

# HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

December 01, 2021

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2021-609  
**ADDRESS:** 531 E CARSON  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 993 BLK 3 LOT E 7.8 OF S 150 OF 2 & W 47.2 OF S 150 OF 3  
ARB 6B  
**ZONING:** R-6, H  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 2  
**DISTRICT:** Government Hill Historic District  
**APPLICANT:** Michael Heller/J Crawford LLC  
**OWNER:** Judge (Anthony) and Diana Acosta/ACOSTA JUDGE A & DIANA R  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Exterior modifications  
**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** November 12, 2021  
**60-DAY REVIEW:** Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders  
**CASE MANAGER:** Rachel Rettaliata

## REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to:

1. Replace and modify the front porch columns.
2. Replace the front porch railing.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

*Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 2, Exterior Maintenance and Alterations*

### 1. Materials: Woodwork

#### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

- i. *Inspections*—Conduct semi-annual inspections of all exterior wood elements to verify condition and determine maintenance needs.
- ii. *Cleaning*—Clean exterior surfaces annually with mild household cleaners and water. Avoid using high pressure power washing and any abrasive cleaning or stripping methods that can damage the historic wood siding and detailing.
- iii. *Paint preparation*—Remove peeling, flaking, or failing paint surfaces from historic woodwork using the gentlest means possible to protect the integrity of the historic wood surface. Acceptable methods for paint removal include scraping and sanding, thermal removal, and when necessary, mild chemical strippers. Sand blasting and water blasting should never be used to remove paint from any surface. Sand only to the next sound level of paint, not all the way to the wood, and address any moisture and deterioration issues before repainting.
- iv. *Repainting*—Paint once the surface is clean and dry using a paint type that will adhere to the surface properly. See *General Paint Type Recommendations* in Preservation Brief #10 listed under Additional Resources for more information.
- v. *Repair*—Repair deteriorated areas or refasten loose elements with an exterior wood filler, epoxy, or glue.

#### B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

- i. *Facade materials*—Avoid removing materials that are in good condition or that can be repaired in place. Consider exposing original wood siding if it is currently covered with vinyl or aluminum siding, stucco, or other materials that have not achieved historic significance.
- ii. *Materials*—Use in-kind materials when possible or materials similar in size, scale, and character when exterior woodwork is beyond repair. Ensure replacement siding is installed to match the original pattern, including exposures. Do not introduce modern materials that can accelerate and hide deterioration of historic materials. Hardiboard and other cementitious materials are not recommended.
- iii. *Replacement elements*—Replace wood elements in-kind as a replacement for existing wood siding, matching in profile, dimensions, material, and finish, when beyond repair.

### 2. Materials: Masonry and Stucco

#### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)



- i. *Paint*—Avoid painting historically unpainted surfaces. Exceptions may be made for severely deteriorated material where other consolidation or stabilization methods are not appropriate. When painting is acceptable, utilize a water permeable paint to avoid trapping water within the masonry.
  - ii. *Clear area*—Keep the area where masonry or stucco meets the ground clear of water, moisture, and vegetation.
  - iii. *Vegetation*—Avoid allowing ivy or other vegetation to grow on masonry or stucco walls, as it may loosen mortar and stucco and increase trapped moisture.
  - iv. *Cleaning*—Use the gentlest means possible to clean masonry and stucco when needed, as improper cleaning can damage the surface. Avoid the use of any abrasive, strong chemical, sandblasting, or high-pressure cleaning method.
- B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)**
- i. *Patching*—Repair masonry or stucco by patching or replacing it with in-kind materials whenever possible. Utilize similar materials that are compatible with the original in terms of composition, texture, application technique, color, and detail, when in-kind replacement is not possible. EIFS is not an appropriate patching or replacement material for stucco.
  - ii. *Repointing*—The removal of old or deteriorated mortar should be done carefully by a professional to ensure that masonry units are not damaged in the process. Use mortar that matches the original in color, profile, and composition when repointing. Incompatible mortar can exceed the strength of historic masonry and results in deterioration. Ensure that the new joint matches the profile of the old joint when viewed in section. It is recommended that a test panel is prepared to ensure the mortar is the right strength and color.
  - iii. *Removing paint*—Take care when removing paint from masonry as the paint may be providing a protectant layer or hiding modifications to the building. Use the gentlest means possible, such as alkaline poultice cleaners and strippers, to remove paint from masonry.
  - iv. *Removing stucco*—Remove stucco from masonry surfaces where it is historically inappropriate. Prepare a test panel to ensure that underlying masonry has not been irreversibly damaged before proceeding.

### 3. Materials: Roofs

#### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

- i. *Regular maintenance and cleaning*—Avoid the build-up of accumulated dirt and retained moisture. This can lead to the growth of moss and other vegetation, which can lead to roof damage. Check roof surface for breaks or holes and flashing for open seams and repair as needed.

#### B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

- i. *Roof replacement*—Consider roof replacement when more than 25-30 percent of the roof area is damaged or 25-30 percent of the roof tiles (slate, clay tile, or cement) or shingles are missing or damaged.
- ii. *Roof form*—Preserve the original shape, line, pitch, and overhang of historic roofs when replacement is necessary.
- iii. *Roof features*—Preserve and repair distinctive roof features such as cornices, parapets, dormers, open eaves with exposed rafters and decorative or plain rafter tails, flared eaves or decorative purlins, and brackets with shaped ends.
- iv. *Materials: sloped roofs*—Replace roofing materials in-kind whenever possible when the roof must be replaced. Retain and re-use historic materials when large-scale replacement of roof materials other than asphalt shingles is required (e.g., slate or clay tiles). Salvaged materials should be re-used on roof forms that are most visible from the public right-of-way. Match new roofing materials to the original materials in terms of their scale, color, texture, profile, and style, or select materials consistent with the building style, when in-kind replacement is not possible.
- v. *Materials: flat roofs*—Allow use of contemporary roofing materials on flat or gently sloping roofs not visible from the public right-of-way.
- vi. *Materials: metal roofs*—Use metal roofs on structures that historically had a metal roof or where a metal roof is appropriate for the style or construction period. Refer to Checklist for Metal Roofs on page 10 for desired metal roof specifications when considering a new metal roof. New metal roofs that adhere to these guidelines can be approved administratively as long as documentation can be provided that shows that the home has historically had a metal roof.
- vii. *Roof vents*—Maintain existing historic roof vents. When deteriorated beyond repair, replace roof vents in-kind or with one similar in design and material to those historically used when in-kind replacement is not possible.

### 4. Materials: Metal

#### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

- i. *Cleaning*—Use the gentlest means possible when cleaning metal features to avoid damaging the historic finish. Prepare a test panel to determine appropriate cleaning methods before proceeding. Use a wire brush to remove corrosion or paint build up on hard metals like wrought iron, steel, and cast iron.
- ii. *Repair*—Repair metal features using methods appropriate to the specific type of metal.
- iii. *Paint*—Avoid painting metals that were historically exposed such as copper and bronze.



## B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

- i. *Replacement*—Replace missing or significantly damaged metal features in-kind or with a substitute compatible in size, form, material, and general appearance to the historical feature when in-kind replacement is not possible.
- ii. *Rust*—Select replacement anchors of stainless steel to limit rust and associated expansion that can cause cracking of the surrounding material such as wood or masonry. Insert anchors into the mortar joints of masonry buildings.
- iii. *New metal features*—Add metal features based on accurate evidence of the original, such as photographs. Base the design on the architectural style of the building and historic patterns if no such evidence exists.

## 5. Architectural Features: Lighting

### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

- i. *Lighting*—Preserve historic light fixtures in place and maintain through regular cleaning and repair as needed.

### B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

- i. *Rewiring*—Consider rewiring historic fixtures as necessary to extend their lifespan.
- ii. *Replacement lighting*—Replace missing or severely damaged historic light fixtures in-kind or with fixtures that match the original in appearance and materials when in-kind replacement is not feasible. Fit replacement fixtures to the existing mounting location.
- iii. *New light fixtures*—Avoid damage to the historic building when installing necessary new light fixtures, ensuring they may be removed in the future with little or no damage to the building. Place new light fixtures and those not historically present in locations that do not distract from the façade of the building while still directing light where needed. New light fixtures should be unobtrusive in design and should not rust or stain the building.

## 6. Architectural Features: Doors, Windows, and Screens

### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

- i. *Openings*—Preserve existing window and door openings. Avoid enlarging or diminishing to fit stock sizes or air conditioning units. Avoid filling in historic door or window openings. Avoid creating new primary entrances or window openings on the primary façade or where visible from the public right-of-way.
- ii. *Doors*—Preserve historic doors including hardware, fanlights, sidelights, pilasters, and entablatures.
- iii. *Windows*—Preserve historic windows. When glass is broken, the color and clarity of replacement glass should match the original historic glass.
- iv. *Screens and shutters*—Preserve historic window screens and shutters.
- v. *Storm windows*—Install full-view storm windows on the interior of windows for improved energy efficiency. Storm window may be installed on the exterior so long as the visual impact is minimal and original architectural details are not obscured.

### B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

- i. *Doors*—Replace doors, hardware, fanlight, sidelights, pilasters, and entablatures in-kind when possible and when deteriorated beyond repair. When in-kind replacement is not feasible, ensure features match the size, material, and profile of the historic element.
- ii. *New entrances*—Ensure that new entrances, when necessary to comply with other regulations, are compatible in size, scale, shape, proportion, material, and massing with historic entrances.
- iii. *Glazed area*—Avoid installing interior floors or suspended ceilings that block the glazed area of historic windows.
- iv. *Window design*—Install new windows to match the historic or existing windows in terms of size, type, configuration, material, form, appearance, and detail when original windows are deteriorated beyond repair.
- v. *Muntins*—Use the exterior muntin pattern, profile, and size appropriate for the historic building when replacement windows are necessary. Do not use internal muntins sandwiched between layers of glass.
- vi. *Replacement glass*—Use clear glass when replacement glass is necessary. Do not use tinted glass, reflective glass, opaque glass, and other non-traditional glass types unless it was used historically. When established by the architectural style of the building, patterned, leaded, or colored glass can be used.
- vii. *Non-historic windows*—Replace non-historic incompatible windows with windows that are typical of the architectural style of the building.
- viii. *Security bars*—Install security bars only on the interior of windows and doors.
- ix. *Screens*—Utilize wood screen window frames matching in profile, size, and design of those historically found when the existing screens are deteriorated beyond repair. Ensure that the tint of replacement screens closely matches the original screens or those used historically.



x. *Shutters*—Incorporate shutters only where they existed historically and where appropriate to the architectural style of the house. Shutters should match the height and width of the opening and be mounted to be operational or appear to be operational. Do not mount shutters directly onto any historic wall material.

## 7. Architectural Features: Porches, Balconies, and Porte-Cocheres

### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

i. *Existing porches, balconies, and porte-cocheres*—Preserve porches, balconies, and porte-cocheres. Do not add new porches, balconies, or porte-cocheres where not historically present.

ii. *Balusters*—Preserve existing balusters. When replacement is necessary, replace in-kind when possible or with balusters that match the originals in terms of materials, spacing, profile, dimension, finish, and height of the railing.

iii. *Floors*—Preserve original wood or concrete porch floors. Do not cover original porch floors of wood or concrete with carpet, tile, or other materials unless they were used historically.

### B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

i. *Front porches*—Refrain from enclosing front porches. Approved screen panels should be simple in design as to not change the character of the structure or the historic fabric.

ii. *Side and rear porches*—Refrain from enclosing side and rear porches, particularly when connected to the main porch or balcony. Original architectural details should not be obscured by any screening or enclosure materials. Alterations to side and rear porches should result in a space that functions, and is visually interpreted as, a porch.

iii. *Replacement*—Replace in-kind porches, balconies, porte-cocheres, and related elements, such as ceilings, floors, and columns, when such features are deteriorated beyond repair. When in-kind replacement is not feasible, the design should be compatible in scale, massing, and detail while materials should match in color, texture, dimensions, and finish.

iv. *Adding elements*—Design replacement elements, such as stairs, to be simple so as to not distract from the historic character of the building. Do not add new elements and details that create a false historic appearance.

v. *Reconstruction*—Reconstruct porches, balconies, and porte-cocheres based on accurate evidence of the original, such as photographs. If no such evidence exists, the design should be based on the architectural style of the building and historic patterns.

## 8. Architectural Features: Foundations

### A. MAINTENANCE (PRESERVATION)

i. *Details*—Preserve the height, proportion, exposure, form, and details of a foundation such as decorative vents, grilles, and lattice work.

ii. *Ventilation*—Ensure foundations are vented to control moisture underneath the dwelling, preventing deterioration.

iii. *Drainage*—Ensure downspouts are directed away and soil is sloped away from the foundation to avoid moisture collection near the foundation.

iv. *Repair*—Inspect foundations regularly for sufficient drainage and ventilation, keeping it clear of vegetation. Also inspect for deteriorated materials such as limestone and repair accordingly. Refer to maintenance and alteration of applicable materials, for additional guidelines.

### B. ALTERATIONS (REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION)

i. *Replacement features*—Ensure that features such as decorative vents and grilles and lattice panels are replaced in-kind when deteriorated beyond repair. When in-kind replacement is not possible, use features matching in size, material, and design. Replacement skirting should consist of durable, proven materials, and should either match the existing siding or be applied to have minimal visual impact.

ii. *Alternative materials*—Cedar piers may be replaced with concrete piers if they are deteriorated beyond repair.

iii. *Shoring*—Provide proper support of the structure while the foundation is rebuilt or repaired.

iv. *New utilities*—Avoid placing new utility and mechanical connections through the foundation along the primary façade or where visible from the public right-of-way.

## FINDINGS:

- a. The primary structure at 531 E Carson is a 1-story, single-family structure constructed circa 1935 in the Craftsman style. The property first appears on the 1951 Sanborn Maps. The structure has been subjected to non-conforming modifications in prior decades including the installation of stone veneer on the front façade, and the covering and replacement of wood siding with aluminum siding. Most recently, the structure was subject to porch modifications prior to approval. The property is contributing to the Government Hill Historic District.
- b. COMPLIANCE – The property owner submitted an application for Historic Tax Certification in January 2021. During review of the application materials, staff determined that several scopes of work were completed by the



owner's contractor without approval. The applicant is requesting approval of the scopes of work that were completed prior to approval so that the property will be eligible for the Substantial Rehabilitation Tax Incentive.

- c. **PORCH COLUMN REPLACEMENT** – The applicant has proposed to replace the existing Craftsman style wood columns with wood columns to match and to install a porch column on the brick base that currently does not feature a column and did not feature a column historically. Guidelines 7.B.iii for Exterior Maintenance and Alterations states that porches, balconies, porte-cocheres, and related elements, such as ceilings, floors, and columns, should be replaced in-kind when such features are deteriorated beyond repair. When in-kind replacement is not feasible, the design should be compatible in scale, massing, and detail while materials should match in color, texture, dimensions, and finish. Additionally, Guideline 7.B.iv for Exterior Maintenance and Alterations recommends that replacement elements, such as stairs, be designed to be simple so as to not distract from the historic character of the building. Do not add new elements and details that create a false historic appearance. Staff finds the porch column replacement with columns that match the scale, massing, detail, and material of the existing columns to be appropriate. The installation of an additional column is not consistent with the Guidelines.
- d. **PORCH RAILING REPLACEMENT** – The applicant has proposed to replace the existing wood front porch railing with a railing with spindles. Guidelines 7.B.iii for Exterior Maintenance and Alterations states that porches, balconies, porte-cocheres, and related elements, such as ceilings, floors, and columns, should be replaced in-kind when such features are deteriorated beyond repair. When in-kind replacement is not feasible, the design should be compatible in scale, massing, and detail while materials should match in color, texture, dimensions, and finish. Staff finds that the installation of a simplified porch railing would be most appropriate. The proposed railings should feature both a top and bottom rail. The bottom rail should feature a vertical orientation and should be installed approximately three to four inches above the porch decking. Both top and bottom rails should be constructed from 2"x4" members. The proposed railing should not feature an overall height of more than three (3) feet. Staff finds the proposed railing inappropriate.
- e. **ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL** – The applicant has proposed to complete additional scopes of work that are eligible for administrative approval and do not require review by the HDRC.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Item 1, staff recommends approval of the porch column replacement based on finding c with the following stipulations:

- i. That the applicant removes the front porch column that is not original to the front porch.

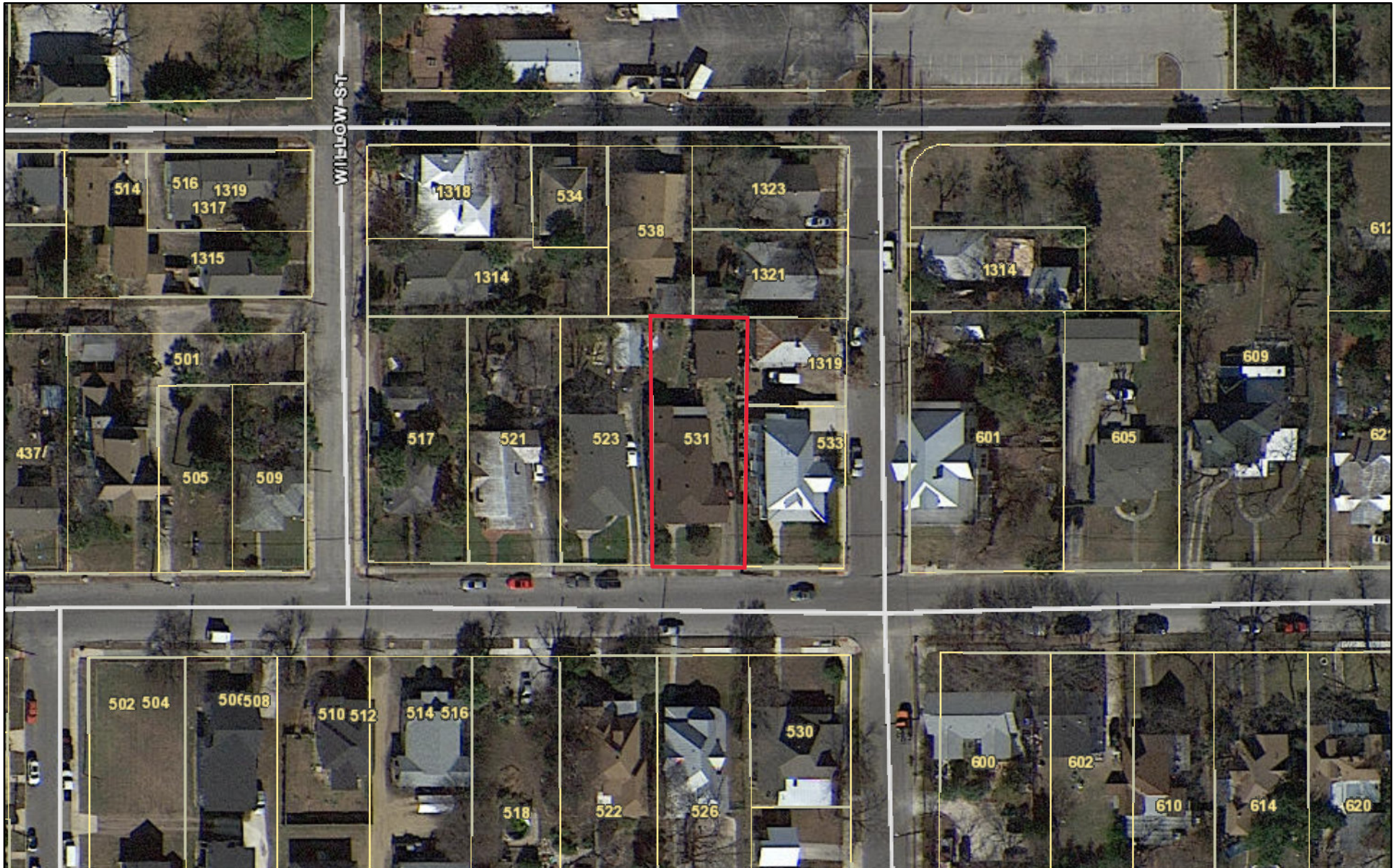
Item 2, staff recommends approval of the front porch railing replacement based on finding d with the following stipulation:

- i. That the railings at the front porch are fully wood and feature both a top and bottom rail. The bottom rail should feature a vertical orientation and should be installed approximately three to four inches above the steps. Both top and bottom rails should be constructed from 2"x4" members. The proposed railing should not feature an overall height of more than three (3) feet. The applicant must submit evidence that the installed handrails meet this stipulation to staff for review and approval prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

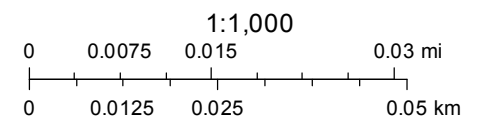
**CASE COMMENT** - The applicant will be eligible for the Substantial Rehabilitation Tax Incentive and may return to the HDRC to request Historic Tax Certification and Historic Tax Verification once property has come into compliance.



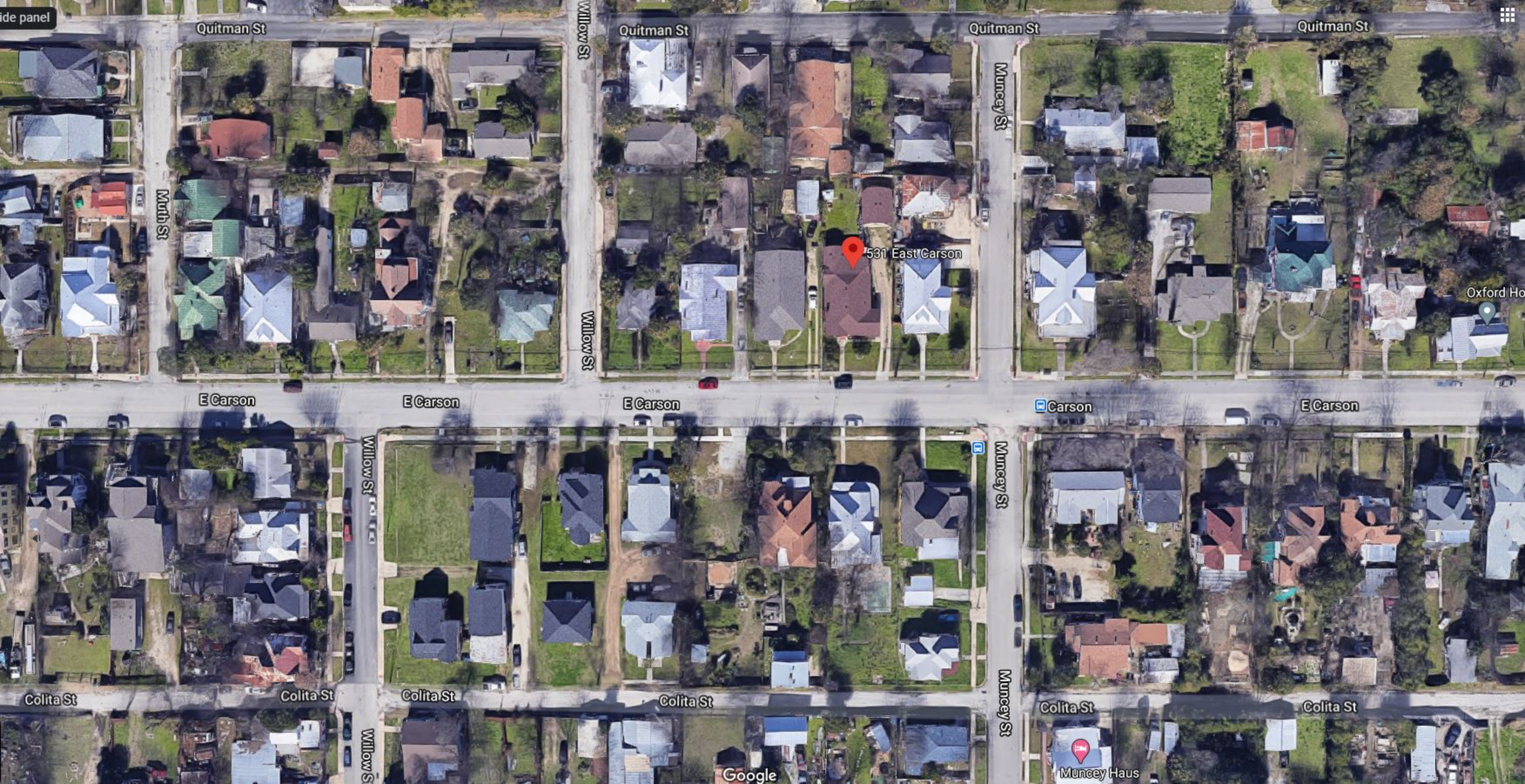
# 531 E Carson



October 13, 2020







ide panel

Quitman St

Muth St

E Carson

Colita St

Colita St

Willow St

Colita St

Willow St

E Carson

Willow St

Willow St

Quitman St

E Carson

Colita St

Google

Quitman St

Muncey St

Carson

Muncey St

Muncey St

Colita St

Muncey Haus

Quitman St

E Carson

Colita St

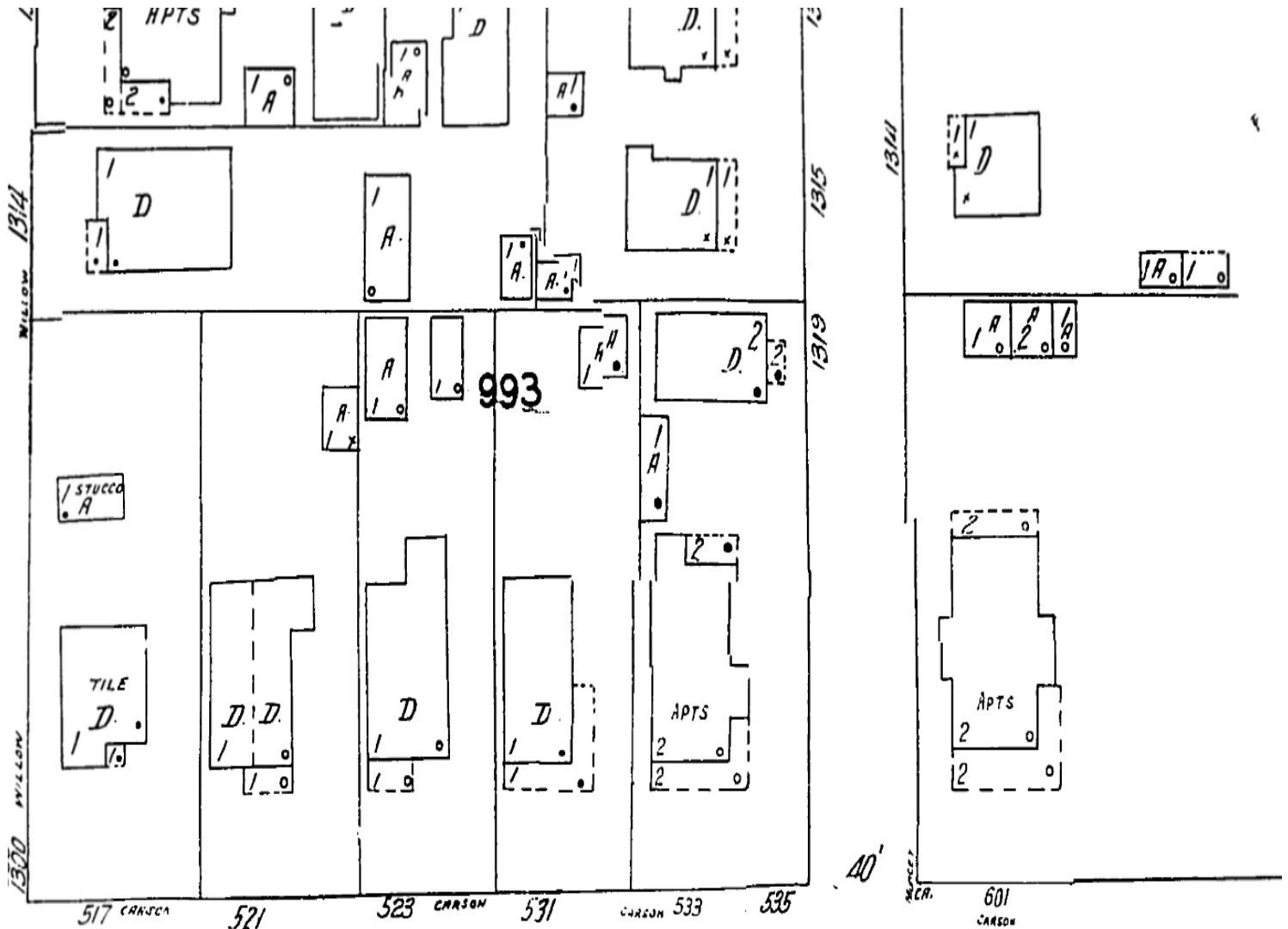
Oxford Ho





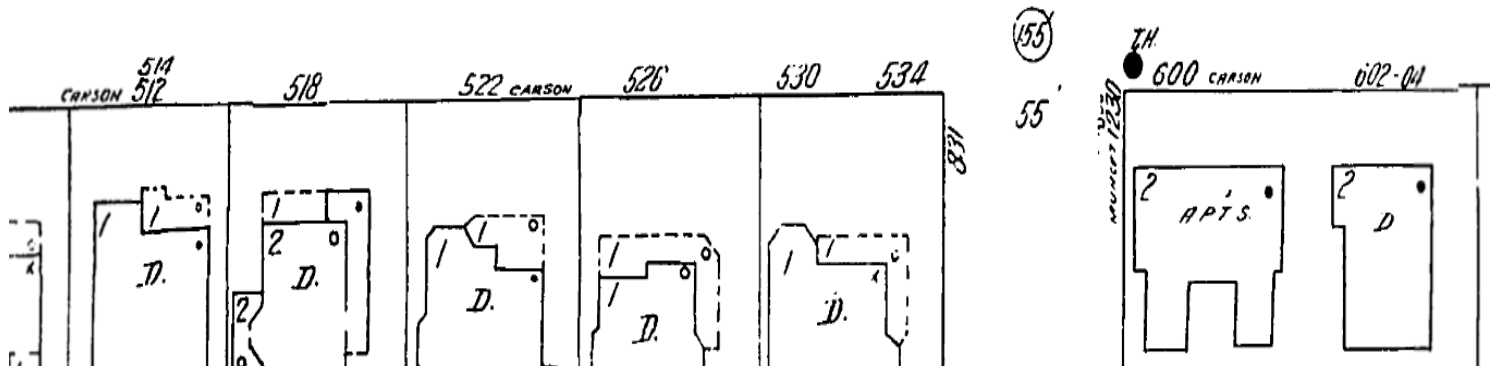
531 East Carson





E. CARSON

GRAVELED.



NON-COMMERCIAL USE ONLY

Digital Sanborn Maps are not suitable for legal or regulatory purposes. Digital Sanborn Maps may not be downloaded, clipped, printed, resold, retained or used for commercial or business research purposes, including but not limited to environmental, property or other land use evaluations. Digital Sanborn Maps are reproduced and distributed under license from Environmental Data Resources, Inc. For information on how to obtain maps for commercial and business research purposes, go to [www.edrnet.com/sanborn](http://www.edrnet.com/sanborn). All copyright in the Sanborn Maps are held by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. or its affiliates. Sanborn Map Company logo used with permission.

Database and software copyright © 2001-2020 ProQuest, LLC. All rights reserved.





















531



























← 1<sup>ST</sup> CONCRETE  
STEP LOCATION  
(APPRX 12"X18"X4")

2<sup>ND</sup> CONCRETE  
STEP LOCATION  
(APPRX. 12"X24"X4")

↑  
N



← 1<sup>ST</sup> CONCRETE  
STEP LOCATION  
(APPRX 12" x 18" x 4")

2<sup>ND</sup> CONCRETE  
STEP LOCATION  
(APPRX. 12" x 24" x 4")

↑  
N





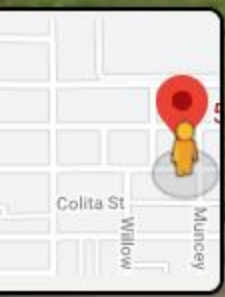




526 E Carson  
San Antonio, Texas

Google

Street View



Google



