

301 and 303 10 ½ Street NW



Significance: High

Date of Construction: c.1929 and c.1950

Architect: Unknown

Parcel ID: 040187000

Original Owner: Charles L. Brooks

Builder: Possibly Charles L. Brooks

Building History:

301

This two-bay, two-story, cross-gable roof frame house with asbestos siding was built around 1929. The house had several rehabilitations in 1952, 1968, 1982, and 1995. The current dwelling has a cross-gable asphalt shingle roof and a central interior brick chimney. Across the façade is a two-bay, hipped roof porch with a parged concrete foundation, and turned wood posts and rails. There is a two-bay, one-story side rear addition with shed dormer, and side and rear enclosed porches. The front-facing windows are 2/2 wood sash type. The front of the lot has a concrete walkway leading from the sidewalk to the front steps. Hedge plantings line the front and side yards. A storage shed structure is located in the rear yard.

303

This c. 1950 three-bay, one-story, aluminum-siding clad minimal house has one 6/6 wood sash window and one bay window with two 1/1 aluminum sash windows flanking a central light. The front porch is a gable roof projecting with aluminum siding in the pediment and decorative metal posts. The dwelling has a gable asphalt shingle roof and a portico which extends from the side of the house to the rear portico of the structure at 303 offering a covered walkway.

Ownership History:

Blanche D. Munday and W. L. Munday sold the house to C.W. Allen (Trustee) August 16, 1905 (City 16 – 361). C.L. Brooks bought it in 1907, and held onto it until 1934 when it was transferred to B.P. Chamberlain (Trustee) (City 19 – 114) and (City 83 – 457). Charles L. Brooks Jr. bought the property back in 1947, returning it to the Brooks family (City 131 – 258).

Social History:

1929 – 1945: Charles L. Brooks, an African American carpenter, and Sallie Brooks, his wife, lived in the house from 1929 until 1945. Afterwards the home was rented to a number of other African American families including: Ernest and Elizabeth Johnson (1950 – 1956); Bernard M. Witcher, a cook at the Virginian Restaurant, and Eleanor Witcher, his wife (1960 – 1963); and Mrs. Edith M. Durrett (1963-1964).

Statement of Significance:

Charles L. Brooks may have been the builder of this home he had built for his family. The house is well preserved with windows intact. Multiple generations of the Brooks family owned the house. The rear house is connected to the main house, suggesting it was built to house additional family, such as older relatives.