

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **AUG 14 1985**

date entered **SEP 17 1985**

Continuation sheet

Item number **all**

Page **9**

Site No. 6

Photo No. 7

Name: [No common name]

Historic Name: ☒ Joseph O. Polhemus House

Address: ☒ 912 East 2nd Street

Date: ca. 1901

Present Owner: Ricardo G. Guerrero
912 East 2nd Street
Austin, Texas 78702

Legal: Block 3, lot 6, Outlot 7,
Division 0, Harrington Subdivision

Original Use: Residential

Acreage: Less than one

Current Use: Residential

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: Austin East,
Texas, 1:24,000, 1966
Photorevised 1973

UTM Reference: 14/621780/3348260

Architectural Description:

Physical Condition: Excellent

Date(s) of Alterations: Undesignated improvements made to house in 1902;
rear porch enclosed by 1935.

The Polhemus House is a one-story, brick, T-plan residence with gabled roof, projecting front bay, and a mansard roof surmounted by a stepped brick parapet. A frame addition at the rear of the house partially obscures the original plan.

The house is an exceptionally sophisticated, well-conceived, and finely crafted structure. The walls are of red brick and the mortar joints are no more than one-eighth to one-quarter inch across. Split, rusticated bricks are used to create a belt course at the floor line continuously around the building, for decorative effect at the parapet, and to form inset medallions at various locations on the front facade: under the window on the projecting bay and on the porch walls. Rusticated stone is used in a similar fashion and appears in the form of lintels and sills at the one-over-one, double-hung windows and over the front door which is surmounted by a dormer. A low brick wall at the front porch is capped with a rusticated stone coping. Doric columns on plinths rest on the coping and support the porch roof, the ceiling of which has been painted blue. The most distinctive features of the house--the stepped parapet walls at each gable end--are corbeled to receive the eaves that die into them. An arched centered window is located in each of the two gable ends, while a small dormer is centered in the asbestos-shingle roof over the front door.

Landscaping features postdate the construction of the house, but are compatible with the original design.

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Significance:

Period: 1900-

Areas of Significance: Architecture

The Polhemus House is the best and most finely crafted example, in East Austin, of an early twentieth-century brick residence. The structure probably was built by its first owner, Joseph O. Polhemus, who was active in Austin as a contractor and bricklayer.

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received *8/17/85*

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName East Austin Multiple Resource Area
State TEXAS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Haehnel Building

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper *Delores Byers 9/17/85*

Attest

22. City Cemetery

Substantive Review

Keeper *Linda McClelland 9/17/85*

Attest

23. Polhemus, Joseph O.,
HouseEntered in the
National Registerfor Keeper *Delores Byers 9/17/85*

Attest

24. Rainey Street Historic
DistrictEntered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Delores Byers 9/17/85*

Attest

25. Administration Building

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper *Linda McClelland 9/17/85*

Attest

26. Buratti Brothers

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper *Linda McClelland 9/17/85*

Attest

27. Industrial Structure
& Schulze House

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper *Linda McClelland 9/17/85*

Attest

28. Lindeman House

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper *Linda McClelland 9/17/85*

Attest

29. Schulze, Walter, House and
Industrial StructureEntered in the
National Registerfor Keeper *Delores Byers 4/25/86*
owner objection withdrawn

Attest

30. Newton House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper *Delores Byers 4/25/86*

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ref#

85002299

Polhemus, Joseph O., House (East Austin MRA)
Travis County
TEXAS

Working No. AUG 14 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-4-86
Date Due: 9/12/85 - 4/28/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-17-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Public Acquisition | Accessible | |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Site ⑥
Photo ⑦

Historic Resources of East Austin
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Site No. 6, Joseph O. Polhemus House, 912 E. 2nd St.
Photo by Joe Freeman, 1984, neg. with Texas
Historical Commission, Austin

South view
camera facing north

photo 7 of 60

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000840