

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
MARCH 24, 2014  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2014-0158  
603 ELMWOOD PLACE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1923 converted to an apartment building with the addition of the second story in 1948.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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Two-story, rectangular-plan, hipped roof, frame apartment house with triple front doors, a partial-width hipped-roof independent porch on plain round wood columns, and single and double 1:1 fenestration. All windows have recently been replaced.

**RESEARCH**

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The original house was built around 1923 by Dewey and Bess Ann Puryear. Dewey Puryear had a welding and radiator business for many years. It appears that around 1948, the Puryears divorced, and Mrs. Bess Glissman got the house, which she converted to an apartment building by adding the second story. The house has been an apartment house ever since. The overwhelming majority of the tenants of this house have been University of Texas students.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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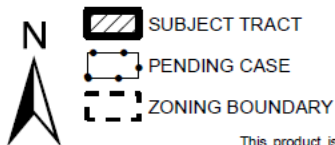
The house appears in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Release the permit. The original house has been completely compromised, and there is no longer any basis for landmark designation, nor is there any justification for documenting current conditions.

## LOCATION MAP



1" = 165'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0158  
LOCATION: 603 Elmwood

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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603 Elmwood Place  
ca. 1923 – but converted to a two-story house in 1948.



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 603 Elmwood Place

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
March, 2014

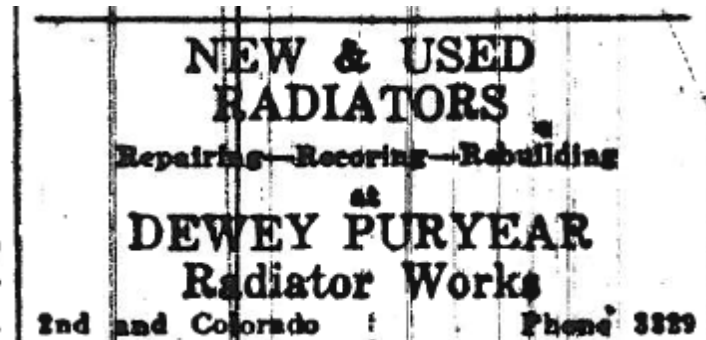
1992	Student apartments (7)
1985-86	Student apartments (7)
1981	Student apartments (7)
1977	Student apartments (7)
1973	Student apartments (7)
1968	Student apartments (7)
1962	Student apartments
1959	Student apartments
1955	Furnished apartments
1952	Furnished apartments
1949	Furnished apartments (3)
1947	Brent V. and Martha Williamson, renters
	Brent: Student, University of Texas
	Martha: Teacher, Palm School

Rear: Bess Puryear, owner  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, 304 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 A: Thomas P. and Mary Moser, renters  
 Thomas: No occupation listed  
 Mary: Seamstress, Driskill Hotel  
 B: Edna F. Carmichael, renter  
 Widow, H.H. Carmichael  
 Clerk, State Department of Public Safety

- 1944-45 Bess Puryear, owner  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, 304 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1941 Dewey J. and Bess Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, 304 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1939 Dewey J. and Bess Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, 304 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1937 Dewey J. and Bessie Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, 304 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1935 Dewey J. and Bessie Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, 304 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1932-33 Dewey J. and Bessie Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, Colorado and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1930-31 Dewey J. and Bessie Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Austin Welding and Radiator Works, Colorado and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1929 Dewey J. and Bessie Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Dewey's Welding and Radiator Service, 108-10 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1927 Dewey and Bessie Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Dewey's Welding and Radiator Service, 108-12 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1924 Dewey and Bessie Puryear, owners  
 Proprietor, Austin Radiator Company, 205 Congress Avenue.  
 NOTE: The house is listed as 213 Elmwood Place.
- 1922 The address is not listed in the directory.  
 NOTE: Dewey Puryear (no wife listed) was the proprietor of Austin Radiator Company and the Austin Motor Inn (auto mechanics and used cars), both at 205 Congress Avenue; he lived at 1014 Evergreen Avenue.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:****Dewey and Bess Puryear (ca 1923 – ca. 1948)**

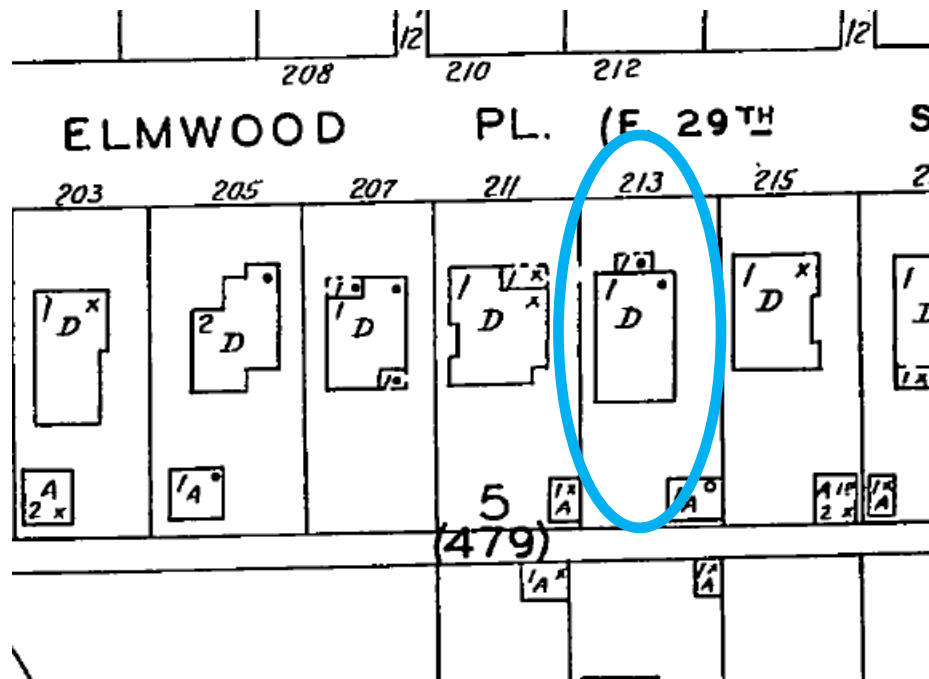
Dewey and Bess Puryear appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$5,250. Dewey Puryear was then 41, had been born in Texas, and was the owner of a welding and radiator shop. Bess Ann Puryear was then 35, had been born in Texas, and was a book-keeper in the welding and radiator shop. They had no children listed with them. The 1930 U.S. Census shows the Puryears as the owners of this house, which was worth \$5,000. Dewey is listed as the owner of a welding and radiator shop; Bess had no occupation listed.



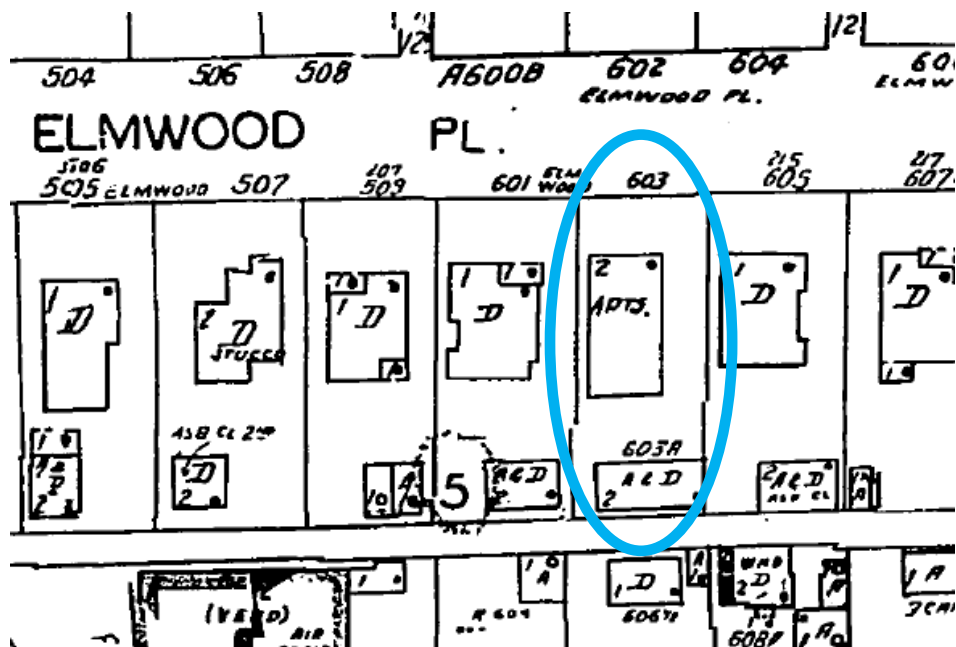
Advertisement for Dewey Puryear's Radiator Works.  
Austin American, January 1, 1948

**DEWEY J. PURYEAR**  
Dewey J. Puryear, 73, of 914 East 48½ Street, died in a local hospital Wednesday afternoon. He was a retired owner of a radiator works and a member of the Baptist Church. He was a World War I veteran; and had been a lifelong resident of Austin.  
Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Corrie Puryear of Austin; two brothers, Eston Puryear of Austin and Shirley Puryear, and one sister, Mrs. Artie Wire. Funeral is pending at Hyllin-Manor Funeral Home.

Obituary of Dewey Puryear  
Austin American, October 19, 1972



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house as one-story, with its pre-1940s address of 213 Elmwood Place.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the transformation of the house into a two-story apartment building with an additional two-story apartment structure at the rear.

Mrs. Bess Glissman

*Block*  
603 Elmwood Road

~~56~~  
65

56

- - -

College Court

vert to 4-unit apartment.

Add second story to residence and con-

38663 8-3-48

\$10,500.00

Carl E. Quick

15

Building permit to Bess Glissman to add a second story to the house and convert it to an apartment building (1948)