

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JUNE 23, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0441
3301 STEVENSON AVENUE**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1950 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, hipped-roof Mid-century Modern-style house with stone veneer walls and metal-framed casement and multi-light picture windows.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1950 by local builder Kelly DeBusk. The first owners and occupants of the house were John G. and Betty T. Adams, who lived here from 1950 to around 1960. Like his father and grandfather, who founded the business, John G. Adams rose to the helm of the Adams Extract Company, Austin's most prominent food flavoring and food coloring business, which remained in the Adams family until 2002. Adams and his wife were also very prominent in local charitable, civic, and philanthropic circles in Austin, especially associated with the Austin Symphony. From around 1960 to at least the early 1990s, the house was owned and occupied by Thomas W. and Ruth A. Smith. Smith was the proprietor of Austin Chemical Company, a janitorial supply house.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage the applicant to make every effort to preserve, rehabilitate, and add on to this house, which is a very good example of mid-century Modern design, and which occupies a prominent site at the corner of Pecos Street and Stevenson Avenue. If rehabilitation and re-use of the existing house is not feasible, then 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.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 162'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0441

LOCATION: 3301 Stevenson 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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3301 Stevenson Avenue
ca. 1950



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 3301 Stevenson Avenue

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

1992	Ruth A. Smith, owner Retired
1985-86	Ruth A. Smith, owner No occupation listed
1981	Thomas W. and Ruth A. Smith, owners President, Austin Chemical Company, complete janitorial supplies, 302 Bowie Street. NOTE: The directory shows Eldon L. Hill as the president of the company in the listing for the company.
1977	Thomas W. and Ruth A. Smith, owners President, Austin Chemical Company, complete janitorial supplies, 302 Bowie Street. NOTE: Thomas W. Smith is noted in the directory as the president of the company under the company listing.
1973	Thomas W. and Ruth A Smith, owners Proprietor (with Eldon L. Hill and Marshall V. Turner), Austin Chemical Company, 302 Bowie Street.
1968	Thomas W. and Ruth A. Smith, owners Proprietor (with Eldon L. Hill and Marshall V. Turner), Austin Chemical Company 302 Bowie Street.
1962	Thomas W. and Ruth A Smith owners Proprietor, Austin Chemical Company (not listed in the directory)
1959	John G. and Betty Adams, owners Vice-president / general manager, Adams Extract Company, flavoring extracts and food coloring, 11600 San Antonio Highway. NOTE: Thomas W. and Ruth A. Smith are listed at 2100 Raleigh Avenue; he was the proprietor of Austin Chemical Company, 302 Bowie Street.
1955	John G. and Betty Adams, owners Secretary / assistant treasurer, Adams Extract Company, flavoring extracts and food coloring, 2216 San Gabriel Street.
1952	John G. and Betty Adams, owners Chemist, Adams Extract, flavoring extracts and food coloring, 2216 San Gabriel Street.
1949	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: John G. and Betty T. Adams are listed at 1513 Mohle Drive; he was the assistant general manager of Adams Extract, 2216 San Gabriel Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

John G. and Betty T. Adams (ca 1950 – 1960)

John G. Adams appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the 16-year old son of Fred and Mattie Adams, who lived at 2200 Windsor Road in Austin. John G. Adams was born in Texas and had no occupation listed. His father, Fred Adams, was the owner of the Adams Extract Company.

John Gandy Adams

Birth: Oct. 8, 1923, Austin, Travis County, Texas, USA

Death: Apr. 7, 2004, Austin, Travis County, Texas, USA

John Gandy Adams, a long time business and community leader in Austin, a beloved father and a darling man, died on Wednesday, April 7, 2004, following a spirited adventure with cancer. John Adams was committed to the family business, Adams Extract Co., founded by his grandfather, John A. Adams, continued by his father, Fred W. Adams, and aided by his son, John Adams Jr., Executive Vice-President. The business was known for its ``Adams Best Vanilla' and its ebullient last owner, ``Mr. Adams'. It remained in the family until its sale in 2002. John was born in Austin in 1923 to Fredrick Ward and Mattie Gandy Adams. Both preceded him in death, as did his sister, Evelyn Mayes. He is survived by former wife, Betty Turner Adams of Franklin, Tennessee; his daughter, Linda Adams of Austin and her children, Corbin and Elizabeth Parcianny, his daughter and her husband, Connie Adams Lee and Royce Lee of Fort Worth, and their children, Barrett Royce Lee, Catherine Adams Lee, John Preston Lee; and his son and his wife, John Gandy Adams Jr. and Kathleen O'Rourke Adams, and their children, Ashley Ann Adams and Lauren O'Rourke Adams of Austin. John left behind two brothers, Lawrence Adams of Colorado and Fred Adams Jr. of Austin, and his dearest love, Rosa Lopez Wicker. Adams also was known for his role, along with his wife, Betty, in founding and preserving the Knights of the Symphony, an Austin social institution, organized in 1968, to provide support for the Austin Symphony Orchestra. He always insisted that the group be a ``fun-raising organization, not a fund-raising group', and designated the titular head of the knights as King Brio, who presides over the annual Jewel Ball, a function of the Women's Symphony League. The organizations' traditions have been maintained for nearly 40 years because of Adams' strong will and leadership. To the end, he served as Master of Ceremonies and principal arbiter of Knights proceedings. John's fellow Knights acknowledged their fondness for him by proclaiming him ``Esteemed Grand Knight Exemplar.' He was the organization mainstay until his death. John Adams was a graduate of Austin High School in 1940 and Choate Preparatory School in Wallingford, Connecticut, in 1941. After the war he completed his Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry at the University of Texas in 1949 while running the family business. John and Betty and all their children are Life Members in the University of Texas Ex-Students Association. John joined the United States Army Air Corp in 1941, completed flight school and became a B-24 bomber pilot in World War II. He flew 54 missions over the Himalayas while serving in China, Burma, and India. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. While surviving many harrowing experiences, he successfully brought home all ten members of his crew safe and sound as he promised. He was one of the founding members of the Longhorn Basha of the China Burma India Veterans and has gone to join his fellow pilot comrades in the skies. John was active in scores of youth, civic, arts, industry and business organizations in his life time. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 29, which met at the University Presbyterian Church, attaining Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow. John was President of the Austin Junior Chamber of Commerce, loving the Jaycees throughout the fifties, and served the Austin Chamber of Commerce and the United States of Commerce. He won the 34th Annual Free Enterprise Award, Austin Chapter of Sales in Marketing International in 1984. He served as President of the Texas Spurs in 1971-72; he was chairman of the Society of Flavor Chemists; Regional Chairman in 1978 of the Texas Association of Business; Trustee of the Southwest Research Institute. He served as President of the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association in 1979-80, the only President east of the

Mississippi ever to be chosen by FEMA. He was a devoted member of Austin Rotary and a Paul Harris Fellow, with 42 years of Perfect Attendance. A four decade member of Austin downtown Rotary, John dearly loved the San Marcos, South Austin, and other Rotaries, where he often visited. John Adams was an enthusiastic participant of the Texas Retail Grocers Association, the Austin Better Business Bureau, YMCA of Austin, the Hump Pilot Association, Flying Tigers, Confederate Air Force, National Wildflower Research Center, Friends of the UT Performing Art Center, Texas State Historical Association, American Red Cross, the American Legion, Air War College Alumni Association, the LBJ Library, The Alpha Phi Club, Metropolitan Club, Capital Area Food Bank, Travis County Grand Jurors Association, Quiet Birdman, Altue Aces, Texas Historical Foundation, Sportsman's Club of Texas, Onion Creek Country Club, Headliners Club, University of Texas Club, Admirals Club. He was the first Lord Chancellor of the Knights of the Symphony and the second King Brio. The family wishes to thank Dr. Thomas Tucker and his wonderful caring staff, and all of Hospice Austin and especially Sandy and Doris. John Adams' family will receive visitors on Monday evening, April 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Weed- Corley- Fish Funeral Home at 3125 North Lamar Blvd. in Austin. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday morning, April 13, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the same location. Burial will follow at Austin Memorial Park. Members of the Knights of the Symphony will serve as honorary pallbearers. For those desiring to provide a memorial, the family requests that donations be made to the Austin Symphony Orchestra Society, the Joe R and Teresa Long Center for the Performing Arts, or the Capital Area Food Bank in lieu of flowers. Arrangements by Weed- Corley- Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78705 (512) 452- 8811.





Obituary of John G. Adams
 Austin American-Statesman, April 11, 2004

W. Tom and Ruth A. Smith (ca. 1960 – ca.)

W. Tom and Ruth A. Smith appear in the 1940 U.S. Census for Wilbarger County, Texas. W. Tom Smith was a 48-year old Texas-born machinist. Ruth A. Smith was 47, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a 17-year old son, Guinn, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

Kelly S. DeBusk, Jr.	3301 Stevenson Avenue
164 84 and 85	- - -
Tarrytown #4	
Stone veneer residence with gar.atch.	
44517 5-10-50	\$18,000.00
Owner	

84+85 **WATER SERVICE PERMIT** C No. 6321
Austin, Texas

Received of KELLY DEBUSK Date 7-30-50
Address 3301 STEVENSON
Amount TWENTY + 10/100 \$ 20.00
Plumber BASEY Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection	<u>6-15-50</u>	No. Fittings	1	Size	1"
Size of Tap Made	<u>3/4"</u>	Curb Cock	1	5/8"	
Size Service Made	<u>3/4"</u>	Elbow	1	3/4"	
Size Main Tapped	<u>6"</u>	St-Elbow	1	3/4"	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>7.5'</u>	Bushing	1	3/4"	
From S - Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>12.5'</u>	Reducer	1	1"	
Location of Meter	<u>CURB</u>	Pipe	1	1"	
Type of Box	<u>LOCU</u>	Lead Comp.	1	1"	
Depth of Main in St.	<u>3'</u>	Nipples	1	1"	
Depth of Service Line	<u>2'</u>	Union	1	1"	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<u>7-2-50</u>	Plug	1	1"	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	<u>7-2-50</u>	1" Tee	1	1"	
		1" Stop	1	1"	
		Box	1	1"	
		Lid	1	1"	
		Valves	1	1"	
		Job No.	<u>W-323-502</u>		
		Per. No.	<u>11-25-74</u>		

INDEXED

Water service permit to Kelly DeBusk for this address (1950)

Kelly S. DeBusk, Jr. **3301 Stevenson Avenue**
164 84 and 85

Tarrytown #4

Screened porch addition to rear of res.

45173 6-26-50

\$450.00

Owner

None

11-25-74 Storage water 1 1/2"
J.W. Smith

Building permit to Kelly DeBusk, Jr. for a screened porch addition to the rear of the house
(1950)