

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 22, 2013
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2013-0461
902 W. LIVE OAK STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1929 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, hipped-roof, frame house with a partial width inset porch on the right side of the front façade; non-historic front-gabled dormer in the center of the front roof; fenestration includes a Queen Anne-style front window with a multi-light transom; otherwise windows exhibit a 1:1 pattern.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1930; the first owners and occupants were Andrew J. Mears and his wife, Katherine, who lived here from around 1929 to around 1943. Andrew J. Mears had been a farmer in Bosque County, Texas prior to moving to Austin. He worked at the State School for the Deaf, where his son, Clifford, was a student. Katherine Mears worked as a seamstress at the State School for the Deaf. Clifford was employed as a clothes presser and tailor as an adult; his younger sister, Gladys went on to become a teacher at the State School for the Deaf.

After the tenancy of the Mears family, the house was owned and occupied by Carl and Annie Ekstrom. The Ekstroms had lived on Crockett Street in South Austin prior to moving into this house; they lived here from around 1943 until around 1969, when Annie Ekstrom passed away. Carl Ekstrom then moved to a house on Jim Hogg Avenue, where he died in July, 1970. Carl Ekstrom worked as a coffee roaster for the John Bremond Company for the entire time he lived in this house; Annie Ekstrom was a housekeeper in the Brown Building. The house was converted to a duplex in 1972; tenants included a Motorola employee and a construction worker.

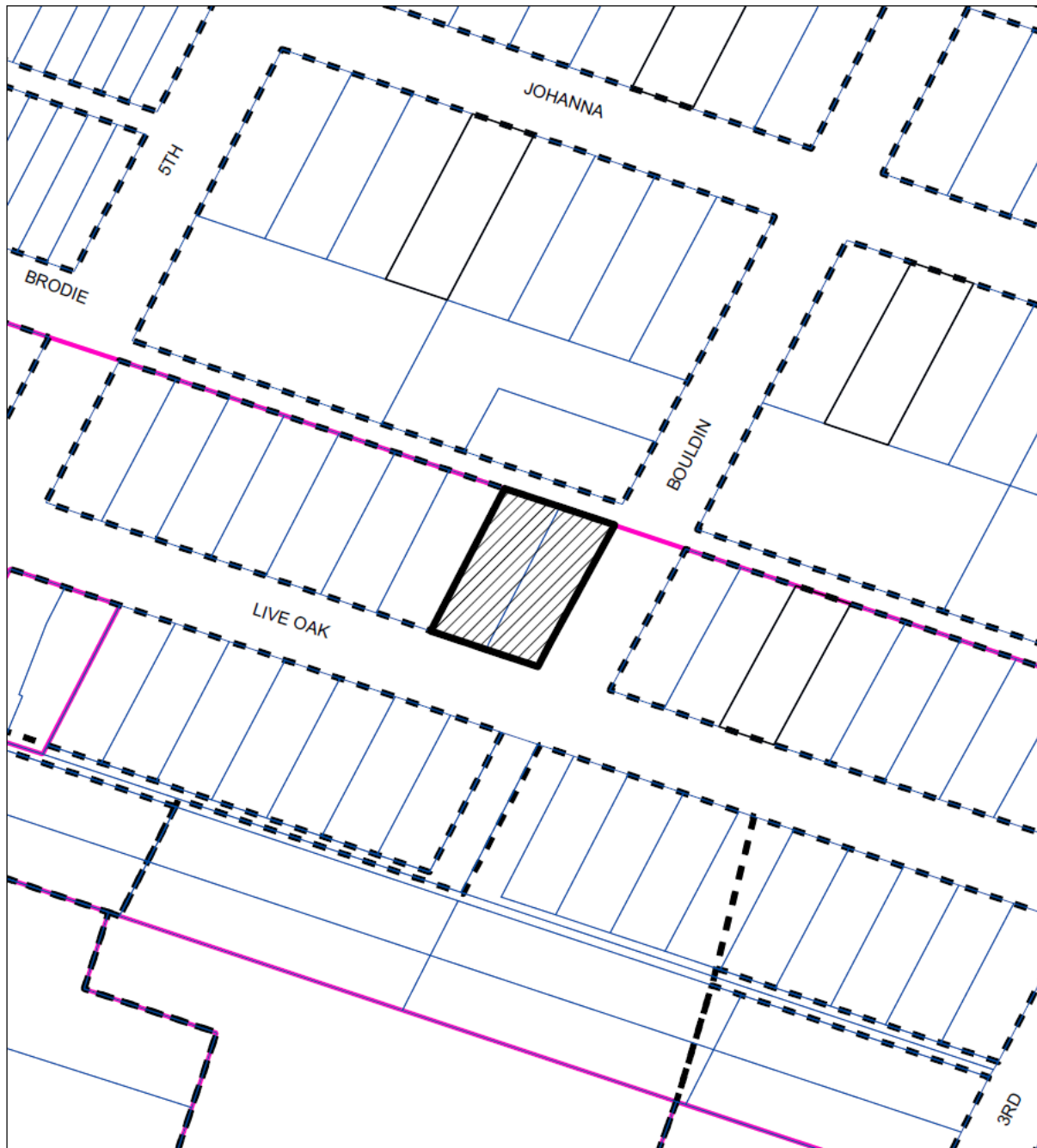
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but with no priority ranking for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2013-0461
LOCATION: 902 West Live Oak 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.

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902 West Live Oak Street
ca. 1929



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 902 West Live Oak Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
July, 2013

1992	<p>A: Vacant</p> <p>B: Victor M. Limon, renter No occupation listed</p>
1985-86	<p>A: Carly Fitzgibbons, renter Construction worker</p> <p>B: No return</p>
1981	<p>A: Not listed</p> <p>B: Nick and Paula Reyes, renters No occupation listed</p>
1977	<p>A: Brad J. Blis, renter Employed by Motorola, communications and electronics, 300 E. Huntland Drive.</p> <p>B: Nick and Paula Reyes, renters No occupation listed</p>
1973	<p>No return</p> <p>NOTE: Nick and Paul Reyes are listed as living at 905 W. Live Oak Street; he had no occupation listed.</p>
1968	<p>Carl and Annie Ekstrom, owners Retired</p>
1962	<p>Carl and Annie Ekstrom, owners No occupation listed</p>
1959	<p>Carl and Annie Ekstrom, owners No occupation listed</p>
1955	<p>Carl and Annie Ekstrom, owners</p> <p>Carl: Clerk, John Bremond Company, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Boulevard.</p> <p>Annie: Housekeeper, Brown Building.</p>
1952	<p>Carl and Annie Ekstrom, owners</p> <p>Carl: Coffee roaster, John Bremond Company, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Boulevard.</p> <p>Annie: Maid, Brown Building</p> <p>NOTE: Annie Ekstrom is listed as living in Del Valle, Texas.</p>
1949	<p>Carl and Annie Ekstrom, owners Coffee processor, John Bremond Company, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Boulevard.</p>

- 1947 Carl and Annie Ekstrom, owners
Coffee roaster, John Bremond Company, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Boulevard.
- 1944-45 Carl and Annie Ekstrom (not listed as owners)
Carl: Coffee roaster, John Bremond Company, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Boulevard.
Annie: Charwoman, Brown Building.
- 1941 Andrew J. and Katherine W. Mears, owners
Clerk, Austin Motel, 1220 South Congress Avenue.
Also listed are Clifton C. Mears, a clothes presser; and Gladys I. Mears, a teacher at the State School for the Deaf. NOTE: In 1947, Clifton he and his wife Fern were living at 1201 W. 34th Street in Austin; he was a clothes cleaner. Andrew and Katherine Mears do not appear in the 1947 directory.
- 1939 Andrew J. and Katherine W. Mears, owners
Andrew: Station engineer
Katherine: Seamstress, Texas School for the Deaf
Also listed are Clifton Mears, a clothes presser for Lee W. Doherty, clothes cleaners and shoe repair, 1602 S. Congress Avenue; and Gladys Mears, a salesperson at S.H. Kress, department store, 808 Congress Avenue.
- 1937 Andrew J. and Katherine Mears, owners
Andrew: Assistant engineer, Texas School for the Deaf
Katherine: Seamstress, Texas School for the Deaf
Also listed are Clifton C. Mears, no occupation stated; Gladys Mears, a student at the University of Texas; and Jack W. Mears, a student at the University of Texas.
- 1935 Andrew J. and Katherine Mears, owners
Andrew: Assistant engineer, Texas School for the Deaf
Katherine: Seamstress, Texas School for the Deaf
Also listed are Clifton Mears, a student at the Texas School for the Deaf; and Jack Mears, a student at the University of Texas.
- 1932-33 Andrew J. and Katherine Mears, owners
Assistant engineer, Texas School for the Deaf
Also listed is A.J. Mears, Jr., no occupation stated.
- 1930-31 Andrew J. and Katherine Mears, owners
Engineer, Texas School for the Deaf
- 1929 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Andrew J. and Katherine Mears are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Andrew J. and Katherine Mears (ca. 1929 – ca. 1943)

Andrew J. and Catherine Mears appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as farmers in Bosque County, Texas near the community of Walnut Springs. They owned their farm. Andrew J. Mears was then 27 years old and had been born in Texas. Catherine Mears was then 26 and had been born in Texas. They had children: Andrew J., Jr., 5, Clifton C., 3, and Gladys, 1. With them also lived Catherine Mears' brother, John K. Waddington, 14.

The Mears family shows up in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$1,500. A.J. Mears was then 37 and is listed as an engineer at the Deaf School. Kate Mears was 35 and had no occupation listed. Their children were: Jack, 14; Clifton, 13; Gladys, 11; L.S., 9; and Dorris, 3. All the children had been born in Texas; none had an occupation listed.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows A.J. and Catherine Mears at this address. Their house was worth \$3,000. A.J. Mears was the manager of a tourist court; Catherine Mears was a seamstress at the Texas School for the Deaf. Their son Clifton was a tailor at a dry cleaner's establishment, daughter Gladys was a teacher at the state school, and daughter Doris Jean had no occupation listed.

Andrew Mears died August 4, 1975 in Mansfield, Tarrant County, Texas.

MEARS, A.J. (Uncle Jack),
 82, of Mansfield, died Monday.
 Services 2 p.m. Thursday at
 Mansfield Church of Christ.
 Survivors: wife, Mrs.
 Katherine Mears of Mansfield;
 sons, Jack Mears of Las
 Vegas, N.M., Clifton Mears of
 Grand Prairie; daughters,
 Mrs. Gladys Holland of Austin,
 Mrs. Doris Jean Gray of
 Arlington; sister, Mrs. Ruth
 Walker of Cleburne; eight
 grandchildren; seven
 great-grandchildren. (Blessing-
 McInnis Funeral Home in
 Mansfield)

Obituary of Andrew J. Mears
 Austin American-Statesman, August 6, 1975

Carl and Annie Ekstrom (ca. 1943 – ca. 1970)

Carl and Annie Ekstrom appear in the 1940 U.S. Census, at 305 Crockett Street in Austin, a house they owned, and which was worth \$2,100. Carl Ekstrom was then 53, had been born in Texas, and was a coffee roaster for a wholesale coffee company. Annie Ekstrom was then 52, had been born in Texas, and did laundry for a private family. With them lived Annie's two sons, Clifford Ball, 25, a clerk in a retail drug store; and Harry Ball, 23, a foreman in a building construction firm. Lillie Reckinwald, 28, listed as a niece in the census report, had no occupation listed. The Ekstroms also had a boarder, Madeline Young, 19, a waitress in a night club. The 1930 U.S. Census shows the Ekstrom family living at 303 Crockett Street; their house was worth \$1,500. Carl Ekstrom is listed as a coffee roaster for the John Bremond Company. Annie Ekstrom did not have an occupation listed; neither did her two sons.

MRS. ANNIE EKSTROM

Mrs. Annie Ekstrom, 83, of 902 West Live Oak St., died in a local hospital Wednesday evening. Survivors include her husband, Carl Ekstrom of Austin, and one son, Clifford Ball of Austin.

Funeral is pending at Hylltin-Manor Funeral Home.

Obituary of Annie Ekstrom
Austin Statesman, December 19, 1969

MRS. ANNIE M. EKSTROM

Funeral for Mrs. Annie Marie Ekstrom, 83, of 902 West Live Oak, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Hylltin-Manor Funeral Home with Rev. Clarence Reither officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Dale Warren, Joe Ballanfonte, Jr., Bernard Tuttle, David Tuttle, Gene Preudenberg, E. W. Becker, Jr. and Rogers McAdams.

Funeral notice for Annie Ekstrom
Austin Statesman, December 20, 1969

CARL EKSTROM

Carl Ekstrom, 84, of 3506 Jim Hogg, died in a local hospital Friday. He was a life long resident of Austin, and was a member of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

He is survived by two step-sons: Clifford Ball of Austin, and H. W. Ball of San Antonio; one daughter Mrs. Lydie Tuttle of Austin and one step-daughter Mrs. Walita Becker also of Austin; one sister Mrs. Bedie Jacobs of Austin. Eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Funeral will be held Monday at 10 a.m. at the Hyltin-Manor Chapel, with Rev. Clarence Reither officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Obituary of Carl Ekstrom
Austin American-Statesman, July 5, 1970

1-11-85 RTMS
OWNER Daniel E. & Robert J. Gay 902 West Live Oak
PLAT 291 LOT 8 & 9 BLK 9
SUBDIVISION Extension of Bouldin Addn
OCCUPANCY Duplex
BLD PERMIT #127230 DATE 1-19-72 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$1,000.00
CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES several
WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist
Remodel res and bring to min strd. and create a
duplex

Building permit to Daniel and Robert Gay to create a duplex (1972)

The roof decking was repaired and two windows were added to the attic in 1992.