paneling's glossy finish to the point of it appearing matte.



Figure 11: College comprised of photos is faded due to UV-light related deterioration. Pedestrian traffic has abraded some of the photos and wainscoting.

Figure 12: UV-light and water damaged wood frames.



Figure 13: Abrasion marks and soiling at base of wainscoting from pedestrian traffic.



Figure 14: Cracking of plaster wall.



*Muriel Wade Conference Room AKA Martin Luther King Junior Room (1st floor)*

The collage of the Martin Luther King Jr. room (formerly known as the Muriel Wade Conference room) is in good condition. The collage is located on the north concrete wall surrounding the stainless steel elevator. The room contains maroon carpeting, no windows, and is lit up with fluorescent tube lighting. Despite the room having no windows and carpeting, humidity levels were at acceptable levels and no mold was found.

Due to a combination of this collage being relatively recently installed and the fluorescent lighting of the room, the collage is currently only exhibiting slight fading. The collage of this room is mainly comprised of photocopies, many of them covering the conduits, and all adhered to their substrates using an adhesive. It appears the adhesive was heavily used on some areas of the collage so that it would adhere to the rough texture of the concrete substrate.

The ceiling, fluorescent tube light fixtures, and conduits, have been painted the same light blue color like the ceiling of Ruth Fellowship Hall. The ceiling molding has been painted blue and is missing in the southeast corner. Overall the painted ceiling, conduits, light fixtures and molding appears to be in good condition and are not experiencing any chipping, peeling, or cracking.

All walls, besides the north wall where the elevator is situated, are plaster with a wainscoting of vertical, faux-grained light-brown wood panels. The wainscoting has scratches and mechanical abrasion from the moving of furniture against the wall and pedestrian traffic. The center of the wainscoting on the south wall has a gold painted wooden cross that has been nailed to the wall. The cross's gold paint has worn away in some areas, particularly at the bottom. Door frames of the room have been painted red and appear to be in good condition with minor mechanical abrasions from pedestrian traffic.



Figure 15: Collage comprised mainly of photocopies adhered to wood paneling.



Figure 16: Ends of gold crucifix have missing paint. Wood paneling has abrasion marks from furniture.

### *Gym (1st floor)*

The gym is in overall fair condition. All the substrates of the collage have issues causing it to deteriorate. The high pedestrian traffic and use of this room has caused impact and use related damages. The lighting of the space and its location close proximity to the neighboring building has created fluctuating temperatures and high levels of relative humidity that contribute to the deterioration of the space and its collage.

In the gym, the collage is mounted on a series of different kinds of substrates such as cardboard, particle board, plywood, plaster, concrete, and wood. Pieces of cardboard and particle board nailed above the wainscoting have already begun to fray and disintegrate at their edges. The short life expectancy and high acidity of cardboard, plywood, and particle board make them not a stable surface for the collage. Pieces of plywood cover the east and south walls below and above the molding. These pieces of plywood have been used to cover damages of the wainscoting, plaster, and concrete substrate behind it. Replacement wood paneling in the wainscoting is bowed outwards in some regions due to uneven expansion and contraction with the adjacent wood panels and above molding. This bowing of the panels has stretched, torn, and disfigured portions of the collage.

The collage shows general signs of wear and tear from pedestrian traffic and use of the gym space. Areas of the collage near the trash cans located towards the northeast corner, have staining and soiling. The kitchen window located on the north wall, has been covered with a canvas that is stained. The canvas has been attached to the wall using pins which have corroded and stained its surroundings. Impact related damages are apparent on the collage of the north wall behind the hoop, most likely from the basketball hitting it. Mechanical related damages such as scrapes are evident on the wood doorways from pedestrian traffic. The collage behind the wood benches on the east elevation has staining, scrapes, and tears from general use of the benches. Tears along the seams of the vertical wainscoting boards are evident in the southeast corner.

Besides adhesive, the collage has also been applied to the walls using various different kinds of push pins and nails. The push pins have a round butt and vary in color. All push pins show signs of corrosion, however it appears the colorful or painted push pins have fared better than the unpainted ones. Corroded push pins and nails have stained some areas of the collage.

The skylights of the gym are in overall fair condition. All skylights have deteriorated paint, putty, and glazing. The skylights are recessed and surrounding by horizontal wood paneling that has been painted white. The wood paneling has staining related to water damage, indicating that the skylights have leaking issues. The window panes of the skylights are long panels of textured wire glass. None of the wire glass appears to be cracked, however they have heavy soiling and debris sit on the exterior surface.

The skylights and artificial lighting of the room contribute to the fading and discoloration of the collage. The murals at the top of the gym walls are also subject to harmful UV and fluorescent light that will cause its colors to lose its vibrancy over time. The painted canvas on the north elevation wall will also discolor and fade with time.

The relative humidity of the gym is high. High or fluctuating relative humidity levels accelerates the aging of the collage because it speeds the chemical reaction of the collage paper with the adhesive and atmosphere over time. The high readings in this space are

most likely due to a combination of factors such as the close proximity (approximately one foot) of the adjacent building to the gym's exterior wall, and the nonexistent weather stripping of all doors and skylights. Moisture most likely gets trapped between the gym wall and adjacent building. Further indications of high relative humidity and trapped moisture is the severe wood rot occurring on the exterior of the southwest gym door that leads to a small outdoor enclave between the adjacent building a church building.



Figure 17: Detail of mechanical abrasion marks on collage.



Figure 18: Detail of water damage on collage behind wood bench.



Figure 19: General wear and tear of wood floors from pedestrian traffic.



Figure 20: Deterioration of cardboard backing behind collage and torn edges of collage elements.





Figure 21: Water damage to wood paneling near skylight.

*Reverend Gordon Fellowship Hall (1st floor)*



Figure 22: Displacement and movement of wood paneling resulting in attached collage to tear.

The collage in this room is in overall good condition. This collage appears to be predominantly comprised of magazines mounted on particle boards that sit on the molding above the wainscoting. A single light bulb illuminates the space so light exposure is minimal. Any signs of discoloration of the collage is more likely due to the acidity of the adhesives and the particle board, rather than the light. The fact that the collage in this room is mostly of magazines, a more resilient material compared to newspapers and photos, also explains the good condition of the collage.

All wood trimmings are in good condition. They have a clear high gloss suggesting they are original. The hallway has a wood molding and wainscoting of vertical planks with a picture molding above. Plaster walls sit above the molding/wainscoting and are mostly covered by the previously mentioned particle board upon which the collage is adhered. The wainscoting and stairway railing have mechanical damages related to general use and pedestrian traffic.



Figure 23: General wear and tear of collage and wood stair railing from pedestrian traffic.



Figure 24: General wear and tear of wood wainscoting from pedestrian traffic.

### *Basement*

The basement is comprised of three spaces that are in overall good to fair condition. The collage in the basement is mostly comprised of magazines, and is attached to structural support poles, the ceiling, conduits, and doors using adhesive. It appears adhesive was heavily used on some areas of the collage, because its concrete and plaster substrates' rough textures are evident on the surface of the collage paper. Stickers that read "rejoice" wrap on some of the conduits and appear to be in good condition.

The collage is experiencing light damage from the fluorescent tube lighting in the basement. The third room closest to the Obama Technology center, has a small hallway with stairs that lead to a recessed window and emergency exit door. Because the window is recessed and of textured wire glass, the collage in this hallway and newspaper clippings on the sill are exposed to low UV-light levels.

The floor of the basement is gray linoleum. The gray linoleum is in overall good condition with minor abrasions and staining from pedestrian traffic. The laying down of the linoleum flooring could've been better executed as pieces of red linoleum are visible underneath at room corners and posts. A piece of the gray linoleum is missing in the stairs that lead to the emergency exit.

The collaged walls and mirrors surrounding, the two restrooms is in fair condition. The mirror next to the women's restroom is cracked. Also, the collage on the doors of both the men's

and women's restroom have abrasion and mechanical related damages from general pedestrian traffic and use.

The relative humidity of the basement is medium to high due to poor ventilation and its location at and below ground level. The area with the highest levels of relative humidity are located near the restrooms. This region of the basement has no windows that would allow some ventilation to reduce humidity levels.



Figure 25: Cracked mirror outside women's restroom.

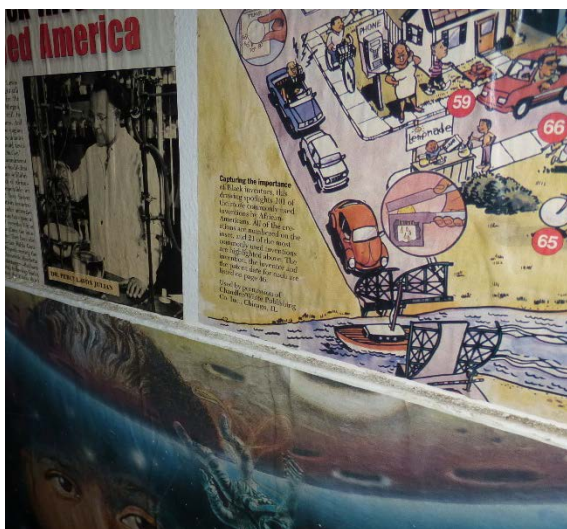


Figure 26: Deterioration of paper and adhesive.

### *Obama Technology Center (Basement)*

The Obama Technology Center is in overall fair condition. The collage in this room is less dense than the other basement rooms. Materials used to create the collage are relatively recent and thus do not exhibit any major signs of deterioration.

Mechanical related damages, such as scrapes and scratches related from general use of the room, are evident. The entry door and ceiling support columns have scrapes from pedestrian traffic. The floor appears to be relatively new and covers a red linoleum flooring that is visible at the corners of the room. The floor shows minor signs of wear and tear from general use. Scrapes on the floor are located mainly near desk legs and chairs.

The ceiling, light fixtures, and conduits are painted the same light blue of the vestibule, Martin Luther King Jr. room, and Ruth Fellowship Hall room. The paint appears to be in good condition with no peeling or chipping. Electrical wires snake around the corners of the ceiling. Portions of the electrical wiring appear to be too heavy and require additional attachments for support.

Fluorescent tube lighting illuminates the room, and a series of round light fixtures that are not in use run down the ceiling's center. The fluorescent tube lighting emits light that will cause the collage to fade overtime. The double hung textured wire glass windows are covered with blinds and let in minimal to none harmful UV-light that would further contribute to the fading and discoloration of the collage. The windows are not weatherstripped and



have no putty letting in moisture and exterior atmospheric air that can contribute to the deterioration of the collage.

The plaster walls show areas of impact related damages and minor cracking, however the area of most concern is the crumbling plaster located at the center base of the north wall. This crumbling of the plaster is most likely related to the rusted water pipe adjacent to it. The possibly still leaking pipe and crumbling plaster are most definitely contributing to the deterioration of the collage and high humidity levels.

The relative humidity of this room was not only high, but drastically higher than any other room in the building. The north wall had the highest levels of relative humidity. At the exterior of this wall there is biogrowth indicating issues with water drainage and collection of too much water at the base of the structure's wall. This wall also has a series of windows that have not been weather stripped and let in further moisture. High or fluctuating relative humidity levels accelerates the aging of the collage because it speeds the chemical reaction of the collage paper with the adhesive and atmosphere over time. The high readings in this space could also be attributed to its location at and below ground level, where the floor and walls collect moisture from the ground and from above.

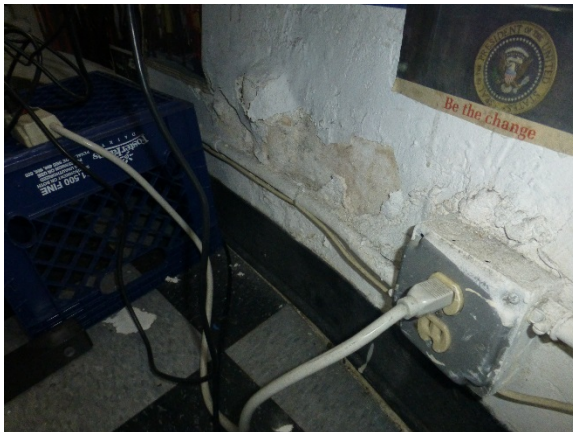


Figure 27: Water damage along base of plaster wall.  
*Willie Brown, Jr. Community Room (2nd floor)*



Figure 28: Exposure of multiple layers of flooring.

The collage of the Willie Brown, Jr. Community Room is in overall fair condition. The collage is mainly in the region between the vertical paneled wainscoting and picture molding that is painted green, red, and black. Fading and discoloration of the collage is prominent in this room due to the many single double-hung windows in the room that let in harmful UV-light. The windows are somewhat covered by long mirrors that further reflect the UV-light in the room contributing to the deterioration of the collage. Also, these windows have no weatherstripping which does not help in maintaining the stability of the relative humidity of the room contributing to the deterioration of the collage. Currently articles of clothing, rags, and towels are being used at the window sills to insufficiently seal them. Water damage is evident on the sills of the windows and the finish is peeling off.

The ceiling, light fixtures, and conduits have all been painted light blue. The paint is in good condition with no chipping or peeling evident. The fluorescent tube lighting emits light that contributes to the fading of the collage. A large rectangular glass lamp of amber glass hangs down from the ceiling but has no bulbs and is no longer in use.

Mechanical related damages from general use of the room are evident at the wood doorways where scrape marks are visible. The carpeting appears to have been torn in the doorway from pedestrian traffic and use of the door. Columns that support the beam that runs east-west through the center of the room have abrasion marks. The point where the beam attaches to the west wall is exhibiting cracking that could be related to building settlement.



Figure 29: Detail of cracking at ceiling beam.



Figure 30: Window covered by long mirror and inadequately weatherstripped with a towel.

#### *Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins Education Library (2nd floor)*

The collage in this room is located on the east wall and appears to be in good condition. This collaged wall is protected by furniture from pedestrian traffic, and the wainscoting and collage have minimal to none mechanical related damages. The green, red, and black picture molding above shows no signs of chipped or peeling paint.

The three windows on the west elevation are in fair condition. All windows have no putty, no weatherstripping, no glazing, water damaged sills, and deteriorated finishes. Because the windows are not weatherstripped, the relative humidity and temperature of the room most likely fluctuate, thus creating an unstable environment for the collage leading to its deterioration. Although the windows are half covered by large poster frames, they still allow UV-light into the room further contributing to the deterioration of the collage. The wainscoting surrounding the windows has an ashy appearance revealing prior water damage.

The wood cabinets covering the north and south side of the room are in good condition. The cabinets have minor abrasion marks at the handles and corners from general use. Furniture in front of the cabinets prevents the flow of pedestrian traffic, thus protecting the cabinets from mechanical related damages.



The ceiling and its conduits have all been painted blue. The paint is in good condition with no chipping or peeling found. The light fixtures have been painted blue and are of fluorescent tube lighting which also emit light that contribute to the fading of the collage.



Figure 31: Cabinetry is protected by surrounding furniture from pedestrian traffic related damages.



Figure 32: Water damage to wood paneling between windows.

#### *Legacy Room (2nd floor)*

This space is essentially a large hallway where desks have been placed to one side of the space, and doorways that lead to rooms such as the Library and Michael Jackson room are on the other. The collage is dense and attached to the white plaster walls using adhesive. A green, red, and black painted picture molding runs along the south wall. The room has no windows and a single light fixture, thus exposing the collage to minor light related damage.

The ceiling, light fixtures, and conduits have all been painted light blue. The paint is in fair condition and peeling paint was found in the center of the ceiling towards the south wall, near a light fixture. This peeling paint was due to its water damaged plaster substrate, suggesting that the Church has leaking issues with its roof.

The floor is covered in red carpeting that appears to be in good condition. Rips are located at the doorways and mended with red tape. The carpet is covered with carpet runners that mitigate staining and abrasion related to pedestrian traffic.

Mechanical related damages are minor and located at doorways due to pedestrian traffic and general use of the room. The south wall and its collage are shielded from pedestrian traffic due to the furniture that sits in front of it. The north wall is less protected, however, it appears to be in good condition as well, due to the fact that this space experiences low pedestrian traffic.



Figure 34: Torn carpeting repaired with red scotch tape.

#### *Michael Jackson Room (2nd floor)*

This small room is collaged on all walls but the west wall, where 2 windows are located. Also, access to the west wall is obstructed by a table and the northeast corner of the wall has a mini table and fridge. Blue painters tape has been used to create a molding. The plaster ceiling has been painted light blue and no peeling, chipping, or fading was evident.

The white plaster walls are in good condition. The walls are of plaster that have been painted white. The collage has been adhered to the walls using adhesive and is located in the wall space between the blue painter's tape and ceiling. Due to the placement of the furniture in the space and its low pedestrian traffic, minor abrasion and impact related damages were found and mainly at the doorway.

The collages are exposed to both natural and artificial light. Natural light enters the room through the windows, but it is mitigated by the neon green colored curtains. Artificial light emits from the fluorescent tube lighting fixture that is located in the center of the light blue ceiling. Both natural and artificial lighting contain harmful UV-light that contribute to the deterioration of the collage, causing it to fade and discolor.

The two windows of the room are in fair condition. Both windows have no putty, no weatherstripping, deteriorated glazing, water damaged sill, and deteriorated finish. Because

the windows have no weatherstripping, the room's temperature and relative humidity most likely fluctuate thus creating an unstable environment geared towards deterioration for the collage.

The floor is covered in red carpeting and appears to be in fair condition. The carpet is covered with carpet runners that mitigate staining and abrasion related to pedestrian traffic. The runner in front of the fridge also protects the carpeted floor from staining related to food and pedestrian traffic.



Figure 35: Entry of damaging UV-light for collage is mitigated by neon green curtains.



Figure 36: Carpet runners protect the red carpet from general wear and tear from pedestrian traffic.

#### *Nelson Mandela Bathroom (2nd floor)*

This room's collage is still a work in progress and is in fair condition. The room is a half bath with a toilet and sink. The collage covers the west wall and door. A window sits in the northeast side of the room and the wainscoting is vertical wood paneling painted red.

The collage appears to be in good condition. It has been applied to the walls using adhesive. Currently it has minor discoloration and fading. Any fading and discoloration is most likely due to the UV-light passing through the window. The window also has no putty or weatherstripping creating an unstable environment for the collage.

Mechanical related damages such as scrapes and abrasion marks are located at the doorway and are due to pedestrian traffic. The red carpeting on the floor is protected by carpet runners. These carpet runners shield the floor from pedestrian related damages and staining.

## VI. ANALYSIS

After processing all collected information (photos, notes, hand drawings, and moisture readings), ARG found the building to be in overall fair condition. The exterior of the building is in disrepair and contributes to the deterioration of the building's collaged interior. The building experiences water infiltration due to the poor conditions of the windows, doors, and roof. Moisture readings were the highest in the basement rooms and gym space, suggesting these rooms' windows and doors need to be weatherstripped, and roof drainage needs to be evaluated and repaired. The gym also is situated up close to an adjacent building offering a small, dark, and cool place for moisture to collect and seep into the gym's walls, thus contributing to the gym walls' high humidity levels.

Pertaining to the building's interior, deterioration varies from room to room depending on window locations, airflow, floor level, moisture content, and pedestrian traffic. However, general conclusions can be made from the collected data. For example, light related deterioration was most evident in the rooms with windows, rather than rooms with artificial lighting (although this type of light is also harmful). Water damaged wood paneling was located near windows and skylights indicating that windows require weatherstripping. The plaster ceiling of the 2nd floor had water damage suggesting issues with the roof. Areas of high pedestrian traffic and use, such as the first floor and basement have the most mechanical related damages such as scrapes and scratches. Doorways and carpeting throughout the building have general signs of wear and tear from use, however damages have been mitigated with the use of carpet runners.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the preservation of the collage in Ingleside Presbyterian Church include prevention and conservation measures. Prevention measures are indirect actions aimed to increase the life expectancy of the collage. Preventive methods encompass housekeeping, caretaking, dusting, periodical supervision, and other indirect actions that can mitigate future damage by physical, chemical, biological or other factors. Conservation measures are direct actions performed on the collage aimed to preserve it. Conservation methods include repairing, mending, fumigation, deacidification, lamination, and or other jobs required depending on the particular condition of the part of collage in question.

It is recommended that preventative measures be executed before any conservation measures are enacted. In other words, it is crucial that the container (building) that holds the collection (collage) be stabilized before any conservation work is done to the collage. The current environment of the collage can be greatly improved to increase the longevity of the collage. Conservation methods will be futile if the environment is not first secured.

### A. Prevention Measures

#### *Exterior*

- Repair roof.
  - Examine and repair drainage.
- Repaint exterior doors, windows, and concrete.
- Patch spalls and cracks with masonry patching material.

- Repair windows and doors - install putty, weatherstrip, replace cracked glass panes, and paint.

#### *Interior*

- Repair windows - install putty, weatherstrip, refinish, replace cracked panes, UV-film on glass.
- Replace fluorescent tube lighting with incandescent bulb lighting.
  - Fluorescent tubes can be covered with ultraviolet-filtering sleeves.
  - Fluorescent tubes can be replaced with low-UV fluorescent tubes.
  - Timed switches to limit collage's UV exposure.
- Windows to be fitted with drapes, blinds, or curtains that completely block out the sun.
- Stabilize interior temperature. Ideally, the temperature should be no greater than 70 degrees Fahrenheit, and a relative humidity of 30 to 50 percent, with fluctuations less than 10 percent a day.
- Weather stripping of doors and windows to minimize exchange of outside air.
- Make sure air vents are not located near areas where vehicles emit exhaust.
- Minimize exposure to harmful interior gases that come from photocopying machines, construction materials, paint fumes, cardboard, carpets, and janitorial supplies. Keep such harmful supplies stored away from the collage.

#### **B. Conservation Measures**

- Photo documentation of collage.
- Replace damaged originals with copies made on acid free paper.
- Store originals in acid free cardboard boxes.
- Handle collage with care (cotton gloves).
- Use acid free glue and paper for collage in the future.
- Avoid ground wood pulp, dry rubber bands, rusting paper clips, pressure sensitive tapes, and staining adhesives such as rubber cement or animal glue.
- Do not place newspapers pieces near food or high traffic areas.
- Routinely check areas to be dust free, remove dust on collage with soft brush, nonchemical vulcanized rubber sponges, or non-abrasive erasing materials like powdered eraser, or soft block eraser.
- Depending on the surface stain, dirt can be removed with a cotton dampened with organic solvent by a trained conservator.
- Accretions such as insect specs and mold may be removed mechanically with a small sharp tool like a spatula, or an aspirator which vacuums if dealing with mold.
- Remove damaging fasteners such as staples, paper clips, string ties, rubber bands, brads, and straight pins.
- If plastic enclosures are considered to protect the collage, they should be made of uncoated polyester, polypropylene, or polyethylene because other plastics may have components or coatings that off-gas and weaken as they deteriorate thus damaging the collage. Always avoid polyvinylchloride (PVC) because it is unstable.
- Consult with paper conservator and have all treatments pertaining to collage overseen or done by a paper conservator.



## VIII. APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Bibliography

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### Appendix B: Data and Graphics

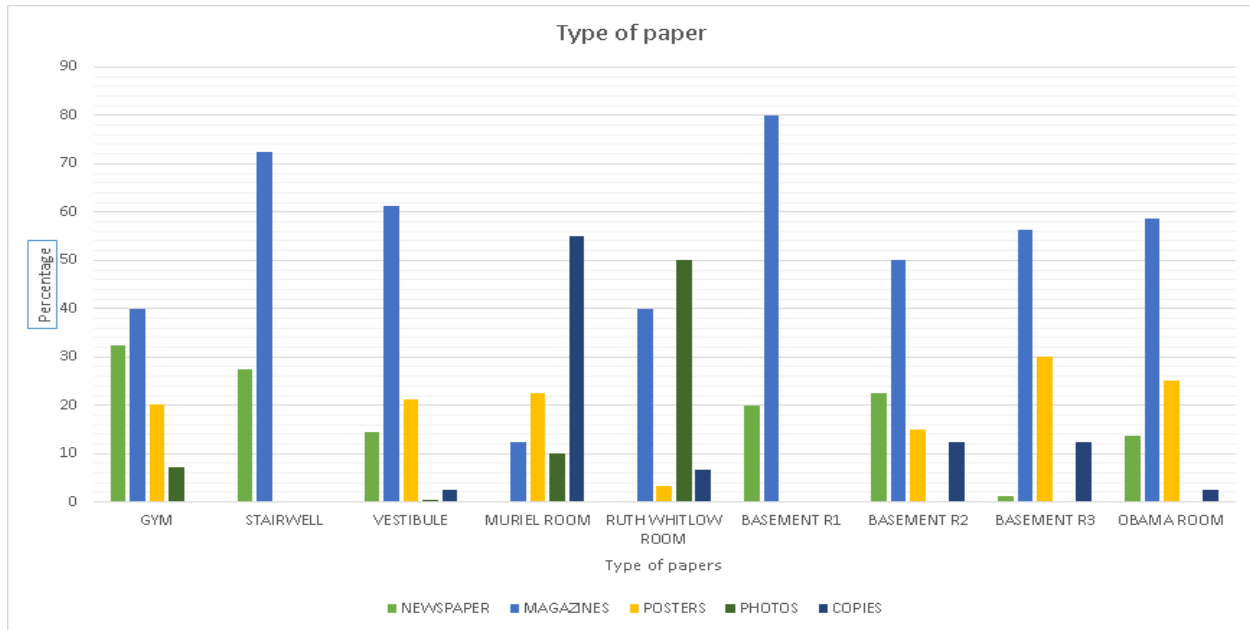
1. Types of Paper Found in Collages
2. Environmental Agents of Deterioration
3. Main Causes of Deterioration
4. Existing Conditions of Paper Support
5. Existing Conditions of Paper Media

## Appendix B: Data and Graphics

### 1. Types of Paper Found in Collages

#### TYPE OF PAPER- PERCENTAGE BY ROOM

LOCATION	NEWSPAPER	MAGAZINES	POSTERS	PHOTOS	COPIES
GYM	32.5	40	20.25	7.25	0
STAIRWELL	27.5	72.5	0	0	0
VESTIBULE	14.5	61.25	21.25	0.5	2.5
MURIEL ROOM	0	12.5	22.5	10	55
RUTH WHITLOW ROOM	0	40	3.3	50	6.6
BASEMENT R1	20	80	0	0	0
BASEMENT R2	22.5	50	15	0	12.5
BASEMENT R3	1.25	56.25	30	0	12.5
OBAMA ROOM	13.75	58.75	25	0	2.5

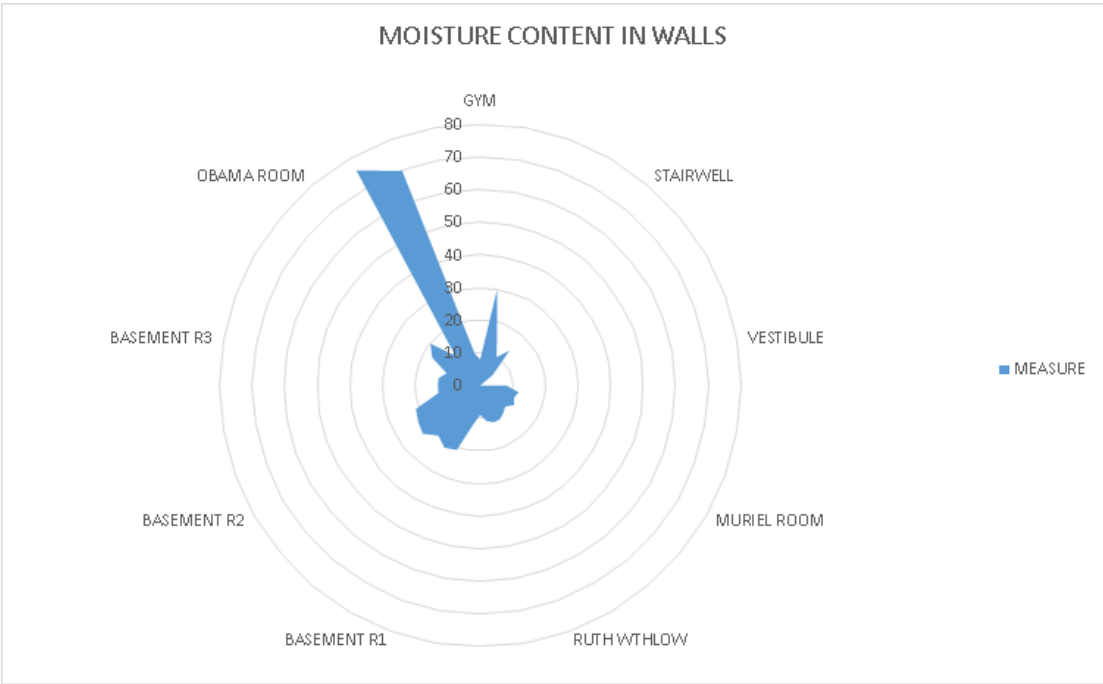
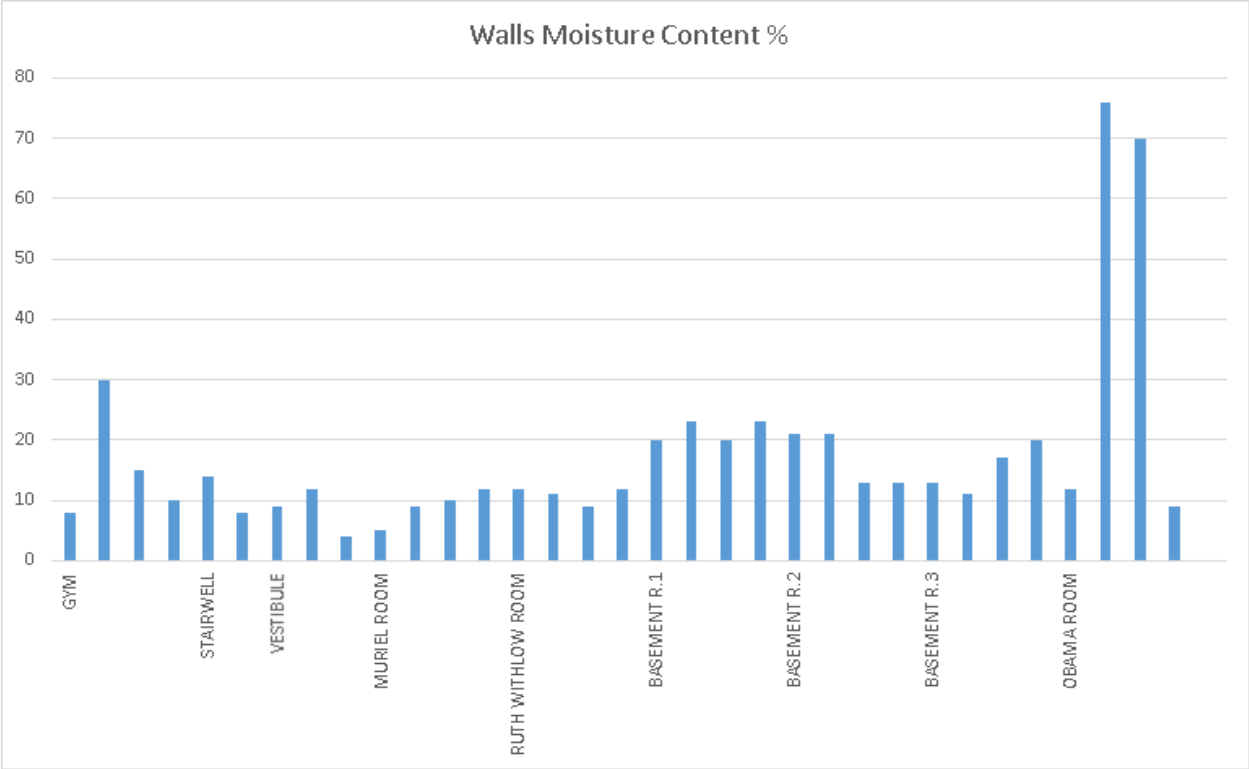


## 2. Environmental Agents of Deterioration

### MOISTURE CONTENT IN WALLS

LOCATION	ELEVATION	MEASURE (%)
GYM	SOUTH	8
	WEST	30
	NORTH	15
	EAST	10
STAIRWELL	SOUTH	14
	WEST	5
	NORTH	0
	EAST	11
VESTIBULE	SOUTH	0
	WEST	8
	NOTH	12
	EAST	11

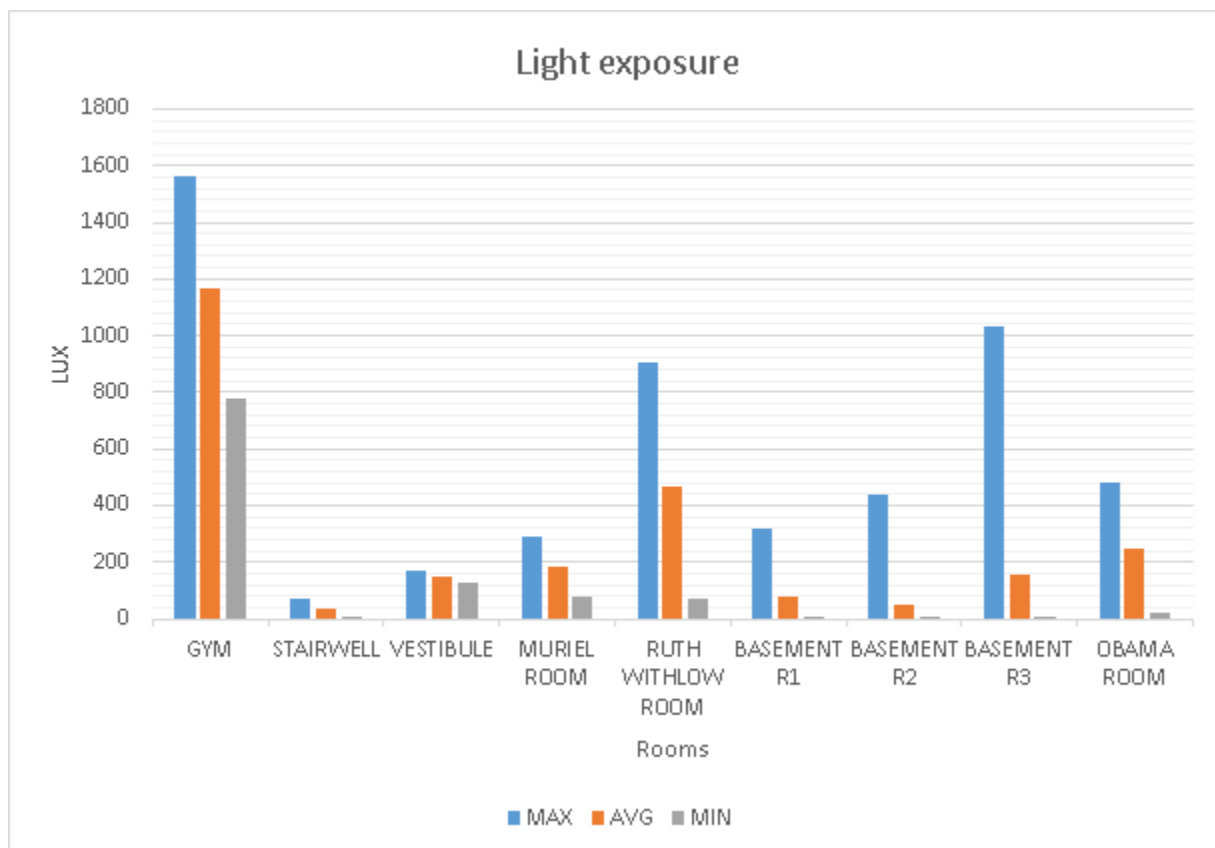
<b>MURIEL ROOM</b>	SOUTH	12
	WEST	10
	NOTH	11
	EAST	12
<b>RUTH WTHLOW</b>	SOUTH	12
	WEST	11
	NOTH	9
	EAST	12
<b>BASEMENT R1</b>	SOUTH	21
	WEST	22
	NOTH	20
	EAST	23
<b>BASEMENT R2</b>	SOUTH	22
	WEST	21
	NOTH	13
	EAST	13
<b>BASEMENT R3</b>	SOUTH	13
	WEST	11
	NOTH	17
	EAST	20
<b>OBAMA ROOM</b>	SOUTH	12
	WEST	76
	NOTH	70
	EAST	10





## LIGHT LEVELS

ROOM	MAXIMUM	AVERAGE	MINIMUM
GYM	1561	1168	776
STAIRWELL	73	38	3
VESTIBULE	170	149	128
MURIEL ROOM	293	186	79
RUTH WITHLOW ROOM	908	467	74
BASEMENT R1	318	75	2
BASEMENT R2	437	50	2
BASEMENT R3	1029	155	1
OBAMA ROOM	484	250	22



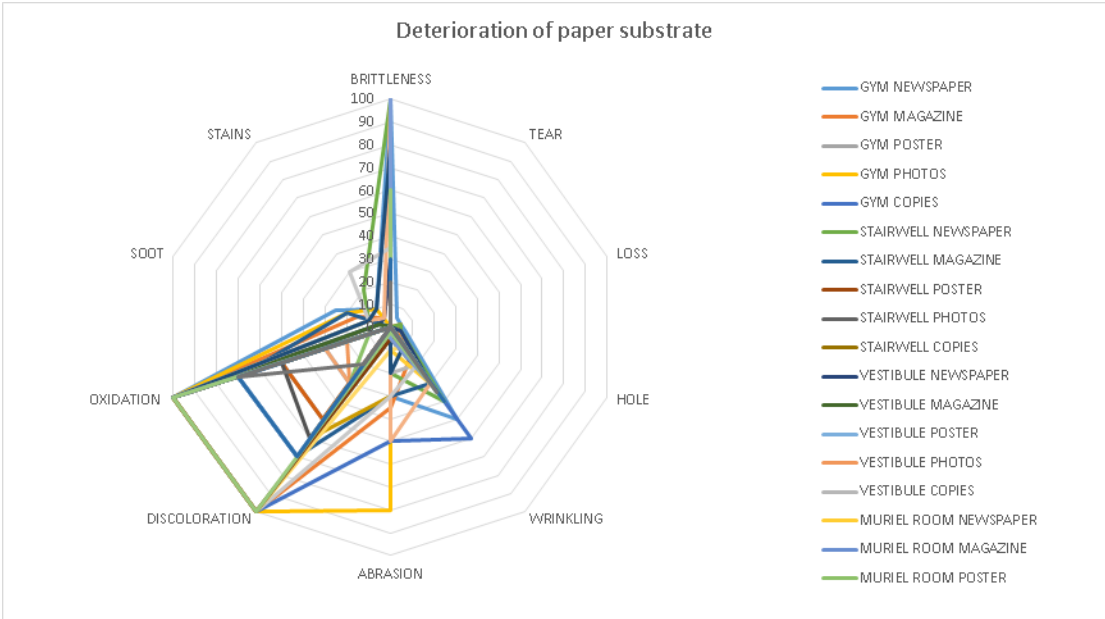
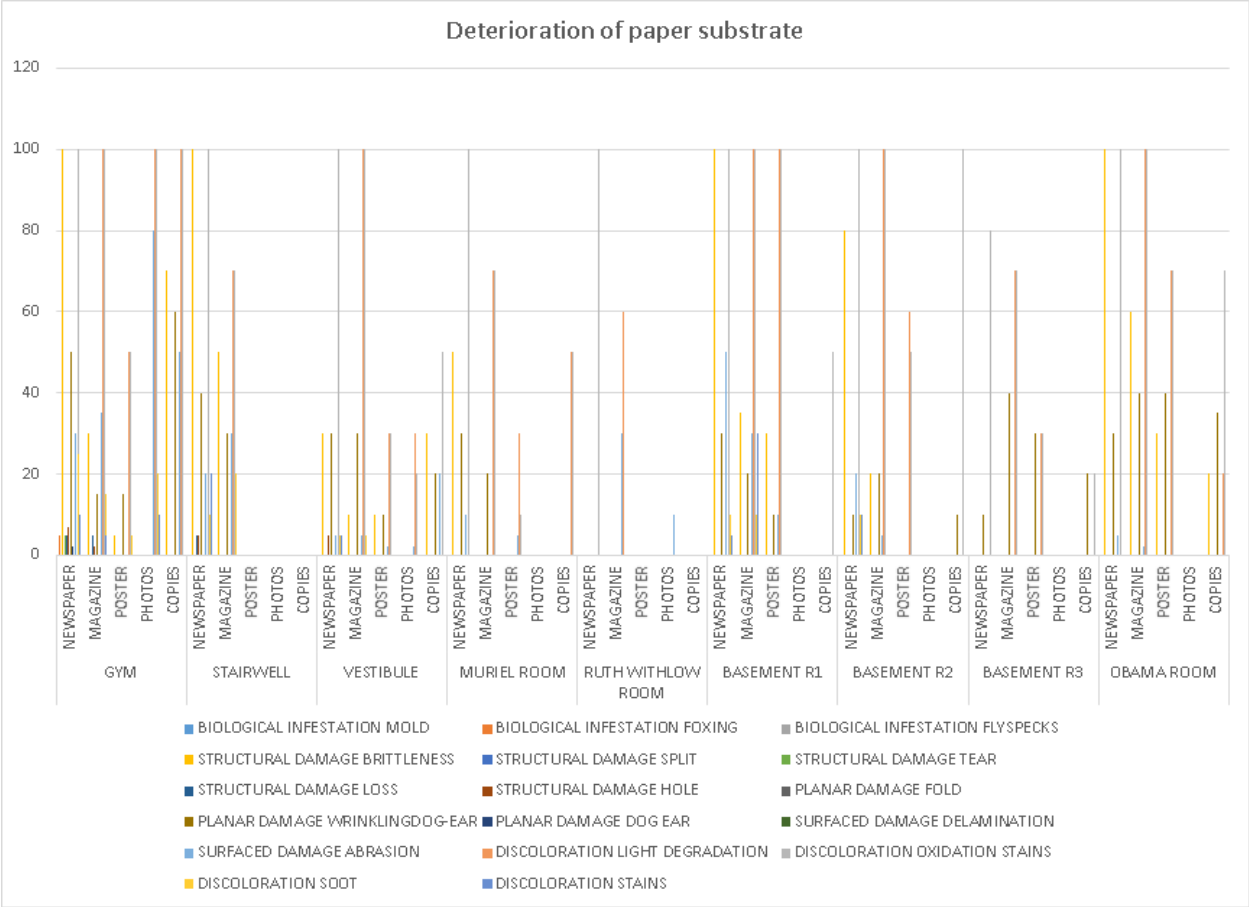
Light levels include sunlight and fluorescent tubes light.

### **3. Main Causes of Deterioration**

ROOM	TYPE OF PAPER	BIOLOGICAL FACTORS	FLUCTUATIONS IN TEMP. AND HUMIDITY	LIGHT	HANDLING	TRAFFIC
GYM	NEWSPAPER		X	X	X	X
	MAGAZINE		X	X	X	X
	POSTER		X	X	X	X
	PHOTOS		X	X	X	X
	COPIES		X	X	X	X
STAIRWELL	NEWSPAPER			X		
	MAGAZINE			X		
	POSTER					
	PHOTOS					
	COPIES					
VESTIBULE	NEWSPAPER		X	X		
	MAGAZINE		X	X		
	POSTER		X	X		
	PHOTOS		X	X		
	COPIES		X	X		
MURIEL RO	NEWSPAPER			X		
	MAGAZINE			X		
	POSTER					
	PHOTOS					
	COPIES					
RUTH WITH	NEWSPAPER			X		
	MAGAZINE			X		X
	POSTER					
	PHOTOS					X
	COPIES			X		
BASEMENT	NEWSPAPER		X	X		X
	MAGAZINE		X	X		X
	POSTER		X	X		X
	PHOTOS					
	COPIES					
BASEMENT	NEWSPAPER		X	X		X
	MAGAZINE		X	X		X
	POSTER		X	X		X
	PHOTOS					
	COPIES			X	X	
BASEMENT	NEWSPAPER		X	X	X	X
	MAGAZINE			X		X
	POSTER					
	PHOTOS					
	COPIES					
OBAMA RO	NEWSPAPER		X	X		X
	MAGAZINE		X	X		X
	POSTER					
	PHOTOS					
	COPIES		X	X		X

#### 4. Existing Conditions of Paper Support

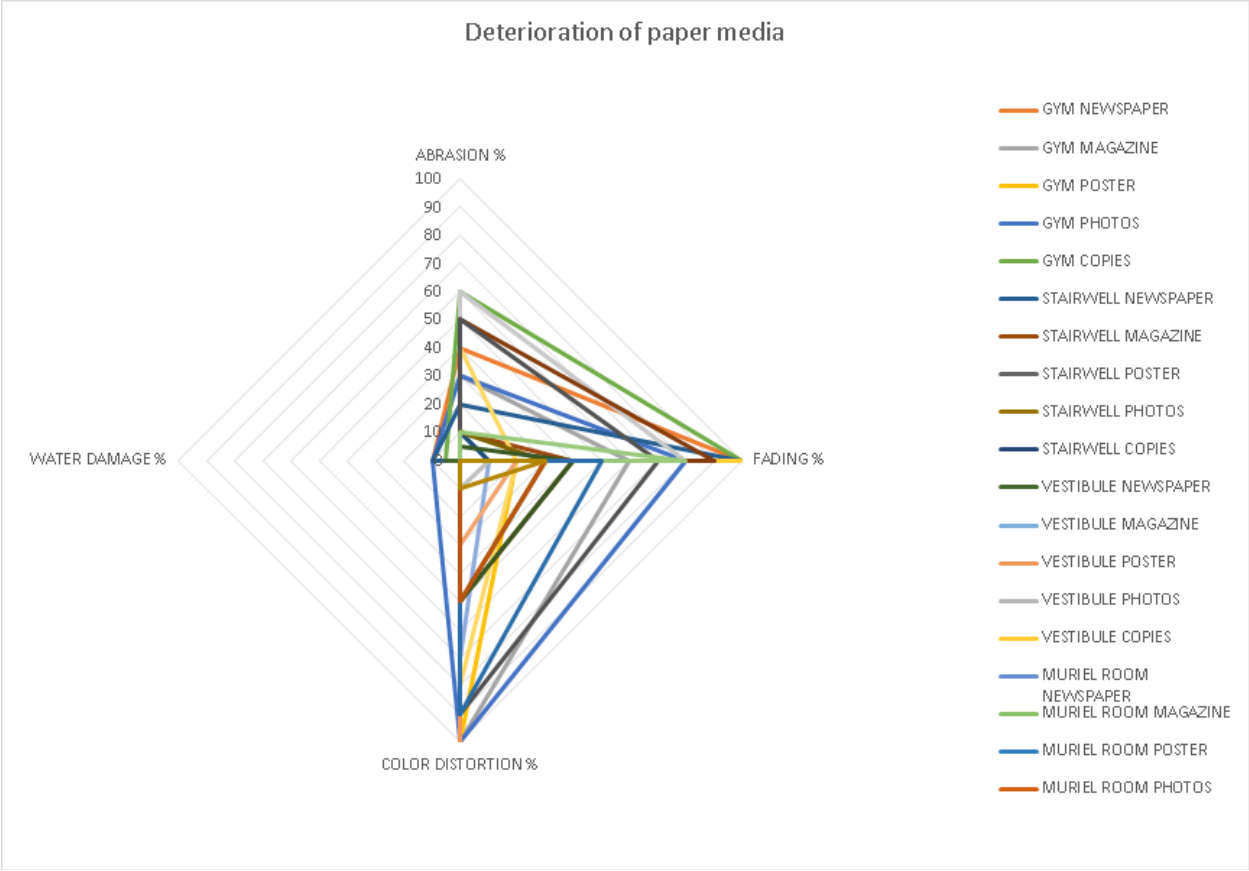
ROOM	TYPE OF PAPER	STRUCTURAL DAMAGE %				PLANAR DAMAGE %	SURFACE DAMAGE %	LIGHT DEGRADATION %		SURFACE SOILING %	
		Brittleness	Tear	Loss	Hole			Discoloration	Oxidation	Soot	Stains
GYM	NEWSPAPER	100	5	5	7	50	30	0	100	25	10
	MAGAZINE	30	0	5	2	15	35	100	100	15	5
	POSTER	5	0	0	0	15	0	50	50	5	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	0	0	0	80	100	100	20	10
	COPIES	70	0	0	0	60	50	100	100	0	0
STAIRWELL	News paper	100	0	5	5	40	20	0	100	10	20
	Magazines	50	0	0	0	30	30	70	70	20	0
	Posters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Copies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VESTIBULE	News paper	30	0	0	5	30	5	0	100	5	5
	Magazines	10	0	0	0	30	5	100	100	5	0
	Posters	10	0	0	0	10	2	30	30	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	2	30	20	0	0
	Copies	30	0	0	0	20	20	0	50	0	0
MURIEL RO	News paper	50	0	0	0	30	10	0	100	0	0
	Magazines	0	0	0	0	20	0	70	70	0	0
	Posters	0	0	0	0	0	5	30	10	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Copies	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	0	0
RUTH WITH	News paper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
	Magazines	0	0	0	0	0	30	60	0	0	0
	Posters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
	Copies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BAS EMENT	News paper	100	0	0	0	30	50	0	100	10	5
	Magazines	35	0	0	0	20	30	100	100	10	30
	Posters	30	0	0	0	10	10	100	100	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Copies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0
BAS EMENT	News paper	80	0	0	0	10	20	0	100	10	10
	Magazines	20	0	0	0	20	5	100	100	0	0
	Posters	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	50	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Copies	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	100	0	0
BAS EMENT	News paper	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	80	0	0
	Magazines	0	0	0	0	40	0	70	70	0	0
	Posters	0	0	0	0	30	0	30	30	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Copies	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0
OBAMA RO	News paper	100	0	0	0	30	5	0	100	0	0
	Magazines	60	0	0	0	40	2	100	100	0	0
	Posters	30	0	0	0	40	0	70	70	0	0
	Photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Copies	20	0	0	0	35	0	20	70	0	0





## 5. Existing Conditions of Paper Media

ROOM	TYPE OF PAPER	ABRASION %	FADING %	COLOR DISTORTION %	WATER DAMAGE %
GYM	NEWSPAPER	40	100	0	10
	MAGAZINE	30	60	100	0
	POSTER	0	20	100	0
	PHOTOS	30	80	100	10
	COPIES	60	100	0	5
STAIRWELL	NEWSPAPER	20	100	0	10
	MAGAZINE	10	40	50	0
	POSTER	0	0	50	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	0	0
	COPIES	0	60	0	0
VESTIBULE	NEWSPAPER	0	100	0	5
	MAGAZINE	0	0	100	0
	POSTER	0	0	100	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	0	0
	COPIES	0	100	0	0
MURIEL RO	NEWSPAPER	0	40	0	0
	MAGAZINE	0	0	80	0
	POSTER	0	0	30	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	80	0
	COPIES	0	0	0	0
RUTH WITH	NEWSPAPER	0	20	0	0
	MAGAZINE	0	0	50	0
	POSTER	0	0	10	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	5	0
	COPIES	0	0	50	0
BASEMENT	NEWSPAPER	60	80	0	0
	MAGAZINE	40	20	80	0
	POSTER	10	10	70	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	0	0
	COPIES	10	10	0	0
BASEMENT	NEWSPAPER	50	90	0	0
	MAGAZINE	50	70	90	0
	POSTER	10	30	50	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	0	0
	COPIES	5	40	50	0
BASEMENT	NEWSPAPER	0	30	0	0
	MAGAZINE	0	20	30	0
	POSTER	0	10	10	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	0	0
	COPIES	0	10	0	0
OBAMA RO	NEWSPAPER	10	80	0	0
	MAGAZINE	0	50	90	0
	POSTER	0	30	50	0
	PHOTOS	0	0	0	0
	COPIES	0	30	10	0







Many McLeod Bethune

Reverend Youth

Joe Louis

GIANTS 25 BOWS

SOUL GAME



THE HARDER

OUTER LIMITS

SHAG

THE WALKER

THE WALKER

GIANTS

SOUL GAME



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Frederick Douglass

Thurgood Marshall



MICHAEL JORDAN









## THE INGLESIDE INSIDER INGLESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAN FRANCISCO

### 100th Anniversary Edition

Special Points of Interest:

• The Ingleside Presbyterian Church was founded in 1907.  
• The Ingleside Presbyterian Church was the first church in the Ingleside neighborhood.  
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**Celebrating 100 Years of  
Christian Ministry  
June 1907—June 2007**

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR—CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Dear Friends and Family:  
It is a privilege to share with you the history of the Ingleside Presbyterian Church. The church was founded in 1907, and has since then been a part of the Ingleside community. We are proud of our heritage and the many accomplishments of our church over the past century.



Rev. W. E. Dugan  
Pastor

Inside this issue:	
Updated Ingleside History with photos	2
Remembrances of former Ingleside leaders	3
Historic Articles	4
Complete Pastor List	6
Getting to Know You and Historic Photos	7
Upcoming Events	Back Page

#### About the Ingleside Insider

The Ingleside Insider is the quarterly newsletter of Ingleside Presbyterian Church. The newsletter is published in June, September, December, and March. It is a free publication for all members of the church.

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

JUNE 24, 2007



## THE HISTORY OF INGLESIDE PRESBYTERIAN

This article is based on several sources, including the current written history, session records, a history written by Rev. Peter McCann in 1932, an undated, anonymous, handwritten history found in the session records, remembrances written by former pastors Rev. Dwight White, Rev. Albert Dugan, and former first lady Rev. Winifred Washburn, and private conversations with former pastor Rev. Byron Blund.

The beginnings of Ingleside Presbyterian Church can be traced directly to the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906.

and was also one of the long and running camps. As other camps around the city were closed, the families that could not afford to rebuild were shuffled to Ingleside. This created a scenario where many of the poorest families in San Francisco ultimately ended up in the Ingleside by 1907.



Rev. W. E. Dugan

Prior to the quake, the area now known as Ingleside was covered with Italian and Chinese vegetable farms which grew much of the produce used in downtown restaurants. The suburb of Ocean View sat on the other side of the hill to the South. To the North was Mt. Diabolo, covered with the redwood forest. To the West was the last Chinese Ingleside Ranch, Ocean Avenue, the only thing that could pass for a road, was lined with goat hills, road houses, and gambling joints. In old San Francisco legends, the Ingleside lands to be a place where "Barney Coast" could run businesses without being bothered by the San Francisco Police Department.

After the earthquake, the Ingleside Ranchmen became a refuge camp, with the horse stables being converted to living quarters. Ingleside was the most remote of the camps.

In 1908, the United Presbyterian Board installed Rev. D.A. Russell as Pastor of the church. Also in 1908, the United Presbyterian Board of Church Extension purchased land at the corner of Ocean Avenue & 6th Avenue in San Francisco in order to build a suitable church building.



Rev. D.A. Russell

Work progressed, and Rev. W.E. Gordon was installed as Pastor in 1909, when Rev. D.A. Russell became ill. The church building was completed in 1910, and the church was dedicated on June 10, 1910. The church was the only church in the Ingleside neighborhood at the time.

On June 10, 1910, the Ingleside United Presbyterian Church was formally organized with 24 charter members. Ingleside was the only church serving the population of the Ingleside neighborhood at the time.

around 1900. The new building was furnished with "camp chairs" and home made benches brought over from the Sabbath School. The congregation had truly humble beginnings, as it consisted of the poorest of the earthquake refugees, who had lost everything and many of whom purchased land on credit and were building homes one room at a time. During this time, and even for decades to come, 2nd United Presbyterian Church and W.E. Dugan provided critical assistance to Ingleside.



Rev. W. E. Gordon

The building was to be built by renowned "Army and Navy" architect, Joseph Leonard, who had designed many of the finest homes in the Bay Area, including those in the Ingleside Terrace, which had been built on the site of the old Ingleside Ranchmen. It was really under Rev. McKnight that Ingleside started its long history of focusing on community service in addition to Sunday worship. In 1920, as many im-

provements were being made, roughly struck at the church building was destroyed by fire. The fire was caused by a soldering pot being used to add electric lights to the building. In 1930, Ingleside was still torn from a fire department to reach easily and a large crowd stood by helplessly as the building burned to the ground.

The fire only served to inspire the congregation to rebuild in a bigger and better way. The Ingleside and "West of Twin Peaks" neighborhoods were beginning to grow rapidly and under the direction of Rev. McKnight, and with the assistance of Dr. J.W. English, Special Superintendent of Mission, plans were devised for a radically different kind of church building. The new church building would house 8 Protestant congregations and would also include a "community service center". The United Presbyterian Mission and Church Building Board offered \$25,000 provided that the community would provide a similar amount. Ingleside Presbyterian, along with the eight other congregations, raised the money and met the challenge. Much of the money came from donations from the community who were in great need of the community service center.

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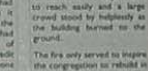
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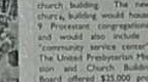
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to design and build what was going to be called "Ingleside Community Church".



Rev. Albert Kelly

As work progressed on the new building, church services were held in tents across the street. In 1921, Rev. A.E. Kelly was installed as Pastor. Rev. McKnight continued to serve as assistant Pastor and the new building was completed and dedicated after having served more than 10 years. He continued to attend Ingleside long after his retirement, where he was venerated by the congregation and community. Rev. McKnight's spirit of community service was continued by Rev. Kelly, who was noted in a newspaper article at the time for choosing grammatical equipment for the youth over a pipe organ for the sanctuary when money was tight.



Rev. A.E. Kelly

The building was completed in 1923 and a San Francisco Examiner article at the time hailed what it called the "Ingleside Community Temple of God" as a religious institution. Soon after the new building was completed, however, a

recession struck, which left the church saddled with debt. Better times came, but the church was still in debt. Many who had moved to Ingleside to attend their former downtown churches. Some of the congregations that were during the building moved out as they built their own buildings. Rev. A.E. Kelly resigned in 1924.

In 1925, Rev. John Allen Campbell was assigned as Ingleside Presbyterian by the Board of American Missions and served until 1937. During this time, temples were made to relocate the church to a smaller building but without success. Rev. David S. Sharp was assigned to replace Rev. Campbell in 1937 and he continued until 1940. Overall the 30s appear to have been somewhat of a "golden period" for Ingleside Presbyterian. Under Rev. Douglas A. White, who served from 1952 to 1958, many improvements to the building were made.

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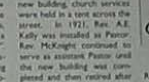
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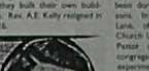
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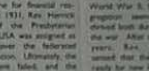
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# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. xxx HEARING DATE MARCH 16, 2016

### RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF 1345 OCEAN AVENUE, HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS INGLESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND *THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES* LOT 050 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 6942, AS LANDMARK NO. XXX

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

1. WHEREAS, in early 2013, San Francisco Heritage and Reverend Roland Gordon requested that, the Historic Preservation Commission add 1345 Ocean Avenue to its Landmark Designation Work Program; and
2. WHEREAS, Desiree Smith, of San Francisco Architectural Heritage, Architectural Historian Erica Schultz, and Susan Parks, Planning Department Preservation staff prepared the Landmark Designation Report for 1345 Ocean Avenue. All preparers meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards and the report was reviewed for accuracy and conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10; and
3. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of March 16, 2016, reviewed Department staff's analysis of 1345 Ocean Avenue's historical significance per Article 10 as part of the Landmark Designation Case Report dated March 16, 2016; and
4. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the 1345 Ocean Avenue nomination is in the form prescribed by the HPC and contains supporting historic, architectural, and/or cultural documentation; and
5. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that 1345 Ocean Avenue conveys its architectural significance as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the Neoclassical style and represents the work of master architect Joseph A. Leonard; and
6. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that 1345 Ocean Avenue conveys its artistic significance through the interior "collage-mural," a folk artists' environment, entitled *The Great Cloud of Witnesses*, created by Reverend Roland Gordon; and
7. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the 1345 Ocean Avenue meets the eligibility requirements per Section 1004 of the Planning Code and warrants consideration for Article 10 landmark designation; and
8. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the boundaries and the list of exterior and interior character-defining features, as identified in the Landmark Designation

Report, should be considered for preservation under the proposed landmark designation as they relate to the building's historical significance and retain historical integrity; and

9. WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 7, which states that historic buildings be preserved, for reasons set forth in the March 16, 2016 Case Report; and
10. WHEREAS, the Department has determined that landmark designation is exempt from environmental review, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class Eight - Categorical); and
11. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that 1345 Ocean Avenue nomination is in the form prescribed by the HPC and contains supporting historic, architectural, and/or cultural documentation; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby confirms the nomination and initiates designation of 1345 Ocean Avenue, Assessor's Block 6942 Lot 050 pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on March 16, 2016.

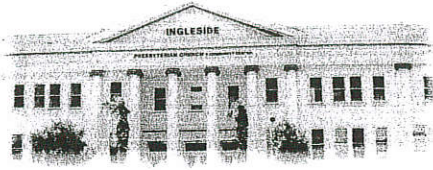
Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:



## INGLESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1345 Ocean Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94112  
415.587.4772  
Rev. Roland Gordon, Pastor

---

February 25, 2016

Susan Parks, Preservation Planner  
Planning Department, City & County of SF  
1670 Mission Street #400  
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Susan:

We, The Ingleside Presbyterian Church Session, the Ruling Body of Ingleside Presbyterian Church are writing to formally express our unanimous support and consent for Land Mark designation of our church building designed by Master architect, Joseph A. Leonard and the collage-mural, The Great Cloud of Witnesses, a work-in-progress by our Pastor, Folk Artist, Rev. Roland Gordon.

The Ingleside Church Ministry began in 1907 to serve displaced San Franciscans living in tents in the area following the devastation caused by the Great Earthquake of 1906. Now, some one hundred eight years later, our ministry is still humbly serving the people. We are proud of our history of service, humbled and grateful to be considered for historical significance by our GREAT CITY.

Thanks to all who have unselfishly joined and worked to make this project ready for consideration. We look forward to a grand celebration.

Sincerely,

Elder Lillian Hamilton, Clerk of Session

✓ CC: Desiree Smith

*"We walk by faith, and not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7)*