

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 24, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0065
1510 NEWTON STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1910 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, L-plan, wing-and-gable frame house with a partial-width shed-roofed, independent porch on plain, square wood posts on the left side of the projecting front gable; non-historic siding, porch railing, and attic vent; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1910 by Newton Alexander Brunson, a teamster, who lived here with his family (including his son, Newt Brunson, Jr., who worked for J.R. Reed Music Company for many years, and lived at the Brunson House at 200 The Circle, a designated city historic landmark). Newton Alexander Brunson, and his wife, Amanda, lived here until around 1913, when they moved to a farm in rural Travis County. The house was then either vacant or rented until around 1928, when it was first rented, later owned by Leonard Lonzo Bridwell, and his wife, Gertrude. L.L. Bridwell was a truck driver for the City Sanitation Department, who met a tragic and untimely death when he fell into the City Incinerator in 1937. His widow, Gertrude, who worked as a helper and assistant manager of the Becker School cafeteria, remained here until her death in 1957. It may be that one of her daughters, Julia Mae (a twin with brother Johnny Ray), inherited the house when she married a man named James B. Wood, who was a tobacco salesman for Ponca Wholesale Mercantile. The house has been a rental property since the early 1980s.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house appears in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage restoration and rehabilitation of the house, which is example of turn of the century residential architecture, although modified over the years, it appears that the historic appearance of the house could be restored. However, there does not seem to be sufficient justification at this time to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark, so if restoration of the house is not a viable option, then staff recommends relocation over demolition, and in any case, completion of a City of Austin documentation package consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history of the property, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2014-0065
LOCATION: 1510 NEWTON 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 the Planning and Development Review Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

1510 Newton Street
ca. 1910



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1510 Newton Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
February, 2014

1992	Janice King, renter Retired
1985-86	Bob G. Welburn, renter Inspector, Texas Home Inspections (not listed in the main directory).
1981	No return
1977	James B. and Julia Wood, owners Salesman, Ponca Wholesale Mercantile, tobacco, 2832 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.
1973	James B. and Julia Wood, owners Salesman, Ponca Wholesale Mercantile, tobacco, 2832 E. 19 th Street.
1968	James B. and Julia Wood, owners No occupation listed
1962	Vacant NOTE: James B. and Julia Wood are not listed in the directory.

- 1959 James and Julia Wood, owners
U.S. Air Force
- 1955 Gertrude Bridwell, owner
No occupation listed
NOTE: It is not clear that James Wood is listed in the directory; there is no James Wood with a wife named Julia. It is possible that Julia Wood is the former Julia Bridwell, but no evidence has been found to certify that.
- 1952 Gertrude Bridwell, owner
No occupation listed
- 1949 Gertrude Bridwell, owner
Widow, L.L. Bridwell
No occupation listed
- 1947 Gertrude Bridwell, owner
Widow, L.L. Bridwell
Assistant manager, Becker School cafeteria
- 1944-45 Gertrude Bridwell, owner
Widow, Leonard Bridwell
No occupation listed
Also listed is Julia M. Bridwell, a clerk at E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1941 Gertrude Bridwell, owner
Widow, Leonard Bridwell
No occupation listed
Also listed are Ernest A. Bridwell, a pressman for American Publishing Company, the publishers of the Austin American-Statesman, 7th and Colorado Streets; John R. Bridwell, a student; and Julia M. Bridwell, a student.
- 1939 Gertrude Bridwell (not listed as owner)
Widow, Leonard Bridwell
Waiter
Also listed is Ernest A. Bridwell, a pressman for American Publishing Company, the publishers of the Austin American-Statesman, 7th and Colorado Streets.
- 1937 Leonard L. and Gertrude Bridwell, renters
Truck driver
Also listed is Ernest A. Bridwell, a pressman for the Austin American-Statesman, newspaper, 7th and Colorado Streets.
- 1935 Leonard L. and Gertrude Bridwell, renters
Truck driver
Also listed are Emmett Bridwell, a clerk; and Ernest Bridwell, no occupation stated.
- 1932-33 Leonard L. and Gertrude Bridwell, owners
No occupation listed
Also listed is Emmett Bridwell, a soda dispenser at Saunders Drug Company, 1600 S. Congress Avenue.

- 1930-31 Leonard L. and Gertrude Bridwell, owners
No occupation listed
Also listed is Vernon L. Bridwell, a meat cutter at Pate's Meat Market, 1311 S. Congress Avenue.
- 1929 Leonard L. and Gertrude Bridwell, owners
No occupation listed
Also listed is Vernon L. Bridwell, a meat cutter.
- 1927 Joseph and Wilma Scott, renters
Joseph: Clerk
Wilma: Employed by Austin Laundry and Dry Cleaning, 1514 Lavaca Street.

NOTE: Leonard L. and Gertrude Bridwell are listed at 607 W. James Street; he was a laborer at the City Incinerator; with them was Vernon L. Bridwell, a meat cutter.
- 1924 Vacant
- 1922 William O. Schuetzeberg, owner
Driver, Humble Oil and Refining Company, 3rd and Bowie Streets.
- 1920 Vacant
- 1918 Vacant
- 1916 James P. Parker
Driver, Pierce-Fordyce Oil Association, 514-16 W. 3rd Street; supply station, 203 W. 6th Street.
- 1914 L. Alexander Brunson
Laborer
NOTE: Newton A. Brunson lived at 1512 Newton Street. He had no occupation listed.
- 1912-13 Newton A. Brunson
Teamster
NOTE: There is no address listing for 1512 Newton Street.
- 1910-11 Newton A. Brunson
Teamster
- 1909-10 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Newton A. Brunson is listed as a teamster living at 1504 Newton Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**Newton A. and Amanda Brunson (ca. 1910 – ca. 1913)**

Alexander (Newton Alexander) Brunson and his wife, Amanda are listed at this house in the 1910 U.S. Census, along with their two sons, Newton and Willie. Newton Alexander Brunson was then 39, had been born in Alabama, and was a teamster. Amanda Brunson was then 40, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Their son, Newton (who later lived at 200 The Circle, a designated City historic landmark), was then 22, had been born in Texas, and

was a book-keeper in a music store (J.R. Reed); Willie, 18, was a book-keeper in a nursery. At 1504 Newton Street lived Newton and Martha Brunson, Newton Alexander Brunson's parents. The older Brunson was 70, and had his own income; Martha was 72 and had no occupation listed. They had a son, William, 40, who was a boiler-maker.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Newton and Amanda Brunson on a farm in Precinct 3 of Travis County. None of their children were living with them.

NEWTON A. BRUNSON

Newton A. Brunson, 68, died at 8 p. m. Monday. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Amanda Townsend Brunson; one son, Newt. A. Brunson, Jr., and one sister, Mrs. C. D. Cameron of Haynesville, La. The body is at the Thurlow Wood Funeral home pending definite funeral arrangements, which will probably be held Wednesday.

Obituary of Newton A. Brunson
Austin American, February 15, 1938

NEWTON A. BRUNSON

Funeral services for Newton A. Brunson will be conducted by the Rev. O. F. Dingler at the family residence at 801 West Elizabeth street at 10 a. m. Wednesday. Burial will be in Manor.

Funeral notice for Newton A. Brunson
Austin American, February 16, 1938

Leonard L. and Gertrude Bridwell (ca. 1928 – ca. 1957)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Gertrude Bridwell as the owner of this house, which was worth \$1,500. She was a 58-year old, Florida-born widow who was listed as a helper in a school cafeteria. With her lived her son, Ernest, 23, a pressman at the daily newspaper, son John Ray, 17, a clerk in a butcher shop, and daughter Julia Mae, also 17, who had no occupation listed.

L.L. and Gertrude Bridwell are shown as the renters of this house in the 1930 U.S. Census. They paid \$10 per month in rent. L.L. Bridwell was then 48, had been born in Alabama, and was a truck driver for the sanitary department. Gertrude Bridwell was also 48, had been born in Florida, and had no occupation listed. They had 5 children: Vernon, 23, was a meat cutter; Emmett, 15; Ernest, 13, Johnny Ray, and Julia May, both 7. All had been born in Texas.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Lonzo L. and Gertrude Bridwell at a rented house at 1700 S. 1st Street in Austin. Lonzo was a delivery driver for a feed wagon. In addition to the children shown in the 1930 census report, they Bridwells had an older daughter, Bertha, who was 15 at the time of the 1920 census report.

City Employee Is Taken By Death From Burn Hurts

L. L. Bridwell Passes After 3 Days; Rites Scheduled Monday

L. L. Bridwell, veteran city employee who was burned Thursday at the city incinerator, died early Monday morning.

Mr. Bridwell, who was 55 years old, was burned as he fell into the "thimble" or chute of the flaming furnace of the incinerator after he had slipped on wet garbage while unloading a city truck. He was taken to the Brackenridge hospital, where it was learned that he was badly burned from the hips down, having saved himself from probable immediate cremation by hanging to the edge of the furnace.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 3 p. m. from the Cook Funeral home. Burial will be in the Masonic cemetery on the Post road.

Survivors are his widow, four sons, Vernon Bridwell, Emmett Bridwell, Ernest Bridwell and Johnnie Ray Bridwell, all of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Tom Fisher and Miss Julia Mae Bridwell, both of Austin; three sisters, Mrs. Lee Downing of Winters, Miss Sallie Bridwell and Mrs. A. P. Currington, both of Austin; and six brothers, W. R. Bridwell of Van Zandt county, E. L. Bridwell, E. T. Bridwell, E. G. Bridwell, R. D. Bridwell and M. T. Bridwell, all of Winters.

News story on the death of Leonard L. Bridwell
Austin American, June 7, 1937

L. L. BRIDWELL

Funeral services for L. L. Bridwell were held from the Cook Funeral home here at 3 p. m. Monday with the Rev. O. F. Dingler officiating. Burial was in the Masonic cemetery. Pallbearers were P. F. Miles, Chas. Moore, L. G. Wren, W. T. Saunders, B. E. Howell and G. V. Powell.

Funeral notice for Leonard L. Bridwell
Austin American, June 8, 1937

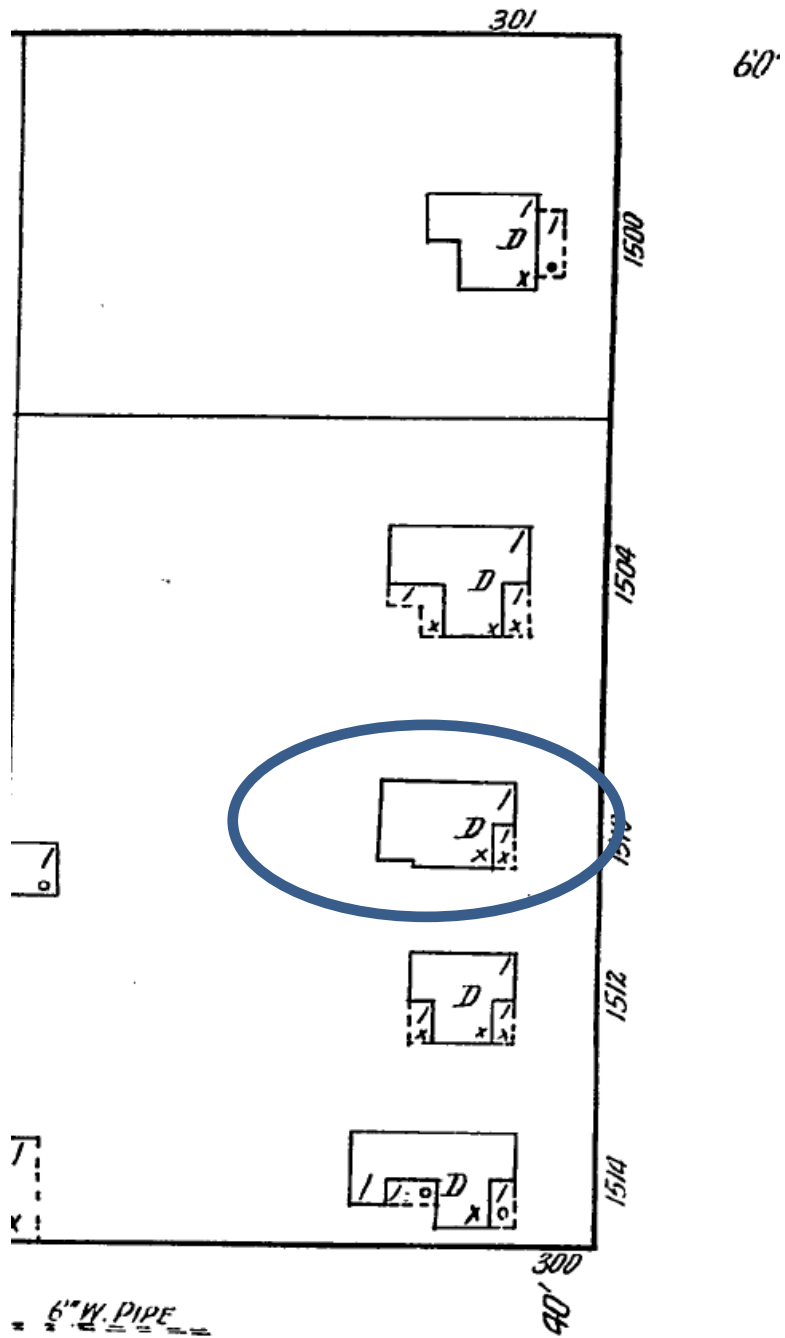
MRS. GERTRUDE BRIDWELL

Mrs. Gertrude Bridwell, 74, of 1510 Newton, died in a local hospital late Thursday.

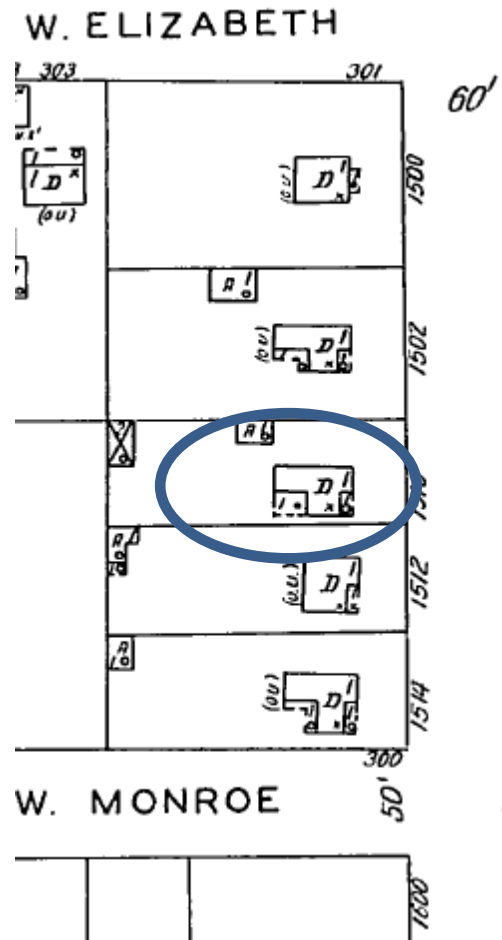
She was a member of Congress Avenue Baptist Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Miss Julia Bridwell and Mrs. Tom Fisher, both of Austin; four sons, Vernon Bridwell of Austin, Emmett Bridwell of Little Rock, Ark., Ernest Bridwell with the U.S. Army in Germany, and Johnnie Bridwell of Austin; and one brother, Grover Bucks of Austin.

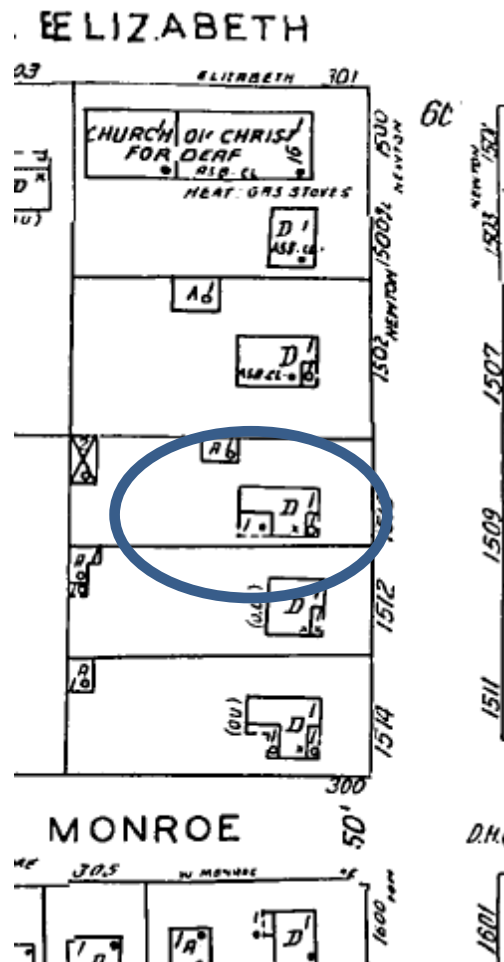
Obituary of Gertrude Bridwell
Austin American, February 1, 1957



The house appears on the 1922 Sanborn map.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house with a back porch; the 1922 map did not show the porch.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the same configuration as the 1935 map above.