

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 27, 2012  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2012-0005  
1613 WILLOW STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1901 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story wing-and-gable plan frame house with probably non-historic stone veneer on the walls of the house; 1:1, 2:2, and sliding fenestration; fishscale imbrication in the tympanae of the front and side gables. There is no city record indicating the exact date of the application of the stone veneer to the front of the house, but it was after 1980, when the house was documented in the East Austin Survey as having a composition shingle exterior. Unfortunately, the photograph in the survey is very dark and not reproducible, but clearly shows a synthetic siding and open front porch rather than the stone veneer that appears today.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1901. The first known occupants were George and Fannie Bugg, who are shown in city directories from 1903-04 to 1906-07. Early census reports show that George Bugg grew up in Washington County, Texas, the son of a farmer, and was listed as a farmer in Austin County, Texas in the 1900 census report, along with his wife Fannie. He first appears in the 1903-04 city directory as a watchman for the Austin Gas Works, and then went on to work for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. He and Fannie apparently moved to Taylor, Texas after moving this house; later census reports show him as a boiler operator for the railroad there. After the Buggs moved out, the house was rented by Alfred and Lula Ginzle; Alfred was a grocery store clerk with Herzog's Grocery on E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Austin. The Ginzles are listed at this address in the 1910 U.S. Census; they lived here until around 1911. The house was then occupied by watchmaker Charles Willis and his wife, Jennie. Charles Willis died around 1915; Jennie, who worked as a janitress at the University of Texas, continued to live here until around 1925. A series of renters occupied the house from around 1925 until the early 1950s; one, Turner Magness, worked for the City Street Department; he had previously served on county road crews while his wife Maggie worked as a road crew cook. The Magness family lived here in the mid- to late 1940s. By 1953, the house was owned and occupied by Worth and Lorene Speed. Worth "Lefty" Speed was a mechanic by trade, but was best known as a boxer, boxing trainer, and manager. He died in 1959; his widow Lorene lived here until the mid-1960s. Alex Hernandez, a carpenter, and his wife Lucy, purchased the house; the Hernandez family still owns the property.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is listed in the Cultural Resources of East Austin Survey (1980). This survey does not contain priorities for research or preservation.

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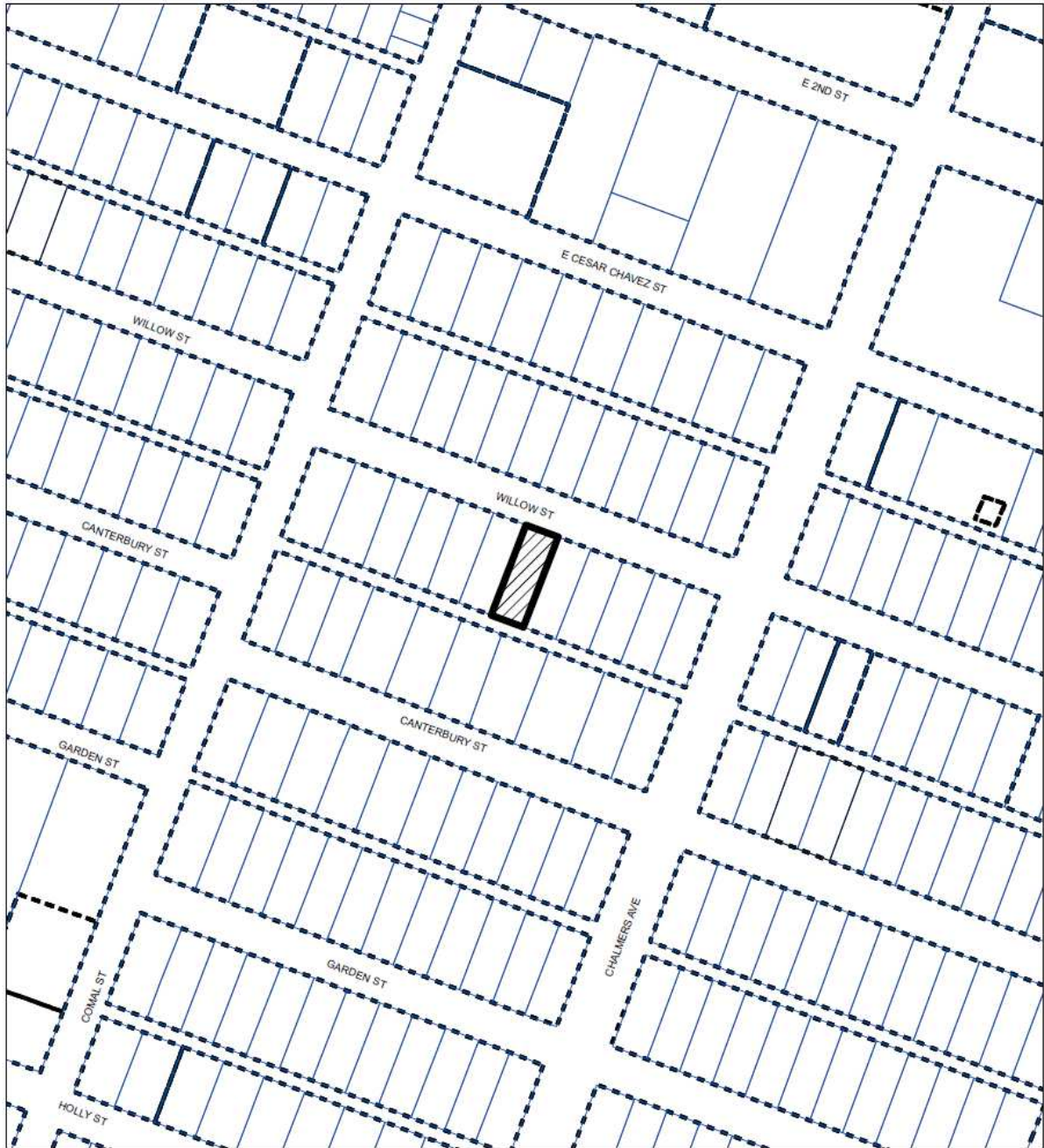
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Initiate the historic zoning case to further explore the possibilities of rehabilitation and restoration of this house. If restored, this house could potentially be nominated as a historic landmark due to its vernacular Victorian architecture and associations with Worth Speed, enough of a local boxing legend to warrant a full memorial story in the Austin American-Statesman at the time of his death. Even if not designated as a landmark, the house is potentially contributing to a future local historic district in East Austin, and

represents an excellent contextual example of the vernacular Victorian houses which once lined Willow and other streets in the neighborhood, many of which still remain.

# LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2012-0005  
LOCATION: 1613 Willow Street



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by the Planning and Development Review Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



**1613 Willow Street  
ca. 1901**







## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1613 Willow Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
January, 2012

1992	Lucy Hernandez, owner Retired
1985-86	Lucy Hernandez, owner No occupation listed
1981	Alex and Lucy Hernandez, owners Carpenter
1977	Alex and Lucy Hernandez, owners Carpenter
1973	Alex and Lucy Hernandez, owners Carpenter
1969	Alex and Lucy Hernandez, owners Carpenter
1964	Lorene M. Speed, owner Widow, Russ [sic] B. Speed Elevator operator, State Board of Control NOTE: Alex and Lucy Hernandez are not listed in the directory.

1960	Lorene M. Speed, owner Widow, Worth B. Speed Matron, State Board of Control
1957	Worth B. and Lorene Speed, owners Worth: No occupation listed Lorene: Matron, State Board of Control
1953	Worth B. and Lorraine Speed (not listed as owners) Mechanic NOTE: Maggie Magness is listed as the widow of Benjamin T. Magness. She lived at 1910 Romeria Drive and had no occupation listed.
1949	Turner B. and Maggie Magness, renters Driver NOTE: Worth B. and Lorene Speed are not listed in the directory.
1947	Turner B. and Maggie Magness, renters Sprinkler operator
1944-45	Turner B. and Maggie Magness, renters Teamster
1941	Isaiah and Fannie Combest, renters No occupation listed NOTE: Turner B. and Maggie Magness are listed as living at 306 W. 35 <sup>th</sup> Street; he was a driver for the City Street and Bridge Division.
1939	D.C. and Vernell Hicks, renters No occupation listed
1937	Mrs. Glida E. Koch, renter Clerk, Texas Planning Board Staff Project (not listed in the directory).
1935	Clyde and Ruth McPhaul, renters No occupation listed
1932-33	Vacant NOTE: Robert L. and Willie Hobbs are listed as living at 78 Waller Street; he had no occupation listed. NOTE: Willie M. Hobbs is not buried in a city cemetery.
1930-31	Robert L. and Willie M. Hobbs, renters No occupation listed
1929	Robert L. and Willie Hobbs, renters No occupation listed
1927	Ewald E. and Bertha Brodbeck, renters Driver NOTE: Jennie Willis is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Neither Charles M. nor Jennie Willis is buried in a city cemetery.

NOTE: Robert L. and Willie Hobbs are listed as living at 1007 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; he had no occupation listed in the directory.

1924	Jennie Willis, owner Widow, Charles M. Willis No occupation listed
1922	Jennie Willis, owner Widow, Charles M. Willis No occupation listed
1920	Jennie Willis, owner Widow, Charles M. Willis Janitress, University of Texas
1918	Jennie Willis, owner Widow, Charles M. Willis No occupation listed
1916	Jennie Willis Janitress, University of Texas
1914	Charles M. Willis Watchmaker
1912-13	Charles M. Willis Watchmaker
1910-11	Alfred R. Ginzel Clerk, H. Alfred Herzog, groceries, feed, and hay, 1311 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street. NOTE: Charles M. Willis is listed as living at 1612 Willow Street; he was a watchmaker for John A. Jackson, 617 Congress Avenue. NOTE: Alfred R. Ginzel is not listed in the directory; he is not buried in a city cemetery.
1909-10	Alfred R. Ginzel Clerk, H. Alfred Herzog, groceries, feed, and hay, 1311 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street. NOTE: Charles M. Willis is listed as living at 1612 Willow Street; he was employed as a watchmaker for John A. Jackson, 617 Congress Avenue.
1906-07	Alfred R. Ginzel Clerk, Herzog's Grocery, groceries, beer, etc., 1311 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street. NOTE: George Bugg is not listed in the directory; he is not buried in a city cemetery.
1905	George Bugg Employed by the Houston and Texas Central Railroad.
1903-04	George Bugg is listed as living at 1417 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street; he was a watchman for the Austin Gas Works. NOTE: Charles M. Willis is listed as living at 1611 Willow Street; he was a watchmaker for John A. Jackson on Congress Avenue.
1900-01	Neither George Bugg nor Charles M. Willis are listed in the directory.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**George Bugg**

George and Fannie Bugg moved to Taylor, Texas after living in this house, where George worked for the railroad. The 1910 U.S. Census shows the family living in Taylor – George's occupation was as a boiler maker in the railroad shops. They had 6 children living with them. The 1920 U.S. Census shows George and Fannie Bugg living in Taylor, Texas, in a rented house. George Bugg was then 52; Fannie Bugg was 45. Both had been born in Alabama. George Bugg worked as a boiler helper for the railroad. They had 4 children and a grand-child living with them. Their oldest daughter, Alma, was a seamstress. Earlier census reports show that the Bugg family had moved to Texas by 1880 - the 1880 U.S. census shows George Bugg as the 15-year old son of Anselm Bugg, a farmer in Washington County, Texas. George Bugg is listed as a laborer. The 1900 U.S. Census shows George and Fanny Bugg living at Buckhorn, Austin County, Texas, where George is listed as farmer. He apparently moved to Austin shortly thereafter and went to work as a watchman at the gas works. Fannie Bugg died in 1939; no evidence of George Bugg's death appears in public records.

**Alfred Ginzel**

Alfred and Lula Ginzel appear in the 1910 U.S. Census report at this address. He was 28; she was 24. Both had been born in Texas. He is listed as a salesman for a grocery store. The census report indicates that the Ginzels rented this house.

**Jennie Willis**

The 1920 U.S. Census report shows Jennie Willis at this address. She was a 39-year old widow with a 15-year old son, Robert. She had been born in Texas and was an assistant at an illegible place of business. Her son Robert was a newspaper carrier. They owned the house.

**Robert L. and Willie Hobbs**

The 1930 U.S. Census report shows Robert L. and Willie Hobbs as renters at this address. Robert L. Hobbs was then 47, had been born in Texas, and worked as a laborer for a private firm. Willie Hobbs was then 41, had been born in Texas, and was a janitress at the public schools. They had 7 children living with them in this house, including two married daughters and two grand-children. Their son, Edgar, 20 was a radio technician for a private firm; their married daughter Vera worked as an elevator operator in a hotel, and son-in-law John Grebe was a laborer for a building contractor. He was married to the Hobbs' daughter Ila.

Earlier census reports show the Hobbs family as farmers. The 1910 U.S. Census shows Robert L. and Willie M. Hobbs living on a farm in Burnet County, where Robert was a farmer on a general farm and Willie was a farm laborer on the home farm. The family was living on a farm in Nueces County in the 1920 U.S. Census; Robert was a general farmer.



**ROBERT L. HOBBS**

**Robert L. Hobbs, 77, of 801 West James, died in a local hospital Friday. He was a retired employe of the University of Texas, a resident of Austin 38 years, and a member of the Central Assembly of God Church.**

**He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Willie Hobbs of Austin; four daughters, Mrs. J. G. Greve of Bishop, Mrs. Gladys Stroud of Agnew, Calif., Mrs. P. W. Combs of Austin, and Mrs. R. V. Mackey, of Sunnyvale, Calif.; four sons, Edgar Hobbs, James Hobbs, and Robert L. Hobbs, all of Austin, and Rev. Hershel Hobbs, of Dallas; a sister, Mrs. Jack Hays, of Liberty Hill; two brothers, Harvey Hobbs and Walter Hobbs, both of Austin; 14 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.**

**Funeral services will be held from the Chapel of the Wilke-Clay Funeral Home Sunday at 2 p.m., with the Rev. J. Paul Joiner, pastor of the Central Assembly of God Church, officiating.**

**Burial will be in Capital Memorial Gardens.**

Obituary of Robert L. Hobbs  
Austin American, February 13, 1960

**Turner and Maggie Magness**

The 1930 U.S. Census report shows Turner and Maggie Magness living in a rented house at 1807 Drake Avenue in South Austin with their two daughters and a grand-daughter. Turner Magness was then 47 years old, had been born in Georgia, and was a laborer for the city street department. Maggie Magness was then 41 years old, and had been born in Texas. Their oldest daughter, Rowena, was 17 and worked as a waitress at a confectionary. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Turner and Maggie Magness living on the Post Road in South Austin in a rented house. Turner was employed as a foreman for the county road camp; Maggie was a cook for the county road camp. They had 3 children, 2 of Turner's brothers, and 3 boarders in the house. Turner's two brothers and the boarders all worked in the county road camp. The 1910

U.S. Census shows Turner Magness as the 17-year-old son of Benjamin F. and Lizzie Magness, who farmed in Travis County, Texas. Turner is listed as a farm hand.

REGISTRATION CARD		REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
SERIAL NUMBER 463	ORDER NUMBER 399	DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT	
Benjamin Turner Magness Route 1 Buda Texas		HEIGHT 6ft. 11	
Age in Years 36		BUILD 40	
Date of Birth Oct. 2, 1881		COOR Brown dark	
RACE American		COOR a little bald	
U. S. CITIZEN Naturalized		Date of Registration Sept. 12, 1918.	
PRESENT OCCUPATION Road Overseer		Local Board Travis County Austin, Texas	
EMPLOYER'S NAME Travis County		(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)	
Next of Kin Maggie Magness Route 1, Buda Texas		(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed on this card.)	

World War I draft registration card for Turner Magness, showing him living in rural Buda, Texas, and working as a road overseer for Travis County; his wife Maggie is listed as his next of kin.

**B. T. MAGNESS**  
 B. T. Magness died suddenly Monday afternoon. He is survived by his widow, three daughters, Mrs. R. F. Raven and Mrs. Ralph Petri, both of Austin, and Mrs. E. J. Wiseman of Santa Monica, Calif.; one sister, Mrs. Sam Gallamore of Austin; and one brother, Jim Magness of Austin. The body is at the Cook Funeral Home pending completion of funeral arrangements.

Obituary of Turner Magness  
 Austin American, May 2, 1950

# Magnes Funeral Scheduled Today

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 10 a. m. at the Cook Funeral Home for R. T. Magnes, 69, city bridge and street employee for 30 years. Magnes died Monday night.

He is survived by his widow; three daughters, Mrs. R. F. Raven and Mrs. Ralph Petri, both of Austin, and Mrs. E. J. Wiseman of Santa Monica, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. Sam Gallamore of Austin; a brother, Jim Magnes of Austin, and four grandchildren.

Magnes suffered a heart attack while walking on the sidewalk near his residence at 1613 Willow. He was pronounced dead on his arrival at Houston Bridge Hospital. Dr. Frank W. McBee ruled Tuesday that death was caused by a heart attack.

Funeral notice for Turner Magness  
Austin American, May 3, 1950

**MAGNESS, Maggie E., 94, 1907 Romeria Drive, died Tuesday. Private services. Survivors: daughters, Hazel Petri, Rowena Shumate, both of Austin, Johnnie Lee Raven of Macon, Ga.; sisters, Ella Brown of Austin, Gertrude Shirley of California; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. (Hyltin-Manor)**

Obituary of Maggie Magness  
Austin American-Statesman, January 13, 1982

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**WORTH B. SPEED**

Worth B. Speed of 1613 Willow Street died in a local hospital early Thursday. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lorene Speed; three sons, W. J. Speed and W. B. Speed both of Austin, and J. W. Speed of Monahans; and one brother, Jack Speed of Ft. Worth.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Gene Ruthledge officiating. Pallbearers will be ~~Howell~~ Kirk, Glenn Wotipka, Tom Attra, Charlie Eskew, Carl Pittsford and Reuben Copeland. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park (See story Page A-20).

Obituary of Worth B. Speed  
Austin American, February 27, 1959



# Won't Be Another Like Lefty Speed

By CHARLEY ESKEW

"There'll never be another guy like him," the athletes and sports followers say of Worth B. (Lefty) Speed, one of Austin's most memorable figures, after his death shocked the boxing world Thursday.

The 55-year-old manager and trainer of fighters, whose first name was derived from his native Fort Worth, would have been loved by Damon Runyon and no doubt would have been just as at home on Broadway as another "Guys and Dolls" as in Austin.

Hundreds of professionals and amateurs whom he worked with always saw some of Lefty in whatever Runyon wrote on Nicely-Nicely Johnson, Rusty Charlie, Nathan Detroit and Benny Southstreet. Given a break in geography, Speed could have been at the center of the real live group

of boxing's "insiders" along Broadway, like Hymie Tellone, Eddie Borden, Sol Gold, Lou Stillman, Judge Flatto, Whitey Binstein and Jersey Jones.

In Austin Speed made up a one-man campaign on juvenile delinquency although his only boast along those lines was that, "You don't find the boys who keep coming to my gym staying out on the streets."

Back in the 1920's and early '30s, Speed himself fought as a ~~semi-pro middleweight but left~~ boxing to work as a lineman and a mechanic all over the state. Once he returned to handling his favorite Golden Glovers in 1947, though, he put all other work aside. Speed claimed later that he "got 90 percent of the boxers here started in the game."

Louie Murillo, Joel Martinez and Oswaldo Cantu were the first members of Speed's gym and Murillo explains, "He took us off the streets. I don't know what would have happened to us otherwise. He was like a dad and—he didn't have it to give—he helped us out with two or three dollars whenever we needed something."

Speed's contacts in pro boxing were ranged all over the country and he was a ready friend to Texas promoters.

"A fellow in San Angelo called me at 5 o'clock in the afternoon one time and said half of his boxing card had fallen through," Speed remembered. "It was a charity show and all the tickets had been sold. So I told him to hold the fans around some how and he'd have his fights."

"I drove up and down the streets," said Lefty, "and filled my car with boys. We made it to San Angelo at 11 o'clock and they had their show."

Speed was fiercely competitive and what little criticism affected him came from those who didn't understand that. He once strove continuously to find a prospect to upset Pete Gil of a rival Austin gym as Texas' best middleweight. And he guided Mel Barker quickly

out of the amateur ranks in hopes of putting him among the world's Top Ten welterweights.

"I know my boys' abilities," he answered the critics. "I ought to. I work with them every day. If it seemed like I was rushing anybody, I stick to my guns. A lot of boys don't find out what they can do until they're made to try."

He explained that a lot of his gusty protests over lost decisions were made even when he realized his boxer had been beaten. "I always wanted my boy to think he might have won—so he'd have more confidence—and I wanted him to know I was behind him."

In recent years, Speed's gym was his own car's garage and the sparring ring an oiled, dirt surface, a makeshift workout area Lefty constructed for lack of funds. Along with the boxers, a duck and a trained dog took part in workouts and added to the Speed humor.

"Jim Brewer hated that duck with a passion because he'd get in between the fighters and nip at their heels," recalled Speed. "But that duck is the reason Brewer had such good footwork."

"Don't ever ask me to a duck supper," Murillo told him manager. "He's tougher than any of us fighters."

Speed kept time and did the match-making — for out-of-town pros as well as his amateurs and the pros like Gil Stromquist, Leo Duncan, Barker, Joe Louis Hargrave, Johnny Hollins, Pat

O'Grady, Red Worley, Baby Valdez, Abel Soriano and Paul Herrera.

In case he had to be inside the house washing dishes, he kept his watch nearby and, sticking his head out the window, yelled "Time" every three minutes.

One boxer maintained his death, too, was in keeping with Speed's perfect timing. Lefty was doggedly determined he'd help put over the 1959 regional Golden Gloves tournament and even broke down his old car rounding up about three-dozen fighters for daily workouts and roadwork.

He wanted to, once more return as Austin coach at the state Golden Gloves, where his featherweight Paul Alba, might reach the finals or win.

"Lefty," said the boxer, "told us he was sick but he didn't want to see any doctors—they'd keep him from going and coaching the team. He just made it."

So it was an ambition achieved when Alba became a finalist and Speed himself caught Fort Worth's eye with a derby hat on his head and his trade mark cigar in hand.

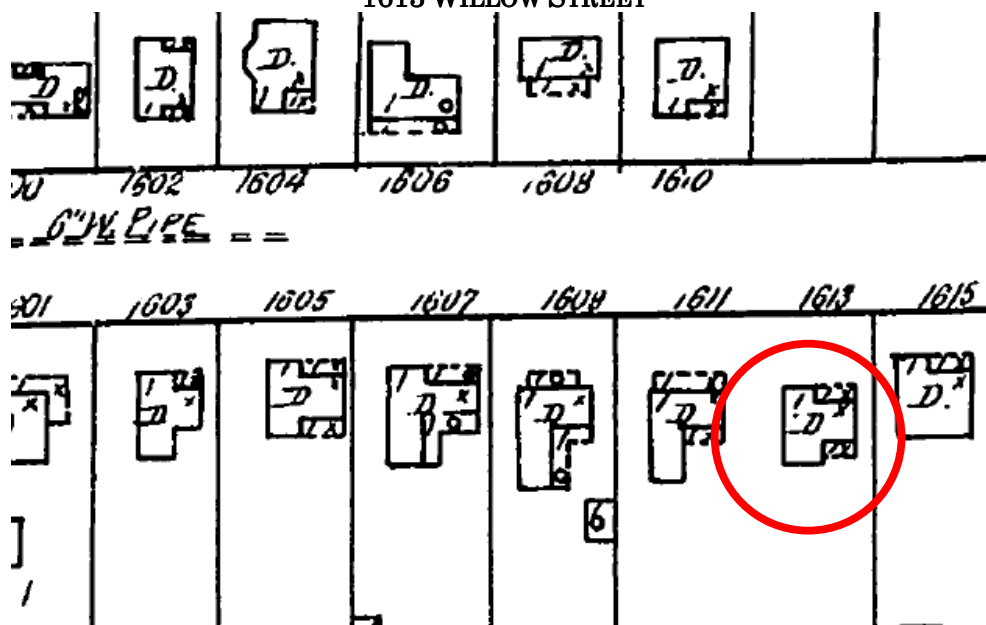
Lefty was Runyon's—as well as Austin boxing's—kind of guy.



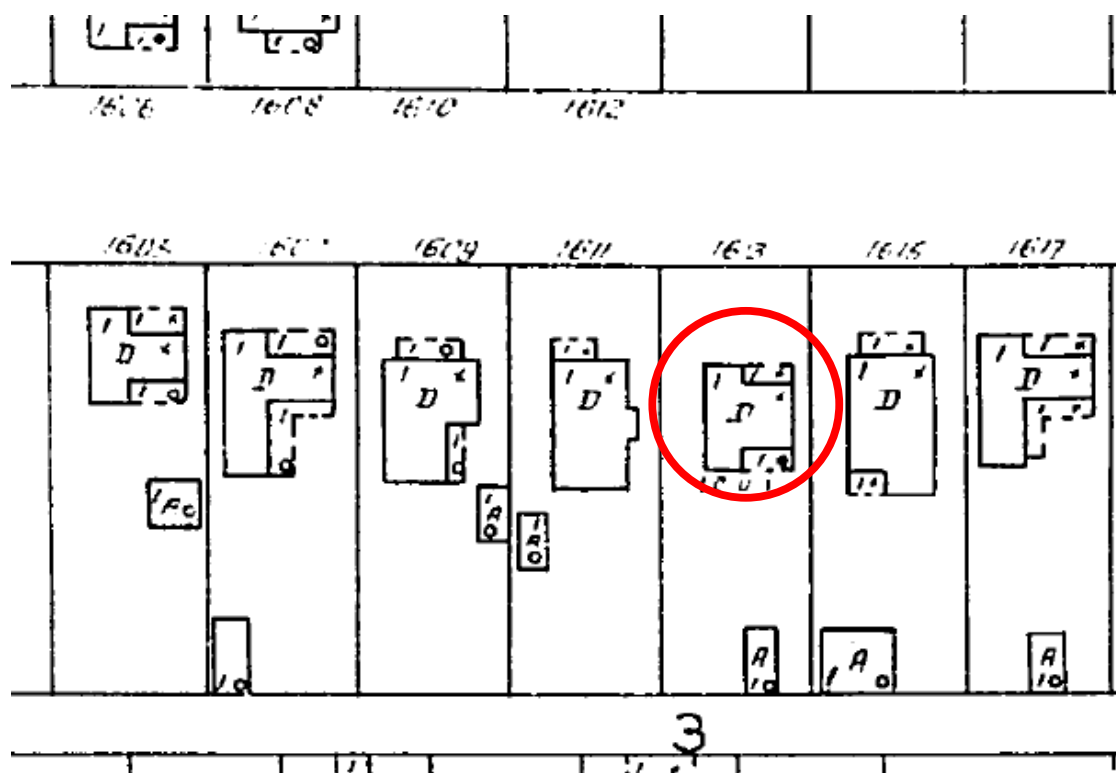
**W. B. (LEFTY) SPEED**  
A Runyon man . . .

Memorial story on the career of Worth B.  
("Lefty") Speed  
Austin American, February 27, 1959

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The 1921 Sanborn map shows the current house with an open front porch.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house with the same configuration as shown on the 1921 map. Note that the large lot shown on the 1921 map above has been subdivided and the house shown on the 1921 map at 1611 Willow has been replaced. The 1962 update shows the same configuration and materials as the 1935 map.



## HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY

ADDRESS: 1613 Willow Street

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1905 (estimated)

CONTRIBUTING: NO

JUSTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF CONTRUBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING:

The front of the house has been covered with a rock veneer; the original front porch has been enclosed.

NOTES: There is no building permit for the application of the stone veneer. The house is shown on the 1922, 1935, and 1962 Sanborn maps as a wing-and-gable plan house; the front porch has been enclosed. City utility permit records show a water connection here in 1932.

MAP KEY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ PHOTO Roll \_\_\_\_\_ Frame(s)

ORIGINAL LOCATION? Yes.



Tax Parcel Number: 02020703070000

Legal Description: Lot 7, Block 3, Outlot 35, Division O, Riverside Addition

Owner:  
Lucy Hernandez  
1613 Willow Street  
Austin, Texas 78702

PAGE FROM THE SURVEY OF WILLOW STREET STARTED BY THE EAST CESAR CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (2009). City staff determined that the house would not be contributing to the potential historic district because of the non-historic stone veneer on the front of the house and the enclosure of the front porch.