

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0122
304 W. MILTON STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1925 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled, board-and-batten frame house with a full-width, shed-roofed, independent porch; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1925 as a rental property, although the style and construction type of the house is reminiscent of much older cabins. The 1922 Sanborn map shows a house on this site, but that house has no front porch, and the front porch on this house appears to be integral to the design. City directories before 1927 do not list any houses on W. Milton Street, so a 1925 construction date appears a reasonable assumption. The first tenants were Hester and Solomon Weldon (or Wellman, as they appear in later directories), who had no occupations listed. Hester and Solomon Weldon were both African-American, and this area was part of an African-American residential section, with the African-American Goodwill Baptist Church across Milton Street at the corner of Newton Street. However, the 1929 city directories shows David and Lena Clawson, who are not indicated as being African-Americans, as tenants of the house. Neither of the Clawsons had an occupation listed. Early city directories show the address of this house as 302 W. Milton Street, and this is borne out by the 1935 Sanborn map, but the 1935 city directory does not list 302 W. Milton as an address, and from that point forward, the house is listed as 304 W. Milton Street. The house was vacant in 1935, and in 1937, James C. and Bettie V. Fincher are shown as the tenants – they went on to rent the house at 400 W. Milton Street (also a case on tonight's agenda for demolition).

Around 1938, the house was purchased to E. Frank and Lorraine Short, who lived here until around 1946. Frank Short was a native of Travis County; he grew up on a rented farm on Barton Springs Road, worked as an odd-job teamster and cotton picker, and after he married and moved into this house, worked as a truck driver and a stone mason. Lorraine Short worked in a laundry and later, as a clerk in a bakery. Their daughter, Ellen, rented this house with her husband in the mid-1940s after her parents had moved away. It is not clear if Frank Short could read and write – his 1918 World War I draft registration card was filled out by the registrar and Frank made an "X" as his mark, but census reports indicate that he was literate.

The house has been used as rental property since the mid-1940s. Later tenants have included a meat cutter, a mechanic, and a laborer.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) with a Priority 2 for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The house has deteriorated significantly, and while its architectural style harkens back to an early cabin style, there is no evidence to document it earlier than the mid-1920s. Staff

therefore recommends release of 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. This single-wall construction house does not appear to be sufficiently structurally sound to warrant relocation, and rehabilitation of the house will necessarily mean installation of a lot of new material, compromising the integrity of materials, so documentation is likely the best means for recording its existence and history.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0122

LOCATION: 304 W Milton Street

1" = 162'

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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304 West Milton Street
ca. 1925



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
304 West Milton Street

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

1992	Jose M. Castro, renter No occupation listed
1985-86	Manuel Q. and Manuela Lujan, renters Field worker, Howard M. Lowder (not listed in the directory)
1981	No return
1977	Celia Rivera, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Celia Rivera was a new resident at this address.
1973	Celia Rivera, renter Retired
1968	Steven and Tommie Macias, renters Retired

1962	Isabel and Janie Reyes, renters Machine operator, Woodward Industries, 118 E. Alpine Road.
1959	Andrew P. and Dovie Cantu, renters Mechanic
1955	Vacant
1952	George H. and Ila Collins, renters Laborer
1949	Claude A. and Roxie Pemberton, owners Meat cutter, Pate's Food Store, 1317 South Congress Avenue.
1947	James D. and Ellen Seals, renters Civil service employee
1944-45	Frank and Lorraine Short, owners Frank: Mason Lorraine: Helper, Kohn's Bon Ton Baking Company, 1307 Lavaca Street.
1941	Frank and Lorraine Short, owners No occupation listed NOTE: Lorraine Short is not separately listed with an occupation.
1939	Frank and Lorraine Short, owners No occupation listed
1937	James C. and Bettie Fincher, renters No occupation listed NOTE: Frank and Lorraine Short are listed at 716 Jewell Street; he had no occupation listed.
1935	Vacant
1932-33	Solomon Wellman, renter No occupation listed Also listed is Hester Wellman, no occupation stated.
1930-31	Vacant
1929	David and Lena Clawson, renters No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 302 W. Milton Street.
1927	Hester Weldon (colored), renter No occupation listed Also listed is Sol Weldon (colored), no occupation stated. NOTE: Both Sol and Hester Weldon are the same people as Solomon and Hester Wellman, listed as tenants of this house in the 1932-33 directory. NOTE: The house is listed as 302 W. Milton Street.

1924 No houses are listed on W. Milton Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Frank and Lorraine Short (ca. 1938 – ca. 1946)

Frank and Lorraine Short are listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$600. Frank Short was then 40, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer in building construction. Lorraine Short was then 35, had been born in Texas, and was a finisher in a laundry. They had 2 daughters: Dorothy, 15; and Ellen, 12. Ellen Short later married James D. Seals; they are listed as the renters of this house in the 1947 city directory.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows E. F. and Lorraine Short renting a house at 1306 S. 1st Street in Austin; he was a truck driver for a hauling company. They had a boarder, another truck driver for a hauling company. The 1920 U.S. Census shows him living with his parents, Duff and Lula Short, on the Barton Springs Road in South Austin, where his father rented a farm. Frank is listed as a teamster doing job work. Ellis Frank Short's World War I draft registration card shows that he was living on a rural route in South Austin, but that he was employed as a cotton picker in Mart, Limestone County, Texas. He apparently could not read or write – his card had been filled out by the registrar and E.F. Short made his mark.

ELLIS F. SHORT

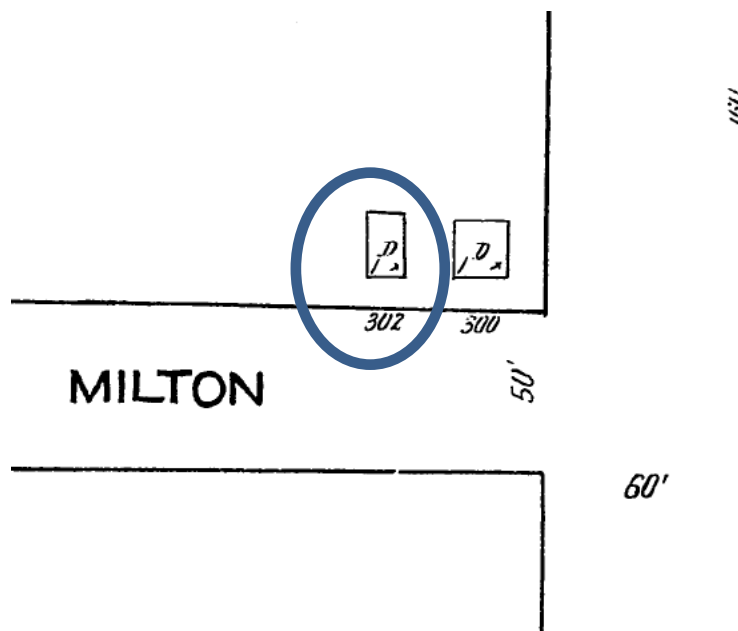
Ellis Frank Short, 63, of 2514 Wilson, died Sunday at his home. He had been a lifelong resident of Travis County.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Brock and Mrs. Ellen Seals, both of Austin; a sister, Mrs. Clara Cooper of Austin; four brothers, Earl Short, Tony Short, Charlie Short and Tom Short, all of Austin, and five grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are pending at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

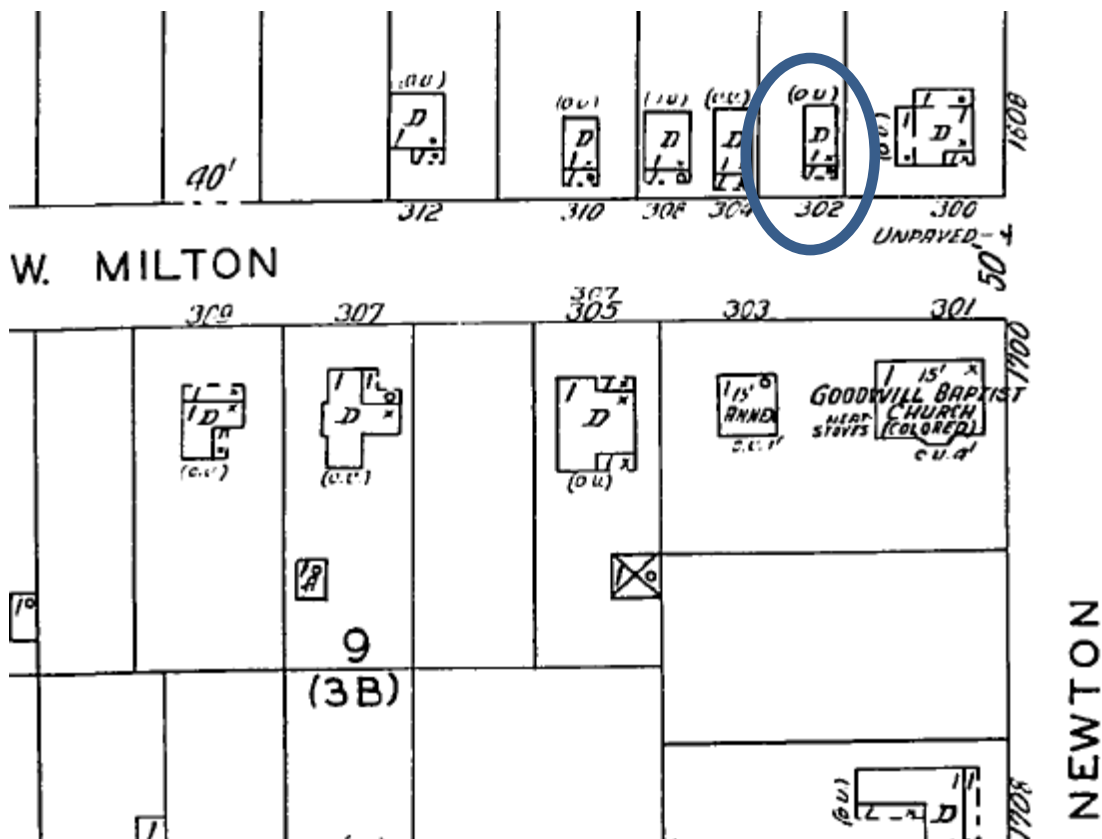
Obituary of Frank Short
Austin American, July 1, 1963

ELLIS FRANK SHORT
 Funeral services for Ellis Frank Short, 63, of 2514 Wilson, will be held Tuesday at 4 p.m. from Wilke - Clay Funeral Home with Rev. A. D. Eberhart officiating. Burial will be in Tucker Cemetery.
 Pallbearers will be Dewey Cooper, Don Cooper, Leslie Short, ~~Malcolm Short, Garret Short, and~~ Malcolm Short.

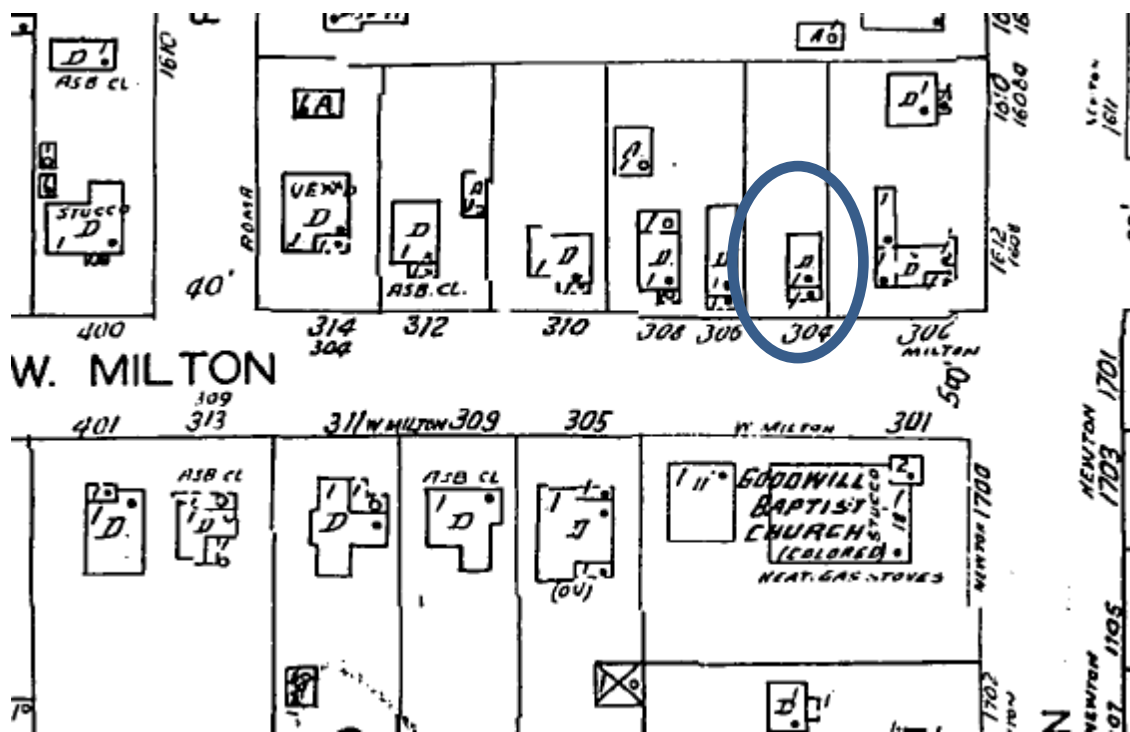
Funeral notice for Frank Short
 Austin American, July 2, 1963



The 1922 Sanborn map shows a house on this site with an address of 302 W. Milton Street, but city directories of the period do not list any houses on West Milton Street. The house shown on this map has no front porch, which is integral to the design of the current house, so it is likely that the house shown on this map is not the current house.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house with an address of 302 W. Milton Street; however, no city directory prior to that of 1929 lists 302 W. Milton as an address – the house is listed in directories as 304 W. Milton Street.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the house with its address of 304 W. Milton Street.

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

No. A 3602

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE

Austin, Texas

INDEXED

M. Gus Becker Address 304 W. Millton St.

Plumber Schutze Size of Tap 1/2 Date 11-4-30

CHANGED TO MAIN AND RENEWED SERVICE WITH COPPER

Date of Connection 11-14-30

Size of Tap Made 1/4

Size Service Made 3/4 Cop

Size Main Tapped 2" 6" C.I.

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 10'

" " " " " 3'

Location of Meter Curb

Type of Box Lock

Depth of Main in St. 2'

" " Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 33'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 802 12-3-30

INDEXED

Foreman's Report.

No.	Fittings	Size.
1	Curb Cock	1/2"
1	Elbow	3/4"
1	St. Elbow	3/4"
1	Bushing	3/4" x 1/2"
1	Reducer to Compiling	
35'	Pipe	3/4"
	Lead Comp.	
	Nipples	
	Union	
	Plug	
	Tee	
	Stop	
1	Box Lock	
1	Lid Lock	
	Valves	
1	Draw File	
	Reg. No.	4687

Foreman's Signature Smith

Water service permit to Gus Becker for this house (1930)

Connecting Charge \$ 1.200

Application for Sewer Connection. No. 9778A

Austin, Texas, 1929/5 1931

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 Gus F. Becker
at 304 W. Madison Street
which place is to be used as a residence

In this place there are to be installed 1 fixtures.

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

Respectfully, Gus F. Becker

Location of Public Sewer Severn Street 1/4

Stub Out #3-36

Connected 11-19-1930 OK

Size of Main 6 inches 10/20/21

Size of Service 4 inches

4 Feet Deep 4' H.C. 8' E. of W.C. 3 1/2' Deep

27 Feet from Property Line and 2' from

27 Feet from Curb Line

Inspected by Wm. Beatey

Connection made by C. O. Beatey

A 307

Sewer connection application for this address by Gus Becker (1930)

OWNER	Sam Redd	ADDRESS	304 West Milton
PLAT	122	LOT	7 & 8 BLK / B
SUBDIVISION	Gus F. Becker		
OCCUPANCY	Residence		
BLD PERMIT #	99077	DATE	3-23-66
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	100.00
CONTRACTOR	owner	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC #	Paid	SEWER TAP REC #	Paid
Repair A Frame Residence & Bring Up to Min Stand			

Building permit to Sam Redd for repairs to the house (1966)