

#### IV. RESEARCHING AND DOCUMENTING YOUR HOME.

To own a well documented historic structure can be one of the most rewarding experiences available to property owners within a historic district. There are many ways to find information on your property. Listed below is a brief listing of things one should look for.

**One of the first things every property owner should remember is that properties evolve:**



The structure located at 2115 State Street started life as a simple side-hall residence and has evolved into a multi-story rental unit.

**A House can evolve in many manners:**

Following this section please review the four examples shown below:

- 2114 Lubbock
- 1807 Kane
- 2107 Lubbock
- 2218 Kane

The changes made to a structure give important and tangible evidence of its history.

The before and after drawings shown below show some changes that had been made to the Bettie E. Williams House.



**FRONT ELEVATION (SOUTH) EXISTING**

SCALE 1/8" TO THE FOOT

*The first item of note in this elevation is the absence of the two center porch columns. These supports have deteriorated and fallen but are still on the premises. The second column from the left is different in scale and thus evidences a replacement. Existing porch railing is non-architecturally accurate nor in good repair. 1870s two-over-two windows exist in 1850s frames. Front steps are from a later period and are made of concrete.*



**SIDE ELEVATION (EAST) EXISTING**

SCALE 1/8" TO THE FOOT

*Features of note: Porch columns/supports from two eras are visible: a mid to late Victorian turned post rests against the porch wall and a more recent c. 1910-20 round column at the front. Additions from at least two different periods appear to the right. The aforementioned additions are inappropriately sited and designed and have sustained extensive water and termite damage and should be removed. Non-structural addition is shown at the far right. Concrete steps are visible at the center and far right.*

Restoration of a structure often permanently erases this evidence.

Be careful and document well.

The after drawings shown below show some changes that were made in the restoration of the Bettie E Williams House.



**FRONT ELEVATION (SOUTH) ALTERED**

SCALE 1/8" TO THE FOOT

*All porch supports have been replaced by tapered square columns and pilasters regionally characteristic of the period. Railing has also been changed using a 3 1/2" wide hand rail with beveled edge and 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" slats. Porch decking has been replaced using tongue and groove pine. South facing piers have been rebuilt using brick replicating the original; dimensions and style are the same. Painted and framed wooden lattice will enclose spaces between piers. Concrete steps have been removed and replaced by wooden steps and hand rail characteristic of the period with details similar to the porch supports.*



**SIDE ELEVATION (EAST) ALTERED**

SCALE 1/8" TO THE FOOT

*All additions later than c. 1870 have been removed. Tapered square columns and pilasters on the front porch replace the previous supports, and an appropriately designed railing added. With the c. 1910-20 addition removed, recreation of the original c. 1870 side porch is possible. Two doors with transoms are now visible from the former rear hall. Existing clapboard siding on walls facing rear porch is exposed. Non-structural rear addition has been removed. Tapered square columns and pilasters have been added to the side porch. Concrete steps have been removed and wooden steps with hand rail added, as appropriate to the period. East-facing brick piers have been repaired/replaced using materials and design similar to the originals.*

**Houses have always moved around.**

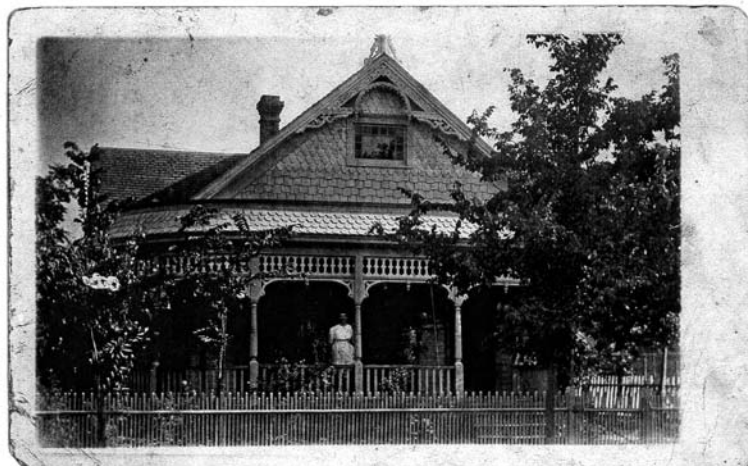
Here is a list of several homes known to not be on their original lot. Within the OSW.



**Look for similar structures to help date your home.**



**There is not always a photo of your property 'as it was' but we can dream.**



**Ask previous owners for photos**

**Most people do not photograph their house but they do take pictures of special events like weddings. Ask descendants if you can look through the photo album with them.**

**Talk to your neighbors they may have pictures taken away from their house that show yours in the background.**



**Ask your local neighborhood association and historical societies if they have historic archives.**



**Search old newspapers for information**



Ramsey Roeder will become a new resident of the Sixth Ward when the restoration is

completed on her turn-of-the-century house. She works for her father, store

planner Richard Roeder, who restored the building that houses the firm.

### First gentle signs of change at work in old Sixth Ward

Obits give names of family members, occupations, and clubs or congregations the deceased were members of.

**ANDREW KUHN.**  
The death of Andrew Kuhn occurred yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the residence, corner Courtland and Ninth streets, Houston Heights. Funeral arrangements will be announced later. The deceased was 74 years of age and survived by a wife and four children. New Orleans papers please copy. The funeral of Andrew Kuhn will be this evening at 7 o'clock at the residence, corner of Ninth Avenue and Highland streets, Houston Heights. Interment in Glenwood cemetery.

**Andrew Kuhn.**  
A precious one from us has gone,  
The voice we loved is stilled,  
A place is vacant in our home  
Which never can be filled.  
God in His wisdom has recalled  
The boon His love hath given,  
And though his body slumbers here  
The soul is safe in heaven.  
I beg to thank those so kind during the  
sickness and death of my husband, An-  
drew Kuhn.  
Mrs. Andrew Kuhn.

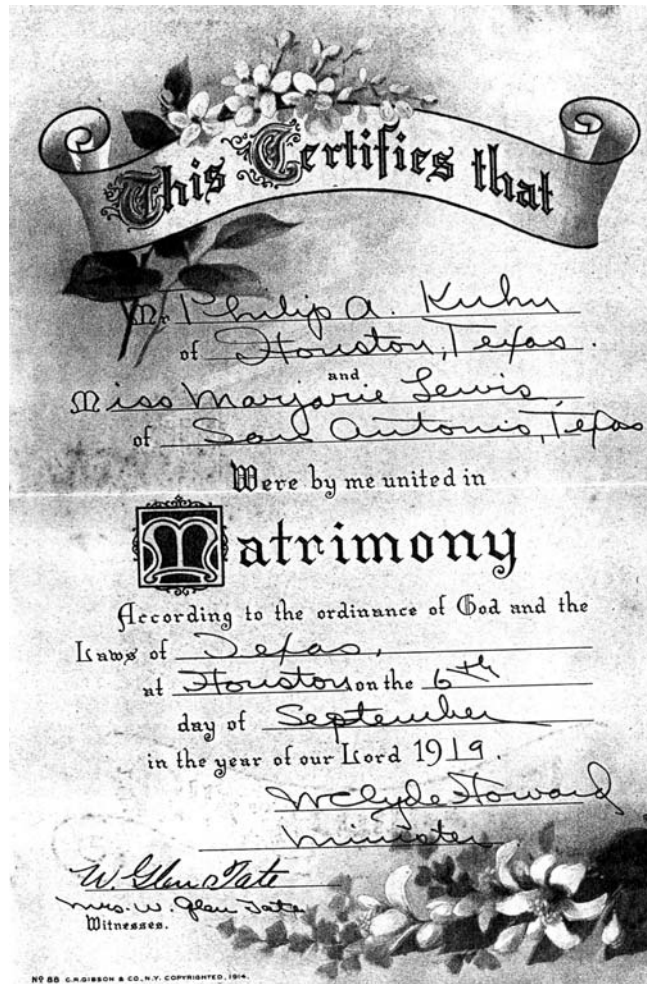
Did the previous owner work at a company that keeps an archive.



Did previous owners work at an organization that would keep an archive?



Look up Marriage licenses and death certificates.




Look through old titles and deeds that list 'improvements' on the property.

NUMBER  
426854\*

## ABSTRACT OF TITLE

TO

Lots 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 in block 4 of the Blount Addition to the City of Houston, on the North Side of Buffalo Bayou, out of the John Austin Survey, in Harris County, Texas.



**NOTICE**

This Abstract of Title is delivered by the Stewart Abstract Company, and accepted by the purchaser with the express agreement, which is part of the consideration upon which the delivery of the Abstract is based, that it is to be used only in the examination of the Title to the property for which it is prepared, and is not to be copied for any purpose whatever.

**STEWART ABSTRACT COMPANY**  
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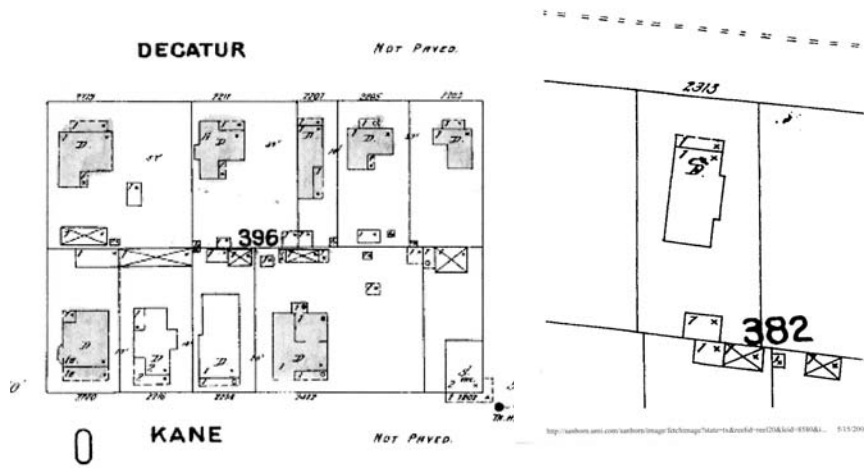
Look through county/ city records.

*Austin*

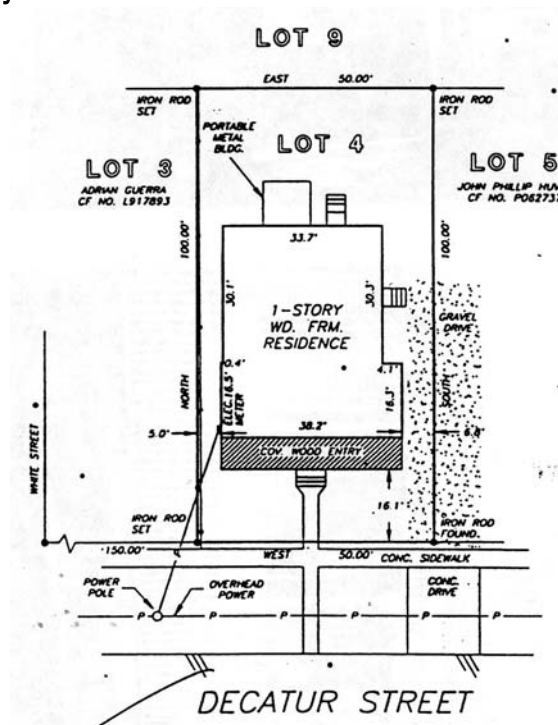
Lot	Vol.	Page	GRANTOR	GRANTEE
			<i>Union dt.</i>	
			<i>Jayson dt.</i>	<i>Stamphill dt.</i>
			<i>Recreation dt.</i>	
748	11	649	<i>J. R. Baker</i>	<i>Geo. B. Lippert</i>
9	15	493	<i>Richard V. Brannium</i>	<i>Geo. B. Lippert</i>
9	16	159	<i>J. C. Brannium</i>	<i>Joshua King</i>
90	17	879	<i>Agnes E. King</i>	<i>Abigail L. Cook</i>
10	19	929	<i>J. R. Baker</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>
1172	212	215	<i>J. R. Baker</i>	
9	26	374	<i>James H. Lorch</i>	<i>Charles Rodley</i>
Do	32	222	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do.</i>
156	40	118	<i>J. R. Baker</i>	<i>Louis Kalle</i>
6	51	524	<i>Young W. ...</i>	<i>Geo. ...</i>
156	52	524	<i>J. R. Baker</i>	<i>Do.</i>
9	112	112	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do.</i>
Do	6	115	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do.</i>
10	62	115	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do.</i>

Look at Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for first appearance of structure and its original shape.

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Look at old surveys closely.



Where did the owners go when they left your home? Where did they live before?



Who lived in the house next? . . .

