

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 28, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0262
2105 COMAL STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1920 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-and-a-half story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow-style house with Tudor Revival detailing; a projecting front-gabled bay on the front and a partial-width inset porch on the right of the front façade; shed-roofed dormer on the side of the roof; all windows are missing, but were massed in either single or double configurations.

RESEARCH

Sam Wilson and his wife, Marion, had lived on this site since around 1901. Sam Wilson was the son of Monroe and Rose Wilson, who lived in Austin where Monroe was a laborer and Rose was a washerwoman. Monroe Wilson had been born in Missouri; Rose Wilson had been born in North Carolina. Sam Wilson began his working life as a day laborer, and eventually became a carpenter on houses, and then as a building contractor. He and Marion had 11 children, several of which continued to live with them in this house for the rest of their lives. Marion Wilson took in laundry, a typical occupation for African-American women in the early 20th century. Their daughter, Rosa Lee (also spelled Rosalie) was a maid and domestic for private families; she lived with her parents until both of them passed away in the late 1950s, then continued to live in this house through the early 1990s. Another daughter, Cora, also worked as a maid for private families and lived in the house with Sam and Marion for many years.

It is not entirely clear when this house was built. Sam and Marion Wilson appear in city directories as early as 1903 at this address, and the 1922 Sanborn map is the first to show this section of the city – the current house is shown on that and on subsequent maps. There is a sewer connection application for this property dating from 1920, and it seems likely that either the 1901 house was greatly enlarged and modernized to current style around 1920, or that the 1901 house was razed and the current house erected in its place. Sam and Marion Wilson had 11 children, and it could be that the house was enlarged or razed and replaced to house their growing family around 1920. City directories from 1922 forward list Sam Wilson as a carpenter, where he had been listed as a laborer in previous directories, also leading to a conclusion that his full-time entry into the building trade coincided with either the enlargement of the 1901 house or the construction of the current house.

The house remained in the Wilson family for its entire existence until recently, when it has been abandoned and subjected to extreme vandalism and deterioration.

STAFF COMMENTS

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release 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. Despite the serious vandalism and destruction of

this house, the family associated with it is very significant, and their family home should be recorded to whatever extent possible. It is heartbreaking that this house has been compromised to such an extent that preservation is no longer a viable option.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

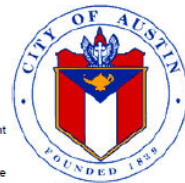


ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#:
LOCATION: HDP-2014-0262
2105 Comal 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.



2105 Comal Street
ca. 1920



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
2105 Comal Street

By City Historic Preservation Office
April, 2014

1992	Rosalie Wilson, owner Retired
1985-86	Rosalie Wilson, owner Retired
1981	Rosalie Wilson, owner Retired
1977	Rosalie Wilson, owner Maid
1973	Rosalie Wilson, owner Maid
1968	Rosalie Wilson, owner Maid
1962	Rosalie Wilson, owner Maid
1959	Marian Wilson, owner Widow, Samuel Wilson No occupation listed Also listed is Rosalie Wilson, a maid.
1955	Samuel and Marion Wilson, owners No occupation listed Also listed is Rosalie Wilson, a maid.
1952	Samuel and Marion Wilson, owners No occupation listed Also listed is Rosa Lee Wilson, a maid at the Carman Apartments, 1800 Guadalupe Street.
1949	Samuel and Marion Wilson, owners Carpenter NOTE: Rosa L. Wilson is not listed.
1947	Samuel and Marion Wilson, owners Carpenter Also listed is Rosa L. Wilson, a maid.
1944-45	Samuel and Marion Wilson, owners Carpenter Also listed is Rosa L. Wilson, a maid.
1941	Samuel and Marion Wilson, owners Carpenter Also listed is Rosalie Wilson, a maid.

1939	Samuel and Mary Wilson, owners No occupation listed Also listed is Rosa Wilson, a maid.
1937	Samuel and Mary Wilson, owners Carpenter Also listed is Rosalie Wilson, a domestic for Mrs. Alice Carman, 1900 Whitis Avenue.
1935	Samuel and mary Wilson, owners No occupation listed Also listed is Rosalee Wilson, a domestic for Mrs. Alice Carman, 1900 Whitis Avenue.
1932-33	Samuel and Marion Wilson, owners No occupation listed Also listed is Rosa L. Wilson, no occupation stated.
1930-31	Samuel and Marion Wilson (colored), owners Carpenter Also listed is Rosa Wilson, no occupation stated.
1929	Samuel and Marion Wilson (colored), owners Carpenter Also listed is Rosa L. Wilson, no occupation stated.
1927	Samuel and Marion Wilson (colored), owners Carpenter NOTE: Rosa L. Wilson is not listed in the directory.
1924	Samuel and Marion Wilson (colored), owners Carpenter
1922	Samuel and Marion Wilson (colored), owners Carpenter
1920	Samuel and Marion Wilson (colored), owners Laborer Also listed is Rosa Wilson, a student

NOTE: It appears that the current house was built in 1920, but the Wilsons owned a house on this site as early as 1901.

1918	Samuel and Marion Wilson (colored), owners Laborer
1916	Samuel Wilson (colored) Expressman
1914	Samuel Wilson (colored) Laborer Also listed is Rosa L. Wilson, a student.
1912-13	Samuel Wilson (colored)

	Laborer
1910-11	Samuel Wilson (colored) Laborer
1909-10	Samuel Wilson (colored) Laborer
1906-07	Samuel Wilson (colored) Laborer
1905	Samuel Wilson (colored) Laborer
1903-04	Samuel Wilson (colored) Laborer
1900-01	Sam Wilson is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Samuel and Marion Wilson (ca. 1920 – ca. 1959)

Sam Wilson appears in the 1880 U.S. Census as the son of Monroe and Rose Wilson, who lived on Bois d'Arc Street in Austin. Monroe Wilson was a Missouri-born laborer; Rose Wilson was a North Carolina-born washerwoman. Sam's oldest brother, 11-year old Willie, was a boot black; he had another older brother, Joseph, 9, who had no occupation listed.

Samuel and Mary Wilson appear in the 1900 U.S. Census for Justice Precinct 3, Travis County. Samuel Wilson was then 23, had been born in Texas, and was a day laborer. He could read and write. Mary Wilson was then 22, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. She could also read and write. They had 4 children: Rosa L., 5; Monroe M., 4; Lucille, 2; and Cora, 1. All the children had been born in Texas. They rented their house.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Sam and Marion Wilson at this address on Comal Street. Sam Wilson is listed as a laborer doing odd jobs; Marion Wilson was a washer woman for private families. They had 9 children: Rosa L., 15; Monroe, 13; Lucile, 12; Cora, 10; Ruby, 9; Joseph, 7; Grace, 5; Louie, 3; and Marion, 6 months. None of the children had occupations listed. They owned their house.

The 1920 U.S. Census reveals that Sam and Marion Wilson owned this house free of any mortgage. They now had 11 children, including Tommie May, 6; and John, 3. Sam Wilson was a house carpenter. None of the other family members had occupations listed.

According to the 1930 U.S. Census, the Wilsons' house at 2105 Comal Street was worth \$1,500. Sam Wilson was a house carpenter. Marion Wilson had no occupation listed. Rosa Lee Wilson was a servant in a private home, as was her sister, Cora. No other family member had an occupation listed.

By 1940, the family home was worth \$1,000, and only Rosa Lee, Cora, and John still lived with their parents. Sam, now 63, was a carpenter and building contractor; Marion, now 58, washed clothes at home. Rosa Lee, 35, and Cora, 32, were both maids for private families; John, 21, washed cars in a garage.

Sam Wilson died in Austin on January 19, 1958, but there does not appear to have been an obituary or funeral notice in the Austin newspapers.

MRS. MARION WILSON

Funeral services for Mrs. Marion Wilson, 2105 Comal Street, will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Ebenezer Baptist Church with Rev. Robert L. Rowe officiating. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

She is survived by six daughters, Miss Rosa Lee and Miss Cora Wilson of Austin, Miss Ruby Wilson of Los Angeles, Mrs. Grace Walker of Denver, Colo., Mrs. Marion Ellison of Port Arthur, and Mrs. Tommie Lee Oldham of Dallas; one son, John Wilson of Los Angeles; and one sister, Mrs. Katie Boulding; 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Services are under the direction of King-Tears Mortuary.

Obituary of Marion Wilson
Austin American, May 19, 1959

Receipt No. _____

Application for Sewer Connection

Nº 5-157

NE/II

Austin, Texas, 5-20 19²⁰

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by

_____ at 2105 Comal Street,
further described as Lot 6 Block 17 Outlot _____ Division _____
subdivision _____ Plat. 42, which is to be used as a _____

In this place there are to be installed _____ fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. _____
I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.

Depth at Prop. Line _____

Respectfully,

Stub Out } 3 1/2' H2SLL
Connected }
(Location)

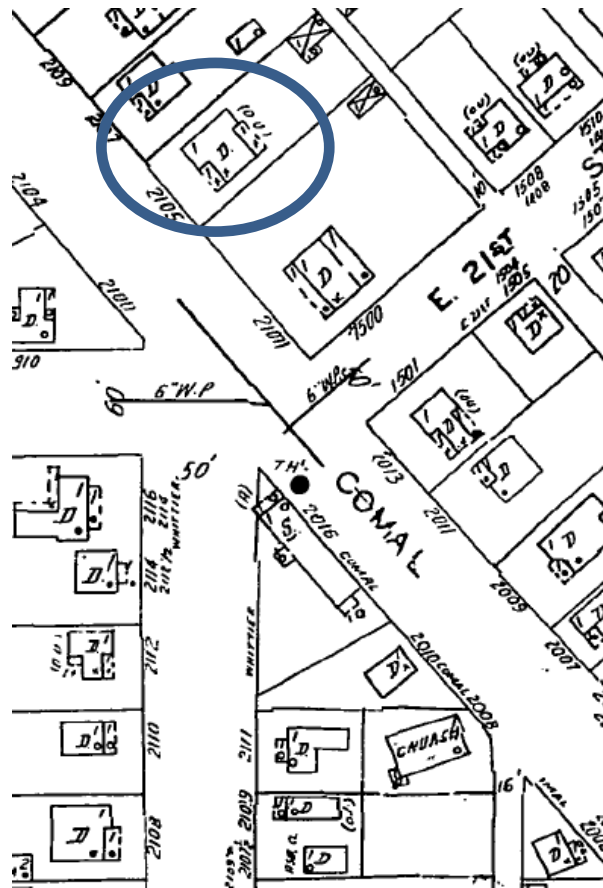
5-27-20
Geo L. Martin

Date _____

By _____

NOTE: Connection Instruction 6" sewer in ST B-872

Sewer connection application for this address (1920)



The 1962 map shows the same configuration as prior maps.