

Statement of Significance
614 N. Palmetto

Although no original mechanical lien exists for the property, it was determined through city directory research that construction of the house was completed in 1913. The couple E.T. and Maggie Garner purchased lot 6, block 5, new city block 6004 in the spring of 1912. The property was platted by W.T. Goode in 1910 as part of his larger Dignowity Hill Place development. The development was part of a shift taking place in many east side neighborhoods, especially Dignowity Hill, at the turn of the century.

Dignowity Hill was developed in the latter 19th century as one of the first upscale suburban developments outside of downtown San Antonio. In 1877 the railroad was built separating downtown from the eastside. Soon afterward an ironworks factory and other industrial facilities were created near the wealthy neighborhood. Although the demographics of Dignowity Hill did not alter drastically, as the area was still attractive for its large lots and relative height above downtown, new developments began taking shape nearby offering more modest prices. Dignowity Hill Place, located just east of what is now the Dignowity Hill Historic District, was one of those later plats subdivided in a way that attracted middle class families with a less expansive budget than the residents immediately to the west.

The house on 614 N. Palmetto is a simple version of a typical Queen Anne style home. Some additions have probably been made after the period of significance, which ends around 1938, as by that year most of the original area had been developed and built up. The house is of wood frame construction with simple wood cladding that remains intact. The steeply-pitched pyramidal roof is clad with composition shingles. The wrap-around front porch appears to be original, although it has been altered by the incorporation of a concrete slab and replacement wrought iron porch supports. Window openings are largely boarded, but areas that are visible indicate that at least some of the frames are original wooden sash windows. Trim on the windows and doors are understated and simple. The main front entrance appears to have a replacement front door, but a second entrance on the porch appears to have retained an original door. A transom window remains intact over the main front entrance. Despite the porch alterations, the house retains integrity and continues to convey significance as an intact example of an early 20th century Queen Anne style house. Additionally, the 600 block of N. Palmetto remains intact with a collection of similar houses that contribute to the overall character of the street and neighborhood.

Although the house has been recently neglected and has undergone visible deterioration, the historic integrity of the building is still very much intact and most of the original wood windows remain in place. The interior of the house is in disrepair, but most of the damage is to the surfaces such as dry-wall and wallpaper. A vacant lot would decrease values for surrounding properties and would take away from the character and feeling of this intact block of historic-age houses.