HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
Applications for Demolition and Relocation Permits
December 2, 2026
PR-2026-131502
1906 S L Davis Avenue

Proposal

Demolish a ca. 1935 main house and a ca. 1955 rear house.

Architecture

This property features Craftsman details, including a large front gable, deep front porch that wraps around the corner of the building, and wide chimney at the front of the house that tapers as it rises. The gable end roof also features exposed rafter tails. The house is set above grade on an elevated foundation to level the floor above a sloping site. Windows appear to be original and in good condition. Permit records indicate a rear addition was constructed around 1959, but it is minimally visible from the street. The house retains good integrity and is an intact example of Craftsman architecture in East Austin.

At the rear of the property, a single-story brick duplex is present. It features asbestos panel siding and a shallow pitched hipped roof. Permit records indicate structures being moved onto the site, listed as either 1156 or 1158 Poquito Street, in 1949 and 1952. This structure is in decent but repairable condition.

Research

City directory listings for this property go back to at least 1900, with occupants listed as renters with a high frequency of turnover. Most of these occupants are listed as African-American, who were described as laborers, laundresses, and domestic workers. Permit records listed in local newspapers indicate construction activity around 1935, including construction of a box residence and garage. This was during the ownership of Plato & Lillie Clayton, who had owned the property since around 1927.

Plato Crayton worked as an elevator operator in downtown Austin, first at the Old Federal Building and then the General Services Administration building until his retirement in 1970. Plato and Lillie would have eight children together, several of whom would serve in the armed services. They resided at the address together for many decades until Lillie's death in 1993, owning the property for almost 70 years. Plato Crayton passed away shortly after around 1996.

Department Comments

This application will time out on January 18, 2027.

Property Evaluation

The 2016 East Austin historic resource survey lists the property as eligible as a local landmark, as well as individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The rear structure facing Poquito Street is also listed in the same survey, but is not recommended as an individual or contributing resource to a historic district.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

1) The building is more than 50 years old.
2) The building appears to retain integrity.
3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff have evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria for landmark designation:
    a. Architecture. The building is a good example of Craftsman architecture in East Austin.
    b. Historical association. The property may appear to have significant historical associations as an example of development patterns in East Austin, specifically of long time occupants who lived at the address both before and after the 1928 Austin City Plan.
    c. Archaeology. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.

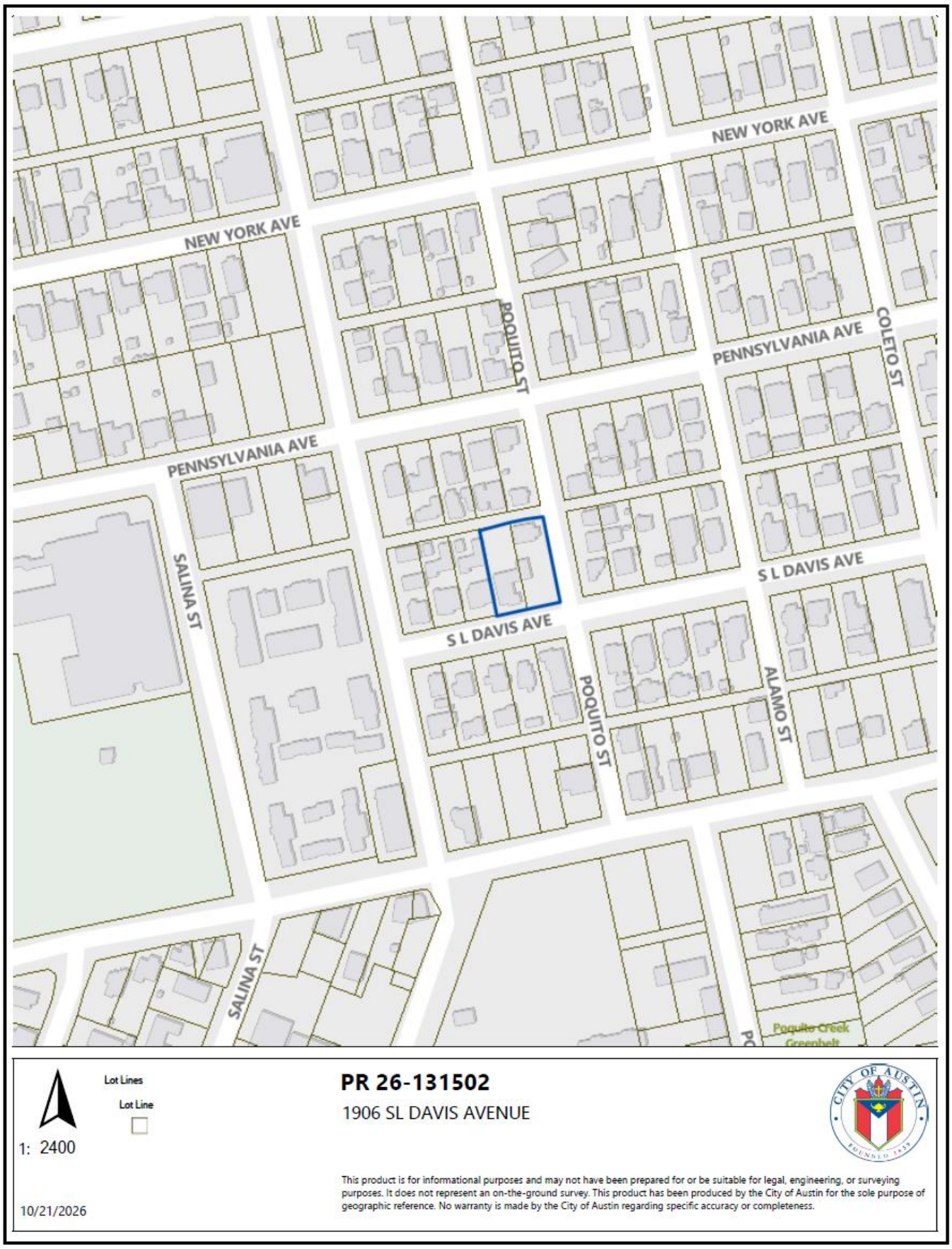
d. Community value. The property may possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.

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

Consider initiation of historic zoning. Should the Commission find that the property meets two of the following criteria: architecture, historical associations, and community value, initiate historic zoning. Otherwise, encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, relocation, or deconstruction and salvage over demolition, but approve the demolition permit application upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

Location Map



Property Information

Photos



Google Streetview, 2024



Occupancy History
City Directory Research, October 2026

1996	Plato Crayton (widow of Lillie), owner; retired
1992	Plato & Lillie Crayton, owners; retired
1988-89	Same as above
1985-86	Same as above
1983	Same as above
1980	Same as above
1978	Same as above, now working as a janitor at Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church
1976	Same as above
1974	Same as above
1972	Same as above, now listed as retired
1970	Same as above
1968	Same as above
1966	Same as above
1964	Same as above
1962	Same as above, now working as an elevator operator at General Services Administration
1959	Same as above
1955	Same as above
1952	Same as above
1949	Same as above, now working as a porter
1947	Same as above
1944	Same as above
1941	Same as above, now working as an elevator operator at Old Federal Building
1939	Same as above
1935	Same as above
1932	Same as above
1929	Same as above
1927	Same as above
1924	Robert Turner, renter
1922	Robert & Lela Johnson, renters; laborer at Merchants Transfer
1920	Leanna Houston, renter; laundress
1918	William & Josephine Steen, owners; laborer
1916	Same as above
1914	Josephine Steen, owner; domestic worker

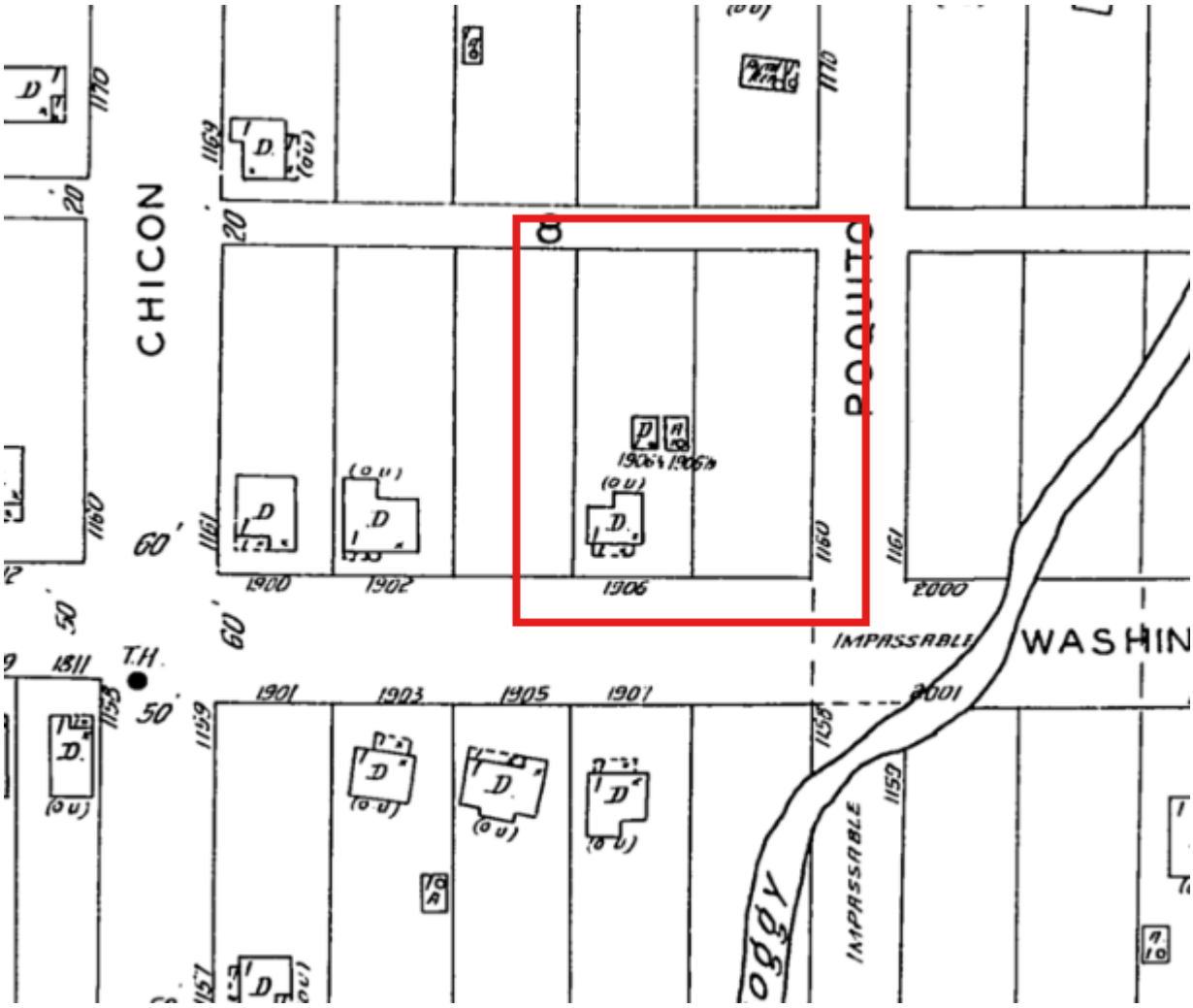
1912 Virgil Oliver, renter; laborer

1909 Charles Bass, renter; laborer

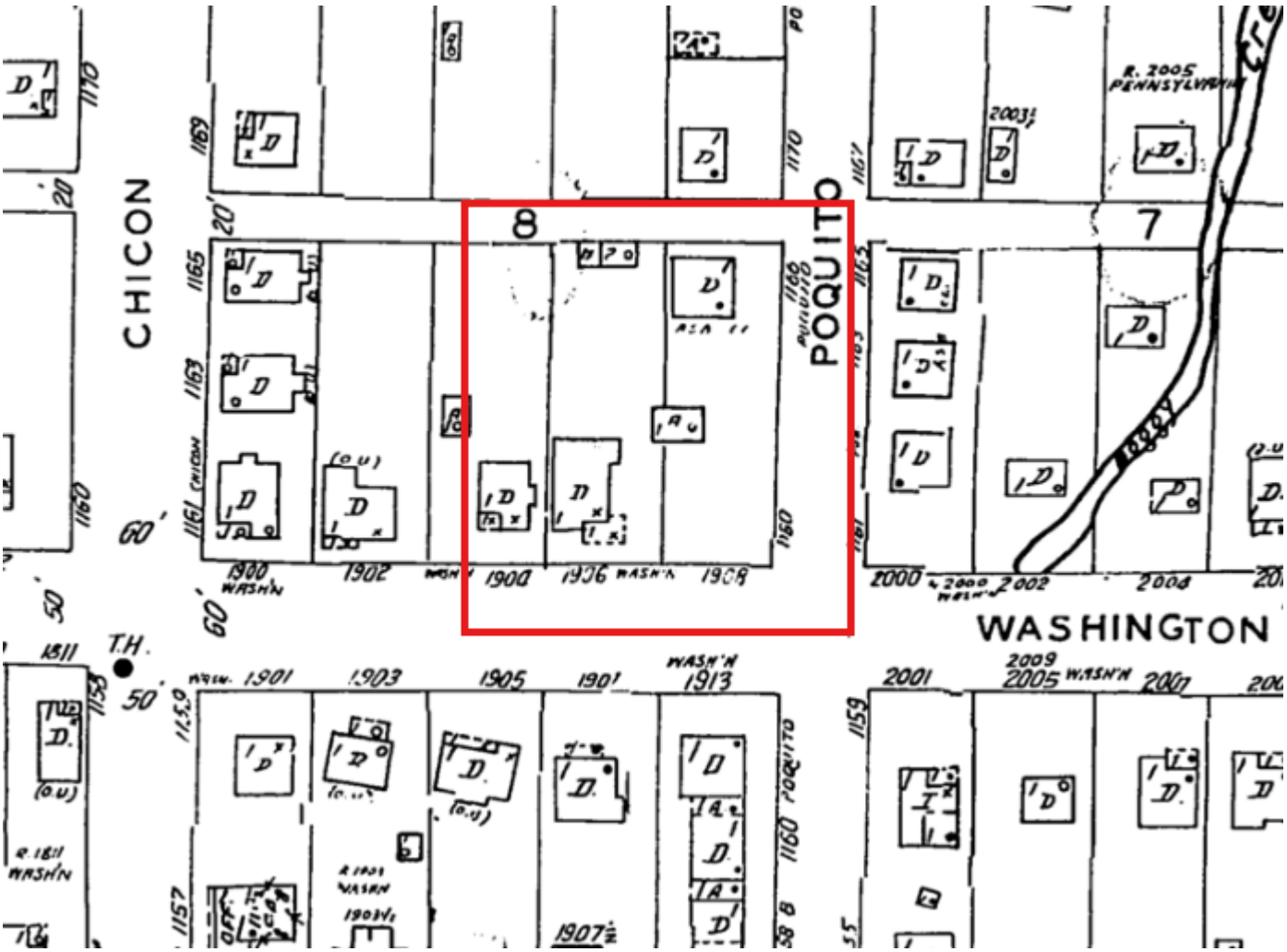
1906 William Steen, renter; laborer

1902 Same as above

Sanborn Maps



Sanborn map, 1935



Sanborn map, 1962.

Historical Information

8 Austin Men in Pacific Exercises

Eight Austin sailors are participating in the largest training exercises held by the Pacific Fleet since World War II.

They are Raymond D. Robinson, seaman, of 1704 Willow Street; James W. Thrower, seaman, of 2103 Woodmont; and B. G. Jennings, seaman, of 4611 Sinclair Street; Arthur J. Holden, gunner's mate third class, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Nicholson of 926 East 54th Street; Ensign Werner J. Perlitz Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Werner J. Perlitz of 1605 Gaston; Edmond Simpkins, stewardsman, son of Charlie N. Simpkins of 1603 Cedar Avenue; David A. Littleton, sonarman third class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley E. Littleton of Route Two; and Bertram E. Giesecke Jr., machinery repairman third class, of 2325 Salado Street; Kenneth M. Walden, fireman, of 5202 Burnetro Street, and Jimmy N. Pineda, seaman, of 704 East 12th Street.

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Second Lieutenant James B. Tetley, whose wife, Caryl, lives at 300 Moore Boulevard, is serving with the 45th Infantry Division in Korea.

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Sergeant First Class Plato Crayton, whose wife, Maggie, lives at 1307 East 13th Street, recently arrived in Korea and is serving with the Seventh Infantry Division.

SFC Crayton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Plato Crayton, 1906 Washington Avenue, is serving as a rifleman in Company B of the division's 17th Regiment.

●

Stephen Howard Alblinger, constructionman, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Alblinger of Austin, it attending the Beach Group Indoctrination Course in the Naval Amphibious Training Unit of the Amphibious Training Command, Little Creek, Va.

The course is designed to give an overall picture of the function of a naval beach group in assisting forces afloit and ashore during an amphibious assault landing.

Alblinger is regularly stationed

Austin American Statesman, January 15, 1953

Crayton Assigned

MONTEREY, Calif. — Dec .28 — Samuel C. Crayton, Airman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Plato E. Crayton of 1906 Washington Avenue, Austin, Texas, is serving at the US Naval Auxiliary Air Station here.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 28 Dec 1954: 14.

Elevator Automatic

Crayton's Smile Missing

By MARJ WIGHTMAN

When you get a smile on the US Court House elevator these days, chances are it's your own.

For Plato Crayton, bringer of the pleasant nod to the government's literal ups and downs these last 38 years, has quit.

Now you just press a button . . . and slowly away you go. Automation has come to the court house, but it's not like having Crayton on hand to say, "Good morning."

"I miss it, too," the 61-year-old man who started his elevator pilot's career in the Littlefield Building back in 1919, admits. "But, just because I've retired don't think I'm not busy!"

Mrs. Crayton is seeing to that. "She's really got me digging in those flower beds and working at all kinds of chores she said I'd never do before," Plato grins.

A native of Rockdale, Crayton moved to Austin in 1916 — with no plans for a career in the steel and concrete ribbed sky.

"It just happened to be the first job that was open," this tall man with scarcely a hint of gray in his neat mustache recalls.

"At first I'd dream about it at night, I'd dream the elevator was falling. But, that didn't last long and I've never worried about it since."

Not once during his federal career when Lyndon Johnson, Homer Thornberry and Ralph Yarborough rode with Plato like he had wings of his own did the elevator get stuck between floors.

No courtroom runaways dashed for the elevator door, either. Just pleasant folks seeking court judgments, passports or even citizenship.

During his long career, Crayton has watched eight children and nine grandchildren grow — if you will pardon the term — up.

Always an active man, Crayton serves as deacon of the Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church, superintendent of the Sunday school, chairman of the Greater Mount Zion nursery board of trustees and as an active member in the P-TA.

Now that his youngest daughter is 18 and a high school graduate, he's given up P-TAing. But, all the other activities keep him as busy as ever.

Especially weeding those flower beds at 1906 Washington Avenue.



American-Statesman/UPI

ELEVATOR PILOT BOWS TO AUTOMATION
Plato Crayton leaves Courthouse job.

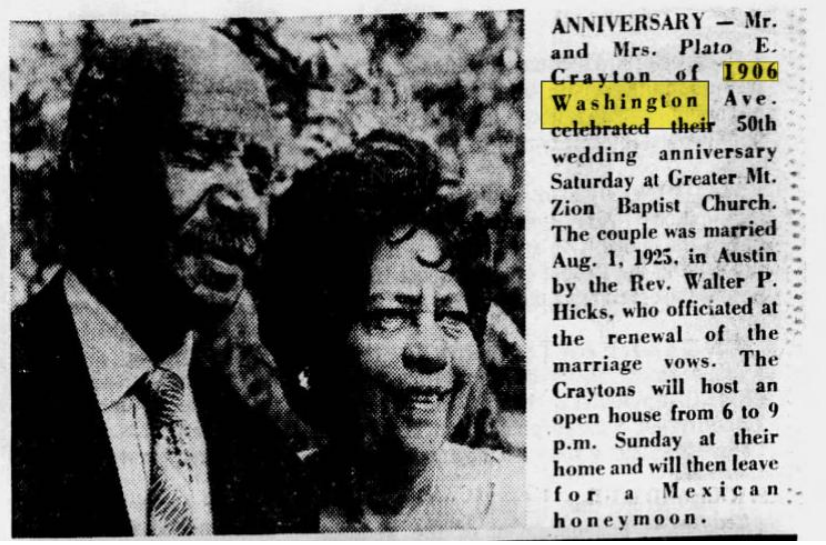
The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 30 Oct 1961: 19.

V. O. Jones Jr. Finishes School

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—First Lieutenant Vernal O. Jones Jr., has graduated from the US Air Force's Squadron Officer School at the Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, here.

Lt. Jones' wife, Nancy, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Plato E. Crayton of 1906 Washington Avenue, Austin, Texas.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 04 Jan 1965: 12.



ANNIVERSARY — Mr. and Mrs. Plato E. Crayton of 1906 Washington Ave. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday at Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The couple was married Aug. 1, 1925, in Austin by the Rev. Walter P. Hicks, who officiated at the renewal of the marriage vows. The Craytons will host an open house from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday at their home and will then leave for a Mexican honeymoon.

Austin American-Statesman, August 3, 1975. 36

Anniversaries



Mr. and Mrs. Plato E. Crayton Sr. of 1906 Washington Ave. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Saturday with an open house, given in their honor by their eight children — Mrs. Anna Crayton Warren, retired Sgt. Plato E. (Kido) Crayton Jr., Ms. Mabel Crayton Williams, Mrs. Nancy Crayton Jones, Samuel C. (Jack) Crayton Sr., Mrs. Marjorie Crayton Wilson, Mrs. Minnie (Baby Sis) Crayton David, and Mrs. Mae Kathryn (Baby Kay) Crayton Washington; 19 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

They were married Aug. 1, 1925. Mr. Crayton is retired from the U.S. Government General Services Administration, and Mrs. Crayton is retired from the Greater Mount Zion Church Nursery School.

Austin American-Statesman, August 4, 1985. 58.



In Memoriam

Lillie Mae Medearis Crayton

January 6, 1909 - January 8, 1993

"Little Girl", " Mama", "Big Mama"

One year ago you left your earthly home at 1906 Washington Avenue, Austin, to be at rest in your heavenly home.

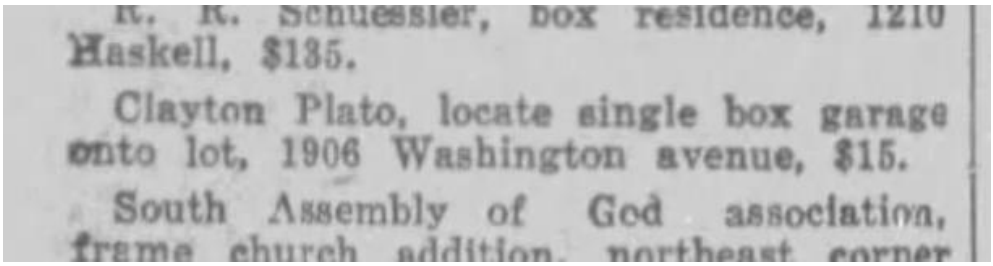
Oh, we miss you so much! " And until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

We will always love you!

Your husband of sixty seven years, Plato E. Crayton Sr. "Kid", your eight children, Anna C. Warren, Plato E. Crayton Jr. "Kido", Mabel C. Williams, Nancy C. Jones, Samuel C. Crayton Sr. "Jack", Marjorie C. Wilson, Minnie C. David, "Baby Sis", Mae Kathryn Washington, "Baby Kay',' and your grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-greatgrandchild.

Austin American-Statesman, January 9, 1994. 20.

Permits – 1906 Washington Ave.

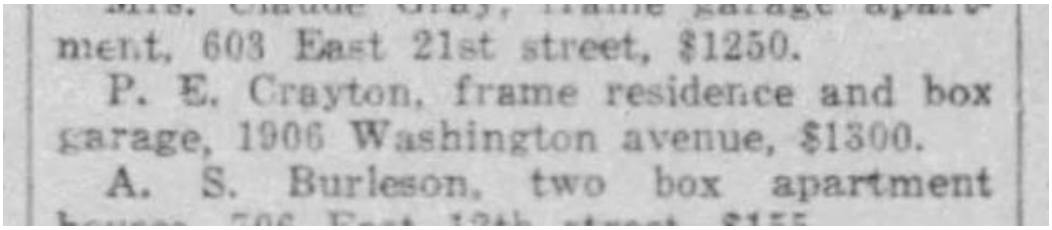


R. R. Schuessler, box residence, 1210 Haskell, $135.

Clayton Plato, locate single box garage onto lot, 1906 Washington avenue, $15.

South Assembly of God association, frame church addition, northeast corner

Austin American-Statesman, October 21, 1934.

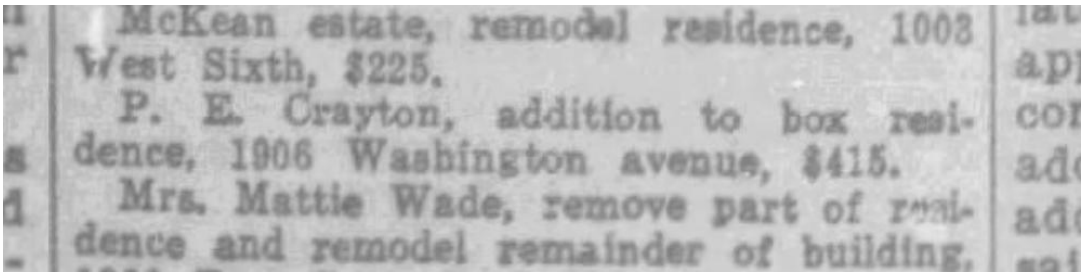


ment, 603 East 21st street, $1250.

P. E. Crayton, frame residence and box garage, 1906 Washington avenue, $1300.

A. S. Burleson, two box apartment

The Austin American, April 22, 1935.



McKean estate, remodel residence, 1003 West Sixth, $225.

P. E. Crayton, addition to box residence, 1906 Washington avenue, $415.

Mrs. Mattie Wade, remove part of residence and remodel remainder of building,

Austin American-Statesman, July 5, 1936.

Plato Crayton, Sr. 1906 Washington Ave.

36 Lot 4 Blk 8

F. B. Foster

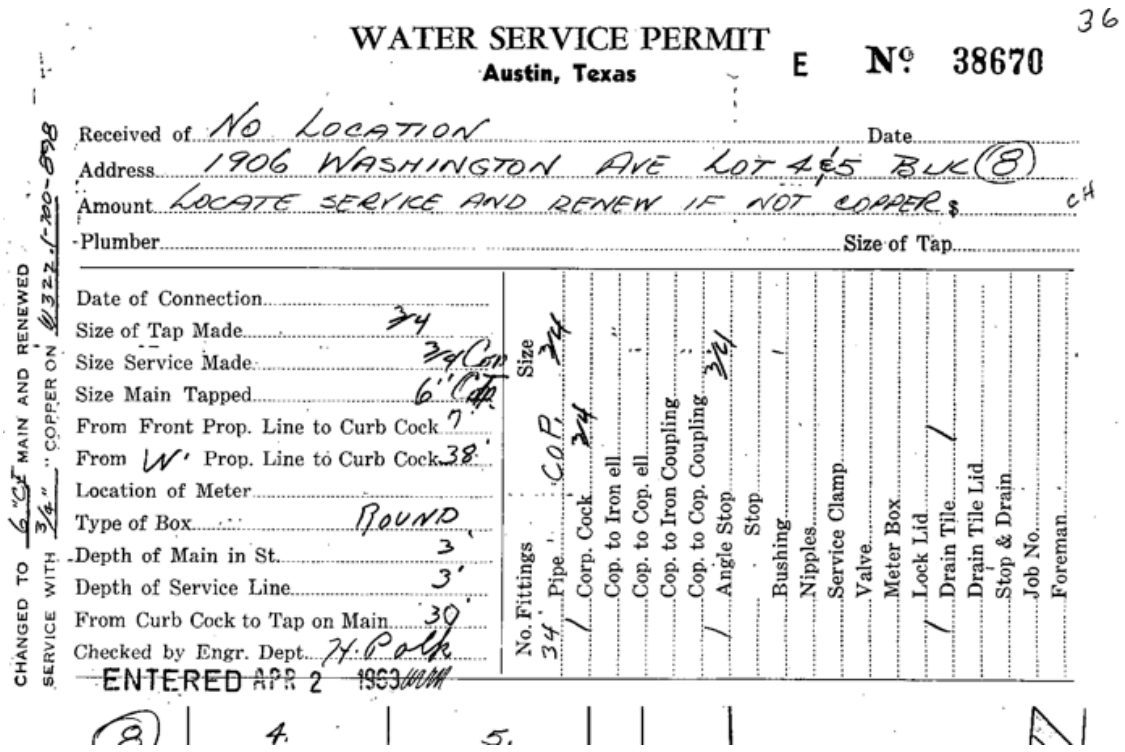
Frame Addition rear of res. & on East side of residence.

72013 3/4/59 2500.00

Oscar Ulit none

Enlarge kitchen-bedroom & bath add Den.

Permit for rear addition, 1959



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WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

E No. 38670

Received of NO LOCATION Date

Address 1906 WASHINGTON AVE LOT 4 & 5 BLK (8)

Amount LOCATE SERVICE AND RENEW IF NOT COPPER $ CH

Plumber Size of Tap

CHANGED TO 6" CI MAIN AND RENEWED SERVICE WITH 3/4" COPPER ON 11-22-1-20-898

Date of Connection
Size of Tap Made 3/4
Size Service Made 3/4 Cop
Size Main Tapped 6" CI
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'
From W' Prop. Line to Curb Cock 38'
Location of Meter
Type of Box ROUND
Depth of Main in St. 3'
Depth of Service Line 3'
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 30'
Checked by Engr. Dept. H. Polk

ENTERED APR 2 1963

No. Fittings	Size
34 Pipe	3/4
1 Corp. Cock	COP
Cop. to Iron ell	3/4
Cop. to Cop. ell	
Cop. to Iron Coupling	
Cop. to Cop. Coupling	3/4
1 Angle Stop	
Stop	
Bushing	1
Nipples	
Service Clamp	
Valve	
Meter Box	
Lock Lid	1
Drain Tile	
Drain Tile Lid	
Stop & Drain	
Job No.	
Foreman	

(2) 4 5

Water service permit, 1963

Permits – 1156-58 Poquito St.

Curtis V. Flowers 1158 Poquito Street

36 6 1 58 A.V.F. B

Moved from 509 West 15th Street.
Move frame residence onto lot & repair.
41039
5-23-49 $2500.00

Vance Fox

5

Permit for relocation of building onto lot, 1949

Nel Flowers

36 ~~8~~ 6

~~1905 Washington Ave.~~ 1158 (Poquito)

~~8~~ 1 58 B

Move residence onto new location on lot

50468 3-24-52 $500.00

Mr. Fox

Permit for relocation of building onto lot, 1952

OWNER Mrs. Nell Flowers ADDRESS 1158 Poquito

PLAT 36 LOT 6 & 7 BLK. 1

SUBDIVISION F.B. Foster O.L. 58

OCCUPANCY Repair & remdoe duplex

BLDG. PERMIT # 197546 DATE 6-13-80 OWNERS ESTIMATE 1500.00

CONTRACTOR Same NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#

Repair & remodel exist ~~xxx~~ to create res duplex

Repair permit for duplex, 1980