

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 18, 2013
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2013-0829
2910 RIO GRANDE STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1928 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width, partially-inset, front-gabled porch on plain, square, wood posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built in 1928 by Noble A. Baker, a meat cutter, who, with his wife, Helena, lived at 2914 Rio Grande Street. This house was apparently built as an investment property for them. The first occupants of the house were Irvin and Florence Stewart, who rented the house from 1928 until 1930, while he was teaching at the University of Texas. Mrs. Jimmie Matthews, a widow, with her two grown step-children, rented the house from 1930 to around 1932. A series of renters occupied the house through the remainder of the 1930s, including a dentist, Dr. Carless Andrews. By 1941, the house had been purchased by Wallace and Carrie Rucker. Wallace Rucker had been an abstractor in San Antonio in 1930, but had no occupation listed in the 1940 U.S. Census report nor in any Austin city directories. He passed away in 1944, and his widow, Carrie, continued to live in this house until the mid-1960s. The house was a rental unit in the late 1960s, and was listed as vacant in city directories through the early 1990s.

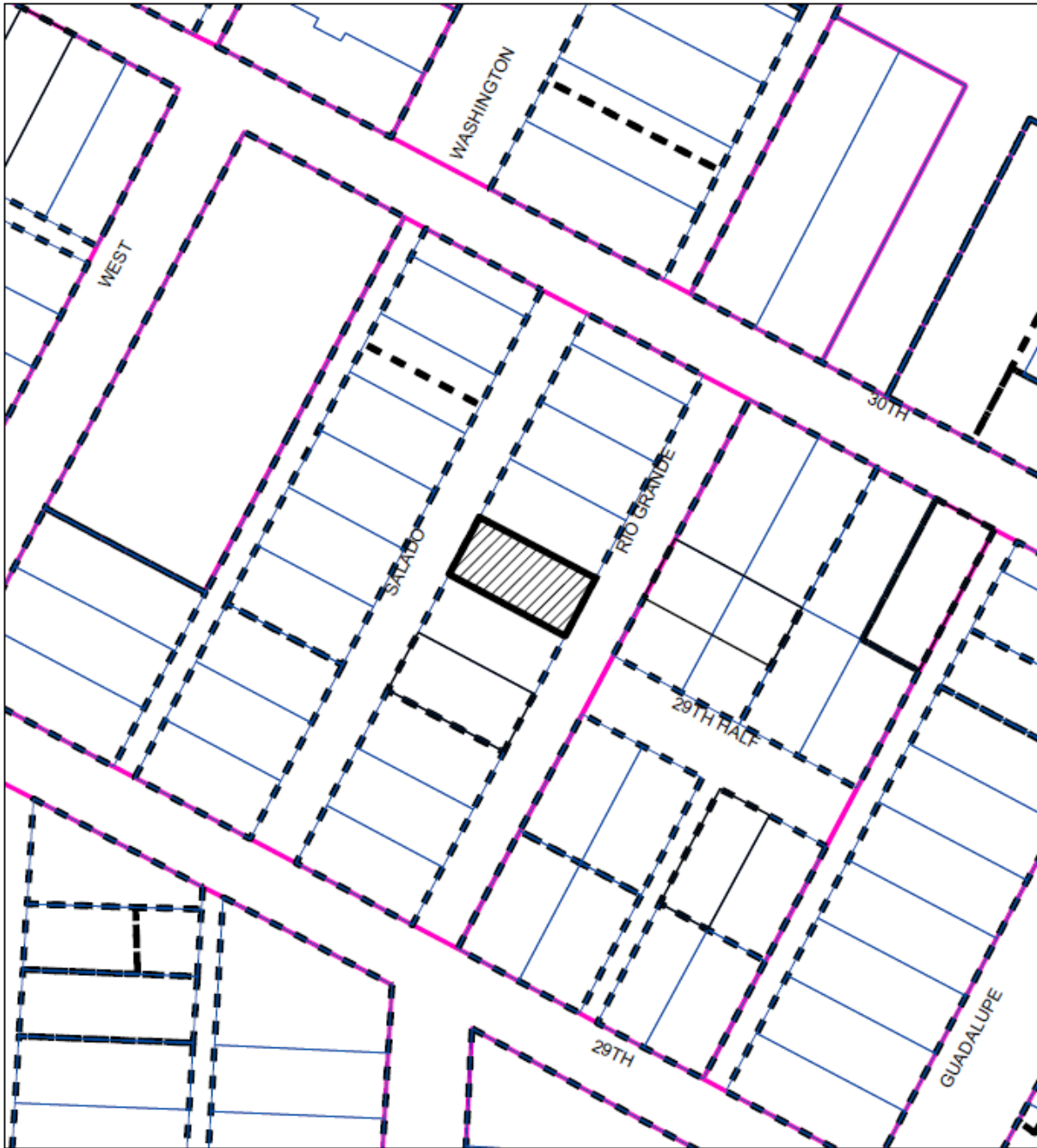
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage relocation over demolition, and request that the applicant consider retaining the house and constructing an addition, if necessary. While the house does not qualify as an individually-designated historic landmark, it is a completely intact example of 1920s bungalow style and would be contributing to a potential historic district in the West Campus – Heritage neighborhoods, including Rio Grande and Salado Streets north of 29th Street.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2013-0829
LOCATION: 2910 Rio Grande



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.

2910 Rio Grande Street
ca. 1928



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
2910 Rio Grande Street

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

1992	Vacant
1987	Vacant
1981	Vacant
1975	Vacant
1969	George and Danny Kinney, renters Musician
1963	Mrs. Carrie W. Rucker, owner Widow, Wallace C. Rucker No occupation listed
1959	Mrs. Carrie W. Rucker, owner Widow, Wallace C. Rucker No occupation listed

- 1955 Mrs. Carrie W. Rucker, owner
Widow, Wallace C. Rucker
No occupation listed
- 1952 Mrs. Carrie W. Rucker, owner
Widow, Wallace C. Rucker
No occupation listed
- 1949 Mrs. Carrie W. Rucker, owner
Widow, Wallace Rucker
No occupation listed
- 1947 Mrs. Carrie W. Rucker, owner
Widow, W.C. Rucker
No occupation listed
- 1944-45 Douglas L. and Dora Milburn, owners
No occupation listed
- 1942 Wallace C. and Carrie Rucker, owners
No occupation listed
- 1940 W. R. Pearson, renter
Not listed in the main directory
- 1937 Dr. M. Carless and Mary M. Andrews, renters
Carless: Dentist, 103½ E. 6th Street
Mary: Rater, State Casualty Insurance Commission
Also listed is Clyde E. Andrews, a clerk at D.A. Shipwash Grocery, 2900 Rio Grande Street.
- 1935 Roy L. and Michael Cloud, renters
No occupation listed
- 1932-33 John S. and Bessie McKinlay, renters
Foreman, Shell Pipeline Corporation
- Mrs. Leota M. Long
Widow, Luther Long
No occupation listed
- Robert B. and Gwen Hill, renters
Glazier, Lacy-McClellan Glass Company
- NOTE: Jimmie, Evelyn, and Garland Matthews are listed at 109 W. 31st Street; neither Jimmie nor Evelyn had an occupation listed. Garland Matthews was a clerk at the Varsity Drug Store.
- 1930-31 Mrs. Jimmie E. Matthews, renter
Widow, Thomas P. Matthews
No occupation listed
Also listed are Evelyn Matthews, a teacher, and Garland E. Matthews, a driver.

NOTE: Jimmie and Evelyn Matthews were listed at 2827 Rio Grande in the 1929 city directory; Jimmie had no occupation listed; Evelyn was a student at the University of Texas.

1929 Irvin and Florence Stewart, renters
 Irvin: Associate professor, University of Texas
 Florence: Student, University of Texas

1927 The address is not listed in the directory.
 NOTE: Irvin and Florence Stewart are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Irvin and Florence Stewart (ca. 1928 – ca. 1930)

Irvin and Florence Stewart are listed in the 1930 U.S. Census as residents of Washington, D.C. Irvin Stewart was then 29, had been born in Texas, and was a university teacher. Florence Stewart was then 26, had been born in New York, and had no occupation listed. The couple had no children listed with them. They lived in what appears to have been a large apartment house in Washington.

Irvin Stewart, 91, Dies; Ex-Head of University

Published: December 28, 1990

Irvin Stewart, a former president of West Virginia University who served in the 1940's as executive secretary of the Government agency that guided development of the atomic bomb, died Monday at his home in Washington. He was 91 years old.

His death was the result of a series of strokes, his wife, Florence, said.

Mr. Stewart was president of West Virginia University from 1946 to 1958. He then taught constitutional law at the university until 1967, when he retired.

He was also director of telecommunications management in the Federal Office of Emergency Planning in the 1960's. In recent years he was a consultant to the National Academy of Public Administration, which advises the President and Congress on government effectiveness.

In 1940 he became executive secretary of the National Defense Research Committee, later the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the agency involved with development of the atomic bomb.

Earlier, he helped draft the Communications Act of 1934, legislation that established the Federal Communications Commission, which guides Federal telecommunications policy.

Obituary of Irvin Stewart, New York Times, December 28, 1990



Photograph of Irvin Stewart, ca. 1945
Oregon State University library

Jimmie, Evelyn, and Garland Matthews (ca. 1930 – ca. 1932)

Mrs. Jimmie Matthews appears as the tenant of this house in the 1930 U.S. Census report. Jimmie Matthews was then a 47-year old widow who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. Garland Matthews was her 21-year old step-son; he had been born in Texas, and was the manager of a golf course. Edith E. (Evelyn) was her 19-year old step-daughter; she had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. They had a roomer, 22-year old Philip Nolen, who had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed.

Wallace and Carrie Rucker (ca. 1941 – ca. 1965)

Wallace and Carrie Rucker appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of a house at 203 W. 15th Street in Austin. Wallace Rucker was then 58, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Carrie Rucker was 59, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had two daughters: Carrie, 15; and Eleanor J. Watkins, 26, a public school teacher. Both daughters had been born in Texas.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows the family living in a rented house in San Antonio. Wallace Rucker was an abstractor; no other family member had an occupation listed. The census report reveals that Eleanor Watkins was Wallace Rucker's step-daughter.

WALLACE CREED RUCKER
Wallace Creed Rucker, Jr., 30, died in a local hospital Tuesday. Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Carrie Wallien Rucker, all of Austin. Funeral services were conducted at the Weed-Corley Funeral home Wednesday by the Rev. Joseph Harte. Burial was in Oakwood cemetery.

Funeral notice for Wallace C. Rucker
Austin American, February 3, 1944

MRS. CARRIE RUCKER

Mrs. Carrie Wright Rucker, 77, of 4512 Clawson Road, died at a local hospital Friday morning. She had been a resident of Austin most of her life and was a member of the Southwest Christian Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. William A. McCoy of Fairfax, Va. and Mrs. G. E. Mallard of Austin; three sons, Dr. H. W. Watkins of Houston, George A. Watkins of Del Air and C. J. Watkins of Sydney, Australia; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral will be Sunday at 4 p.m. at Weed-Corley Funeral Home, Rev. Sam Reed of the Southwest Christian Church officiating.

Pallbearers will be Steven Capper and her grandsons, Maj. George H. Watkins, Dr. William Watkins, G. E. Mallard, James A. Mallard, John A. Mallard and William H. McCoy. Burial will be in the Oakwood cemetery.

Obituary of Carrie Rucker
Austin American-Statesman, July 1, 1973

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

No. A 1927

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE

Austin, Texas

M. N. A. Baker

Address 2910 Rio Grande

INDEXED

Plumber W. H. Y.

Size of Tap 1/2

Date 9/5/27

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection 9/6/27
 Size of Tap Made 3/4
 Size Service Made 2 1/4
 Size Main Tapped 6
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 0
 " " " " 9 1/2
 Location of Meter at curb
 Type of Box lock
 Depth of Main in St. 9
 " " Service Line 2
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 8

No. Fittings	Size	
1	5/8	Curb Cock
1	3/4	Elbow
1	3/4	St. Elbow
1	3/4	Bushing
1	3/4	Reducer
6	3/4	Pipe
1	3/4	Head Comb
1	3/4	Appr.
		Union
		Plug
		Tee
1		Stop
1		Box
1		Lid
		Valves

Req. No. 69

Checked by Engr. Dept. [Signature]

Foreman's Signature [Signature]

INDEXED

Water service permit to Noble A. Baker for this address (1928)

CONNECTING CHARGE \$ 12.00

APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION. No. 8037

Austin, Texas, Aug 8 1928

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 N. A. Baker at 2910 Rio Grande Street Lot 6-31K3 which place is to be used as a residence

In this place there are to be installed _____ fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.

Respectfully, [Signature]

Location of Public Sewer Sewer in front of property 3 ft deep

Connected 8/10/27 1928

Size of Main 6" inches

Size of Service 4" inches

3 1/2 Feet Deep

20 Feet from Property Line in pt

Feet from Curb Line _____

DIAGRAM B-824

Connection made by Frank Robinson

Sewer service application by Noble A. Baker for this address (1928)

On Fri, Nov 15, 2013 at 1:52 AM, Betsy S Greenberg wrote:

Mr. Sadowsky,

The steering committee for the Heritage NA has voted (unanimously) to request that the Historic Landmark Commission postpone consideration of this case to allow the neighborhood time to research the history associated with the home. Every demolition destroys the historic residential fabric of our neighborhood and this house is part of a near intact block. Since a demolition, once completed can never be undone, we respectfully request this postponement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betsy Greenberg
Treasurer, Heritage NA