

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 23, 2012
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2012-0096
2913 RIO GRANDE STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1946 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story rectangular-plan side-gabled stuccoed frame house with a central, partial-width front-gabled overdoor hood; single and paired 1:1 windows.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1946 by Wesley H. Wunneburger, a local building contractor; he is listed as the owner of the property on the 1946 building permit. Wunneburger is listed as a resident of the house in the 1947 city directory; he listed his occupation as a carpenter. Along with Wunneburger lived Walter and Ruth Wilde, also listed as renters. Walter Wilde was a draftsman for local architectural firm Page, Southerland, and Page, and was the son of piano tuner Ernest Wilde and his wife, Irma; he grew up in Austin. Wunneburger and the Wildes lived in the house for only a short period of time – by 1949, Gerald and Hermine Van Eck were listed as the owners and occupants of the house. Hermine Van Eck was the daughter of Paul and Hermine Wilde; he was the manager of Becker Lumber Company, and the cousin of Walter Wilde, who was the first occupant of the house, and possibly its designer. Gerald Van Eck was a linotype operator; they lived here from around 1948 to 1953; the house then became a rental unit and has remained so to this day.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any city survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff must recommend the release of the demolition permit; the house does not appear to have the requisite architectural or historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark, but staff strongly urges the applicant to either incorporate the house into development plans for the site, or to relocate the house rather than demolish it. The house was completely rehabilitated several years ago and appears to be structurally sound.



CASE#: HDP-2012-0096



This map has been produced by the Communications Technology Management Dept. on behalf of the Planning Development Review Dept. for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

2913 Rio Grande Street
ca. 1946



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2913 Rio Grande Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
February, 2007

1992	Janet M. Banwell, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Janet M. Banwell was a new resident at this address.
1987	Vacant
1981	No return
1975	Lawrence Lammers, renter No occupation listed
1969	Charles R. and Kathleen Jones, owners Employed by Austin State Hospital
1963	Hudson M. and Barbara Roach, renters Announcer, KNOW Radio
1959	George H. and Martha A. Lewis, renters Student

1955 Noyes W. and Florence Willett, renters
Technical supervisor, University of Texas

1952 Gerald W. and Hermine Van Eck, owners
Linotype operator

1949 Gerald W. and Hermine Van Eck, owners
Linotype operator

1947 W.H. Warmeburger [sic], renter
Carpenter

Walter E. and Ruth L. Wilde, renters
Draftsman, Page-Southerland-Page

1944-45 The address is not listed in the directory.

W. H. Wunneburger 2913 Rio Grande Street
(B) of 5
63 & 6 2A - -
L. Brown
Stucco on frame res. & garage
31373 9-4-46 \$3800.00
Owner

5

Building permit to W.H. Wunneberger for the construction of the house and garage (1946)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT No. B 2260
Austin, Texas

Received of BECKER LUMBER **INDEXED**
Address 2913 RIO GRANDE ST.
Amount TWO AND 50/100 \$ 2.50
Plumber R.H. BARR Size of Tap 1 1/2"

Date of Connection	<u>10-14-46</u>	Size	Curb Cock	Elbow	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tap	Tee	Box	Lid	Valves	Job No.	Req. No.
Size of Tap Made	<u>3/4"</u>																		
Size Service Made	<u>3/4"</u>																		
Size Main Tapped	<u>6"</u>																		
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>46"</u>																		
From S. Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>19'</u>																		
Location of Meter	<u>CURB</u>																		
Type of Box	<u>LOCK</u>																		
Depth of Main in St.	<u>36"</u>																		
Depth of Service Line	<u>2'</u>																		
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<u>21 1/2'</u>																		
Checked by Engr. Dept.	<u>7713211-13-46</u>																		

INDEXED

Water service permit to Becker Lumber Company (1946)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

According to the 1930 U.S. Census report, Walter Wilde was the 10-year old son of piano tuner Ernest Wilde and his wife Irma. They lived at 1412 W. 9th Street, a designated city historic landmark. Hermine Wilde Van Eck was the daughter of Paul Wilde, the manager of Becker Lumber Company, and the cousin of Walter Wilde, who is listed as the first resident of the house. Hermine Wilde Van Eck was born in 1924, and married Gerald Van Eck; they lived in the house from around 1948 to around 1953. The Wilde and Becker families were very closely intertwined – the Ernest and Irma Wilde lived next door to Francis Becker, the book-keeper for Becker Lumber Company, on W. 9th Street. The homes of both Ernest Wilde and Paul Wilde are city historic landmarks.

WESLEY H. WUNNEBURGER

Wesley H. Wunneburger, 74,
of 603 Radam Lane, died
Saturday in a local hospital. He
had been a resident of Austin
for some 30 years and was a
building contractor until he
retired in 1950.

The body will remain at
Weed-Corley Funeral Home
until 2:30 p.m. Monday, at
which time it will be taken to be
Ward Memorial Methodist
Church for services to be held
at 3:30 p.m. with Rev. Albert
Merubia officiating.

Graveside services will be
held at 5 p.m. under the
auspices of the Austin Lodge 12,
A. F. & A. M., at the Dixon
Prairie Cemetery near Paige.

Memorial contributions may
be made to the Ward Memorial
Methodist Church.

Pallbearers will be Henry
Wunneburger, Edward
Wunneburger, Joe
Wunneburger, and Marvin
Kretzschmar.

Obituary of W.H. Wunneburger, the builder of the house.
Austin American, November 8, 1971

VAN ECK, Hermine W., 2603 Westover Road, died Monday. Services 2 p.m. Thursday at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. Burial, Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers. Survivors: husband, Gerald W. Van Eck of Austin; daughters, Anita Sheffield, Margaret Mihalik, both of Austin; sisters, Louise Parker of Dallas, Paula Knowles of Atchison, Kan., Anita Austin of San Antonio, Elinor Koppelman of Austin, Margaret Bush of Houston; one grandchild. (Weed-Corley)

Obituary of Hermine Van Eck
Austin American-Statesman, November 19, 1980



Gerald W. Van Eck

Gerald Wilson Van Eck, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, died March 27, 2008, at the age of 89. Jerry was born in Detroit, MI, on November 23, 1918.

While he was stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, he married Hermine Wilde September 4th, 1943 in Austin. He proudly served his country in World War II under Gen George Patton in the 10th Armored "Tiger" Division, earning a bronze star and purple heart, as a 2nd Lieutenant.

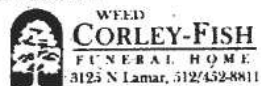
Predeceased by Hermine in 1980, he is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Anita and Stephen D. Sheffield of Pflugerville and Margaret E. Reid and Donald M. Shidler of Caddo Mills; grandchildren, Stephen D. Sheffield, Jr. and wife Autumn of Hutto, Sarah Sheffield of Austin, Amy Reid of Dallas, and Timothy Reid of Arpelar, OK; great-grandsons, Stephen D. Sheffield, III, Nolan Sheffield and Jackson Sheffield of Hutto; and special friend, Victor Sumner.

Jerry will always be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, love of his family, loyalty to his friends, generous giving to anyone who was in need, and his deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31st at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St. Interment will follow in Oakwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to a favorite charity.

Obituary and guestbook online at wcfish.com



Obituary of Gerald W. Van Eck
Austin American-Statesman, March 30, 2008