

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
JULY 5, 2023
DA-2023-075240; GF-2023-075352
608 EAST 3RD STREET

PROPOSAL

Relocate a ca. 1880 house to Bastrop County.

ARCHITECTURE

608 E. 3rd Street is a National Folk-style hall-and-parlor house with a rear shed addition. It is a single-story dwelling with a full-width independent front porch with a cross-stick railing design and a metal roof. It has a side-gabled roof and wood exterior sheathing with a balanced, symmetrical front façade composed of a single-entry wooden door flanked by 4:4 windows.¹

RESEARCH

A 2015 staff report by Historic Preservation Officer Steve Sadowsky describes the home's history as follows:

The house at 608 E. 3rd Street appears to date from an earlier time than the house at 606 E. 3rd Street; it is also...a more modest dwelling. The house appears on the 1894 Sanborn map as well as the 1900 map as a simple box with a full-width front porch. The maps of 1935 and 1961 show that additions were made to the back of the house, but the original look and façade of the house retain their historic appearance. Unlike the house next door at 606 E. 3rd Street, which was maintained by the same family for generations as their family residence, this house has been a rental unit for the majority of its existence. Although staff believes that the house dates from the 1880s because of its architectural characteristics, city directory research only takes us as far back as 1903, and more research is needed to complete the history of this house. The house was rented by a series of working-class families in the early 1900s, including a waiter, a cook, barbers, a clerk at a news and cigar parlor, an electrician, and a beer truck driver. Several of the early tenants were of German heritage, dovetailing with the German family who owned the store and houses at the corner of 3rd and Red River Street at the turn of the 20th century. In the mid-1950s, Mabel Walker, the owner of the Walker Rest Home next door at now-demolished houses just to the east, lived here for a short time. Like the house next door, it was vacant for a short period in the early 1980s, then became a commercial property, housing an interior design firm.²

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The 2010 Waller Creek Survey lists the property as eligible for NRHP listing.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building is a good example of a hall-and-parlor house in the National Folk style.
 - b. Historical association. The property does not appear to have specific significant historical associations.
 - c. Archaeology. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
 - d. Community value. While the property does not appear to have specific historical associations, it provides insight into the changing patterns of Austin's housing history. 606 and 608 E. 3rd tell a piece of Austin's story as examples of the housing style, type, location, and conditions of lower- to middle-income Austinites.
 - e. Landscape feature. The property does not appear to be a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

Previous action

2015-2016: A demolition permit application for both 606 and 608 E. 3rd Street was filed in 2015, then withdrawn and

¹ Collins, Kimberly. "608 E. 3rd Street." October 2022. <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=393306>

² Sadowsky, Steve. "HDP-2015-0783: 608 and 608 E. 3rd Street." September 2015 and March 2016. <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=250773>; <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=239623>

replaced with an application to relocate the houses across the street. Staff recommended approval of a permit to move the house across the street. The Historic Landmark Commission moved to release the permit for relocation of 606 and 608 E. 3rd Street upon the conditions that: 1) The applicant and owner complete an archaeological investigation that meets state standards, and 2) That they are committed to restoring the two relocated homes, and 3) That the relocated houses are oriented toward Third Street, and 4) That the two relocated structures are protected with a covenant or zoned historic, and 5) That the HLC approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the relocation of the Wedding House (604 E. 3rd St., C14H-1979-0010-b) prior to permit release.

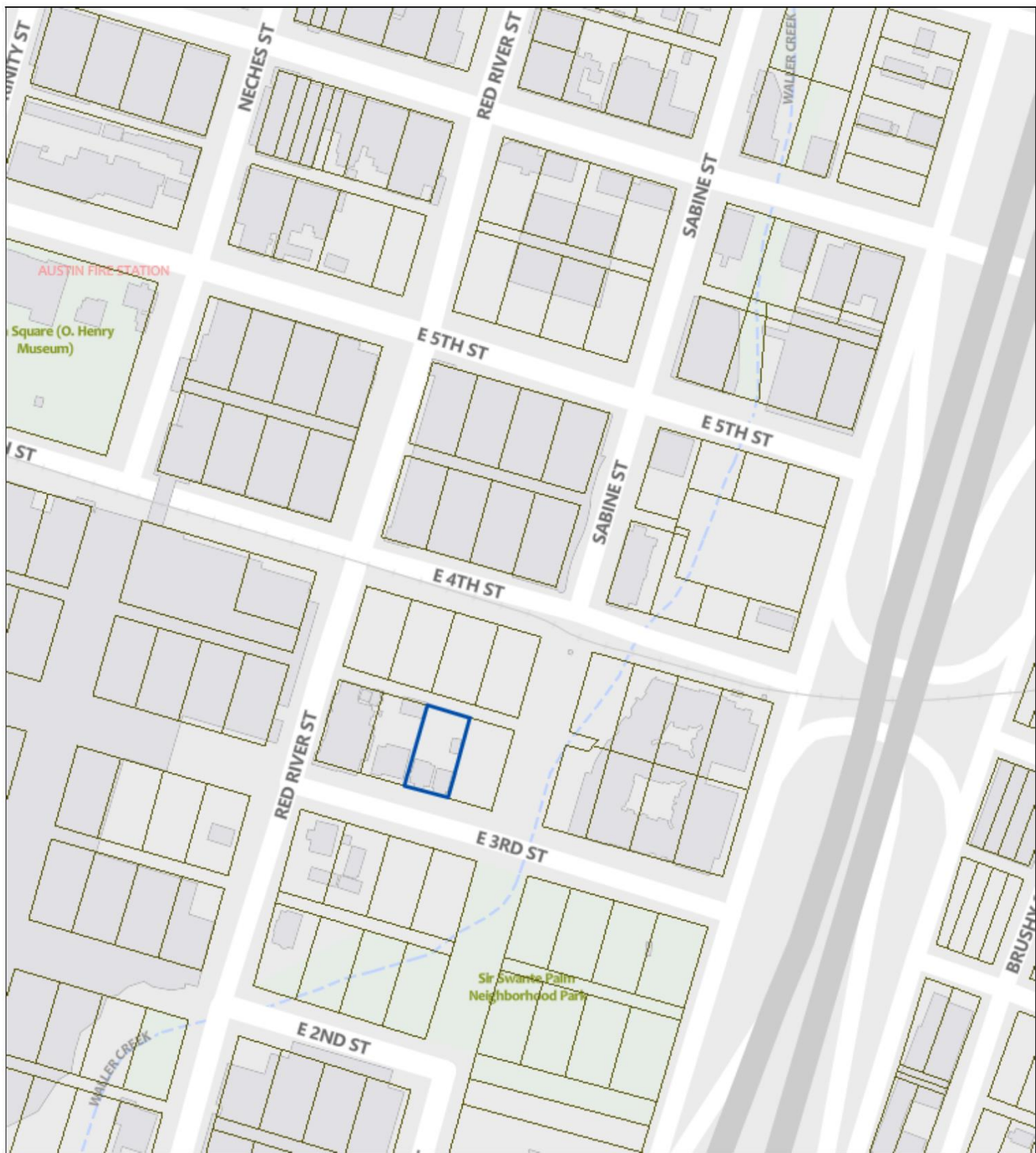
2019: A relocation permit for both buildings, meeting the criteria above, was approved.


2022: A demolition permit application was filed for 608 E. 3rd Street. The staff recommendation noted that the 2019 relocation across the street would have retained the structure's original context, as opposed to a move outside its original neighborhood or demolition. Staff did not find specific historical figures associated with the structure, but recommended initiation of historic zoning to recognize the building as a rare surviving in-situ example of middle- to lower-income historic housing from the nineteenth century in Austin; the recommendation included direction to submit a City of Austin Documentation Package if demolition was approved. The Commission moved to postpone the public hearing to allow the applicant time to research suitable relocation options for the building.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consider whether the building meets the criteria for designation; if so, initiate historic zoning. Should the Commission choose to release the relocation permit, require completion of an archaeological investigation that meets state standards per the 2016 Commission motion, as well as completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package with measured drawings following the standards of the [Historic American Buildings Survey](#).

LOCATION MAP






1: 2400

Lot Lines

Lot Line



GF 23-075352
608 E 3RD STREET



6/21/2023

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

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Application photo, 2022

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, September 2022 and August 2015

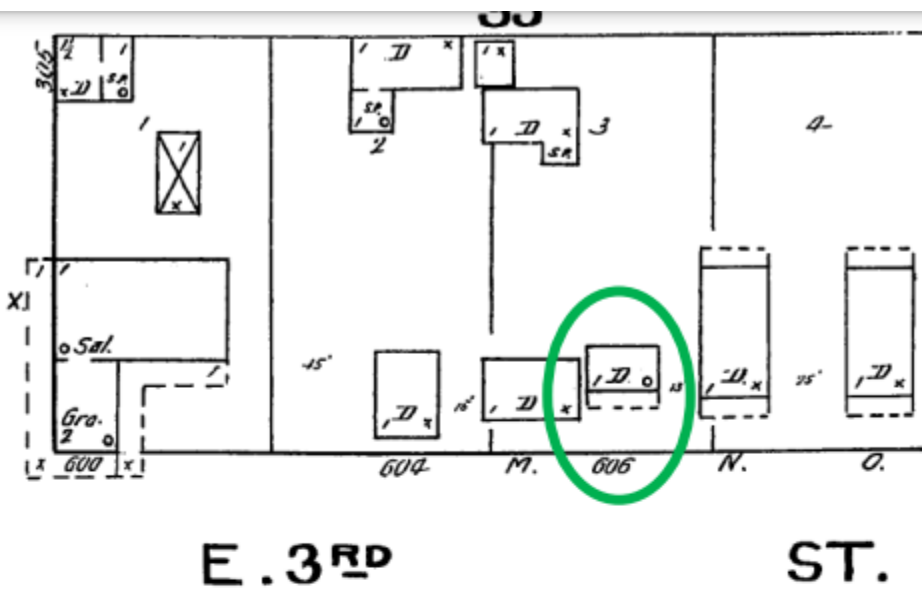
1985-86 Interior Associates Designers Linda Grensted, proprietor 1981 Vacant 1977 Connie Gonzales, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Connie Gonzales was a new resident at this address. 1973 Jose Ortez, Jr., renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Jose Ortez, Jr. was a new resident at this address. 1968 Nora Coronado, renter

1959	June Turpin, renter (widow of Charles Turpin) Nurse at Walker Rest Home
1955	Mable L. Walker, owner Walker Rest Home
1952	Vacant
1947	Laura Goodman, renter Student at the University of Texas
1944	John L. and Ida Beaty, renters
1941	Mat M. McCown, renter
1937	Arthur E. and Effie Jenkins, renters

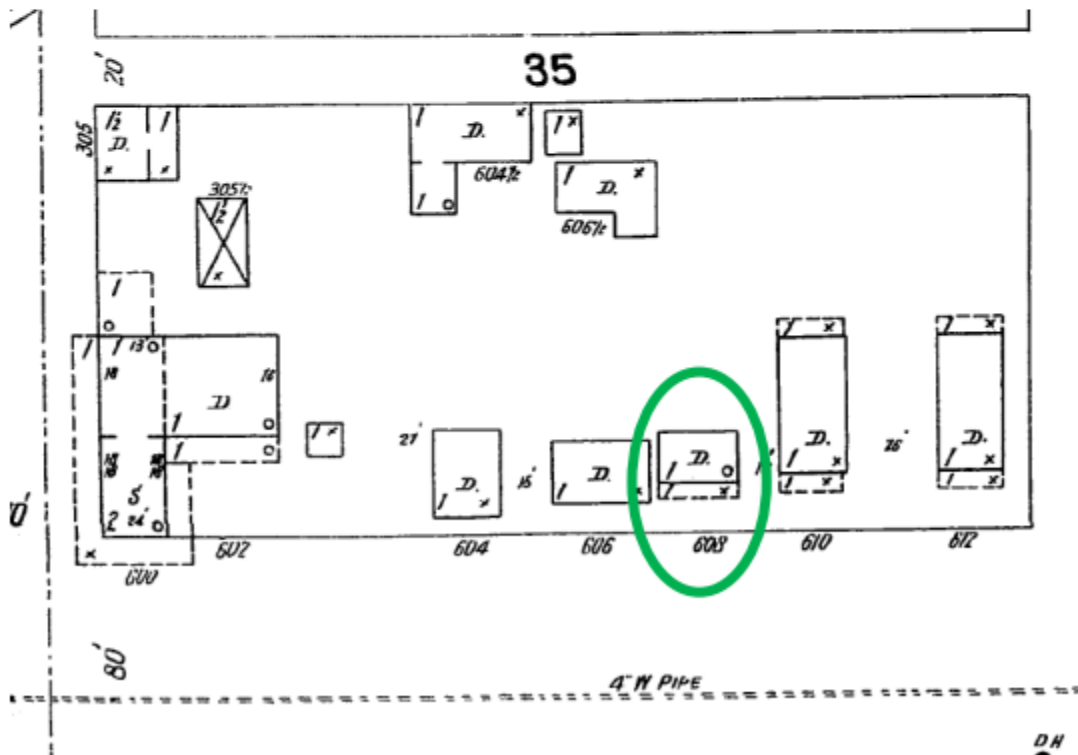
Helper at Ragland Body Shop
 Albert Jenkins, renter
 1932 T. E. Dougherty, renter
 Driver at Milwaukee Bottling Company
 1927 Albert Dver, renter
 1924 Neal A. and Anna B. Mills, renters
 Clerk at Murchison-Lee Company
 1920 H. E. Bedigain, renter
 Taylor at E. M. Scarbrough & Sons
 1916 A. Harvey Witter
 Barber at Hunt & Rowley
 1912 William J. Martin
 Electrician at Wilson Twining
 1909 Oscar Sussdorf
 Cook at Herman Becker
 1906 James C. Looney
 Barber at Blue Front Barber Shop (202 Congress)
 1903

Biographical notes, 2015:

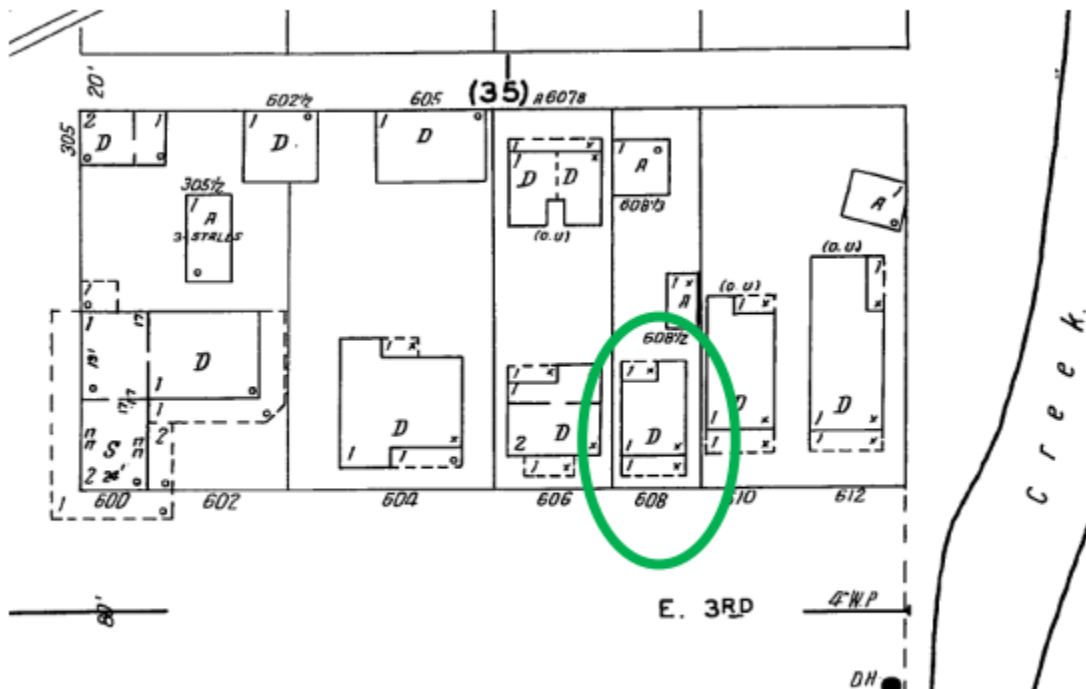
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES: Oscar and Helen Sussdorf (ca. 1909- ca. 1911) Oscar and Helen Sussdorf appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 808 Willow Street. Oscar Sussdorf was 43, had been born in Germany, and was a laborer in a restaurant. Helen Sussdorf was 33, had been born in Texas to German-born parents, and had no occupation listed. They had 4 daughters, all under the age of 8. The 1900 U.S. Census shows Oscar Sussdorf as the 23-year old son of Fred and Johanna Sussdorf of Comal County, Texas. Oscar and his parents had been born in Germany; they came to the United States in 1881. The family included younger children who had been born in Texas. Fred Sussdorf is listed as a landlord; Oscar Sussdorf was a farm laborer. His 1918 World War I draft registration card shows Oscar Sussdorf was living at 808 willow Street. He was born July 26, 1876 in Germany. He was a waiter at Kriegel's Restaurant at 315 E. 6th Street. He was of medium height and slender build. D.8 - 18 Thomas and Rose Dougherty (ca. 1930 – ca. 1936) The 1930 U.S. Census shows Thomas and Rose Dougherty as the renters of the house at 607 ½ E. 3rd Street. Thomas Dougherty was 44, had been born in Texas, and was a soda water salesman. Rose Dougherty was 33, had been born in Texas to German-born parents, and had no occupation listed. They had a 1-year old daughter, Mildred.



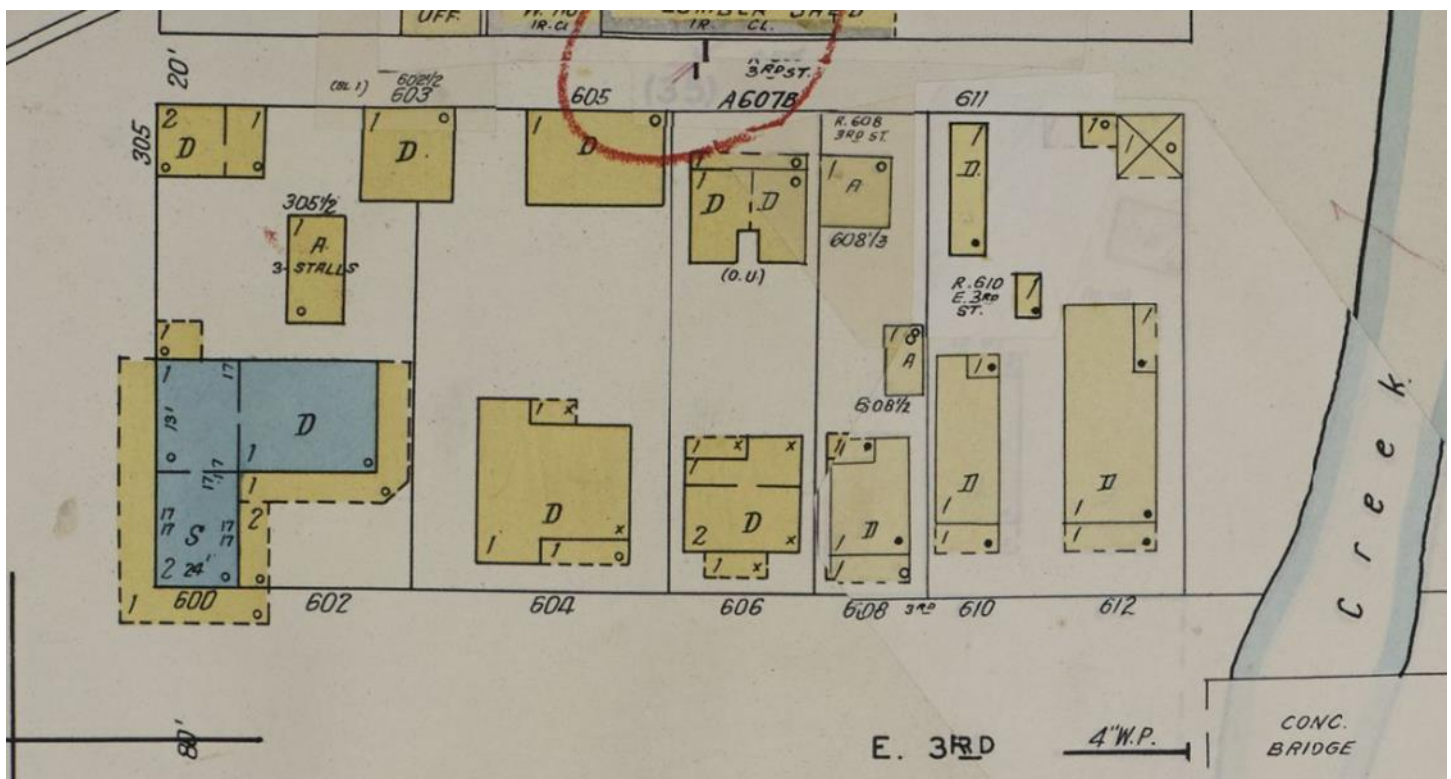
The 1894 Sanborn map shows the house but with an address of 606 E. 3rd Street..



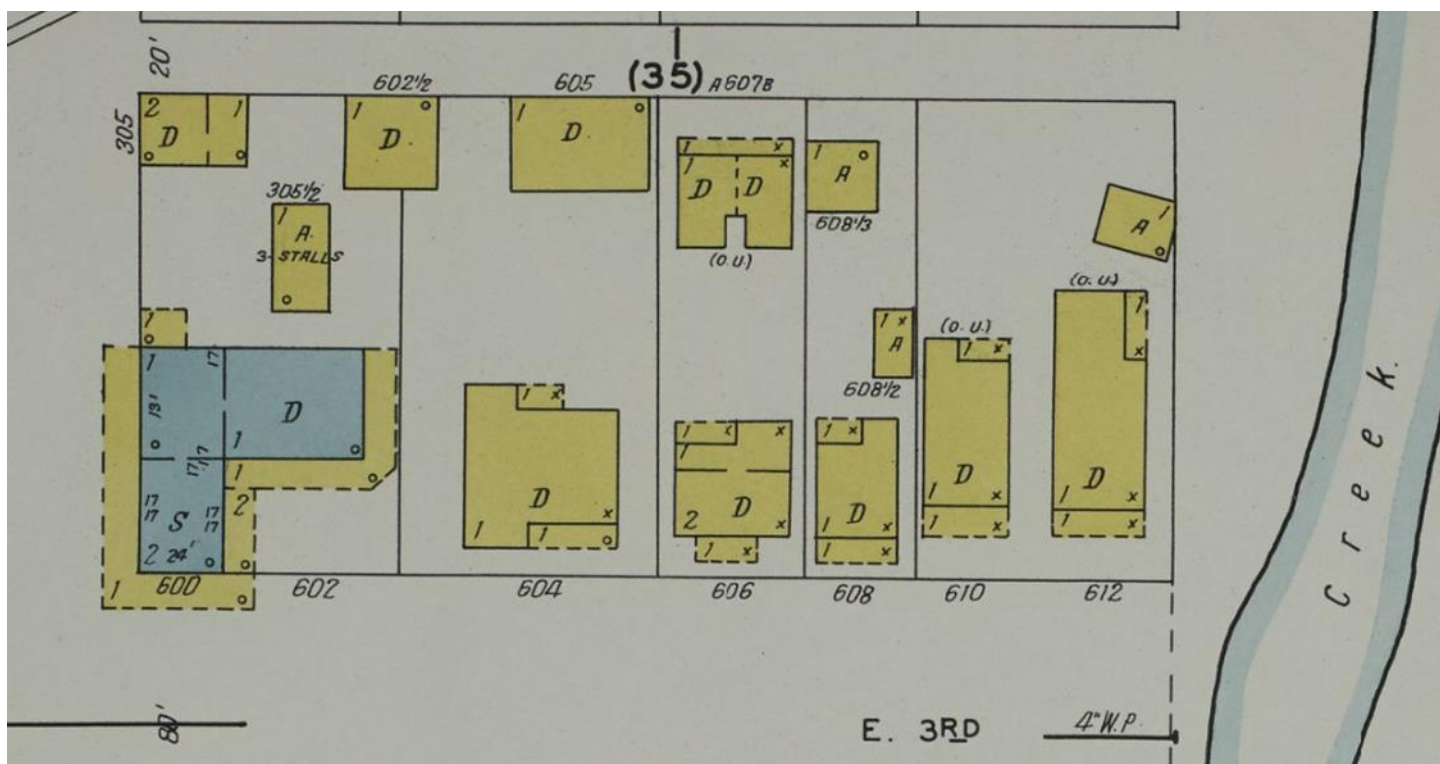
The 1900 Sanborn map shows the house with its full-width front porch and the same configuration as the 1894 map above, and with the address of 608 E. 3rd Street..



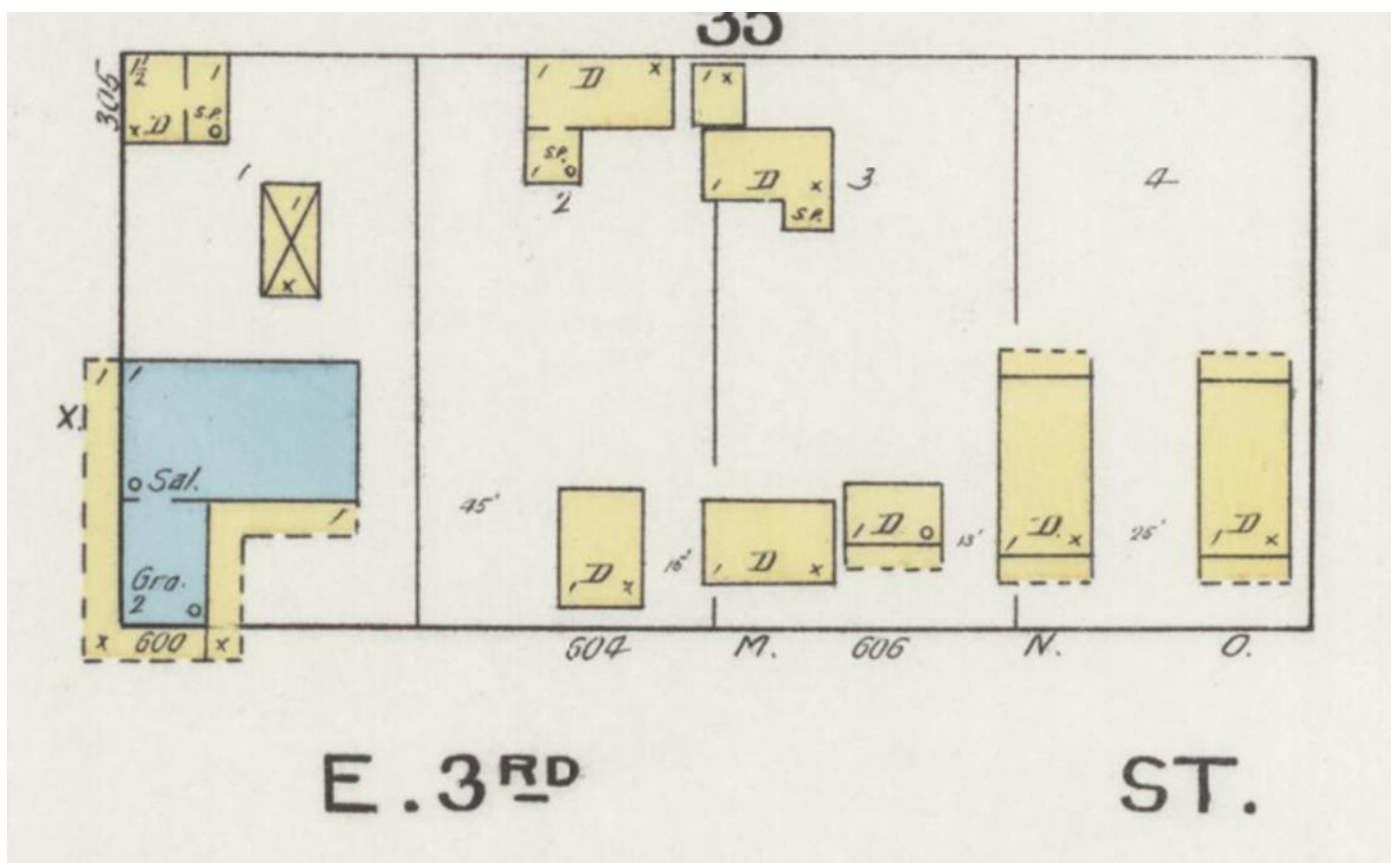
The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house with a rear addition and back porch that were not shown on the 1900 map above. The address is 608 E. 3rd Street.



1962 Sanborn Map



Sanborn Map 1935



Sanborn Map 1894