

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
OCTOBER 24, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0635
1707 E. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1925 house that may have been moved onto this site around 1935.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, clipped side-gabled frame bungalow with a central, partial-width, clipped front-gabled independent porch on ornamental metal posts; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1925 as a rental property, but whether it was built on this lot or not is unclear. The chain of occupancy makes sense going back to around 1925, which is consistent with the architectural style of the house, but the house does not appear on the 1935 Sanborn map. There is a water service permit dating from 1935 to Jesus Casarez, a later owner and occupant of the house.

The first tenants were L.D. and Eugenia Martin, an African-American couple, who lived here until around 1928. Nothing is known of them, and L.D. Martin had no occupation listed in the 1927 city directory. Ronald and Sadie Brydson rented the house in the late 1920s; he was an Anglo plumber, and his name appears on the water service permit for this house in 1935. In the early 1930s, the house was rented by Aaron and Willie May Flowers, who lived here until around 1932. Aaron Flowers was a bottle washer at Meter's Creamery.

From around 1931 until around 1940, the house was rented by Henry and Consuelo Adams. Henry Adams worked for several Pontiac dealerships in town. Consuelo Adams' brother, Jesse Casarez, who lived with the Adams family after his divorce and before his marriage to Maria, rented the house in the early 1940s, while Henry and Consuelo Adams moved into a no-longer standing house next door at 1705 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Jesse Casarez then married; he and his wife Maria settled into this house. Unfortunately, Jesse Casarez perished in a military plane crash in Puerto Rico in 1942. His widow, Maria, lived in this house until her death in 1980. The house was then vacant throughout much of the 1980s and has been used as a rental property since then.

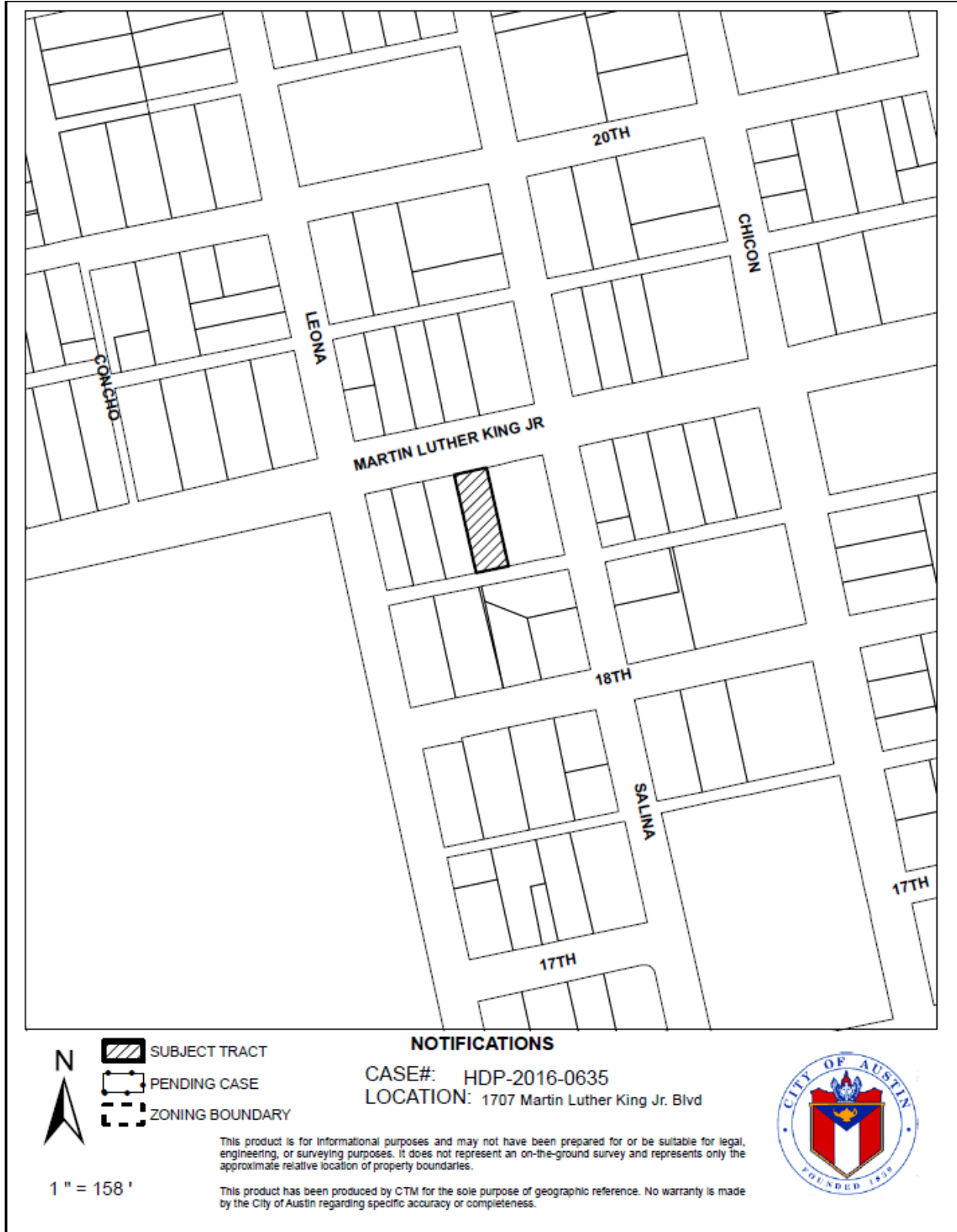
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any City survey to date.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but 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.

LOCATION MAP



1707 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
ca. 1924, but probably moved onto this site ca. 1935



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1707 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
September, 2016

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1992 | Cecilia Morels, renter
Employed by Tracor
NOTE: The directory indicates that Cecilia Morels was a new resident at this address. |
| 1985-86 | Vacant |
| 1981 | Vacant |
| 1977 | Maria Casarez, owner
Widow, Jesse Casarez
Retired |
| 1973 | Maria Casarez, owner
Widow, Jesse Casarez
Retired
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19 th Street. |
| 1968 | Maria Casarez, owner
Widow, Jesse Casarez |

- Maid
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1965 Maria Casarez, owner
Retired
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1962 Maria Casarez, owner
No occupation listed
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1959 Maria Casarez, owner
No occupation listed
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1955 Maria Casarez, owner
Widow, Jesus Casarez
No occupation listed
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1952 Maria Casarez, owner
Widow, Jesse Casarez
No occupation listed
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1949 Maria Conarz, owner
NOTE: There is no listing in the alphabetical section of the directory for either a Maria Conarz nor a Maria Casarez.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1947 Maria Conarz, owner
NOTE: There is no listing in the alphabetical section of the directory for either a Maria Conarz nor a Maria Casarez.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1944-45 Julius Casarez, owner
U.S. Army
Also listed is Mary Casarez, no occupation shown.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1941 Jesse Casarez, renter
NOTE: There is no listing in the alphabetical section of the directory for a Jesse nor a Maria Casarez.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
NOTE: Henry and Consuela Adams are listed at 1705 E. 19th Street (no longer standing). He was a car cleaner.
- 1939 Henry and Consuela Adams, owners
Greaser, Caldwell Pontiac, 2nd and Colorado Streets.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.
- 1937 Henry and Consuela Adams, renters
Mechanic, Armacost Pontiac, 2nd and Colorado Streets.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1707 E. 19th Street.

NOTE: This house does not appear on the 1935 Sanborn map, so it is possible that it was moved onto this site around 1935. However, the city directories show a chain of occupancy that makes sense for this house dating back to 1924.

- 1935 Henry and Consuello Adams, renters
Car washer, Goad Motor Company, 417 W. 6th Street.
NOTE: The Adams are listed at 1705 E. 19th Street, which was next door.
- 1932-33 Henry and Consuelo Adams, renters
No occupation listed
NOTE: The Adams are listed at 1705 E. 19th Street, which was next door.
- 1930-31 Aaron and Willie Flowers (colored), renters
Sterilizer, Meyer Creamery, 308-10 W. 6th Street.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1305 E. 19th Street, which may be 1705 E. 19th Street.
NOTE: Henry and Consuelo Adams are listed at 902 Lydia Street; he was a car washer for Young & Schieffer, 1313 Lavaca Street.
NOTE: Ronald and Sadie Brydson are listed at 1812 Salina Street; he was a plumber.
- 1929 Ronald and Sadie Brydson, renters
Plumber
NOTE: The house is listed as 1305 E. 19th Street, which is likely 1705 E. 19th Street, a house that used to be next door.
- 1927 L.D. and Eugenia Martin (colored), renters
No occupation listed
NOTE: The house is listed as 1305 E. 19th Street, which is likely 1705 E. 19th Street, a house that used to be next door.
- 1924 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: L.D. and Eugenia Martin are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Aaron and Willie Mae Flowers (ca. 1930 – ca. 1931)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Aron and Willie Mae Flowers as the renters of the house at 1404 Hackberry Street in Austin. Aron Flowers was 24, had been born in Texas, and was a bottle washer at a creamery. Willie Mae Flowers was 22, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them. The 1940 U.S. Census shows Arran and Willie Mae Flowers as the owners of the house at 1171 Hargrave Street in Austin. Arran Flowers was 34, had been born in Texas, and was a helper in a creamery. Willie Mae Flowers was 32, had been born in Texas, and was a maid in a private home. They had no children listed with them. Aaron Flowers died in Santa Clara County, California in 1997.

Henry and Consuelo Adams (ca. 1931 – ca. 1940)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Henry and Consuelo Adams as the renters of this house, which is addressed as 1707 E. 19th Street. Henry Adams was 33, had been born in Texas, and was a car polisher for an automobile sales company. Consuelo Adams was 27, had been born in Mexico, and was a laundry checker for Austin Laundry. They had 2 sons: Henry, Jr., 7; and Ernest, 4, both of whom had been born in Texas. With them lived Consuelo Adams' brother, Jesse Casarez, 24, who had been born in Texas, and was a clerk at an army store; and Henry's

sister, Virginia Adams, 38, who had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Jesse Casarez is listed a single.

Henry Adams appears in the 1920 U.S. Census as the 13-year old son of Philip Adams, a widower who rented his house on the Del Valle and Bastrop Road in Travis County. Henry was the 7th of Philip Adams' 9 children listed with him. Henry Adams was born in Texas and had no occupation listed. His father, Philip, was a farmer; all of Henry's older siblings were listed as laborers on the home farm.

Jesse and Maria Casarez (ca. 1940 – ca. 1980)

Jesse Casarez is listed as the brother-in-law of Henry Adams in the 1940 U.S. Census (details above). The 1930 U.S. Census shows Jesse Casarez as the 14-year old son of Jesus and Mary Casarez, who rented their home in rural Travis County. Jesse Casarez was the oldest of the couple's 4 children, and had been born in Texas. He was a porter on a dairy truck. His father, Jesus, 59, had been born in Mexico, and was a dairyman. His mother, Mary, 36, had been born in Mexico, and had no occupation listed. Julius Casarez was Jesse's younger brother. He was then 10 years old and was a student.

His 1940 World War II enlistment record shows that Jesse Casarez was born in 1916 in Texas. He enlisted at Fort Sam Houston in the Air Corps. He had 3 years of high school and was divorced without dependents.

According to the Find-a-Grave website, Sgt. Jesse Casarez was born in 1916 and died in 1942. He served during World War II at least for a time in Puerto Rico. He died, along with 21 other military and civilian employees when their C47 aircraft crashed into the mountains about 15 miles northwest of the small town of Coamo, Puerto Rico. They were en route to a staff meeting. According to the accident report, visibility was affected by clouds and it was believed that the pilot of the plane was attempting to turn back down to the coast to proceed to San Juan. He was about 200 feet too low to make it over the tip of the peak upon which they crashed. The remains of all who died were buried in Puerto Rico until after the end of the war, at which time, they were exhumed and returned to the United States for final burial. Jesse Casarez' body was interred in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Austin in 1948.

CASAREZ, Maria, 88, 1707 E. 19th St., died Thursday. Rosary 7 p.m. Sunday, Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Mass 10 a.m. Monday, St. Mary's Cathedral. Burial, Assumption Cemetery. Survivors: daughter, Consuelo Adams of Austin; sons, Louis Casarez of Corpus Christi, Julius Casarez, Sam Casarez, both of Austin; sister, Romana Hernandez of Mexico; 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

Obituary of Maria Casarez
Austin American-Statesman, February 16, 1980

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 3269

M. to *Jesus Casarez* Address *1707 1/2 8th 19th MKK Bldg.*

Plumber *Brydson* Size of Tap *1/2* Date *11-1-35*

Foreman's Report

Date of Connection *11-5-35*
 Size of Tap Made *3/4*
 Size Service Made *3/4*
 Size Main Tapped *8"*
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock *12*
 From Prop. Line to Curb Cock *28*
 Location of Meter *Curbline*
 Type of Box *lock*
 Depth of Main in St. *3*
 Depth of Service Line *30"*
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main *8*
 Checked by Engr. Dept. *W.P.A.: 11-30-39*

No. Fittings	Curb Cock	Elbow	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tee	Stop	Box	Lid	Valves	Req. No.
<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1/8"</i>	<i>3/4 x 1/2</i>	<i>3/4 Copper</i>								

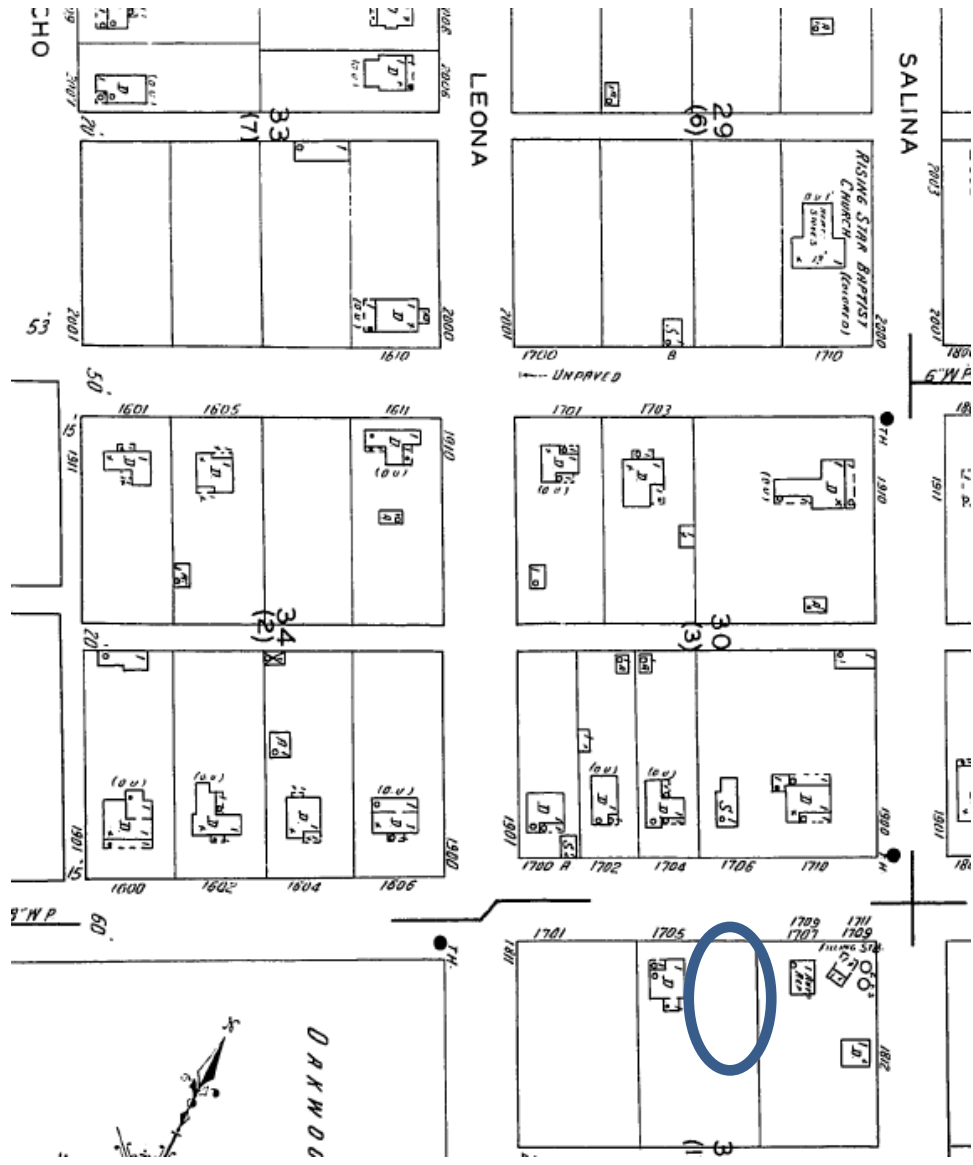
Foreman's Signature *Douglas*

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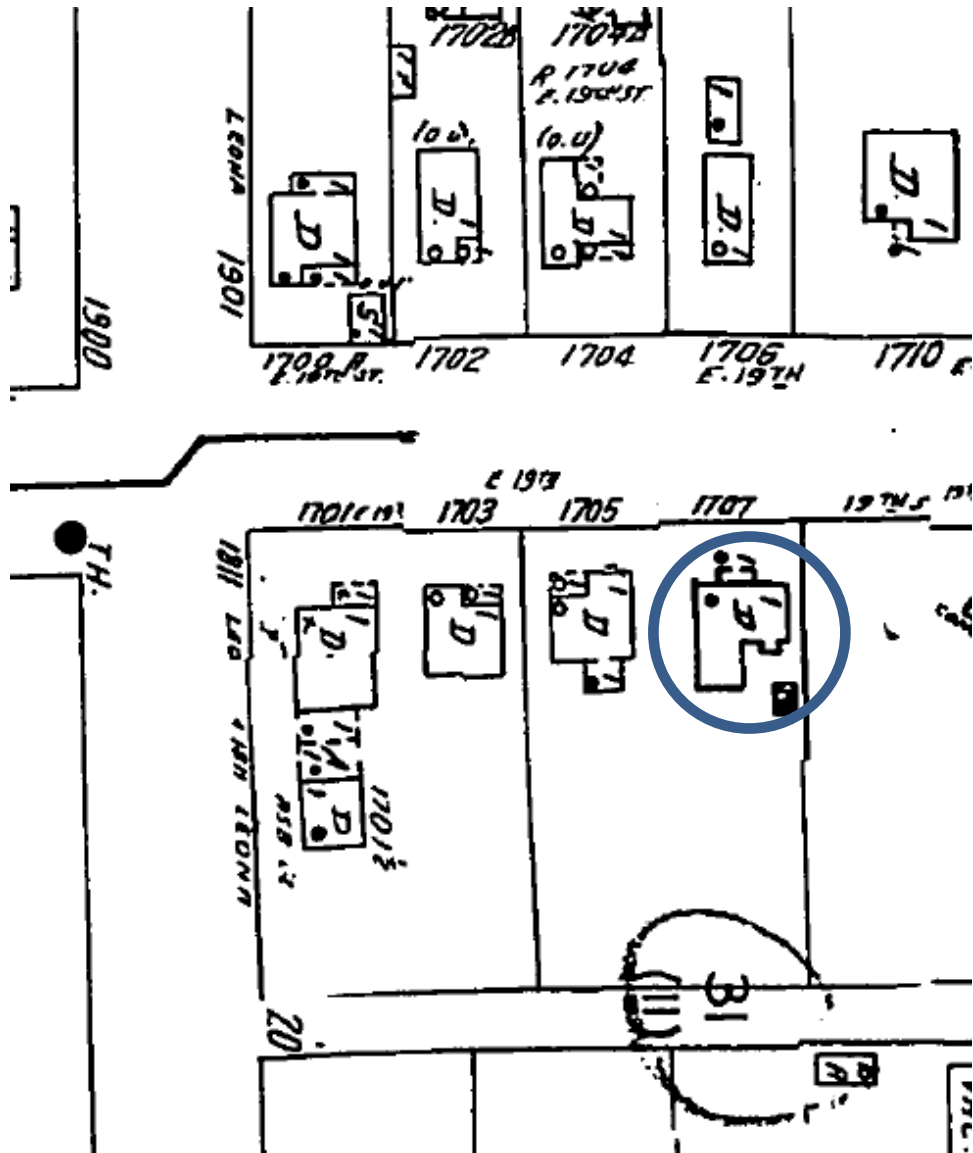
Water service permit for this address (1935)
 Note that Ronald Brydson, who lived in this house in the late 1920s, was the plumber.



The 1922 Sanborn map shows no houses on this side of the street, and that the block between Leona and Salina Streets was the 1300 block of E. 19th Street.



The site of this house appears vacant in the 1935 Sanborn map.



The house appears on the 1962 Sanborn map.