

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0116
3704 HARMON AVENUE**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1941 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, roughly rectangular-plan, cross-gabled frame house with front doors at right angles on a partial-width, flat-roofed, partially-inset porch on ornamental metal posts; single 1:1 fenestration; synthetic siding.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1941 for Tobias and Mabel Fritz, who had lived at 603 E. 3rd Street in Austin. Tobi Fritz had been born in Sweden and was a truck driver for Nelson Davis & Son, a wholesale grocery business, at the time he and Mabel bought this house. He later went to work as a driver and glazier for Binswanger, a local glass company. After Tobi's death in 1963, Mabel continued to live in this house until her death in 1980. Mabel worked as a seamstress and doing alterations for Scarbrough's for many years.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage the applicant to rehabilitate and preserve the house if possible; this side of Harmon Avenue is completely intact with 1930s and 1940s houses, while the other side of the street has a couple of 1960s apartment complexes, a new apartment or condo complex, and backs up to the I-35 frontage road just north of the old Concordia campus. Maintaining the rhythm of the west side of Harmon Avenue is important to preserve the historic character of the street, and the house at the corner of Harmon and 38th Street has an addition which extended the roofline in the back and increased the size of the attic. However, if rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of this house is not an option, staff recommends relocation over demolition, and 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.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 164'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#:HDP-2014-0116

LOCATION: 3704 Harmon Avenue

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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3704 Harmon Avenue
ca. 1941



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
3704 Harmon Avenue

From City Directories, Austin History Center
Prepared by the City Historic Preservation Office
February, 2014

1992	Alan and Nellie G. Johnson, renters Senior administrative associate, University of Texas
1985-85	Alan C. and Nellin Johnson, renters Employed by the Post Office NOTE: The directory indicates that Alan C. and Nellin Johnson were new residents at this address.
1981	No return
1977	Mabel F. Fritz, owner Widow, Tobi V, Fritz Retired
1973	Mabel F. Fritz, owner Widow, Tobi V. Fritz Seamstress, Scarbrough's, department store, 6 th Street and Congress Avenue.

- 1968 Mabel F. Fritz, owner
Widow, Tobi V. Fritz
Seamstress, Scarbrough's, department store, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1962 Tobi V. and Mabel Fritz, owners
No occupation listed
- 1959 Tobi V. and Mabel Fritz, owners
Tobi: Driver, Binswanger & Company, auto and plate glass, mirrors, 116 Barton Springs Road.
Mabel: Seamstress, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1955 Tobias V. and Mabel Fritz, owners
Tobias: Glazier, Binswanger & Company, auto and plate glass, mirrors, 116 Barton Springs Road.
Mabel: Seamstress, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1952 Tobias V. and Mabel Fritz, owners
Tobias: Driver, Binswanger & Company, auto and plate glass, glass blocks, 201 E. 5th Street.
Mabel: Alterations, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1949 Tobias V. and Mabel Fritz, owners
Tobias: Glazier, Binswanger & Company, glass, 201 E. 5th Street.
Mabel: Alterations, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1947 Tobias V. and Mabel Fritz, owners
Tobias: Driver, Binswanger & Company, glass (Ed Maxey, manager), 201 E. 5th Street.
Mabel: Alterations, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6th Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1944-45 Tobias V. and Mabel Fritz, owners
No occupation listed
- 1941 The house is listed as under construction.
NOTE: Tobias and Mabel Fritz are listed at 603 E. 3rd Street; he was a driver for Nelson Davis & Son, wholesale groceries, 117 W. 4th Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Tobias and Mabel Fritz (ca. 1941 – ca. 1980)

Tobias and Mabel Fritz appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of a house at 603 E. 3rd Street in Austin. Tobias Fritz was then 40, had been born in Sweden, and was a truck driver for a wholesale grocery company. Mabel Fritz was then 34, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

TOBIAS V. FRITZ

Tobias V. Fritz, 64, of 3704 Harmon Avenue died Tuesday in a local hospital. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mabel Fritz; and three brothers, Gus Carlson of Austin, Ernest Fritz and Robert Fritz, both of Connecticut.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Herbert Johnson officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Obituary of Tobias V. Fritz
Austin Statesman, December 24, 1963

TOBIAS V. FRITZ

Funeral services for Tobias V. Fritz, 64, of 3704 Harmon Avenue, will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. at Cook Funeral Home with Rev. Herbert Johnson officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be Leroy Carlson, Chester Anderson, Billy King, Andrew W. Linden, Carl Studtman and Nat Erickson.

Survivors include his widow, Mabel; and three brothers, Gus Carlson of Austin, Ernest Fritz and Robert Fritz of Connecticut.

Funeral notice for Tobias V. Fritz
Austin American, December 25, 1963

FRITZ, Mabel Kylberg, 74, 3704 Harmon Ave., died Thursday. Services 1 p.m. Saturday, Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers. Burial, Austin Memorial Park. Survivors: brothers, Carl L. Kylberg, Ernest O. Kylberg, both of Austin, Hilding G. Kylberg of Elgin.

Obituary of Mabel Fritz
Austin American-Statesman, February 1, 1980

Tobe Fritz

3704 Harmon Ave

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Plainview Hts.

Frame Res & Frame Garage

22576 - 9-24-41

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Building permit to Tobias Fritz for the construction of the house (1941)

CONNECTION CHARGES # 3621 N° 18177A
 APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.

Austin, Texas 12-12-1941
 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 Tobe Fritz
 at 3704 Harmon Ave. Street,
 further described as lot 4, block 1/2 of 2, outlot _____,
 subdivision Plainview Hts division _____, plat 67,
 which is to be used as a Res.

In this place there are to be installed 5

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

2 DEEP Respectfully,
 AT-PL Stub Out. Henry Frey

Connected 12-16-41 Permit Pd.
 Size of Main 4 inches. 12-13-41
 Size of Service 4 inches. or ✓
4 1/2 Feet Deep in ST
12 1/2 Feet from Property Line Con 18'
 Feet from Curb Line 7' 5 1/2' ✓
 Inspected by Boothright
 Connection made by F. Franklin A-1332 ✓
16131 Sewer in Harmon ave. O.D.S.

Sewer connection application by Tobias Fritz for this house (1941)

OWNER Tobi Fritz ADDRESS 370⁴ Harmon Avenue
PLAT 67 LOT 4 BLK
SUBDIVISION Plainview Mountains Resub
OCCUPANCY Closet
BLD PERMIT # 9394¹ DATE Nov 2, 64 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$1000.
CONTRACTOR S. Frank Hoes NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC # X SEWER TAP REC # X
Frame add to res & remodel/remodel take out
partition wall
Building permit to Tobias Fritz for the construction of a frame addition (1964)