## HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION JUNE 25, 2018 DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS HDP-2018-0219 1908 E. 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET

### PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1931 house.

#### ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width, frontgabled independent porch on plain, square wood posts; original board-and-batten siding still evident on the front porch, otherwise sheathed with synthetic siding; single 4:4 fenestration.

#### RESEARCH

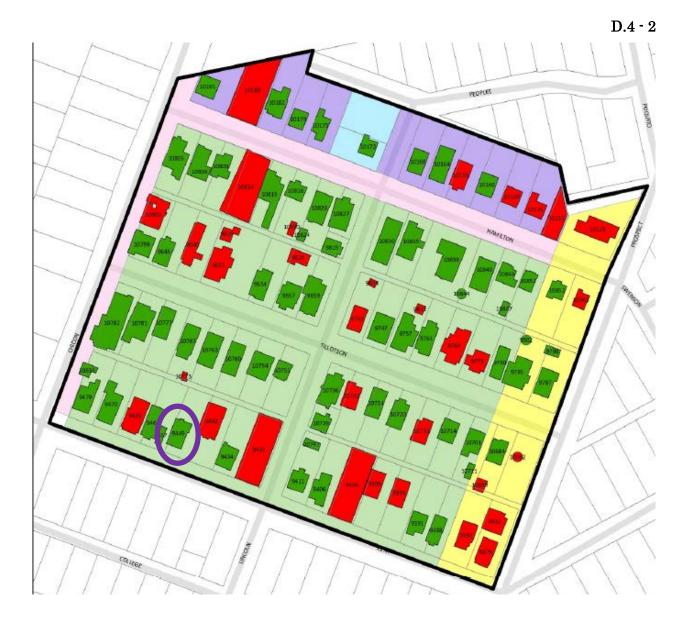
The house appears to have been built around 1931 by Everett F. Rhambo, who lived across the street at 1907 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, as a rental property. Everett F. Rhambo and his wife, Pearl, never lived in this house. Their first tenants were Leon and Viola Wells, who lived here until around 1933. Little is known of Leon Wells but Viola Wells was a patient at the State Lunatic Asylum, according to the 1920 and 1930 U.S. census reports. The next renters were George and Annie Kincheon, who lived here until around 1938. George Kincheon was a porter for the John Bremond Company, a wholesale grocer and coffee roaster.

From around 1938 until around 1942, the house was rented by Daisy Duke, a laundress and domestic. She may have been related to George and Annie Kincheon, as they shared a house on E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street before each of them moved in to this house. From this house, Daisy Duke and her daughter, Eula, also a maid, moved into Rosewood Courts.

The last renters in the house were Marvin and Hattie Petty, who lived here in the mid-1940s. Marvin Petty was a porter. After World War II, Everett Rhambo, Jr., the son of the man who built the house, and his wife, Dora, are listed as the owners and occupants of the house until around 1970. Everett F. Rhambo, Jr. was a driver for E.M. Scarbrough and Sons, the city's premier department store, for many years. Before that, he was listed as a laborer and then as a singer for an entertainment bureau. Everett Rhambo, Jr. served as an election judge in the 1950s and 1960s, specifically for Precinct 125 at Doris Miller Auditorium on Rosewood Avenue. Dora Rhambo was from Luling, Texas, but came to Austin with her parents while still in school. She graduated from Anderson High School and then Samuel Huston College, and later earned her master's degree from Texas Southern University. She taught school, starting in Temple, Texas, and then according to her obituary, at Crestview, which was not an Austin school, but could refer to a school in Waco. In Austin, she worked with the Ebenezer Child Development Center and with Child, Incorporated. She worked with many civic and charitable associations throughout the city and volunteered at Kealing Junior High School.

#### STAFF COMMENTS

The house was identified as potentially contributing to a historic district in the East Austin Historical Survey (2016), but not as an individual historic landmark.



Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for individual landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. Architecture. The house is a frame early 1930s bungalow that appears to have used recycled materials from an older house in the 4:4 windows, and a board-and-batten exterior, not common for its ca. 1931 construction date. Aside from these anomalies in the construction materials of the house, the house is a typical early 1930s bungalow with little architectural distinction.
- b. **Historical association**. The house was built by Everett F. Rhambo, Sr. as a rental property; not until around 1946 did his son, Everett Rhambo, Jr., take over ownership and occupancy of the house. The house was the home to several seemingly related African-American families during its period of tenancy, all of whom represent typical occupations for the African-American working class in Austin, such as a porter, maid, and laundress. Everett Rhambo, Jr. was a driver for a department store, but also served as a precinct judge in the 1950s and 1960s. His wife, Dora Rhambo, was a school teacher and active in many civic affairs for the African-American community. The house may qualify under this criterion, but lacks the necessary second criterion for landmark designation.

- c. **Archaeology**. The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value**. The house does not 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

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. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.







Detail of 4:4 front window and board-and-batten siding on the front porch.

# OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1908 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center By City Historic Preservation Office June, 2018

1992 Charles Tribue, renter Employed by the University of Texas 1985-86 Charlesetta Blair, renter Employed by the University of Texas 1981 Charlesetta Blair, renter No occupation listed 1977 Charlesetta Blair, renter No occupation listed 1973 Marie E. Thompson, renter Employed by the State Highway Department NOTE: Charlesetta Blair is listed at 2004 Cornell Street; she had no occupation shown. 1968 Everett F., Jr. and Dora A. Rhambo, owners Driver, City of Austin

1965	Everett F., Jr. and Dora A. Rhambo, owners Driver, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
1961	Everett F., Jr. and Dora A. Rhambo, owners Driver, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
1959	Everett F., Jr. and Dora A. Rhambo, owners Driver, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
1957	Everett F., Jr. and Dora A. Rhambo, owners Driver, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
1955	Everett F, Jr. and Dora A. Rhambo, owners Driver, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
1953	Everett F., Jr. and Dora Rhambo, owners Driver, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
1952	Everett F., Jr. and Dora Rhambo, owners Singer, Gladys Mercer Enterprises, entertainment bureau, 1164 Angelina Street (also the home of the G.E. Mercer Funeral Service).
1949	Everett F., Jr. and Dora Rhambo, owners Laborer
1947	Everett F., Jr. and Dora Rhambo, owners Laborer NOTE: Everett F., Sr. and Pearl Rhambo lived across the street at 1907 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1944-45	Marvin and Hattie Petty, renters Porter NOTE: Daisy Duke is listed at 1135-B Chicon Street, Court 5, Apartment 7. She had no occupation shown. With her lived Eula Duke, also with no occupation shown. NOTE: Everett F. Rhambo, Jr. is not listed in the directory.
1941	Daisy Duke, renter No occupation listed
1939	Daisy Duke, renter Laundress NOTE: George and Annie M. Kincheon are listed at 2005 E. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street. He was an assistant cook for the Texas School for the Deaf. She was a maid at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, 7 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
1937	George and Annie Kincheon, renters

Porter, John Bremond Company, wholesale grocers and roasters of high grade coffee, 301-03 San Jacinto Street. NOTE: The alphabetical section of the directory shows George and Annie Kincheon as the renters of 2005 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. NOTE: Daisy Duke is listed at 2005 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. She was a domestic for Paul and Mildred Schliesser, at 4200 Rosedale Avenue; Paul Schliesser was the sales manager for the Austin Baking Company. With her lived her daughter, Eula, a maid for Henry E. Wattinger, contractor, at 901 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

- 1935 George and Annie M. Kincheon, renters No occupation listed
- 1932-33 Leon and Viola Wells, renters
  No occupation listed
  NOTE: George and Annie Kincheon are listed at 1604 E. 9½ Street. He was a porter for the John Bremond Company, wholesale grocers and coffee roasters, 301-03 San Jacinto Street.
- 1930-31 The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Leon and Viola Wells are not listed in the directory.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### Leon and Viola Wells (ca. 1931 - ca. 1933)

Viola Wells appears in both the 1920 and the 1930 U.S. Census as a patient at Austin State Hospital (in 1920, the State Lunatic Asylum). She was married, and had been born in Texas. In the 1930 U.S. Census, she is shown as 48 years old.

#### George and Annie Kincheon (ca. 1933 – ca. 1938)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows George and Anna May Kincheon as the owners of the house at 2005 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. George Kincheon was 45, had been born in Texas, and did manual labor for the city sewage department. Anna May Kincheon was 43, had been born in Texas, and was a hotel maid. They had 3 children: Goldie May, 19; Artelli, 9 ;and Arleen, 7. All three girls had been born in Texas, and none had an occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows George and Annie Kincheon as the renters of the house at 1604 E. 9½ Street in Austin. George Kincheon was 33, had been born in Texas, and was a truck driver for a wholesale company. Annie Kincheon was 33, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. With them lived George's brother, T.W. Kincheon, 23, a Texas-born laborer in a garage; Annie Kincheon's brother, Lee Ray Sorrels, 25, born in Texas, and also a laborer in a garage, a step-brother, Eugean Williams, 22, who had been born in Texas, and was a dishwasher in a cafe. George and Annie also had a daughter, Goldie M. Kincheon, 9, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

Annie Mae Kincheon was born in Manchaca, Texas in 1898 and died in Austin in 1941. George Kincheon died in 1959; his last address was 2005 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. He was born in 1899 to Thomas W. Kincheon and Mary B. Medearis in Texas, and was a porter at the U.S. Court House. He served in World War I. Both George and Annie Mae Kincheon are buried in the Williamson Creek Cemetery.

# GEORGE E. KINCHEON

Funeral services for George Everett Kincheon, an employe for 17 years at the Federal Building here, will be held at 4 p.m.-Wednesday at the Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Rev. J. H. Washington will officiate. Burial will be in Williamson Creek Cemetery under the direction of the Fuller-Mercer-Sheffield Funeral Home.

Kincheon is survived by his father, Thomas W. Kincheon of Austin: three daughters, Mrs. Arlene Neville of Colorado City and Mrs. Goldie Houston and Mrs. Artelia Burditt, both of Austin; five sisters, Mrs. Minnie Overton, Mrs. Bertha Shelton, Mrs. Blumie Crenshaw, Miss Pearl Kincheon and Mrs. Brucie M. Eagles, all of Austin: three brothers, James A. Kincheon, Nicholas G. Kincheon and T. W. Kincheon II, all of Austin: and eight grandchildren.

> Obituary of George Kincheon Austin <u>American</u>, March 17, 1959

## Daisy Duke (ca. 1938 – ca. 1943)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Lee A. and Daisy Duke as the renters of the house at 2004 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. Daisy Duke was 40, had been born in Texas, and was a servant for a private family. Her husband, Lee A. Duke, 50, had been born in Texas, and was a real estate dealer. With them lived Daisy's daughter from a previous marriage, Eula Taylor, a 21-year old Texasborn widow who was a servant for a private family. Eula had a 4-year old son, Robert Lee Taylor, who had been born in Texas.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Daisy Dukes [sic] as the renter of this house. She was a 58-year old Texas-born widow who worked as a laundress at home. With her lived her son, Roy Harris, 28, who had been born in Texas, and was a handy man in a private home, and who had lived in Fort Worth in 1935; and her daughter, Eula Duke, 29, who had been born in Texas, and was a maid in a private home. Eula Duke had a son, Robert Lee Duke, 13, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

DUKE, Daisy, 87, 3101 Govalle, died Sunday. Services 2 p.m. Tuesday at Simpson United Methodist Church. (Fuller-Sheffield)

Obituary of Daisy Duke Austin <u>American-Statesman</u>, December 8, 1975

### Everett F., Jr. and Dora Rhambo (ca. 1946 - ca. 19)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Everett Rhambo, Jr. as the 28-year old son of Everett and Pearl Rhambo, who owned their home at 1907 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin; that house was worth \$2,000. Everett Rhambo, Jr. was born in Texas, and was a house man in a private home. His father, 56, was a yardman for a retail lumber company. His mother, 54, had no occupation listed.

# RHABO, Everett F., of Austin, died Thursday. Services 3:30 p.m. Monday at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Burial, Evergreen Cemetery. (King-Tears)

Death notice for Everett F. Rhambo, Jr. Austin <u>American-Statesman</u>, January 30, 1983

# **Dora Alice Rhambo**

Dora Alice Rhambo was the fourth child born to the late John and Leora Henry in Luling, Texas on October 20, 1909.

Dora's early education began in Luling. However, the family later moved to Austin where she was able to continue her education graduating from Anderson High School and Samuel Huston College. She later received a master's degree from Texas Southern University.

Mrs. Rhambo began her teaching career at Dunbar in Temple and later continued at Crestview until her retirment. Apparently missing her contact with children, she resumed her line of work at first with the Ebenezer Child Development Center and subsequently with Child Incorporated of Austin. Even after her "second retirement" she found time and energy to do volunter work at Kealing Junior High School.

Mrs. Rhambo had numerous fraternal and civic affiliations. Among them were: Alpha Kappa Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Capital City Lioness Club, Capital City Assembly Order of Golden Circle No. 247, Cheop Court No. 182, Prince Hall Affiliate, Duaghters of Isis, East Austin Garden Club, NAACP, Sunshine Benevolent Club, National Council of Negro Women, W.H. Passon Historical Society, Inc. Mrs. Rhambo acknowleged Christ early in her life and some time after moving to Austin, she became a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church. She remained a member of Ebenezer until her demise.

She was married to the late Everett Freeman Rhambo July 9, 1942. He preceded her in death.

Mrs. Rhambo departed this life on Saturday, September 23, 1989.

She leaves to mourn her passing: a nephew, Douglas Henry, San Angelo, Texas; cousins, Robert Stiles, Austin, Texas, James, T.J. and Gertrude Stile of Los Angeles, California; and Mrs. Margaret Mooney, Austin, Texas.

Arrangements under direction of King Tears Mortuary.

Obituary of Dora A. Rhambo Austin <u>American-Statesman</u>, September 27, 1989

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Water service permit to Eve	erett F. Rhambo for this house (1931)

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# SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT No. 13078 B

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Building permit to Everett F. Rhambo for an addition to the house (1946)

E. F. Rhambo 1908 East lith Street 35 5 C 9 B College Heights Frame addition to garage 30669 6-24-46 \$150.00 Owner None

Building permit to Everett F. Rhambo for a frame addition to the garage (1946)

City records indicate a permit to repair decking on the rear porch in 1994.