

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2025-0095

HLC DATE: October 1, 2025

PC DATE: October 28, 2025

CC Date:

APPLICANT: Historic Landmark Commission (commission-initiated)

HISTORIC NAME: Calhoun House

WATERSHED: Boggy Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 2401 Givens Ave.

ZONING CHANGE: SF-3-HD-NP to SF-3-H-HD-NP

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 1

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from family residence-historic district-neighborhood plan (SF-3-HD-NP) to family residence-historic landmark-historic district-neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-HD-NP) combining district zoning.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION: architecture, community value, and historical associations.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: October 1, 2025: Grant the proposed zoning change from family residence-historic district-neighborhood plan (SF-3-HD-NP) to family residence-historic landmark-historic district-neighborhood plan combining district (SF-3-H-HD-NP) zoning (8-0).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: October 28, 2025: Grant the proposed zoning change from family residence-historic district-neighborhood plan (SF-3-HD-NP) to family residence-historic landmark-historic district-neighborhood plan combining district (SF-3-H-HD-NP) zoning (11-0).

CITY COUNCIL ACTION:

CASE MANAGER: Austin Lukes, 512-978-0766

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS: Austin Independent School District, Austin Neighborhoods Council, Del Valle Community Coalition, East Austin Conservancy, Friends of Austin Neighborhoods, Homeless Neighborhood Association, Overton Family Committee, Preservation Austin, Rogers Washington Holy Cross, Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Team

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The 2016 East Austin Historic Resource Survey recommended the property as contributing to a potential local historic district. The property was subsequently listed as a contributing resource in the 2020 ordinance designating the Rogers Washington Holy Cross local historic district.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

§ 25-2-352(3)(c)(i) Architecture. *The property embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a recognized architectural style, type, or method of construction; exemplifies technological innovation in design or construction; displays high artistic value in representing ethnic or folk art, architecture, or construction; represents a rare example of an architectural style in the city; serves as an outstanding example of the work of an architect, builder, or artisan who significantly contributed to the development of the city, state, or nation; possesses cultural, historical, or architectural value as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian or vernacular structure; or represents an architectural curiosity or one-of-a-kind building.*

Designed and constructed by local builder Hal Starkey, the Calhoun House exemplifies the California ranch style and is one of the few remaining examples left in East Austin. It features several of the architectural features associated with the Ranch form and style generally, such as a low, long street facing elevation and an attached garage at one side, facing the street. The California ranch elements are more evident at the rear

and interior of the property, including vaulted ceilings in the main entry room and wood paneling. The layout of the house at the rear surrounds the yard on two sides, which were originally planned to face a backyard pool.

The interior layout is laid out by public and private sections of the home. Since it is all one story, the layout winds around to create a sprawling footprint yet is still in scale for a single family, with additional space for hosting events or guests. The house still features original wood paneling and materials from construction.

§ 25-2-352(3)(c)(ii) Historical Associations. *The property has long-standing significant associations with persons, groups, institutions, businesses, or events of historical importance that contributed significantly to the history of the city, state, or nation or represents a significant portrayal of the cultural practices or the way of life of a definable group of people in a historic time.*

The Calhoun House is associated with the T.C. and Thelma Calhoun, who had a long legacy of involvement with the largely African American East Austin civic community generally, and the education community in and around what would later be designated as Rogers Washington Holy Cross specifically. T.C. Calhoun served for several years as the president of the Teachers State Association of Texas (TSTA), an organization of several thousand black teachers across the country. The historic zoning application further describes his achievements:

T.C. held numerous leadership positions in the community. In 1948 he was elected president of the Austin Negro Chamber of Commerce.²⁸ In 1963, he served as president of the Teachers State Association of Texas (TSTA), an organization of 9,000 African American teachers, and the District Teachers Association. TSTA was founded during Reconstruction and achieved crucial civil rights wins for Black students and teachers in Texas. T.C. was instrumental in creating the Austin-Travis County Teachers Credit Union, which is thought to have helped finance loans for several homes in Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross. He was a charter member on the board that worked to build the first Senior Activity Center on Shoal Creek Boulevard and 29th Street. T.C. was also a board member of the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons and a major contributor to the Children's Haven Association, a nonprofit founded in 1946 to serve underprivileged children in East Austin. He served in leadership roles with the American Red Cross, United Fund of Austin, the Austin-Travis County Tuberculosis Association, and the Texas Credit Union League. He was listed in Who's Who in American Education and Who's Who in Colored America.

Thelma Calhoun came from a family of educators and shared their passion for strengthening the educational foundation of the community. After earning a bachelor's degree from Prairie View College and a master's degree in education from the University of Michigan, she worked for Travis County Schools, then a segregated institution:

...she served as a Jeanes Supervisor for the segregated Travis County Schools. Jeanes Supervisors were a group of African American teachers who worked in southern rural schools and communities in the United States between 1908 and 1968. "Also known as Jeanes Teachers, Supervising Industrial Teachers, or Jeanes Workers, they derived their name from Philadelphia philanthropist Anna T. Jeanes, who provided funding for black education in the South." Thelma later worked as a reading specialist for the Austin Independent School District.

Like T.C., Thelma valued community service and served in leadership roles with the Children's Haven Association and Ebenezer Third Baptist Church, where she was a founder and director of the children's choir. Thelma also belonged to Delta Sigma Theta sorority and was a charter member of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Throughout her life she received awards for her civic and service contributions.

The combined decades of work and service by the Calhouns resulted in a strong legacy and connection with development of education in East Austin and the African American community during the mid-20th century onward.

§ 25-2-352(3)(c)(iv) Community Value. *The property has a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, a neighborhood, or a particular group.*

Due to their work with the community, especially at schools for black students prior to integration, the Calhoun family home provided community value for its use as a gathering space for civic meetings. The historic zoning application describes the following:

The home's community value also stems from its role as the site of community service meetings in the early years of the Calhouns' residence and through the present. Their daughter Patricia continues to enrich the community value of the home through her neighborhood advocacy and work with a local non-profit.

The neighborhood, and the Calhoun House specifically, served as a large geographic area of African American middle class home ownership, which was made more difficult at the time due to the relative lack of financing options for such pursuits. This strong community allowed for many of the families to stay in place and not be forced to relocate when priced out of the area. Furthermore, the prominent location of the house in the Rogers Washington Holy Cross neighborhood allows it to serve as one of the main pillars on a main residential intersection in the community.

PARCEL NO.: 0212101417

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 14 WASHINGTON SUBD

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX EXEMPTION (homestead, capped):

AISSD	COA	TC	TC Health	Total
\$2,557.81	\$2,056.37	\$1,483.05	\$464.87	\$6,562.11

APPRAISED VALUE: \$728,458 (Land: \$380,508, Improvement: \$347,950)

PRESENT USE: Residence

DATE BUILT/PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1959; 1959-1970

INTEGRITY/ALTERATIONS: Strong integrity. East patio was enclosed in the late 1970s, now used as a game room. Minor weathering present, but house has been routinely maintained since construction.

PRESENT OWNERS: Patricia Calhoun

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Theodore C. & Thelma Dotson Calhoun

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: Contributing resource to the Rogers Washington Holy Cross local historic district

A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

PROJECT INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: _____	FILE NUMBER(S) _____
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____	CITY INITIATED: YES / NO
CASE MANAGER _____	ROLLBACK: YES/NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: _____	

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: Patricia C Calhoun

2. PROJECT NAME: Calhoun House

3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): 2401 Givens Ave Austin TX

ZIP 78722 COUNTY: Travis

IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:
 LOCATED _____ FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE N. S. E. W. (CIRCLE ONE) SIDE OF
 _____ (ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS
 APPROXIMATELY _____ DISTANCE FROM ITS
 INTERSECTION WITH _____ CROSS STREET.

AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES .2237 (OR) SQ.FT. 9743

5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:

EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
<u>SF3</u>	<u>Residence</u>	_____	<u>.2237</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>SF-H-3</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

RELATED CURRENT CASES:

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
8. SUBDIVISION? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
9. SITE PLAN? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name: Rogers-Washington-HolyCross (RWHC)
Block(s) _____ Lot(s) 14 Outlot(s) _____
Plat Book: VOL 9 Page 121
Number: _____
10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two copies of certified field notes if subdivision reference is not available or zoning includes partial lots)

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

11. VOLUME: _____ **PAGE:** _____ **TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.** 0212104170000

OTHER PROVISIONS:

12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES/NO
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP, etc) NP-Upper Boggy Creek
13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES/NO
14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES/NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)
TRIPS PER DAY: _____
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S): _____

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. SOLE COMMUNITY PROPERTY PARTNERSHIP CORPORATION TRUST
If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

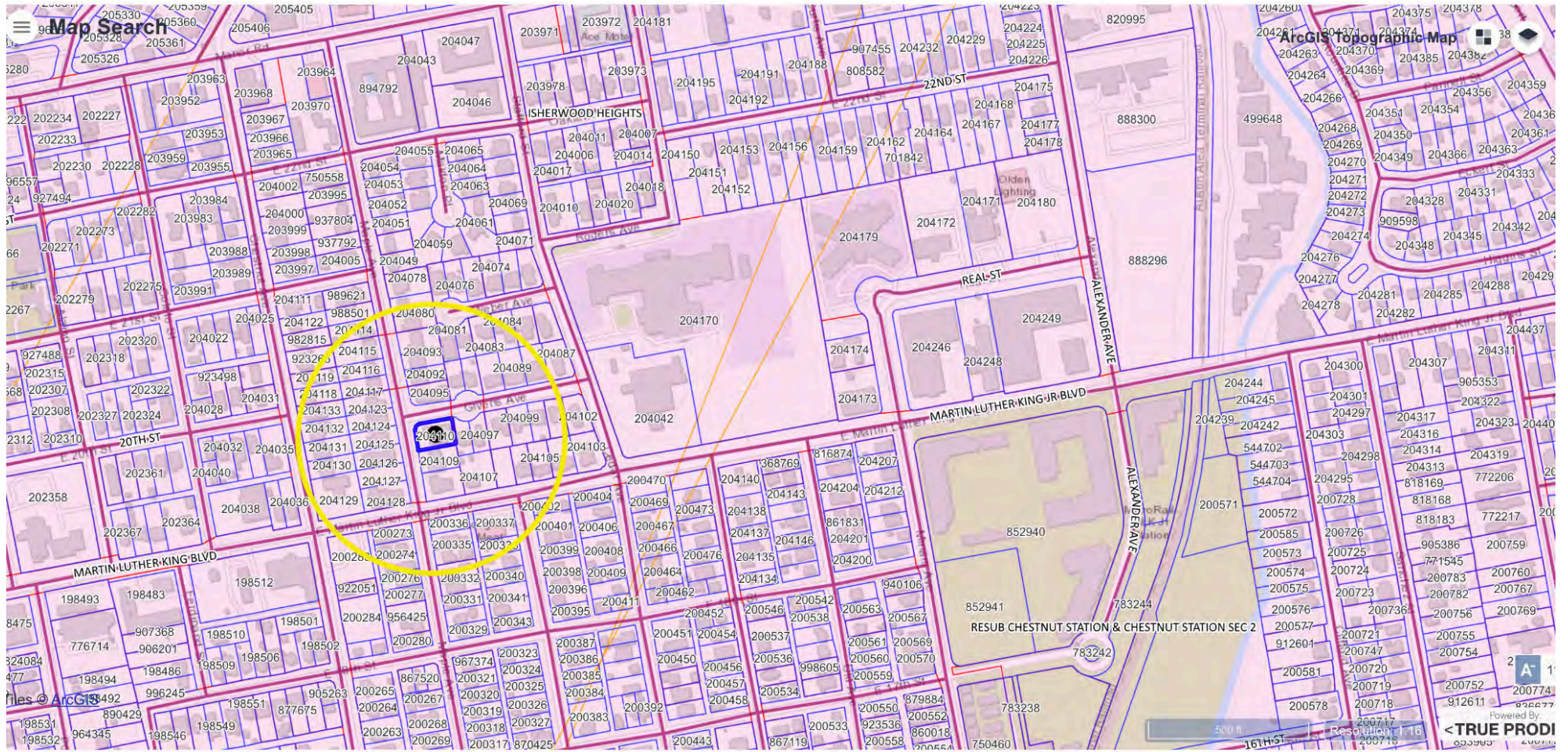
OWNER INFORMATION:

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: Patricia C Calhoun NAME: Patricia C Calhoun
FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
STREET ADDRESS: 2401 Givens Ave
CITY: Austin STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 78722
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: _____ NAME: _____
FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
CONTACT PERSON: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

B. Tax Map



C. Tax Certificate

TAX CERTIFICATE

Celia Israel
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9473

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 02-1210-1417-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

CALHOUN PATRICIA C TRUST
2401 GIVENS AVE
AUSTIN, TX 78722-2104

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

LOT 14 WASHINGTON SUBD

ACRES 0.2237 MIN%

SITUS INFORMATION: 2401 GIVENS AVE AUSTIN 78722

This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interest are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s):

YEAR	ENTITY	TOTAL
2024	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS CENTRAL HEALTH	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*
TOTAL SEQUENCE 0		*ALL PAID*
	TOTAL TAX:	*ALL PAID*
	UNPAID FEES:	* NONE *
	PENALTY/INTEREST:	*ALL PAID*
	SPECIAL INTEREST:	* NONE *
	TOTAL DUE:	*ALL PAID*

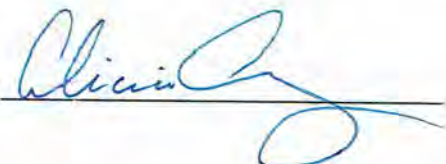
TAX YEAR **2024** IS CURRENTLY IN A DEFERRAL (SEC 33.06 Texas Property Tax Code). TAXES COLLECTED FOR 2024 \$6,117.38
ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR **2024** EXCEPT FOR THE UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.

The above-described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional rollback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code).
Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of \$10.00 for all Tax Certificates.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF **JUNE 23, 2025**.

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Celia Israel
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: 

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, Patricia C Calhoun have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions,
(Print name of applicant)

restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

2401 Givens Ave Austin TX 78722
(Address or Legal Description)

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

Patricia C Calhoun
(Applicant's signature)

07-10-2025
(Date)

F.1 Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology

Deed research for 2401 Givens Avenue

Date	Transaction	Vol./Page or Instrument
1959-12-23	WASHINGTON HAZEL EVAN to CALHOUN T C & THELMA D	Vol. 2143, Page 100
1987-07-15	CALHOUN T C & THELMA D to CALHOUN PATRICIA & THELMA D	Vol. 10372, Page 709
2003-06-13	CALHOUN PATRICIA & THELMA D to CALHOUN THELMA C & PATRICIA	2003153655TR
2012-04-25	CALHOUN THELMA C & PATRICIA to CALHOUN THELMA C LIFE ESTATE	2012072747TR
2015-01-25	CALHOUN THELMA C LIFE ESTATE to CALHOUN PATRICIA	None
2016-02-05	CALHOUN PATRICIA to CALHOUN PATRICIA C TRUST	2016024472
2017-12-15	CALHOUN PATRICIA C TRUST to EDWARDS KAREN CRAWFORD	2017198036
2017-12-18	EDWARDS KAREN CRAWFORD to CALHOUN PATRICIA C	2017199429
2018-04-12	CALHOUN PATRICIA C to CALHOUN PATRICIA C TRUST	2018058878

F.2 Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

Occupancy Research for 2401 Givens Avenue

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1959	Theodore C. and Thelma Dotson Calhoun	Patricia Calhoun
1990	Thelma Dotson Calhoun	Patricia Calhoun
2015	Patricia Calhoun	Patricia Calhoun

F.3 Biographical Data

See Section F.2 for occupancy history and Section F.9 for data on owners and occupants.

F4. Historically Significant Events

See Section F.9 for history of the building and its occupants.

F.5 Color Digital Prints

Image 1

North elevation, facing south

Photo by Meghan King

2025



Image 2

West elevation, facing east

Photo by Meghan King

2025



Image 3

West and south elevations, facing northeast

Photo by Meghan King

2025



Image 4

South elevation, facing north

Photo by Meghan King

2025



Image 5

East elevation, facing west

Photo by Meghan King

2025



Image 6

East and south elevations, facing northwest

Photo by Meghan King

2025



Image 7

Interior view, living room

Photo by Lauren Kerr

2021



Image 8

Interior view, kitchen/dining area

Photo by Lauren Kerr

2021



Image 9

Interior view, kitchen

Photo by Lauren Kerr

2021



Image 10

Interior view, bathroom

Photo by Lauren Kerr

2021

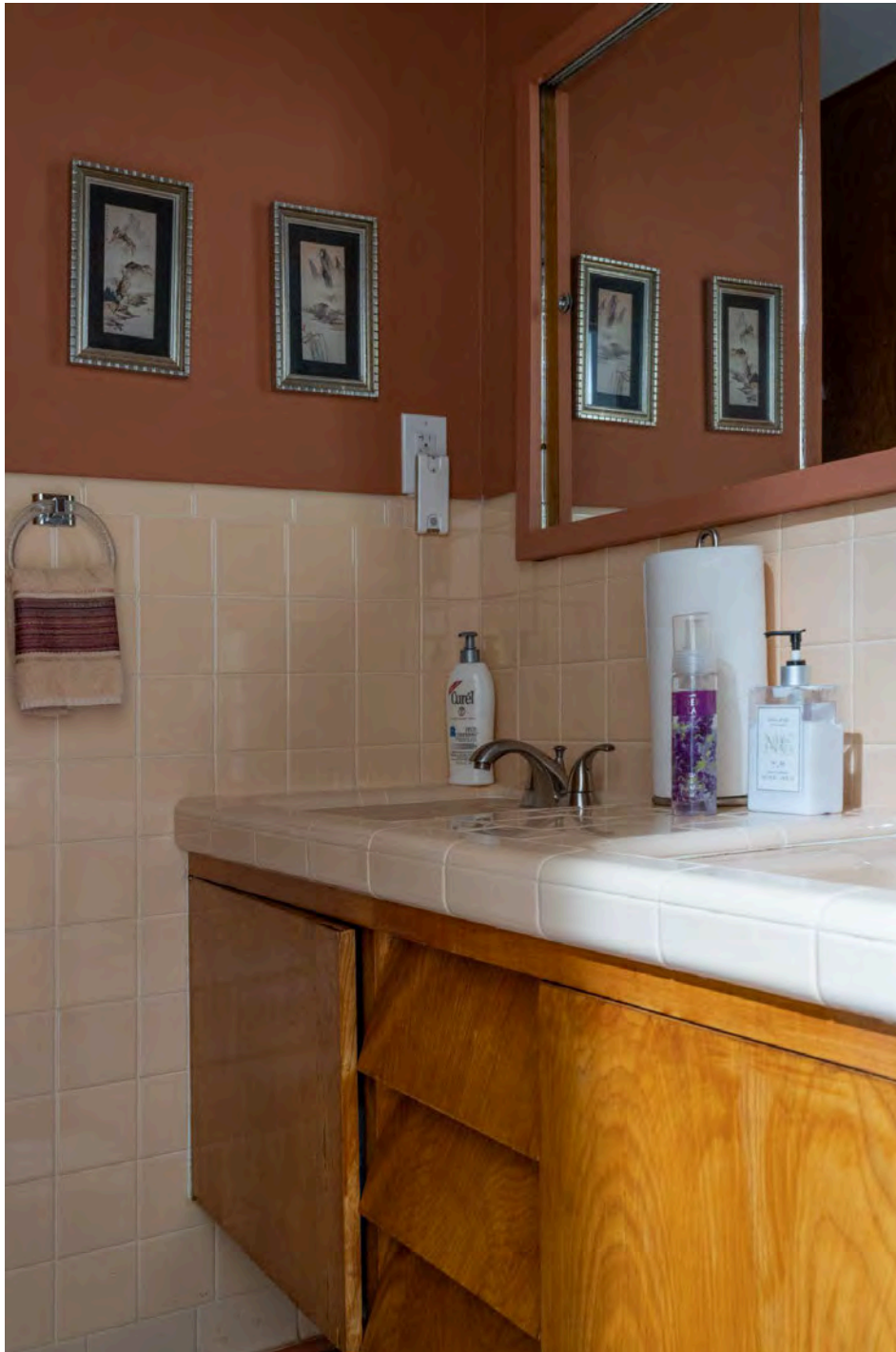


Image 11

Interior view, hallway

Photo by Lauren Kerr

2021



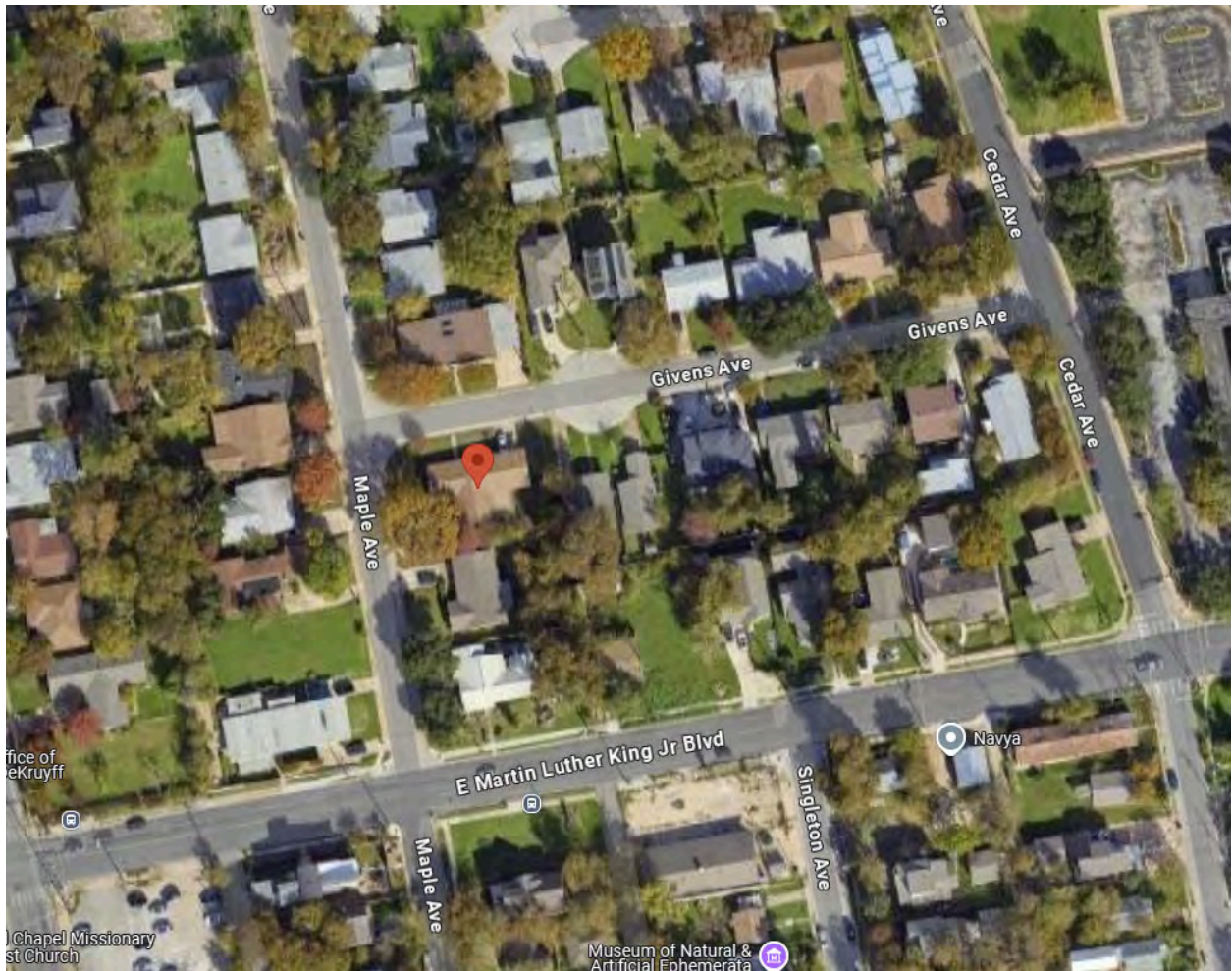
F. 6 Architect/Builder/Contractor/Craftsmen

See F.9 for information on builder of the subject property.

F.7 Historical Photographs/Maps

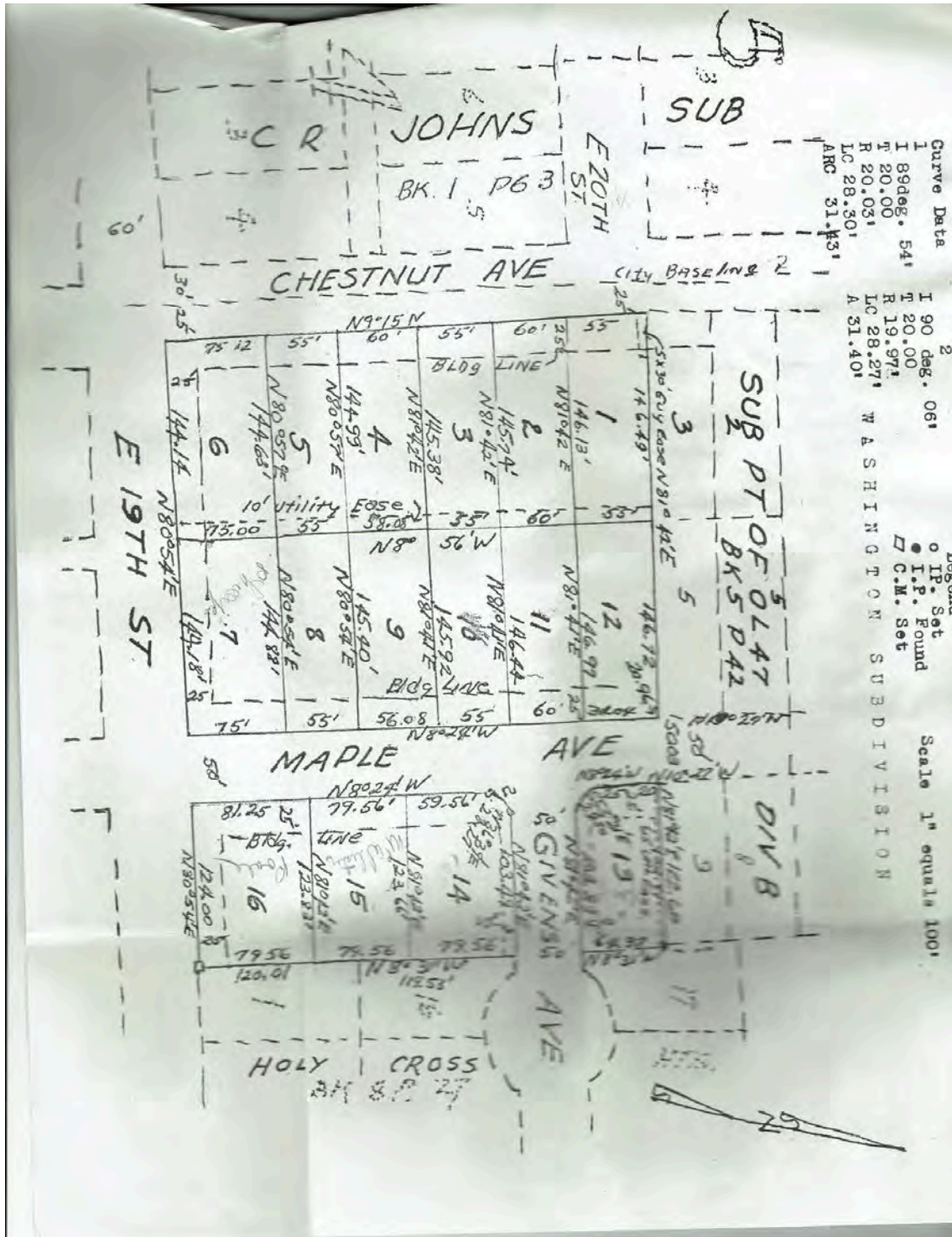
Map 1

2025 aerial view subject property, courtesy of Google Maps



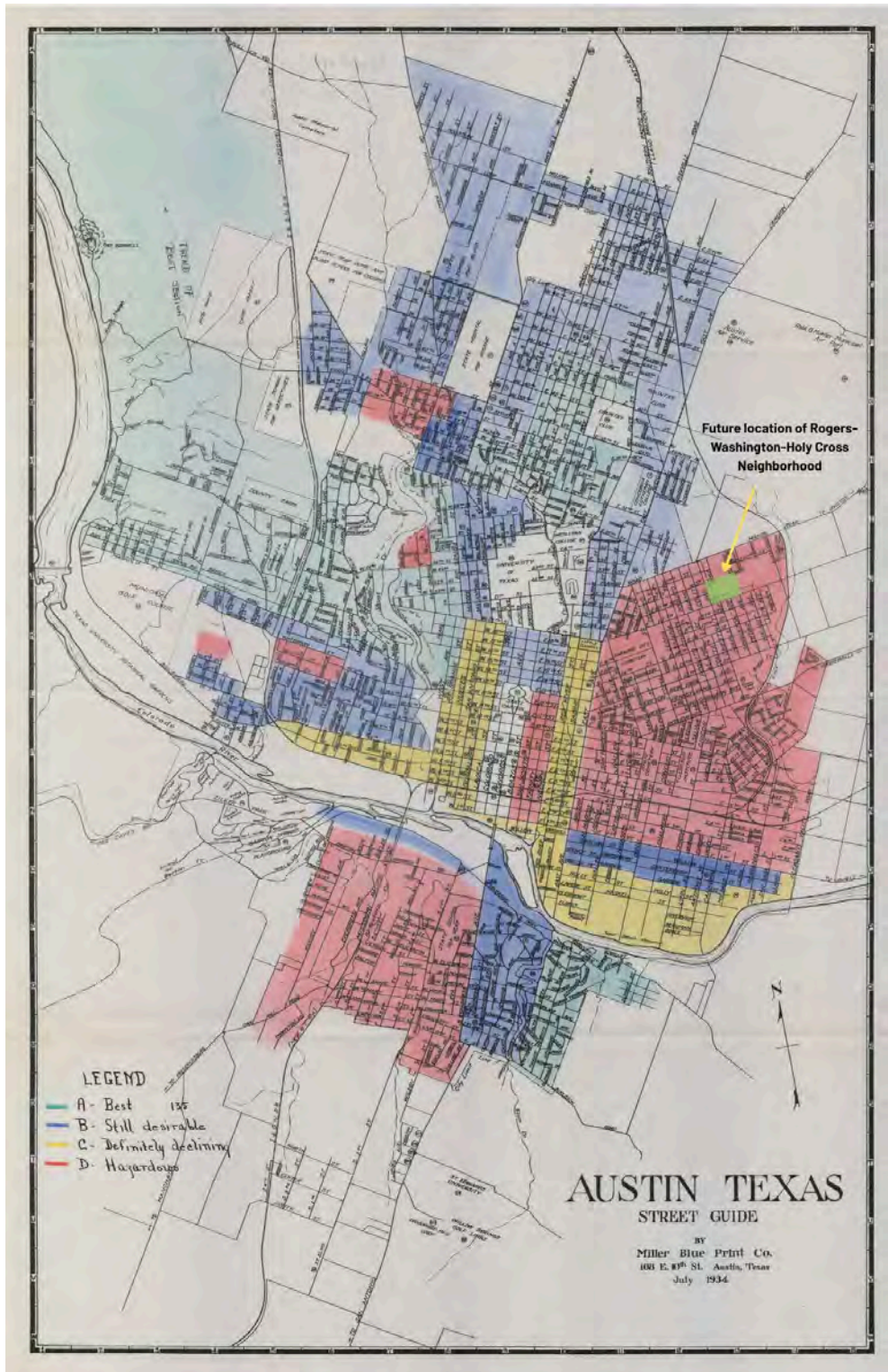
Map 2

Plat of the Washington Subdivision, Calhoun house located at the southeast corner of Givens and Maple
Date unknown



Map 3

1935 redlined map of Austin, edited by author to show the future location of the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross neighborhood



Map 4

1965 aerial of subject property, courtesy of USGS Earth Explorer.



Image 1

North elevation

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. 1960



Image 2

West and south elevations, view northeast

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. 1960



Image 3

South elevation

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. 1960



Image 4

Drawings, exterior elevations

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. 1960

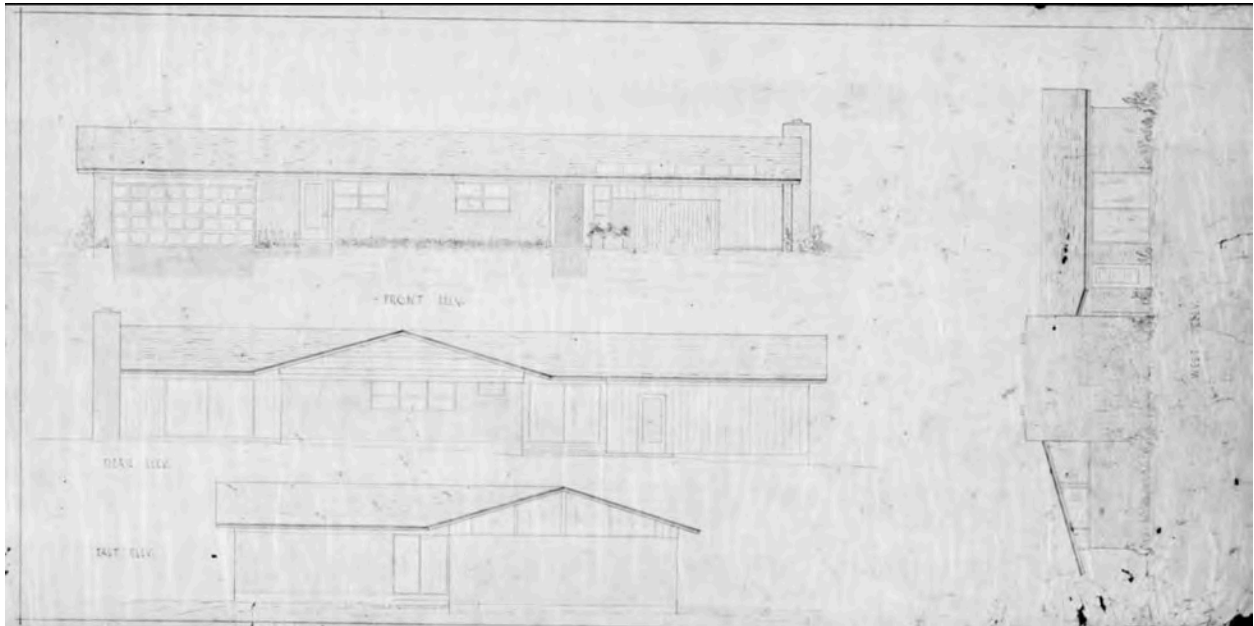


Image 5

Drawings, floor plan
Courtesy of Pat Calhoun
c. 1960

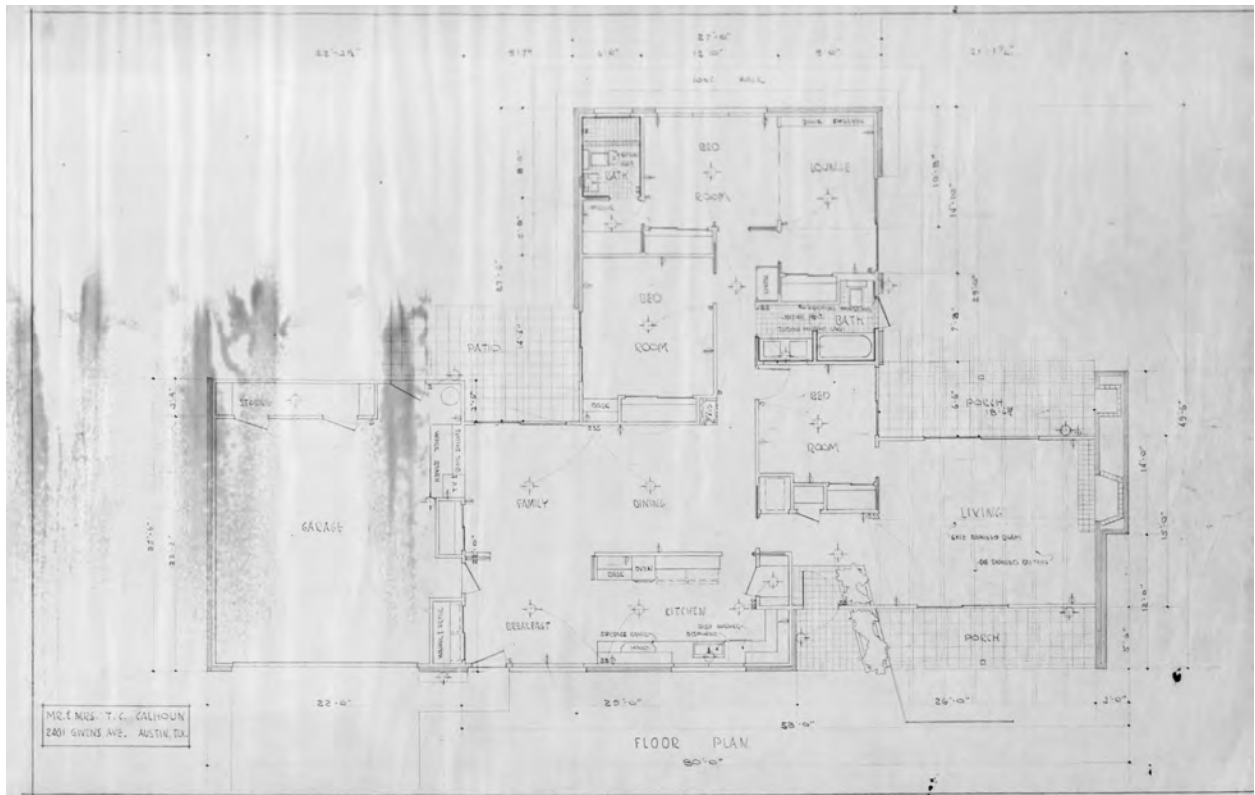


Image 6

Interior photo, living room, view west

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. 1960s



Image 7

Interior photo, living room, view east

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. 1960s

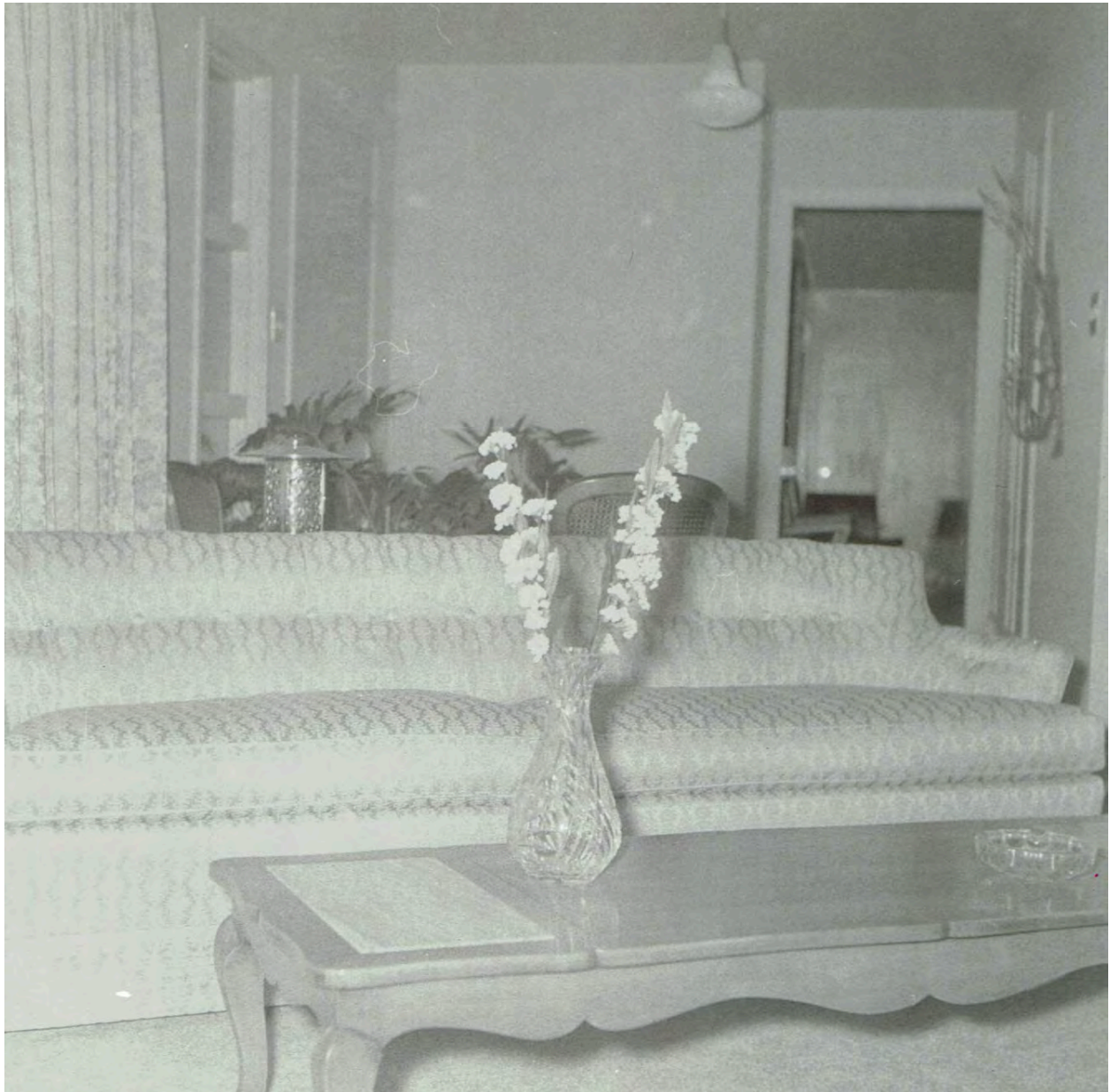


Image 8

Interior photo, dining room/living room

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. 1960s

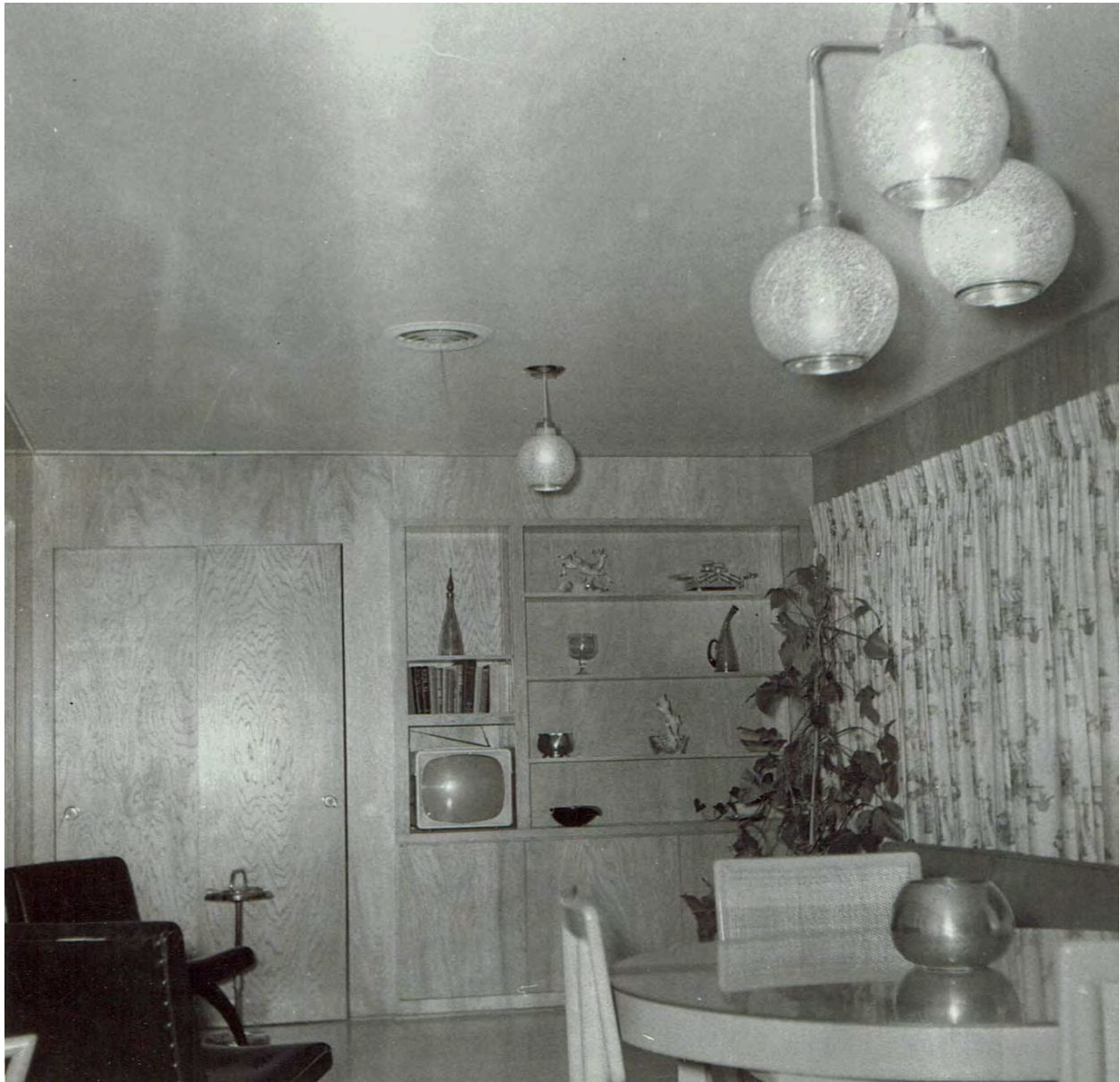


Image 9

Portraits of Thelma Dotson Calhoun and Theodore C. Calhoun in the Calhoun Home
Photographers unknown, dates unknown

Photo by Lauren Kerr, 2021



Image 10

Notice of marriage license issued for Thelma Dotson and T.C. Calhoun
The Austin American, August 27, 1938

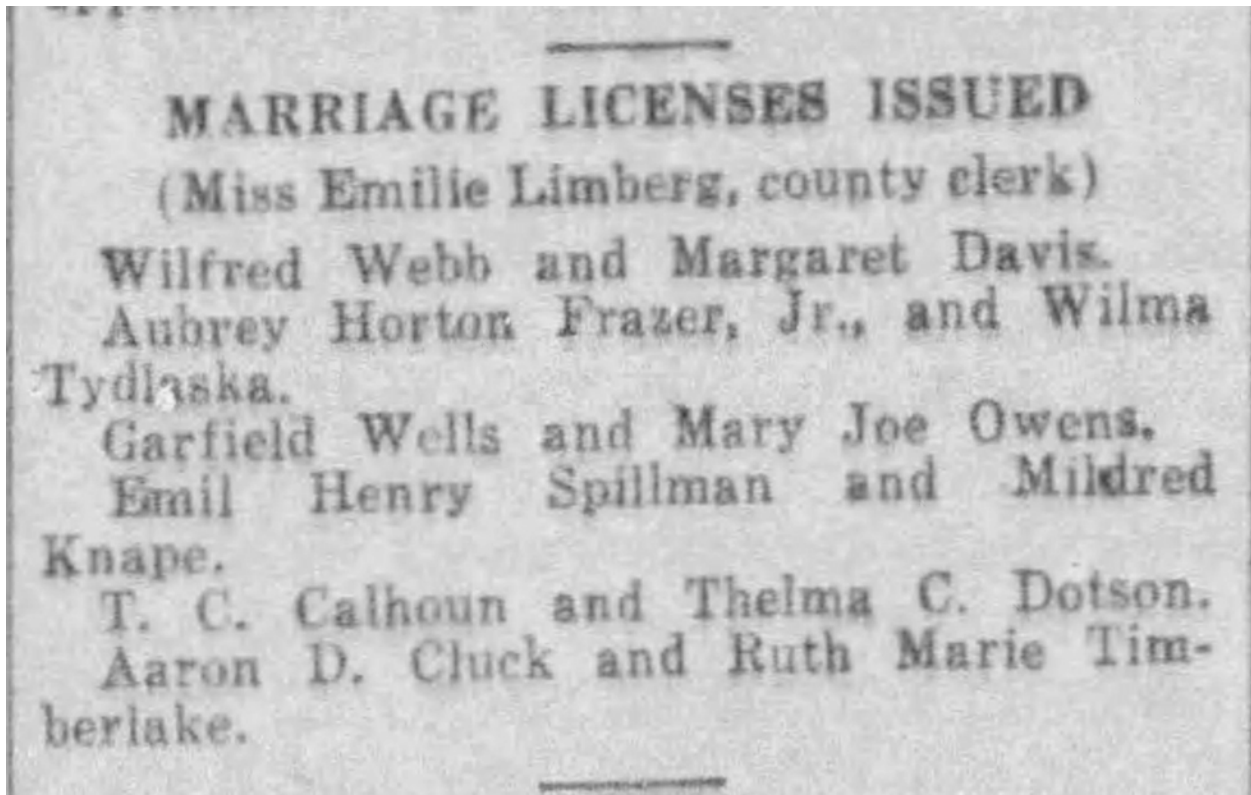


Image 11

Pat Calhoun with father T.C. Calhoun at the Miss Kealing Pageant

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

c. late 1940s



Image 12

Announcement of T.C. Calhoun's election as president of the Austin Negro Chamber of Commerce
The Austin Statesman, December 8, 1948

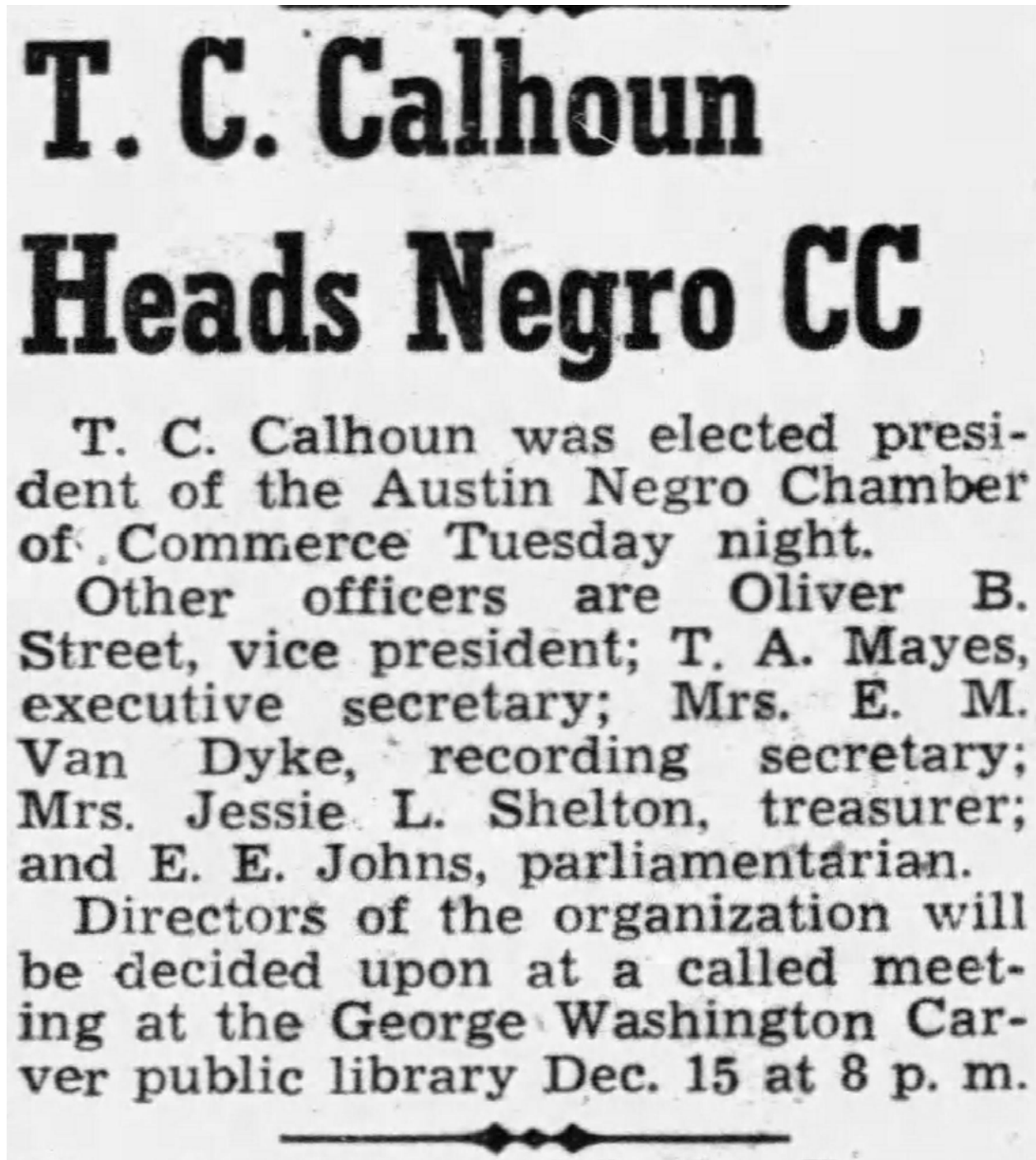


Image 13

Photograph of men signing contract for building the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin, TX; T.C. Calhoun seated in first row, second from right

Photographer unknown, date unknown - likely late 1940s, early 1950s

University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Jacob Fontaine Religious Museum

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph17373/m1/1/?q=t.c.%20calhoun>



Image 14

Officers of the Teachers State Association of Texas (TSAT) with architect John S. Chase, FAIA, at the groundbreaking of the TSAT headquarters at 1911 Navasota Street, Austin, TX
The Texas Standard, Volume 26, Number 5, November-December 1952

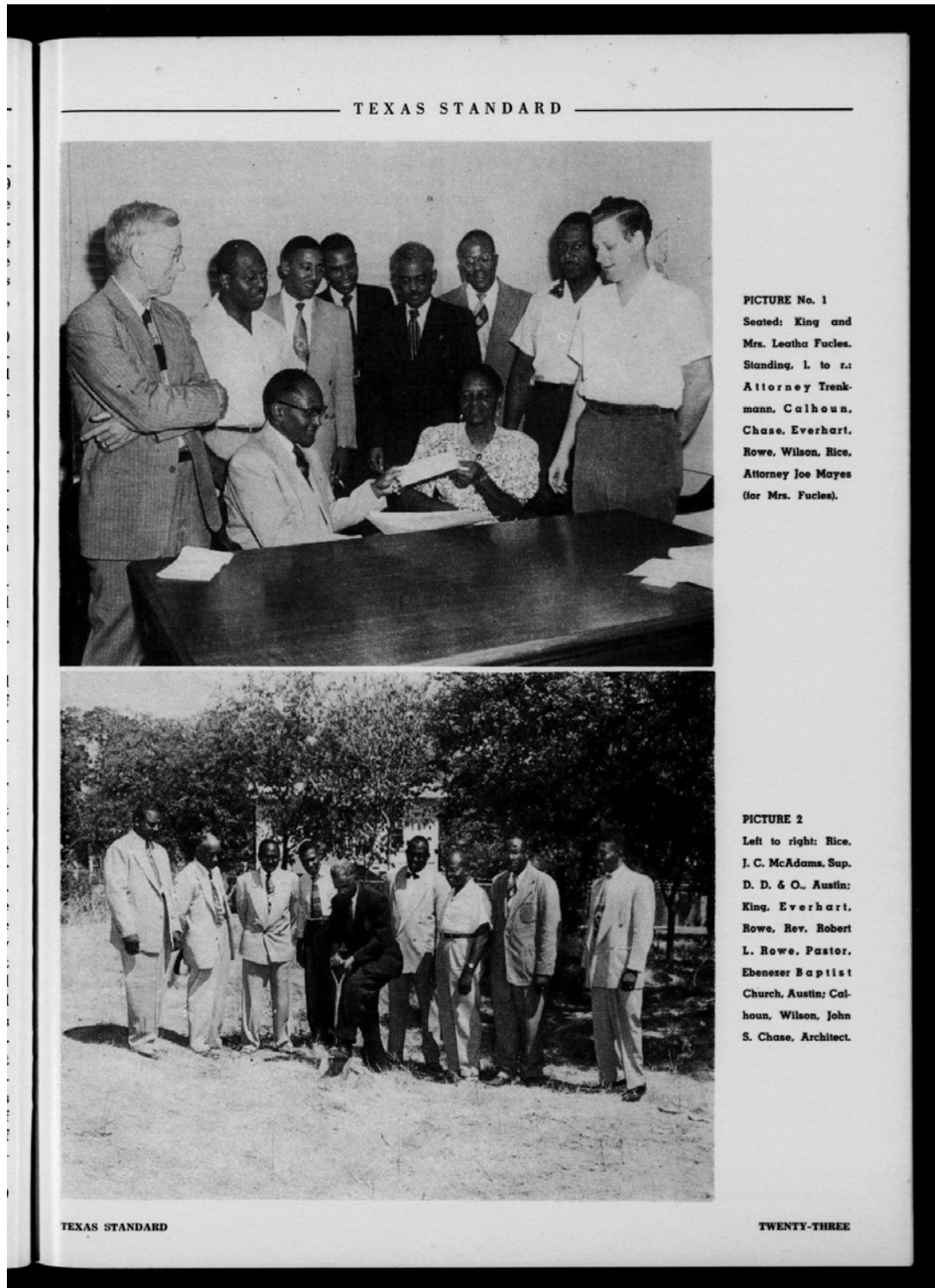


Image 16

T.C. Calhoun named on building dedication of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin, TX

Photographer unknown, August 8, 1955

University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Jacob Fontaine Religious Museum

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth17374/>

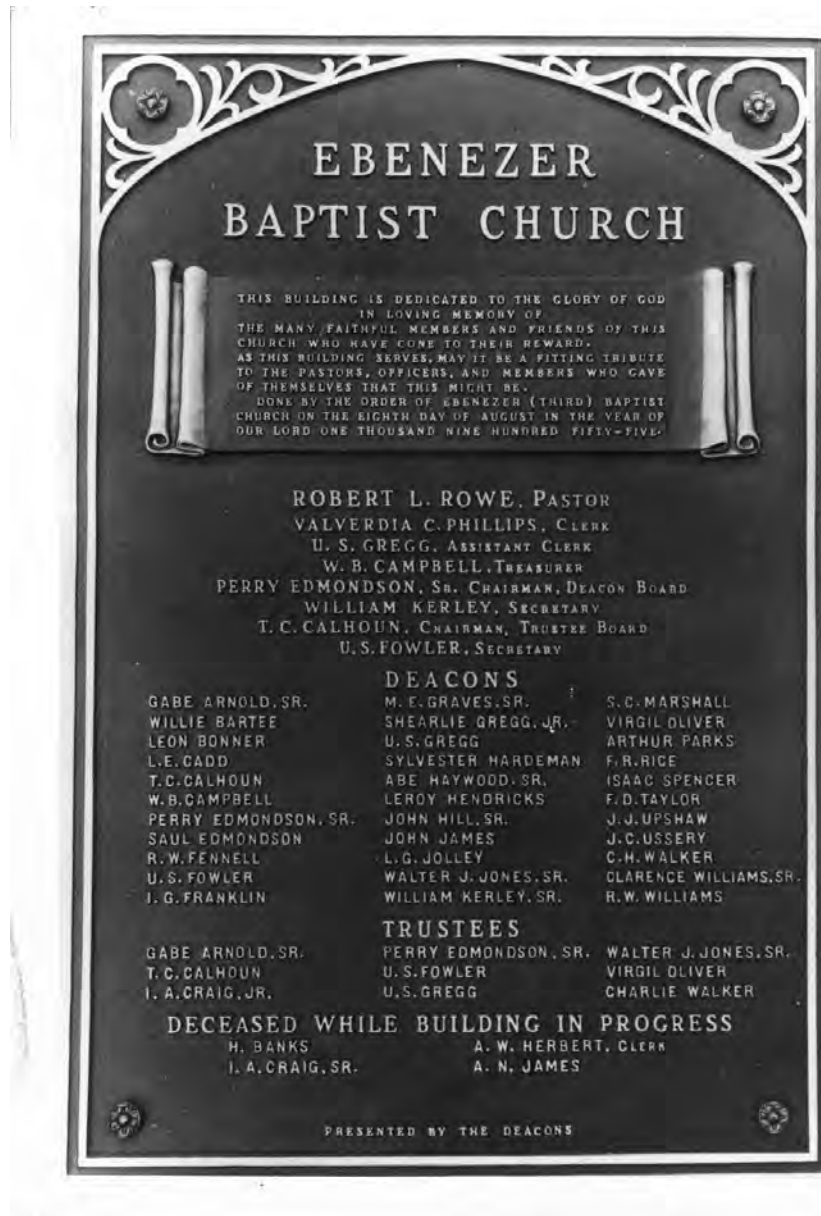


Image 17

Reporting of Thelma Calhoun as supervisor for twenty-five Negro teachers in county schools
The Austin American, July 14, 1955



Image 18

Memo from T.C. Calhoun, Treasurer, to members of the Austin-Travis County Teachers Credit Union
October 1, 1957
Courtesy of Pat Calhoun

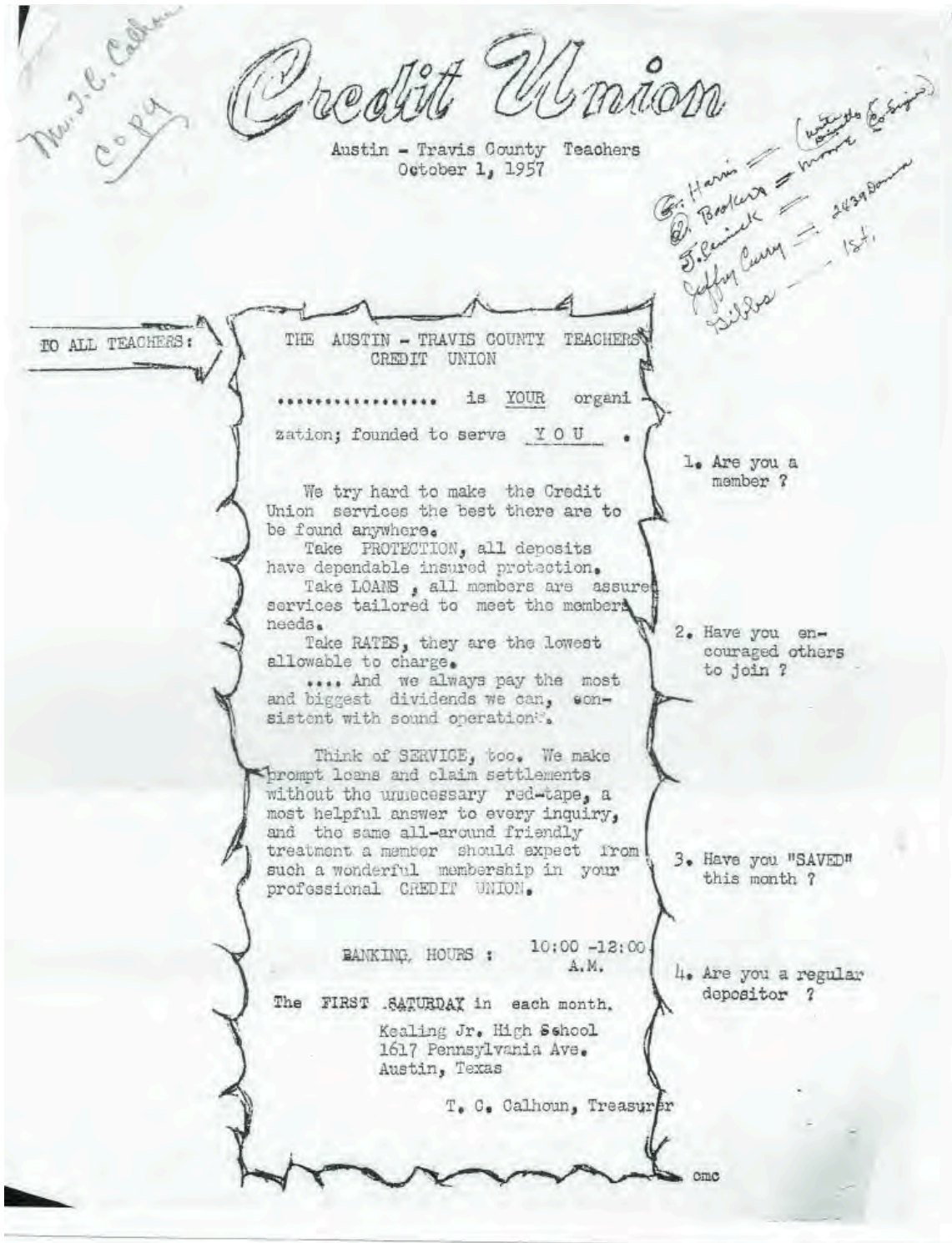


Image 19

T.C. Calhoun with Kealing Junior High students Roselyn Fowler and Vicky Kirk

Photo by Neal Douglass

March 27, 1958

University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting

Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph19513/>



Image 20

Notice of T.C. Calhoun elected as president of the Teachers State Association of Texas (TSAT)
The Austin American, Friday, April 6, 1962

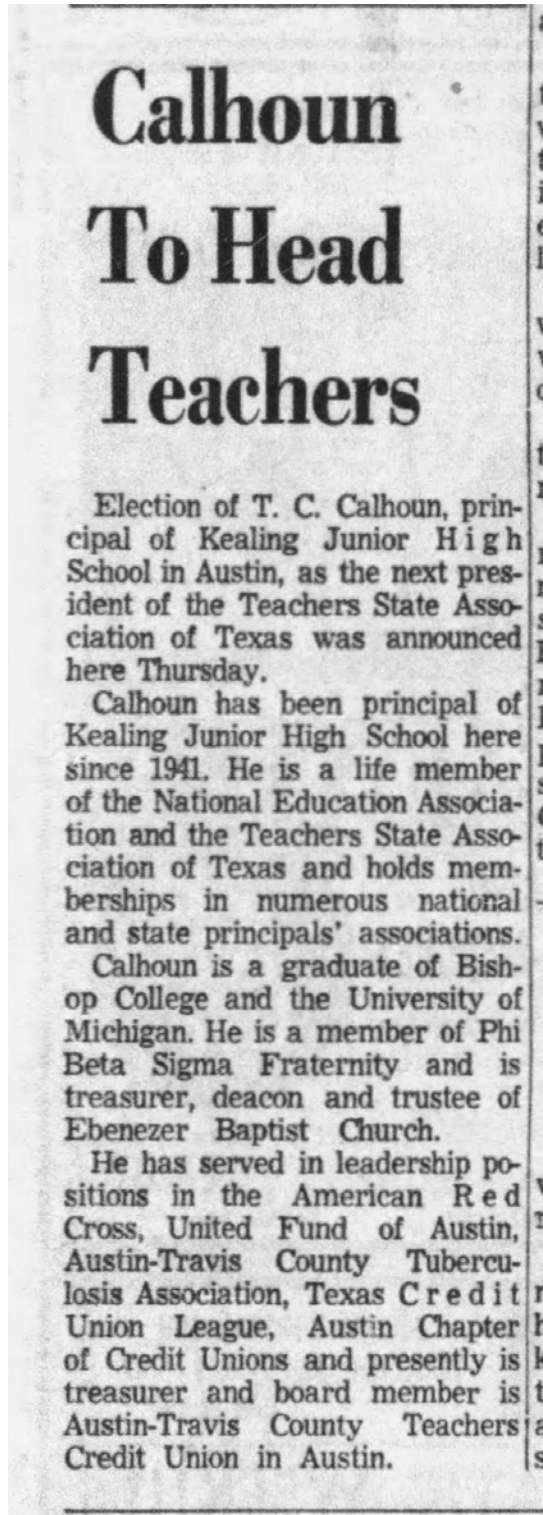


Image 21

Message from T.C. Calhoun during his time as president of TSAT

The Texas Standard, Volume 36, Number 5, November-December 1962

President's Message...

Greetings to all members and friends of the Teachers State Association of Texas. The honor of serving as president of the Association is not considered to be in the position itself; rather, the honor comes from opportunity to serve more than 9000 members of the organization and to make some contributions toward advancement of teaching as our highest and noblest profession.

My greatest desire as president is to serve every member of the Association and, also, every teacher in the profession. The interests of the Association is considered to be the needs of members. Hence, all members are urged to inform the president about their needs—better working conditions, opportunity for professional advancement, security of employment, and all matters related to improvement of teaching as a profession. Ideas will always be welcomed.

Theme for the Year

The theme selected for 1962-63 recognizes the impact of technological advancement upon society; the revolutionary changes in social concepts and values. It seems important that the program of TSAT reflect technological changes because these changes demand specialized education in skills and "know-how." As president of the Association, I am hopeful that we can think together on the changes that are taking place and the nature of influences which changes exert upon members of society.

In keeping with the thought expressed, the theme for the Association in 1962-63 will be:
"Education in This Technological Age"

Recommendations

The need for focus of endeavors accounts for proposals which the president has made in efforts to develop a dynamic and practical program for the Association. Whenever programs are considered, there is always a necessity to think about finances. Hence, the president called a moratorium on all disbursements during the period November 15, 1962, until budget appropriations were reviewed by a special committee and actions taken by the Executive Committee to adjust the budget.

Recommendations presented to the Executive Committee were:

1. That a handbook be prepared for delegates who represent affiliate units in the Delegate Assembly during annual meetings of the Association.
2. That format of the Constitution and Bylaws be studied for rearrangements which will clarify operations of the organization.
3. That staff personnel of the headquarters be augmented and reassigned in order that the executive secretary will be relieved of numerous clerical duties.
4. That an effective placement bureau be organized.
5. That a committee be appointed to look into the possibility of developing statewide credit union services for members.
6. That plans be initiated to expand the circulation of information to include the areas of: tensions, conflicts, and changes which influence teachers in their professional and personal activities.
7. That the Executive Committee plan for a pilot study which would be designed to reduce the per cent of school drop-outs.
8. That a minimum of \$5000 be withdrawn from existing welfare funds, as soon as possible, for the purpose of building a much needed library

(Continued on Page 17)

T. C. CALHOUN
First Vice President

**IT IS
TIME
TO
MAKE A DECISION**

Do you sell to the schools and school teachers in Texas?
Do you sell to the Negro school teachers?

As a group, the Negro teachers are a new, strong market for you if you sell a product or service that they and their schools use or need. It is time for you to make a decision now—if you want to reach this influential group.

Your best, in fact the only, medium in Texas which reaches a big majority of the Negro principals, supervisors and classroom teachers in this state is this publication. TEXAS STANDARD magazine is published every other month during the school year (five issues) with a guaranteed circulation of 10,000.

To reach this new and vital market you should use TEXAS STANDARD as your advertising medium. Yes, it is time for you to decide to advertise in the TEXAS STANDARD if you want to increase your sales.

TEXAS STANDARD

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1962

5

Image 22

Photo of the TSAT headquarters at 1911 Navasota Street, Austin, TX, designed by architect John S. Chase, FAIA

The Texas Standard, Volume 37, Number 2, March-April 1963

Photographer unknown

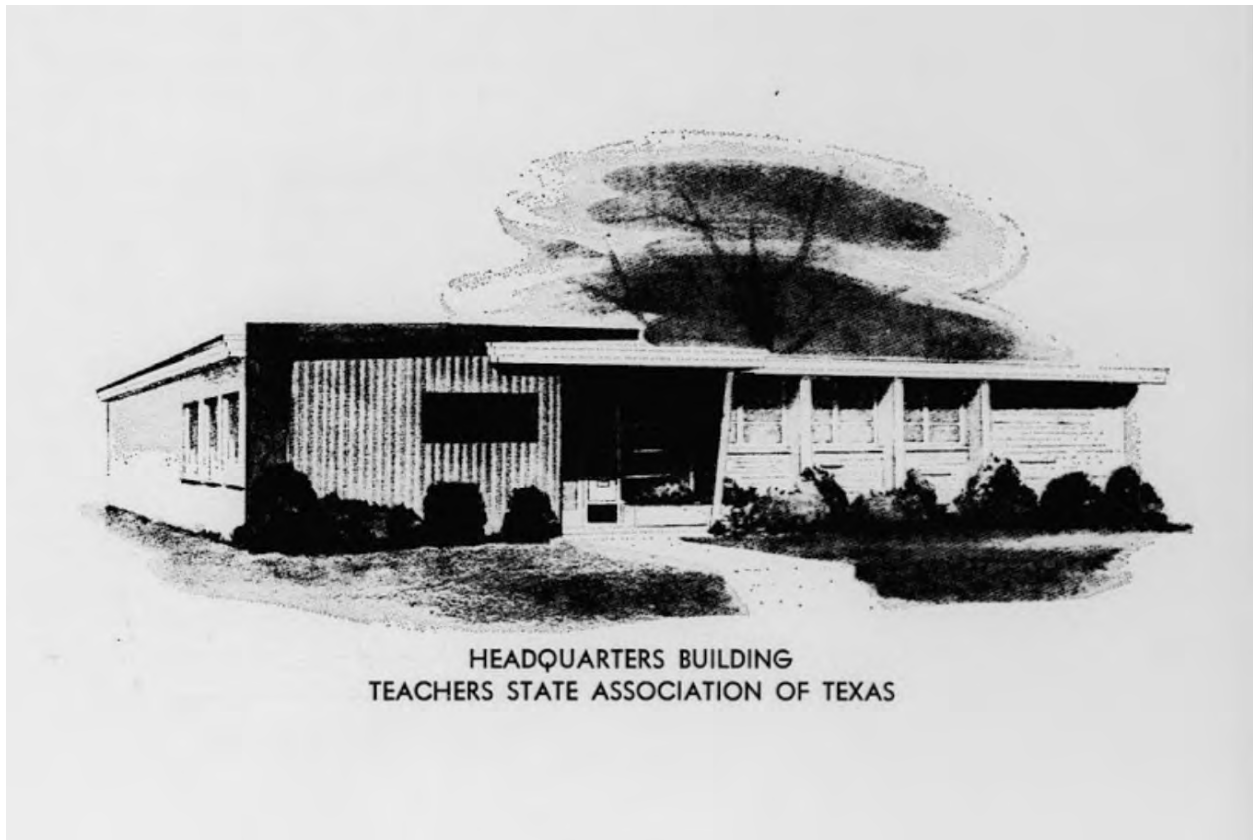


Image 23

Announcement of T.C. Calhoun presiding over meeting of TSAT during his time as president
The Austin American, October 24, 1963

**Principal
Of Kealing
To Preside**

T. C. Calhoun, principal of Kealing Junior High School, will preside at the meetings in Austin Thursday through Saturday of the Teachers State Association of Texas.

Calhoun is president of the state association of 9,000 Negro teachers. Approximately one-third of the membership will attend the convention.

A native Texan, Calhoun attended elementary and secondary school in Corsicana. He holds a bachelor of science degree from Bishop College and a master of science degree from University of Michigan. He has done post graduate work at The University of Texas.

For 34 years, he has served as a teacher, football coach and principal in Austin. Since 1941, he has been principal of Kealing.


Calhoun has served in leadership positions in the American Red Cross, United Fund of Austin, Austin-Travis County Tuberculosis Association, the Texas Credit Union League. Currently, he is treasurer and board member of the Austin-Travis County Teachers Credit Union.

He is listed in Who's Who in American Education and Who's Who in Colored America.

Calhoun is one of 45 junior high school administrators from 27 states chosen to attend a workshop at the University of Connecticut during the summer. He will collaborate in writing a special bulletin on the workshop, "Junior High Schools of Today."

He and Dr. J. J. Seabrook, president of Huston-Tillotson College, are members of the City Planning Committee (Urban Renewal).

The Thursday and Friday sessions of the convention will be held at Huston-Tillotson College, and the Saturday morning session at the Municipal Auditorium.



T. C. CALHOUN
... teachers' president

Image 24

Reporting mentioning Thelma Calhoun as president of the Austin alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority

The Austin American, May 14, 1964

Snyder Awarded Sorority Plaque

The Delta Sigma Theta sorority of Austin Wednesday announced the presentation of its Delta Service Plaque to Chester Snyder, co - chairman of the board of Snyder Stores Inc. for his work in the field of human relations in Austin.

The presentation was made by Mrs. J. M. Holloway, member of the job opportunities committee of Delta Sigma Theta.

This honor was bestowed upon Snyder in memory of his father. Louis J. Snyder, for his pioneer deeds, which have been continued by his sons, Chester and Bernard Snyder, in the exemplification of good human relations and the recognition of the dignity of man as guiding principles for living.

Sharing honors with Snyder and also receiving citations for meritorious service in the area of job opportunities for Negroes were Mrs. Ada Anderson, civic and community leader, and T. T. Davis, teacher of distributive education at Anderson High School.

Mrs. Thelma Calhoun is president of the Austin alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority which sponsored this award as one of the culminating activities of its Jobs Forum and Sales Clerk Clinic. Mrs. Lucille Crawford and Mrs. Betty Washington served as co-chairmen of the project.



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Image 25

Marriage announcement of Patricia Calhoun
The Austin American, July 6, 1969



Atkinson
MRS. WILLIAM LARRY LUCAS
The former Patricia Carol Calhoun

Texas Color Photo Studio
MRS. EARNEST EDWARD WELCH
The former Mary Ellen Wilson

Calhoun-Lucas

Miss Patricia Carol Calhoun, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore C. Calhoun, 2401 Givens Avenue, became the bride of William Larry Lucas, son of Mrs. William Lucas of Collins, Miss., Saturday evening at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Rev. George W. Lucas, the groom's brother, and Rev. Marvin Griffin officiating. A reception at Town Hall in Hancock Center followed the ceremony.

The bride, received a BS degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing and attended the Chicago Art Institute. She is a Delta Sigma Theta and an interior designer in Chicago. Mr. Lucas, received a BS degree from Jackson State College and attended the University of Maryland in Dermsdad, Germany. He is a data collection specialist with the Bureau of Census in Detroit. The couple will reside at 2001 Ewald Circle in Detroit.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Miss Karen Crawford was maid of honor; bridesmaids were Miss E. Romesa Lacy of Chicago, Miss Edith Ramsay of St. Thomas, Virgin, Islands, Miss Carolyn Arnold of Washington D.C. and Miss Andrea Delgado of Philadelphia.

Best man was Lawrence Delgado of Philadelphia; groomsmen were Jason Calhoun Jr., of Philadelphia, Clayton Robinson of Detroit, Morris Crawford Jr. of Austin and Walter Burns of San Antonio.

The bride wore an organza gown over taffeta with a fitted bodice and short puffed sleeves accented with venise lace. A detachable taffeta chapel length train was circled with venise lace. Her mantilla veil was held by a venise lace trimmed toque and she carried a bouquet of pink daisies. Her attendants wore floor length gowns of watermelon pink which fell full in the back with rows of small bows and they carried umbrella baskets of pastel pink daisies and ribbons.

Image 26

T.C. and Thelma Calhoun at the renaming of Pennsylvania Avenue, location of Kealing Junior High, after Mr. Calhoun upon his retirement from Kealing Junior High

Photo by Darl Hyatt for the Austin Statesman, May 1971

Courtesy of Pat Calhoun



Image 27

The Austin American, Thursday, July 29, 1971

The Austin American Thursday, July 29, 1971



**Principal Retiring
As School Closes**

By ALLEN JACKSON
Staff Writer

As a captain who goes down with his ship, so Principal T. C. Calhoun also will end his career with his closing school.

Calhoun recently announced his retirement after serving as both teacher and principal at Kealing for 41 years.

"I'm retiring because I am 65 years old. One month after I turned 65, the Austin Independent School District decided to retire administrators at the age of 65. I will end my career at the end of this month," he said.

Calhoun taught Algebra, plane geometry and mathematics at Anderson during the eight years Anderson and Kealing were combined into one building.

He also coached football, basketball and track without any assistance in 1930.

"I shall have many memories as I sit at home. I will never forget the many young people I have counseled and helped these 42 years," he said.

"Any administrator or teacher going into office should take a word of advice from an experienced principal: listen to the young people. I learned more from my students than my students learned from me," he said.

When Calhoun was asked whether he would have any unpleasant memories of his career with the schools, he said, "Among the hundreds of students who have come and gone here, I don't know of one I can call my enemy. I cherish my memories of every student who has come to my office, because I found that I could communicate with them," he said.

Calhoun will collect teacher retirement pay and some Social Security while he ponders over his memories. What does he plan for the future?

"I don't even want to think about it," he said. I will think first how I will manage to tear myself away from this school."

T. C. CALHOUN CLEARS HIS OFFICE FOR RETIREMENT
Kealing Jr. High principal to leave after 41 years of service

Staff Photo by Dori Hyatt

Image 28

Notice of T.C. Calhoun to speak at NAACP dinner in his capacity as representative of the Travis County Teachers Association Credit Union
The Austin American, February 8, 1973

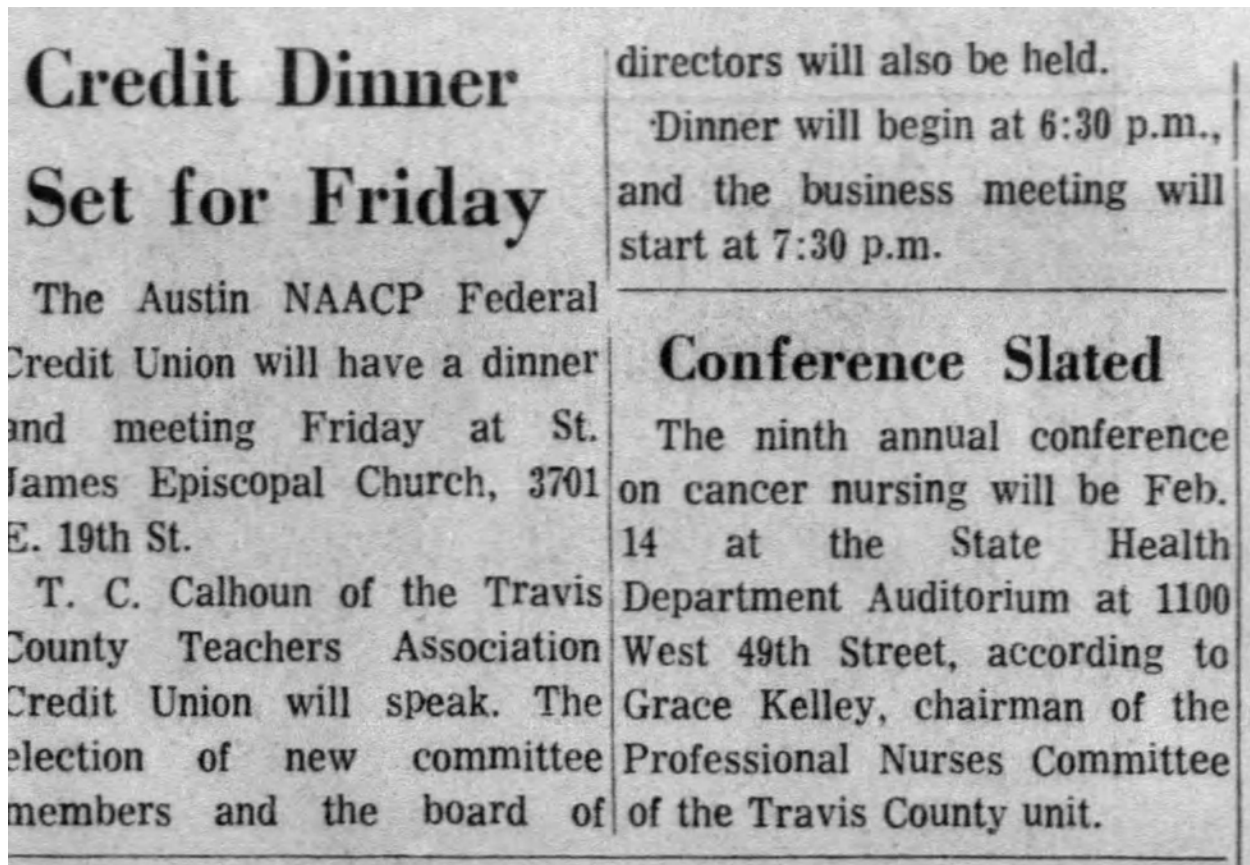


Image 29

Article on the closing of Kealing Junior High following desegregation
The Austin American-Statesman, August 25, 1976

Wednesday, August 25, 1976 The Austin American-Statesman Austin, Texas—Page B7

Kealing issue unresolved

Black leaders insist school should be reopened

Although busing has drawn most of the attention during the school board's desegregation deliberations, the fate of old Kealing Junior High School appears likely to fuel a controversy all its own.

In its desegregation proposal, the school board designated the once all-black school as headquarters for a variety of special district projects. However, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, in its May 13 desegregation order, said the school must be "reopened and used as a part of the regular public school program of the district."

School trustee Will Davis says the school board's planned use of Kealing makes it very much a part of the regular school system.

But leaders in the black community, including board member Rev. Marvin Griffin, disagree. The desire in the black community to see Kealing reopened as a regular school is fed by both community pride and practical busing consideration.

"We need a (secondary) school in our community," said Dolores Duffie, a member of several school district committees. "Once (black students) leave elementary school, anywhere they go is out of our community."

Duffie said parents in the area were caught by surprise when Kealing and the old Anderson High School were closed by a federal court in 1971. "It was inconceivable that it could happen," she said.

Members of the court-appointed tri-ethnic desegregation committee have received letters and telephone calls asking that Kealing be reopened.

Duffie said she believes the prime effort of parents to reopen Kealing will be directed at the school board, "where the power is."

She said she and others feel the school board should be pressured into reopening the school.

Kealing first opened in 1929 and along with the nearby L. C. Anderson High School, named for a pioneer black Austin educator, provided secondary education for residents of the area. Before its name

son, the school, which opened in 1907, was known as Austin Colored High School.

In the 1950s, they were consolidated and a new Anderson opened on Thompson Street.


One former Kealing student, Alvin Moore, recalled that going to school there was "great. It was something I looked forward to. Kids now are so lost."

Moore's two nephews — he has no children of his own — are now bused to Bedichek Junior High School in South Austin.

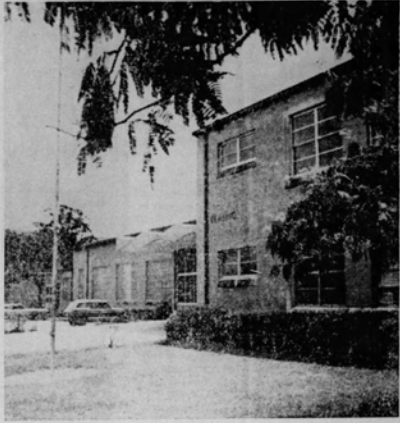
Former Kealing principal T. C. Calhoun said the school was in an ideal location, "next to a public library and close to a park."

Calhoun says said he has mixed emotions about the closing of Anderson and Kealing, named for black educator H. T. Kealing. He said he still receives calls from people soliciting his opinion on reopening Kealing as a junior high school.

Calhoun never learned why it was closed. "Maybe some things went on that I didn't know about. So I just left it."



T. C. CALHOUN
Former Kealing principal



Staff Photos by Tom Lanika

KEALING LEARNING CENTER IN EAST AUSTIN
Community supporters want to see junior high reopened in this building

Image 30

Notice of T.C. Calhoun honored by Bishop College Alumni Hall of Fame
Austin American-Statesman, March 20, 1980

Ex Kealing principal to be honored

Theodore Calvin Calhoun, former principal of Kealing Junior High School, will be named to the Bishop College Alumni Hall of Fame during the college's 99th annual celebration of Founder's Week April 7-12.

The member of the 1929 graduating class is one of three living recipients who will join the 38 previous Hall of Fame inductees.

Calhoun was selected for the honor because of his contributions in the field of education. He spent over 30 years as principal of Kealing Junior High School (between the years 1939-71) and has been a visiting professor at Huston-Tillotson College, Prairie View and Texas Southern Universities. Also he has served as director of student personnel services at Bishop College.

The educator is listed in "Who's Who in America Education," "Who's Who in Negro Education," and "Who's Who in the Southwest" and holds distinguished service awards from the City of Austin, the Boy Scouts of America, the Austin ISD, the State Teachers' Association of Texas and others. Also he has served as president of the State Teachers' Association and the college's National Alumni Association.



Theodore Calvin Calhoun

Image 31

Announcement of Thelma and T.C. Calhoun's 50th wedding anniversary
Austin American-Statesman, August 28, 1988



50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore C. Calhoun of Austin recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Theodore Calhoun, formerly of Corsicana, and Thelma Datson of Austin were married August 27, 1938 at 906 W. 24th St., her family home.

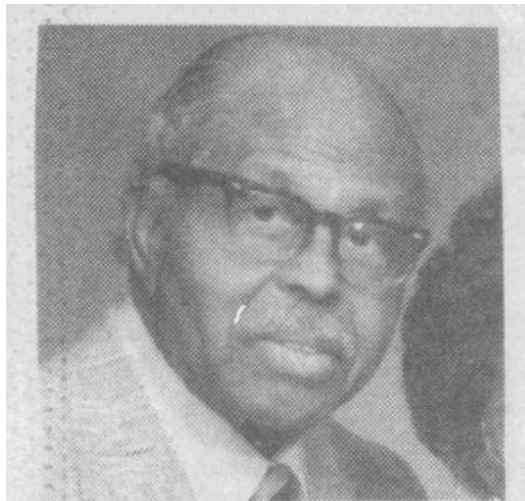
Mr. Calhoun, a retired AISD Administrator, was principal of Kealing Jr. High School for over 30 years. Upon retirement he was actively involved in many Austin community projects including Score, Small Business Administration and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Mrs. Calhoun served as Supervisor of Elementary Education in the Travis County School System prior to her retirement from AISD. She continues to be active in Austin activities including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Top Ladies of Distinction and the Association of College and University Women. Both are members of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Image 32

Obituary for T.C. Calhoun

Austin American-Statesman, June 14, 1990



Theodore C. Calhoun

Theodore C. Calhoun, noted educator and former long time principal of the old Kealing Junior High School, died Monday, after a long illness.

Calhoun had been principal at the junior high school for 32 years. He also had worked as football coach, geometry, and Boy Scout director at the old Anderson High School.

A native of Corsicana, he attended school there, received his bachelors degree from Bishop College, his masters from University of Michigan; and post graduate studies and internship in administration for junior high school programs from the University of Boston, and University of Connecticut.

Calhoun served as president of Texas State Association of Teachers, and the District Teachers Association. His picture is hung in the TSTA building.

Community affiliations and services have included: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; Travis County Teachers State Credit Union, which he organized; Phi Delta Kappa; Small Business Administration; SCORE -Service Corp of Retired Executives; and sponsor of the Retirees Coordinating Board. He was a charter member of the board that worked to build the first Senior Activity Center on Shoal Creek Blvd and 29th Street, Austin. He was a board member of the American Association of Retired Persons, chapter 108; and a major contributor to the Children's Haven.

He was a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, trustee and church treasurer.

Survivors include his wife, Thelma; daughter, Patricia C. Calhoun; brothers, Samuel Calhoun of San Antonio and Wilbur Calhoun of Corsicana; sisters, Bessie Rogers of Corsicana, Hattie Wilson of San Antonio and Rosa Lee Calhoun of Fort Worth; and a host of nieces, nephews; relatives; and friends.

Services will be at 11:00 AM, Friday at Ebenezer Baptist Church, with Pastor Dr. Reverend Marvin C. Griffin officiating. Interment will be at Evergreen Cemetery.

Arrangements by King-Tears Mortuary, (512) 476-9128.

Image 33

Obituary for Thelma Calhoun (incorrect age cited - actual age 103)

The Austin American-Statesman, February 2, 2015

CALHOUN, Thelma C.

Age 100, of Carrollton, passed away Jan. 25, 2015. Service Feb. 5, 11 a.m. at Ebenezer 3rd Baptist Church. King Tears Mortuarv. Austin. TX.

Image 34

Obituary for Thelma Calhoun

[Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com), published in The Austin American-Statesman February 1-2, 2015

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/statesman/name/thelma-calhoun-obituary?id=18860687>

Thelma Clarissa CALHOUN

1911 - 2015



Thelma CALHOUN Obituary

CALHOUN, Thelma Clarissa Thelma Clarissa Calhoun, 103, passed away peacefully in Carrollton, TX on January 25, 2015. Thelma, the first of seven children, was born in Austin, TX in 1911 to Bessie L. and Ishmael Dotson. She was a devoted wife to Theodore C. Calhoun and to this union was born one daughter, Patricia C. Calhoun. Thelma Calhoun surrendered her life to Jesus Christ at a tender age and was baptized at First Baptist Church, Austin, TX. She was a faithful member of Ebenezer Third Baptist Church in Austin for over seventy five years. There, she was the founder and director of the children's choir. She served as a Deaconess in addition to supporting numerous other ministries. Thelma became affiliated with the Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX to be closer to her daughter. She was an obedient servant and a faithful disciple of Christ until her death. Mrs. Calhoun spent most of her life inspiring and equipping children to achieve their ultimate potential in life. After graduating from "Old" Anderson High School, Austin, TX, Thelma received her B.A. Degree in Education, Prairie View College, Prairie View, TX in 1934, a M.A. Degree in Education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI and Education Specialist Certification, University of Texas, Austin, TX. Mrs. Calhoun began her professional career as the Travis County Supervisor for the African-American schools. She later joined the Austin Independent School District as a Reading Specialist Thelma exemplified a heart for service and used her God-given creative and organizational talents to support numerous community and civic activities. Among these were Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for over 70 years, charter member of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Austin and the Children's Haven Association which benefits children in need. She received recognition and numerous awards through her civic and service affiliations. Preceding her in death were her husband, Theodore C. Calhoun, two sisters and three brothers. She leaves to celebrate her life and cherish her memories her loving daughter, Patricia C. Calhoun of Carrollton, TX, her devoted brother, Alfred Dotson (Ruth) of Austin, TX and a host of loving family and friends. We were very blessed to have her with us for an amazing 103 years. Visitation with the family is Wednesday, February 4 from 4-7 pm; Viewing is 1-7 pm, at Austin Peel & Son, 607 East Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78752. The Celebration of Life service will be held on Thursday, February 5 at 11:00 am, Ebenezer Third Baptist Church, 1010 East 10th Street, Austin, TX, Pastor Ricky Freeman, officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ebenezer Third Baptist Church.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

Published by Austin American-Statesman from Feb. 1 to Feb. 2, 2015.

F.9 Historical Narrative

Introduction:

T.C. and Thelma Calhoun established an enduring legacy in Austin and helped build community for Black Austinites that spanned nearly a century, from the 1930s to the present day. Their leadership in education, community service, and neighborhood advocacy lives on in their daughter Patricia, who considers the Calhoun House her personal legacy to the neighborhood and the city. T.C. and Thelma succeeded and supported others despite the barriers of the Jim Crow South, establishing a tradition of excellence in education and community service that comprises an inspiring chapter in Austin's history.

The home built by T.C. and Thelma Calhoun is a modest but groundbreaking example of California ranch architecture that is significant for the historical associations and community value of its inhabitants and their lives. As one of the original homes in the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross (RWHC) Historic District, it has a long and fabled association with the Calhoun family and their contributions to Austin, making it an important part of the city's cultural heritage and warranting its designation as a historic landmark.¹

Summary

The Calhoun House is a one-story home located at 2401 Givens Avenue within the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District, which lies two miles east of the Texas Capitol.² The home was built in 1959.³ The RWHC Historic District is one of the most intact concentrations of post-World War II housing for African Americans in Austin. As an early neighborhood developed by Black professionals for Black professionals, its development pattern is strongly tied to its cultural significance as a professional, middle-class, suburban neighborhood.⁴

The period of significance for the RWHC Historic District is 1953-1970, which corresponds to important economic trends in Austin. These include post-war growth patterns and the district's associations with developers Nash Phillips, Hal Starkey, A.D. Stenger, and architect John Chase, known for their impact on Austin's growth and development.⁵ The Calhoun House embodies those trends while showcasing the history of its owners. T.C. and Thelma Calhoun were committed educators and civic leaders in Austin's Black community during the mid-twentieth century, when "separate but equal" racial policies continued to hinder the prosperity of Black Americans. The Calhouns played pivotal roles in the success and cohesiveness of the RWHC neighborhood.

The home's massing and detailing are representative of ranch-style homes, one-story, low-slung houses that underscored a new concept of simplicity for a postwar American family living a more casual lifestyle.

¹ "Historic Districts," City of Austin website, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/historic-districts#Rogers%20Washington%20HC>.

² *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District Preservation Plan & Narrative History*, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=343959>.

³ Travis Central Appraisal District, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://travis.prodigycad.com/propertydetail/204110/2025>.

⁴ *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District Preservation Plan & Narrative History*.

⁵ Ibid.

The underlying aesthetic fit with the informality and optimism that prevailed in the 1950s postwar era, by which time the ranch form had become the most popular housing style for new housing development. Also referred to as a California ranch, the ranch form had its origins on the West Coast in the 1930s work of California architects and was loosely based on the low, rambling courtyards of Spanish Colonial ranching houses.⁶

Statement of Significance:

The Calhoun House demonstrates significance in the categories of historical associations and community value. The home, one of the first to be built in the subdivision and the anchor of a key intersection, has been owned and inhabited by the Calhoun family since its construction by T.C. and Thelma Calhoun in 1959.⁷ For over thirty years, T.C. was the principal of nearby Kealing Junior High School, the only middle school in Austin for African American children during segregation. He also held leadership roles in organizations that served African American educators, among many other civic titles.⁸ Thelma was a Jeanes supervisor for African American Travis County schools and a reading specialist at two local elementary schools. Both T.C. and Thelma were long-time leaders at nearby Ebenezer Third Baptist Church.⁹

The home's community value also stems from its role as the site of community service meetings in the early years of the Calhouns' residence and through the present.¹⁰ Their daughter Patricia continues to enrich the community value of the home through her neighborhood advocacy and work with a local non-profit. While architecture as a category is not considered in this application, it is worth noting that the Calhoun House is a high-integrity example of the California ranch style.

Architectural Description

The Calhoun House is sited at a prominent corner of Givens Avenue and Maple Street and is a contributing property in the RWHC Historic District. It sits on 9,743 square feet of land (.2237 acres) and has 2,213 square feet of living area.¹¹ The house embodies the California ranch style through its massing and details. Designed by local builder Hal Starkey, the distinctive home has a low, elongated roof and clever integration of indoor and outdoor space that includes three patios.¹² In keeping with the

⁶ Virginia Savage McAlester, "Modern Houses – Ranch, ca. 1935-1975," in *a Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 2013), pp. 596-603.

⁷ Interview with Pat Calhoun by Mary Kahle, June 24, 2025.

⁸ Theodore C. Calhoun obituary, *Austin American-Statesman*, June 14, 1990; interview with Pat Calhoun.

⁹ Thelma Calhoun obituary, Legacy.com, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/statesman/name/thelma-calhoun-obituary?id=18860687>; interview with Pat Calhoun.

¹⁰ Interview with Pat Calhoun.

¹¹ Travis Central Appraisal District.

¹² Profile sheet, 2401 Givens Avenue, Preservation Austin Homes Tour 2024. Sources for profile sheet include *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District Preservation Plan & Narrative History*, *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District Design Standards*, Hal Starkey obituary, and "[Common Ground: The story of Austin's newest, and only Black, historic district](#)," by Marla Akin (*Sightlines Magazine*, 2021).

California-style plan, the house was intended to be built around a pool; however, the Calhouns didn't swim, and the pool was never built.¹³

Like similar ranch-style homes in the neighborhood, the Calhoun House is a low-slung, single-story brick and wood structure, with a low-hipped roof, prominent sliding glass doors, and a deep overhang with a minor front porch. The front porch features a horizontally oriented wooden fence for privacy from passersby. The garage, which was originally also intended for extra entertainment space, repeats the ceiling design of the living room and reflects the growing prevalence of car ownership after World War II. Original features in the home are extensive, including the living room's exposed beams and clerestory windows, paneled wood walls throughout, a galley kitchen with wood cabinetry, ceramic tiles in the kitchen and bathrooms, and a pass-through area from the kitchen. Many of the current furnishings are also original, including the mid-century modern dining set and hutch, and a wood high-low table with molded chairs in the breakfast area. The dining room and breakfast area ceiling light fixtures are also original.

In keeping with the ranch style, the Calhoun House features architecturally separate "zones," with the private bedrooms and bathrooms separated from the public living room and kitchen. This zoned floor plan contributes to the exterior appearance as elongated and rambling. The public zones of the house—the kitchen and living room—are integrated with the outdoors through the use of large windows and sliding glass doors in every room except a bathroom where the glass door was removed for security reasons. The outdoor emphasis is further heightened by the incorporation of built-in planter boxes at the front door and in the interior dining room.¹⁴

The property has always been used as a private home. The Calhouns enclosed the east patio for use as a game room in the late 1970s, but otherwise the home retains much of its historic integrity and is in good condition due to the diligent care of the Calhoun family.¹⁵ Today the home has energy efficient sliding glass doors and kitchen windows.¹⁶

Historical Overview

As an early neighborhood developed by Black professionals for Black professionals, the development pattern of the RWHC Historic District is strongly tied to its cultural significance as a professional, middle-class, suburban neighborhood. Neighborhood residents were influential in the fields of science, architecture, local and national government, and education, as well as the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, and more. Architecturally, the houses represent postwar stylistic trends, including ranch, minimal

¹³ Nicole Villalpando, "Preservation tour offers story of segregation, prosperity and Austin's Black community," *Austin American-Statesman*, June 5, 2021, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://www.statesman.com/story/lifestyle/home-garden/2021/06/05/preservation-austin-tour-goes-inside-historic-black-austin-neighborhood/5286440001/>.

¹⁴ Profile sheet.

¹⁵ Kahle interview with Pat Calhoun.

¹⁶ Profile sheet.

traditional, modern, and split-level styles.¹⁷ Comprised of just forty-six contributing homes, the historic district's small footprint belies the impressive legacy of history, activism, and community that exists here.

The district is bound by E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Chestnut Avenue, East 21st Street, and Cedar Avenue.¹⁸ It bears the name of African Americans Eli Rogers and Dr. Marcellus Washington, who previously owned and later developed the land, and of the nearby Holy-Cross Hospital (no longer extant). An important East Austin landmark, the 1951 hospital was built for African Americans and gave Black physicians all admitting and surgical privileges.¹⁹

Givens Avenue, where the Calhoun House is sited, was named after Dr. Everett Givens, a community leader and one of Austin's first Black dentists. A civil rights advocate who pushed for equal rights and opportunities for African Americans, in 1950 Givens subdivided a tract of land he owned off E. 19th Street (now MLK Jr. Blvd.). This tract was adjacent to Holy Cross Hospital. With A.D. Stenger, a white architect and builder famed for his mid-century modern designs, Givens platted Holy Cross Heights, the first "Negro" subdivision in Austin to have Federal Housing Authority approval. Stenger-designed homes were never built on any of the Holy Cross lots, but after adjacent landowners Rogers and Washington subdivided their plots, local builders including Lott Lumber (the largest Black-owned lumberyard in Texas), Hal Starkey (builder of the Calhoun House), Travis Cook, and Nash Phillips developed the neighborhood throughout the 1950-60s.²⁰

Prior to this, East Austin's development was defined by the policies of the Jim Crow South. Legal segregation began with racial covenants on property deeds that barred people of color from living in certain neighborhoods, mainly those in West and North Austin. These practices were later codified by the 1928 City Plan that pushed Black and Latino Austinites east of East Avenue, now I-35, by denying city services to those who resisted relocation.²¹ Housing segregation was further enshrined in a 1934 city survey produced by the federal Home Owners Loan Corporation, established to facilitate homeownership by restructuring existing mortgages on better terms. The agency's risk assessment maps, however, redlined "hazardous" areas and prohibited federally-backed mortgages for homes there. Virtually all majority-Black and Hispanic neighborhoods in Austin were redlined based on race and regardless of a home's actual condition. This included much of East Austin, along with former freedman colonies citywide. Homeownership thus became easier for white residents living in "desirable" neighborhoods and that much harder for Black residents with limited housing options.²²

After World War II, hard-won economic, educational, and social opportunities created an emergent Black middle class seeking its own vision of suburban life. Yet the postwar building boom was largely out of

¹⁷ *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District Preservation Plan & Narrative History*.

¹⁸ *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District Preservation Plan & Narrative History*.

¹⁹ Profile sheet.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, Koch & Fowler Consulting Engineers - 1928, accessed July 6, 2025, [file:///Users/Mary/Downloads/txu-oclc-9451130%20\(6\).pdf](file:///Users/Mary/Downloads/txu-oclc-9451130%20(6).pdf).

²² "Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America," University of Richmond, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/map/TX/Austin/context#loc=13/30.289/-97.7453>.

their reach, again because of segregationist policies. The Federal Housing Administration prohibited Black families from obtaining the same low-cost mortgages available to white families, or from buying into the large-scale, developer-driven subdivisions that the agency backed.²³ Black Americans had to find alternative, and often more expensive, routes to homeownership. These barriers make the existence of African American communities like Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross all the more remarkable.

The Calhoun House was one of the first new homes built in RWHC starting in the late 1950s, when incoming city services readied the neighborhood for exciting new growth. The neighborhood attracted Black professionals largely by word of mouth, including schoolteachers, professors, business owners, and veterans. Like so many postwar suburbs, ranch-style homes prevail here, ranging from stylish to modest.

RWHC residents often worked directly with building professionals to design their homes, resulting in an architectural character that reflects the personal tastes of each family—character which distinguishes their neighborhood from the segregated, large-scale, FHA-backed subdivisions with hundreds of inexpensive but identical homes. Developed during the height of the Civil Rights movement, at a time of increased economic prosperity for all, the neighborhood was imbued with a sense of optimism and promise that homeownership brings. In Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross, this sentiment found architectural expression through the use of modern styles, which looked with hope towards a more just and prosperous future.

Biographical Data: The Calhoun Family

The Calhoun family purchased the property on Givens in 1959 and has inhabited the home since its completion in spring of 1960.²⁴ Family members have a history of leadership, accomplishment, and community engagement that makes their home significant to their neighborhood and to Austin.

Theodore Calvin (“T.C.”) Calhoun (1905-1990)

T.C. Calhoun was born into a large family in Corsicana, Texas, in 1905 and left home at the age of fifteen or sixteen. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Bishop College, a historically Black college located in Marshall, Texas, before becoming a math teacher in Mansfield, Louisiana. T.C. subsequently came to Austin, where he united with Ebenezer Third Baptist Church. He was a coach and the chairman of the L.C. Anderson High School math department for ten years. He became the principal of Kealing Junior High in 1941, and, in emergencies, would step in to teach a math class. He retired in 1971. T.C. earned a master’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1941 and completed post-graduate studies in administration for junior high school programs at the University of Boston and the University of Connecticut.²⁵

²³ “A History of Racist Federal Housing Policies,” Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center, accessed July 8, 2025, <https://massbudget.org/2021/08/06/a-history-of-racist-federal-housing-policies/>.

²⁴ Kahle interview with Pat Calhoun.

²⁵ Allen Jackson, “Principal Retiring as School Closes,” *Austin American-Statesman*, July 29, 1971; “Principal of Kealing to Preside,” *Austin American-Statesman*, October 24, 1963; interview with Pat Calhoun; and Theodore C. Calhoun obituary.

T.C. met and married Thelma Clarissa Dotson (see next section) in the late 1930s during the period when he was teaching at L.C. Anderson High School, Austin's segregated high school for Black students. According to daughter Patricia "Pat" Calhoun (1943-), they met through friends connected with Prairie View College, where Thelma earned a degree in education in 1934.²⁶

Despite the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case of 1954, Austin's public schools remained de facto segregated until 1971, when the federal government forced compliance on the district. For East Austin, this meant the closure of Kealing and L.C. Anderson and the beginning of busing Black students out of their neighborhoods. While the necessity for integration was evident, the burden largely fell on Black Austinites. Pat recalls that the closure of Kealing was difficult for her father and motivated his decision to retire. It was also challenging for the community, which was losing the support system provided by the schools.²⁷

T.C. held numerous leadership positions in the community. In 1948 he was elected president of the Austin Negro Chamber of Commerce.²⁸ In 1963, he served as president of the Teachers State Association of Texas (TSTA), an organization of 9,000 African American teachers, and the District Teachers Association. TSTA was founded during Reconstruction and achieved crucial civil rights wins for Black students and teachers in Texas. T.C. was instrumental in creating the Austin-Travis County Teachers Credit Union, which is thought to have helped finance loans for several homes in Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross. He was a charter member on the board that worked to build the first Senior Activity Center on Shoal Creek Boulevard and 29th Street.²⁹

T.C. was also a board member of the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons and a major contributor to the Children's Haven Association, a nonprofit founded in 1946 to serve underprivileged children in East Austin. He served in leadership roles with the American Red Cross, United Fund of Austin, the Austin-Travis County Tuberculosis Association, and the Texas Credit Union League. He was listed in *Who's Who in American Education* and *Who's Who in Colored America*.³⁰

Pat notes that her father had a pin denoting membership in the Lions Club but says that he would not have been formally accepted into the organization during the height of his career, as it was a segregated organization at that time. Thus he had quasi-membership status as someone who maintained alliances and friendships within the white community in a situation where he was "accepted but not fully accepted."³¹

²⁶ Interview with Pat Calhoun; "Thelma Clarissa Calhoun: 1911-2015," Legacy.com, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/statesman/name/thelma-calhoun-obituary?id=18860687>.

²⁷ Preservation Austin (unknown employee) interview with Pat Calhoun, circa 2020; Allen Jackson, "Principal Retiring.

²⁸ "T.C. Calhoun Heads Negro C.C.," Austin American-Statesman, December 8, 1948.

²⁹ Correspondence between T.C. Calhoun and TSTA membership; Correspondence between T.C. Calhoun and credit union membership; Theodore C. Calhoun obituary; "History," TSTA/NEA, accessed July 6, 2025, https://www.tsta.org/about_tsta/history/; interview with Pat Calhoun.

³⁰ Theodore C. Calhoun obituary.

³¹ Kahle interview with Pat Calhoun.

T.C. was a deacon, trustee, and treasurer at the historic Ebenezer Third Baptist Church (1010 E. 10th Street), where he sang in the Bright and Early Choir, one of the first to broadcast on the radio. His name is on the cornerstone of the main building.³²

Thelma Dotson Calhoun (1911-2015)

Thelma Clarissa Dotson was born in Austin in 1911, the oldest of seven children. She attended L.C. Anderson High School and earned a bachelor's degree in education at Prairie View College (today's Prairie View A&M University) in 1934. She earned a master's degree in education at the University of Michigan and certification as an education specialist at the University of Texas at Austin.³³ Descended from a long line of educators, she served as a Jeanes Supervisor for the segregated Travis County Schools. Jeanes Supervisors were a group of African American teachers who worked in southern rural schools and communities in the United States between 1908 and 1968. "Also known as Jeanes Teachers, Supervising Industrial Teachers, or Jeanes Workers, they derived their name from Philadelphia philanthropist Anna T. Jeanes, who provided funding for black education in the South."³⁴ Thelma later worked as a reading specialist for the Austin Independent School District.³⁵

Like T.C., Thelma valued community service and served in leadership roles with the Children's Haven Association and Ebenezer Third Baptist Church, where she was a founder and director of the children's choir. Thelma also belonged to Delta Sigma Theta sorority and was a charter member of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Throughout her life she received awards for her civic and service contributions.³⁶

Patricia "Pat" Carol Calhoun (1943-)

Pat Calhoun, the daughter of T.C. and Thelma Calhoun, was born in Austin in 1943. The Calhoun family lived at 1408 Cotton Street prior to their move to 2401 Givens Avenue in 1960. Pat graduated from L.C. Anderson High School in 1960 and earned a degree in interior design at Michigan State University in 1964. She was the second African American to graduate from the interior design program. After finding it difficult to find a job as an African American in the interior design industry, Pat eventually landed a job at Sears in Chicago through a friend of her father T.C. After her marriage and subsequent move to Detroit, she was the first African American interior designer in the Design Studio of the J.L. Hudson Department Store. Pat was one of the first African Americans registered in the State of TX as an NCIDQ certified interior designer and currently maintains that certification. Today she is a manufacturer's representative with her own agency. Pat lived in Carrollton, Texas, for many years before returning to Austin and the family home on Givens Avenue in 2016. She also returned to and is an active member of Ebenezer Third Baptist Church.

³² Theodore C. Calhoun obituary; Kahle interview with Pat Calhoun.

³³ "Thelma Clarissa Calhoun: 1911-2015"; interview with Pat Calhoun.

³⁴ "Jeanes Supervisors," Encyclopedia of Alabama, accessed July 6, 2025, <https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/jeanes-supervisors/>.

³⁵ "Thelma Clarissa Calhoun: 1911-2015."

³⁶ Ibid.

Pat is also a family historian – her home is filled with antique photographs and documents chronicling the many branches of her family tree spanning centuries. A particularly special touch are the heirloom quilts still on display, some of them over a century old. Today Pat is a fierce advocate for the community and neighborhood and was instrumental in the neighborhood achieving historic district status in 2020, Austin’s first historic district designated to honor Black heritage. As she notes, “We have become a more diverse – ethnically – neighborhood but we still have that great sense of community and the love that was there when we were all African American is still here. Which is really great because our new families have embraced the stories and histories as well.”³⁷ While the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Neighborhood Association has existed for nearly as long as the neighborhood, the neighborhood’s path to historic district designation began in 2016 after an uptick in demolition. A state historical marker will soon honor the site of Holy Cross Hospital.

Pat and other neighbors are involved with a non-profit they established to support the neighborhood and find ways to give back to the community. Pat – like her parents T.C. and Thelma – is a leader at the Children’s Haven Association, the non-profit established in 1946 to serve underprivileged children and their families in the area. Pat also holds membership in Preservation Austin, the Austin History Center Association, the American Society of Interior Designers, and the International Institute of Business Designers.³⁸

³⁷ *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross: Black Heritage, Living History*, interview with Pat Calhoun by Meghan King, June 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNbrmsvyyV4>

³⁸ Interview with Pat Calhoun.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

This zoning/rezoning request will be reviewed and acted upon at two public hearings: before the Land Use Commission and the City Council. Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to attend a public hearing, you are not required to attend. However, if you do attend, you have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During its public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or may evaluate the City staff's recommendation and public input forwarding its own recommendation to the City Council. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

During its public hearing, the City Council may grant or deny a zoning request, or rezone the land to a less intensive zoning than requested but in no case will it grant a more intensive zoning.

However, in order to allow for mixed use development, the Council may add the MIXED USE (MU) COMBINING DISTRICT to certain commercial districts. The MU Combining District simply allows residential uses in addition to those uses already allowed in the seven commercial zoning districts. As a result, the MU Combining District allows the combination of office, retail, commercial, and residential uses within a single development.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, visit our website:
www.austintexas.gov/planning.

Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before or at a public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice.

Case Number: C14H-2025-0095
Contact: Austin Lukes, 512-978-9766
Public Hearing: Historic Landmark Commission, October 1, 2025

Molly Martin

Your Name (please print)

I am in favor
 I object

1805 Maple Ave. Austin, TX 78702

Your address(es) affected by this application

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature

9/22/25

Date

Daytime Telephone: 512-586-9833

Comments:

I OBJECT to the proposed zoning changes at 2401 Givens Ave.

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:
City of Austin Planning Department
ATTN: Austin Lukes
P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
Or email at:
Preservation@austintexas.gov

From: [City of Austin](#)
To: [Historic Preservation Office](#)
Subject: Case # -C14H-2025-0095
Date: Monday, September 22, 2025 7:26:37 PM

This message is from Ms. Ora Houston . 

I am in favor (for) this zoning request.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Miriam Conner, President
Travis Smith, President-Elect
Elisha Perez, Vice President
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Mallory Laurel
Murray Legge
Francois Levy
Emily Reed
Mueni Rudd
Kevin Sinkar

EX-OFFICIO File ID: 25-2453
Charles Peveto, Austin History Center Association
Kelley Russell, Travis County Historical Commission

ADVISOR
Cyndee Lake

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lindsey Derrington

September 30, 2025

RE: Calhoun House Historic Landmark Designation

Dear Chair Heimsath, Vice Chair Evans, and members of the Austin Historic Landmark Commission,

[Preservation Austin](#) exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation. We write today in support of historic designation for 2401 Givens Avenue, also known as the Calhoun House, for its historic associations and community value. This home and the people who lived there embody the invaluable contributions Black Austinites made to our city during the 20th and 21st centuries. We are proud to partner with the home's owner, our friend Ms. Patricia Calhoun, in preparing this much-deserved nomination.

The Calhoun House was built in 1959 by Theodore "T.C." Calhoun and Thelma Dotson Calhoun in the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross neighborhood, one of Austin's first suburban developments built by and for Black Austinites during segregation. The Calhouns were educators and civic leaders in Austin's Black community during the mid-twentieth century, when "separate but equal" policies hindered Black prosperity. Mr. Calhoun was the longtime principal of Kealing Middle School, Austin's only middle school for Black students. Mrs. Calhoun was a Jeanes supervisor for segregated rural schools and later a reading specialist. Both were active leaders of Ebenezer Third Baptist Church and held significant civic roles, including with the Austin Negro Chamber of Commerce and the Teacher's State Association of Texas.

T.C. and Thelma Calhoun created an enduring legacy and helped build community for Black Austinites, establishing a tradition of excellence in education and service that marks an inspiring chapter in Austin's history. Their leadership lives on in their daughter Pat, who sees the Calhoun House as her personal legacy. Among her many accomplishments, Pat was a leader in the grassroots effort to designate Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross as a historic district and preserve this remarkable community's story.

Preservation Austin is honored to call Pat our partner and friend of nearly a decade. From early support for the historic district effort, to our [documentary](#) that tells the story of this incredible neighborhood, Pat's partnership and generosity have made an indelible impact on our organization. We are thrilled and proud to support the designation of the Calhoun House as a City of Austin Landmark. Thank you for your consideration and your service to the City of Austin.

Sincerely,

Miriam Conner, President

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Historic Preservation Office](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Attn: Austin Lukes, case C14H-2025-0095 today 6pm
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:39:53 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email - Exercise Caution

Hello! I'd like to submit my letter of support for case C14H-2025-0095 for the public hearing today October 1, 2025 at 6pm.

Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before or at a public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, and the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice.

Case Number: C14H-2025-0095
Contact: Austin Lukes, 512-978-9766
Public Hearing: Historic Landmark Commission, October 1, 2025

EMILY BOLFING DONOHOO + FRANTZ ^{ERIC}

Your Name (please print)

I am in favor
 I object

2501 GIVENS AVE 78722

Your address(es) affected by this application

Signature

10.01.25

Date

Daytime Telephone: 512-751-1384

Comments: AS A LIFELONG AUSTIN RESIDENT AND
NEIGHBOR, I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE HISTORICAL
DESIGNATION OF PAT CALHOUN'S HOME. THIS
HOUSE HAS BEEN CARED FOR WITH TRUE
STEWARDSHIP, PRESERVING ITS CHARACTER WHILE
HONORING THE LEGACY IT REPRESENTS IN OUR
COMMUNITY. RECOGNIZING HER + HER FAMILY'S
DEDICATION FORMALLY WILL SAFEGUARD THAT
LEGACY AND HONOR THEIR COMMITMENT FOR OUR
FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD + CITY.

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:

City of Austin Planning Department
ATTN: Austin Lukes
P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
Or email at:
Preservation@austintexas.gov

Thank you!!!!
Emily M Donohoo
512-751-1384

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For any additional questions or concerns, contact CSIRT at "cybersecurity@austintexas.gov".

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Historic Preservation Office](#)
Subject: Support for Case C14H-2025-0095
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 3:51:56 PM

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External Email - Exercise Caution

C14H-2025-0095
Attn: Austin Luke's

To whom it may concern:

As a neighbor of Pat Calhoun's in the Rogers Washington Holy Cross District, I wanted to submit a letter of support for her application for Landmark status. I can attest to the care and dedication she has for the legacy her home represents in our community. Honoring her preservation efforts with this status will ensure her home remains a cultural touchstone in East Austin for neighbors and generations to come.

All the best,
Kaitlin Maud
2105 Maple Ave
Austin TX 78722

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