

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 19, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0339
2100 E. 14TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1906 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a central, front gablet with fish-scale imbrication in the tympanum; partial-width, hipped-roof, independent porch on ornamental metal posts; single 1:1 fenestration; metal roof.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1906 in a historically African-American neighborhood. It is not entirely clear who the first occupant of the house was – city directories show a John Washington as the resident of a house listed as 2008 E. 14th Street in 1906; he worked for William Tears, the city's leading African-American undertaker. By 1909, Walter Smith, a hostler for a livery, boarding, and sale stable, was living in this house, and the city directories show the address as 2100 E. 14th Street. Lillie Washington is listed as the occupant of the house by 1911, and the 1910 U.S. Census shows her as the owner of the house. Lillie Washington was listed as a mulatto in the census report; she lived here with her 9-year old daughter, Leary, and was a washer-woman for a private family. There is no mention of a husband in the census report – it could have been John Washington, but Lillie had been married for 10 years. After Lillie Washington is listed in the city directories, the next occupant listed is John Scott, who lived here until around 1915. John Scott was a driver for Merchants Transfer, a warehousing company that stored goods hauled to the city by rail. City directories of that era do not list the name of a man's wife, so it is not clear whether the former Lillie Washington married John Scott, and changed her name to Lillie Scott, but by 1915, the house was owned and occupied by a woman named Lillie Scott, who lived here for the rest of her life. Lillie Scott had occupations typical for African-American women in the early- to mid-20th century – she worked as a laundress, a seamstress, a cook, and a maid, all the while owning this house. After her death in 1958, the house was purchased by a Joel Manning, who rehabilitated the house (apparently installing a bathroom), then sold it to James W. and Mabel Clemons, who lived here until around 1970. James Clemons was a laborer and clerk at the University of Texas. Through the 1970s and early 1980s, the house was rented by Ira S. and Helen Marshall; Ira S. Marshall was also a clerk at the University of Texas and later employed by an institutional foods company.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was rated as a Medium Priority for preservation in the Chestnut Neighborhood Historic Structures Survey (2002), but had its windows boarded over and was apparently abandoned at the time of the survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Either postpone to June 23, 2014 or initiate a historic zoning case to expand the research necessary to make a determination about the history of this house, and to explore alternatives to demolition. This house is a very good example of a vernacular Victorian housing type that is rare for East Austin. The house appears to have significant associations with a long-standing African-American resident in the person of Lillie Scott,

who represents African-American working women in the early and mid-20th century, as well as an exceptional example of an African-American woman owning a relatively substantial house in East Austin.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 100'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0339

LOCATION: 2100 E 14TH Street

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