

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Buckner, Aurelius and Dorothy, House

other names/site number ISHI# 01-2756

Name of Multiple Property Listing African American Civil Rights in Idaho

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 1012 N 19th Street

☐ not for publication

city or town | Boise

☐ vicinity

state Idaho

code ID

county Ada

code 001

zip code 83702

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A X B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Tricia Canaday, Deputy SHPO

Date

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Buckner, Aurelius and Dorothy, House

Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
0	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD / Weatherboard

roof: ASPHALT

other: BRICK

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraphs

The Buckner House is located at 1012 N. 19th Street in the North End neighborhood of Boise, Ada County, Idaho (2020 pop. 235,648; figures 1 and 2). The single-family residence occupies a mid-block parcel on Lots 12 and 13 in Block 19 of the Highland Park Addition and is situated on a narrow, tree-lined street among other single-family residences of the early 20th century (figures 3 and 4). Completed in 1911, the one-story, wood-frame house is a modest Craftsman-style bungalow, with a low-pitched, cross-gable roof, open eaves and exposed rafter tails, and a full-width front porch. A detached, one-car garage is located behind the residence and is accessed via the alley.

The property contributes to the Harrison Boulevard Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 (NRHP # 80001286) and designated a local historic district by the City of Boise in 1989. The Buckner House is one of many early 20th century Craftsman bungalows in the district that are generally characterized by their modest proportions and common architectural elements such as low-pitched gable roofs, exposed rafter tails, and prominent front porches.

The property meets the requirements for integrity that are outlined in the Multiple Property Document *African American Civil Rights in Idaho*. It has strong integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Alterations to the residence over time somewhat impact integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, including the partial infill of the front porch and the construction of a large rear addition. However, the porch infill was completed during the period of significance by the Buckners is not intrusive to the building's original design. Regarding the rear addition, its siting and setback and its clear differentiation from the original residence mitigate its impact on the original residence. Additionally, the replacement of original windows impacts integrity of materials, but the new units occupy existing openings. Through its setting, placement, form, and character-defining features, the residence clearly conveys its original function, period of construction, and historic associations.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Harrison Boulevard Historic District takes its name from the picturesque, tree-lined thoroughfare extending northward out of downtown Boise (figure 2). The landscaped parkway is lined with residences that represent a variety of early 20th century architectural styles. The historic district, significant for its residential architecture and association with the growth and development of the city, is generally bounded by N. 15th Street, N. 20th Street, W. Resseguie Street, and W. Dora Street. Beyond Harrison Boulevard, the structures in the historic district range from large, elaborate Queen Anne residences to smaller bungalows reflecting the Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles.¹

Located three blocks west of Harrison Boulevard, the Buckner House faces west along a narrow north-south street in the southwest part of the historic district. The block is characterized by single-family houses built on narrow lots with detached garages and outbuildings accessed via rear alleyways.

¹ Janet McCulloch and Susanne Lichtenstein, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form "Harrison Boulevard Historic District." Boise, ID: 1979.

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Concrete sidewalks pass through the front yards, with narrow concrete walkways leading from the sidewalk to the homes' front porches.

Resources

Resource 1: House
Contributing
Date of Construction: 1911

Exterior

The Buckner House has all the hallmarks of a small Craftsman bungalow constructed in the early 20th century. The one-and-a-half story, wood-frame house reflects the popular cross-gable bungalow form, with a front-facing gable covering the full-width front porch and an intersecting side-gable mass that includes the main body of the original house, which measures approximately 25' by 43' (photo 1). A new gabled addition (under construction) extends 36' from the rear of the residence (figures 5 and 6, photo 3). The house is built on a concrete foundation with a partial basement beneath the original structure. The home's exterior is clad in cedar clapboard siding, with a narrow, 2.5" reveal. Painted brick clads the base of the front porch. Windows appear singly and openings feature square wood trim. The original wood window sashes have been replaced with an assortment of metal-clad wood and vinyl units. The low-pitched gables of the original residence feature open eaves and exposed rafter tails, wide bargeboards, and triangular knee brackets at the gable peaks and ends. The roof is composition shingle, and an interior brick chimney is located on the rear roof slope.

The **primary (west) elevation** (photos 1 and 6) is dominated by the full-width porch with a front-gable roof that is supported by short, square, paired columns made of wood and resting on battered brick piers. The result is a wide, slightly curved opening between the porch supports. Four concrete steps flanked by painted brick wing walls lead from ground level to the porch's concrete floor. The closed porch railing is also painted brick. The north half of the porch has been infilled with a wood-frame bedroom addition (1959) that features a west-facing slider window. The primary entry is centered on the elevation and includes a recent replacement door with a tall, elongated oval glass window. Beside the door to the south is a large, double-hung replacement window that provides light into the living room.

The **south (side) elevation** (photo 2) is comprised of three bays. The center bay features a projecting square bump-out with a shed roof and exposed rafter tails as well as two double-hung windows that provide light to the dining room. On either side of the projecting bay is a double-hung window with replacement sashes. The east window opening is slightly downsized from the original. Above the projecting bay is a horizontal slider replacement window situated near the gable peak. The entire elevation is clad in narrow-reveal clapboard siding. The base of the exterior wall has a flared base. The unfinished addition is slightly set back from the south exterior wall of the original house.

The **north (side) elevation** (photos 4 and 5) is arranged similarly to the south side. It, too, is comprised of three bays. The center bay features a projecting square bump-out with a gable roof and exposed rafter ends as well as one double-hung window that provides light into the bathroom. On either side of the projecting bay is a double-hung window with replacement sashes. Above the bump-out is a horizontal slider replacement window situated near the gable peak. The entire elevation is clad in narrow-reveal clapboard siding. The base of the exterior wall has a flared base. The unfinished addition is slightly set back from the north exterior wall of the original house.

The **east (rear) elevation** (photos 3 and 4) of the original house is completely obscured by the unfinished, two-story addition. The addition has expanded the lot coverage from approximately 1,549 sq.

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ft. to 1,949 sq. ft.² At the time of this writing, the addition is framed and enclosed with Tyvek house-wrap awaiting the installation of siding. The exterior cladding of the new addition will be a mix of vertical cedar siding (on the portion immediately adjoining the original house) and black natural slate shingle cladding (on the two-story rear section).

Interior

The interior exhibits a typical small Craftsman bungalow plan (photo 8). Its long, rectangular arrangement with private bedroom spaces clustered on one side (shown in blue at right) and the interconnected common-space living and dining rooms and kitchen on the other side is a common plan advertised and used by builders of the early 20th century.

Through the primary entry at the front porch, one enters the home into the living room at the southwest corner of the house. The modest-sized **living room** measures approximately 12.5' by 13.5' and flows through a wide, cased opening into the **dining room**. The living and dining rooms feature wood floors, painted wood baseboards, plaster walls, and square painted wood trim with a plain cap. The south exterior wall of the dining room includes a hutch that occupies the square bay space and is flanked by windows. There is a painted **brick fireplace** on the east wall of the dining room flanked by doorways that access the renovated and enlarged kitchen. The north doorway with historic cap trim is most likely original, while the south doorway with its non-historic cap trim is a recent addition.

Private living spaces, including the **bedrooms** and **bathroom**, are accessed via doors on the north wall of the living and dining rooms.³ The **closet** on the west wall of the front bedroom was an addition built to function as a small bedroom and nursery.

An interior staircase at the rear of the house accesses a small basement where mechanicals, a laundry area, and small storage space are housed.⁴ A crawlspace surrounds the basement occupying the remainder of the area below the original residence.



Resource 2: Garage
Contributing
Date of Construction: Unknown

A one-car garage is situated behind the residence at the southeast corner of the parcel (photo 7). The wood-framed building has a front-gable roof with composition shingles, open eaves, and exposed rafter tails. The exterior is clad in cedar clapboard siding (4" reveal) with cornerboards. A hinged double-door with exterior cross bracing faces east toward the alley. A short concrete pad joins the garage with the alley.

² These measurements include the porch and garage (figures 5 and 6).

³ Cherie Buckner-Webb, whose family lived in the house from 1957 to 2003, recalls an enclosed back porch that served as a bedroom for her brother Charles Buckner. This space has been removed for the new addition.

⁴ Buckner-Webb recalls that there was a laundry room in the back hall at the rear of the house.

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There are no building permits documenting the construction of the garage. Despite not appearing on the 1956 Sanborn map (Figure 10), the garage's design and materials suggest it was constructed pre-World War II.

Change Over Time and Integrity

The Buckner House has functioned as a single-family residence since its construction in 1911. The property has undergone changes typical of small, century-old houses as owners' needs evolved and residential technologies advanced. The property's physical change over time is documented by Sanborn Co. maps (figures 8 through 10) and in City of Boise permit records:

- 1959: The north part of the front porch was enclosed to accommodate an additional bedroom. (City of Boise Inspection Record, No. 17274). A later building permit, issued in 1967, suggests this porch infill addition was rebuilt (City of Boise Building Permit, No. 4940).
- 1970: Aluminum siding was applied to the exterior of the residence, but this alteration was later reversed to reveal the original clapboard cladding. (City of Boise Building Permit, No. 842).
- 1971: Air-conditioning and central heating were installed in the house. (City of Boise Permit to Install Fuel-Burning Equipment, Piping, Venting, No. 24)
- 1972: A wood deck, measuring 24' x 9' and mounted on masonry blocks, was constructed at the rear of residence, and a 100' of board fence was constructed to enclose the rear yard. (City of Boise Building Permit, No. 4964) This deck was removed and has been replaced by the recent construction of the rear addition.
- c. 2005: Vinyl windows installed throughout the house. New front door installed.
- 2016: A 4'-tall picket fence was erected in the front yard. (City of Boise Permit Record No. CAA16-00075)
- 2020-2022: Two-story, wood-frame rear addition with a gable roof, a combination of vertical cedar siding and black natural slate shingles, and a concrete slab foundation. Vinyl windows (c. 2005) in original house to be replaced with metal-clad wood units and new front door to be installed.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY: Civil Rights, Politics/

Government

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance

1957-1972

Significant Dates

1957 – Buckners rent/move into home; 1958 –

cross burning incident; 1964 – Buckners

purchase home; 1966 – Dorothy gives public

speech; 1968-69 – Buckners host many

planning meetings for civil rights activities

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Dorothy Buckner

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Smith (builder, developer)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1957 when Aurelius and Dorothy Buckner moved to this property as renters. The period extends through the 1960s when the Buckners purchased the home and were active in local and statewide civil rights initiatives. The period ends in 1972, the 50-year cut-off date that is recommended by National Register guidelines for properties with continued importance where no more specific date can be defined.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Aurelius and Dorothy Buckner House was included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1980 as a contributor to the Harrison Boulevard Historic District, significant for its residential architecture and association with the growth and development of the city. This NRHP registration form is intended to recognize the property's significant social and political history associated with the Buckners, who were leaders in the push for African American civil rights in Idaho during the middle and late 20th century. With their rental of this property in 1957 and subsequent purchase, it is believed the Buckners were the first Black family to rent and own a home in Boise's North End neighborhood. They were subsequently the targets of a cross burning, a tool of racial intimidation and a potent anti-Black symbol of hate. Despite the threats, the Buckners not only remained in their home, they also hosted many important planning meetings and strategy sessions for some of Boise's most important civil rights activities. Their home was a center of the civil rights movement in Boise. The couple raised four children in this house, and they maintained this residence until their deaths in 2003.

The property meets the registration requirements for significance that are outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *African American Civil Rights in Idaho*. The property is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of *Ethnic Heritage* as a place owned and occupied by an African-American family who experienced anti-Black intimidation and prejudice while living there and also who organized locally and statewide to resist racism. The property also is significant at a statewide level under **Criterion B** in the area of *Social History (Civil Rights and Politics/Government)* for Dorothy Buckner's contributions to local and statewide political activities focused on desegregation, equity, and civil rights.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The MPDF *African American Civil Rights in Idaho* provides the context for evaluating sites related to the struggle for freedom and equality in all facets of life for Idaho's African Americans including housing, employment, education, voting rights, and public accommodations. The MPDF identifies significant individuals who organized and contributed to efforts to resist racism in Idaho, and this includes Aurelius and Dorothy Buckner. Extant places associated with both individual and collective socio-cultural and political resistance and activism are the focus of the MPDF. In order to be eligible for the NRHP under this Multiple Property Listing, the individuals and events associated with the resource must contribute to the larger story of the African American Civil Rights Movement in Idaho. Additionally, the resource must exhibit its historic and architectural character in both physical and associative ways. The Buckner House meets these registration requirements.

Brief Property Timeline

The Buckner House is located in the Highland Park Addition, a plat filed in 1906 by L.H. and Emma J. Cox (figure 7). The Coxes were among a group of influential citizens who subdivided and developed the area north of downtown Boise in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.⁵ L.H. Cox was a partner in the W.E. Pierce and Company real estate firm, led by Walter E. Pierce, a developer who served briefly as Boise mayor (1895-1897) and for whom Pierce Park neighborhood is named. Emma Cox was active in local social and cultural circles and was a charter member of Boise's Columbian Club, which initially organized to furnish the Idaho building at the World's Columbia Exposition in Chicago in 1893.⁶

⁵ Janet McCulloch and Susanne Lichtenstein, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form "Harrison Boulevard Historic District," (Boise, ID: 1979), sec. 8, p. 6.

⁶ L.H. Cox and Company, Records, MS 109. Public Archives and Research Library, Idaho State Historical Society.

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Cox sold parcels in the Highland Park Addition to home seekers and builders including William Smith, who was actively purchasing and developing lots in the North End as early as 1908.⁷ Smith purchased Lots 12 and 13 in Block 19 of the Highland Park Addition for \$900. He then erected a single-family dwelling valued at \$2,000 in 1911 that he advertised for rent.⁸ Since 1911, the property has transitioned through several owners:

- John J. Carroll, a contractor, and John A. Carroll, a bookkeeper, were the first to live in the residence, as renters.⁹ Smith sold the property to J.J. Carroll in 1914.¹⁰
- J.J. and Susie Carroll sold the property in 1918 to James and Rosa Morfitt for \$3,500.¹¹
- James Morfitt, and his second wife Grace, sold the property in 1927 to E.L. Dean.¹²
- Dean sold the property in March 1928 to Thomas and Dollie Tanna.¹³
- The Tannas sold the property to Arden and Ruth Forrey in October 1936. City directories suggest the Forreys lived elsewhere and likely rented out the property during their ownership.
- The Forreys sold the property in July 1946 to Guy and Madeline Obenchain.
- The Obenchains sold the property in April 1948 to Orval and Minta Kyser.
- The Kysers sold the property in March 1955 to Richard and June Shirley.
- The Shirleys sold the property in October 1957 to Glenn and Ruth Blaser.

City directories and census records suggest the property was occupied mostly by renters during the late 1930s to 1950s. In 1957, Aurelius and Dorothy Buckner rented the house and would reside there for nearly a half century. They purchased it from local homebuilder Glenn F. Blaser and his wife Ruth in 1964.¹⁴ The current owner, Jessica Morales, purchased the property in 2015.

The Buckners are the longest-tenured owners and occupants and are believed to be the first Black family to purchase a home in Boise's North End neighborhood. Their story, as it relates to the Black experience in Boise, is the focus of the following narratives.

*African Americans in Idaho and Boise*¹⁵

The Buckners were part of a very small African American population in Boise that persisted throughout the 20th century. African Americans historically comprised one of the smallest numbers of Idaho's racial minorities, according to the U.S. Census. The city of Pocatello had the highest percentage of Black residents in Idaho, peaking at nearly 2.5 percent in 1920 with 366 people. Boise had the second largest Black community in Idaho. In 1910, it numbered 135, or about 0.8 percent of its total population. This dropped sharply during the next two decades. By 1940, 101 African Americans lived in Boise; this grew to 156 by 1950, 198 by 1960, 268 by 1970, and 511 by 1980.

As Table 1 shows, the percentage of Black Boiseans has remained very low over time, remaining below one percent of the city's total population throughout the 20th century. In recent decades, the percentage has

⁷ "News of Public Record," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, December 27, 1908, p. 7.

⁸ City of Boise Inspection Record, No. 1104, May 31, 1911. "For Rent," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, September 29, 1911, p. 11. The house was originally addressed 1012 N. 20th Street, but this changed to 1012 N. 19th Street in 1916 when the street numbering system was adjusted to reintroduce 17th Street. The 17th Street name had been eliminated when the original street was renamed Harrison Boulevard following President Benjamin Harrison's visit to Boise in 1891.

⁹ Boise City Directory, 1912. Ancestry.com.

¹⁰ Deed, Instrument No. 57275, Ada County Assessor, December 15, 1914.

¹¹ "News of Record," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, November 10, 1918, p. 11. Deed, Instrument No. 76068 [?], Ada County Assessor, October 7, 1918.

¹² "Real Estate Transfers," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, August 7, 1927, p. 6. Deed, Instrument No. 126798, Ada County Assessor, July 30, 1927.

¹³ Deed, Instrument No. 129915, Ada County Assessor, March 23, 1928. U.S. Census, 1930. Ancestry.com.

¹⁴ Deed, Ada County, September 30, 1964.

¹⁵ The demographic information in this section builds on the data presented in the MPDF *African American Civil Rights in Idaho*.

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climbed to nearly two percent. Pocatello's Black population reflected similar trends with slightly higher overall percentages. These two cities served as hubs of social and political activity for the state's Black community.

Year	Boise Population	Boise Black Population	Percentage Black Population
1910	17,358	135	0.8%
1920	21,393	63	0.3%
1930	21,544	Approx. 86	0.4%
1940	26,130	101	0.4%
1950	34,393	156	0.5%
1960	34,481	198	0.6%
1970	74,990	268	0.4%
1980	102,249	511	0.5%
1990	125,738	730	0.6%
2000	195,532	1,483	0.8%
2010	205,671	3,043	1.5%

Table 1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov & MPDF, p. E-2.

Prior to World War II, Boise's Black residents lived in various parts of the city, mostly as renters. Like Pocatello, Boise had a multiracial neighborhood where poor ethnic whites and people of color lived known as the River Street neighborhood. Situated along the north side of the Boise River in the southwest corner of Downtown Boise, the area was initially platted in the late 19th century in anticipation of the arrival of the Oregon Short Line Railroad. By the 1920s, this area was filled with warehouses and shops associated with the railroad and housing for those working nearby, including some Black residents.¹⁶ When Dorothy Buckner's parents Luther and Pearl Johnson moved their family to Boise in the late 1930s, they lived in the River Street neighborhood.

Beyond the River Street neighborhood, Black residents, also lived along several downtown streets including Bannock Street between 1st and 7th streets; Front Street between 8th and 9th streets; around 13th and Grove; and on Jefferson Street. Aurelius Buckner, for example, grew up in the 1930s and 1940s at 820 E. Bannock Street, a home first owned by his grandparents Rev. William and Mattie Hardy. However, these areas beyond the River Street area grew increasingly segregated during and after the 1920s, channeling Black residents to the poorer, multiracial neighborhood. Exceptions included Black domestic workers, who generally occupied worker housing in wealthier, white areas along Warm Springs Avenue, in the North End, and on Harrison Boulevard.¹⁷

The Second World War fueled considerable movement of people, including Black residents to urban and industrialized parts of the northern U.S. and Pacific Northwest. As the nation emerged from war with a significant housing shortage, the government's response through federally-backed, low-interest mortgages put homeownership within reach for many but not all. Federal programs codified discriminatory underwriting standards that specifically rated Black and racially mixed neighborhoods as higher-risk investment areas, meaning few federally-backed loans went to people of color. Government funding for new subdivisions often required covenants to be placed on the deeds, not only specifying minimum design and construction standards but also racial restrictions. Although racially restrictive covenants were outlawed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1948, discriminatory real estate practices continued through the practices of lenders, real estate brokers, and through social pressure. While some mid-century Boise subdivisions, such as Sycamore Drive Subdivision No. 2, were established with discriminatory covenants, many more parts of Boise were

¹⁶ William A. White, III. *Living on the South Side of the Tracks: The River Street Digital History Project and Boise, Idaho*. (Succinct Research, LLC, 2016), 19. Accessed August 31, 2021, www.riverstreethistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/RiverStreetProject_eBook_updated.pdf

¹⁷ Jill K. Gill, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 2021, section E, pp. 8-9.

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simply known to be off-limits to Black home-seekers, including the North End, East End, and Bench neighborhoods. All of this reinforced “old segregation lines that compounded affordable housing shortages” for Black residents and further solidified their status as renters.¹⁸

This was the residential landscape facing Aurelius “Buck” Buckner and Dorothy Johnson when they married in 1950, leaving them few options other than renting their first residence, at 1124 Grand Avenue (demolished), in Boise’s River Street neighborhood.

The Buckners

Aurelius E. “Buck” Buckner (1926-2003) was a native Boisean whose extended Buckner-Hardy family “has a long and distinguished history in Idaho with extensive community involvement.”¹⁹ His father Claude Buckner married his mother, Mary Hardy, the daughter of Rev. William Riley Hardy, in 1925. Rev. Hardy was the founder and first pastor of Boise’s St. Paul Baptist Church.²⁰ Mary and Claude Buckner logged years of community and public service and social welfare activities. Mary was the first Black woman to serve on the Boise Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) board and was active in social justice work through her church, and Claude worked many years with the Idaho Bureau of Reclamation.²¹ They owned and lived at 820 E. Bannock where Aurelius grew up.²² Aurelius attended Boise High School and Boise Junior College, now Boise State University, where he was a standout athlete and the school’s first Black athlete in football, basketball, and baseball (figure 11).²³ He went on to become one best-known high school basketball and football referees in the Treasure Valley. Many also knew him professionally. Aurelius worked at the automobile dealer Roy C. Davidson and its successor Bob Rice Ford.²⁴



In 1950, Aurelius married **Dorothy Johnson** (1927-2003), the daughter of Luther and Pearl Johnson. The Johnsons, who were originally from Arkansas, moved to Boise between 1935 and 1940. In a 1981 interview, Dorothy recalled her family’s migration: “well my father hoboed to Idaho and then he’d send for the rest of the family and then I think he had a sister whose husband worked for the railroad, or something, and they could get a pass. They’d bring

¹⁸ Ibid., 26.

¹⁹ Mamie O. Oliver, “Idaho Ebony: The African American Presence in Idaho State History,” In *The Journal of African American History* (vol. 91, no. 1, 2006): 52. Accessed August 31, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20064046>

²⁰ Rev. Hardy and his father-in-law Lewis Stokes built this building in 1921. It is now located at 508 E. Julia Drive and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Today, it serves as the Idaho Black History Museum under the leadership of executive director and board president Phillip Thompson, the grandson of Dorothy and Aurelius Buckner.

²¹ “The Established Employment Mark,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, June 27, 1966, p. 12. Oliver, “Idaho Ebony: The African American Presence in Idaho State History,” 52. Gill, “African American Civil Rights in Idaho,” 2021, section E, page 40.

²² U.S. Census, 1930 and 1940. Ancestry.com. Cherie Buckner-Webb purchased the home after her grandfather Claude died. [Email from Cherie Buckner-Webb to Tricia Canaday, July 7, 2020]

²³ David Southorn, “The legacy of Aurelius Buckner, Boise State’s first black football player,” *The Athletic*, February 21, 2020. Accessed September 17, 2021, from: <https://theathletic.com/1622793/2020/02/21/aurelius-buckner-boise-state-first-black-player/>.

²⁴ “Aurelius E. Buckner”, [obituary], *Idaho Daily Statesman*, May 30, 2003, p. 29.

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somebody else. That's the way people came."²⁵ Luther, also known as "Pistol," worked as a janitor, but he also owned a barbecue restaurant and gambling joint that served liquor and provided loans to Black people in the River Street neighborhood.²⁶ According to Dorothy, her parents were separated, and by 1940 Pearl lived in a boarding house at 1114 Miller St. and Luther lived in a frame building along River Street, before moving to 1122 Grand Avenue.²⁷ Dorothy attended Boise High School and graduated from Boise Junior College. Although she spent many formative years in Boise, her worldview was shaped by brief periods living elsewhere, including Minidoka, Idaho, where she lived with family when she was young, and also New York where she studied drama and worked as a fashion model before returning to Boise and marrying Aurelius.²⁸

In the early 1950s, Aurelius and Dorothy lived next door to Luther at 1124 Grand Avenue. The couple's oldest daughter, Cherie Buckner-Webb, who went on to become Idaho's first elected African American state legislator, recently recalled, "When I was a little kid, River Street was always called 'across the tracks' where all the Black folks lived. The population in that neighborhood was not predominantly Black [,] but it was where the largest concentration of Blacks in Boise lived. I lived on Grand Avenue until I was about 5."²⁹ Her recollections reflect the social pressures to keep Black residents out of white neighborhoods as well as widespread discriminatory practices in federal real estate programs and banking that rated Black and mixed-race neighborhoods as higher-risk investment areas making it difficult for people of color to secure loans.

By the mid-1950s, Aurelius, Dorothy, and their growing family needed more space than their tiny one-bedroom house on Grand Avenue provided. Even with a closet converted into a small bedroom, it was "wall-to-wall and you couldn't move."³⁰ Their third child, Paulette "Pepper" Buckner, was born in May 1957, prompting the Buckners to find a bigger house.³¹ The young couple "knocked on doors everywhere trying to get them to sell to them."³² Dorothy later recalled, "Buying houses wasn't easy...there are ways of getting around things – I don't care how many laws there are... There are some areas that they [white residents] definitely did not want Blacks in."³³ The Buckners finally settled on renting a two-bedroom bungalow in the white North End neighborhood.

Move to the North End Neighborhood

The Buckners moved to **1012 N. 19th Street** in 1957, renting the residence from new owners Glenn and Ruth Blaser.³⁴ It is believed that they were the first Black family to live in the North End neighborhood. Cherie Buckner-Webb recalls good relations with the neighbors and her mother saying the neighbors were supportive even after the Buckners were the targets of a burning cross left in their front yard in early September 1958 (figure 12).³⁵ The incident happened during dinnertime when it was still daylight out. Buckner-Webb was

²⁵ Dorothy Buckner, "Lee Street." Typed transcript of an interview by Mateo Osa, January 23, 1981, in Boise, Idaho, 16. Document on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise. Accessed September 17, 2021, from: <http://www.riverstreethistory.com/river-street-digital-archive/archival-oral-history-transcripts/>.

²⁶ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 8. U.S. Census, 1940.

²⁷ Boise City Directories, 1940-1960. Dorothy Buckner, "Lee Street," 12-14.

²⁸ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author. "Dorothy Buckner" [obituary], *Idaho Daily Statesman*, August 8, 2003, p. 29.

²⁹ Cherie Buckner-Webb, personal narrative, June 8, 2020. Accessed October 22, 2021, from: <https://www.facebook.com/19lovestories/posts/146888310299573>. In 2010, Buckner-Webb was elected to a single term in the Idaho House of Representatives representing District 19. In 2012, she won the district's Idaho Senate seat and was reelected in 2014, 2016, and 2018. She did not run for re-election in 2020.

³⁰ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

³¹ Paulette joined older siblings Charles (Chuck) and Cherie. Their youngest sibling Carol was born in 1964.

³² Ibid.

³³ Dorothy Buckner, "Lee Street," 21.

³⁴ The Blasers later sold the property to the Buckners in 1964. Warranty Deed, Instrument No. 596823, Ada County, September 30, 1964.

³⁵ "Police Report Cross Burned at Boise Home," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, September 12, 1958, p. 12. This article covering the event notes that the Buckners owned their home, when in fact they were renting at the time.

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almost seven years old, and she still remembers “every detail of it.”³⁶ Her father ran outside and put the fire out immediately and worked to discard it. Despite positive responses from neighbors and Boise law enforcement, Dorothy insisted the burned cross remain visible for all to see. It remained “outside on the front porch for months, and then (they) kept it in the family for years as a talisman-type reminder that the fight for social justice was imperative.”³⁷ Dorothy, in particular, viewed this incident as a learning opportunity. Buckner-Webb said, “We talked about it all my life. It was a salient moment in my life.”³⁸

Many close family members pleaded with Aurelius and Dorothy to move, but the young family stayed put despite their nervousness and heightened awareness. One could argue the incident motivated and catalyzed the Buckners to continue in and lead efforts to secure equal rights for all. Dorothy, especially, “became one of Boise’s most fierce-spirited activists.”³⁹

The Buckners’ Civil and Human Rights Activities

Of the two Buckners, Dorothy was much more active and vocal when it came to civil and human rights activities than Aurelius. He was in many ways a perfect contrast to Dorothy. He had a calm nature and often “went along to get along,” with Dorothy, according to Buckner-Webb. She said, “My dad was not a rock-the-boat kind of guy.” She continued, “Mom could push your buttons, but it was that calm presence of dad just being there, that didn’t hurt a bit.”⁴⁰ This, coupled with Aurelius’ stature and respect in the community, as well as his generational history in Boise, bolstered Dorothy and their family as they spoke out and pushed for change.

Dorothy was involved with various local and regional groups working to advance human and civil rights throughout her lifetime but particularly in the late 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s. Over the course of her political activism, she spoke out about inequities in employment, housing, criminal justice, and education, as well as racial discrimination at restaurants, hotels, theaters, etc., where service was denied to people of color. Her willingness to express her opinions so vocally to the local press are reflected in the dozens of newspaper articles in which she was quoted over many years.⁴¹

During the 1961 state legislative session, Dorothy organized with others in the effort of the Idaho Citizens Committee on Civil Rights – a multiracial group that included people of Japanese, Native American, African, Mexican, and European decent – to write and lobby for a bill that outlawed racial discrimination in public accommodations and employment. The bill passed three years before the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, “but enforcement was weak, leading advocates to push for stronger legislation in 1968.”⁴² Dorothy was subsequently appointed to the Idaho Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, which had no authority other than to report findings to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (figure 13).⁴³

Dorothy also was instrumental in revitalizing the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1965 and serving on its board of directors. By 1965, she had grown increasingly frustrated by well-meaning, progressive white Boiseans whose “timeless question... ‘What can I do?’” had never translated into useful action.⁴⁴ In other words, passive support was not enough. During the group’s re-formation, Dorothy was quoted in the *Statesman* as saying, “Despite the ‘no problem’ attitude of many valley

³⁶ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

³⁷ Gill, “African American Civil Rights in Idaho,” 2021, section E, page 35.

³⁸ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

³⁹ Gill, “African American Civil Rights in Idaho,” 2021, section E, page 35.

⁴⁰ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

⁴¹ Several such articles published in the *Idaho Statesman* are referenced in these footnotes; however, two key examples of Letters to the Editor include: “Lest We Forget: Negro Is Human,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, April 12, 1964, p. 11. “Idaho Failing in Civil Rights,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, October 18, 1964, p. 5.

⁴² Gill, “African American Civil Rights in Idaho,” 2021, section E, page 37.

⁴³ “Idaho Civil Rights Board Suggested,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, December 15, 1964, p. 11.

⁴⁴ “Lest We Forget: Negro Is Human,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, April 12, 1964, p. 11.

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residents, we feel that we have many situations which call for attention.”⁴⁵ The problem, she explained, was one of education for both Blacks and whites. She said, “The Negro does not completely understand his right as an American citizen and a human being. We are used to taking the role of ‘second-class citizen’ and find it hard to expect anything different.”⁴⁶ In addition, she suggested that “even though they [whites] may be sympathetic to the problem of inequality, [they] are ashamed to be associated with colored persons or do not understand how to treat them without self-consciousness.”⁴⁷

As part of her NAACP involvement, Dorothy served as co-chair of a committee formed to determine the problems of social segregation in Idaho. Organized by the YWCA in conjunction with the Boise chapter of the NAACP, the committee formed to respond to President Lyndon Johnson’s request for “information on the status of the negro population in Boise,” as was requested of hundreds of other cities across the nation.⁴⁸ Dorothy served with fellow co-chairperson Jesse Grant and organizers Margaret Keener, Myrtle Heidenreich, Martin W. Scheffer, Paul Tate, Pamela Fonshill, and Fumiko Liedtke. They held a community meeting on May 26, 1966, at which “one hundred Boiseans representing several races” heard Dorothy give a speech entitled, “The Condition of the Negro in Idaho.” In her speech she suggested that, “Although Idaho’s Negroes aren’t treated to open ‘Southern-style’ discrimination, they are made to feel the color line and to feel it ‘acutely.’”⁴⁹ In addition to her remarks, results were presented of a Boise College survey of 31 Black families responding to general questions about housing, employment, education, occupation, and length of residence in the area. The information compiled by the committee was forwarded to the Johnson administration and would inform the White House Conference on Civil Rights held in June 1966.⁵⁰

The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, was a watershed moment for civil rights activists in Boise and across the country. In the wake of King’s death, Boise citizens groups – including the NAACP, YWCA, and churches – organized “out of the outrage created locally when Idaho’s governor’s office failed to show due respect to his passing.”⁵¹ Planning for a “peaceful demonstration” at the statehouse took place at the Buckner residence, according to Buckner-Webb, but local officials were slow to grant a permit “because of possible violence that might result.”⁵² Dorothy “called the demonstration ‘our way’ of protesting. ‘Patting us on the head and protecting us is not what we need. It offends us.’”⁵³ On April 12, an estimated 700 people gathered as part of Boise’s “first civil rights rally” on the south steps of the statehouse (figure 15).⁵⁴ A teen-aged Buckner-Webb attended “with other young adults from St. Paul to sing,” but the vast majority in attendance were white since many Boise Blacks feared retaliation by white employers or others if they attended.⁵⁵

The rally’s calls to action included pushing for a stronger statewide civil rights law and for the creation of a human rights commission in Idaho. Following the rally, several local influential civil rights activists including Curtis Oler, a Black attorney; Pauli Crooke, from the College of Idaho; Bob Jeffrey, of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Margaret Keener, with the First Presbyterian Church and the YWCA; and Rev. Jim Hubbard, from St. Paul Baptist Church; as well as others again “met almost nightly for months in Buckner’s

⁴⁵ “Newly Organized Boise Branch of NAACP Plans Second Meet In Effort to Become an Effective Action Element in Community,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, July 29, 1965, p. 10C.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ “Negro Status Reviewed in Idaho for President,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, May 27, 1966, p. 1.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ For more on this historic gathering, see Kevin L. Yuill, “The 1966 White House Conference on Civil Rights,” *The Historical Journal* 41, no. 1 (1998): 259–82. Accessed December 17, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2640152>.

⁵¹ Gill, “African American Civil Rights in Idaho,” 2021, section E, page 48.

⁵² Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

⁵³ “Civil Rights Aide Says Idahoans Fail To React for Cause,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, April 11, 1968, p. 1.

⁵⁴ “First Civil Rights Rally Ever Staged in Boise,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, April 13, 1968, p. 13. “700 Join in Rally on Rights,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, April 13, 1968, p. 1. “Cleric Says Many Shun Boise Rally,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, April 16, 1968, p. 6. Gill, “African American Civil Rights in Idaho,” 2021, section E, page 48.

⁵⁵ Ibid. Quotation is from Gill, “African American Civil Rights in Idaho,” 2021, section E, page 49.

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living room," this time to create a Committee for New Civil Rights Legislation.⁵⁶ Soon, they also created Citizens for Civic Unity; "they felt they needed different groups beyond the local NAACP to push for legislation and coordinate community education and activism."⁵⁷ Dorothy was at the center of this work and for a period, "the Citizens for Civic Unity became the go-to group that publicly confronted racist incidents in the community, calling authorities to account and providing educational forums and consciousness-raising sessions, while also seeking policy and legislative changes to advance racial justice systemically."⁵⁸

Led by Oler, the committee worked to draft language for a human rights law, which would bring the earlier civil rights state law into alignment with the national law.⁵⁹ Idaho Governor Donald W. Samuelson signed Idaho's Human Rights Act into law in 1969. It authorized the formation of the Idaho Human Rights Commission (IHRC), but the bill's language had been heavily edited behind the scenes to purposefully weaken the commission, resulting in "one of the least powerful [such commissions] in the nation."⁶⁰ Within a few years, it was clear the commission had little ability to enforce civil rights violations. Among those appointed to the commission when it formed was Aurelius Buckner, who was not nearly as politically active or outspoken as his wife Dorothy.⁶¹ Buckner-Webb speculates that her father's appointment to serve on the IHRC was because he was not only respected in the community, but was viewed as a "palatable" person.⁶² He served two years on the commission before running unsuccessfully for Boise City Council in 1971.⁶³

In 1970, Dorothy led the effort to create the River Street Community Center at 500 S. Ash Street. The Center gave Black children greater access to books, educational and recreational programming, affirming images and messages, and a safe place to gather. She served as the Center's first director before stepping aside a few years later.⁶⁴

For all of her community service efforts and leadership in civil and human rights activities, Dorothy was recognized by the *Idaho Daily Statesman* in 1970 as a Distinguished Citizen (figure 17).⁶⁵ For as long as her daughter can remember, Dorothy's credo was "Disturb the peace."⁶⁶ This wasn't *just* to disturb the peace; it was for initiating conversations about different frames of reference and for forging and solidifying relationships. In a 1981 interview, Dorothy said: "I'm not a joiner, but organizations or groups that I attended or belonged to are usually [made up of] thinking people, radicals for the most part. You know, [the] people that didn't mind standing up and being counted. I felt very short-patient with people that...want to stay secure and not rock the boat."⁶⁷

With such a small Black population in Boise and Idaho, Black activism "depended heavily on allies of other races to achieve results."⁶⁸ Key to Dorothy's success was her ability to work with others to build bridges as well as her tenacity. Buckner-Webb described her mother as "fearless" and a "woman out of her time," who would go "toe-to-toe with the guys."⁶⁹ Given Dorothy's spirited and outgoing nature, it is little surprise that her home at

⁵⁶ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 50.

⁵⁷ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 49.

⁵⁸ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 48.

⁵⁹ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 50.

⁶⁰ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 50-51.

⁶¹ "Governor Names 9 Members to Group on Human Rights," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, June 25, 1969, p. 2.

⁶² Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

⁶³ "The Answers," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, October 31, 1971, p. 17B. "Kleffner Wins, With Orr, Perry on Boise Ballot," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, November 3, 1971, p. 1. It would be another 20 years before Boise had a Black city council member. In 1993, then-Mayor Brent Coles appointed Jerome Mapp to fill a vacancy on the council. "Appointments Change Council's Status," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, February 22, 1993, p. 2C.

⁶⁴ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 54. Dorothy Buckner, "Lee Street," 25-27.

⁶⁵ "Portrait of a Distinguished Citizen," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, September 13, 1970, p. 5.

⁶⁶ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

⁶⁷ Dorothy Buckner, "Lee Street," 24-25.

⁶⁸ Gill, "African American Civil Rights in Idaho," 2021, section E, page 2.

⁶⁹ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

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1012 N. 19th Street “was the center of the movement in Boise,” as her longtime friend Pat Patterson said following Dorothy’s death in 2003.⁷⁰ Buckner-Webb elaborated on this:

I can remember all these erudite people that were known in our community...I’ve never been intimidated by stature, form, or fashion because a lot of strategizing happened in our humble living room. There were people in and out of our house all the time talking about trying to get the human rights act passed, and [the] planning that first civil rights rally on the steps was in our house. It was a combination of NAACP, Citizens for Civic Unity, white folks of conscience, and even people that were in the legislature. So yes, lots of stuff [took place] in our house and in the back yard all the time.”⁷¹

Buckner-Webb continued, “She believed it was our responsibility to disturb the peace...That was my catalyst to follow in her footsteps.” If it wasn’t for the fearlessness of women like Dorothy change would never come.

Summary

The humble house at 1012 N. 19th Street is significant under Criteria A and B, in the areas of *Ethnic Heritage* and *Social History*, for its association with the Buckners and their important social and political activities of the mid-20th century. Their courage not only to move into an all-white neighborhood in 1957 but to then remain after being racially targeted by a cross burning carried them through many years of high-profile public activism focused on desegregation, equity, and civil rights across many issues. Their residence was the site of many planning meetings and strategy sessions for some of Boise’s most important civil rights activities and was a center of the movement. Today, it serves as a symbol of their commitment to the community and their hope for equity and justice.

⁷⁰ “Dorothy Buckner a ‘voice’ for Boise blacks: Activist made her mark throughout the community,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, August 5, 2003, p. 1.

⁷¹ Cherie Buckner-Webb, interview by Sarah Martin, November 22, 2021. Notes in possession of the author.

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"Civil Rights Aide Says Idahoans Fail To React for Cause." April 11, 1968, p. 1.

"700 Join in Rally on Rights." April 13, 1968, p. 1.

"First Civil Rights Rally Ever Staged in Boise." April 13, 1968, p. 13.

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"Dorothy Buckner a 'voice' for Boise blacks: Activist made her mark throughout the community." August 5, 2003, p. 1.

"Dorothy Buckner" [obituary]. August 8, 2003, p. 29.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☒ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>43.6296528</u> Latitude	<u>-116.211866</u> Longitude	3	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude
2	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude	4	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Buckner House is located in Section 03, T3N, R2E in Ada County, Idaho. The parcel number is R3616251610. The property description is as follows, according to the Ada County Assessor: Lots 12/13, Block 19 – Highland Park Addition to the City of Boise.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above-noted property – Lots 12/13, Block 19 in the Highland Park Addition – reflects both the historic and present-day property boundary and includes the Buckner House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Sarah J. Martin and Kerry L. Davis, architectural historians</u>	date	<u>3/23/2022</u>
organization	<u>SJM Cultural Resource Services</u>	telephone	_____
street & number	<u>3901 2nd Avenue NE #202</u>	email	<u>SarahMartinCRS@gmail.com</u>
city or town	<u>Seattle</u>	state	<u>WA</u> zip code <u>98105</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Figure 1: Regional Location Map**
- **Figure 2: Local Location / USGS Map**
- **Figure 3: Tax Lot / Parcel Map**
- **Figure 4: Close-in Aerial Image**
- **Figures 5 & 6: Site & Floor Plans (2)**
- **Figure 7: Highland Park Addition Plat Map, 1906**
- **Figures 8-10: Sanborn Map Co. images, 1912, 1949, 1956**
- **Figures 11-17: Historic Images & Clippings**

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Buckner, Aurelius and Dorothy, House

City or Vicinity: Boise

County: Ada **State:** Idaho

Photographer: Idaho SHPO

Date Photographed: Sept. 6, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1	Overview of property from 19 th Street. Camera facing northeast.
Photo #2	Overview of property from 19 th Street showing primary (west) and side (south) elevations. Camera facing northeast.
Photo #3	Overview of the property from the alley, with contributing garage at left and new two-story addition to the house at right. Camera facing southwest.
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Photo #6	View of side (south) elevation, with original house at left and new addition at right. Camera facing northwest.
Photo #7	View of south (side) and east (rear) elevations, showing original house at left and new two-story addition at right. Camera facing northwest.
Photo #8	View of south (side) and east (rear) elevations of the new two-story addition. Camera facing northwest.
Photo #9	View of the east (rear) elevation of the new two-story addition. Camera facing west.
Photo #10	View of east (rear) and side (north) elevations, with new two-story addition at left and original house at right. Camera facing southwest.
Photo #11	View of side (north) elevation, with new two-story addition at left and original house at right. Camera facing southwest.
Photo #12	View of side (north) and primary (west) elevations. Camera facing southeast.
Photo #13	View of primary (west) and side (north) elevations. Camera facing southeast.
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Photo #15	Interior view, showing the living and dining rooms. Camera facing northwest.
Photo #16	View of the contributing garage located at the southeast corner of the parcel. Camera facing northwest.
Photo #17	View of the contributing garage located at the southeast corner of the parcel. Camera facing southeast.

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

Buckner, Aurelius and Dorothy, House

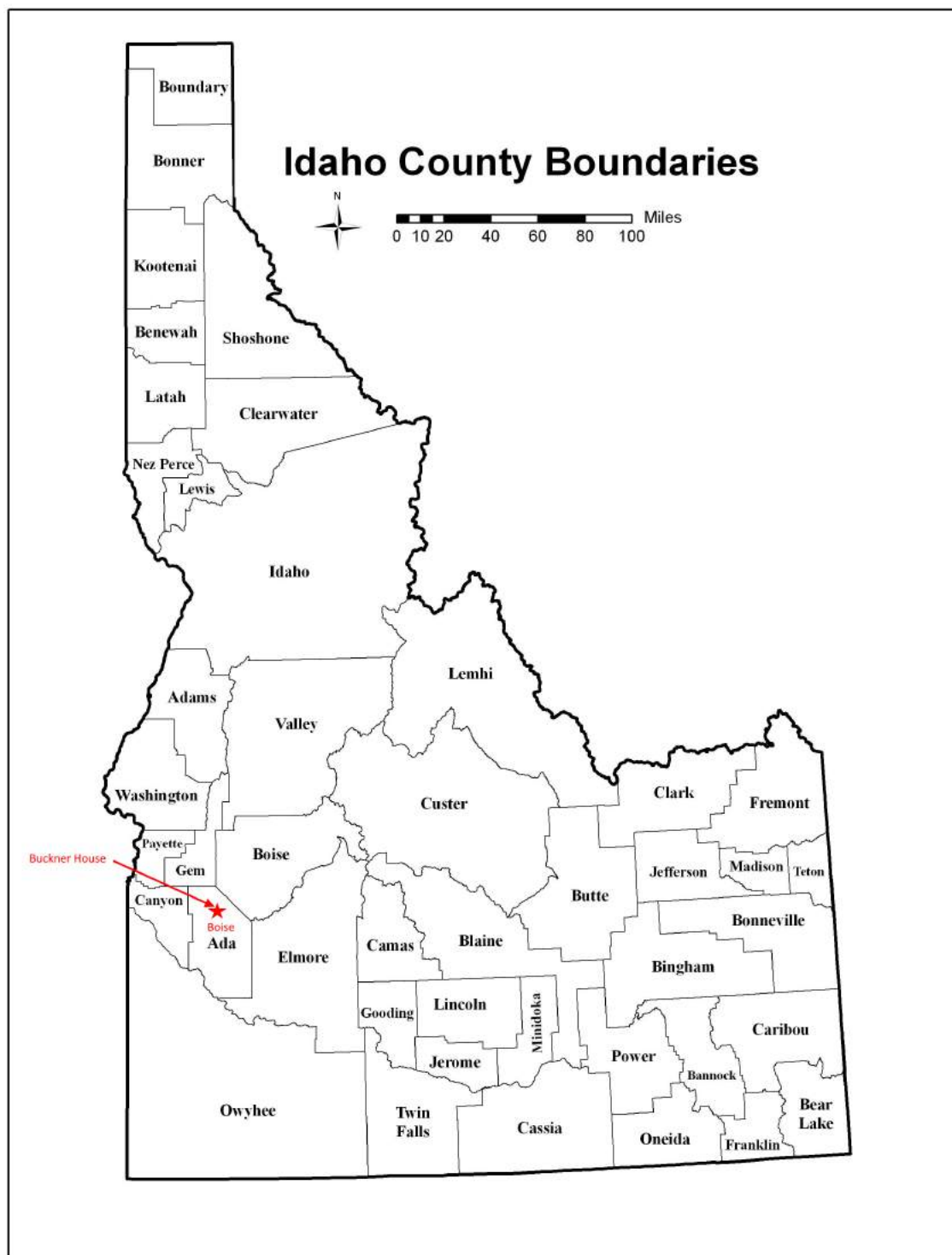
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Figure 1: Regional Location Map

Map of State of Idaho showing counties, state capital, and the location of the Buckner House in Boise, Ada County.

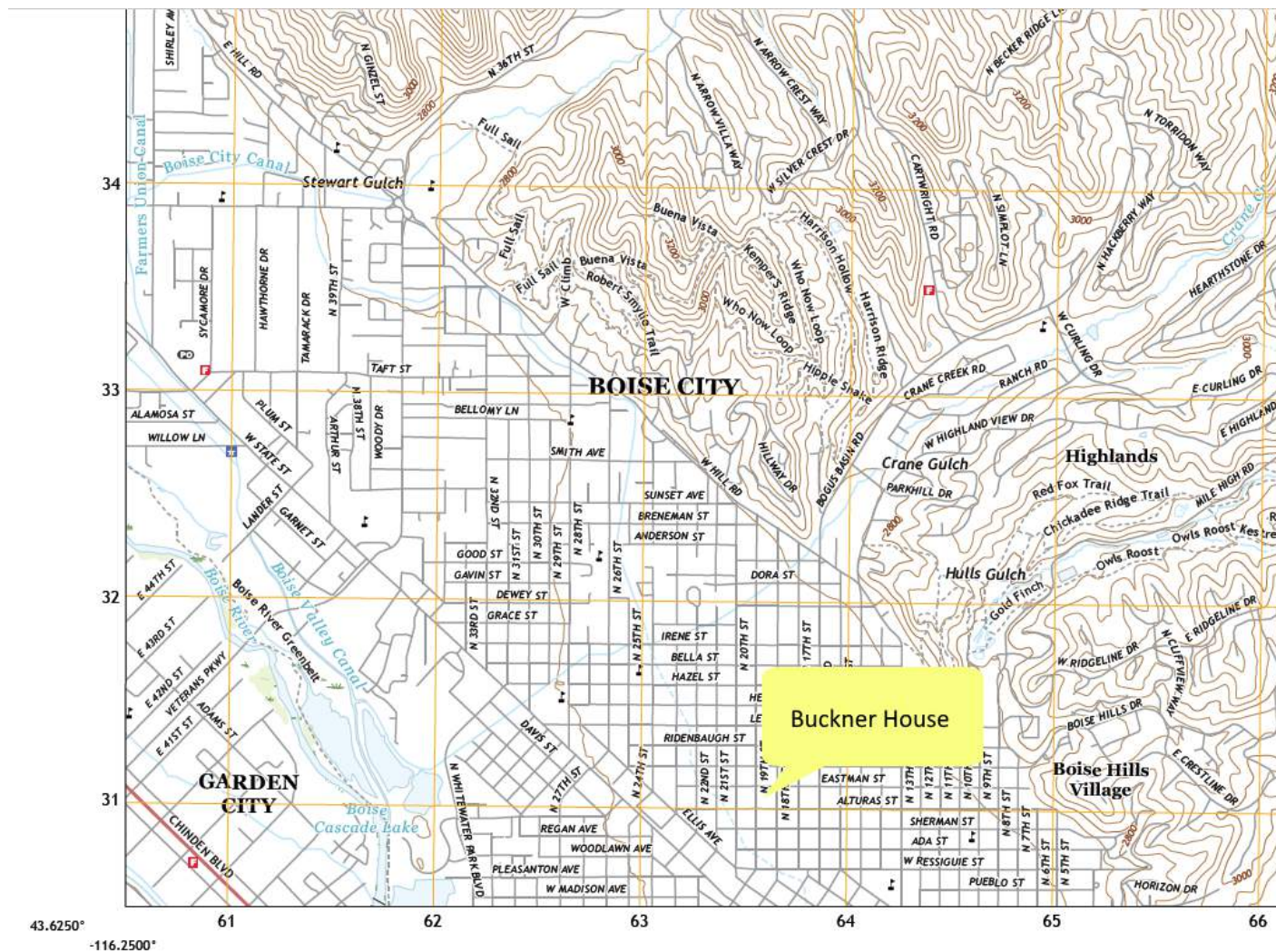


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Figure 2: USGS Quadrangle Map (Partial Image)

Boise North, Idaho Quadrangle, 2020, 7.5-minute series, Scale: 1:24,000
T3N, R2E, Section 03 – Ada County



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Figure 3: Ada County Parcel Map (Boundary Map)

Buckner House at 1012 N. 19th Street is highlighted in blue. Parcel no. R3616251610 (North is at the top)

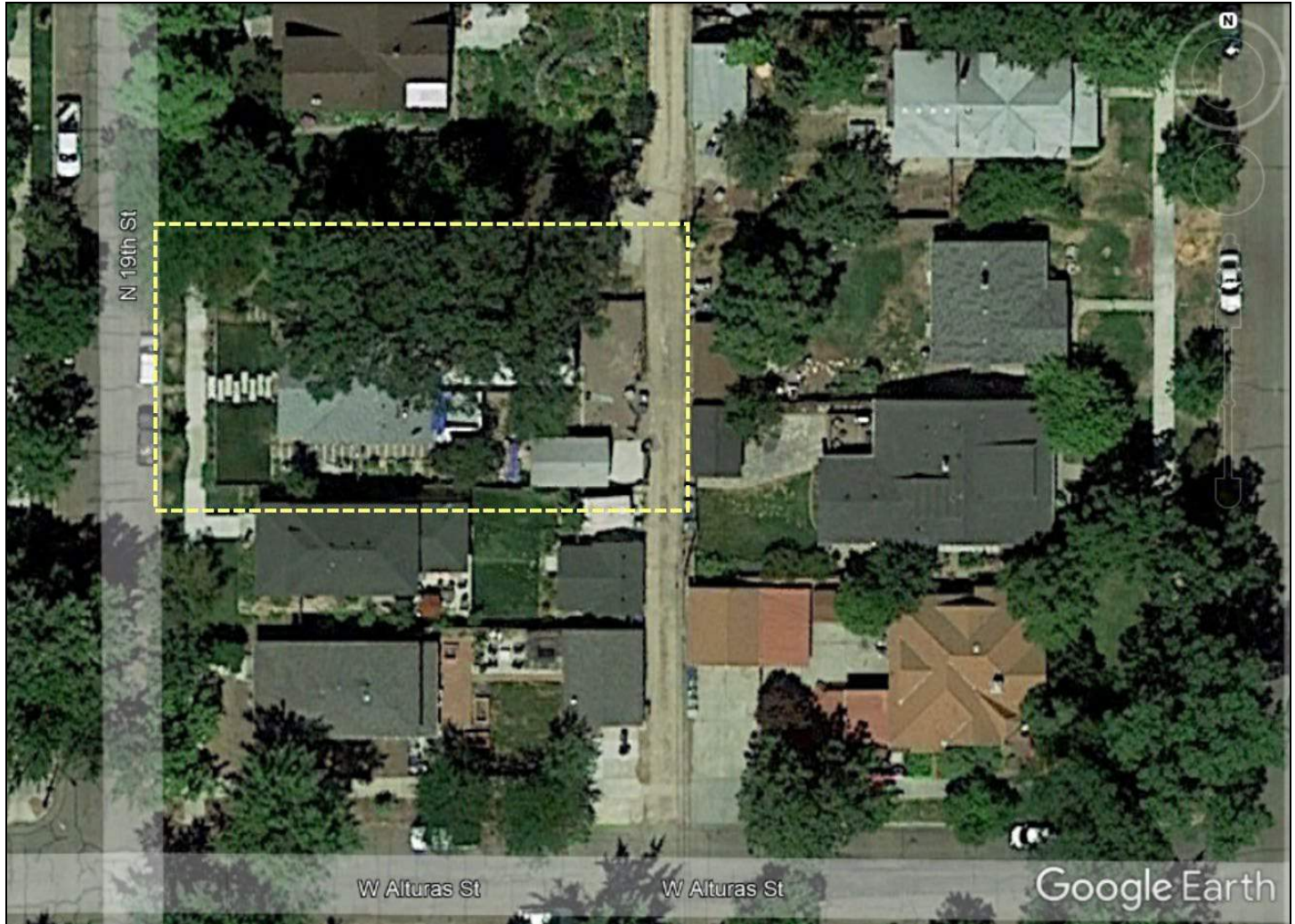


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Figure 4. Close-in Aerial Image. Google Earth, 2021.

Buckner House at 1012 N. 19th Street outlined in yellow. Parcel no. R3616251610 (North is at the top).



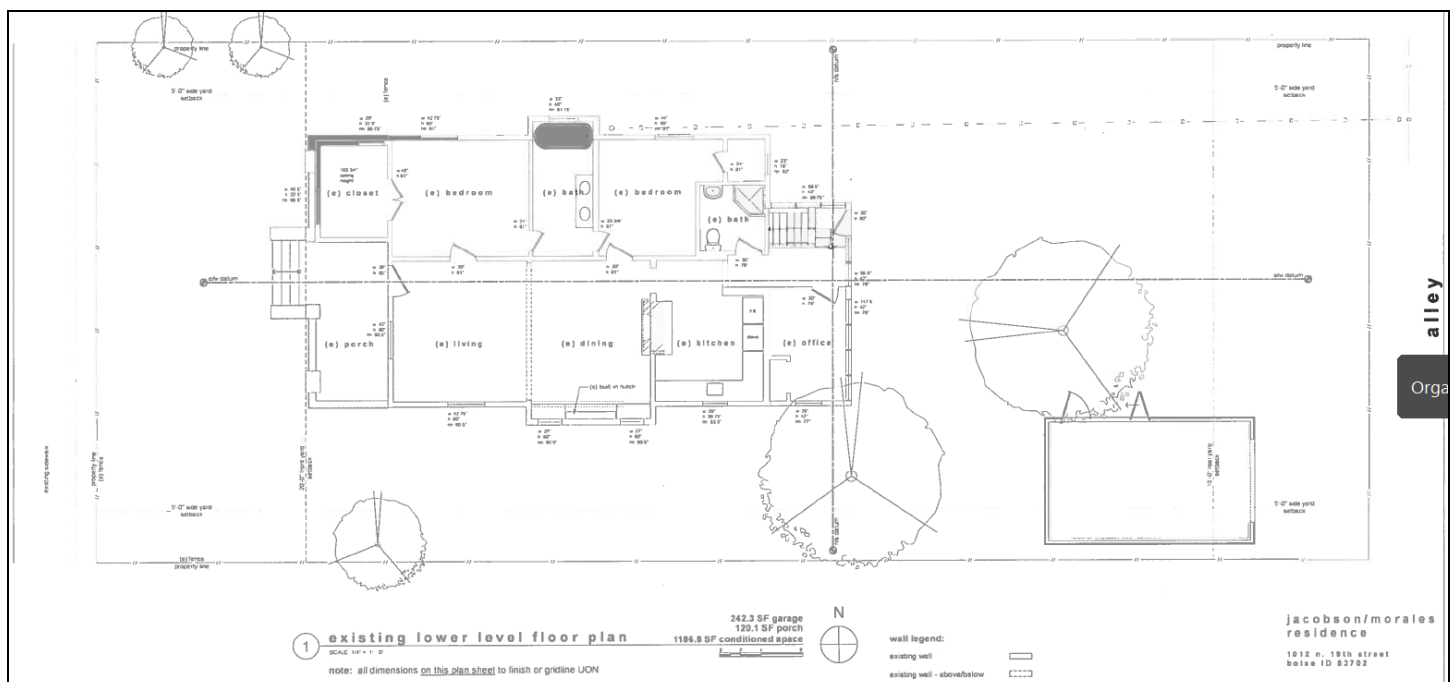
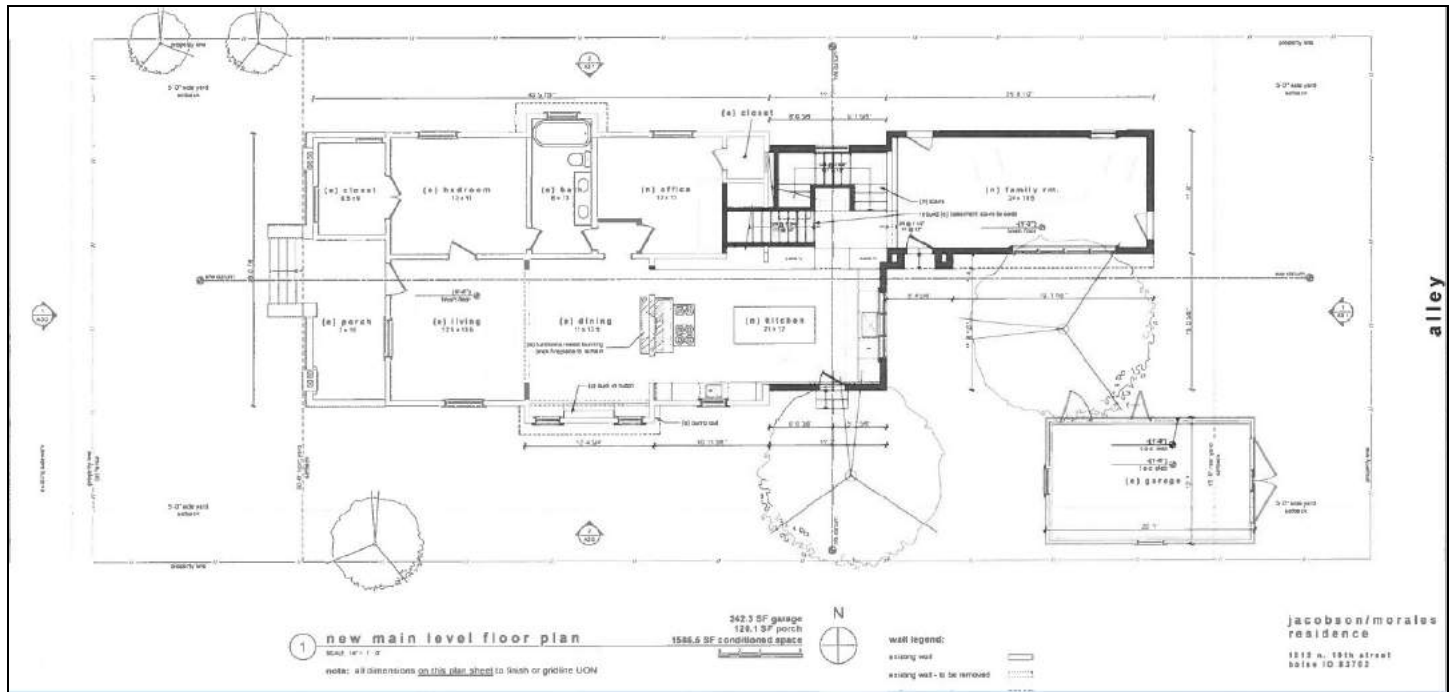
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Figure 5. Site and floor plans.

Lots 12 and 13, Block 19, Highland Park Addition, Boise

Current (top) and former (bottom) site/floor plans, showing recent and ongoing changes. Main floor.
Drawings dated 2017.

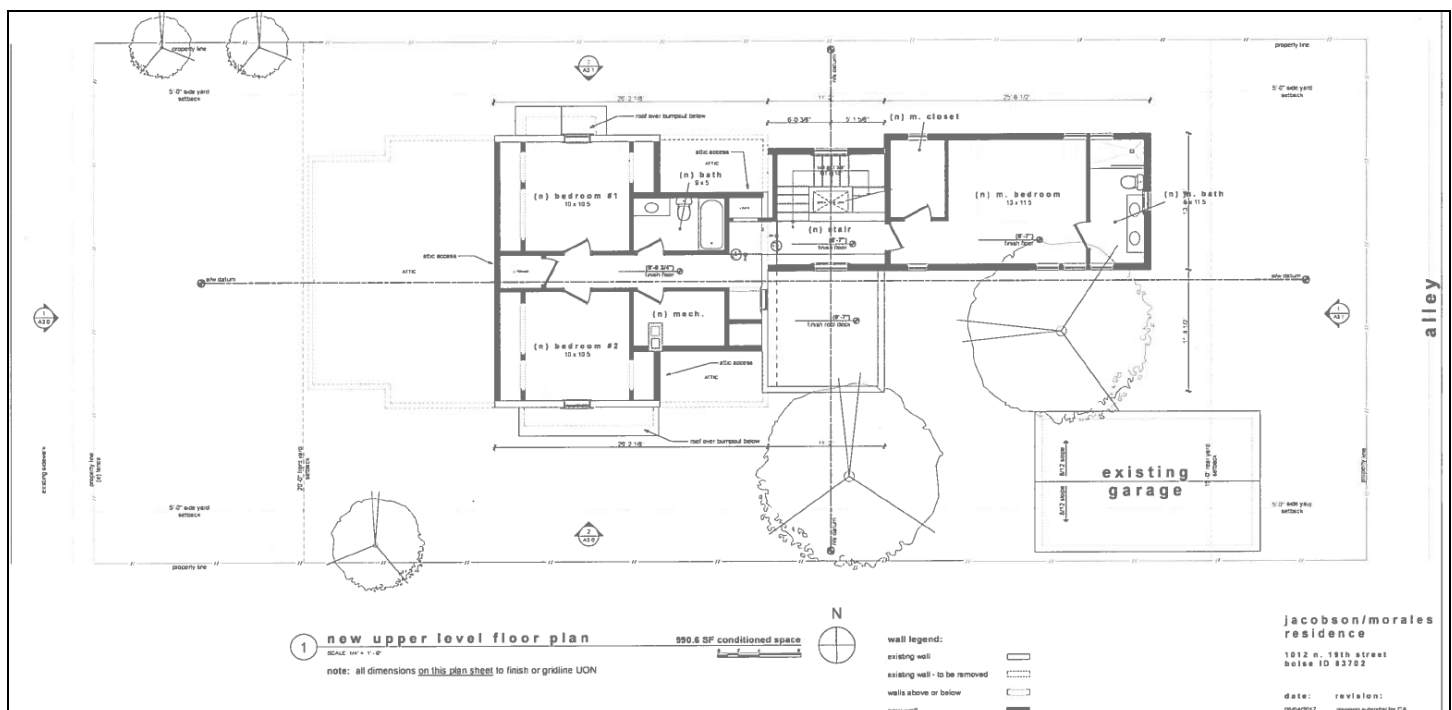
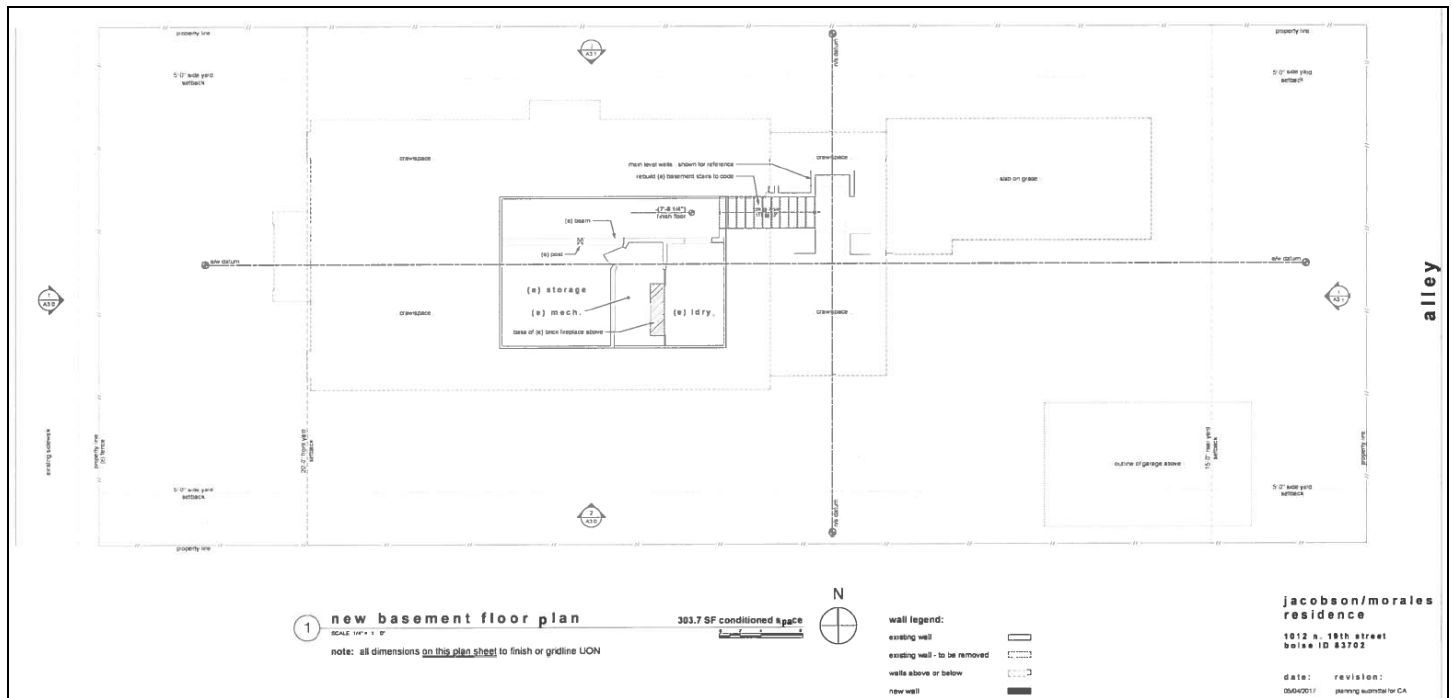


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Figure 6. Site and floor plans.

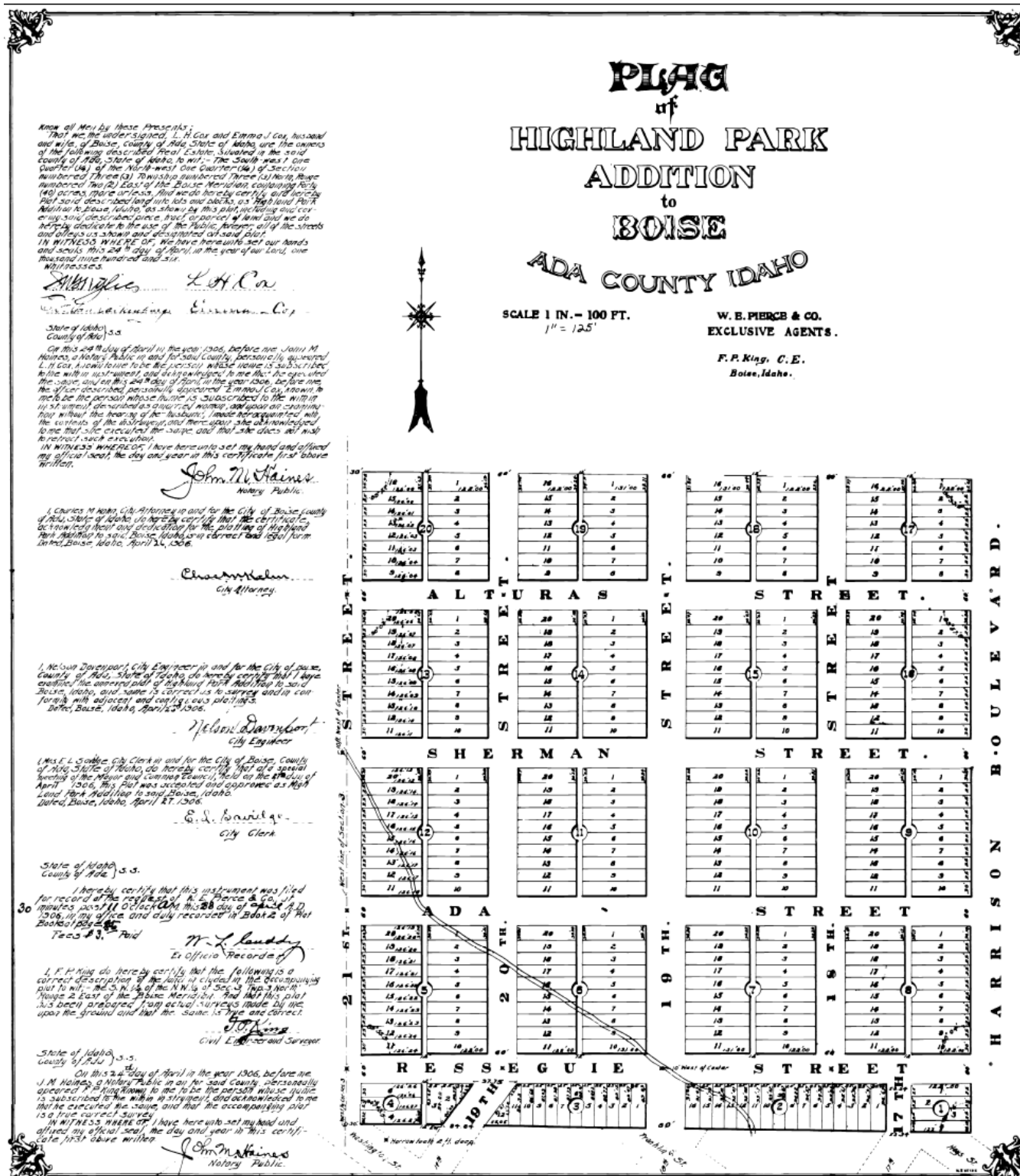
Lots 12 and 13, Block 19, Highland Park Addition, Boise
Basement level (top) and upper level (bottom) plans. Drawings dated 2017.



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Figure 7. Highland Park Addition Plat Map, 1906.
Lots 12 and 13, Block 19, Highland Park Addition

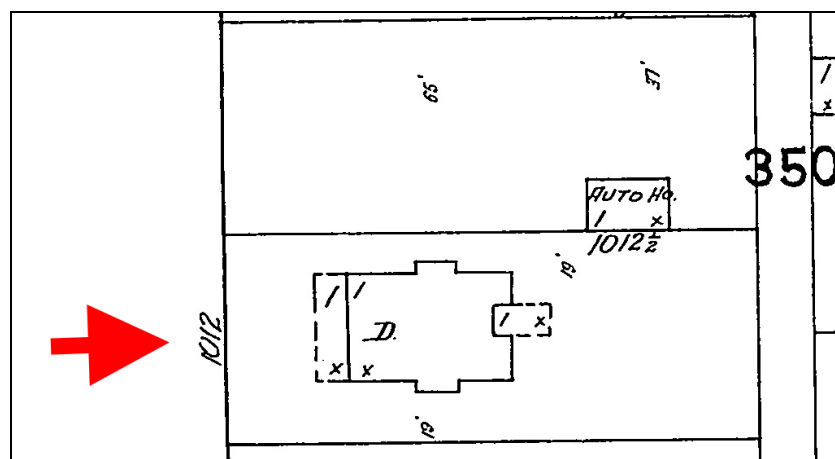
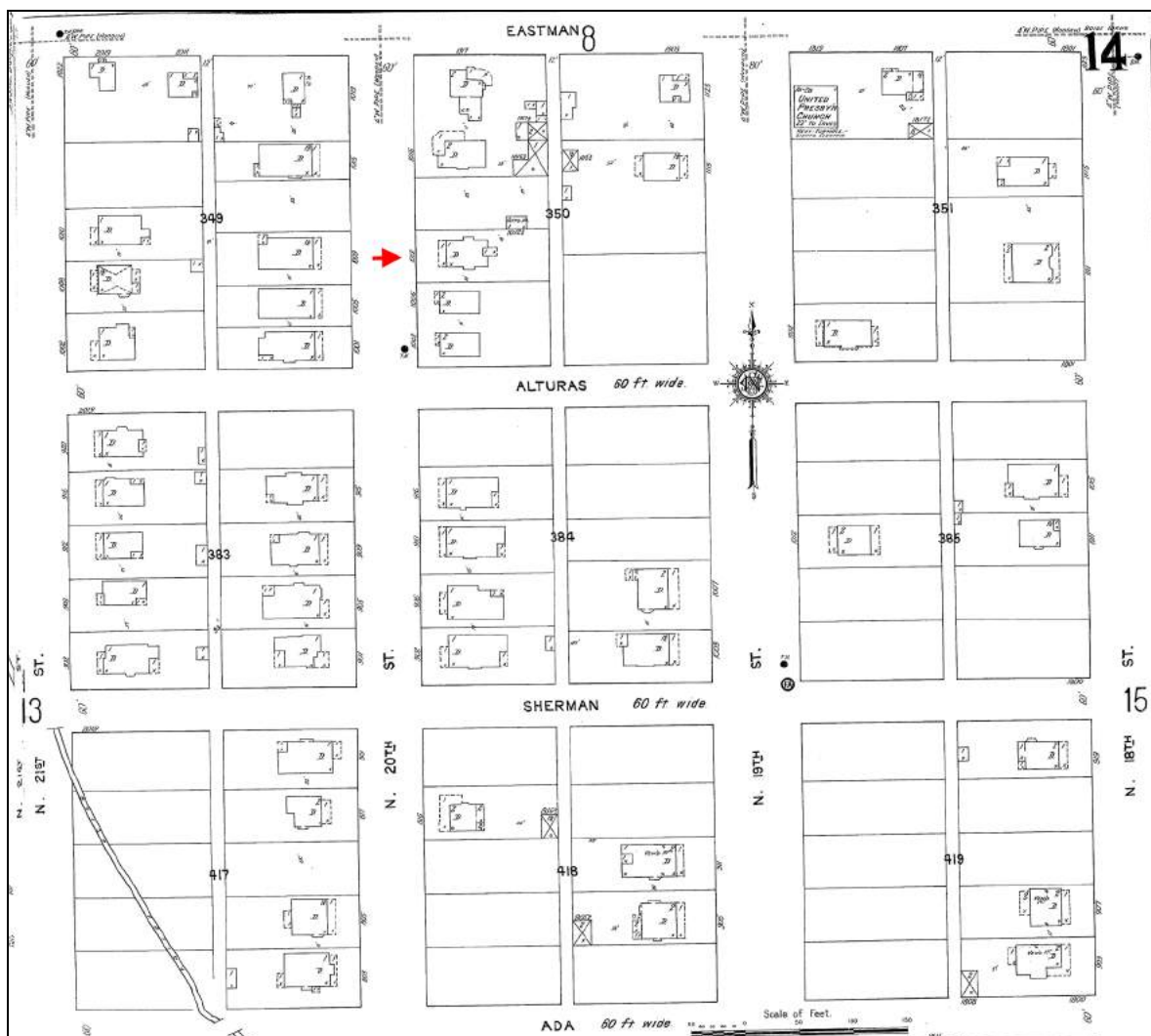


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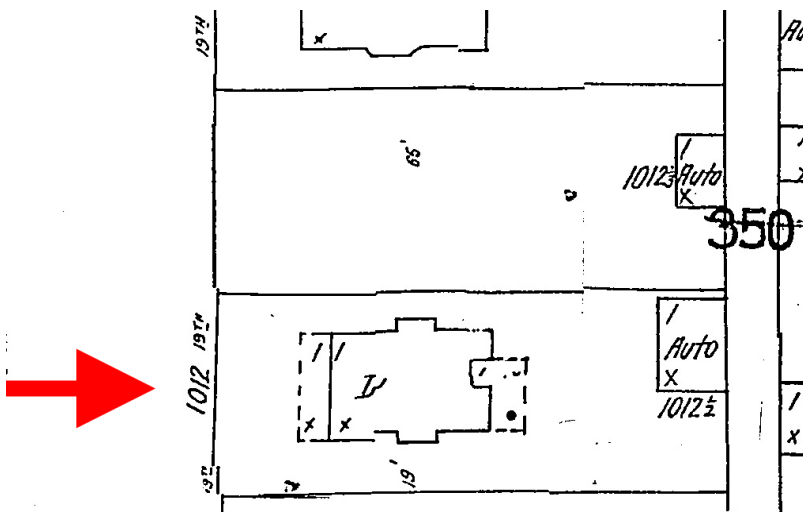
Figure 8. Sanborn Co. Fire Insurance Map, Boise, 1912, Sheet 14.

Lots 12 and 13, Block 19, Highland Park Addition; 1012 N. 20th St. (Changed to 19th Street in 1916).



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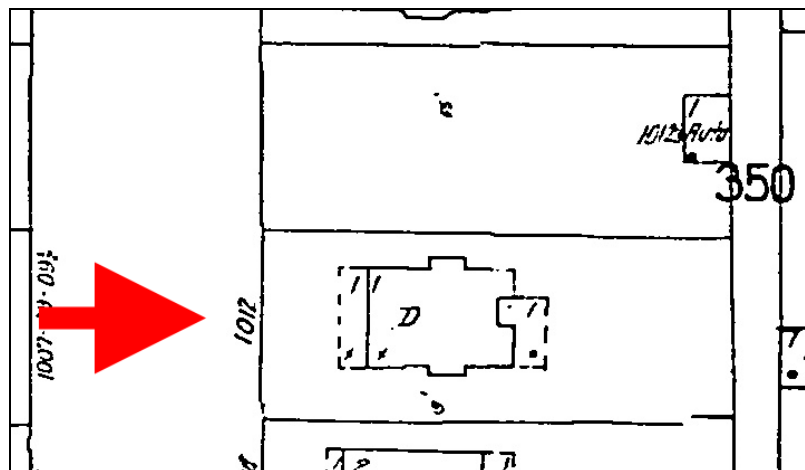
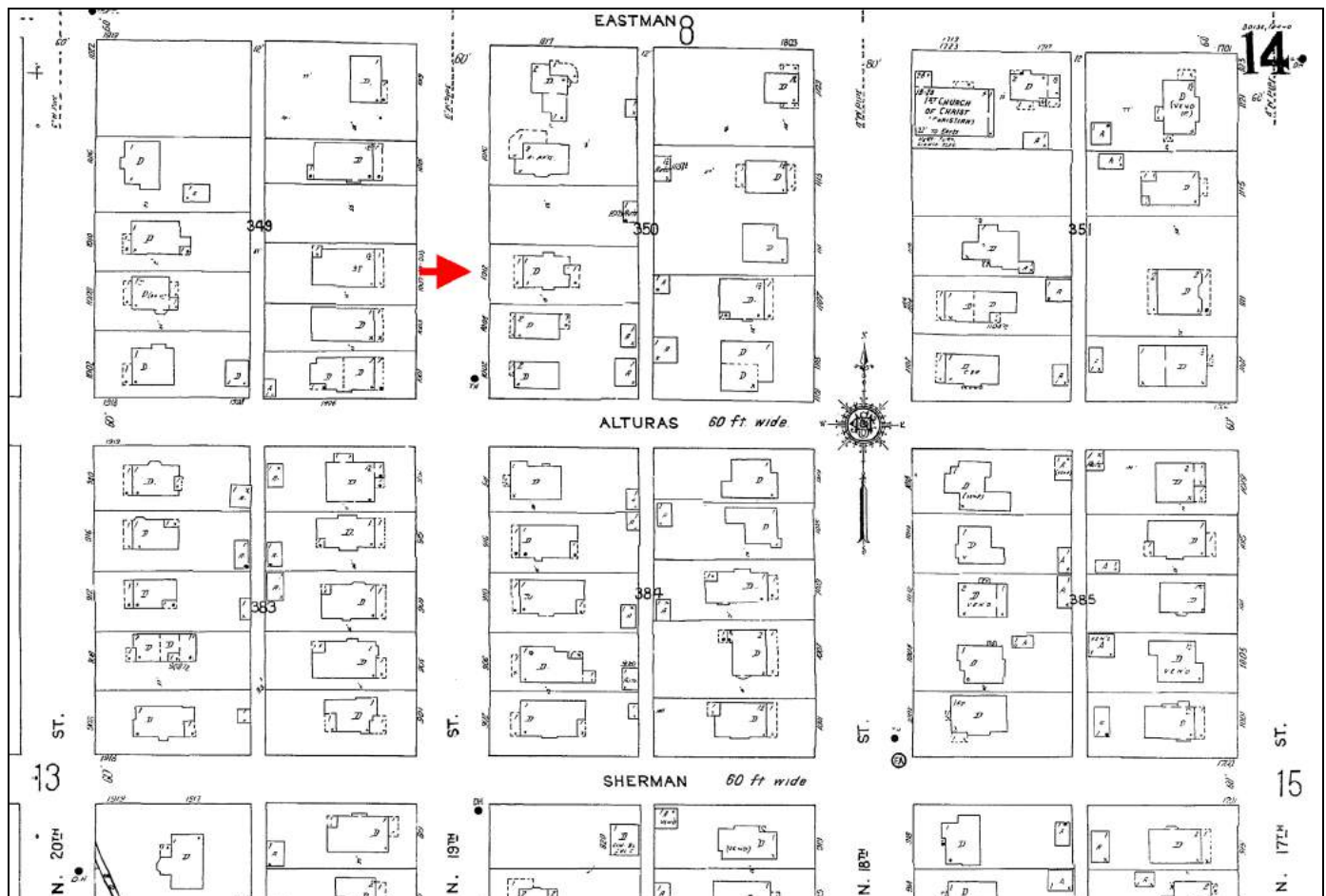
Lots 12 and 13, Block 19, Highland Park Addition; 1012 N. 19th St.



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Figure 10. Sanborn Co. Fire Insurance Map, Boise, 1956, Sheet 14.
Lots 12 and 13, Block 19, Highland Park Addition; 1012 N. 19th St.



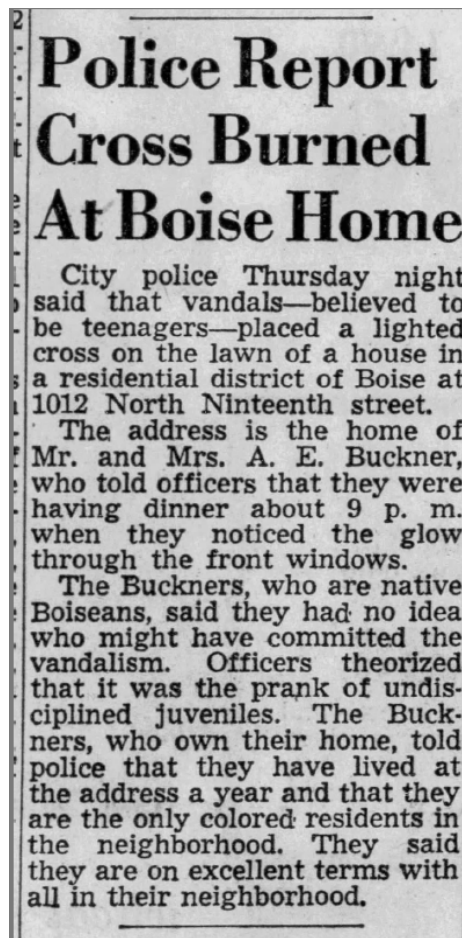
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Figure 11. Boise Junior College men's basketball team, 1944-45. Aurelius Buckner, no. 24, standing at right.
Source: 1944-45 yearbook, Boise Junior College (page 57).



Figure 12. News report of cross burning at Buckner House. *Idaho Daily Statesman*, Sept. 12, 1958, p. 12.



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Figure 13. Dorothy Buckner, pictured below, was appointed to Idaho Advisory Committee on Civil Rights. *Idaho Daily Statesman*, December 15, 1964, p. 11.

Licensing 'Fees' Noted

Idaho Civil Rights Board Suggested

A federal civil rights official who sat in on a hearing on problems of migrant workers Monday said Idaho's Civil Rights law is adequate, but it needs a board to administer it.

John I. Binkley, deputy director of the Field Services Division of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, said administration of the law is now left up to individuals and that "most individuals don't have the time, initiative or money to prosecute violations."

"I think a commission should be set up with members appointed by the governor," he said. "The commission should have powers to receive and investigate complaints brought under the law, and to issue orders. The orders could be appealed to the courts."

Notes Enforcement

Binkley said he doesn't believe enforcement should be left up to the attorney general's office, because it would have to have quasi-judicial powers — the authority to issue orders.

He sat in on a hearing conducted by the Idaho Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The committee has no authority other than to report findings to the federal body.

The committee was told that people of Mexican descent are compelled to pay an extra fee for an interpreter to take driving tests in Canyon County.

License Fees Paid

Joan Salazar, who said she had worked as an interpreter there from time to time, said they pay fees of \$2 or more directly to the interpreters. She said the county should hire a full-time interpreter, particularly in the summer.

She said that many can't get licenses in other towns such as Burley or Twin Falls for lack of an interpreter, and go to Caldwell.

George Denney, director of the Motor Vehicle Bureau of the Department of Law Enforcement, said he believes the interpreters are sometimes used to let Spanish speaking people who are illiterate qualify for a license.

He said he hadn't known of the situation, and intends to do something about it.

Denney said Canyon County at one time had the highest accident rate in the country.

"Illiterate people should not be on the road."

Miss Salazar replied that if the interpreters were paid and supervised by the county, they could be prohibited from helping illiterate people pass the test.

Tony Rodriguez, Nampa, said

said. "They think these educated people are going to make a monkey of them."

A new member of the Idaho Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, Mrs. Dorothy Buckner, sat in on the hearings. She has long been interested in civil rights, she said.



MRS. DOROTHY BUCKNER
... new committee member

... a subtle discrimination is practiced in some public places against people of Mexican descent. He said they are charged outrageous prices to keep them away. He said a person may go into a bar and order a beer, and have to pay \$1 for it.

Asks About Laws

Binkley asked if the people knew about the civil rights laws.

"They all know, but they are afraid to come into court," he

Conservationists Plan Idaho Meet

SUN VALLEY (UPI)—Sun Valley will be the site for the 24th annual conference of the American Association of Conservation Information next June 13-16.

About 150 persons from most parts of the United States and several Canadian provinces are expected to take part in the conference. The host for the meeting will be the information and education division of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

BOISEAN ASSIGNED

Airman James H. Baker, 2638 McKinney Street, Boise, has been assigned to Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas, for training as an aircraft maintenance specialist. He recently completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

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Figure 14. Aurelius and Dorothy's daughters Cherie Buckner (center) and Carol Buckner (right), with an unidentified friend (left), standing in front of Buckner House, 1012 N. 19th St. Photo taken ca. 1968.



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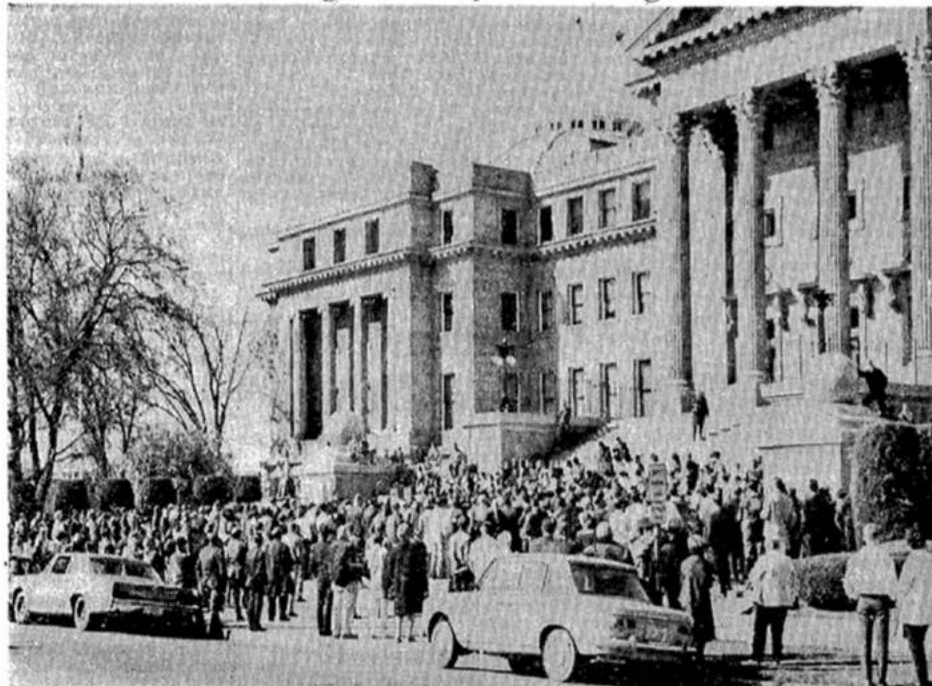
Figure 15. Civil rights rally held at statehouse on April 12, 1968, following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Clippings are from the *Idaho Daily Statesman*, April 13, 1968.

Negroes, Whites Join Voices, Hands in Statehouse Rally



NEGROES and whites joined hands and voices in clapping and singing as the St. Paul Baptist choir led the closing hymn during Boise's first civil rights rally Friday afternoon on the Statehouse steps. An estimated 700 persons, white and Negro, turned out for the protest rally. No incidents were reported.

First Civil Rights Rally Ever Staged in Boise



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Figure 16. *Idaho Daily Statesman*, January 21, 1969, p. 3. Dorothy Buckner is pictured (bottom, right).



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Figure 17. *Idaho Daily Statesman*, September 13, 1970, p. 5.



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Photo 1: Overview of property from 19th Street. Camera facing northeast.



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Photo 2. Overview of property from 19th Street showing primary (west) and side (south) elevations. Camera facing northeast.



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Photo 3: Overview of the property from the alley, with contributing garage at left and new two-story addition to the house at right. Camera facing southwest.



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Photo 4: View of primary (west) elevation. Camera facing east.



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Photo 5: View of primary (west) and side (south) elevations. Camera facing northeast.



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Photo 6: View of side (south) elevation, with original house at left and new addition at right. Camera facing northwest.



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Photo 7: View of south (side) and east (rear) elevations, showing original house at left and new two-story addition at right. Camera facing northwest.



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Photo 8: View of south (side) and east (rear) elevations of the new two-story addition. Camera facing northwest.



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Photo 9: View of the east (rear) elevation of the new two-story addition. Camera facing west.



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Photo 10: View of east (rear) and side (north) elevations, with new two-story addition at left and original house at right. Camera facing southwest.



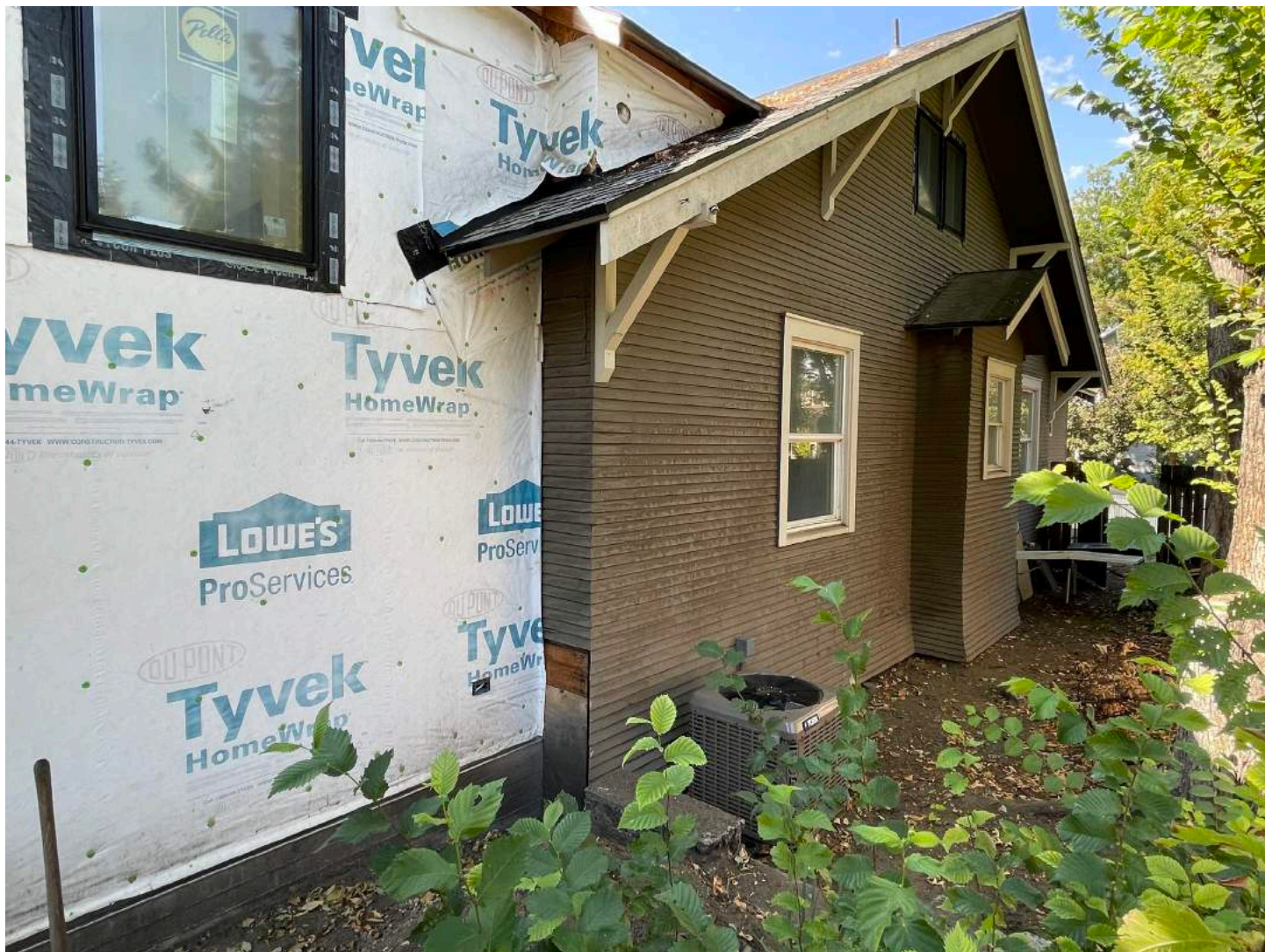
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Photo 11: View of side (north) elevation, with new two-story addition at left and original house at right. Camera facing southwest.



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Photo 12: View of side (north) and primary (west) elevations. Camera facing southeast.



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Photo 13: View of primary (west) and side (north) elevations. Camera facing southeast.



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Photo 14: Interior view, showing the living and dining rooms. Camera facing southeast.



Buckner, Aurelius and Dorothy, House
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Photo 15: Interior view, showing the living and dining rooms. Camera facing northwest.



Buckner, Aurelius and Dorothy, House
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Photo 16: View of the contributing garage located at the southeast corner of the parcel. Camera facing northwest.



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Photo 17: View of the contributing garage located at the southeast corner of the parcel. Camera facing southeast.

