

An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely Long Beach, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. A river or canal runs along the left side, and the coastline is visible on the right.

# Historic Context Statement: Suburbanization & Race

Cultural Heritage Commission Study Session  
July 26, 2022

**HISTORIC  
RESOURCES  
GROUP**



**LONG BEACH  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES**

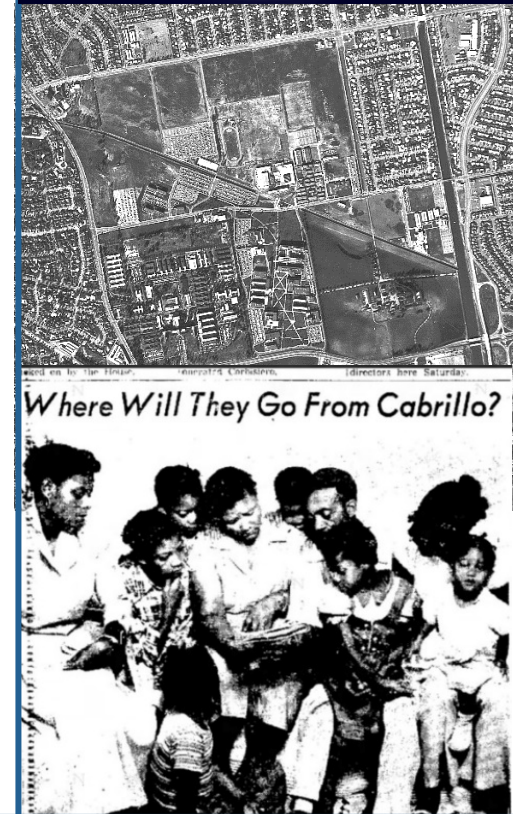
# Project Scope

- Historic context focused on the intersection of the built environment and housing restrictions & the fight for fair housing in Long Beach, 1945-1979
- Includes brief overview of the diverse communities in Long Beach
- Supplements the Citywide Historic Context
- Included related community outreach effort
- Funded by a State of California's Certified Local Governments (CLG) grant
- 2019 grant; extended due to COVID-19

## RESIDENTIAL SECURITY MAP

### LEGEND

- A FIRST GRADE
  - B SECOND GRADE
  - C THIRD GRADE
  - D FOURTH GRADE
  - SPARSELY BUILT UP  
(COLOR INDICATES GRADE)
  - COMMERCIAL (IMPORTANT RETAIL AND WHOLESALE AREAS)
  - UNDEVELOPED OR FARMLAND  
(UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)
- PREPARED BY  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS  
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK BOARD  
WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE  
APPRAISAL DEPARTMENT  
HOME OWNERS' LOAN CORPORATION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1939



# Historic Contexts

- A historic context is a narrative document that provides the framework for identifying and evaluating historic resources
- Critical tool for protecting resources that reflect the varied and complex history of Long Beach
- Not a definitive history of any topic
- Tool for staff, the community, and decision-makers
- Intersectional approach provides a better understanding of development patterns in Long Beach
- Assists future historians and the continued work to understand and recognize Long Beach's diverse communities





# Community Outreach

- Partnered with Stratiscope Community Engagement Team
  - Developed Historic Context Advisory Committee
  - Representative of the diverse communities of Long Beach and Long Beach Heritage
  - Virtual Outreach Meetings
  - Social media campaign
- Advisory Committee
  - Provided family resources (ephemera and photos)
  - Recommended individuals for one-on-one interviews
  - Draft context reviewers
- 5 readers/subject matter experts reviewed the draft
- City staff review and comment



# One-on-One Interviews

- Conducted individual interviews
  - Cynthia Terry
  - Carl McBride
  - Chan Hopson
  - Sharon Diggs Jackson
  - Jessica Quintana
  - Fran Lujan
  - Audrey Yamagata



# Historic Context Statement: Suburbanization & Race

- Narrative Overview
  - Discriminatory Practices of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Segregation and Discrimination in Long Beach, 1941-1959
  - Civil Rights & Integration, 1960-1975
  - North Long Beach Transformed, 1976-1979
  - Racial and Ethnic Groups of Long Beach
- Contexts and Themes Related to Postwar Development
- List of properties and neighborhoods identified through research and by the community
- Bibliography of sources for future researchers



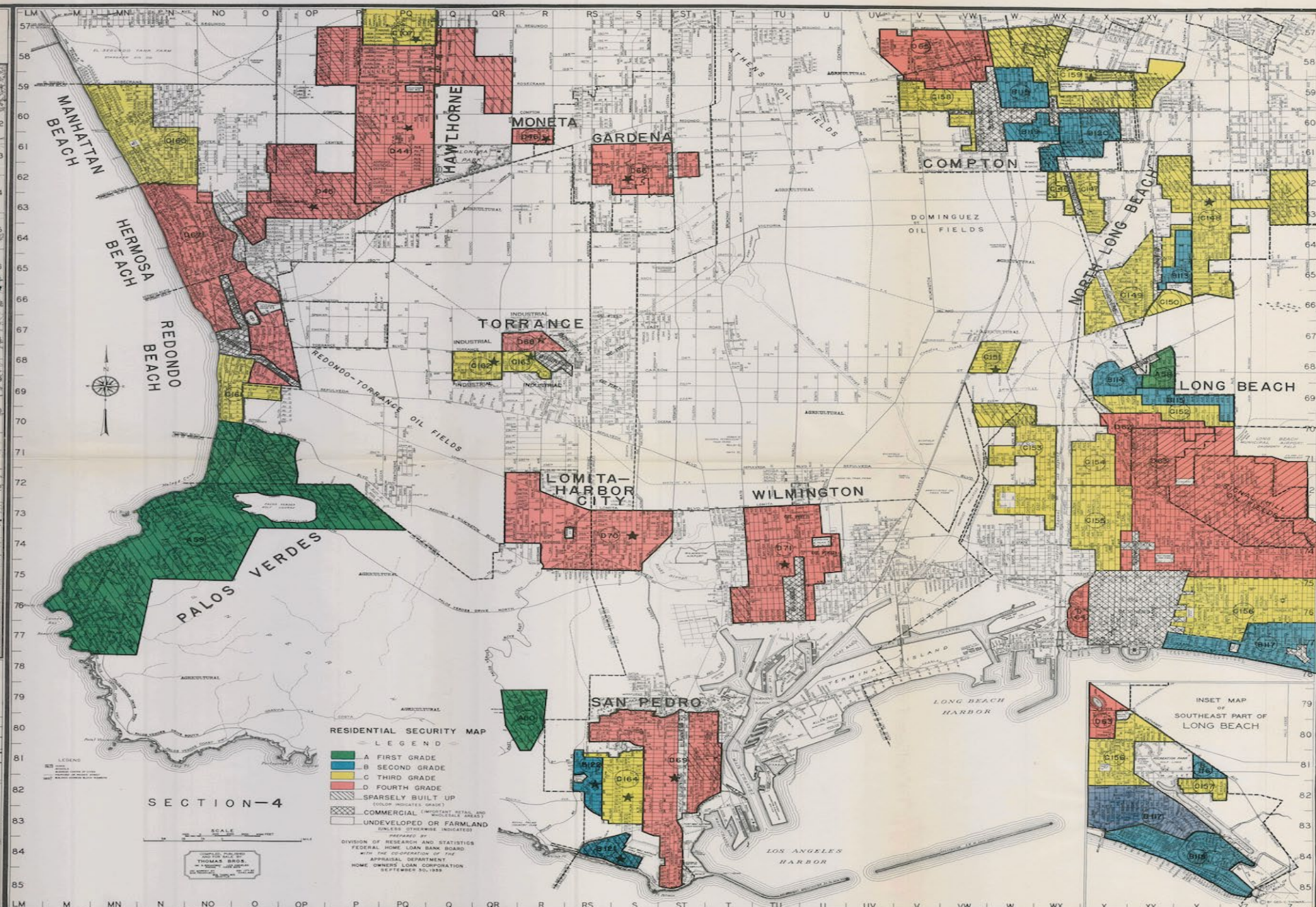
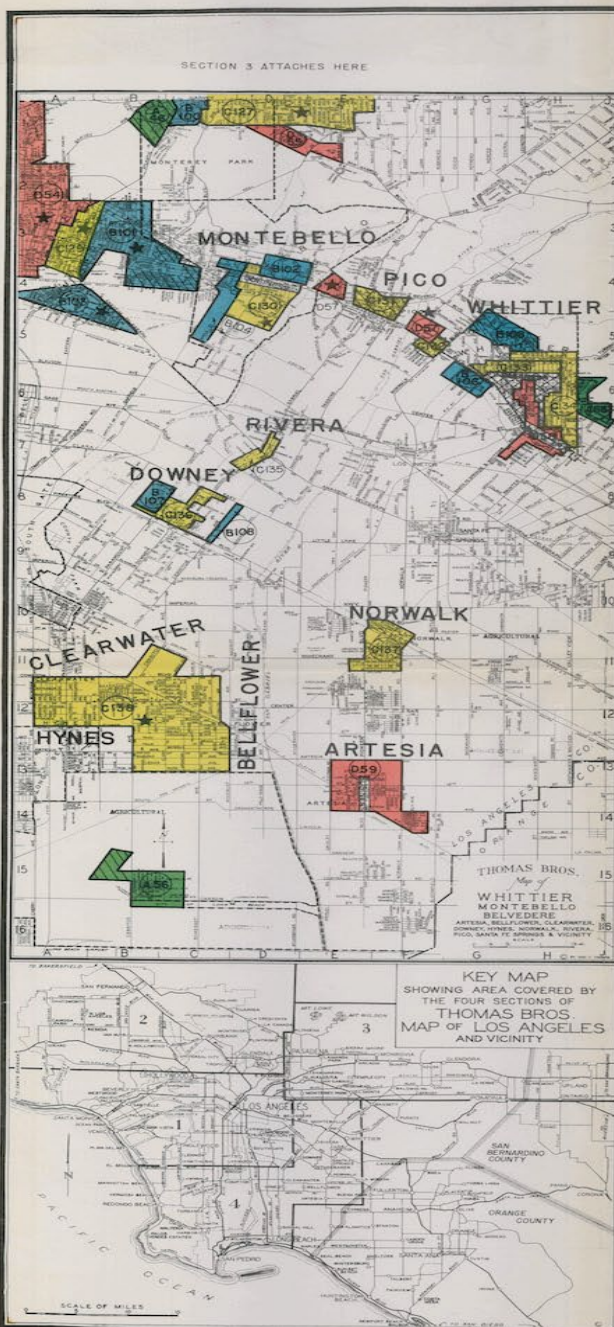




# Discriminatory Practices of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 1900-1944

- Alien Land Laws
- Restrictive covenants (deed restrictions)
- Segregation
- Redlining
  - New Deal housing institutions: Home Owners Loan Corp. and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA)
  - FHA rated neighborhoods as “security risks”
  - Denied mortgages based on race and ethnicity
  - Contributor to the legalization and institutionalization of racism and segregation





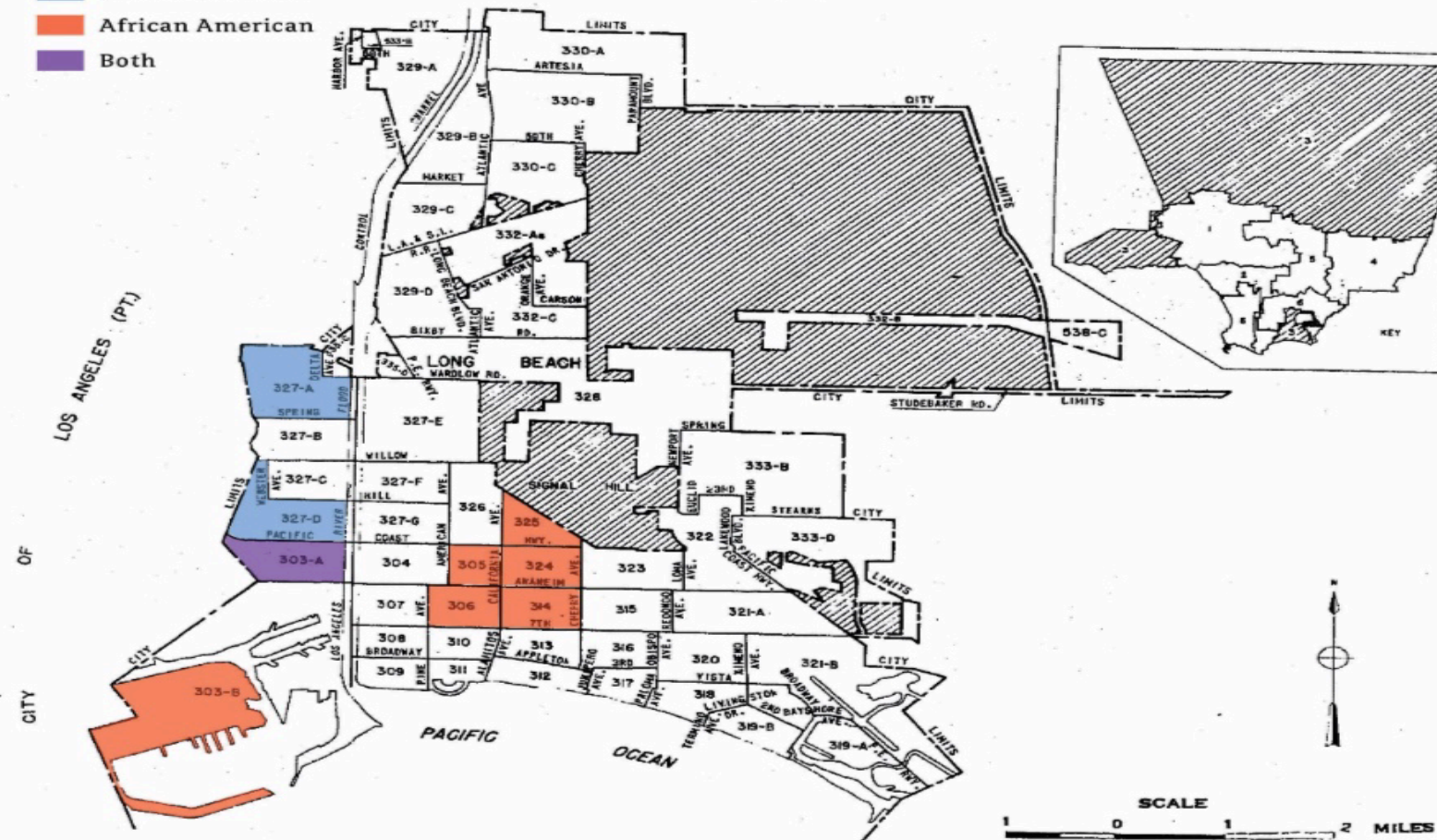


# LOS ANGELES, CALIF., AND ADJACENT AREAS BY CENSUS TRACTS

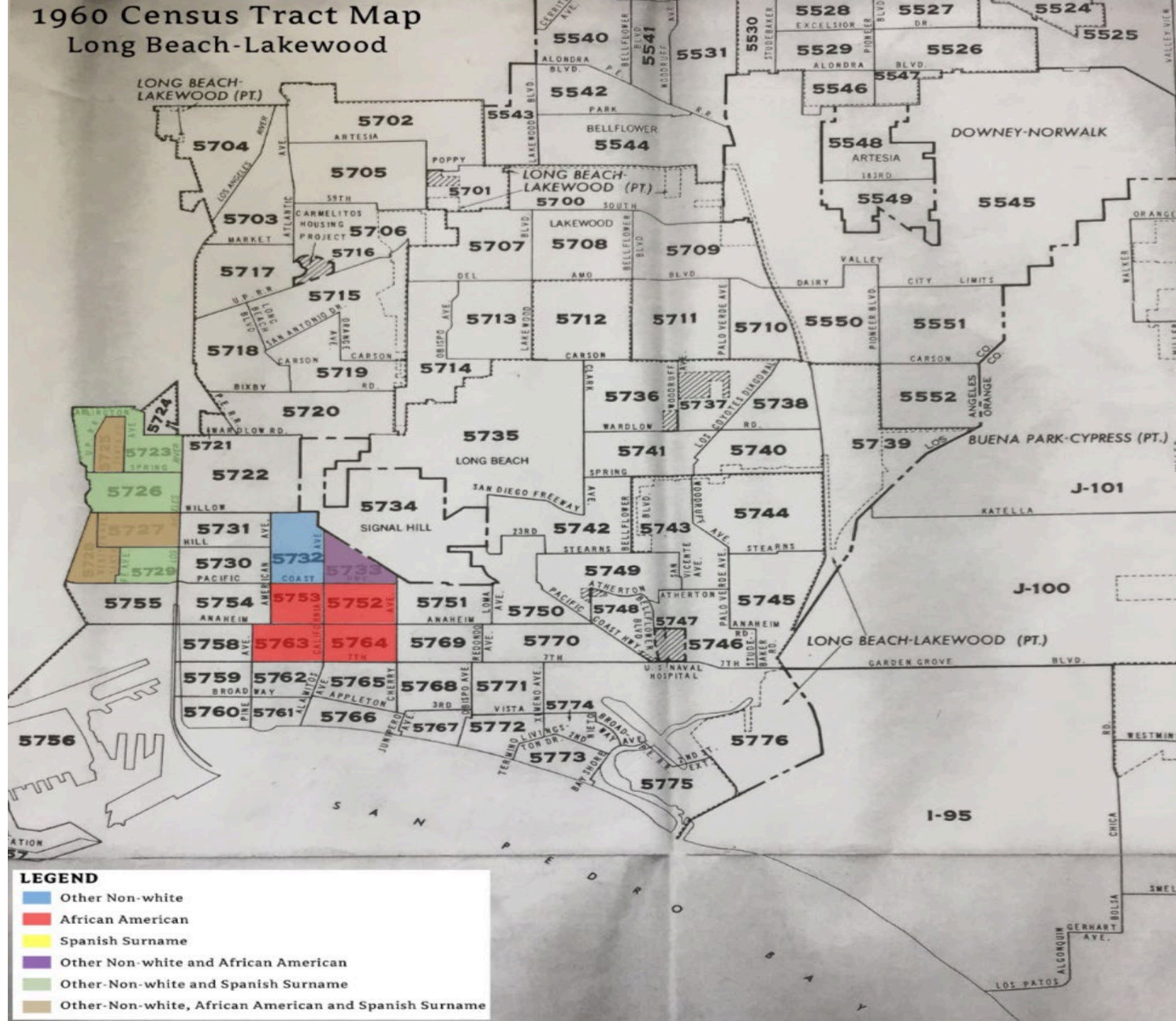
## Part 3.- Tracts in Long Beach city (1950)

### LEGEND

- Other Non-white
- African American
- Both



# 1960 Census Tract Map Long Beach-Lakewood





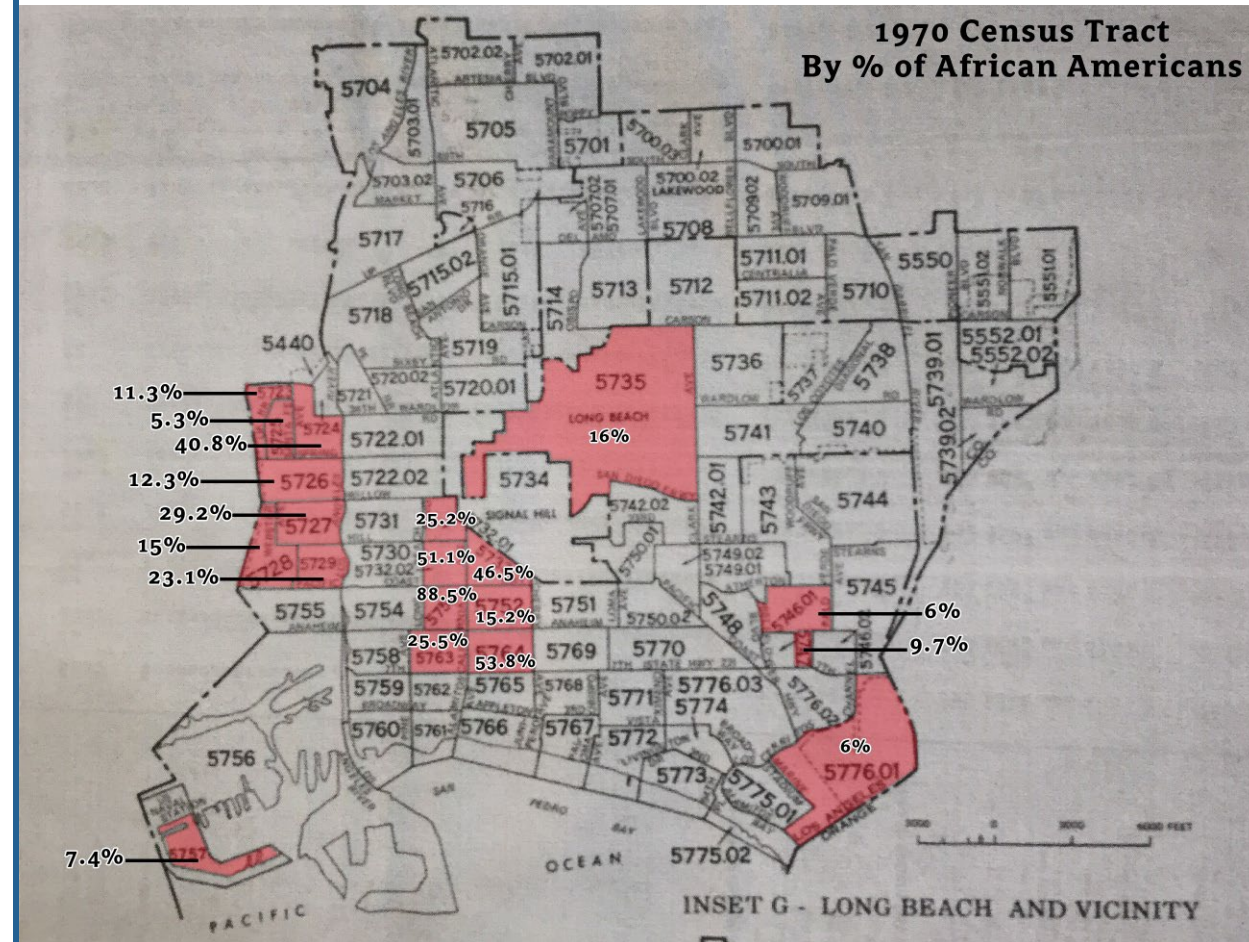
# Segregation and Discrimination in Long Beach, 1945-1964

- Patterns of institutionalized segregation were well established
- Pre-1964, only 8 African American families lived in non-integrated neighborhoods
- Blockbusting: realtors refer non-white home buyers to Westside neighborhoods and encourage panic selling by whites
- “For Rent” signs: landlords tell prospective renters of color that the unit has already been rented
- World War II-era housing projects were segregated
  - Truman Boyd Manor
  - Lexington Defense Housing
  - Cabrillo Homes War Emergency Housing Complex



# Integration in Long Beach, 1964-1976

- Fair Housing Act, 1963
- Proposition 14, 1964
- Fair Housing Foundation (FHF)
  - Initially founded to fight Proposition 14
- Westside Neighbors Association





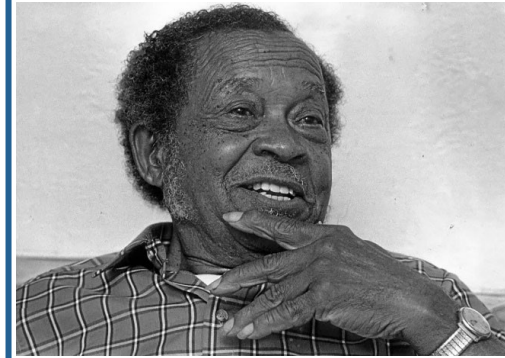
# Long Beach Fair Housing Foundation



- Lawyer advocates and activist clergy
- Unique practices
  - Double escrow
  - Checkers
  - Lawsuits
- Placement of 7 African American families by February 1964
- Placement of 1,500 African American families by July 1976
- Model for other fair housing organizations throughout California and the country

# Civil Rights Movement in Long Beach

- NAACP
- Chicano Civil Rights Movement
- Long Beach Polytechnic High School
- California State University, Long Beach





# Fight for Fair Housing: Associated Properties

- Fair Housing Foundation Office
- Residence associated with the Thomas E. and Enako Allen v. Paul and Blanche Staub case
- Westside home of Ann Trumbore
- Dr. Charles Terry Residence



# Overview: Racial and Ethnic Groups in Long Beach

- African Americans
- Latina/o Community
- Japanese Americans
- Chinese Americans
- Filipino Americans
- Korean Americans
- Samoan Americans
- Vietnamese Americans
- Guamanian and Chamorro Americans
- Cambodian Americans
- Laotian and Hmong Americans





# Next Steps

- Presentation at Equity and Human Rights Commission: August 3
- Public hearing at the Cultural Heritage Commission for approval/adoption: August 30
- Publish for use by communities and preservationists to provide better understanding of the built environment in Long Beach, and aid in the ongoing research of the City



# How Can You Contribute?

- Review Public Draft of Document:
  - <https://longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/preservation/mark-the-map/>
- Please send written comments to:  
[historicpreservation@longbeach.gov](mailto:historicpreservation@longbeach.gov)
- Final day to provide public comments August 5th by 5pm.

