

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 28, 2013  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2013-0672  
1308 MERIDEN LANE

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1938 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame Colonial Revival-styled house with a central, recessed entry and an ornamental front gablet over it; single 6:6 fenestration; assymetrical composition; painted brick exterior chimney at the right (north) of the house; one-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame addition to the left of the central block with an 8:8 front window.

**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1938 for Lewis and Ruth Brownlow, who lived here the rest of their lives. Lewis Brownlow was a native of Austin, who worked for the Calcasieu Lumber Company his entire career, first as a stenographer, later as a store manager. His widowed mother, Zelda, had been an attendant at the Insane Asylum. In his later years, Lewis Brownlow contributed to the collections of the Austin History Center.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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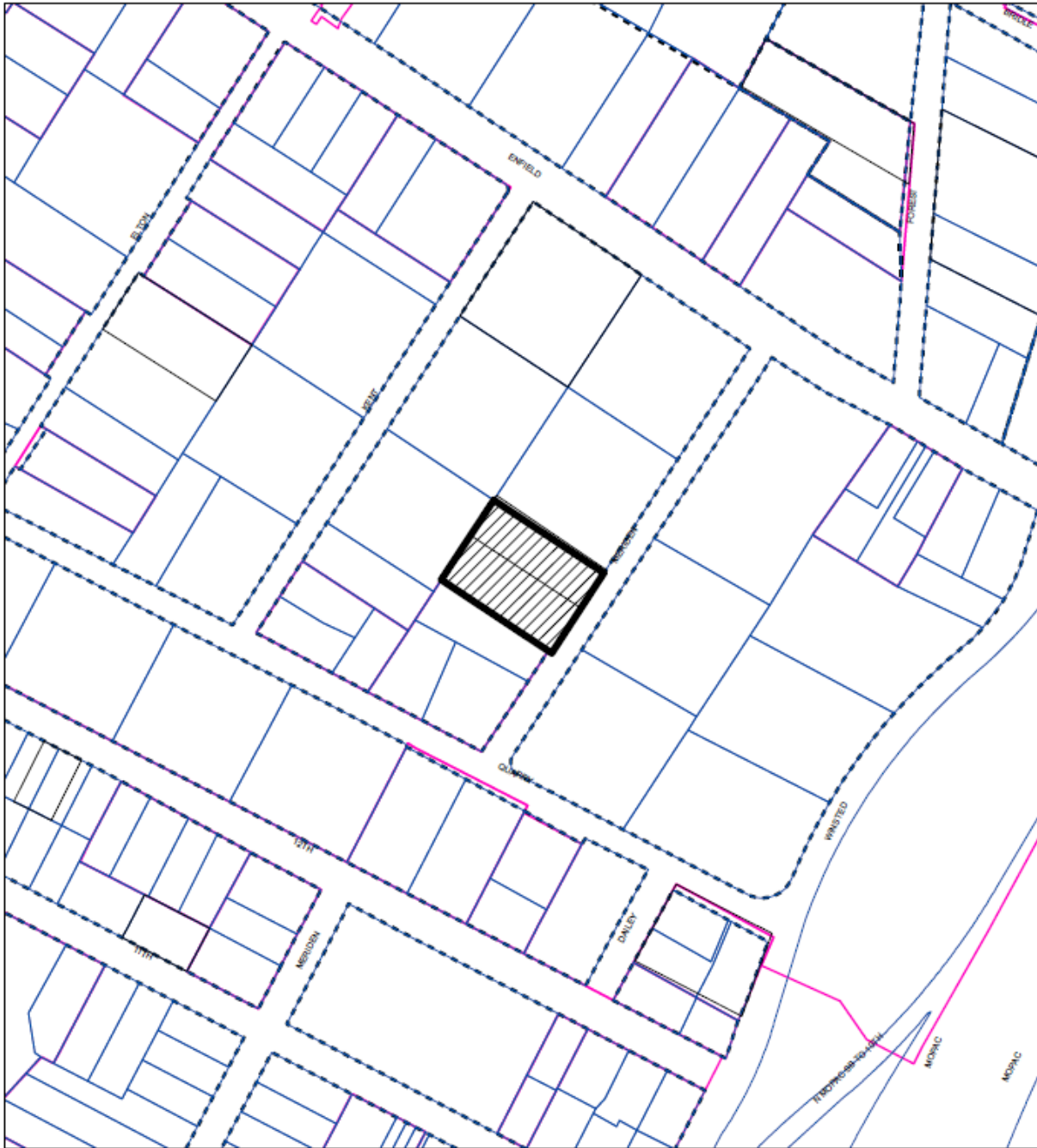
The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Recommend retention of the house, if possible; or recommend relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City 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-2013-0672  
LOCATION: 1308 Meriden Lane



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.

1308 Meriden Lane  
ca. 1938



### OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1308 Meriden Lane

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

- |         |                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1992    | Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners<br>Retired                                                                                                                |
| 1985-86 | Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners<br>Retired                                                                                                                |
| 1981    | Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners<br>Retired                                                                                                                |
| 1977    | Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners<br>Retired                                                                                                                |
| 1973    | Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners<br>Salesman, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 701 W 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, 12636 Research<br>Boulevard, and 4607 Burleson Road. |

- 1968 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Salesman, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 701 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Also listed is Lewis V. Brownlow, Jr., a technician with Preston W. Cummings,  
Fine Jewelry Manufacturing and Repair, 824 Littlefield Building.
- 1962 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Manager, Calcasieu Lumber Company  
Also listed is Lewis V. Brownlow, Jr., a student.
- 1959 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Manager, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 6701 N. Lamar  
Boulevard, 2208 S. Lamar Boulevard; appliances and gifts, 6<sup>th</sup> and Colorado  
Street; The Corral, 522 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1955 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Store manager, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lavaca, 67<sup>th</sup> and North  
Lamar, and 6<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets.
- 1952 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Salesman Calcasieu Lumber Company, 301-11 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1949 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Salesman (no place of employment listed).
- 1947 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Salesman
- 1944-45 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Clerk, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 311 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1941 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Stenographer, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 311 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1939 Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow, owners  
Stenographer, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 311 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1937 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow are listed at 1004 Shelley Avenue; he was  
a stenographer for Calcasieu Lumber Company.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Lewis V. and Ruth Brownlow (ca. 1938 – ca. 2011)**

Lewis and Ruth Brownlow appear as the owners of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census. The house was worth \$4,000. Lewis Brownlow was then 31, had been born in Texas, and was a stenographer. Ruth Brownlow was then 24, had been born in Texas, and was a coding checker for the Texas Insurance Checking Office. They had no children living with them.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Lewis Brownlow as a 20-year old lodger in the home of Ben and Myrtle Dickerson in Athens, Texas. Lewis was single, and worked as an oil field surveyor.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Lewis Brownlow as the 10-year old son of Zelda Brownlow, a widow, who rented a house at 4009 Guadalupe Street in Austin. Zelda Brownlow was a 36-year old Texas-born widow, who worked, along with her two sisters, as an attendant at the Insane Asylum.

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## **Lewis V. Brownlow**

Lewis V. Brownlow, age 86, a native of Austin, died Sunday, October 29, 1995.

Born February 1, 1909, he was a charter member of Westminster Presbyterian Church where he served as Elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. He worked for Calcasieu Lumber Company for 40 years and after retiring from Calcasieu, worked for First City Bank in the real estate department for 14 years. He served as a member of the Selective Service System (Travis County Draft Board) under four presidents, volunteered in Austin elementary schools and at the Old Bakery, and was a source of information about early Austin for various writers and the Austin History Center.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Ruth; son, Lewis Jr and wife, Rebecca of Austin; daughter, Becky Steinback and husband, John of Ohio; son, Dan of Austin; four grandsons, Edward, Thomas, Lewis and James Brownlow; brother-in-law, Martin Singleton and wife, Charlotte of Bryan; and three nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday in the Westminster Presbyterian Church with Reverend Laura Mendenhall officiating. A private graveside service will be held.

Obituary of Lewis Brownlow  
Austin American-Statesman, October 31, 1995

### **Ruth Singleton Brownlow**

Ruth Singleton Brownlow, 95, passed away on Wednesday, July 6, 2011. She was born in Kountze, Texas (Hardin County) on August 13, 1915 to Judge Daniel Floyd and Mary Singleton. She came to Austin in the early 1930s where she met and married Lewis Brownlow in 1935. They were married for 60 wonderful years until Lewis' death in 1995. She and Lewis were charter members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Ruth was active in all aspects of the church as long as she was able.

Ruth's greatest passions after family and church were golf, reading and baseball. She was a member of several Women's Golf Associations and golfed at least twice a week until her early 80's. She read constantly and always had a pile of library books beside her bed. She watched her team, the Chicago Cubs, anytime they were on television.

Ruth is survived by her three children, Lewis Jr. and his wife Rebecca, Becky Steinback and husband John, and youngest son Daniel who has been Ruth's major helper and caregiver for many years. She is also survived by five grandsons, Edward, Thomas, Lewis and James Brownlow and Ian Steinback, as well as three nieces, Martia Glass, Phyllis Adams, Mary Jo Enyeart and one nephew, Jim Singleton, and their families. She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents and her brother, Reverend James Martin Singleton.

The family would like to thank her nurse Marlene and nurse assistant Janet of Robinson Creek Hospice for their loving care of Ruth.

A memorial service will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3208 Exposition Blvd on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ruth's name.

Obituary and memorial guestbook available online at [www.wcfish.com](http://www.wcfish.com)

Obituary of Ruth Brownlow  
Austin American-Statesman, July 8, 2011

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Brownlow

1308 Meriden Lane

151

4

S. 75-1/2' of 2

Westfield

Frame residence- box garage

226n - 5/14/38

4

Building permit to Louis Brownlow for the construction of the house (1938)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT Austin, Texas

No 10433

151

Received of Louis Brownlow Date May 18, 1938

Address 1308 Meriden

Amount Two and 50/100- \$ 2.50

Plumber Harton Size of Tap 1/2"

Lead Stud B. 5890

Date of Connection 5/22/38
Size of Tap Made 3/4
Size Service Made 3/4
Size Main Tapped 3/4
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 1'9"
From N. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 3'7"
Location of Meter CURB
Type of Box WOLK
Depth of Main in St. 2'
Depth of Service Line 2'
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 7'10"
Checked by Engr. Dept. 6-14-38

Table with columns: No. Fittings, Size, and various pipe fittings (Curb Cock, Elbow, St. Elbow, Bushing, Reducer, Pipe, Lead Comp, Nipples, Union, Plug, Tee, Stop, Box, Lid, Valves, Job No., Req. No.). Includes handwritten checkmarks and notes like 'BOX-AN-POND' and '1.000'.

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Water service permit to Louis Brownlow for this address (1938)