

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 16, 2013  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2013-0886  
705 E. MONROE STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1939 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a central, front-gabled frame entry vestibule with a round-arched entry in front of the recessed front door; single and paired 6:6 fenestration.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house was built over the winter of 1938 – 1939 by Walter and Violet Bierce, who rented the house out before moving into it themselves. Walter Bierce was a concrete inspector who was working on the Marshall Ford Dam at the time of the construction of the house, and was living on the dam construction site with his wife and young daughter. The Bierces rented the house out to physician Thomas N. Dyson, and his wife, Iva, from 1939 until early 1940, then to George L. and Dorothy Anderson, from 1940 until around 1943. George Anderson was the secretary/treasurer of Capitol Chevrolet. Around 1943, the Bierce family moved into this house they built, and lived here until around 1945. Walter Bierce is listed as an inspector in the city directories of the time.

From around 1945 until their respective deaths in the mid-1950s, the house was owned and occupied by Will T. and Tennie Johnson. Will T. Johnson was a retail grocer, with three small grocery stores around town, which he ran with his brother, Vernon. After his retirement from the grocery business in 1945, he was elected to the Austin City Council, and served three terms (6 years). He had been the president of the Austin Retail Grocers' Association and the Texas Retail Grocers' Association while still in the business. After Tennie Johnson died in 1953, Will re-married, but he passed away in 1955. The house was a rental unit in the late 1950s, owned by Jane Callahan, a business machine operator, in the early 1960s, and by Mario de los Santos, the proprietor of Standard Automotive, in the late 1960s. Since then, it has been vacant, or a rent house.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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

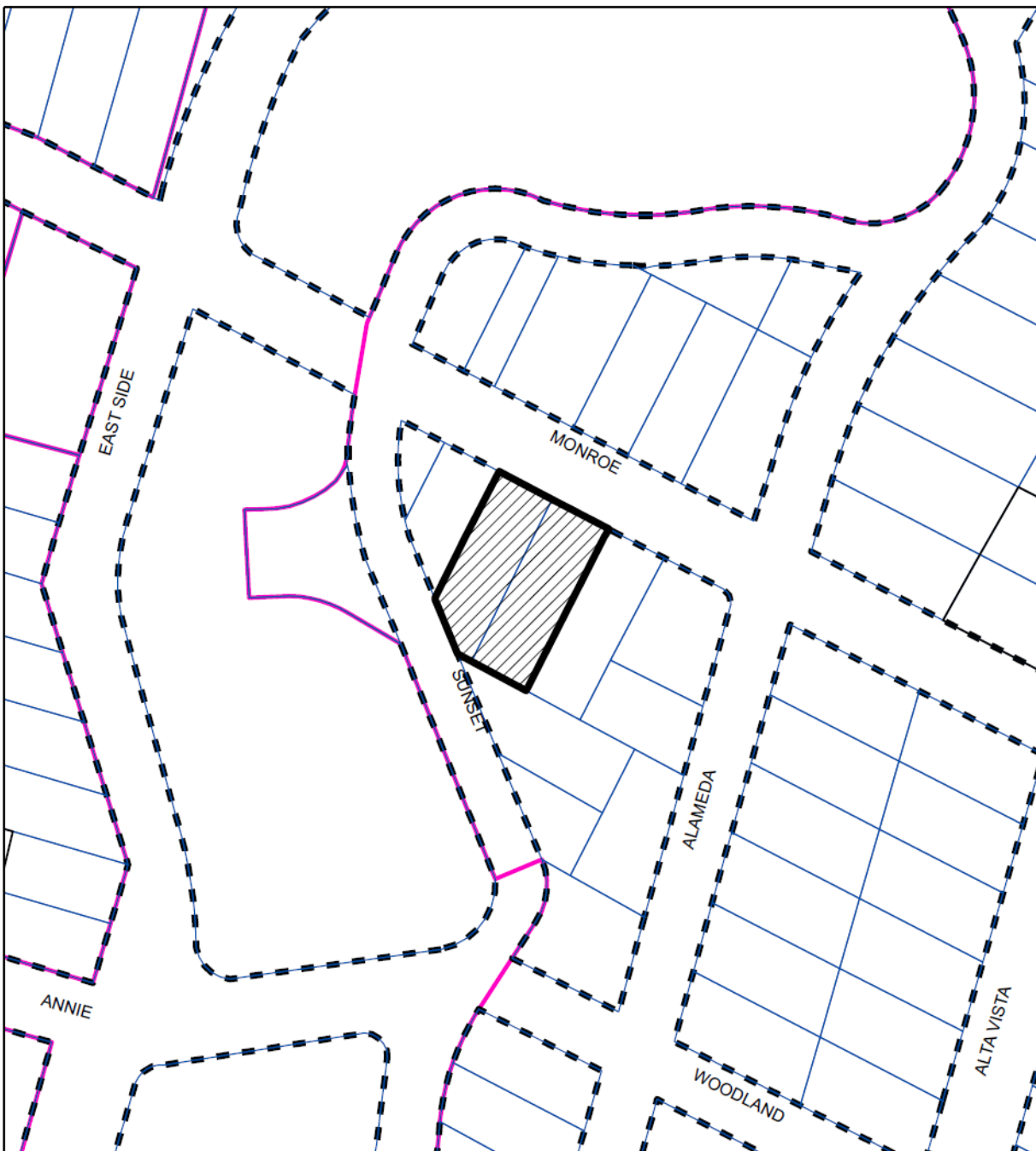
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Preserve and adaptively re-use the existing house on the site, if possible. The house reflects the late 1930s building boom in Travis Heights, and is consistent with the middle-class context of the neighborhood at that time in its scale and Colonial Revival style. If preservation and re-use of the house is not feasible, then staff recommends relocation over demolition, but in any case, completion of a City of Austin documentation package consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history of the house, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2013-0886  
 LOCATION: 705 E Monroe 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.

705 East Monroe Street  
ca. 1939



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
705 East Monroe Street

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Charles H. Pratt, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Charles H. Pratt was a new resident at this address.
1981	Michael Charrier, renter Employed by Community Bound (not listed in the directory).
1977	Vacant
1973	No return
1968	Mario R. and Dora de los Santos, owners President, Standard Automotive of Austin, 1809 Manor Road. Also listed is Joe de los Santos, a delivery man for Standard Automotive of Austin.
1962	Jane Callahan, owner

	Business machine operator, Texas Employment Commission
1959	Walter R. and Jane Callahan, renters Salesman
1955	Will T. Johnson, owner No occupation listed
1952	Will T. and Tennie R. Johnson, owners City Councilman
1949	Will T. and Tennie R. Johnson, owners City Councilman
1947	William T. and Tennie Johnson, owners No occupation listed
1944-45	Walter B. and Violet Bierce, owners Inspector NOTE: William T. and Tennie Johnson lived at 94 Navasota Street; he was the proprietor (with Vernon P. Johnson), of Johnson & Johnson, groceries, 1311 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, 1001 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, and 4001 Duval Street.
1941	George L. and Dorothy Anderson, renters Secretary/treasurer, Capitol Chevrolet, 220-24 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1940	Thomas N. and Iva Dyson, renters Physician, 610 Littlefield Building NOTE: George L. and Dorothy Anderson are listed at 1516 Alameda Drive; he was the secretary/treasurer of Capitol Chevrolet.
1939	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Thomas N. and Iva Dyson are not listed in the directory.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### **Walter B. and Violet Bierce (builders of the house and occupants ca. 1943 – ca. 1945)**

Walter B. and Violet Bierce appear in the 1940 U.S. Census for the Marshall Ford Dam construction site. Walter Bierce was then 38, had been born in Texas, and was a concrete inspector for the Marshall Ford Dam construction company. Violet Bierce was then 32, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Doris, 1. Walter Bierce died in Houston in 1987.

### **Thomas N. and Iva Dyson (ca. 1939 – ca. 1940)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Thomas and Iva Dyson as residents of Riverside, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Thomas Dyson was then a 51-year old Alabama-born doctor; Iva Dyson was then 41, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had lived in San Antonio, Texas in 1935, and had no children listed with them. The 1930 U.S. Census shows T.N. and Iva Dyson living in San Antonio in a house they owned. He was a physician with a general practice. He died in San Antonio, November 12, 1947.

### **George L. and Dorothy Anderson (ca. 1940 – ca. 1943)**

George L. and Dorothy Anderson appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of this house. George L. Anderson was then 30, had been born in Texas, and was the office manager for a

retail auto dealership. Dorothy Anderson was then 27, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a 5-year old son, Larry Wayne Anderson.

**MRS. DOROTHY ANDERSON**

Mrs. Dorothy Anderson, 49, 3004 Cedarview, died in a local hospital Thursday following a long illness. She was a member of the First Methodist and had been a resident of Austin the past 30 years.

Survivors include her husband, George "Andy" Anderson, a son, Larry Wayne Anderson of La-Marque, a brother, Melvin Swenson of Austin, and two granddaughters.

Funeral services will be held

Friday at 2 p.m. at Hyatt-Manor Funeral Home with the Dr. Marvin Vance and Rev. Marshall Hampton officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be Howard Piland, Phillip Carlson, Tom Pressley, Eric Magnuson, Laddie Lundell and Carl Munson.

Obituary of Dorothy Anderson  
Austin American, June 8, 1962



### **George Lawrence (Andy) Anderson**

George Lawrence (Andy) Anderson, age 86, of Austin, died Monday, October 21, 1996. He was born February 16, 1910, to George Henry and Reaby Anderson in Decker, Texas.

He was preceded in death by Dorothy Marie Anderson, his wife of 29 years; and also his sister, Helen Youngquist.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Dorothy Rose Anderson; his son, Larry Wayne Anderson and daughter-in-law, Ouida; three grandchildren, Karen Lee and husband David Russ of Rockford, Illinois, Mae Marie and husband Steve Baker of North Oaks, Minnesota, and Dr. Julie Anderson of Hallsville, Texas; also four great-grandchildren, Kristen Marie and Lisa Danae Baker, Jennifer Gretchen and Benjamin David Russ; sister, Dorothy Roliet Higgs of El Paso, Texas; three nieces and one nephew; and also Nancy Carlson, life-long family friend.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother.

On September 1, 1928, Mr. Anderson was employed by Capital Chevrolet as office manager when it was operated by Crouch and Hancock. When that dealership was liquidated, Andy became manager of John Nash Motor Company, one of the Chevrolet dealerships in Austin. The firm later was incorporated as Capitol Chevrolet and Mr. Anderson was elevated to the post of secretary-treasurer. He continued in this assignment until his semi-retirement in December, 1975. Not to relinquish his association with the business he so admired, Mr. Anderson stayed on with the company insurance division on a part-time basis until he completely retired in 1987.

A visitation will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the funeral home.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, in the Weed-Corley-Fish Chapel with Dr. Roberto Escamillo assisted by Paul Grout, Q of Faith United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Tim Critendon, William Cromwell, Bill Leudecke, Charles Nash, Skip Williams, and Jimmy Youngquist. Honorary pallbearers are Farland Bundy, Art LaRue, Ralph Nichols, C.M. Rogers, and Cecil Warren.

**Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, 452-8811.**

Obituary of George L. Anderson  
Austin American-Statesman, October 23, 1996

#### **Will T. and Tennie Johnson (ca. 1945 – ca. 1955)**

William T. and Tennie R. Johnson are listed in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renters of a house at 1309 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Austin. William T. Johnson was then 46, had been born in Texas, and was a retail grocer. Tennie Johnson was then 45, had been born in Mississippi, and had no occupation listed. Their son, Raymond, 16, was a salesman in a grocery store. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Will and Tennie Johnson at the same address on E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Austin. Will Johnson was a retail grocery merchant. In addition to Raymond, the Johnsons had two daughters: Jessie, 13; and Irma, 8. Both daughters had been born in Oklahoma.

# Mrs. Johnson, Ex-Councilman's Wife, Succumbs

Mrs. Will T. Johnson, wife of the former city councilman, died at her home at 705 East Monroe Wednesday night. She was 69 and had been in failing health since May.

Mrs. Johnson had been a resident of Austin for more than 40 years, moving to Texas after she met and married Johnson in Oklahoma. She originally was from Mississippi.

Johnson served three terms—six years—on the City Council but did not seek reelection this year. He is a retired grocer.

Mrs. Johnson was a member of the Ward Memorial Methodist Church.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Mrs. Jessie Waltrip and Mrs. Herman Porsch, both of Austin; a son, Raymond Johnson of Austin; a brother, Joseph R. Smith of Los Angeles, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

The body is at Cook Funeral Home where services are pending.

Obituary of Tennie R. Johnson  
Austin American, October 8, 1953



# Funeral Set Today For Will T. Johnson

Funeral services for Will T. Johnson, former member of the Austin City Council, will be held Sunday at 2 p. m. at Cook Funeral Home. The Rev. Wesley N. Schulze will officiate.

Johnson, 72, died early Saturday at his home here, 705 East Monroe. A past president of the Austin Retail Grocers Association and Texas Retail Grocers Association, Johnson was born and reared in

Travis County. While a young man, he moved to Oklahoma where in 1900 he began working in a grocery store.

He was married in 1905 to Miss Jennie Roberta Smith. She died in October, 1953.

A few years after his marriage, he returned to Austin, later opened his own grocery store. He had expanded this business to three stores before he retired in December, 1945.

In 1955 he married his surviving widow, Mrs. Hallie Johnson of Austin. Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Jessie Waltrip and Mrs. Irma Lee Porsch; one son, Raymond Johnson, all of Austin; his stepmother, Mrs. J. S. Johnson of Austin; three sisters, Mrs. Irma Graham, Mrs. Clyde White, and Miss Nona Johnson, all of Austin; two brothers, Jim H. Johnson of Del Valle and Vernon P. Johnson of Austin; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

At the time of his death, Johnson was serving on the board of trustees of Ward Memorial Methodist Church, where he had been a member 37 years. He was also a teacher and former Sunday School superintendent of youth at the church.

Johnson was a member of the City Council for six years.

He was a 32nd degree Mason, Past Grand Master of the Oddfellows Lodge, a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, South Austin Civic Club, and an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Pallbearers will be his nephews, Pearce Johnson, Dr. B. F. Johnson, Harold Bush, Norman Payton, George Condra and Don Livers. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.



WILL T. JOHNSON

Obituary of Will T. Johnson  
Austin American-Statesman, December 18, 1955

Walter B. Bierce 705 East Monroe St.

131

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Travis Heights

Frame res. &amp; frame garage

249n - 11/15/38

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Building permit to Walter Bierce for the construction of the house (1938)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT Austin, Texas		No. 11368-124	
Received of	Walter B Bierce	Date	Nov 14th, 1938
Address	705 E Monroe		
Amount	Two and 50/100--	\$	2.50
Plumber	Loden	Size of Tap	1/2"
Date of Connection	11-16-38	No. Fittings	
Size of Tap Made	3/4	Curb Cock	
Size Service Made	3/4	Elbow	
Size Main Tapped	6"	St. Elbow	3/4 x 1/2
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	10'6"	Bushing	1/2 SLEEVE
From West Prop. Line to Curb Cock	12'6"	Reducer	
Location of Meter	CURBLINE	Pipe	
Type of Box	LOCK	Lead Comp.	
Depth of Main in St.		Nipples	
Depth of Service Line		Union	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main		Plug	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	6-12-39	Tee	
		Stop	
		Box	
		Lid	
		Valves	
		Job No.	50722
		Req. No.	

IND. XRD DOUGLAS

Water service permit to Walter Bierce for this address (1938)

Connection Charge #634 15026  
 Application for Sewer Connection.  
 House in use  
 Austin, Texas, 11/14 1938  
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
 City of Austin, Texas  
 Sir:— Checked to plug found Aldermon  
was on sewer 3-16-77  
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions  
 on premises owned by Walter B Bierce  
 at 705 E Monroe Street  
 further described as lot 8, block 8, outlot 8  
 subdivision Travis Hts, division 142, plat 131  
 which is to be used as a Res  
 In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.  
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance  
 charge.  
 Respectfully,  
Smith Jordan  
 Stub Out  
 Connected #-13 193 9 Permit PL  
 Size of Main 6" ST & B inches 4-10-39  
 Size of Service 4 inches 0.5  
4 1/2 Feet Deep at curb  
 Feet from Property Line on curb  
 Feet from Curb Line  
 Inspected by W. B. Bierce Con 12/1/38  
 Connection made by Carrington W. B. Bierce  
11104

Sewer connection application by Walter Bierce for this address (1938)