

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2010-0004

**HLC DATE:**

February 22, 2010

**PC DATE:**

April 13, 2010

**APPLICANTS:** Steven J. Dietz and Allison Gregory, owners

**HISTORIC NAME:** Wupperman House

**WATERSHED:** Waller Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 506 Texas Avenue

**ZONING FROM:** SF-3-CO-NP to SF-3-H-CO-NP

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-CO-NP) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-CO-NP) combining district zoning.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended the proposed zoning change from single family residence, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-CO-NP) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-CO-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 7-0.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended the proposed zoning change from single family residence, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-CO-NP) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-CO-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 7-0.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The house is listed as a Priority 1 for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:** May 13, 2010

**ACTION:**

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

**CASE MANAGER:** Steve Sadowsky

**PHONE:** 974-6454

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:** Hancock Neighborhood Association

## **BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

### **Architecture:**

One and a half story L-plan, cross-gabled raised frame Queen Anne-style house with a projecting front-gabled canted bay, a prominent front gable in the center of the main façade, and a central, hipped roof. The house has a battered, shingled raised basement, and a wraparound porch on fluted columns with Ionic capitals. Fenestration consists of a combination of casement and 2:2 double-hung windows. A 1970s addition was made to the back of the house.

**Historical Associations:**

The ca. 1915 house was built for Walter and Else Wupperman, who purchased the property in 1914 from prominent developer Sidon Harris, who developed areas to the southeast of Hyde Park such as College Court. Walter Wupperman was born in Germany in 1874, the son of Otto and Elise Tips Wupperman. Otto Wupperman had immigrated to Austin in 1849 and married Elise Tips, the sister of Walter Tips, and the daughter of a prominent local German-American family, but they returned to Germany in 1865. Walter came to Austin in 1898, where he met his future bride, Else von Rosenberg; the two were married in 1904. The couple first lived in Seguin, where Walter worked as a salesman for his brother's enamelware business; he then went to work for H.H. Voss, who had a large enamelware and hardware business in Austin. The 1910 U.S. Census shows Walter and Elsie Wupperman living at 601 Rio Grande Street; he was listed as a hardware merchant. In 1914, Walter gave up the houseware and hardware sales business in order to teach German at the University of Texas, but the advent of World War I put an end to teaching German language and culture at UT, and Walter lost his teaching position. He purchased this property in 1914 at the edge of town, where he believed that his family would enjoy greater health benefits, and contracted with the Calcasieu Lumber Company to build the house, which was completed in 1915. At the time that Wupperman purchased this property, there was little else in the area, and the Wuppermans had fruit orchards, a vegetable garden, chickens, and bees. Over time, with the loss of work and the Great Depression, Wupperman was forced to sell portions of his original land purchase. He worked for the Walter Tips Company for a number of years, and his 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that he was working as a book-keeper for the Austin Gas Light Company. He then went to work for the Internal Revenue Service as a deputy collector. He later worked as an auditor, accountant, and the book-keeper for the Becker Lumber Company. The 1930 U.S. Census shows the family living in this house, which was valued at \$12,000. He is listed as a collector for the Internal Revenue Service. He and Else had five children, including his oldest son, Ernst, who obtained his veterinary training and opened the Wupperman Animal Hospital in 1941; this business later became the Wupperman-Spangler Animal Hospital. A cousin from Germany, Guenther Oswald, immigrated to Austin after World War II and went to work for the Calcasieu Lumber Company, but his love was restoring and refinishing furniture. He had his woodworking shop in the basement of this house, and became nationally known for his skill at refinishing fine antique furniture, including his work restoring and refinishing furniture from the Texas Governor's Mansion. Walter Wupperman died in 1950; his widow Else remained in the house until her death in 1967, renting rooms to students from the University of Texas. In 1968, the family sold the house to Frances Gerdes, a retired teacher who had taught at the pioneer school at Gussetville, Texas, and later at Palm School in downtown Austin. Mrs. Gerdes also rented rooms to UT students to fill the house and supplement her income.

**PARCEL NO.:** 02170612080000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** 92 x 167 feet, and 12 x 50 feet, Block 3, Outlots 7 and 8, Division C

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$9,476 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,000 (capped).

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$722,510

**PRESENT USE:** Single family residence

**CONDITION:** Good

**PRESENT OWNERS:** Steven Dietz and Allison Gregory

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1915

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** A portion of the porch was enclosed in the 1960s; the enclosure has been removed by the current owners, who are restoring the original appearance of the house. An addition was made to the back of the house in 1970; this addition is also being rehabilitated to better complement the original style of the house, including the re-use of windows from the porch infill.




**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** Walter and Else Wupperman (1915)

**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** None.

# LOCATION MAP



1" = 200'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  ZONING BOUNDARY
-  PENDING CASE

OPERATOR: S. MEEKS

## HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2010-0004  
 ADDRESS: 506 TEXAS AVE  
 SUBJECT AREA: 0.000 ACRES  
 GRID: J25 & K25  
 MANAGER: S. SADOWSKY



This map has been produced by G.I.S. Services for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.





Photo of the rear of the house showing the family room addition

## **HISTORIC ZONING (HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION)**



**Wupperman House – 506 Texas Avenue**

## A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

OK to go  
SS  
1-27-10

Row ID  
10396123

**PROJECT INFORMATION:**

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>02/03/10</u>	FILE NUMBER(S): <u>2010-0144800-0004</u>
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: <u>100</u>	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____	
CASE MANAGER: <u>Spape</u>	CITY INITIATED: YES / NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: _____	ROLLBACK: YES/NO

**BASIC PROJECT DATA:**

1. OWNER'S NAME: Steven J. Dietz and Allison Gregory

2. PROJECT NAME: Whippertown House

3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): 506 Texas Avenue  
 ZIP: 78705 COUNTY: Travis

IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:  
 LOCATED \_\_\_\_\_ FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE N. S. E. W. (CIRCLE ONE) SIDE OF  
 (ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS  
 APPROXIMATELY \_\_\_\_\_ DISTANCE FROM ITS  
 INTERSECTION WITH \_\_\_\_\_ CROSS STREET.

**AREA TO BE REZONED:**

WS-Walkin Creek Class Urban  
Grid J25 NP-Hancock

4. ACRES 0.37 (OR) SQ.FT. \_\_\_\_\_

5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:

EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
<u>SF-3-CO</u>	<u>SF-3-CO</u>	_____	<u>.37 acres</u>	<u>SF-3-CO -H</u>	<u>SF-3-CO-H</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**RELATED CURRENT CASES:**

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
8. SUBDIVISION? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
9. SITE PLAN? (YES / NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____

SCANNED

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name: W. A. Harper Subdivision  
Block (3) W. Whippman Tract Lot(s) 08 Outlot(s) 8  
Plat Book: Volume 3 Page Number: 88  
10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two copies of certified field notes if subdivision reference is not available or zoning includes partial lots) ATTACHED as "EXHIBIT A"

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

11. Instrument #: 2006144472 TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 211658 REF ID2: 02170612080000

OTHER PROVISIONS:

12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES / NO  
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP, etc) NP Hancock  
13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES / NO  
14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES / NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)  
TRIPS PER DAY: \_\_\_\_\_  
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. SOLE ☒ COMMUNITY PROPERTY ☐ PARTNERSHIP ☐ CORPORATION ☐ TRUST  
If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION:

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION  
SIGNATURE: [Signature] NAME: Steven J. Dietz and Allison R. Gregory  
FIRM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER: 512.524.5227  
STREET ADDRESS: 506 Texas Avenue  
CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78705  
EMAIL ADDRESS: ALGALINTEXAS@GMAIL.COM

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION  
SIGNATURE: [Signature] NAME: Randall Soltau  
FIRM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER: (512) 495-9238  
STREET ADDRESS: 506 Bellevue Place  
CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78705  
CONTACT PERSON: SAME TELEPHONE NUMBER: SAME  
EMAIL ADDRESS: publicrandy@swbell.net

SCANNED

## D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

### SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND  
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

R. Soileau 1/18/10  
Signature Date

RANDALL SOILEAU  
Name (Typed or Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm (If applicable)

### INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND  
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Steven J. Dietz & Allison Gregory 1-18-10  
Signature Date

STEVEN J. DIETZ & ALLISON GREGORY  
Name (Typed or Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm (If applicable)

## E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning  
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,  
Restrictive Covenants  
and / or  
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, Randall Solteau have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions,  
(Print name of applicant)

restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

506 Texas Avenue, Austin, Texas 78705  
(Address or Legal Description)

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

  
(Applicant's signature)

1-18-2010  
(Date)

TAX CERTIFICATE  
Nelda Wells Spears  
Travis County Tax Assessor-Coll. :ctor  
P.O. Box 1748  
Austin, Texas 78767  
(512) 854-9473

NO 1054185

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 02-1706-1208-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

DIETZ STEVEN J & ALLISON R GREGORY  
506 TEXAS AVE  
AUSTIN, TX 78705-1743

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

92 X 167 FT & 12X50FT BLK 3 OLT 7-  
8 DIVISION C

ACRES .0000 MIN\* .000000000000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 506 TEXAS AVE AUSTIN

This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interests are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s):

YEAR	ENTITY	TOTAL
2009	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*

TOTAL SEQUENCE 0

TOTAL TAX:	*ALL PAID*
UNPAID FEES:	* NONE *
INTEREST ON FEES:	* NONE *
COMMISSION:	* NONE *
TOTAL DUE ==>	*ALL PAID*

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2009 \$15,047.85

ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2009 EXCEPT FOR UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.

The above described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional rollback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code). Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of \$10.00 for all Tax Certificates.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF 02/03/2010

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears  
Tax Assessor-Coll. :ctor

By: 

## F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology

### Deed Research for: Wupperman Home - 506 Texas Avenue

*List Deeds chronologically, beginning with earliest transaction first and proceeding through present ownership. The first transaction listed should date at least back to when the original builder of any historic structures on the site first acquired the property (i.e., should pre-date the construction of any buildings/structures on the site). Please use the format delineated below.*

*For each transaction please include: name of Grantor/Grantee, date of transaction, legal description involved, price, and volume/page number of deed records. If there is a mechanic's lien please copy the entire document.*

Transaction	Vol./Page
Wildbahn Land Company to Sidon Harris Warranty Deed with Vendors Lien February 19, 1909 All of Outlot 8 and 2 1/2 Acres of the north of Outlot 7 All in Division C \$8028	Vol. 234, pp.584-585
Wildbahn Land Company to Sidon Harris Release of Vendors Lien on 1 5/8 Acres sold to Walt Wupperman January 20 <sup>th</sup> , 1914	Vol. 264, p. 229
Sidon Harris to Walter Wupperman 1 5/8 <sup>th</sup> acre portion of Out Lot 8, Division C "Montrose Place" January 20, 1914 \$2933	Vol. 264, pp.230-231
Alice Lundy, Elizabeth Wupperman, Alfred Wupperman, Helene Dinwiddie, Hildegarda Lindsay - to Frances Gerdes "Wupperman Tract" less lot divisions sold in 1921, 1923, 1924, and 1933 August 2, 1968	Vol. 3539, pp.930-931
Frances Paul Gerdes to Steven J. Dietz and wife Allison Gregory Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien August 25, 2008	Instrument # 2008144472  Tax Property ID #211658 Ref ID2 # 02170612080000

## F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

### Occupancy Research – 806 Texas Avenue (3701 Duval , 502 E. 37<sup>th</sup> St., 502 Texas Avenue)

*Using City Directories available at the Austin History Center or other information available, please provide a chronology of all occupants of the property from its construction to the present. For commercial property, please provide residential information on business owner as well.*

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
<b>[3701 Duval]</b>		
1916	Wupperman, Walter Wupperman, Elsie	City Directory 1916 Austin History Center AF File
1918	Wupperman, Walter BA (Elsie) – asst Germanic Languages U of T	City Directory 1918
1920	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) - bkpr	City Directory 1918
1922	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – bkpr Becker Lbr Co Wupperman, Alice	City Directory 1922
1924	Wuppermann, Walter O. (Elsie) Wupperman, Alice- student U of T Wupperman, Walter E.	City Directory 1924
<b>[502 Texas Ave.]</b>		
1927	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) Wupperman, Alice Wupperman, Alf Wupperman, Walter E.	City Directory 1927
1929	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – dep collr U S Int Rev Service Wupperman, Alf O. – student U of T Wupperman, Alice M. - sten Wupperman, Ernest W. Wupperman, Helene E.	City Directory 1929
1930-31	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – deputy coll U S Int Rev Service Wupperman, Alf O.- student U of T Wupperman, Alice M. – Librarian in Chemistry U of T Wupperman, Ernest W.	City Directory 1930-31
1932-33	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – dep collr U S Int Rev Service Wupperman, Alf O. – student U of T Wupperman, Alice M. – librarian U of T Wupperman, Walter E. Wupperman, Hurlene E.] – student U of T	City Directory 1932-33

1935	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) Wupperman, Alf O. Wupperman, Alice M. – chemistry librarian U of T Wupperman, Walter E. Wupperman, Helene E. – student U of T	City Directory 1935
[506 Texas Ave.]		
1937	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) Wupperman, Alf O. - drftsman Wupperman, Alice M. – chemistry librarian U of T Wupperman, Walter E. Jr. - veterinarian Wupperman, Hildegard	City Directory 1937
1939	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie; 2) - bkpr Wupperman, Alice M. – librarian U of T Wupperman, Hildegard – student U of T	City Directory 1939
1940	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – bkpr Becker Lbr Co Wupperman, Alice M. – chemist U of T Wupperman, Ernest W. – vet surg Wupperman, Hildegard – student U of T	City Directory 1940
1941	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – bkpr Becker Lbr. Co Wupperman, Hildegard	City Directory 1940
1942	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – bkpr Becker Lbr Co	City Directory 1941
1944-45	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) - aud	City Directory 1944-45
1947	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) – acct	City Directory 1947
1949	Wupperman, Walter O. (Elsie) - pub acct	City Directory 1949
1952	Wupperman, Else (widow of Walter)	City Directory 1952
1953	Oswald, Guenther – hlpr Calcasieu Lbr Co Wupperman, Else (widow Walter O.)	City Directory 1953
1954	Oswald, Guenther – cabt. mk Calcasieu Lbr Co Wupperman, Else (widow Walter O.)	City Directory 1954
1955	Oswald Guenther – cabinet mkr Calcasieu Lbr Co Wupperman, Else (widow Walter O.)	City Directory 1955
1957	Oswald, Guenther – cabinet mkr Calcasieu Lbr Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1957
1958	Oswald, Guenther – cabinet mkr Calcasieu Lbr Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1958
1959	Oswald, Guenther (Ida) – cabinet maker Calcasieu Lbr Oswald, Ida – opr Housman's Brykerwood Beauty Shop Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1959

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1960	Oswald, Guenther (Ida) – cabinet maker Calcasieu Lbr Oswald, Ida – opr Housman's Brykerwood Beauty Shop Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1960
1961	Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1961
1962	Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1962
1963	Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1963
1964	Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)	City Directory 1964
1965	Wupperman, Else (wid Walter) - retd	City Directory 1965
1966	Wupperman, Else (wid Walter) - retd	City Directory 1966
1967	Wupperman, Else (wid Walter)-retd	City Directory 1967
1968	Wupperman, Alf O. - retd	City Directory 1968
1969-1973	Harbin, W. L. (Frances S.) - retd	City Directory 1969-73
1974-2000	Gerdes, Frances - retd	City Directory 1973-2000
2000 -2003	F.S., Gerdes	City Directory 2000 - 2003

## Historic Narrative: The Wupperman House – 506 Texas Avenue

### Montrose Place and Sidon Harris

In 1909, Sidon Harris, a prominent attorney and land developer, acquired property including the present location of the Wupperman Home, after Walter O. and Else Wupperman and family, from the Wildbahn Land Company. Mr. Harris secured the property described as “(27) twenty seven acres, more or less, and known as all of out lot (8) eight and about (2 ½) two and a half acres off the north side of out lot (7) seven ... all of which is in Division “C” in the City of Austin, in Travis County, Texas.”<sup>1</sup>

The neighborhood surrounding the Wupperman Home, 506 Texas Avenue, is identified as “Montrose Place” in the property deed of 1914 from grantor Sidon Harris to grantee Walter Wupperman.<sup>2</sup> The street now known as Texas Avenue was to be named “Townes” apparently after the name of the president of the Wildbahn Land Company in 1914, Mr. John C. Townes.<sup>3</sup> Although no filed plat of Montrose Place has been located in the Travis County Property Records, Sidon Harris’s influence in the development of this area of Austin north of the University of Texas is evident. Montrose Street, Harris Avenue, and Harris Park Boulevard in the immediate area are evidence of his influence in its development.

Sidon Harris “was admitted to the Texas State Bar in 1882, at the age of 21, and established offices for general practice in Austin.”<sup>4</sup> He was successful as a lawyer and “known throughout Texas as a successful practitioner of land law.”<sup>5</sup> In his later years Mr. Harris transitioned from land law to land development. In addition to “Montrose Place” he created College Court in Austin<sup>6</sup> and additions in San Antonio and Houston.<sup>7</sup>

### The W. A. Harper Sub-division

From 1917- 1922, prior to the subsequent division of the property, the Wupperman Home address is listed as 3701 Duval Street and as part of Hyde Park.<sup>8</sup> In 1924 the Wupperman’s home address is listed as 502 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>9</sup> The first recorded subdivision plat of the area was filed by W.A. Harper and Sam H. Hirschfeld in September of 1923. The plat is named “The W. A. Harper Sub-division of Parts of Outlot 7 & 8 Div. ‘C’ in the City of Austin Travis County, Texas”. The entire Block 3 of the

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<sup>1</sup> Travis County Property Records. Deeds: Vol. 234, pp. 584-585

<sup>2</sup> Travis County Property Records. Deeds: Vol.264, pp.230-231

<sup>3</sup> Travis County Property Records. Deeds: Vol. 264, pp. 229 & 231

<sup>4</sup> Who’s Who in Texas. 1931, page 268

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Travis County Property Records. Plats: Vol. 2, page 222

<sup>7</sup> Who’s Who in Texas. 1931, pages 268

<sup>8</sup> City of Austin Directories. 1916- 1922

<sup>9</sup> City of Austin Directory. 1924

subdivision is labeled "W. Wupperman Tract". The original Wupperman Tract in this subdivision is bounded by Duval Street to the west, Texas Avenue to the south, Liberty Street to the east, and Cleveland Avenue [38<sup>th</sup> Street] to the north.<sup>10</sup> By 1927 the previous street in Austin named "Texas Avenue" was changed to Highland Avenue and the Wupperman's home address was now 502 Texas Avenue (formerly 37<sup>th</sup> Street).<sup>11</sup> By 1937 the Wupperman's street number was changed to 506 Texas Avenue.<sup>12</sup>

#### **Walter Otto Wupperman and Elisabeth (Else) Maria Von Rosenberg**

Otto Wupperman, father to Walter, had come to Texas in 1849 following a failed revolution in Germany.<sup>13</sup> While in Texas, Otto Wupperman married Elise Tips (sister of Walter Tips, founder of the Tips Hardware Company of Austin). Otto and Elise were married at Liveoakhill near Seguin in September of 1850.<sup>14</sup> Otto Wupperman and his wife returned to Germany in 1865, but his tales of "the physical hardships of pioneering in Texas ... largely offset by the freedom, mild climate and wild open spaces"<sup>15</sup> may have encouraged Walter, born in Dusseldorf, Germany in 1874, to immigrate to Texas in 1898. "Raised amid some influence, in a city of culture, Walter wished to become an artist or musician".<sup>16</sup> "So in 1898, when Walter was 24, he determined to move to Texas, where his parents had lived for ten or twelve years." <sup>17</sup> "In Austin Walter met Miss Else (Elisabeth) von Rosenberg. Walter Wupperman and Else von Rosenberg were wed in April of 1904 by R.J. Briggs of the First Congregational Church of Austin."<sup>18</sup>

Walter had moved to Seguin as a salesman for his eldest brother's enamel wares business. The von Rosenberg family record continues, "and in Texas brother Richard had good use of Walter as an agent and salesman for the Herman Wupperman enamel wares, although Walter would rather have become a landscape artist or pianist. But in Texas, certainly these arts were then inadequate for bread and butter. Some work on the cattle ranch, and in hardware stores in Houston and Brenham provided further acquaintance with this strange new land".<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Travis County Property Records. Plats: Vol.3 page 89

<sup>11</sup> City of Austin Directory. 1927

<sup>12</sup> City of Austin Directory. 1937

<sup>13</sup> Austin History Center. AustinFiles: Wupperman, Otto

<sup>14</sup> *ibid*

<sup>15</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Otto

<sup>16</sup> *ibid*

<sup>17</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source: Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I p.208]

<sup>18</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperm, Otto [Marriage Certificate]

<sup>19</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Walter Otto



children).<sup>21</sup>

He also engaged in crockery and hardware merchandising. After two years in business with his brother in Seguin, and later with H.H. Voss in Austin, Walter sold out in 1914 in order to teach German in the University of Texas.<sup>20</sup>

But WWI brought an end to German at the University: "Then, during World War I, came a great hatred in the United States toward everything German; the teaching of German at the university was dropped and Walter lost his position! Even with proved citizenship Walter now found it exceedingly difficult to find work to support his large family (wife and four

With the advent of World War I and the loss of his position at the University of Texas, Mr. Wupperman worked as a bookkeeper with various firms including the Becker Lumber Company.<sup>22</sup>

"But in 1912 and 1915 two babies [Eugene and Charlotte] <sup>23</sup>were lost in early infancy, and his dear father-in-law died. Meantime, the serious illnesses of his children had brought the realization that city life is unhealthy, so he moved his family to the edge of town, buying 2 ½ acres of land, surrounded by healthy meadows. Thereon was built a large comfortable home, with fruit orchard, vegetable garden, chickens and later bees. All this entailed considerable indebtedness."<sup>24</sup>

The actual amount of land purchased, according to the deed of 1914, was 1 5/6 acres in the northwest corner of Outlot 8, Division C, of Travis County city of Austin.<sup>25</sup> The construction of the home was begun in 1914 by the Calcasieu Lumber Company of Austin. Calcasieu Lumber Company acted as the builder and supplier for the project which was completed in 1915.<sup>26</sup>

"Somewhat strict religious upbringing influenced his [Walter Wupperman] convictions which formed the basis of his emphasis on home, and firm and understanding control over his family for several years. With always meager funds, he nonetheless managed to maintain his large comfortable home, help the less fortunate and take genuine, enlightenment in humanity's uplift and well being. He also enjoyed playing his viola in string quartettes and the Austin Symphony Orchestra."<sup>27</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Von Rosenberg, Charles Wilburn. The Von Rosenberg Family Record Book II. Waco: Texian Press, 1974, p. 208

<sup>21</sup> Von Rosenberg, Charles Wilburn. The Von Rosenberg Family Record Book II. Waco: Texian Press, 1974, p. 209

<sup>22</sup> City of Austin Directory. 1922

<sup>23</sup> Von Rosenberg, Charles Wilburn. The Von Rosenberg Family Record Book II. Waco: Texian Press, 1974, p. 25

<sup>24</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source:Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I p. 209]

<sup>25</sup> Travis County Property Records. Deeds: Vol. 264 pages 230-231

<sup>26</sup> Correspondence with Sue Onstott and Helene Dinwiddie (granddaughter and daughter of Walter and Else Wupperman.

<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

Property records indicate parcels within the Wupperman tract were sold from 1921-1933.<sup>28</sup> Surviving family member, Helene Dinwiddie, reports that land was sold in the hard times after World War I and during the Great Depression.<sup>29</sup>

"The allowed shooting of wild rabbits and doves and son Walter's cows helped the food situation very considerably, as did wife Else's garden and chickens. Salary with Walter Tips Company [Walter Wupperman was Walter Tip's nephew<sup>30</sup>] was also some better. So matters slowly improved; and slowly the hatred toward Germans cooled off.

At last Walter received a position as deputy Federal Income Tax Collector. This work, however, entailed much traveling, with extended periods away from home, until after eight years, Austin became his home territory."<sup>31</sup>

"Meantime, his beloved bees had died out, but the children were now grown, healthy and attending universities. Walter never became an artist or musician, but derived satisfaction from sketching and piano duet playing with son Alfred. He never became a skilled viola player, yet enjoyed participating with string quartettes and the Austin Symphony Orchestra. The large, now debt-free home grew lovelier and livelier from year to year, and five children became able adults. Four married, and Alfred, too, left home but Christmas reunions brought indescribable happiness and joy."<sup>32</sup>

Walter Wupperman continued to work periodically as a public accountant, auditor, and an accountant for Becker Lumber Company.<sup>33</sup>

**Elisabeth (Else) Maria von Rosenberg**, the eldest of seven siblings, was born in Austin in 1880. Her mother, Helene Lungkwitz, and father, Ernst von Rosenberg, were both from pioneer Texas families of German descent<sup>34</sup>

"At concerts Else met her dear Walter. Both were handsome and dignified, with mutual love of fine music and art, and German background. They gave their children knowledge and pride in their ancestry... Else instilled in her five children the typical German housewifely thoroughness, well mixed with common sense and perseverance. They stood them all in good stead in the trying and

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<sup>28</sup> Travis County Property Records. Deeds: Vol.3539 pp.930-931

<sup>29</sup> Personal correspondence to Allison Gregory from Helene Wupperman Dinwiddie

<sup>30</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg

<sup>31</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source: Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I p.209]

<sup>32</sup> *ibid*

<sup>33</sup> City of Austin Directories 1939 - 1949

<sup>34</sup> *ibid* pp. 208, 210

frugal years of World War I and thereafter. They sold the horse and most of their real estate, and some household goods and the children never went hungry."<sup>35</sup>

"Else, a lovely, jolly person, respected learning, art and music. She was also practical energetic, and resourceful. This was more important, for, in the frugal years, their orchard, garden and chickens became very helpful to her family and others. One wonders how many school lunches she prepared, over the years, each with loving concern for balanced nutrition. Her perseverance enabled her husband and three children to earn university degrees."<sup>36</sup>



"She still enjoys concerts in her 83<sup>rd</sup> year, and is able to indulge her lifelong love for flowers and pot plants, indoors and out. And did you ever taste her cooking? Superb! Else is still active in the First Congregational Church of Austin, which her father had helped found, and is happy at its union with the Evangelical Church, that being Walter's church in his youth in Germany."<sup>37</sup>

Walter and Else's children are Alice Margarethe Wupperman (b.1905), Ernst Walter Wupperman (b.1907), Alfred Otto Wupperman (b. 1909), Elisabeth Helene Wupperman Dinwiddie (b.1911), Viola Hildegard Wupperman Lindsay (b. 1918).<sup>38</sup>

**Alice Margarethe Wupperman**, eldest of Walter and Else's children, graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelors degree in 1926. She became the supervisor librarian at the Pharmacy-Chemistry Library at U.T. (Mallet Library) from 1929 until 1940 when she moved to attend school at Columbia University. She held various positions over the years including technical librarian at Sperry Gyroscope Company on Long Island and head medical librarian at Harbor Hospital in Torrance, California.<sup>39</sup>

**Ernst Walter Wupperman**, eldest son of Walter and Else, received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1933. <sup>40</sup> By 1937 he had established a veterinary practice in Austin while still living with his parents.<sup>41</sup> By 1941 Ernst Wupperman opened

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<sup>35</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source:Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I p.210]

<sup>36</sup> Von Rosenberg, Charles Wilburn. The Von Rosenberg Family Record Book II. Waco:Texan Press, 1974, p..2

<sup>37</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source:Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I p.210]

<sup>38</sup> Von Rosenberg, Charles Wilburn. The Rosenberg Family Record Book II. Waco: Texian Press, 1974, pp. 22-25

<sup>39</sup> University of Texas Website. <http://lib.utexas.edu/chem/history/mallethist.html>

<sup>40</sup> Deaths. Austin American Statesman. February 19, 1986, p.E20.

<sup>41</sup> Austin City Directory. 1937

the Wupperman Animal Hospital at 5908 Georgetown Road in Austin.<sup>42</sup> In the 1950's Ernst was a partner in the Wupperman – Spangler Animal Hospital at 5916 N. Lamar Boulevard in Austin. <sup>43</sup>

**Alfred Otto Wupperman** attended the University of Texas while living at home on 506 Texas Avenue.<sup>44</sup> "At the University of Texas he took pre-law work, then teacher training and architectural engineering, but left before getting a degree."<sup>45</sup> Alfred pursued Civil Service and "received the highest score ever earned at that time on his exam."<sup>46</sup> Alfred worked as a draftsman while living at the Wupperman home in 1937.<sup>47</sup> Alfred Wupperman worked as a draftsman for Army Corps of Engineers. <sup>48</sup>"Alfred is definitely a liberal, politically, and has written many 'Letters to the Editor' in support of liberal views and, even nudism. He supports the Civil Liberties Union and the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker Relief), and is a member of the Congregational Church of Austin."<sup>49</sup> The Austin History Center Wupperman-Von Rosenberg file contains many of Alfred's letters to the Austin American Statesman, Fort Worth Star Telegram and Galveston newspapers. Alfred was president of National Nudist Council of America and a resident of the clothing optional New Manor Apartments at age 73 in 1982.<sup>50</sup> Alfred moved back to the family home prior to its sale in 1968.<sup>51</sup>

**Helene Elisabeth Wupperman** "received her B.S. degree in physical education at the University of Texas. She enjoyed interpretative dancing, and was an employee of the City Recreational Department of Austin, where she taught dancing swimming, and tennis."<sup>52</sup> Helene was a member of the U.T. dance group Orchesis which presented one of the inaugural performances at the new U. T. Hogg Memorial Auditorium in 1933.<sup>53</sup>

**Hildegard Viola Wupperman** was born in the home.<sup>54</sup> Concerning Hildegard: she was the "youngest of seven (two of which died in infancy)...bears a noticeable resemblance to her paternal

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<sup>42</sup> Austin City Directory. 1941

<sup>43</sup> Austin City Directory, 1952

<sup>44</sup> Austin City Directory, 1930-31, 1932-33

<sup>45</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source: Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I pg.216]

<sup>46</sup> Personal correspondence with Sue Onstott and Helen Dinwiddie (granddaughter and daughter of Else and Walter Wupperman.

<sup>47</sup> Austin City Directory. 1937

<sup>48</sup> Deaths. Austin American Statesman. December 11, 1988, P. B11.

<sup>49</sup> *ibid*

<sup>50</sup> Third Coast Magazine. Austin: September 1982, pp. 69-71

<sup>51</sup> Austin City Directory. 1968

<sup>52</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source: Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I p.217]

<sup>53</sup> Personal correspondence to Allison Gregory from Helene Wupperman Dinwiddie

<sup>54</sup> Personal correspondence with Sue Onstott and Helen Dinwiddie (granddaughter and daughter of Else and Walter Wupperman.

grandmother, Elise Tips-Wupperman, also a mother of seven, who left Texas about 100 years ago".<sup>55</sup> Hildegard was a mother and housewife who, with her husband, was a lapidary artist creating costume jewelry.<sup>56</sup>

Guenther Oswald, a German cousin, immigrated to Austin following World War II and lived at the home with the Wupperman family for several years.<sup>57</sup> Guenther was recruited during World War II to join Hitler's Luftwaffe, the German Air Force. "Oswald was injured five times during the war. The fifth time he was captured and sent to a prisoner of war camp in Colorado for the remainder of the war, about a year. Then he was returned to Germany."<sup>58</sup> Following Guenther's experience in America, he resolved to immigrate to America with his Austin relatives as his sponsors. But to immigrate he needed a trade. "Oswald completed a four-year apprenticeship as a woodworker in Germany and in 1952, when he was 32, moved to Austin and started work with the Calcasieu Lumber Co."<sup>59</sup> Mr. Oswald established his first woodworking shop in the basement of the Wupperman's home at 506 Texas Avenue.<sup>60</sup> Guenther earned nationwide recognition restoring, repairing and refinishing family heirlooms and antiques as ancient as 400 years old. "His projects have included repair and refinishing of furniture at the [Texas] Governor's Mansion, and restoration of the Walter Tips carriage. He also has worked on Boulle cabinets at the Neill-Cochran House and fabrication of a hand-hewn cross at the altar of the First Presbyterian Church."<sup>61</sup> Guenther has received awards for his craftsmanship from the Heritage Society of Austin.<sup>62</sup> Mr. Oswald is also an accomplished amateur paleontologist.<sup>63</sup>

#### **The end of the Wupperman occupation at 506 Texas Avenue**

Walter Otto Wupperman died October 27, 1950. His wife, Else, continued to live in the family home on Texas Avenue until her death on October 27, 1967 exactly seventeen years after Walter's death.<sup>64</sup> According to the family there were several relatives and boarders (particularly students from the university) who regularly lived at the home. Son Alfred Wupperman returned to Austin to live in the home until it was sold in 1968 to Frances Gerdes.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Austin History Center. Austin File: Wupperman, Von Rosenberg [source: Charles Wilbur von Rosenberg Book I p.218]

<sup>56</sup> *ibid*

<sup>57</sup> Personal correspondence with Sue Onstott and Helen Dinwiddie (granddaughter and daughter of Else and Walter Wupperman.

<sup>58</sup> *Guenther Oswald, 75. Austin American Statesman. June 18, 1995*

<sup>59</sup> *ibid*

<sup>60</sup> Personal correspondence with Sue Onstott, Granddaughter of Walter and Else Wupperman

<sup>61</sup> *Restorer Oswald is awarded for his nationwide reputation. Austin American Statesman. March 3, 1991*

<sup>62</sup> *ibid*

<sup>63</sup> Carlson, Lewis. *We Were Each Other's Prisoners: An Oral History of World War II American and German Prisoners of War*. Basic Books, 1997

<sup>64</sup> Von Rosenberg, Charles Wilburn. *The Von Rosenberg Family Record Book II*. Waco: Texian Press, 1974, p.21

<sup>65</sup> *Austin City Directory. 1968*

### Frances Stephenson Gerdes

Frances Gerdes purchased the Wupperman's home from Walter and Else's children in August of 1968. Most of the original 1 5/6 acre homestead had been subdivided and sold from 1921 to 1933.<sup>66</sup>

Frances Stephenson (Gerdes) was born on June 21, 1914 in Beeville, Texas. She attended school in Beeville and earned her undergraduate and master's degree at Texas A & I in Kingsville.<sup>67</sup> "Frances began her career at the age of 18 teaching at the Gussetville School. Later, in Sinton, she was a dedicated teacher and positive influence on many lives."<sup>68</sup> Frances married Hillary Paul Gerdes and had two sons Steve and Paul.<sup>69</sup> From 1963 - 1966 Frances is listed as a teacher at the historic Palm School in downtown Austin. <sup>70</sup> The Palm School was the site of the earliest school in Austin (Mrs. Amelia Barr's private school) and was named for the Swedish Consul at Austin, Swante Palm, in 1902.<sup>71</sup> Mrs. Gerdes was retired from teaching at the time she lived at 506 Texas Avenue. She rented rooms to borders while she lived at the Wupperman home.<sup>72</sup>

### Architectural Description

The Wupperman Home at 506 Texas Avenue is a Victorian Style Queen Anne of the Free Classic sub-group. The Mc Alesters describe the Queen Anne style as, "Steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable; patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, and other devices used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance; asymmetrical façade with partial or full-width porch which is usually one story high and extended along one or both side walls."<sup>73</sup>



<sup>66</sup> Travis County Property Records. Deeds: Vol. 3539 pages 930-931

<sup>67</sup> Deaths. Austin American Statesman. March 26, 2000

<sup>68</sup> Ibid

<sup>69</sup> Ibid

<sup>70</sup> Austin City Directories. 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966

<sup>71</sup> Austin Public Schools. Austin Schools 1888 - 1954: Origin, Growth, Future Volume 2. Austin:1954

<sup>72</sup> Personal interview with former neighbor Randy Case, 509 Texas Avenue

<sup>73</sup> McAlester, Lee and Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p.263

The home's roof is cross gabled with a prominent front-facing gable. A hipped roof is over the 2<sup>nd</sup> story dormer. Lower cross gables form the roof of dining room wall projection on the west façade and bedroom on the east façade. A lower gabled roof also extends over a front projecting bay window. Wide trim is used in the gables and throughout the house. A small window and patterned shingles fill the tympanum above the bay window. Three (Palladian grouping) double-hung windows are present in prominent front gable tympanum. Wide roof overhangs break-up the vertical wall plane as described by the McAlesters, "use of overhanging gables and upper stories. Particularly characteristic features are roof gables that overhang bay windows shaped into the wall below (cutaway bay windows)".<sup>74</sup>

The elements and orientation of the front porch is a defining characteristic of the Queen Anne Style and the sub-group Late Classic. Concerning Queen Anne porches the MacAlesters comment, "extensive one-story porches are common and accentuate the asymmetry of the façade. These always include the front entrance area and cover part or all of the front façade; they also commonly extend along one or both sides of the house."<sup>75</sup> The front porch of the Wupperman Home dominates the south façade (facing Texas Avenue) and extends two-thirds the width of the east façade. A portion of the porch on the east façade was screened to provide a mosquito-proof sleeping porch. A grandson of Walt and Else Wupperman remembers his grandfather and uncles sleeping on the porch on warm nights.<sup>76</sup> A wide stairway leads to the front door entrance area covered by the porch. Seven single neo-classical columns, which are characteristic of the Late Classic sub-group, are raised to the porch rail and support the flat porch roof. The wood column bodies are fluted and sit on coffered bases integrated

with the porch rail. The columns are crowned by scroll (volute) capitals made of cast terra-cotta.



A raised basement supports the main floor of the Wupperman home. The home was raised to a height to take advantage of the cooling breezes of the prairieland.<sup>77</sup> The flared skirting of the raised basement is covered with alternate patterned shingles. Double-hung windows with two-over-two glazing are spaced along the basement skirting.



<sup>74</sup> Ibid

<sup>75</sup> Ibid, p. 266

<sup>76</sup> Personal correspondence with David Wupperman [grandson of Walter and Else Wupperman]

<sup>77</sup> Personal correspondence with Sue Onstott [Granddaughter of Walter and Else Wupperman]



The body of the home is covered with shiplap siding. The front door is surrounded by transom and sidelights. With the exception of the bay window (two over two double-hung), the windows of the main floor are original hinged casement windows with paired one-over-one glazing. Each casement window includes a broken light transom above. The windows were flanked by louvered shutter. Several of these shutters remain.

The Wupperman home exemplifies the Queen Anne characteristic of avoiding flat surfaces: "by incorporating frequent bay windows and towers as well as through the use of wall inserts or projections which provide the random changes in the horizontal continuity of the plane."<sup>78</sup> The significant projection of the dining room (photo ) breaks the continuity of the west façade of the the Wupperman home .

### **Outbuildings and Landscape Features**

In addition to the home, there was a two-story barn with a hayloft on the upper level, horse stalls and room for two buggies on the lower level.<sup>79</sup> There was also a chicken house and chicken yard on the property. "Else's garden was several feet outside the house on the kitchen side. The orchard was west of the house. Peach, Plum, Apricot, and figs as well as pecan trees were grown. The pecan trees bordered Duval and Texas Ave."<sup>80</sup>

### **Ongoing restoration**

The Wupperman Home is currently undergoing restoration. The interior of the home has been restored and major mechanical systems have been updated to allow for owner occupation.

In 1968, after the sale of the home by the Wupperman family to Frances Gerdes, the front porch was enclosed.<sup>81</sup> Recently the front porch has been opened and restored to its original size. The original screened sleeping-porch, which occupied a portion of the porch on the east side of the home, will be recreated from period photos of the home.

<sup>78</sup> Mc Alester, Lee and Virginia. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, pp. 264 & 266

<sup>79</sup> Personal correspondence with Sue Onstott and Helen Dinwiddie (granddaughter and daughter of Else and Walter Wupperman.

<sup>80</sup> *ibid*

<sup>81</sup> Personal correspondence with Sue Onstott and Helen Dinwiddie (granddaughter and daughter of Else and Walter Wupperman.

A family room, added to the rear of the home during the 1970's, has been rebuilt to better reflect the original style and age of the house. Windows reclaimed from the front porch enclosure and salvaged hardwood floors were utilized.

The restoration of the exterior façade is in process. Descendents of the Wupperman family remember the house was always painted white with color accenting the window moldings, screens, shutters and trim. Original photos from the newly constructed home, circa. 1920, suggest the skirting and body may have originally been colored with an aniline wood stain. Paint scrapings from the home reveal only white paint from the body of the home. The home will be repainted white with historically accurate accent colors on the shutters and window screens.

New landscaping, which will include fruit trees and a kitchen garden, an homage to Else's own garden, will complete the home restoration. The owners hope to have the exterior work underway by summer of 2010. They look forward to the day they can share this wonderful house and its gardens with family, friends and curious neighbors!

### **Criteria for Historic Landmark Designation of the Wupperman Home , 506 Texas Avenue**

#### **Architecture:**

- The Wupperman Home embodies the characteristics of the Late Classic subgroup of the Queen Anne Style. A unique element of the home is the use of terracotta volute capitals on the classic support columns of the wrap-around front porch. The raised basement was designed to take advantage of cooling cross breezes could be considered a vernacular adaptation of the style.
- The home was constructed in 1914-1915 by the Calcasieu Lumber Company for the Wupperman family. The Calcasieu Lumber Company was a prominent builder in Austin for this time period and the Wupperman home represents their best work.
- The home pre-dated the surrounding W.A. Harper subdivision of 1923 and was situated adjacent to historic Hyde Park.

#### **Historical Associations:**

- Walter and Else Wupperman were children/grandchildren of German immigrant pioneers who significantly contributed to the settlement of Texas and Austin including: the von Rosenbergs, the Lungkwitz, and the Tips families.
- Walter Wupperman was a professor of German at the University of Texas and, later, a Deputy for the Internal Revenue Service.
- Walter and Else Wupperman reared five children in their home on Texas Avenue and guarded their German heritage in difficult times during World War I and the Great

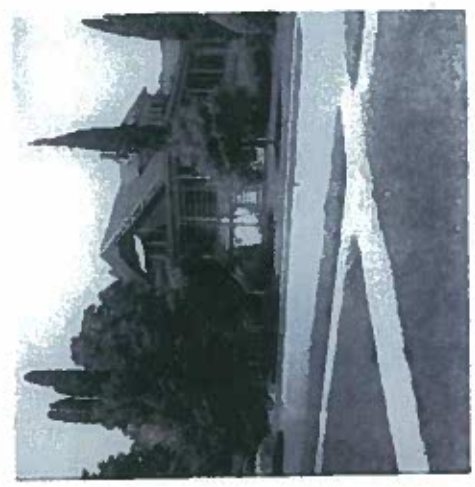
Depression. The family persevered through cultural prejudice and difficult financial times to preserve their home and family. This family and their unique struggle represent a significant portrayal of a group of people in a historic time.

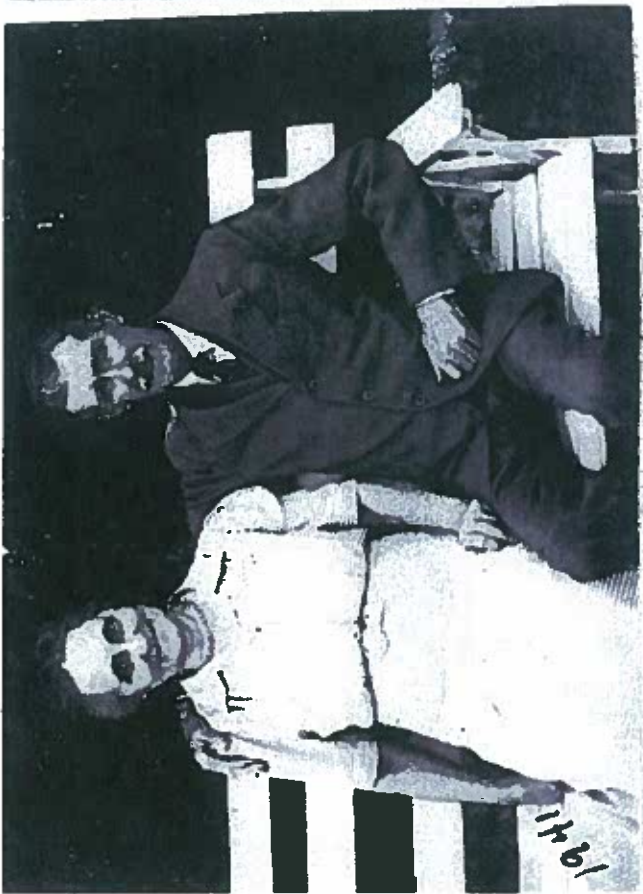
- The Wupperman children grew to be successful professionals and homemakers. Alice Wupperman Lundy became the supervising librarian for the Mallet library at U.T. and head librarian at the Harbor Hospital in Torrance, California. Ernest Wupperman became a doctor of veterinary medicine and opened the Wupperman Animal Hospital and later the Wupperman-Spangler Animal Hospital in Austin. Alfred Wupperman was a draftsman for the Army Corps of Engineers and a liberal writer in his prolific "letters to the editors" of Texas newspapers. Helene Wupperman Dinwiddie taught dancing, swimming, and tennis for the City of Austin Recreation Department, married and reared a family. Helene and her daughter Sue Onstott graciously provided materials and memories for this narrative. Viola Wupperman Lindsay was a lapidary artist as well as a wife and mother.
- Guenther Oswald, nationally recognized woodworker and restoration specialist, lived with the Wupperman family for several years after immigrating from Germany. His first workshop was in the basement of the home. His woodcraft and restoration projects include furniture for the Texas Governor's Mansion, the Walter Tips carriage, Boulle cabinets at the Neill-Cochran House, and a hand-hewn altar cross at the First Presbyterian Church.
- Frances Stephenson Gerdes was a teacher at the historic Palm School in downtown Austin.

→ Oak  
Hickory  
etc.



506 Texas Ave., Austin, Tx





1946



Walter  
Elsie  
Alice  
Agnes  
Walter



Elsie



Alfred  
Walter  
Walter