

347 10 ½ Street NW



Significance: High

Date of Construction: 1924
(Austin)

Architect: Unknown

Parcel ID: 040207000

Original Owner: Paul and Louise Alston

Builder: Unknown

Building History:

This two-bay, two-story, frame house with aluminum siding was built around 1924. The house had several rehabilitations in 1977 and 1984. The current dwelling has 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 one-bay, one-story addition on the southwest side of the house and a two-bay, one-story shed roof addition on the rear west side. The front-facing windows are 6/6 wood sash and 2/2 wood sash. The front door has a wood frame and single light transom. The front of the lot has a stepped concrete walkway leading from the sidewalk to the entrance. Hedge plantings line the front and side yard. A large evergreen tree is located in the northeast corner of the lot, with branches screening much of the façade. There is a brick retaining wall with a chain link fence surrounding the front yard. A gravel alley is located behind the property.

Ownership History:

James M. Williams and wife sold the property to Nelson Churchman on June 22, 1896(County 105 – 477). Churchman's estate sold to Louise and Paul Alston (or Austin) in 1919 and the loan company (Charlottesville Perpetual Building and Loan) took possession of the property in 1933(City 33 – 365) and (City 74 – 14). Margaret Wood and David J. Wood became trustees of the property and sold it to William and Lucy Key in 1937 (City 93 - 409) and (City 93 – 410). The Keys owned the land and house through the 1970s.

Social History:

Two African American families lived in and owned the house for the first part of the 20th century. From 1924 to 1931, Paul Alston (Austin), a helper at the UVA Hospital, lived in the house with his wife, Louise

Alston (Austin). Louise lived there alone from 1934 until 1937. The Key family lived there next, from 1940 until 1964: William Key, a janitor, his wife Lucille, and their son Willie Key Jr.

Statement of Significance:

Two families have owned and lived in this house for the majority of the 20th century, the Keys and the Alstons. The house is well preserved, with original windows and several large mature trees.