

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2015-0722
1307 E. 13TH STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1900 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, pyramidal-roofed frame Cumberland-style house with double front doors, a full-width inset porch on ornamental metal supports, and some original 4:4 windows.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1900, but it could be earlier – the known occupant of the house is listed at another address in the 1898-99 city directory, and there is no cross-reference section of the early directories. The first known occupant of the house was James Black, who worked as a plumber and engineer for the City Water and Light department at the turn of the century, and later at the Austin Gas Company. He was listed as an assistant foreman at the Austin Gas Light Company in 1909, then went to work at the Texas Institute for the Colored Deaf, Dumb and Blind by 1910. The house was listed as vacant in the city directory of 1912-13, then it was the home of Chester Odom and his wife, Lula, from around 1914 to around 1923. Chester Odom was a waiter – he later lived in both Fort Worth and Corpus Christi, where he worked as a hotel waiter.

Beginning around 1926, the house was owned by Louise Crayton, a widow, who worked as a cook. She married Charley Washington, and they continued to live in this house with her children from her first marriage until the mid-1930s. Charlie Washington was a janitor at the telephone company. The house may have stayed in Louise Crayton's family for several years – her nephew, Plato E. Crayton, Jr., and Plato's wife, Maggie, are listed as the renters of the house in the late 1940s and early 1950s, while Plato served in the U.S. Army. In between Louise Crayton Washington's tenancy and that of her nephew, there were a number of renters in the 1930s and 1940s.

Robert and Dorothy Harris rented the house in the 1950s – he was a porter at T.H. Williams and Company, a ladies' department store on Congress Avenue. The house had a number of tenants after that – including a maid at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel and a hospital aide at Brackenridge.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed as a medium priority for preservation in the Chestnut Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Initiate historic zoning to fully evaluate all alternatives to demolition. This house has had a number of modifications, including siding and window replacements, but represents a style typical of the neighborhood and a relatively early construction date for this part of the city. The house represents an unusual architectural style, and has a strong association with African-American families in East Austin, and every effort should be made by the applicant to explore the possibilities of restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive re-use of this house.

LOCATION MAP



1307 E. 13th Street
ca. 1900



OCCUPANCY HISTORY

1307 E. 13th Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
August, 2015

1992	Luciano Jaimes, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Luciano Jaimes was a new resident at this address.
1985-86	Mirian and Joice Thomson, renters No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Mirian and Joice Thomson were new residents at this address.
1981	Helen Walker, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Helen Walker was a new resident at this address.
1977	Helen Walker, owner No occupation listed
1973	Helen Walker, renter No occupation listed
1968	Christie Brown, renter Aide, Brackenridge Hospital
1962	Annie H. Jones, renter Maid, Stephen F. Austin Hotel, 7 th Street and Congress Avenue.
1959	Robert and Dorothy Harris, renters Porter, T.H. Williams & Company, "Austin's Exclusive Ladies' Department Store", 500 Congress Avenue and 2709-11 Exposition Boulevard.
1955	Robert and Dorothy Harris, renters Porter, T.H. Williams & Company, "Austin's Exclusive Ladies' Department Store", 500 Congress Avenue and 2709-11 Exposition Boulevard.
1952	Plato E. and Maggie Crayton, Jr., renters U.S. Army
1949	Plato E. and Maggie Crayton, Jr., renters U.S. Army
1947	Thomas and Ermine Moton, renters Employed at Marvin's Café (not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory).
1944-45	Vacant

1941	Lethie Johnson, renter Seamstress
1939	Martha Standard, renter Cook Willie and America McClatchy, renters Laborer
1937	Leonard and Olivia Harvey, renters Porter, Ellison Photo Company, 615 Congress Avenue. Iry J. and Eloise Sorells, renters Elevator operator, Scarbrough Building, 6 th Street and Congress Avenue.
1935	Louise Washington, owner No occupation listed
1932-33	Charles and Louise Washington, owners Janitor, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 9 th and Colorado Streets. NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1930-31	Charles Washington (colored), owner Janitor, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 9 th and Colorado Streets. NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1929	Charles Washington (colored), owner Janitor, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 9 th and Colorado Streets. NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1927	Louise Crayton (colored), owner Cook NOTE: Charles Washington is listed at 1203 E. 20 th Street. He was a janitor at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 9 th and Colorado Streets. NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1924	Clarence and Helen Howell (colored), renters Bellboy NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1922	Chester and Lula Odom (colored), owners No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1920	Chester and Lula Odom, (colored), owners Laborer NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1918	Chester and Lula Odom (colored), owners Waiter NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13 th Street.
1916	Chester Odom (colored), owner Waiter

NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.

- 1914 Chester Odom (colored)
Waiter
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1912-13 Vacant
NOTE: Chester Odom is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: James Black is listed as a laborer living at 1703 Gregory Street.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1910-11 James Black (colored)
Engineer and plumber, Texas Institute for the Colored Deaf, Dumb and Blind.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1909-10 James Black (colored)
Assistant foreman, Austin Gas Light Company
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1906-07 J.W. Black (colored)
Employed by Austin Gas Company; offices: 907 Congress Avenue; gas works,
2nd and Colorado Streets.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1905 James Black (colored)
No occupation listed
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1903-04 James Black (colored)
Works at the Street Railway Company
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1900-01 James Black (colored)
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
Plumber, City Water and Light Department
NOTE: The house is listed as 1205 E. 13th Street.
- 1898-99 Unknown
NOTE: James Black is listed on the north side of Dam Boulevard, 2 blocks west
of the International and Great Northern Railroad; he was a plumber for the City
Water and Light Department.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

James and Mollie Black (ca. 1900 – ca. 1912)

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Jim and Mattie Black at this address, which is shown as 1205 E. 13th Street. This census report shows the family as white. Jim Black was 59, had been born in Texas, and was a plumber at the asylum. Mattie Black was 49, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 children: James, 22, a laborer on a moving car; and Ruth, 19, who had no occupation listed. The census report shows that they rented this house.

James and Mollie [?] Black appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 1615 Gregory Street in Austin. James Black was 69, had been born in Kentucky, and was a stationary engineer. Mollie Black was 59, had been born in Texas to Missouri-born parents, and was a laundress at home. They had a daughter, Ruth, 29, who had been born in Texas, and was a laundress at home.

Chester and Lula Odom (ca. 1913 – ca. 1923)

Chester Odom's (undated) World War I draft registration card shows that he was born in 1882 and was living in this house at the time of his registration. He was a common laborer.

Chester and Lula Odom appear in the 1930 U.S. Census for Fort Worth, Texas, where they owned their home. Chester Odom was 45, had been born in Texas, and was a waiter. Lula Odom was 43, had been born in Texas, and was a maid for a private family. The 1940 U.S. Census shows Chester and Lula Odom as the owners of a house in Fort Worth, Texas. Chester Odom was 57, had been born in Texas, and was a waiter in a hotel. Lula Odom was 53, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

Chester Odom died in Corpus Christi in 1958, where he had been living for 15 years. He was a waiter at a hotel there. He had been born in Lockhart, Texas, and was a widower.

Charley and Louise Washington (ca. 1928 – ca. 1936)

Charley and Louise Washington appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renters of this house. Charley Washington was 48, had been born in Texas, and was a janitor at the telephone company. Louise Washington was 45, had been born in Texas, and was a cook for a private family. She had 3 children from her former marriage: James Crayton, 21, a janitor at the university; Sammie Crayton, 17; and Connie Crayton, 14.