

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club Boarding House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1830 T Street

City or town: Sacramento State: California County: Sacramento County

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 ___ 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 ___ 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B C D

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
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Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club Boarding House

Sacramento, California

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	<hr/>
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
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

SOCIAL/civic

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY 20TH CENTURY TRANSITIONAL

Late Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood Clapboard
Wood Shingles

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 building at 1830 T Street is located in a residential neighborhood in Sacramento characterized by single-family residences constructed between the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The building is set back roughly thirty feet from T Street behind a row of palm trees and a lawn punctuated by a walkway. The two-story building is rectangular in plan. The main (north) façade has a slightly projecting two-story volume on the east side of the façade with cutaway bay windows and a pedimented gable. Ornamental features include wood shingles on the gable ends, tall windows, and Tuscan columns at the porch. Originally constructed by its first owner Theodore Schluckebier around 1906, the building was used as a house for many years before becoming a boarding house for the Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club (NWCIC).

The building reflects both the history of Sacramento and the NWCIC, as well as some of the character-defining features of Queen Anne architecture. It has not been used as a boarding house for many decades, but the building at 1830 T Street has been altered only slightly and retains integrity.

Detailed Description

The two-story building at 1830 T Street features a rectangular plan. The building has a medium-pitched gable-on-hip roof with two gable ends on the main (north) façade. The main façade has a slightly projecting two-story volume on the east side with cutaway bay windows and a pedimented gable. A lawn borders the building on the north and east sides. It is clad in narrow wood clapboard with wood shingles at the gable ends. Fenestration is double-hung wood sash.

Two narrow windows are centered on the main (north) façade above the entrance. The projecting cutaway bay on the main façade features six double-hung wood-sash windows. The porch on the main façade is supported by two decorative Tuscan columns that rest on a solid clapboard balustrade. The eaves are boxed and have a simple decorative frieze. The two gable ends on the main façade feature decorative half-timbering around and above the louvered vents. Side elevations have alternating sizes of double-hung wood-sash windows. A small square window to the right of the main entrance features a sliding-sash window; style of the original window is unknown. The rear (south) elevation features a centered second floor porch with a shed roof that is accessed via a wide set of wood steps leading to an entrance on the second story. Square wood columns support the back porch; the balustrade is a simple horizontal wood railing.

Integrity

Location

The NWCIC Boarding House building has not been moved and retains integrity of location.

Design

The NWCIC Boarding House's design is expressed through its Queen Anne architecture. Character-defining features include its two-story massing, pedimented gables, integral partial-width porch, decorative Tuscan columns and tall double-hung windows. No substantial alterations have been performed on its design features outside the period of significance. Therefore, it retains integrity of design.

Setting

The residential neighborhood surrounding 1830 T Street has retained many of its historic-period buildings as well as the overall character present during the property's period of significance. 1830 T Street therefore retains sufficient integrity of setting to convey its significance.

Materials

The NWCIC Boarding House's tall double-hung wood-sash windows, narrow clapboard cladding, wood shingle at the gable ends, Tuscan columns, and other visible materials date from the period of significance; the house conveys its historic identity through its materials.

Workmanship

The building has not been substantially altered. Its workmanship constitutes evidence of early twentieth century building craft; it dates from the period of significance and it conveys its historic identity.

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Feeling

The building at 1830 T Street exhibits the character-defining features of late Queen Anne/Transitional architecture and evokes the feeling of an early-twentieth century residential building. The physical features of the property that date from its period of significance have not been significantly altered since its construction and the property retains the aesthetic sense present during its period of significance.

Association

The property is sufficiently intact to convey its significance as the NWCIC Boarding House because the physical features dating from the period of significance have not been altered. Therefore, it retains integrity of association.

The property retains sufficient significant physical characteristics from its period of significance to convey its historic significance through all seven aspects of integrity.

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.)

- 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
-

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- 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.)

Ethnic Community History

Period of Significance

1942-1948

Significant Dates

1942

1948

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Theodore Schluckebier

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 building at 1830 T Street is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 1, and the Sacramento Register under Criterion a.i for its association with the growth and development of the Richmond Grove neighborhood as well as the establishment and growth of the Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club, an important institution established by and for Sacramento's Black community.

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

Sacramento

The Nisenan, a branch of the Maidu people, occupied the area near the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers before the arrival of Europeans. The Spanish explored but did not settle in the region, and the first permanent non-native resident was Swiss immigrant John Sutter, who arrived in 1839. Sutter's Fort, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile northeast of Richmond Grove, became a way station for immigrants travelling overland to California in the 1840s. When Sutter's employees discovered gold near the end of the decade, Sam Brannan and other speculators laid out Sacramento near Sutter's Fort. A dry winter in 1848-49 allowed Sacramento's founders to ignore the great drawback of the site: its position in the flood plain. Surveyors platted an enormous three-mile area, giving the east-west streets letter names and numbering the north-south streets. Sacramento became the gateway to California's gold fields. Its influence was made enduring in 1854, when Sacramento became the permanent state capital. Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 further established Sacramento as a hub for commerce. As the nineteenth century progressed, agriculture began to overtake mineral extraction as the most important economic pursuit in the Sacramento Valley.¹

¹ "Sacramento Bird's Eye View," *The Daily Record-Union and Weekly Union*, 1890s; *Sacramento Daily Union*, 6 October 1881, 3 col.1; Sanborn Insurance Maps, Sacramento, California, 1895; Steven M. Avella, *Sacramento, Indomitable City* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), 31-32, 41, 49, 58.

California's first successful rail line was the Sacramento Valley Railroad (SVRR), which began service from Sacramento to Folsom in 1856. Theodore Judah was SVRR's chief engineer, and while working on it devised a plan for a transcontinental railroad with its terminus in Sacramento. In 1861, he recruited Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford, and Charles Crocker (the "Big Four") to the Board of Directors of the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR). When Stanford became governor later that year, he was able to push legislation that favored railroad construction in California, and the CPRR broke ground in 1863. Despite political and technical difficulties as well as Judah's premature death in 1863, the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. Sacramento was positioned as a hub for products of the mines and California's growing agricultural sector. Travel to and from Sacramento, which had declined as the gold rush petered out, increased substantially after the railroad's completion. In 1865, the CPRR purchased the SVRR, folding the local line into its transcontinental system. The CPRR then merged with potential rail competitor Southern Pacific (SP) and took on its name. The SP shops in Sacramento became the city's largest employer and remained so for many years even after management moved to San Francisco.²

As Sacramento matured from a frontier tent encampment to a permanent city, it became clear that flooding would be a recurring problem. Beginning in 1862, Sacramento undertook a series of flood control projects that were considerably more ambitious than initial attempts to build levees. Civic leaders raised streets just east of the Sacramento River and re-channeled the mouth of the American River. A flood in 1878 prompted the creation of the first comprehensive flood control plan for the Sacramento Valley in 1880. The first structure of note in the southern part of Sacramento was the R Street levee, initially constructed from Front to 19th Streets in order to protect downtown from floods. The R Street levee acted as a de facto barrier to the development of the southern portion of city limits.³

Despite its huge street grid, early Sacramento development was concentrated near the waterfront. The State Capitol on 10th Street and the rail yards to the northwest stimulated West End development during the nineteenth century. Commercial activity was concentrated at the western end of K Street and near the rail yards. Establishment of streetcar service allowed residential development to push eastward along the streetcar lines beginning in the 1870s. During the nineteenth century, many residences were in the Homes District east of the Capitol as well as

² William L. Willis, *History of Sacramento County, California: With Biographical Sketches* (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, 1913), 183; Richard Orsi, *Sunset Limited: The Southern Pacific Railroad and the Development of the American West, 1850 – 1930* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005), 7, 12-18; William Burg, *Sacramento's Streetcar* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 7; Steven M. Avella, *Sacramento, Indomitable City* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), 58.

³ Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, *Sacramento Area Flood History*, SAFCA, 2008, <http://www.safca.org/history.html>, accessed 6 February 2014; Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center and the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation, *Sacramento's Midtown* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 71.

mixed with businesses along K Street. As Sacramento's population grew around the turn of the century, K Street became a robustly commercial area, and single-family residences were pushed out. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, development densified the West End with multi-story retail, office, hotel, and apartment buildings replacing many smaller nineteenth century buildings. The Homes District to the east became a middle-class enclave. Sacramento's population growth was further stimulated as new levees lessened flood danger and streetcars were electrified, and by 1910, the city had nearly 45,000 residents.⁴

After the turn of the century, the entire southern part of the Sacramento street grid was opened to development when the city demolished the R St. levee in response to advocacy from the Southside Improvement Club. More areas were opened to development in 1911, when annexation of areas east and south of the original grid added 6,000 acres of land and further boosted population. Growth slowed during World War I, but by the 1920s a booming economy was fueling rapid development and population expansion in Sacramento. The built environment was reshaped with the addition of institutional buildings like lodges, churches, Memorial Auditorium, and a new hospital as well as substantial downtown commercial development. Commercial expansion fueled population growth, which necessitated new residential neighborhoods as well as schools and a junior college. The onset of the Great Depression in 1930 halted most construction and began an era of hardship for Sacramento. The railyards and canneries, major local employers, laid off workers in considerable numbers. Population growth, however, continued, along with continued development of educational buildings in the 1930s.⁵

The entry of the US into World War II in 1941 prompted the establishment or reactivation of three military installments in Sacramento County: Mather Field, McClellan Supply Depot, and Sacramento Signal Depot. The bases, located outside city limits, stimulated suburban commercial and residential development and drew new residents to the area. Development also signaled a shift from an economy based on agriculture and the railroad to one where military bases and government offices were the biggest local employers. As California's population exploded during and after World War II, state government grew, and the City of Sacramento expanded far outside its original boundaries into former agricultural areas. Between 1946 and 1955, twenty-seven annexations added ten square miles to Sacramento's urban footprint. The shift toward the personal automobile in the post-war period facilitated this trend, making commutes outside the traditional street grid feasible; by 1960, the population of Sacramento's suburbs had surpassed that within city limits. Completion of the Elvas Freeway (Business 80) in 1955, US 50/99 in 1961, and interstates 5 and 80 in the late 1960s further encouraged

⁴ Environmental Science Associates, "Historical Resource Impact Analysis Report, Sacramento Entertainment and Sports Complex," prepared by JRP Historical Consulting, October 2013, 13.

⁵ William Burg, *Midtown, Sacramento: The Creative Soul of a City* (Charleston: The History Press, 2014); *The Sacramento Bee*, 25 October 1944, 6; Steven M. Avella, *Sacramento, Indomitable City* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), 80, 90-92.

development in Sacramento County's rural areas. The 1960s and 1970s saw more substantial annexations, after which growth slowed but did not stop.⁶

Redevelopment beginning in the 1950s led to the destruction of much of Sacramento's original urban fabric, including its historic Japantown. Meanwhile, continued suburban development and the intrusion of freeways into historic neighborhoods led to disinvestment and population loss in much of the original city grid. The 1980s brought the decline of Sacramento's most significant, long-standing industries: the railyards, canneries, and military bases. Loss of these industries was only partially offset by growth of the technology sector and the ongoing employment provided by state government. By 2013, the City of Sacramento encompassed nearly 100 square miles and by 2019, the metropolitan area had over half a million residents.

1830 T Street

The house at 1830 T Street was built about 1906, when it first appeared on the city directory, by Theodore W. Schluckebier (1889-1969). He shared the house with his brother, August Paul Schluckebier (1892-1969), a World War I veteran and a plumber with Mott & Co.'s. By 1921, a Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Young also lived at the address with their son. By 1925, George M. Schluckebier (1895-1975), the brother of Theodore and August Schluckebier, owned the house. He lived there with his wife, Marie A. Grady (1902-1975). Schluckebier was a Sacramento native and worked at a local post office for thirty-eight years before becoming a pigeon breeder. In 1922, he married Marie Annie Grady, the chief telephone operator at the *Sacramento Bee*.

In 1942, the NWCIC bought the property, using it as a boardinghouse until 1948, when they acquired a new location. There were numerous residents at 1830 T Street after the NWCIC moved. In 1950, two rooms were put up for rent while Walter and Alice Lockhoof resided at the address. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the house continued to be used as a rental property.⁷

Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club

In 1942, the NWCIC bought the property at 1830 T Street from J. D. Swift and used it as a boarding house or "girls' home," the first of its kind for Black women in Sacramento. The California Association of Colored Women's Clubs was formed in 1905 and received statewide support to purchase residential buildings in order to establish homes for working women who

⁶ City of Sacramento, General Plan Technical Background Report, Prepared by Ascent Environmental, August 2014, 81-82, 94, 113; County of Sacramento, County History, 2018, accessed 28 November 2018, <http://www.saccounty.net/Government/Pages/CountyHistory.aspx>; Norwood, 2004.

⁷ *Sacramento Bee*, "Apartments- Furnished- For Rent," June 20, 1950, 28; *Sacramento Bee*, "Business Opportunities," Aug. 4, 1950, 34; *Sacramento Bee*, "Walter Lockhoof," Dec. 2, 1966, 8; *Sacramento Bee*, "Too Late to Classify," June 8, 1955, 45; *Sacramento Bee*, "Coroner Says Man's Death is Apparent Suicide," Dec. 1, 1966, 54; *Sacramento Bee*, "More Than 500 Attend Dedication of Girls Home," June 28, 1948, 26; *Sacramento Bee*, "Real Estate Transactions," Nov. 12, 1985; *Sacramento Bee*, "Real Estate Transactions," Oct. 17, 1985, 35.

could not afford their own residences. At the time, there were no suitable public accommodations for women and girls. Due to segregation and prejudice, young African American women arriving in Sacramento (who were excluded even from institutions like the YWCA) had great difficulty finding safe, decent housing, since the only hotels open to them during this era were in the red light district. Viola M. Brooks (1887-1975) was a founder of the club and its president during this era. Brooks, who discovered the lack of housing options during her own move to Sacramento, initially turned to the Woman's Monday Club to help find a solution to suitable housing, taking the lead on the project starting in 1926. In 1936, Brooks and several other women founded the Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club, which became the Women's Civic Improvement Club in 1951, by merging three existing Black women's groups. The NWCIC (later renamed the WCIC) was part of the "Negro Women's Club Movement" of the early twentieth choose one century.⁸

Beginning in the 1920s, the clubs that were the precursors to the NWCIC held fundraising dinners, teas and variety shows, raising \$500 in the first few years. Members, many of whom were employed in domestic service and earned as little as \$0.50 a day, also funded the organization by paying monthly dues, which were at first a modest \$0.10. However, the onset of the Great Depression caused banks to freeze assets, and the women lost access to their savings account. In 1936, banks began paying their depositors, and the women regained access to their savings (although Netta Sparks stated that they never received the full amount). Viola Brooks, Netta White (later Netta Sparks), and eleven other women founded the Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club. The club chose the house at 1830 T Street, which became the first location of the NWCIC's girls' home, because Richmond Grove was one of the few neighborhoods in Sacramento in which racial covenants did not prevent Black people from purchasing property at the time. The club continued to sponsor public concerts and other activities to fund their work.⁹

Young women were charged one dollar a day to stay at the house when it opened in 1942, and a club member would act as a matron who lived with and supervised the young women who resided in the house. The house had room for twelve boarders in upstairs rooms, and its ground floor was used for club meetings and social activities. It's first matron was Victoria Johnson. Just three years after the purchase, the club was able to celebrate with a mortgage-burning party. In 1945, Iola G. Young was the matron; two years later, Mrs. Louise Troutman was serving in the role. Troutman was a widow who later served as custodian for the NWCIC boarding house.

⁸ "WCIC History," Women's Civic Improvement Club of Sacramento, Accessed September 16, 2021, <https://www.wcicinc.org/wcic-history.html>; Ginger Rutland, "Blacks in Segregated Sacramento Took Care of Own," *Sacramento Bee*, Mar. 29, 1999, 18; "WCIC History," Women's Civic Improvement Club of Sacramento, Accessed July 30, 2021, <https://www.wcicinc.org/wcic-history.html>; "Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California (Black Americans)," National Parks Service, Accessed July 30, 2021, <https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online-books/5views/5views2f.htm>.

⁹ *Sacramento Bee*, "Julian Bond will speak at fundraiser Sunday," May 18, 1973

Young women who were looking for jobs, working, or attending school and did not have family in the area could live in the clubhouse. Older members of the club served as house mother/matrons and mentors, providing guidance to the young tenants. The club incorporated in 1945. After six years at 1830 T Street, the club acquired a larger building and moved the girls' home to 1219 X Street (which could accommodate twenty residents) in 1948. 500 people attended its dedication, including the Sacramento mayor and local club founders Netta White (Sparks) and Viola Brooks.¹⁰

Little is known about most of the women who resided in the clubhouse during its six years of use. One exception is Ellen Willis, whose biography may be illustrative of the important role the home played in the lives of its residents. She moved to Sacramento of in 1945 at the age of 17. While living at the property, she attended Grant Technical College (now American River College) and worked nights as a nurse's aide at Sutter General Hospital. She went on to receive a Master's degree from San Francisco State and in 1955 joined the Army in hopes of saving enough money to attend medical school. Instead, she pursued a 20-year career in the Army, rising through the ranks to become a lieutenant colonel and the only Black female computer specialist the Army of that era. She retired in 1976.¹¹

After establishing the housing at 1830 T Street, the NWCIC continued to focus on providing programs and services for low-income and disadvantaged families in Sacramento. Later, its larger building on X Street allowed the organization to expand services and hold events at the same location. The residential home remained in operation until 1958, when it was acquired and demolished for freeway construction. The NWCIC moved to Oak Park, discontinuing the housing program. As times changed, so did the organization, and it changed its name to simply the Women's Civic Improvement Club (WCIC). The WCIC/Playmate Head Start Program, which provides accessible preschool, was founded in 1966; the Head Start Program is at the core of today's WCIC. An assistance program for low-income seniors was started in 2006.¹²

Viola Brooks

Viola M. Brooks (1887-1975) was a founder and first president of the NWCIC. Brooks was born in St. Charles County, Missouri in 1887. She was the daughter of a Methodist minister and was

¹⁰ *Sacramento Bee*, "Viola Brooks, Champion of Deprived," Mar. 7, 1975, 54; "Sacramento, California, City Directory, 1945," *Ancestry.com*, City Directories, 1822-1995, Accessed Sept. 23, 2021; "WCIC History," Women's Civic Improvement Club of Sacramento, Accessed September 16, 2021, <https://www.wcicinc.org/wcic-history.html>.

¹¹ *Sacramento Bee*, "No Sexism," June 20, 1976, 21.

¹² "WCIC History," Women's Civic Improvement Club of Sacramento, Accessed September 16, 2021, <https://www.wcicinc.org/wcic-history.html>; "What's New at the Women's Civic Improvement Club," Volume I, Issue I, December 2017.

closely involved at the St. Andrews African Methodist Episcopal Church in Sacramento. She organized the Deaconess and Stewardess Alliance of California Conference and served as its president for twenty-five years. In 1924, she came to Sacramento as a widow and mother of three daughters (Alta L. Harris, Ozelle Reed, and Muriel Sinclair). Brooks experienced firsthand the struggle to find suitable housing in Sacramento, where she found work as a cook for wealthy family. In 1928, she married Fred Brooks, founder of the Oreilley Bluett VFW post and an employee of the Sacramento City Parks and Recreation Department. They had two children together, Hattie and Joseph Brooks. Fred Brooks died in 1943. Viola Brooks died in 1975 and was buried in the Odd Fellows Lawn Cemetery.¹³

Ruth B. Johnson

Ruth Bailey Johnson (1908 – 1960) was an active member of the NWCIC beginning in 1940, when she moved to Sacramento, and has been called the mother of the organization. Born on Long Island, Johnson lived in her youth in Oakland and Berkeley, graduating from the University of California and later receiving a Master's degree in social sciences. She was unusual in this regard for the era, as most of her contemporaries did not have the opportunity to pursue higher education. In 1933, she married physician Kenneth Johnson; the couple did not have children of their own, but raised her niece and nephew. Johnson was active in the YWCA, NAACP, parent-teacher organizations, and other clubs and charities in addition to the NWCIC.¹⁴

Netta Lagrone White Sparks

Although she was well known enough at the end of her life to have a senior center named for her, many details of Netta Sparks' biography are obscure, in part because she was married several times and change her name each time. Born in Longview, Texas about 1897, her birth name was Netta Lagrone. Netta completed high school and attended college. About 1916, she married Nathaniel Dock Coats, who was soon sent overseas to fight in World War I. His family did not want him to return to Texas after the war because of local racism, and convinced Netta to relocate to California in 1917. In the 1920s, when she became the first secretary of the Sacramento chapter of the NAACP. Coats join her in Sacramento, and they lived together for a few years, but the marriage was not a happy one and by the late 1920s they had separated. By 1930, she had reverted to using Netta Lagrone. In the 1940s, while serving as an active member of the NWCIC, she became NAACP president. She worked in retail, as a cook, as a janitor, and at other jobs. In the 1940s, when the NWCIC moved into and then out of the subject property to the larger house, she was vice president of the club. In 1944, she married Charles White, changing her name to Netta White. The marriage to White ended and in the late 1950s, she married union construction laborer Walter Samuel Sparks, who was two decades her senior and

¹³ *Sacramento Bee*, "Viola Brooks, Champion of Deprived," Mar. 7, 1975, 54.

¹⁴ *Sacramento Bee*, "Mrs. Ruth Johnson dies," June 21, 1960.

had come to Sacramento about 1910. Netta Sparks was also active for 75 years in the Sacramento Shiloh Baptist Church, for which she was honored in 1979. She died in 1993.¹⁵

Criterion A/a.i

The building at 1830 T Street is significant under Criterion A/a.i at the local level in the area of Ethnic Heritage. The house at 1830 T Street was originally constructed as part of the initial residential development of Richmond Grove. In 1942, it became the first boarding house for the Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club, therefore facilitating the growth of the Black community in Sacramento. It is an example of the extraordinary efforts this marginalized community made to provide mutual aid to its members at a time when government institutions society at large either ignored their needs or actively discriminated against them. It served as a crucially important housing option for young Black women who needed accommodations after moving to the area. During a time of segregation, the Richmond Grove neighborhood was one of the first in Sacramento where Black people could purchase property. The establishment of a boarding house for Black women in Richmond Grove facilitated growth of the community by encouraging Black women to move to Sacramento, where many were able to find work and later form their own families. The boarding house was heavily used until the NWCIC moved to a new location to expand the program. The property represents an extraordinary achievement of planning, hard work, and frugality that allowed the women to band together to create this institution despite extremely limited financial resources. It is associated with the nationwide growth and development of the Black Women's Club movement during the twentieth century. Both the home at 1830 T Street and the second home at 1219 X Street were used by the NWCIC (later renamed the WCIC) to provide safe and respectable housing for new Black female residents in Richmond Grove.

¹⁵ U.S. Census, 1930, Sacramento; *Escondido Times Advocate*, "Netta Sparks," Nov. 25, 1993, *Sacramento Bee*, "NAACP pioneer sites progress," February 9, 1980; Greg Campbell, Oral History interview with Netta White Sparks, 1980.

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Sacramento Star.

28 January 1910.

6 May 1921.

Sacramento Bee.

22 September 1969.

24 May 1975.

24 July 1975.

29 March 1999.

20 June 1950.

4 August 1950.

2 December 1966.

8 June 1948.

1 December 1966.

28 June 1948.

12 November 1985.

17 October 1985.

7 March 1975.

26 September 1969.

20 June 1976.

20 June 1950.

4 August 1950.

2 December 1966.

8 June 1955.

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1 December 1966.
28 June 1948
12 November 1985.
17 October 1985.

Government Directories and Censuses

U.S. Federal Census.
Sacramento, California. 1900.
City Directory
Sacramento, California. 1945.

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
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.07

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club Boarding House

Sacramento, California

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.565998 | Longitude: -121.486294 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.565966 | Longitude: -121.486176 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.565742 | Longitude: -121.486273 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.565777 | Longitude: -121.486396 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boarding house at 1830 T Street occupies a simple rectangular corner lot. It is bounded to the northeast and southeast by the sidewalk, to the southwest by the property line between 2012 19th Street and 1830 T Street, and to the northwest by the property line between 1826 T Street and 1830 T Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundaries are the limits of the parcel as defined by the Sacramento County Assessor and the legal description of the parcel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ynez Barber
organization: Brunzell Historical
street & number: 1613 B Street
city or town: Napa state: California zip code: 94559
e-mail ynezbarber@gmail.com
telephone: 213-254-5756
date: June 15, 2021

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: 1830 T Street

City or Vicinity: Sacramento

County: Sacramento

State: California

Photographer: Kara Brunzell

Date of Photographs: June 15, 2021

Location of Original Digital File:

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

Photograph #1 (CA_Sacramento County_1830 T Street_0001)

1830 T Street, east and north elevations, camera facing southwest, June 15, 2021.

Photograph 1 of 4

Photograph #2 (CA_Sacramento County_1830 T Street_0002)

1830 T Street, east elevation, camera facing southwest, June 15, 2021.

Photograph 2 of 4

Photograph #3 (CA_Sacramento County_1830 T Street_0003)

1830 T Street, south and east elevations, camera facing northwest, June 15, 2021.

Photograph 3 of 4

Photograph #4 (CA_Sacramento County_1830 T Street_0004)

1830 T Street, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast, June 15, 2021.

Photograph 4 of 4



Figure 1: Location map.



Figure 2: 1830 T Street, north and west elevations, 1942.



Figure 3: Members of the Women's Civic Improvement Club.



Figure 4: Mural showcasing the history of the WCIC, John F. King, 1986. The building at 1830 T Street can be seen in the bottom left.



Photograph 1: 1830 T Street, east and north elevations, camera facing southwest, June 15, 2021.



Photograph 2: 1830 T Street, east elevation, camera facing southwest, June 15, 2021.



Photograph 3: 1830 T Street, south and east elevations, camera facing northwest, June 15, 2021.



Photograph 4: 1830 T Street, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast, June 15, 2021.

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.