

421 10 ½ Street NW



Significance: Medium

Date of Construction: c.1920

Architect: Unknown

Parcel ID: 040068000

Original Owner: Susan Coles

Builder: Unknown

Building History:

This two-bay, two-story, frame and stucco dwelling was built around 1920. The current dwelling has a front-facing, gabled, asphalt shingle roof and a central interior brick chimney. Across the façade is a two-bay, hipped roof porch with a parged concrete foundation, stuccoed rectangular posts and wrought iron railing. The dwelling also has a three-bay two-story gable-on-gable addition with a one-bay, one-story shed roof addition. The front-facing windows are 2/1 wood sash type, and there is one small single light wood fixed window in the attic pediment. The front of the lot is lined with a chain link fence and a concrete walkway leads from the sidewalk to the central entrance. There are a number of hedge plantings around the porch and the fence, as well as an unpaved gravel drive in the side yard which leads to a one-bay gable roof frame and stucco garage.

Ownership History:

John West sold the land to Susan Coles on October 5, 1899(County 115 – 245). Her heirs continued to own the property until the 1980s.

Social History:

From around the time it was built in 1920 until 1945, Lula Coles Howard, daughter of original landowner Susan Coles, and Lula's husband, Marshall J. Howard, an African American orderly at Martha Jefferson Hospital, lived in the house. Marshall passed away in the late 1940s and Lula continued to live in the house alone until the mid-1950s, eventually remarrying. Lula's new husband was an African American chauffeur, Joel H. Bolden. The couple lived in the house with Lula's son from her previous marriage, Edward Marshall Howard until the mid 1960s.

Statement of Significance:

Built by female owner, Susan Coles, this house stayed in her family passed down to her daughter for almost fifty years. The house is well preserved with original windows and garage. The house has been expanded substantially over the years, with a rear addition close to the size of the original house giving it an even more unique design and adding to its character.