

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 23, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0276
1126 CHICON STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1939 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame house with a partial-width, front-gabled, wraparound porch; single and paired 1:1 fenestration with ornamental 3:1 wood screens.

RESEARCH

It is believed that the house dates from 1939, given the siding type and the design of the attic vent on the front of the house. It is clear that the house has been remodeled over time, including the construction of the wraparound porch (probably in 1976 by the Urban Renewal Agency); the porch does not appear on the 1962 Sanborn map.

The house has had a series of renters throughout its history. The first tenants were Subiner Curtis and Leon and Mary A. Miller (at 1126½ Chicon Street). Subiner Curtis was a maid; she lived here from around 1939 to around 1947.

Ananias James, an African-American city policeman, owned this house in the late 1940s and early 1950s until his death in 1955. He had previously lived on Cole Street with a wife named Rachel. Apparently, he and Rachel divorced around 1947 – she continued to live at their former residence on E. 13th Street while Ananias moved into this house with a new wife, Arlevia.

The house was vacant in the mid-1950s, then used as a rental property for the next several decades. Tenants included a handyman at Jefferson Chemical, a cook, a shipping clerk, and a retired couple.

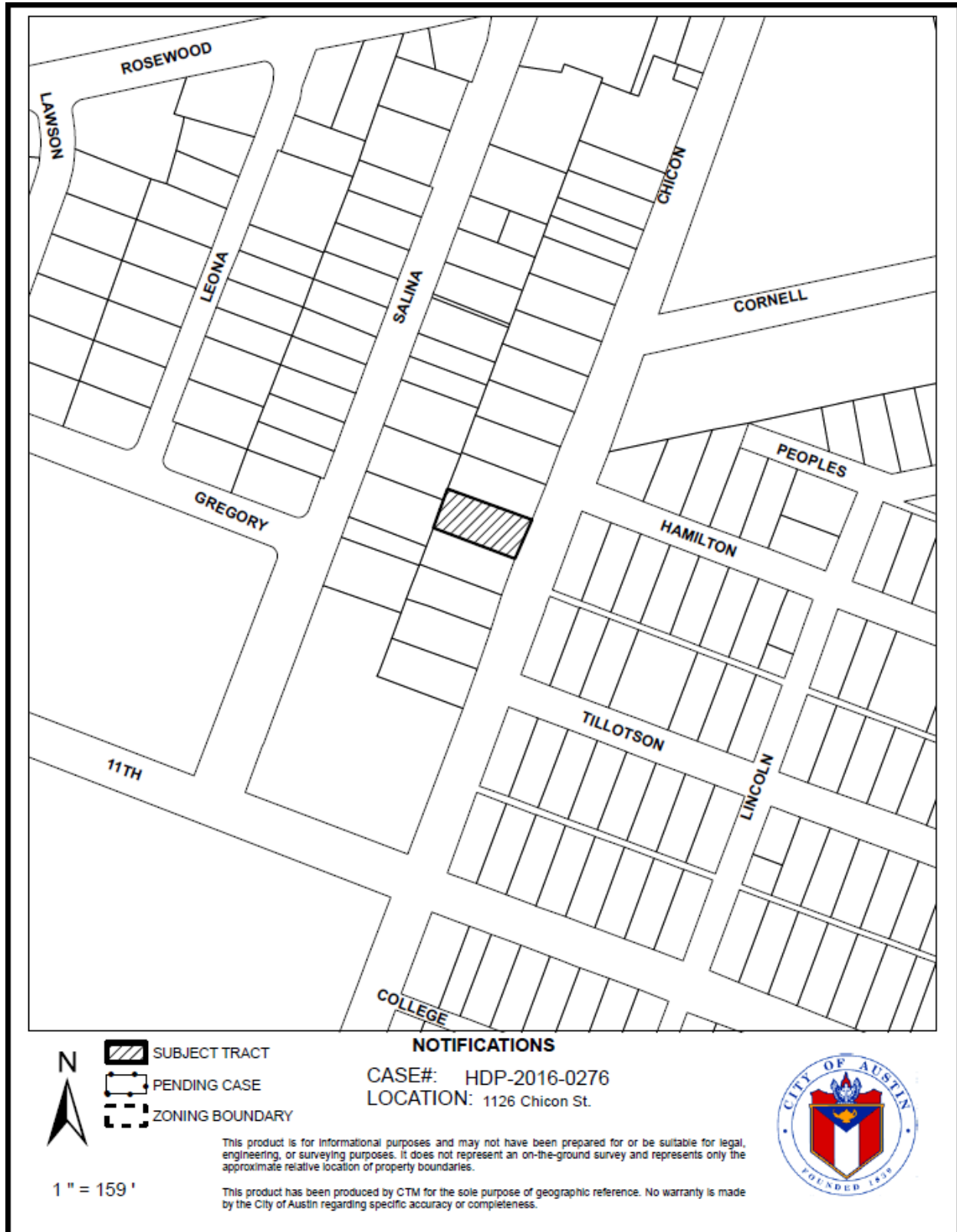
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use; the house appears to be in good condition, and while it has had modifications over the years, it represents a typical East Austin house style of its period in terms of scale, materials, and design. However, there does not be sufficient justification to initiate a historic zoning case for this house, so staff recommends completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center, should the Commission vote to release the permit.

LOCATION MAP



1126 Chicon Street
ca. 1939



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1126 Chicon Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
April, 2016

1992	The address is not listed in the directory.
1985-86	Charlene Vaughn, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Charlene Vaughn was a new resident at this address.
1981	Mary Rodriguez, renter No occupation listed
1977	Joe and Mary Rangel, renters Retired
1973	Berneice Edwards, owner No occupation listed
1968	John G. and Ivory Evans, renters Shipping clerk, Remington-Rand, office machines, 1003 W. 6 th Street.
1962	John G. and Ivory Evans, renters

Cook, Sheppard's King Pin Restaurant, 119 W. 7th Street.

- 1959 Frank E. and Jewel Sanders, renters
Handyman, Jefferson Chemical, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.
- 1955 Vacant
NOTE: Ananias James is not listed in the directory. Rachel E. James is listed at 1600 E. 13th Street; she was a teacher in the County schools.
- 1952 Ananias James, owner
City policeman
NOTE: Rachel E. James is listed at 1600 E. 13th Street; she was a teacher in the county schools.
- 1949 Ananias and Arlevia James, owners
City policeman
NOTE: Rachel E. James is listed at 1600 E. 13th Street; she was a supervisor in the county schools.
- 1947 Josephine Martin, renter
No occupation listed
½: Subiner Curtis, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: Ananias and Rachel James are listed at 2806 Cole Street; he was a city policeman.
- 1944-45 Dora Conley, renter
No occupation listed
½: Savannah Curtis, renter
Maid
- 1941 Subiner Curtis, renter
Maid
½: Leon and Mary A. Miller, renters
Storekeeper, LCRA
- 1939 Subiner Curtis, renter
No occupation listed
½: Leon and Mary Miller, renters
No occupation listed

It is believed that the current house dates from 1939. The 1935 Sanborn map shows two small houses on this site; the 1962 map shows a house that corresponds in size, but without the front porch. There is a utility connection permit for this address dating from 1939.

The following listings from the city directories are believed to correspond to the two small houses shown on the 1935 Sanborn map:

- 1937 Arthur and Ella Arnold, renters
No occupation listed
½: Leon and Mary A. Miller, renters
No occupation listed
NOTE: Subiner Curtis is not listed in the directory.

1935	George Hillendha, renter No occupation listed ½: Ester M. Pease, renter No occupation listed
1932-33	Edward and Susie Mathis, renters No occupation listed
1930-31	Edward and Susie Mathis (colored), renters No occupation listed
1929	Nero and Arkie Kindred (colored), renters Engine wiper, Southern Pacific Railroad Edward and Susie Matthews (colored), renters No occupation listed
1927	Isaiah and Viola Norwood (colored), renters No occupation listed
1924	Robert and Lela Johnson (colored), renters No occupation listed
1922	Samuel and Fannie Miller (colored), renters Miller, Marks Grain Company, grain, hay and feed, 200-10 E. 4 th Street.
1920	J.A.G. and Lily Jackson (colored), renters Laborer
1918	J.A.G. and Lillie Jackson (colored), renters Janitor, Scarbrough Building
1916	J.A.G. Jackson (colored) Butler, Samuel L. Crawford, 800 Lavaca Street. NOTE: Samuel L. Crawford was the president of Crawford-Gosho, cotton exporters, 501 Scarbrough Building.
1914	Turner Pender (colored) Expressman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad passenger station. NOTE: James A.G. Jackson is listed as a porter at the University Club, 2304 San Antonio Street; he lived at 1703 East Avenue.
1912-13	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Turner Pender is listed at 1802 Washington Avenue; he was an expressman.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Subiner Curtis (ca. 1939 – ca. 1946)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Sabine Curtis as the renter of 1126 Chicon Street. She was a 47-year old African-American widow who had been born in Texas and worked as a maid in a private home. With her lived her son, Clarence Jackson, 14, and her father, Jim Martin, 72, both of whom had been born in Texas, and neither of whom had an occupation listed..

At 1126½ Chicon Street was Leon and Mary Miller, who rented the house. Leon Miller was 31, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer in dam construction. Mary N. Miller was 29, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 4 children: Leon, Jr., 6; Betty Jean, 4; Willie Mae, 2; and Johnnie, 1. All the children had been born in Texas. With them lived Leon's mother, Pearlie Miller, a 60-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed.

**CURTIS, Subiner, 91,
6301 Craigwood Circle, died
Thursday. Services 2 p.m.
Tuesday at King Tears Mor-
tuary. Burial, Capital Me-
morial Park Cemetery.**

Death notice for Subiner Curtis
Austin American-Statesman, December 18, 1983

Ananias James (ca. 1948 – ca. 1955)

Ananias and Rachel James re listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 1600 E. 13th Street, which was worth \$3,500. Ananias James was 57, had been born in Texas, and was a city policeman. Rachel James was 45, had been born in Texas, and was a teacher in the county schools. With them lived Rachel's sister, Hattie McConico, 23, who had been born in Texas and was a maid in a private home. Hattie had lived in rural Williamson County, Texas in 1935.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows A.N. and Rachel E. James as the owners of the house at 1500 E. 13th Street, which was worth \$4,000. A.N. James was 48, and was a city policeman. Rachel E. James was 33, and was a public school teacher. They had a son, Vernon, 16, who had no occupation listed.

Shot Wound Kills Retired Officer Here

Funeral services will be held at Ebenezer Baptist Church at 1 p.m. Wednesday for Ananias James, 72, well known retired Austin Negro policeman who died Sunday of a bullet wound.

JAMES, a huge man who served 28 years on an East Austin foot patrol "without a blemish on his record," died in Brackenridge Hospital at 3:12 p.m. Sunday, police disclosed.

Lieutenant K. R. Herbert said James was found with a head wound from a .32 caliber bullet at his home, 1125 Chicon, late Friday night.

Herbert said an occupant of the house, Clarence Clayton, told police that James yelled from his room to call police shortly before 10 p.m. Friday. Clayton was about to call police when he heard a shot in James' room, Herbert said.

Herbert said James reportedly had been in ill health since he retired from the police force in 1952 on his 70th birthday anniversary. James had talked earlier in the day about having incurable cancer, Herbert said. Clayton told Herbert James' wife died of cancer a few years ago.

Justice of the Peace J. Travis Blakeslee had not returned a coroner's verdict late Monday.

Police officials Monday praised James as a student of "the old police school." He served as a foot patrolman throughout most of his tour of duty in East Austin and gained respect as an officer who "meant what he said."

He was known to "get tough, but only out of necessity," a supervisory officer said. Lt. Herbert recalled James as "an affable man and a good officer with long and faithful service. He served most of his time on a beat that required the exercise of good judgment."

James is survived by two brothers and two children. Fuller Mercer Funeral Home will be in charge of services. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

News story on the shooting death of Ananias James
Austin American, January 4, 1955

JAMES, Rachel, 97, of Austin died Sunday. Visitation 3 to 7:30 p.m. today, Phillips-Upshaw-Richard Funeral Home. Services 11 a.m. Friday, Ebenezer Baptist Church. Burial Capital Memorial Park.

Obituary of Rachel James, the first wife of Ananias James
Austin American-Statesman, July 28, 1994

Application for Sewer Connection. #929 ✓ Duplicate R# 15467A

NE 1/2 Austin, Texas, 3/27 1939

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
City of Austin, Texas

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions
on premises owned by Minnie Clark
at 1126 Chicon St Street,
further described as lot 810, block 3, outlet 58,
subdivision _____, division _____, plat 36,
which is to be used as a Res
In this place there are to be installed 1 fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance
charge.

32 DEEP. Respectfully, Minnie Clark
AT-PL

Stub Out

Connected 4-25 1939 4-18-39
Size of Main 6 inches. 06
Size of Service 4 inches. B-991
5 Feet Deep in ST
39 Feet from Property Line
Feet from Curb Line Con 23.5
Inspected by Boatright of N. L. L.
Connection made by Ilund B-991
9347

Sewer connection application by Minnie Clark for this address (1939)

Bertha Johnson

1126-B Chicon Street

36
34

G

Relocate res. on lot and demolish one res.

on lot

32680 1-27-47 +

\$100.00

Owner

None

Building permit to Bertha Johnson to move a house on the lot and demolish a house on the lot (1947). It is unclear whether either of the houses referenced here is the current house.

Bertha Johnson 1126-B Chicon Street

~~35~~
34

G

61

Frame residence

32807 2-10-47

\$5000.00

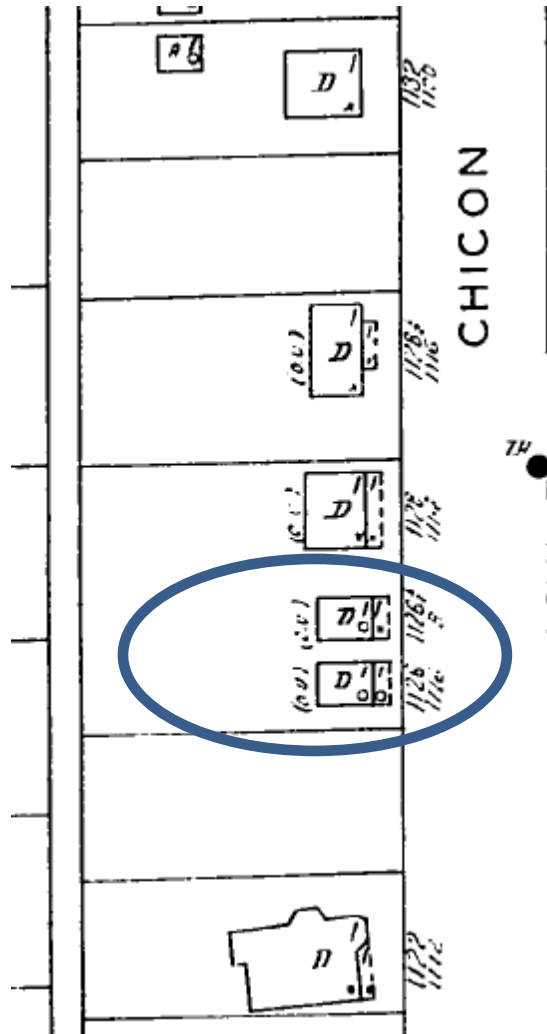
Arthur Parks

5

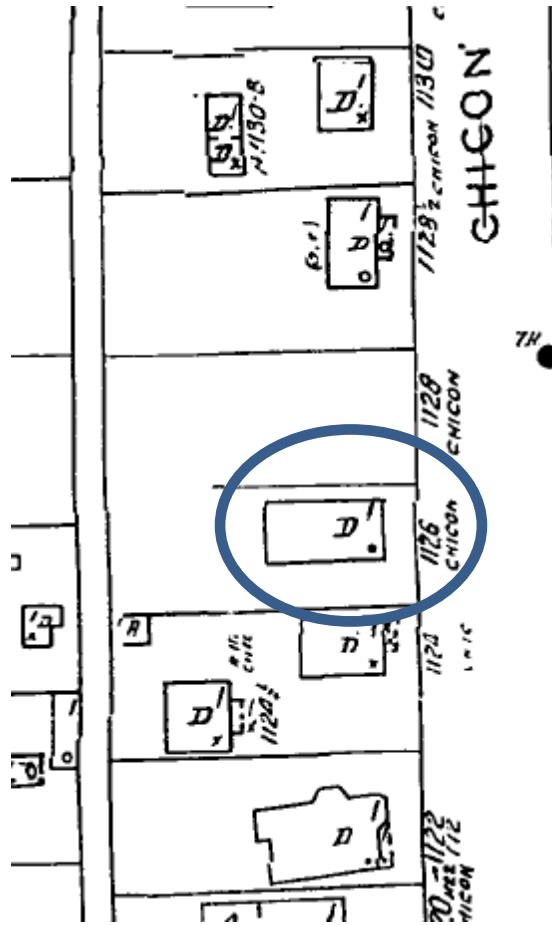
Building permit to Bertha Johnson to construct a frame house (1947)

8-10-87 Repair to Main Stdo
OWNER Thomas James ADDRESS 1126 Chicon Street
PLAT 34 LOT G BLK 1
SUBDIVISION Lillie Jones Subd.
OCCUPANCY Demolish
BLD PERMIT # 99213 DATE 4-4-66 OWNERS ESTIMATE 2.00
CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #
Demolish Accessory Building Garage
1-23-76-154395- Urban Renewal Agency-
HP Moore Const. Co. Contractor- \$3400
remodel res

Building permit to Thomas James to demolish a garage (1966), and to the Urban Renewal Agency to remodel the house (1976)



The 1935 Sanborn map shows two small houses on this site.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the single house on this site, but without its wraparound porch.