

Franks House

305 Dunbar Street, Charlotte, North Carolina



As one of only two surviving residences of Dunbar Street, the Franks House (ca. 1917) is a rare artifact of the Black community which once existed in Charlotte's Third Ward. While most of the simple frame residences along what was then West Morehead Street were rentals, this and several other houses on the 200-300 block of Dunbar Street were owner-occupied. Purchased by Arthur and Bessie Franks in 1949, the house remained in the Franks family for over 60 years. As Black neighborhoods in the city's center core were declared blighted and removed during urban renewal (1960s-1970s), the Black community of Third Ward shrank, leaving few residents on Dunbar Street. The Franks House also survived the 1980s construction of the John Belk Freeway, which isolated Dunbar Street from the city center and otherwise destroyed the surrounding Black community. The ensuing scarcity of historical assets representing Third Ward's once-thriving Black community renders the Franks House historically relevant and uniquely qualified for landmark designation. The proposed designation is for the exterior of the building and the entire tax parcel.

