

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 22, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0348
1710 POQUITO STREET**

PROPOSAL

Relocate a ca. 1931 house to Bastrop, Texas.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, irregular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a side-gabled wraparound porch on stuccoed piers and battered posts; single, paired, and triple 1:1 fenestration and 2:2 replacement windows in a triple configuration on the front elevation; artificial siding to resemble brick. It appears that the original wood siding on the house remains intact under the artificial siding.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1931 by Maude Barton, the proprietor of a beauty shop in the 400 block of E. 6th Street; she is listed at this address in the 1932-33 city directory along with Robert and Maud Phillips, who are listed as the owners of this house. Robert Phillips was an elevator operator in the Scarbrough Building. Robert Phillips is listed as the owner and occupant of this house until around 1939, when he and his wife moved to a house on Navasota Street. Maude Barton lived here with the Phillips through most of the 1930s, but moved to a house in the back yard with an address of 1909 E. 18th Street at the end of the 1930s. After Robert Phillips moved to Navasota Street, Maude Barton moved back into this house. She married an attorney, Charles J. Greenly, who had his offices in her old beauty shop on E. 6th Street; they then moved out of Austin around 1945.

A woman named Vera Barton (later Vera Barton Owens) is listed as the owner in the 1947 city directory; she was the proprietor of a tavern on E. 12th Street. Her relation to Maude Barton is not known. She was renowned as a woman of means in East Austin when she was murdered in 1947. She left this house to her half brother, who had been questioned about her murder, but her husband, whom she had only recently married, was tried for the crime. The house was then rented, and later owned by Vernon Jackson and his wife, Alfae. Vernon Jackson was a laborer and then janitor at the Post Office. Alfae Jackson was a maid at women's clothing stores on Congress Avenue. They lived here until around 1967. The house has been a rental property since that time with a variety of relatively-short term tenants. According to the 2016 East Austin Historic Resources Survey, the house is still owned in the name of Alfae Jackson, who died in 2006.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was recommending as contributing to a potential historic district in the Chestnut neighborhood in the East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016).

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:




- a. **Architecture.** The house is a bungalow with its principal feature of architectural interest being the wraparound porch and ornamental wood screens; windows in the front of the house have been replaced and the house has artificial siding covering its original wood siding. The house reflects a relatively common style and has been modified so that its integrity of materials has been compromised.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was built by an African-American woman who operated a beauty shop on E. 6th Street; she lived here from the time of construction in 1931 until around 1945, when she moved to San Antonio. From around 1947 to around 1967, the house was owned and occupied by a custodian at the Post Office and his wife. It has been a rental property since the late 1960s. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit upon 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. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 119'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0348
LOCATION: 1710 Poquito Street

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



1710 Poquito Street
ca. 1931





Close-up of wood siding under faux-brick siding.

OCCUPANCY HISTORY

1710 Poquito Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
July, 2019

- 1930-31 The address is not listed in the directory. No houses are listed on the even side of the 1700 block of Poquito Street.
NOTE: Robert and Maud Phillips are not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Maude Barton (colored) is listed at 1202 East Avenue; she had a beauty parlor at 424½ E. 6th Street.
- 1932-33 Robert and Maud Phillips, owners
Elevator operator, Scarbrough Building, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
Also listed is Maude Barton, the proprietor of a beauty parlor at 424½ E. 6th Street.
- 1935 Robert and Frances Philips, owners
Elevator operator, Scarbrough Building, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
Also listed is Maud Barton, the proprietor of Barton's Beauty Shop, 421½ E. 6th Street.

- 1937 Robert and Frances Phillips, owners
Elevator operator, Scarbrough Building, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
Also listed is Maude Barton, the proprietor of Barton's Beauty Shop, 421½ E. 6th Street.
- 1939 Robert Phillips, owner
No occupation listed
NOTE: There is an additional listing for Robert F. and Frances Phillips at 1184 Navasota Street; he was a porter at the Scarbrough Building.
NOTE: Maude Barton is listed at 1909 E. 18th Street; she was the proprietor of Barton's Beauty Shop, 421½ E. 6th Street.
- 1940 Maude S. Barton, renter
Proprietor, Barton's Beauty Shop, 421½ E. 6th Street.
NOTE: Robert T. and Frances Phillips are listed at 1184 Navasota Street; he was a porter at the Scarbrough Building, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1941 Maude Barton, renter
Proprietor, Barton's Beauty Shop, 421½ E. 6th Street.
Also listed are Robert and Mamie Barton; he was a laborer for the Southern Pacific Lines, railroad.
- 1944-45 Charles J. and Maude Greenly, owners
Partner (with Kenneth R. Lamkin), Lamkin & Greenly, lawyers, 421½ E. 6th Street.
NOTE: Neither Maude Barton nor Barton's Beauty Shop are listed in the directory. The address for the office of Lamkin & Greenly corresponds with the address for Barton's Beauty Shop.
- 1947 Vera Barton, owner
Proprietor, Barton's Tavern, beer, 1900 E. 12th Street.
NOTE: Vera Barton appears in the 1944-45 and 1942 directories as the wife of Oliver Barton; they lived at 1712 Walnut Avenue and were the proprietors of Barton's Place, beer, 1900 E. 12th Street.
NOTE: Charles J. and Maude Greenly are not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Vernon and Alfaye Jackson are listed at 1192 Poquito Street; he was a custodian at the Post Office.
NOTE: Vera Barton Owens was murdered in 1947.
- 1949 Vernon Jackson, renter
No occupation listed
- 1952 Vernon and Alfae Jackson, renters
Laborer, Post Office
- 1955 Vernon P. Jackson, owner
Janitor, Post Office
NOTE: Alfae Jackson is listed as a maid at Three Sisters, women's clothing, 716 Congress Avenue. She did not have a residential address shown in the directory.

1959	Vernon P. and Alfae Jackson, owners Vernon: Janitor, Post Office Alfae: Maid, Career Girl Shops, women's clothing, 620 Congress Avenue.
1962	Vernon D. and Alfae Jackson, owners Janitor
1965	Vernon P. and Alfae Jackson, owners Custodian, Post Office
1968	Oscar Surette, Jr., renter No occupation listed
1973	Vacant
1977	Eugene Burse, renter Employed by the Quality of Water Board
1981	Eugene Burse, renter Employed by the Quality of Water Board
1985-86	Vacant
1992	Joe B. Byars, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Joe B. Byars was a new resident at this address.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Robert and Maud Frances Phillips (ca. 1930 – ca. 1940)

A Robert Phillips appears in the 1910 U.S. Census as the 6-year old son of Albert and Emma Phillips, who lived at 1813 New York Avenue in Austin. Robert was the 5th of Albert and Emma Phillips' 6 children. He was born in Texas. His father, Albert Phillips, 49, had been born in Texas and was a porter at the Capitol. His mother, Emma Phillips, 38, had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

Robert Phillips married M. Frances Rucker in Travis County on January 20, 1935.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Robert and Frances Phillips as the owners of the house at 1184 Navasota Street in Austin. Robert Phillips was 35, had been born in Texas, and was a porter in a department store. Frances Phillips was 30, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

Frank Robert Phillips' 1980 death certificate shows that he was living at 1184 Navasota Street at the time of his death. He was born in 1906 in Texas to Albert Phillips and Emma Anderson, and was the manager of an Exxon Service Station. Frances Rucker Phillips was his surviving spouse. Frances R. Phillips died in Travis County in 1999.

PHILLIPS, Frank Robert, 1184 Navasota, died Wednesday. Services 11 a.m. Friday at Phillips and Upshaw Funeral Home. Burial, Evergreen Cemetery. Survivors: wife, Frances Phillips of Austin; sister, Emma Crawford of Austin

Death notice for Frank Robert Phillips
Austin American-Statesman, January 3, 1980



Frances Lee Rucker Phillips

Frances Lee Rucker Phillips, was born on August 10, 1911, in Pleasanton, Texas, to Irene Rucker Nunn and Charles Henry Nunn, who preceded her in death. She was one of four children, one sister, Rachael Louise Rodgers and two brothers, Oliver D. Filmore and Nathan Filmore, all of whom preceded her in death.

She was wed to Frank Robert Phillips in 1937, there were no children born of this union. Bob preceded her in death in 1980. They contributed to the Austin community through their business and were well known throughout the city.

Before her death, Frances was a long time resident of Maggie Johnson Nursing Center, a special thanks to the nurses and staff who cared for her. Frances was a long time member of Metropolitan AME Church of Austin, she went for sunrise service with the Lord on Easter Sunday morning, April 4, 1999.

She is survived by great niece, Emma Jeanne Crawford Stewart and husband, Homer Stewart. One great-great-niece, Carla Harris and husband, Carlton Harris. One great-great-nephew, Dwight DeMon Stewart, and two great-great-nieces, Carlyn and Carlena Harris, all of Houston, Texas; special friend, nurse and companion, Stella Wells, C. B. Lewis; and a host of family and friends.

Service at Metropolitan AME Church, 1101 E. 10th Street at 11:00 a.m. on April 8, 1999. Visitation Wednesday, April 7, 1999, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Phillips Upshaw Richard Funeral Home.

Obituary of Frances Phillips
Austin American-Statesman, April 7, 1999

Maude Barton (later married to Charles Greenly) (ca. 1940 – ca. 1946)

Maude Barton appears in the 1910 U.S. Census as the 13-year old daughter of Robert B. and Jessie Barton of Justice Precinct 3 in Williamson County, Texas. She is listed as a mulatto. She was born in Texas. Her father, Robert B. Barton, 39, was a Texas-born farmer. Her mother,

Jessie Barton, 40, was a South Carolina-born public school teacher. Maude had an older brother, Ollie, 17, who is listed as a laborer on the home farm; and a younger brother, Robert, 8.

The marriage between C.J. Greenly and Maud B. Greenly was annulled in December, 1946. According to newspaper accounts, C.J. and Maude Greenly were the owners of several properties in the city, which they were selling in the summer of 1946. C.J. Greenly was charged with embezzlement in Travis County in December, 1948.

Maude Greenly Barton was born in 1896 and died in San Antonio in 1971. According to her death certificate, she had lived in San Antonio for 27 years. She was born in 1905 in Texas and was a beautician. She is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Austin. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.

Vera Barton (ca. 1946 – ca. 1947)

NEGRO REARRESTED, INDICTED IN '47 SLAYING OF WIFE HERE

BY FRED WILLIAMS
The Statesman Staff

District Attorney Bob Long announced Thursday the murder indictment and arrest of a 22-year-old Dallas Negro in connection with what he termed "the biggest murder mystery in East Austin in 25 years."

The man, Roy Owens, was indicted in connection with the bludgeon-slaying of Mrs. Vera Barton Owens here on Feb. 21, 1947. Her body, wrapped in an expensive fur coat, was found stuffed between the seats of her new black Cadillac at 13th and Poquito Streets.

Mrs. Owens, 30, one of the best-known and wealthiest Negro women of East Austin, owned much

real estate and the biggest tavern in that section.

Her head had been crushed, and her body then stuffed in the car which had been driven to the intersection and abandoned by the killer.

Two previous grand juries have gone into the baffling mystery.

Thursday, Long announced that with new information and evidence, the 98th District Court grand jury has indicted her former husband, Roy Owens, for murder with malice.

He was arrested in Dallas where he has been living and returned to the Travis County jail. His bond was set at \$5,000.

The two city detectives, T. O.

Lang and O. M. Doherty who first investigated the case, were given credit by the district attorney for almost three years of continued checking on the mystery which led to the grand jury indictment.

Doherty is now the special investigator for the district attorney's office.

These detectives, after examining the body and the car at the time of the murder, determined that she had not been killed while in the car. They searched Mrs. Owens' home at 1710 Poquito and reported that she had been beaten to death in her bedroom, according to police records.

Judge Mace Thurman Jr., then (Continued on Page 12, Col. 4)

Negro Man Indicted In Wife's Killing

(Continued from Page 1.)

justice of the peace, termed her death due primarily to a skull fracture.

Her husband, then 20 years of age, was arrested for questioning but released the following day on a writ of habeas corpus from 98th District Court.

The detectives two days later found some bloody articles from her home stuffed in a culvert in the 2400 block of East 19th and re-arrested Owens.

He was filed on for murder in Thurman's court.

The case went to the grand jury on May 8, 1947, but was passed, and Owens was released. The case was considered again by the January grand jury, but no action was taken.

The present grand jury, working on what Long termed "new information," returned the indictment against Owens as follows:

Owens "with malice aforethought, killed Vera Owens by hitting her on the head with some instrument or weapon to the grand jurors unknown."

Long said the trial of Owens would be held at the earliest possible date.

Story on the retrial of Roy Owens in the death of Vera Barton Owens in 1947
Austin Statesman, November 17, 1949

Owens Murder Trial Scheduled For Jury Today

The week-long Owens murder trial was scheduled to go to the jury late Saturday with defense Saturday morning.

Judge Charles O. Betts had hoped to close testimony in the 98th District Court trial by holding a night session Friday. However, the two-and-a-half hour night session ended with more witnesses still going on the stand Saturday morning.

Roy Owens is charged with murder in connection with the bludgeon slaying of his wife, Mrs. Vera Barton Owens, here Feb. 21, 1947. Her body was found stuffed on the back floorboards of her black Cadillac abandoned at 13th and Poquito Streets. Her head had been bashed in by some blunt instrument.

Owens himself took the stand Friday to claim he had no reason to kill the woman who had "given me everything I wanted."

He denied any knowledge of state evidence that Mrs. Owens had filed divorce proceedings against him in San Antonio Nov. 13, 1946.

Owens said the wealthy 30-year-old East Austin woman kept asking him to marry her and he did marry her at the age of 20. He told of having nothing to do but lounge around their house at 1710 Poquito, of her refusals of him taking a job, and of her giving him large sums of spending money, a great wardrobe of expensive clothes and "just everything I wanted."

On the other hand, he claimed her half-brother, James H. Douglas, who lived in the house with him, quarreled bitterly with Mrs. Owens on a number of occasions, mostly about money.

(Earlier testimony had shown that Douglas was the sole beneficiary under Mrs. Owens' will.)

Roy Owens' murder trial goes to the jury
Austin Statesman, February 25, 1950

Vernon and Alfae Jackson (ca. 1948 – ca. 1967)

Vernon Jackson appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the 24-year old son of Mable Brown, who rented her home at 1807 Chicon Street in Austin. Vernon Jackson was born in Texas and was a porter for the Kruger Jewelry Company. His mother, Mable Brown, a 48-year old Texas-born widow, did domestic work in a private home. Vernon had an older sister, October M. Jackson, 26, who had been born in Texas and did domestic work in a private home, and a younger brother, Leland Jackson, 22, who had been born in Texas and was a porter in a fraternity house.

His 1940 World War II draft card shows that Vernon Philip Jackson was born in 1914 in Austin and was living in Austin where he was employed by Kruger's Jewelry Store. He was 5'-2" tall, weighed 133 pounds, and had black hair and brown eyes. His next of kin was his mother, Mable Louise Brown.

Alfae Hoodye (later Jackson) appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the sister of Willice Richard, who rented the house at 1308 Comal Street in Austin. Alfae Hoodye was born in Texas and had lived in rural Bastrop County, Texas in 1935. She had no occupation listed. She had 2 younger sisters listed with her. Their brother, Willice Richard, was a 24-year old Texas-born presser in a cleaning shop. He had a wife and a young son.

Vernon Jackson died in Travis County in 2001 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Austin. Alfae Jackson was born in 1921 in Kyle, Texas and died in August, 2006 in Long Beach, California. She was known as Alfae Roberts at the time of her death. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 727 39

M. Maude Barton Address 1710 Goggin St. 39

Plumber Harper Hunsent Size of Tap 1/2 Date 11/13/31

Let to Bldg 2

Date of Connection 11/14/31

Size of Tap Made 3/4

Size Service Made 3/4

Size Main Tapped 6"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 8'

From Prop. Line to Curb Cock 40'

Location of Meter at curb

Type of Box 10x10

Depth of Main in St. 12"

Depth of Service Line 18"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 13'6"

Checked by Engr. Dept. 12-4-31 gct

INDEXED

Foreman's Report

No. Fittings	Size	Material	Remarks
1	3/4"	Curb Cock	
1	3/4"	Elbow	
1	3/4"	St. Elbow	
1	3/4"	Bushing	
1	3/4"	Union	
1	3/4"	Pipe	
1	3/4"	elbow Comp	
1	3/4"	Nipples	
1	3/4"	Union	
1	3/4"	Plug	
1	3/4"	Tee	
1	3/4"	Stop	
1	3/4"	Box	
1	3/4"	Lid	
1	3/4"	Valves	

Foreman's Signature *Burnham*

Reg. No. 5398

Water service permit to Maude Barton for this address (1931)

C. J. GREENBY 1710 Poquito St.

39 37 2 N. pt. of 5

reroof, asphalt siding, repaper &
paint interior, repair 2 steps & porch

25018 9/28/43 \$1100

Dodd Roofing Co.

None

Building permit to Charles J. Greenly to re-roof the house and install asphalt siding (1943)

OWNER Alafe Jackson- ADDRESS 1710 Poquito

PLAT 30 LOT 10 BLK 2

SUBDIVISION Walter Bremond

OCCUPANCY Res

BLD PERMIT # 93099 DATE 8-20-64 OWNERS
ESTIMATE \$2,500.00

CONTRACTOR PRICE LBR. CO. NO. OF FIXTURES 5

WATER TAP REC # paid on lot SEWER TAP REC # paid on lot

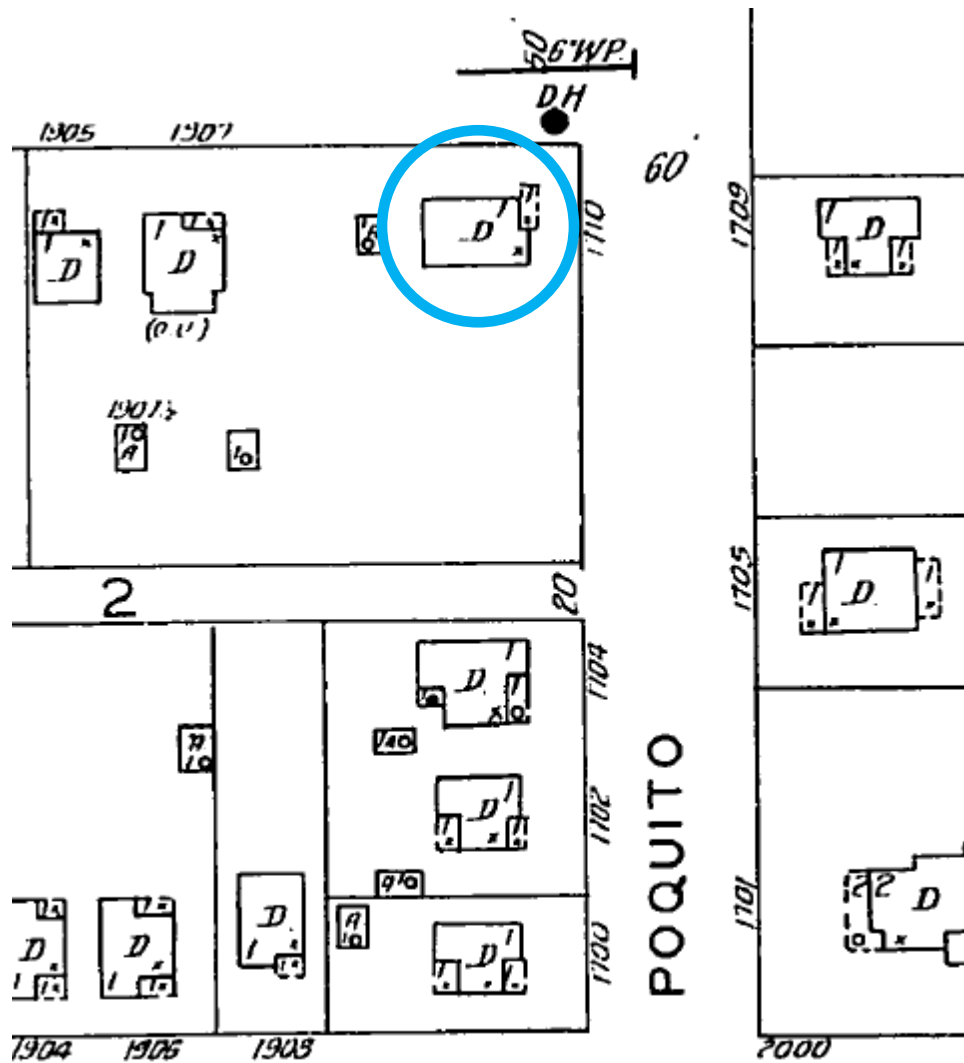
Repair fire damage to res & bring up to min. standards

Bring up to min. standards, 1 hot water heater, 3 piece

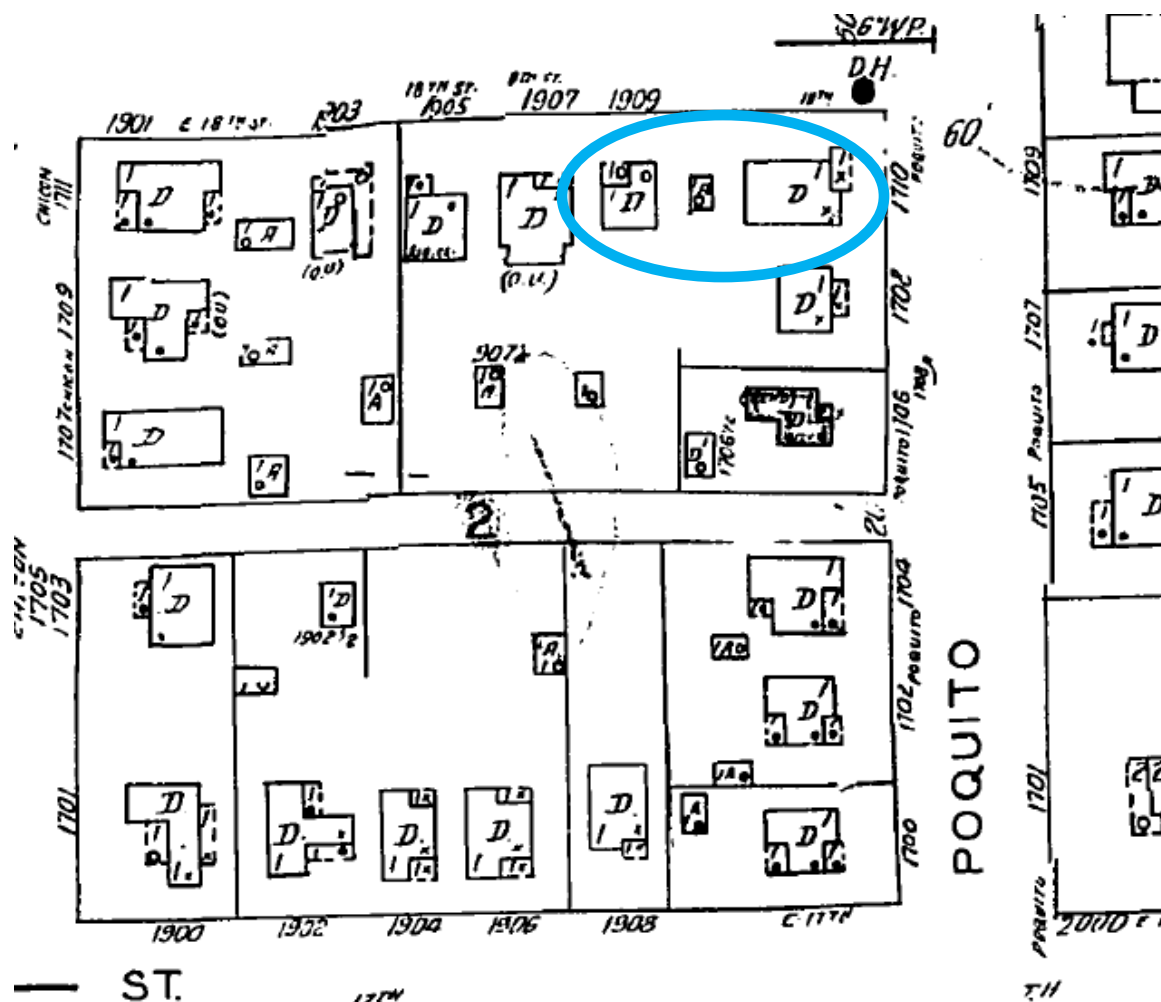
bath, one kitchen sink. Wiring to be brought up to city

code. Replace burnt wood, new roof to be installed

Building permit to Alfae Jackson to repair fire damage to the house (1964)



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house; the house that Maude Barton lived in when not living here, addressed as 1909 E. 18th Street, does not appear on this map.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows both the current house (with the same configuration as shown on the 1935 map above) as well as the house at 1909 E. 18th Street, where Maude Barton moved in 1939 in between her tenancies here. Both houses are shown on the same lot.