

**500 10 ½ Street NW**



**Significance:** Medium

**Date of Construction:** 1923

**Architect:** Unknown

**Parcel ID:** 040063000

**Original Owner:** Lewis and Ella Howard

**Builder:** Unknown

**Building History:**

This two-bay, two-story, frame and stucco dwelling house was built around 1923. A 2-bay, hipped roof porch with a parged concrete foundation and stuccoed wood rectangular posts and triangular brackets was built in 1960. The current dwelling has a hipped, metal roof and a central interior brick chimney. The dwelling, originally L-shaped, has a 1967 two-story, one-bay concrete block addition filling in the L to create a square footprint. There is also a frame and aluminum siding clad one-bay lean-to addition with shed roof on the West Street side of the home. The front-facing windows are 1/1 vinyl sash type. The transom and sidelights of the door appear to be wood and somewhat original. A one-bay gable-roof garage is located in the rear yard. The door opens to West Street. A series of hedge plantings lines the West and 11<sup>th</sup> corner of the lot. The house is set up on a slight elevation so concrete steps with wrought iron railings lead from the sidewalk to a concrete walkway that ends at the side entrance.

**Ownership History:**

John West sold the property to James Gilmer on July 16, 1886(County 86 – 429). James Gilmer, after his death, willed the property to his son Richard Gilmer in 1914(County W.B. 32 – 322). Richard sold the land to Lewis E. and Ella Howard in 1923(City 44 – 225). The Howard family owned the land and improvements until 1965, when Lewis and Ella's heirs sold it to Allen and Erna Bryant (City 272 – 9).

**Social History:**

Lewis Howard, an African American laborer, and his wife Ella lived in the house from 1923 until 1927. Lewis died in the late 1920s and Ella, now a widow, remarried by 1930 to Walter Gilmer, an African American chauffer. The couple lived in the house until the mid-1930s, and then rented it out to Lloyd Banks, an African American orderly, and Sallie Banks, his wife. The Banks family rented the home until the late 1940s. Allen Bryant, an African American cook at the University of Virginia hospital, and his

wife Erna J. Bryant rented the home starting in 1950, and eventually purchased it from Ella Howard Gilmer after her death in 1965. The Bryant family continued to live in the home until 1974.

**Statement of Significance:**

Built on property originally owned by John West, this house has been home to many families through the years. The majority of the fabric of the house is modern, rather than original, although the door may be as old as the house. Sited on a corner lot, the house is set back from the street with plenty of yard space giving it a distinctly rural feel.