

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JULY 22, 2013  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2013-0495  
908 WEST ELIZABETH STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled, stone-veneered frame house with a Cumberland-style double front door configuration; partial-width, shed-roofed independent porch on paired metal posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; non-historic metal roof.

**RESEARCH**

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The address first appears in city directories in 1937 as the home of John M. and Sophia Fowlkes, the owners. Sophia Fowlkes applied for a water service permit in 1936. John Fowlkes was a carpenter; they lived in the house until around 1938. The house then was a rental unit until the early 1950s, when it was purchased by deliveryman Arlos D. Gunn and his wife Daisy, who lived here in the mid-1950s. The house has been a rental unit since that time.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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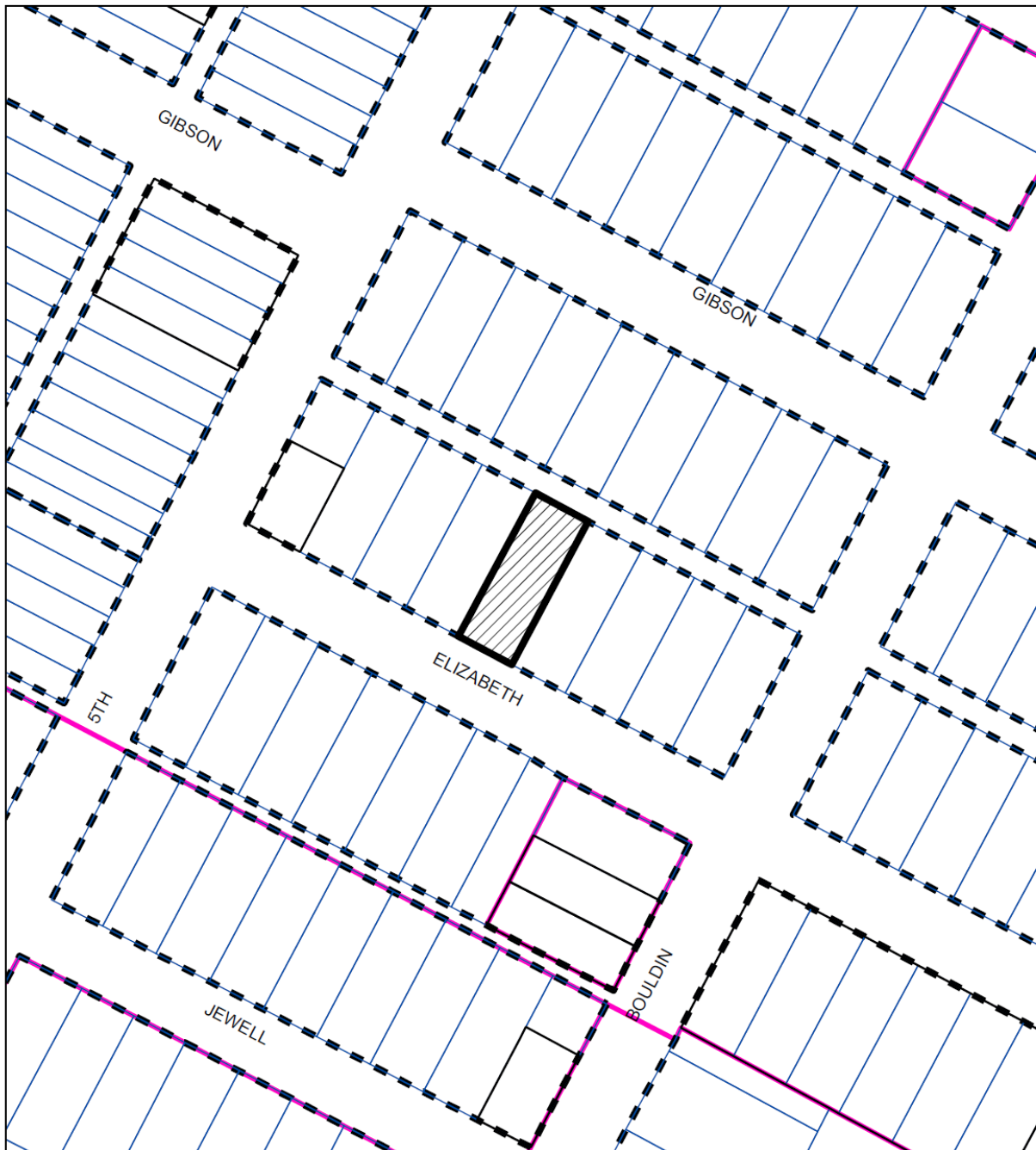
The house does not appear in any City survey.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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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-2013-0495  
 LOCATION: 908 West Elizabeth 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.



908 West Elizabeth Street  
ca. 1936







## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 908 West Elizabeth Street

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

1992	Odis and Cornelia McCune, renters Janitor
1985-86	No return
1981	No return
1975	Vacant
1969	John C. and Dora Garcia, renters U.S. Army
1963	Vacant
1958	Bud and Lulu McGuire, renters Electrician, Texas Electric (not listed in the main directory)
1954	Arlos D. and Daisy Gunn, owners Deliveryman
1952	Vacant

1949	Edwin C. Wills, renter Not listed in the main directory.
1947	Edwin C. and Margaret K. Wills, renters Carpenter
1944-45	Vacant
1941	Albert H. and Cleo Cruze, renters Albert: No occupation listed Cleo: Stenographer, Typewriter Service Company, 126 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street. Also listed are Lois Cruze, a waiter; and Lottie Cruze, a maid.
1939	William O. and Vivian Word, renters Carpenter
1937	John M. and Sophia Fowlkes, owners Carpenter
1935	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: John M. and Sophia Fowlkes are not listed in the directory.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:****John M. and Sophia Fowlkes (ca. 1936 – ca. 1938)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Sophia Fowlkes living with her parents, Walter and Rosa Mitchell, at 900-C W. Elizabeth Street in Austin. The census report indicates that Sophia Fowlkes was married, had lived in El Paso in 1935, was 33, and had no occupation listed. Her father, Walter Mitchell, was a carpenter.

**Albert and Cleo Cruze (ca. 1940 – ca. 1944)**

Albert H. and Cleo E. Cruze appear as the renters of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census. Albert Cruze was then 64, had been born in Texas, and was a newspaper salesman. Cleo Cruze was then 44 and had been born in Texas. She had no occupation listed. They had five daughters: Cleo, 19, a typist for the NYA; Lois, 18, a housekeeper in a private home; Lottie, 18, a children's nurse; Nellie, 12; and Dorothy, 8. All had been born in Texas.

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

# PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE

AUSTIN, TEXAS

No. 44816 <sup>See</sup>

M. Sophia Fowlkes Address 908 W. 11th St.

Plumber Self Size of Tap 1/2" Date 9-10-36

SW

Date of Connection 9-12-36

Size of Tap Made 3/4"

Size Service Made 3/4"

Size Main Tapped 8"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 2'

From W Prop. Line to Curb Cock 3-6"

Location of Meter Curb line

Type of Box lock

Depth of Main in St. 30"

Depth of Service Line 24"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 25'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 9-21-36

**INDEXED**

Foreman's Report

No.	Fittings	Curb Cock	Elbow	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tees	Stops	Box	Lid	Valves	Ref. No.
1							3/4" x 1/2"										
1							1/2" sleeve										
1							3" copper on main										
1							4"										
1							Lead Comp.										
1							Nipples										
1							Union										
1							Plug										
1							Tees										
1							Stops										
1							Box										
1							Lid										
1							Valves										
1							3/4" U-Comp.										
1																	

Foreman's Signature Douglas

**INDEXED**

Water service permit to Sophia Fowlkes (1936)

Connection Charge # 1736 No. 16297  
 APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.  
 Austin, Texas, 10-2- 1939  
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
 City of Austin, Texas  
 Sir:—  
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions  
 on premises owned by W. M. Clayton  
 at 908 W. Elizabeth Street,  
 further described as lot 14, block 9, outlot \_\_\_\_\_,  
 subdivision South Hts., division \_\_\_\_\_, plat 114,  
 which is to be used as a Res.  
 In this place there are to be installed 1 fixtures.  
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance  
 charge.  
 1/2 DEEP Respectfully P. M. Burleson  
 ATTEST  
 Stub Out  
 Connected 11-6 1939 Permit 260  
 Size of Main 4 inches. 11-2  
 Size of Service 4 inches. 11-3-39  
3 1/2 Feet Deep in CT 0.5  
2 1/2 Feet from Property Line Com 9.5  
 Feet from Curb Line at 2.1 inch  
 Inspected by Bontinght  
 Action made by Texas  
A-132

Sewer connection application by W.M. Clayton (1939)

OWNER Able Buildens Inc. ADDRESS 908 West Elizabeth St.

PLAT 114 LOT 14 BLK. 9 DIV

SUBDIVISION South Heights

OCCUPANCY Remodel and Repair Res. to bring to standards

BLD PERMIT # 90731 DATE 2-3-64 OWNERS ESTIMATE 1200.00

CONTRACTOR Ray Rameez NO. OF FIXTURES 5

WATER TAP REC # 90781/ SEWER TAP REC #

Residency

Repair damage to roof, replace window screens, sheetrock  
rooms, new wiring gas fixtures to be checked also  
plumbing.

Building permit to remodel and repair roof damage, replace window screens, and interior work  
(1964)

OWNER Isac Perez ADDRESS 908 West Elizabeth Street

PLAT 114 LOT 14 BLK 9

SUBDIVISION South Hts

OCCUPANCY Residence

BLD PERMIT # 102452 DATE 2-17-67 OWNERS ESTIMATE 800.

CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES 5

WATER TAP REC # Existing SEWER TAP REC # Existing

Remodel & Repair Frame Residence to Min Stand

10-19-73 138878 Carl Beck Repair and remodel res. and  
bring to min. stds.

Building permit to remodel and repair the house (1967) and (1973)