United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000121 **Date Listed: 4/7/2015**

Intercultural Council Houses	Los Angeles	CA
Property Name	County	State

Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS
Multiple Name

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

Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
	4/7/2015

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The nomination is amended to add *Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic (Mexican)* as an Area of Significance under Criterion A.
[This is consistent with the property's nomination under the Latinos in Twentieth Century California MPS.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

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

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

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1. Name of Property

Historic name: Intercultural Council Houses
Other names/site number: "Neighbors, Inc."
Name of related multiple property listing:
Latinos in 20th Century California MPS
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Bounded approximately by Blanchard Place on the north, Claremont Boulevard on the east, E First Street on the south, and Brooks Street on the west.
City or town: Claremont State: California County: Los Angeles
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___national ___statewide _x_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_x_A ___B ___C ___D

2-10-15

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 4/7/2015

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
13	3	buildings
		sites
	3	structures
1		objects
14	6	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure
Commerce/Trade: professional
Landscape: parking lot
Landscape: park
Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Modern Movement:
International Style
Other:
Minimal Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood
Stucco
Concrete
Brick
Asphalt

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

Summary Paragraph

The Intercultural Council Houses are located in Claremont, California, bounded approximately by Blanchard Place on the north, Claremont Boulevard on the east, E. First Street on the south, and Brooks Street on the west. The homes are a district of twelve single dwellings located on a single residential block in Claremont's Arbol Verde neighborhood. They were built in the International Style, most made of post-and-beam construction with single board plywood walls and 2"x4" posts for supports. The district retains all seven aspects of integrity.

Narrative Description

The Intercultural Council Houses consist of a group of twelve detached single-family dwellings. They were built between 1947 and 1952, and are located between Brooks Avenue, Blanchard Place, Claremont Boulevard, and E. First Street in Claremont, CA, a roughly two-and-a-half acre

lot of land.[1] The Intercultural Council Houses are single story homes in the International Style, with two or three bedrooms and one bathroom each. Most were post-and beam homes, constructed of marine 5-ply plywood walls with 2x4 and 4x4 beams acting as supports, but one home is constructed of concrete blocks, three others were a combination of post-and-beam and concrete block construction, and several now have stucco or clapboard siding over their original plywood exteriors.[2] The walls were mostly a single board thick, and thus any electrical wiring was run over the walls through conduits. Roofs are flat, cantilevered, front- or side-gabled, and are clad in asphalt or rubber shingles. They feature high transom windows above large plate glass windows, though some homes have side-sliding windows. Because of their unique single-board plywood construction as well as their International Style design, these homes are distinguished from the Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Ranch Style, or Spanish/Mediterranean Revival Style homes surrounding them.

Originally, the twelve homes were arranged around a central yard that included a communal tot yard, communal drying yard, communal adult recreation area, communal washing room (which also served as the "Well Baby Clinic" for a number of years), communal phone, communal barbecue, communal incinerator, and communal play area. There were two parking lots for the use of all twelve homes.[3] However, now all twelve homes are situated on long, narrow lots facing Brooks Avenue, Blanchard Place, or First Street. They each have separate, fenced-in back yards, though the communal barbecue still exists behind 615 First Street.

Some houses remain much the same as they were constructed. However, "others have been drastically renovated and added to over the years." Though they were built cheaply and are subject to hot summers and occasional flooding, the homes have lasted over sixty years. However, several houses now have stuccoed exteriors, "due to the low ability of the marine plywood to repel the direct sun and wind."[4] These exterior alterations were due to complaints of wind blowing through the wood buildings and extreme heat in the summer because of the flat roofs. The house constructed of concrete blocks was preferable to the other homes in the summers, as it was less warm than its plywood neighbors.[5]

628 Blanchard Place: (Photo 2) One story, single-family house, built in 1948 by Roger Curtis, a local contractor, to the Crutcher plans. It was the first Intercultural Council House to be completed, and may have been a prototype for the other houses. It has a flat roof, and its walls are constructed of marine plywood and 2" x 4" and 4" x 4" beams. Small, single-light windows and a plain entry door exemplify the lack of detail characteristic of the International Style. A small, **freestanding studio** was added in 1951, and a carport was added in 1959.

[1] Paddy Slater, "'Neighbors Incorporated:' A Claremont Experiment," *Claremont Chronicles* No. 2, p. 2, Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.
[2] "Notes from Henry Cooke's Oral History on the Intercultural Council and the Barrio," Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.
[3] Slater, "Neighbors Incorporated," p. 2.
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 2.
[5] "Notes from Henry Cooke's Oral History."

622 Blanchard Place: (Photo 3) One story, single-family house, built by the original owner's father with help from Roger Curtis between 1950 and 1952. The house is constructed of painted concrete blocks on a concrete foundation. The roof is low-pitched and front-gabled. Windows are single- and multi-pane casement, and the door is flush with the walls. There is a small, stone planter to the right of the entryway.

616 Blanchard Place: (Photo 4) One story, single-family house, built by the owner between 1948 and 1951 from the Crutcher plans, with occasional input from Crutcher. Exposed rafters and angled siting are characteristic of the Intercultural Council Houses. The house was built of materials from a deconstructed wooden boxcar, and covered with stucco. Windows are single-light picture, double-hung sash or side sliding, with transom windows set close to the roofline, and the entry is recessed under the extended roof. The original owners added a third bedroom after original construction, but it was always intended to be a third bedroom.

606 Blanchard Place: (Photo 5) One story, rectangular, single-family house, built in 1952. It has a low-pitched, cross-gable roof, and a stucco exterior, though the lower half of the east elevation is covered with stone. Windows are double-hung sash or side sliding, and the entry is flush with the walls. A concrete block wall surrounds the property at the sidewalk, and a pierced-concrete wall connects the house to a **non-contributing, detached garage** built in 1961.

150 Brooks Avenue: (Photo 7) One story, single-family house, built in 1949 to the Crutcher plans. It has a combination of flat and cantilevered roofs, covered with tar and crushed stone. Windows are fixed and double hung sash, with transom windows close to the roofline. The entry is on the north side. The Fodors, the original owners, built the home of batten board and cement blocks, beginning in the spring of 1948. The master bedroom was added in 1964.

140 Brooks Avenue: (Photos 9 to 12) One story, single-family house, built between 1948 and 1951. It was built to the Crutcher plans, and is angled on the lot so that the northwest side of the home faces the mountains. It has a flat and sloped tar and rock roof with extended eaves and a slanted cornice. Windows are single-pane fixed, with transoms set close to the roofline. Wide wood planks and stucco have replaced the original wood siding. A window replaced the original west-facing front door, and the front door is now on the north façade. A large metal chimney is at the rear of the house, which seems much larger than necessary. In the late 1980s, the Eckerts, then the owners of the house, renovated the home extensively. The current owners have renovated even more, and added on a rear wing with a cantilevered roof that blends in with the rest of the house. All of these additions and renovations are in keeping with the original character of the house. The **original Intercultural Council washhouse** (Photos 13 and 14) still stands at the back of the property, and has a sloped roof and a stuccoed exterior. It has a small addition in the front, and was used as a rental property in the past. It is now utilized as a playroom, workout space, storage, and laundry room.

130 Brooks Avenue: (Photos 15 to 20) One story, single-family house built in 1949 by the Alvarez family. It is in the International style, built to the Crutcher plans. The roof is flat, and covered with tar and white rocks. It is constructed of marine plywood and 2x4 and 4x4 beams on a concrete slab. Windows are louvered or fixed, with transom windows set close to the roofline.

Mr. Cisneros, one of the home's former owners, added a concrete cement block living room. Another large room addition to the rear of the house, currently in use as a rental property, is constructed of marine plywood and 2x4 and 4x4 beams, has a cantilevered roof. These additions are consistent with the original character of the house.

122 Brooks Avenue: (Photo 21) One story, rectangular, single-family house, built in 1951 by the original owners and finished by their successors. It has a low-pitched, side-gabled roof, and a stucco exterior. Windows are multi-paned casement or fixed. Entry is slightly recessed, though a security door is flush with walls. It is set sideways on the lot, and a driveway was added after the park was divided among the homeowners. Frances Dieduch, the treasurer of the Intercultural Council, lived in this house from 1951 to 2007.

603 E. First Street: (Photo 23) One story, single-family house, built by Roger Curtis in 1948 to the Crutcher plans. It has a flat roof and very little exterior decoration. It has a stucco exterior, and a south-facing entry door with a setback stoop. Windows are double hung sash and single-pane fixed. A **non-contributing, detached garage** was added in 1959, on the site of one of the two communal parking lots just after this portion of the property had been divided among the residents. Also in 1959, a living room was added and the kitchen was relocated. The house is largely obscured from the street by vegetation. The house's original address was 110 N. Brooks Avenue, but the city of Claremont changed the address to 603 E. First Street in 1959.

615 E. First Street: (Photo 24) One story, single-family dwelling, built to the Crutcher plans in 1948. It has a flat roof, with very little exterior decoration. It currently has a stucco exterior, and single-light fixed windows with transoms located close to the roofline. The south-facing entry door is flush with the wall. The original owners added a third bedroom after original construction, but the current owner, John Dominguez, will remove it as he restores the home to its original floor plan. Mr. Dominguez will also remove the stucco from the exterior, as it was added after the Felix family moved in in 1972. The Intercultural Council Houses' barbeque, a circular brick structure, exists in the rear of this house. Mr. Dominguez constructed a **non-contributing 15-foot-tall garage** in the rear of the house within the last five years.

621 E. First Street: (Photo 25) One story, single family dwelling, built to the Crutcher plans in 1948. It has a flat and slanted roof, with very little exterior decoration. It is constructed of marine plywood and 2x4 and 4x4 beams. Windows are single-pane fixed, with transom windows set close to the roofline. It has an extensive addition, but John Dominguez restored the original rooms of the house between 1991 and 2004. A driveway was added after the period of significance ended.

627 E. First Street: One story, single-family dwelling, constructed to the Crutcher plans in 1949. It was slightly smaller than the other Intercultural Council Houses, and had a flat roof with no decorative detail. Beams were exposed under the roof, and a connecting carport was built to the east of the house, with a porch entry. The house was angled toward First Street, with trees camouflaging most of it. It was covered with stucco and redwood framing. Painted solid wood planks were located under a single light fixed window on the front façade. In the mid-1950s, a semi-open porch was added to the rear of the home. In the mid- to late-1960s, the house became

a long-term rental, until it was sold to Claremont McKenna College (CMC) in 2000. All but one wall of this house was demolished by CMC between 2006 and 2007, and a **new, non-contributing house** was built in its place.

The **new single-family dwelling** and **two rental properties**, built between 2007 and 2009, are located at 670 Blanchard Place in what used to be untamed brush, called *chapparal* by the Mexican-American inhabitants of the Intercultural Council houses and the surrounding Barrio. These are the last of the district's extant non-contributing structures as of May 2014.

Integrity:

Location: The homes remain in their original locations, ensuring their integrity of location. *Setting:* Most of the homes surrounding the Intercultural Council Houses remain in their original locations, and the area around the houses is zoned for residential use only, thus ensuring that integrity of setting remains intact. Two of the original oak trees planted when the Intercultural Council Houses were first planned are still living, also ensuring integrity of setting. *Materials and Design:* The homes still retain their marine plywood or concrete block construction materials, and many retain their original footprints and modes of construction, with minor alterations and, in some cases, additions. *Association:* The history of the homes and the primary reason for their construction (discussed in the significance statement) is constantly discussed in Claremont. John Dominguez, one of the original residents of the community, who now owns two of the homes, will readily tell anyone the history of the Intercultural Council and the families that formed it, thus ensuring the homes' integrity of association.

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Social History

Period of Significance
1947 - 1960

Significant Dates
1947
1960

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Crutcher, Lewis (architect)
Curtis, Roger (builder)

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

The Intercultural Council Houses is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance. Their cultural and historic significance is derived from their role in Latino civil rights and anti-segregation movements in greater Los Angeles. The houses were built beginning in 1947, when some of the Intercultural Council's founding members purchased the houses' 2.5-acre lot. The Intercultural Council heavily subsidized the Houses' construction. Lewis Crutcher, an architect and student of Millard Sheets, a noted Californian artist, drew plans for the homes, which were available for purchase. A local contractor built those homes built to Crutcher's plans, but some homeowners chose to design and build their own homes to lower costs. The homes were built around a central park that included a communal tot yard, communal drying yard, communal adult recreation area, communal washing, communal phone, communal barbecue, communal incinerator, and communal play area. There were two parking lots for the use of all twelve homes. The communal property was divided up in 1960, which ended the civil rights experiment as well as the Intercultural Council Houses' period of significance, which began in 1947. This property is nominated under the cover of the *Latinos in 20th Century California* Multiple Property Document, under the context of *Immigration and Settlement*, under the property type *Historic Districts.*

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

As a district significant to the course of social history in Claremont, CA and, perhaps, to social history in the entire state of California, the Intercultural Council Houses meets National Register Criterion A at the local level of significance. The Intercultural Council Houses derive much of their significance from their historical importance. The district retains sufficeint integrity of location, materials, association, feeling, and design for eligibility under Criterion A, with a period of significance of 1947-1960. The Intercultural Council's "Neighbors, Inc." experiment, which brought about the Intercultural Council Houses, was a pioneering civil rights effort to de-segregate Claremont, and, eventually, California.

Site History

In June 1947, ten members of the Intercultural Council, including Mrs. Bess Garner, Mrs. P.A. Ordway, L.C. Pitzer, and Mario Serna, each put up $500, and together bought twelve tax delinquent lots on southern portion of the Arbol Verde tract in Claremont, California.[6] The lots, collectively, comprise a piece of land totaling 2 ½ acres, and are bounded approximately by Blanchard Place on the north, Claremont Boulevard on the east, E. First Street on the south, and Brooks Street on the west. This was the designated site for the Intercultural Council Houses, an experiment dubbed "Neighbors, Inc." by those involved. At the time, Mexicans could not own land situated within the then boundaries of Claremont, so this portion of the Arbol Verde tract

[6] Slater, "Neighbors Incorporated," p. 2.

was one of the only places at which the Intercultural Council Houses experiment could take place.

The individual lots cost $450, or $600 for corner lots. Lewis Crutcher, a Claremont Graduate School attendee and student of Millard Sheets (a famous Californian artist and an art history professor at Scripps College in Claremont), drew up plans for one-story, two-bedroom, one-bathroom homes. Homeowners could purchase these plans for $35. Six out of the twelve homes in the district were built according to the plans, and Crutcher "also gave individual help in some specific cases."[7] Many homeowners hired a local contractor named Roger Curtis to build their houses.[8]

The homes were each built on 5,500 sq. ft. lots, and angled on the lots so that they each had a mountain view. Waterproof glue, marine plywood, and other post-World War II materials were utilized in the construction of most of the houses, which cut down on construction costs while incorporating the avant-garde nature of the Intercultural Council's social experiment into the fabric of the Intercultural Council Houses. The houses built by the local contractor to Crutcher's plans cost $5,000, not including the cost of the lot or the plans. If the owners built their own homes, the cost was cut to $2,500.[9] The Intercultural Council members, bolstered by an $8,000 grant from the Columbia Foundation in San Francisco, gave the original homeowners loans at four percent interest to aid them in the construction of their homes.[10]

The houses associated with the Intercultural Council's desegregation experiment took about five years to construct. Originally, the twelve homes were arranged around a central yard that included a communal tot yard, communal drying yard, communal adult recreation area, communal washing room (which also served as the "Well Baby Clinic" for a number of years), communal phone, communal barbecue, communal incinerator, and communal play area. There were two parking lots for the use of all twelve homes.[11] The Intercultural Council housing experiment was seen as an early example of condominium living, with a loosely formed Homeowner's Association centered on the maintenance of the communal facilities, as well as the timely payment of the community's telephone and water bills.

The spirit of community among the inhabitants of the Intercultural Council Houses was fostered by "the sharing of community facilities such as open, unfenced land between the lots where there was a neighborhood park."[12] In 1959 and 1960, several events occurred that led to the breakup of the park into separate lots for each home. As the original owners moved out, "their replacements tended to prefer private backyards and tension arose over the communal garden, etc. [sic]."[13] John Dominguez, a long-time Intercultural Council Houses resident, noted that the maintenance of the park began to waver at this time. Several of the people in the "Neighbors, Inc." houses got

[7] "History of the Intercultural Council Built Houses," Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA, p. 2.
[8] "Notes from Henry Cooke's Oral History."
[9] *Ibid.*
[10] History of the Intercultural Council Built Houses," p. 2.
[11] *Ibid.*
[12] "History of the Intercultural Council Houses," p. 2.
[13] *Ibid.*

tired of having to volunteer to mow the lawn, and refused to pay the extra fee for the communal water bill. Additionally, Dominguez mentioned that various inhabitants of the Intercultural Council Houses were concerned that the "*pachucos"* from the barrio surrounding the houses would come into the park to make out, drink beer, and smoke cigarettes.[14] However, Dr. Cooke related another reason for the park's division. Paul Darrow, an original Intercultural Council Houses resident, successful artist, and Claremont Graduate University graduate, sold his home at 628 Blanchard Place to a gay couple in 1957. This upset several of the residents, who were reluctant or even completely unwilling to share facilities with them. The couple, Cooke remembered, complained that "'the 'Mexicans' would come [to the park] right at the back of [our] holding, beyond [our] fence, and make love.'"[15] They were so upset by this that they eventually asked the Intercultural Council's attorney to have the park "surveyed and divided up among the residents. No residents raised meaningful objections to their actions and Neighbors Park vanished by 1960."[16] However, "Neighbors, Inc." continued its efforts to be a community after its communal property was divided up. For example, in 1962, Marilyn Noble turned her Intercultural Council House into a Neighbors Youth Center and supplied tutors for Mexican-American children and a quiet study hall for teenagers in the Barrio.

Currently, all twelve homes are situated on long, narrow lots facing Brooks Avenue, Blanchard Place, or First Street. They each have separate, fenced-in back yards, though the communal barbecue still exists behind 615 First Street, and the communal washing room building still exists behind 140 Brooks Avenue. Some of the houses are in their original condition, while others have been renovated or had additions made to them over the years. Most still retain their original building materials, though some houses have covered the marine plywood and beams with stucco or siding. Roofs are still flat, cantilevered, front- or side-gabled, and are still covered in asphalt or rubber shingles. Most homes still feature high transom windows above large plate glass windows, though some homes now have side-sliding (original on some homes) or louvered windows. Thus, the Intercultural Council Homes have retained their integrity of materials. Though many homes have been altered over the years, they still retain much of their original floor plans, ensuring integrity of design. The homes remain in their original locations, and the area is much the same as it was between 1947 and 1960. The vegetation has grown, but the trees (including two large oak trees) are the same trees as were in the area when the Intercultural Council Houses were constructed. This proves that the homes retain their integrity of location and setting. Finally, though the period of significance for the Intercultural Council Houses ended with the division of the parkland, the homes retain their integrity of association, as even the modern homeowners are extremely aware of the purpose behind the construction of the Intercultural Council Houses and the idea behind the "Neighbors, Inc." experiment.

[14] John Dominguez, interview by author, Claremont, CA, April 3, 2014.
[15] W. Henry Cooke, Interview by Georgenia Irwin, October 31, 1968, transcript at Claremont Heritage Foundation, Claremont, Calif., 14. Quoted in Matt Garcia, *A world of its own: race, labor, and citrus in the making of Greater Los Angeles, 1900-1970* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), p. 251.
[16] Garcia, *A world of its own*, p. 251.

In his book *A world of its own: race, labor, and citrus in the making of Greater Los Angeles, 1900-1970*, Matt Garcia notes that "The Intercultural Council of Claremont (ICC) […] developed out of the Anglo-led social reform movements during the first half of the twentieth-century."[17] Some of Claremont Church's wealthier members, led by Ruth Ordway and Harland Hogue, formed the Intercultural Council shortly after the end of World War II.[18] They dreamed of "a section of Claremont housing which would be a mixed Anglo Mexican community" to overcome racial inequality and racial privilege in Claremont.[19] They planned to mix "Anglos," mostly students attending Claremont Graduate School, with Mexican families who applied and qualified to own houses in the community.[20] This housing experiment came to be called the Intercultural Council Houses, or "Neighbors, Inc." by Claremont residents.

With their "Neighbors, Inc." experiment, the Intercultural Council Houses attempted to "build bridges of friendship and neighborliness" among the "Anglo" university students and Mexican-American laborers.[21] According to Dr. W. Henry Cooke, a former history professor at Pomona College in Claremont and a member of the Intercultural Council, "it was the hope of the Intercultural Council originally that the presence of graduate students and Mexicans in the housing project would make for a good intercultural relationship and that they would be mutually helpful."[22] Millard Sheets discussed the work the Intercultural Council meant to do, saying, "'It is time people in America learn to live together without respect to color, race, nationality and creed – we hope our efforts may help to bring about this fundamental achievement.'"[23]

The Intercultural Council Houses experiment invited a diverse group of families to live in harmony with each other, sharing communal amenities. "Each house has a story; like the Abundiz family who were brought from Mexico by the Garner's to perform with the Mexican Players, and the Livingstons, who were the first African American students to be accepted to Pomona College, and artist Paul Darrow, a then graduate student, and his family who moved from Pasadena to join the neighborhood [sic]."[24] In the 1940s and 1950s, the Mexican-American families living in the Intercultural Council Houses threw fiestas for the neighborhood, introducing their Caucasian neighbors to Mexican culture. After the first ten years of the Intercultural Council Housing experiment, the "college-connected Anglos," as well as some of the Mexican families, moved on to bigger and better houses, while other Mexican families stayed, or more Mexican families moved in. According to Dr. Cooke, when the original owners

[17] Matt Garcia, *A world of its own: race, labor, and citrus in the making of Greater Los Angeles, 1900-1970* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), p. 14.
[18] Slater, "Neighbors Incorporated," p. 1.
[19] "History of the Intercultural Council Built Houses, p. 1.
[20] *Ibid.*
[21] "Notes about Intercultural Council," Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA, p. 7-2.
[22] "Notes from Henry Cooke's Oral History."
[23] Millard Sheets, "Long Term Goals," *ICC Plans*, (1948). Quoted in Matt Garcia, *A world of its own: race, labor, and citrus in the making of Greater Los Angeles, 1900-1970* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), p. 248.
[24] "Lou Crutcher & Whitney Smith," Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA, p. 2.

moved out of their Intercultural Council houses, the Intercultural Council screened the homes' potential buyers.[25]

The Intercultural Council Houses still retain their diversity, since they "now contain as varied ownership as they did originally […] with some owned and some rented, some by Anglos and some by Mexicans."[26] Though the Intercultural Council Houses' historic significance ended with the demise of the community park, the "Neighbors, Inc." experiment was ultimately successful at integrating Claremont. They likely had an effect on the integration of neighboring Upland and Pomona, and, perhaps, on the integration of the rest of the state. The Intercultural Council Houses' current inhabitants are extremely aware of their homes' historic purpose, and readily discuss their community's history with any ask to learn more. The Intercultural Council Houses thus had an immense impact on social history within Claremont and the entire state, and upon the history of Hispanic ethnic heritage in Southern California.

Historically, the Intercultural Council Houses represent a large step forward taken by the Intercultural Council to "address the social injustice created by the segregation of Mexican-Americans."[27] The "Neighbors, Inc." social experiment represented an "expression of the high ideals […] fostered by this intellectually rich community" in Claremont.[28] The Intercultural Council Houses are "early examples of what was to be one of the most significant architectural styles that California exported to the rest of the country" throughout the mid-20th century.[29] It was one of the earliest integrated housing experiments in the region, if not the earliest. It led to the creation or conceptualization of several other "Neighbors, Inc." or Intercultural Council-style integrated housing experiments around Southern California.[30] The Intercultural Council Houses thus led the way for the rest of Claremont to be integrated, and provided an example for integration in all of California.

[25] "Notes from Henry Cooke's Oral History."
[26] *Ibid*.
[27] "Notes about Intercultural Council," p. 7-4.
[28] *Ibid.*
[29] *Ibid.*
[30] John Dominguez interview.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"122 Brooks Avenue." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"130 Brooks Avenue." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"140 Brooks Avenue." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"150 Brooks Avenue." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"603 E. First Street." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"606 Blanchard Place." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"615 E. First Street." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"616 Blanchard Place." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"622 Blanchard Place." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"627 E. First Street." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"628 Blanchard Place." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"History of the Intercultural Council Built Houses." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"Lou Crutcher & Whitney Smith." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA, p. 2.

"Notes about Intercultural Council." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

"Notes from Henry Cooke's Oral History on the Intercultural Council and the Barrio." Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

Deeds for 628 Blanchard Place, 622 Blanchard Place, 616 Blanchard Place, 606 Blanchard Place, 150 Brooks Avenue, 140 Brooks Avenue, 130 Brooks Avenue, 122 Brooks Avenue, 603 E. First Street, 615 E. First Street, 621 E. First Street, and 627 E. First Street, Claremont, CA. Los Angeles County Recorder of Deeds, Norfolk, CA.

Dominguez, John. Interview by author. Claremont, CA. April 3, 2014.

Garcia, Matt. *A world of its own: race, labor, and citrus in the making of Greater Los Angeles, 1900-1970.* Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001, p. 14, 225, 241-255.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Slater, Paddy. "'Neighbors Incorporated:' A Claremont Experiment." *Claremont Chronicles* No. 2. Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
__x_ Other
Name of repository: Special Collections, Claremont Heritage, Claremont, CA_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.09616N Longitude: -117.70584E
2. Latitude: 34.09608N Longitude: -117.70438E
3. Latitude: 34.09532N Longitude: -117.70468E
4. Latitude: 34.09513N Longitude: -117.70581E

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The district is comprised of lots 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51 of Tract 1008. Please see attached Assessor's Map of Tract 1008, County of Los Angeles, CA.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary includes all of the residential properties and land historically associated with the Intercultural Council Houses' "Neighbors, Inc." experiment.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _Molly Iker_____
organization: _Center for Historic Architecture and Design / Claremont Heritage _
street & number: _330 Alison Hall, University of Delaware_____
city or town: Newark_____ state: _DE_____ zip code:_19716_
e-mail_mriker@udel.edu_____
telephone:_302-831-8097 _____
date:__August 2014_____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Intercultural Council Houses

City or Vicinity: Claremont

County: Los Angeles State: California

Photographer: Molly Iker

Date Photographed: 12/19/2013, 04/03/2014, or 04/04/2014 per individual listing

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

1 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0001)
View of Blanchard Place streetscape, looking west, taken 12/19/2013.

2 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InculturalCouncilHouses_0002)
View of 628 Blanchard Place, looking southeast, taken 12/19/2013.

3 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0003)
View of 622 Blanchard Place, looking southeast, taken 12/19/2013.

4 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0004)
View of 616 Blanchard Place, looking southeast, taken 12/19/2013.

5 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0005)
View of 606 Blanchard Place, looking south, taken 12/19/2013.

6 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0006)
View of Blanchard Place streetscape, looking east, taken 12/19/2013.

7 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0007)
View of Brooks Avenue streetscape, looking south, taken 12/19/2013.

8 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0008)
View of 150 Brooks Avenue, looking east, taken 12/19/2013.

9 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0009)
View of 140 Brooks Avenue, looking northeast, taken 12/19/2013.

10 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0010)
View of living room at 140 Brooks Avenue, looking southeast, taken 04/04/2014.

11 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0011)
View of kitchen at 140 Brooks Avenue, looking southwest, taken 04/04/2014.

12 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0012)
View of transom windows set close to roofline at 140 Brooks Avenue, looking southeast, taken 04/04/2014.

13 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0013)
View of former community washhouse behind 140 Brooks Avenue, looking east, taken 04/04/2014.

14 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0014)
View of former community washhouse behind 140 Brooks Avenue, looking northeast, taken 04/04/2014.

15 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0015)
View of 130 Brooks Avenue, looking northeast, taken 12/19/2013.

16 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0016)
View of carport at 130 Brooks Avenue, showing construction materials, looking southeast, taken 04/03/2014.

17 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0017)
View of former exterior kitchen window at 130 Brooks Avenue from Cisneros addition, looking northwest, taken 04/03/2014.

18 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0018)
View of front door and plate glass, louvered, and transom windows in 130 Brooks Avenue's living room, looking northeast, taken 04/03/2014.

19 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0019)
View of electrical wiring run over the marine plywood walls in a bedroom at 130 Brooks Avenue, looking southeast, taken 04/03/2014.

20 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0020)

View of transom window over kitchen door and kitchen at 130 Brooks Avenue, looking southwest, taken 04/03/2014.

21 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0021)
View of 122 Brooks Avenue, looking northeast, taken 12/19/2013.

22 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0022)
View of Brooks Avenue streetscape, looking northeast, taken 12/19/2013.

23 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0023)
View of 603 E. First Street, looking northwest, taken 12/19/2013.

24 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0024)
View of 615 E. First Street, looking northwest, taken 12/19/2013.

25 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0025)
View of 621 E. First Street, looking northwest, taken 12/19/2013.

26 of 26 (CA_LosAngeles_InterculturalCouncilHouses_0026)
View of E. First Street streetscape, looking northwest, taken 12/19/2013.

Additional Documentation: Photo Key, Historic Maps, Floor Plans, and Sketches

Figure 1.

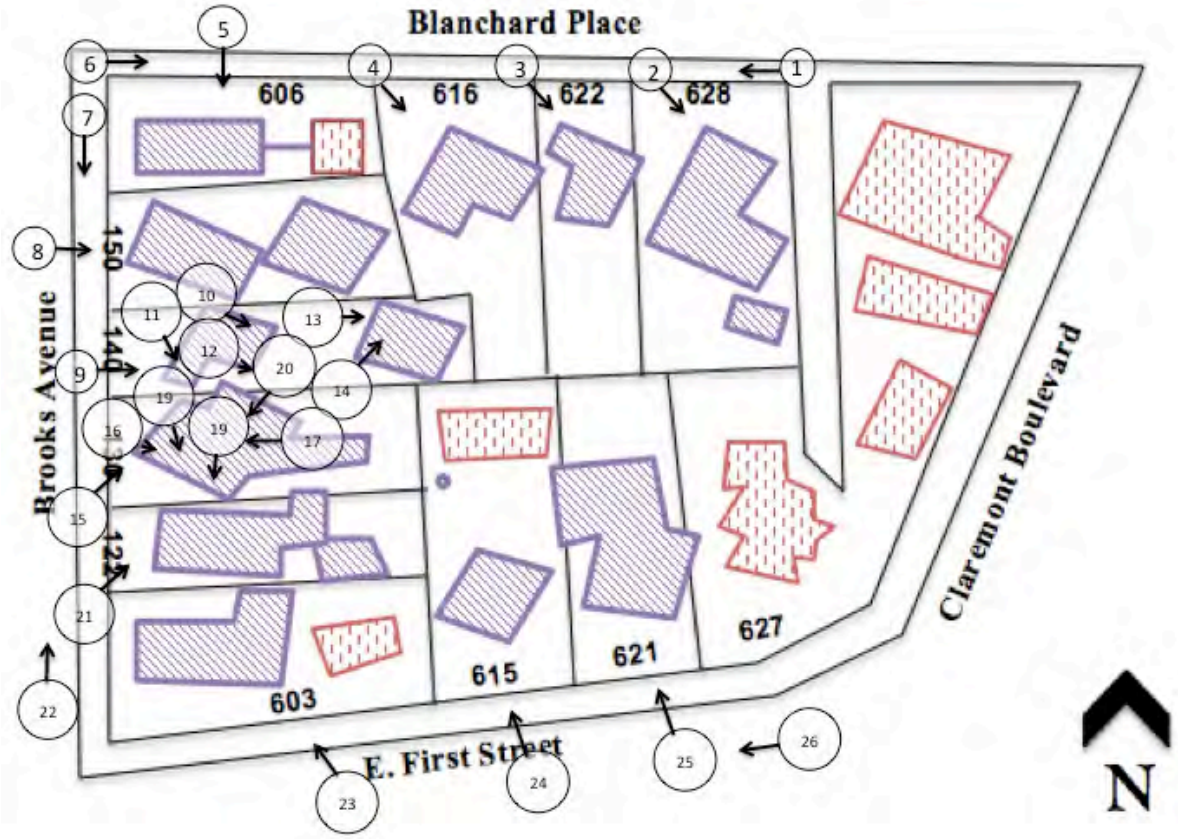
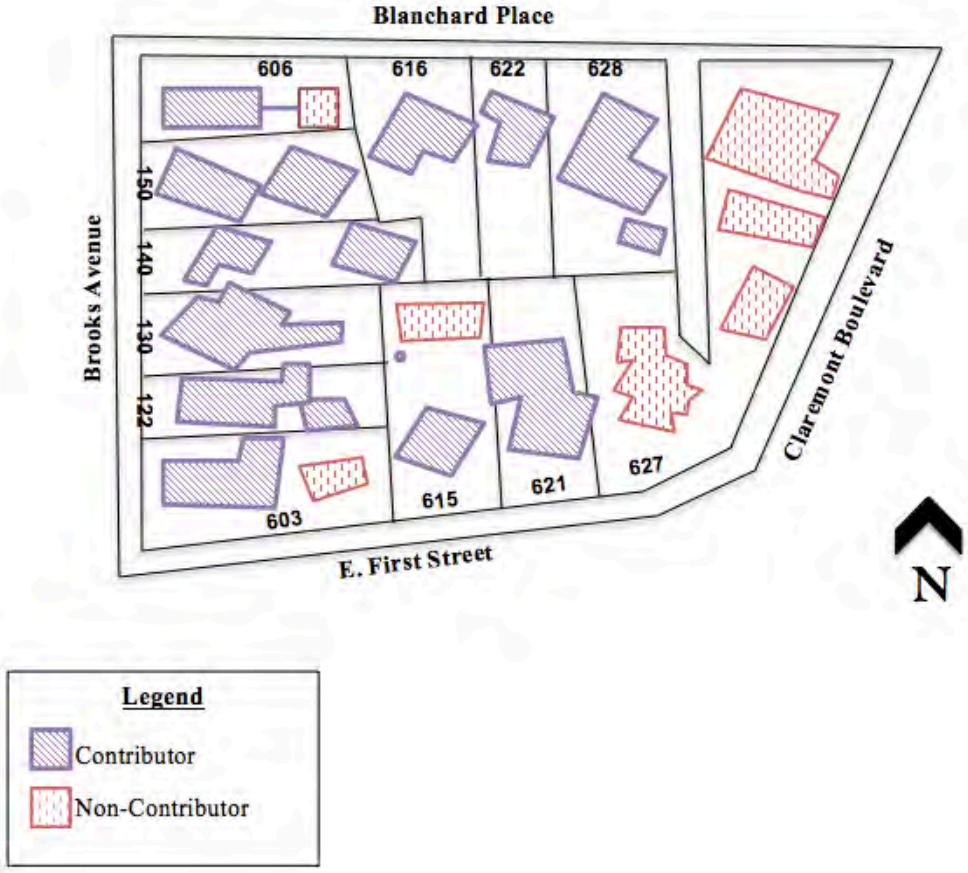


Photo Key, Intercultural Council Houses, Claremont, CA

Figure 2.



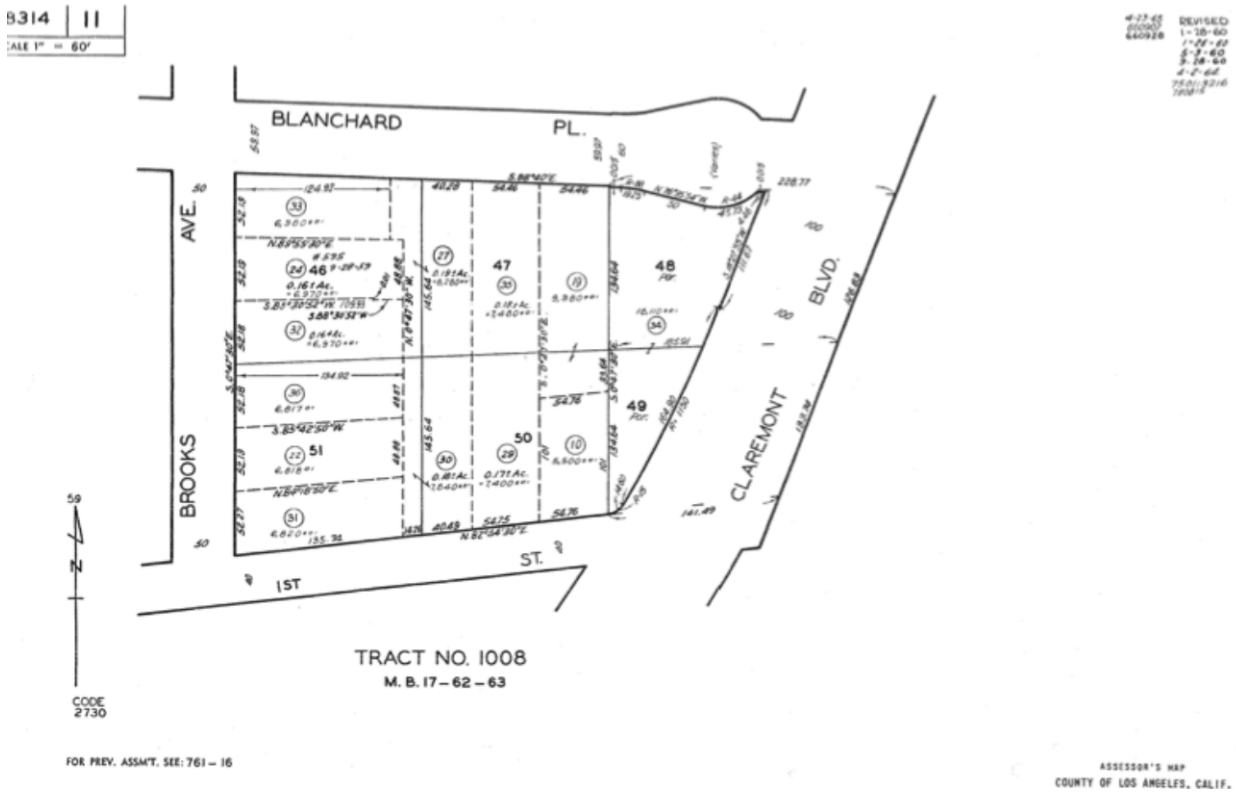
District Site Plan, denoting contributors and non-contributors.

Figure 3.

INTERCULTURAL COUNCIL HOUSES HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOUNDED BY BLANCHARD PL, BROOKS AVE, E. FIRST ST, AND CLAREMONT BLVD, CLAREMONT, CA, 91711
LOCATION COORDINATES: 34.09616, -117.70584

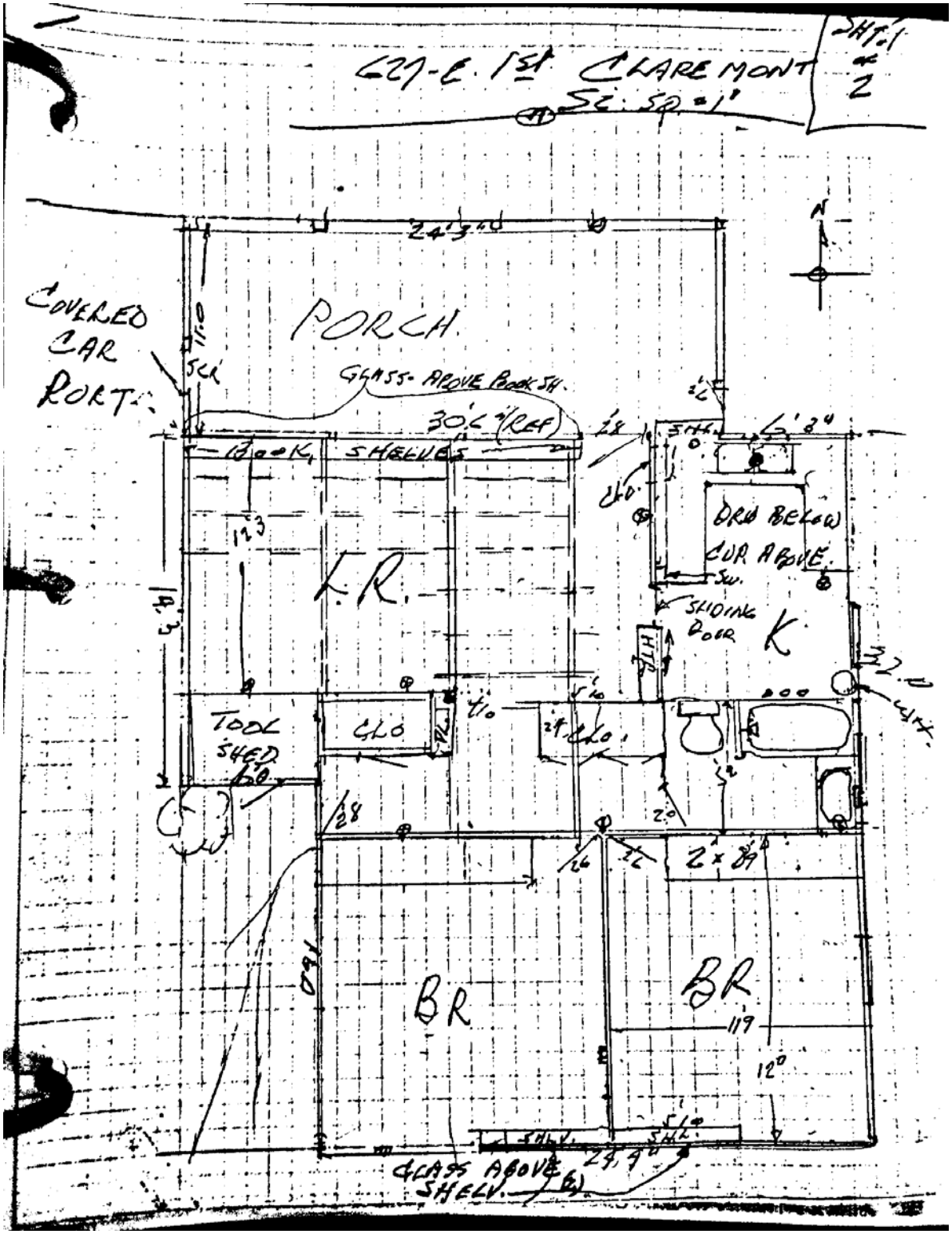
DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Figure 4.



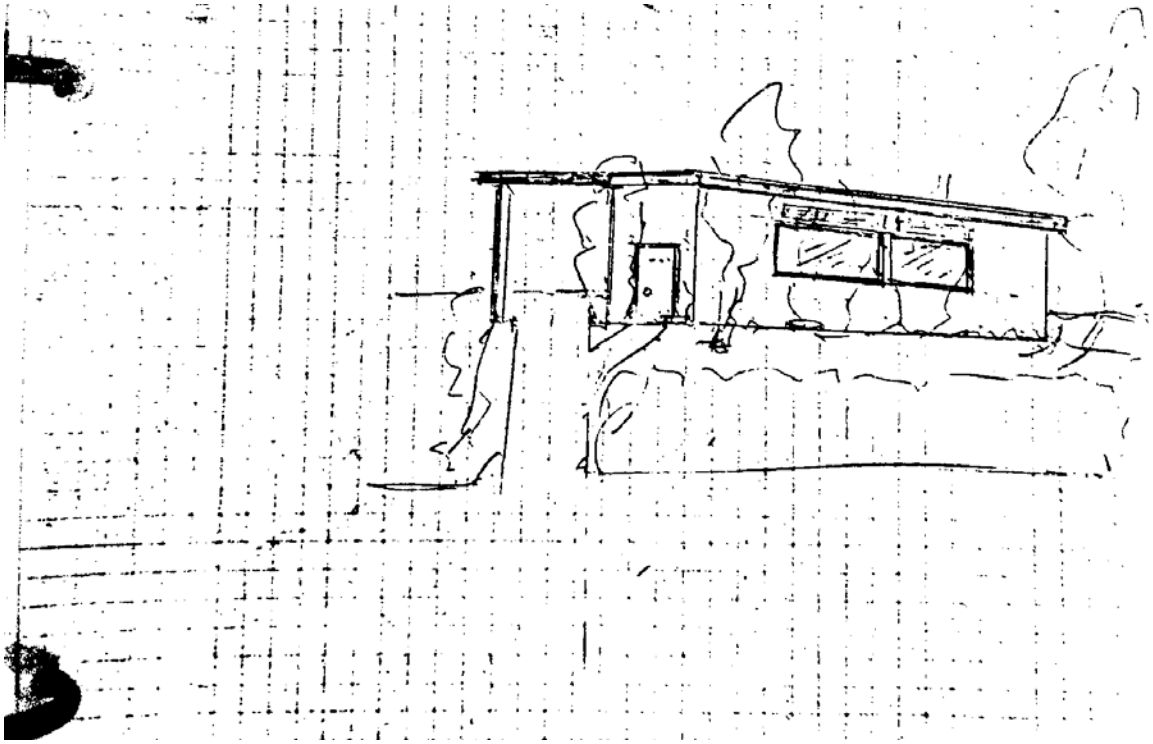
Assessor's Map, Tract 1008, Claremont, CA, Los Angeles County Assessor's Office website.

Figure 5.


627-E. 1st CLAREMONT
SHT. 1 of 2
PORCH
COVERED CAR PORT
GLASS ABOVE BOOK SH.
BOOK SHELVES
L.R.
DRY BELOW CUP ABOVE
SLIDING DOOR
K
TOOL SHED
CLO
BR
BR
GLASS ABOVE SHELV.

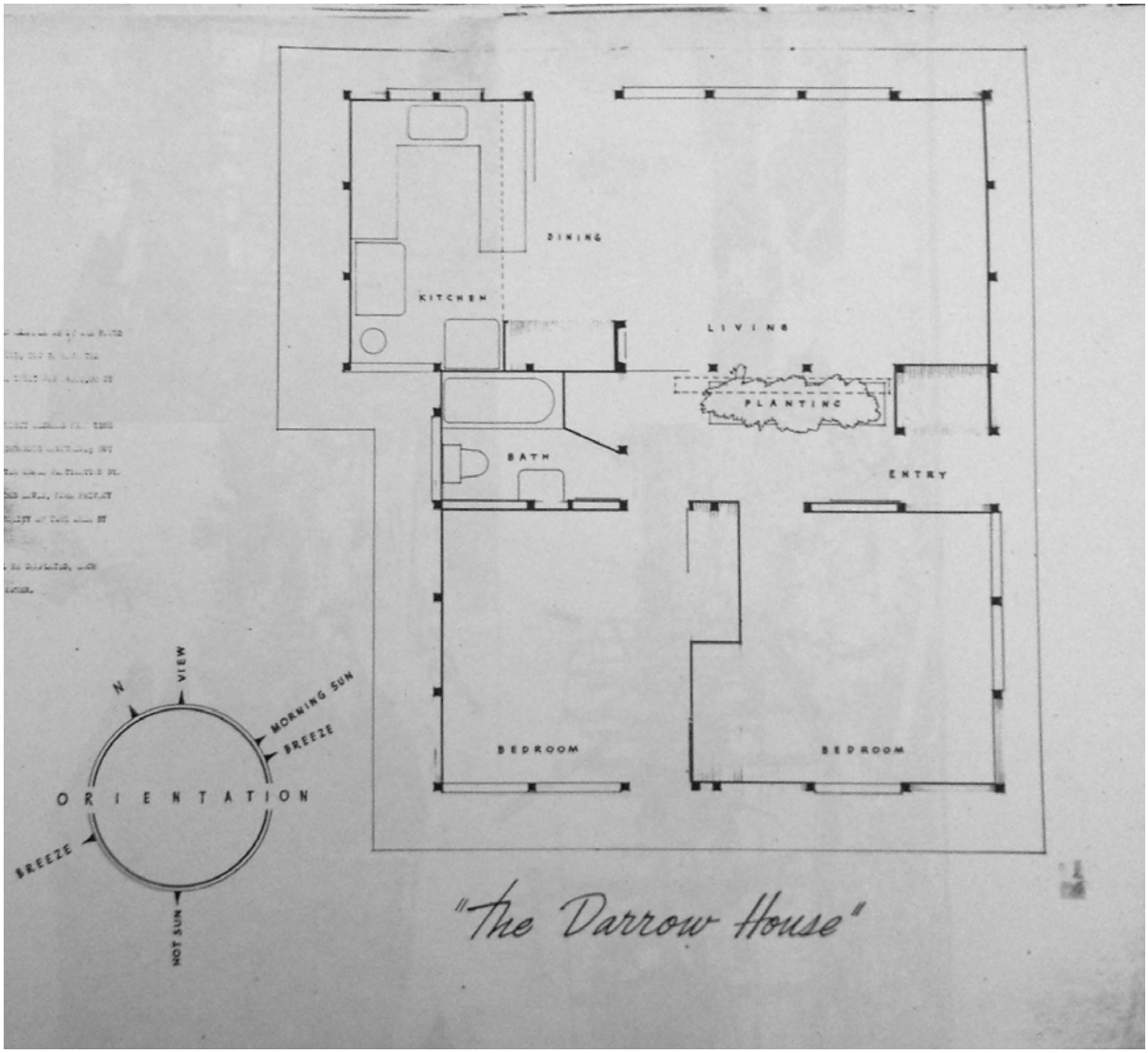
Sketch floor plan of 627 E. First Street, Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA

Figure 6.



Sketch of 627 E. First Street, Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

Figure 7.



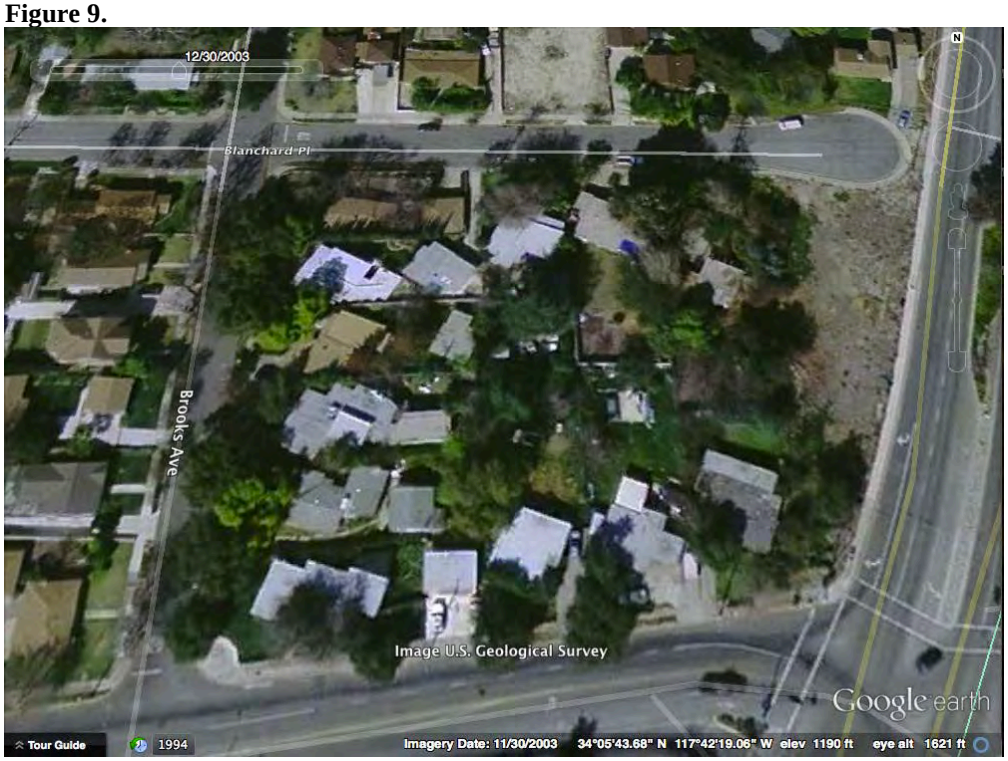
Sample floor plan from the Darrow House, 628 Blanchard Place, Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

Additional Documentation: Historic Photographs and Aerials

Figure 8.

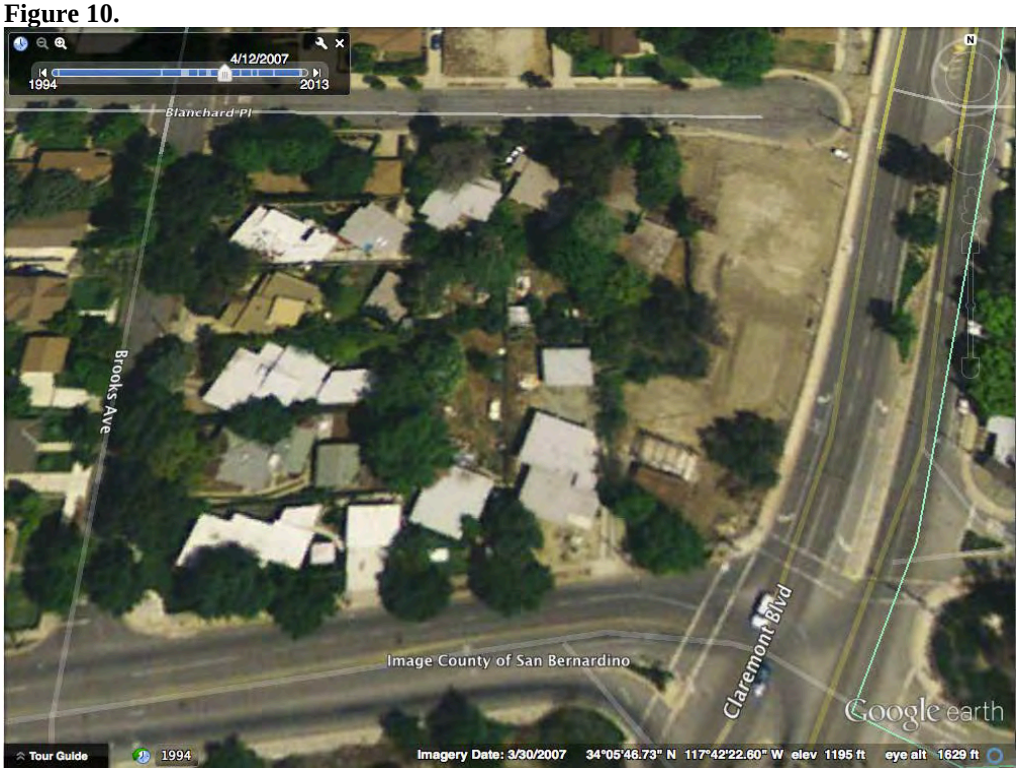
Historic photograph (c. 1950) of Intercultural Council Houses, E. First Street, looking west, Claremont Heritage Special Collections, Claremont, CA.

Figure 9.



Aerial photograph of Tract 1008 (Intercultural Council Houses), 11/30/2003

Figure 10.

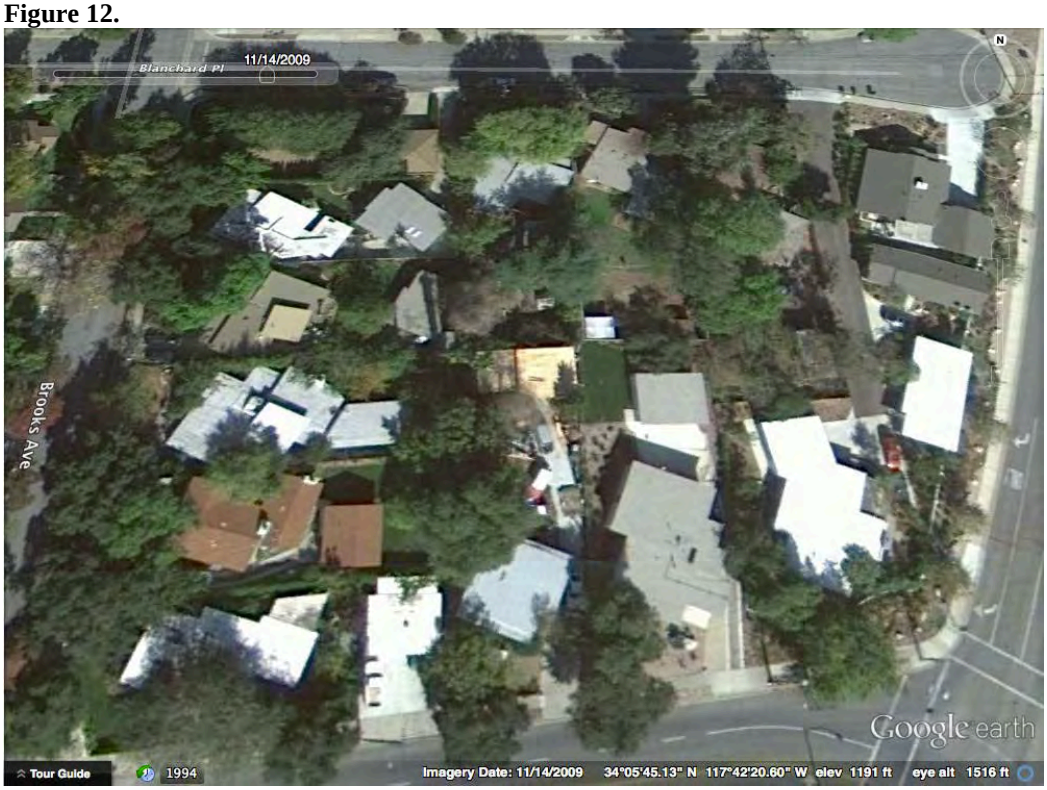


Aerial photograph of Tract 1008 (Intercultural Council Houses), 03/30/2007.

Figure 11.

Aerial photograph of Tract 1008 (Intercultural Council Houses), 10/23/2007

Figure 12.



Aerial photograph of Tract 1008 (Intercultural Council Houses), 11/14/2009

Figure 13.

Aerial photograph of Tract 1008 (Intercultural Council Houses), 03/15/2013

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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I Love
You Dad
Love
Meller
UNDERSEA JOURNEY
NEW YORKER
The Whale

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California
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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
CIVIC
LX

Flowers Underfoot
Indian Carpets of the Mughal Era
THE BEACH BOYS

122
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