

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
MARCH 9, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2014-1117  
1409 CANTERBURY STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1909 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a partial-width shed-roofed porch on plain, square wood posts; single 2:2 fenestration; fish-scale imbrication in the tympanum of the projecting front gable; synthetic siding.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1909, and was listed as vacant in the 1909-10 city directory. The first occupant was H. Luke Presnell, who was a driver for an ice plant; he lived here only until around 1912. George J. Shelton, a blacksmith, lived here through the mid-1910s. The house was then rented by a Canadian-born widow, Nellie Starr, and her brother, George Dolan. Nellie Starr was the widow of a driver for the Fire Department; George Dolan was an assistant driver for the Fire Department, but the 1920 city directory shows him as a foreman for the Austin Coca-Cola Bottling Plant. Nellie Starr and George Dolan lived here until around 1923.

Sterling C. Bryant and his wife, Fronney are listed as the owners and occupants of the house from the mid-1920s until around 1929. Sterling Bryant was a laborer in a lumber yard. Robert M. McCall and his wife, Joyce are listed as the owners of the house in the 1930 U.S. Census as well as the 1930-31 city directory. Robert McCall was 80 in 1930 and had no occupation listed. He and Joyce lived here until around 1931. Norman E. Rutledge, a fireman, and his wife, Beulah, owned and occupied the house through the rest of the 1930s. From around 1940 to around 1950, the house was owned and occupied by Charles and Vivian Puryear. At the time that he lived in this house, Charles Puryear was a pipefitter and steamfitter. He and Frank Bradshaw eventually opened a plumbing and heating contracting firm, and later, Puryear had his own plumbing and heating contracting business.

The house was a rental through the 1950s and early 1960s, when it was purchased by Arnold and Olga Ramirez, who lived here for the rest of their lives. Arnold Ramirez was an attendant and later supervisor at Austin State Hospital.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is listed in the East Austin Historic Survey (1980), indicating its significance.

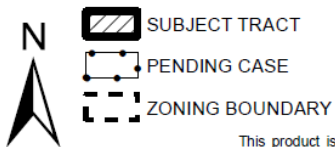
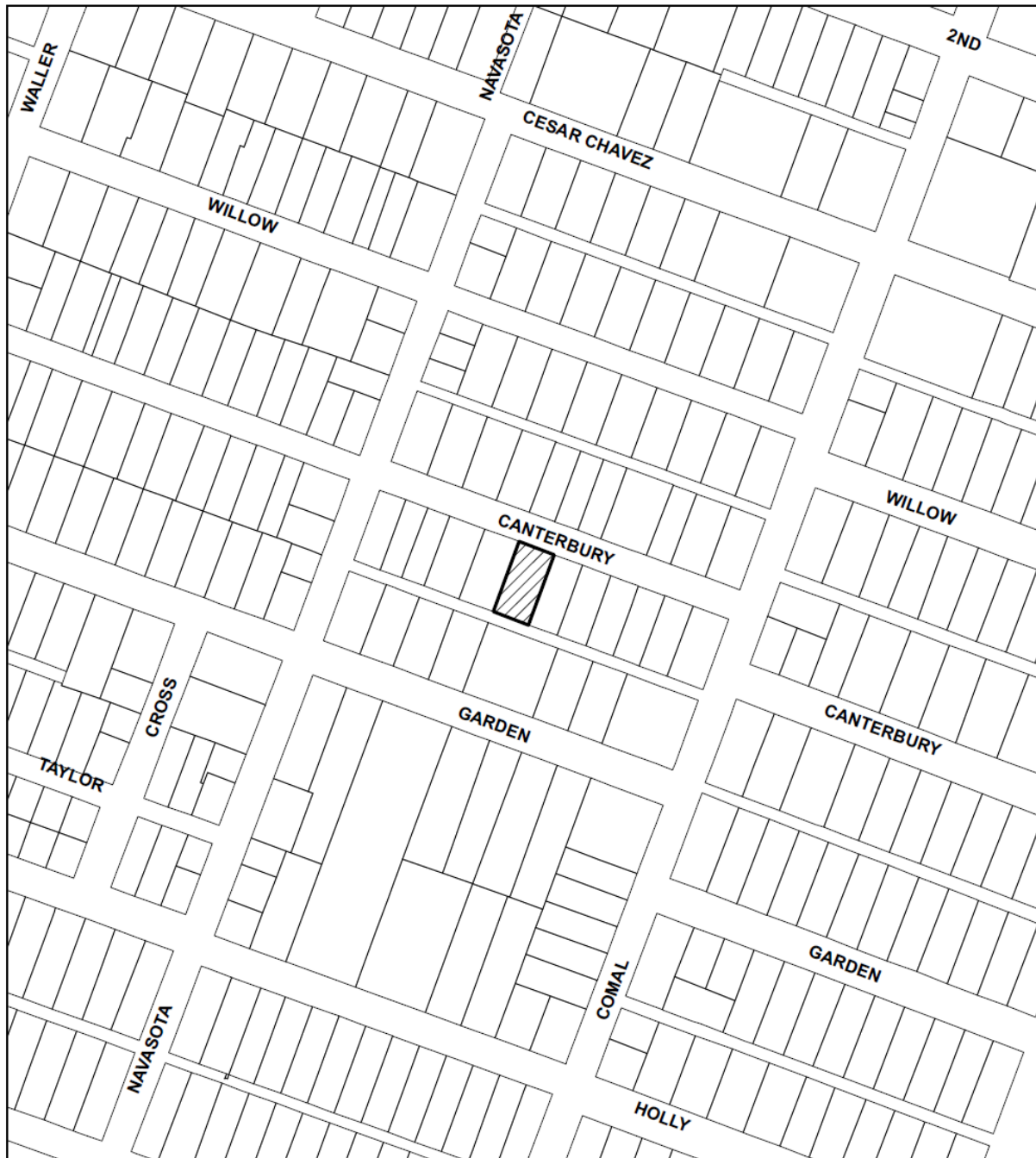
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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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. The house is in an extremely deteriorated condition, and rehabilitation is not economically feasible. However, staff does encourage the applicant to replace the house with a house that is in keeping with the historic scale, styles, and character of the neighborhood.

## LOCATION MAP



1" = 200'

CASE#: HDP-2014-1117  
Address: 1409 CANTERBURY

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 CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



1409 Canterbury Street  
ca. 1909



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
1409 Canterbury Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
January, 2015

1992	Arnold and Olga Ramirez, renters Supervisor, Austin State Hospital
1985-86	Arnold and Olga Ramirez, renters Supervisor, Austin State Hospital
1981	Arnold and Olga M. Ramirez, renters Nursing service worker, Austin State Hospital
1977	Juan L. and Olga M. Ramirez, owners Carpenter, Austin State Hospital
1973	Arnold and Olga Ramirez, renters Attendant, Austin State Hospital
1968	Fred and Olga Ramirez, renters Attendant, Austin State Hospital

- 1962 Fernando and Petra Marrero, Jr., renters  
Presser, Shamrock Cleaners, 3507 Jefferson Street.  
Also listed is Jesus Marrero, a student.
- 1959 Fernando and Petra Marrero, Jr., renters  
Presser, Shamrock Cleaners, 3507 Jefferson Street.
- 1955 Horace and Lois Glass, renters  
Construction worker, Ricks Construction, 714 Denson Drive.
- 1952 Thomas E. and Beulah Swenson, renters  
Attendant, Confederate Men's Home
- 1949 Charles G. and Vivian Puryear, owners  
Proprietor (with L.H. Bradshaw), Bradshaw & Puryear, plumbing and heating  
contractors, 103 Brazos Street.
- 1947 Charles G. and Vivian Puryear, owners  
Proprietor (with Frank Bradshaw), Bradshaw & Puryear, plumbers, 103 Brazos  
Street.
- 1944-45 Charles G. and Vinia Puryear, owners  
Steamfitter
- 1941 Charles G. and Vivian Puryear, renters  
Pipefitter
- 1939 Norman E. and Beulah Rutledge, owners  
City fireman
- 1937 Norman E. and Beulah Rutledge, renters  
City fireman
- 1935 Norman E. and Beulah H. Rutledge, owners  
Ladderman, Central Fire Station
- 1932-33 Lewis F. and Fannie M. Skog, renters  
Carpenter  
NOTE: Norman E. Rutledge (no wife listed) lived at 114 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a  
ladderman for the City Fire Department.
- 1930-31 Robert M. and Joyce A. McCall, owners  
No occupation listed  
  
Lena Bryant, renter  
No occupation listed
- 1929 Sterling C. and Fronia Bryant, owners  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Lena Bryant is not listed in the directory.  
  
R. Haley and Inez Carter, renters  
No occupation listed

- 1927 Sterling C. and Froney Bryant, owners  
Helper, Brydson Lumber Company, 415 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1924 Sterling C. Bryant, owner  
No occupation listed  
Also listed are Bennett F. and Helena Bryant, he was a lineman for the City Light Department, Inez Bryant, the widow of Alex Bryant, no occupation listed; and Raymond Bryant, no occupation listed.
- 1922 Nellie Starr, renter  
Widow, James P. Starr  
No occupation listed  
Also listed are Kathleen Starr, no occupation stated; and Mamie Starr, a student at St. Mary's Academy.  
NOTE: Sterling C. Bryant is listed as a repairman for the Austin Street Railway; he lived at 2013 Holly Street.
- 1920 George M. Dolan, renter  
Foreman, Austin Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, 121 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
- 1918 Nellie Starr, renter  
Widow, James P. Starr  
No occupation listed
- 1916 George J. Shelton  
Blacksmith, John Dillingham, blacksmith, 2207 East Avenue.
- 1914 George J. Shelton  
Blacksmith, John Hildinger & Son, blacksmith and auto repairs, 3000 Guadalupe Street.
- 1912-13 George J. Shelton  
Elevator operator, State Capitol  
NOTE: H. Luke Presnell is listed as living on the east side of S. Congress Avenue, 4 blocks south of Johanna Street; he was a driver for the Lone Star Ice Company, manufacturers and dealers in ice, 207 Colorado Street; factory, 201 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, corner Colorado Street.
- 1910-11 H. Luke Presnell  
Driver, Consumers Fuel and Ice Company, coal and ice, 4<sup>th</sup> and Red River Streets.
- 1909-10 Vacant  
NOTE: Henry L. Presnell is listed at 1410 Willow Street; he was a driver for the Lone Star ice factory, 207 Colorado Street.
- 1906-07 The address is not listed in the directory.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### Luke Presnell (ca. 1910 – 1912)

Henry Luke Presnell's 1918 World War I draft registration card shows that he was living in Austin; had been born January 13, 1873, and was self-employed as a farmer. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Henry L. and Ada Presnell as the owners of a house on Breckenridge Road in

South Austin. Their house was worth \$6,000. Henry L. Presnell was 57, had been born in Tennessee, and was a salesman for an ice plant. He died in 1955 in Blanco, Texas.

#### **George J. Shelton (ca. 1912 – ca. 1917)**

George J. Shelton appears in the 1920 U.S. Census with his wife, Willie L. and 4 children. The family rented their home at 1400 Garden Street in Austin. George J. Shelton was 42, had been born in Texas, and was a blacksmith with his own shop. His oldest son, Frank, was a clerk in a grocery store. With the family lived Willie L. Shelton's parents, Milton and Ida Vardell; Milton Vardell was employed at the State Capitol; Ida Vardell was a stenographer in a book store. The 1910 U.S. Census shows the family living at 1410 Garden Street. George J. Shelton was listed as blacksmith.

#### **George M. Dolan and Nellie Starr (ca. 1917 – ca. 1923)**

George M. Dolan and Nellie Starr appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as the renters of this house. Nellie Starr was a 35-year old widow; George M. Dolan was her brother. Both had been born in Canada. Nellie Starr had no occupation listed; George M. Dolan was a caller for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Nellie Starr had 4 children: Kathleen, 15; Mamie, 13; Anna Lee, 11; and George, 5. All of the children had been born in Texas and none had an occupation listed. The 1910 U.S. Census shows George Dolan living with his sister, Nellie Starr, and Nellie's husband, James Starr, at 1005 Lydia Street in Austin. George Dolan was an assistant driver for the Fire Department. His brother-in-law, James Starr was a driver for the Fire Company. Nellie Starr had no occupation listed. George Dolan died in Austin in 1929.

#### **GEORGE M. DOLAN**

Funeral services for George M. Dolan, 50, who died suddenly Saturday morning at 11:30 o'clock in Renfro drug store No. 1, will be held at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon at St. Mary's Catholic church with the Rev. John O'Rourke officiating. Interment will be in Mount Calvary cemetery.

Mr. Dolan had been a resident of Austin the greater part of his life and is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Starr and Mrs. Mary Rousseau of Austin.

The body of Mr. Dolan was removed to his home at 906 East Seventh street by the Cook Funeral home. Dr. H. B. Granberry, who attended Mr. Dolan, announced that death was caused from heart trouble.

Pallbearers for the funeral will be: Will Johnson, Vernon Johnson, Harland Cagle, Tom Dougherty, Joe Macken and John Morrey Jr.

Obituary of George M. Dolan  
Austin American, December 22, 1929

**STARR**—Mrs. Nellie Starr, 53, died at the residence, 505 West 14th street, Wednesday. She was born in Montreal, Canada, Sept. 28, 1883, and came to Austin 50 years ago. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church for 50 years.

Survivors are three daughters, Miss Kathleen Starr of Atlanta, Ga., Mrs. Fred Barkley and Miss Anna Lee Starr of Austin; one son, George Starr of Alvin, Texas; one sister, Mrs. Mary Rousseau of Austin, and three grandchildren.

Rosary services will be held from the residence Thursday at 8 p. m. Funeral services will be held from St. Mary's Catholic church Friday at 9 a. m. with the Rev. Father James J. O'Brien officiating. Interment will be in Mt. Calvary cemetery. Pallbearers will be Joe Macken, D. M. Knutson, Victor Pannell, Henry Alff, E. C. Bartholomew and Vernon Johnson.

Obituary of Nellie Starr  
Austin Statesman, June 20, 1940

### **Sterling C. and Fronie Bryant (ca. 1923 – ca. 1929)**

Sterling C. and Fronie M. Bryant appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owners of a house on a rural route in Travis County. Sterling C. Bryant was 36, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer in a lumber yard. Fronie Bryant was 25, had been born in Texas, and was a laundress at the Scottish Rite Temple. They had a son, Sterling, Jr., 5. With them lived Richard and Inez Carter, who were relatives. Both were 50; both had been born in Texas. Richard Carter was a laborer doing odd jobs; Inez Carter had no occupation listed.

**BRYANT:** Sterling C. Bryant, 52, died in a local hospital Wednesday night. He was employed by the City of Austin and had lived in Austin for over 30 years. He was a member of the Christian Church.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Fronie Wells Bryant; three sons, J. T., Robert Louis and Arthur Lee, (another son, Sterling Bryant, Jr., who had been missing in action for over a year, was declared officially dead by the Navy in May); mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Haley Carter; two brothers, Louis and Raymond Bryant; two sisters, Mrs. Allen Pickle, (all of Austin) and Miss Rhoda Bryant, US Army, San Antonio and two step-sisters, Mrs. Weldon Dumas, Hearn and Mrs. T. J. Jennings, Winters.

Funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. John Barclay at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home at 2 p. m. Friday. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Obituary of Sterling C. Bryant  
Austin Statesman, August 22, 1946

### **Robert and Joyce McCall (ca. 1930 – ca. 1931)**

Robert M. and Joyce McCall appear as the owners of this house in the 1930 U.S. Census. The house was worth \$2,000. Robert M. McCall was 80, had been born in Texas, and had no



occupation listed. Joyce McCall was 77, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a roomer, Frederica Siegler, a 79-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed.

#### **Norman and Beulah Rutledge (ca. 1934 – ca. 1939)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows N. Ellis and Beulah Rutledge at 1502 Fredericksburg Road, a house they owned. Ellis Rutledge was 31, had been born in Texas, and was a fireman. Beulah Rutledge was 26, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 sons: Darrell, 4; and Norman, 1.

#### **Charles G. and Vivian Puryear (ca. 1940 – ca. 1950)**

Charles G. and Vivian Puryear appear as the owners of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census. The house was worth \$1,800. Charles Puryear was 33, had been born in Texas, and was a pipefitter. Vivian Puryear was 34, had been born in Oklahoma, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

**PURYEAR, Charles G.**  
 Charles G. Puryear, 71 of 1912 Alta Vista, died Sunday, in a local hospital. Born in Hays County, he had been a resident of Austin and Travis County for the past 62 years. He was a member of Elks Lodge No. 201 for 24 years and Downtown Optimist Club for 30 years. He was the past owner of C.G. Puryear Plumbing and Heating Co. for twenty-five years.  
 He was also a member of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 286, and Masters Plumbers Association and Associated Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling Contractors of Texas. He helped to organize Mechanical Contractor's Association of Austin and Mechanical Contractors Association of Texas, which he was a member of for 25 years. In 1970 he was awarded a lifetime membership, when he retired. Mr. Puryear was a member of United States Chamber of Commerce.  
 Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Vivian Puryear of Austin; and sister, Bernice Reed, also of Austin.  
 Funeral services will be Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. from the Chapel of Wilke-Clay Funeral Home with the Reverend A.D. Eberhart officiating.



Graveside services will be under the auspices of the Elks Lodge, No. 201, in Forest Oaks Memorial Park in Oak Hill. Pallbearers will be George Anderson, Sam Anderson, Don Berry, Eddie Bostick, Johnny Reed and Jerry Berry. Honorary Pallbearers will be Dr. Robert F. Anderson, Dr. Claud A. Martin, all former employees of C.G. Puryear Plumbing and Heating Co., all members of Elks Lodge No. 201, and all members of Downtown Optimist Club.

Obituary of Charles G. Puryear  
Austin American-Statesman, February 13, 1979

Arnold and Olga Ramirez (ca. 1965 – ca. 2014)



**Arnold L. Ramirez, Sr.**  
**1928 - 2008**

Our beloved Arnold L. Ramirez, Sr., 79, resident of Austin was called by our Heavenly Father on Friday, June 27, 2008. Preceded in death by his parents, Arturo and Susie L. Ramirez.

Survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Olga (Sharp) R. Ramirez; his loving children, Mary Ann DeHoyos, Sylvia Ramirez, Arnold Ramirez, Jr., John Ramirez; six sisters, Connie Mendoza, Nora Arambula, Molly Flores, Susie Huerta, Fina Mojica, Yolanda Ramirez; three brothers, Gilbert (Flea) Ramirez, Ray Ramirez, Louie Ramirez; granddaughters, Amanda DeHoyos and Kristin Ramirez; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Recitation of Holy Rosary on Monday at 7:00 p.m., at Mission Funeral Home - Remembrance Chapel. Mass of Christian burial on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church; Rev. Fr. Francisco Villegas Muñoz, OMF Conv. officiating. Interment will follow in Assumption Cemetery.

Serving as Pallbearers, Philip and David DeHoyos, Eric, Chris, Joseph and Paul Ramirez.

Honorary Pallbearer, Arnold Ramirez, Jr.

View memorials on-line, visit [www.missionmemorials.com](http://www.missionmemorials.com)



**Obituary of Arnold Ramirez**  
**Austin American-Statesman, June 29, 2008**

#### **RAMIREZ, Olga**

Olga Ramirez, 79, of Austin, Texas, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2014. Preceded in death by, Husband Arnold Ramirez, Father John Ramirez, and Mother Carmen Ramirez. Is survived by her four children, Mary Ann DeHoyos, Arnold Ramirez Jr., Sylvia Ramirez and John Ramirez, Sisters Carmen Lopez, Virginia Ledesma and Ellen Garza.

Eight grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. The memorial mass will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church 1206 E. 9th Street Austin Tx. 78702 on April 17th, 2014 at 11:00 am.

Obituary of Olga Ramirez  
Austin American-Statesman, April 13, 2014

OWNER C. F. Puryear ADDRESS 1409 Canterbury  
PLAT 135 LOT 5 BLK. 3 DIV   
SUBDIVISION Canterbury Square  
OCCUPANCY re-roof res and re-floor front porch  
OWNERS  
BLD PERMIT # 89446 DATE 9-23-63 ESTIMATE 300.00  
CONTRACTOR Owner NO. OF FIXTURES   
WATER TAP REC #  SEWER TAP REC #

# RESIDENCE

Building permit to Charles Puryear to re-roof the house and re-floor the front porch (1963)

**DANZE & DAVIS**  
ARCHITECTS, INC.

Feb. 17, 2015

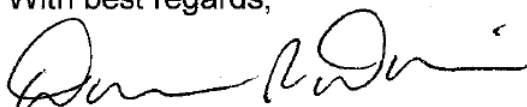
Dear Steve Sadowsky and the Historic Commission:

I have visited the house at 1409 Canterbury to determine the architectural significance of the structure. I have not reviewed the house from a cultural or purely historical point of view but from an architectural style/historical perspective. The house at 1409 Canterbury is an unremarkable example of what appears to be a typical "gable front and single wing" Folk Victorian. This particular form of the style seems to most closely resembles what is described in *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia & Lee McAlister, page 309 as "versions of this popular folk form are found throughout the country but are particularly common in the southern states."

Not only is this version of a Folk Victorian house architecturally unremarkable it has been 'renovated', or more specifically 'patched together' with inappropriate and unsuitable common materials from the 1940's or 1950's and later. The house has had asbestos shingles added to the exterior to cover the original vertical wood siding which is rotting in areas that are visible. Other low-quality, inexpensive siding types have been used to cover portions of the house as well. This house displays no significant structural or technological innovation, no unique architectural or utilitarian quality, nor does it represent a significant contribution to the development of the community. The house does not have artistic value, architectural curiosity value, or qualities of a "one of a kind" nature.

Lastly, the house has not been properly maintained, most of the trim and windows are rotting and the house is in abysmal shape structurally, actually unsafe, and uninhabitable.

With best regards,



Donovan R. Davis AIA

Dear Commissioners,

Since the last hearing, I have had the opportunity to meet with the owners of 1409 Canterbury and to tour the property inside and out.

Based on my observations, I believe the property may well be a candidate for landmark status. The house is clearly an example of a 19th century L-plan (wing and gable) Folk Victorian house with original window openings and original 2/2 double-hung wood windows (a pretty rare and exciting feature these days). The front door is clearly period - if not original, likewise the fishscale-type shingles in the gable ends and the porch roof). The porch post may indicate an even earlier date of construction, if they reflect the original design, as chamfered posts and pilasters indicate a date of possibly 1885-95. This would make the home among the oldest structures in its subdivision.

The rear addition does not detract from public view and also appears to be from the historic period. From the inside, it is clear that the addition was constructed with salvaged historic materials (i.e. longleaf ship lap).

Inside, the original floor plan is intact. From both a preservation and ecology friendly perspective, the considerable amount of viable long leaf pine in the interior (ship lap and flooring) and the bead board ceilings (which appear to be from an historic period) should be salvaged regardless of the level of structural preservation pursued.

In addition to its architectural and material merits, the property was home to a WWII hero who died in battle. **Sterling Bryant**, resident of 1409 Canterbury, was a purple heart recipient who disappeared with the rest of the 'Torchy Tess' crew in the China Sea. He is memorialized in the Oakwood cemetery as well as at Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines, Fort William McKinley. (Please see attached documentation prepared by neighborhood volunteers.)

The neighborhood would gladly assist the current owners in further researching the property's eligibility for landmark status - should they choose to pursue that level of preservation.

We are aware of the report provided by the owner's architectural firm regarding the building's structural viability. However, ECC planning team [policy](#) requires an assessment from a disinterested third party to verify viability. Based on my own observations of the building's interior, I am not convinced that the building is not structurally sound. A third party report would be required in this instance to insure that releasing the permit would not jeopardize a potential neighborhood landmark.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Amy Thompson  
Historic Preservation Chair

Re: HDP-2014-1117, 2014-130950-PR

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed demolition of [1409 Canterbury St.](#) This property, built circa 1909, reflects the history of our neighborhood. I respectfully ask the owner of this property to consider alternatives to demolition.

I am a very nearby neighbor--1403 Canterbury. We just renovated a house that was in very similar condition to the one in question. We thought it was important to keep the design in line with the neighborhood, thus, we stuck to a similar style.

I am not 100% opposed to a new structure, but rather someone putting up a cheap-looking overly large contemporary house that looks like all the new spec homes being built.

We can't stop gentrification, but my hope is to preserve the look and feel of the neighborhood so that we're not making the the people who have been there for so long feel suddenly unwelcome.

Thank you,

Christie Zangrilli  
1403 Canterbury

Dear Mr. Sadowsky and Historic Landmark Commission members:  
Re: HDP-2014-1117, 2014-130950-PR

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed demolition of 1409 Canterbury St. This property, built circa 1909, reflects the history of our neighborhood. I respectfully ask the owner of this property to consider alternatives to demolition.

As the owner of a home built in 1910, I can personally attest to the fact that even a property that is in disrepair can be saved with a little bit of time and love.

Demolition of this property is not warranted and will forever alter the historical face and tradition of our neighborhood. To quote your staff recommendation for this property: "This house, while appearing in disrepair, is a classic example of vernacular turn of the century architecture in East Austin, and every effort should be made to evaluate its potential for rehabilitation and preservation as part of the historic context of East Austin."

Sincerely,

Pamela Colloff  
1305 E. 2nd St.

please intervene and put a moratorium on this demo until more information can be obtained from the developer as to their site plan.

please note i am not alone in this sentiment and request for this action of you even if you have received only one email with this request.

this property is in my sector, sector 7, of the east cesar chavez neighborhood plan team of which i am a voting member and there is a general consensus from those i have talked to that demo of this structure - 106 yr. old now - is not warranted and will particularly alter the historical face and tradition of the street and we encourage you to not grant it.

being 'run down' is not a reason to demo a 106 yr. old house in one of austin's original inner city neighborhoods still mostly in tact - it is a reason to 'fix it up'. many houses in our neighborhood have had their footprints increased significantly without demo of the original home and this one could easily have the same done with it.

regards,  
richard roberts

1301 e. cesar chavez

Hi Richard,

I'm writing to you (and to other neighbors) personally to follow up on a post I wrote on Nextdoor (Feb. 22) regarding the pending demolition of 1409 Canterbury.

The meeting for the demolition permit is tonight:

Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m. | Room 325, One Texas Center | 505 Barton Springs Road

There's a strong possibility that the demolition permit will be approved. But if neighbors show interest, it might convince them to work with our planning team in preserving certain aspects of the home, such as the shape, scale, and re-use of materials (longleaf pine, architectural details, workmanship, cabinetry, doors, shiplap, beadboard, 2/2 double-hung wood windows, fish-scale type shingles).

Amy Thompson had the opportunity to tour the home and in her estimation "the property may well be a candidate for landmark status. The house is clearly an example of a 19th century L-plan (wing and gable) Folk Victorian house with original window openings and original 2/2 double-hung wood windows (a pretty rare and exciting feature these days). The front door is clearly period - if not original, likewise the fishscale-type shingles in the gable ends and the porch roof). The porch post may indicate an even earlier date of construction, if they reflect the original design, as chamfered posts and pilasters indicate a date of possibly 1885-95. This would make the home among the oldest structures in its subdivision.

"The rear addition does not detract from public view and also appears to be from the historic period. From the inside, it is clear that the addition was constructed with salvaged historic materials (i.e. longleaf ship lap).

"Inside, the original floor plan is intact. From both a preservation and ecology friendly perspective, the considerable amount of viable long leaf pine in the interior (ship lap and flooring) and the bead board ceilings (which appear to be from an historic period) should be salvaged regardless of the level of structural preservation pursued."

In addition to its architectural and material merits, the property was home to a WWII hero who died in battle. A recipient of the Purple Heart, Sterling C. Bryant, Jr. flew with the VPB-118 Navy Patrol Bombing Squadron, 'The Old Crows'. He was lost at sea in May 1945 and declared dead in May 1946. He's pictured with the crew of the 59383 "Navy's Torchy Tess" (top row, far right) on page 261 of the book, "Fighting Colors: The Creation of Military Aircraft Nose Art". His crew is also featured in the book: "VPB 118 The History of Navy Bombing Squadron 118".

If you'd like to voice concern for this property, please send an email to Steve Sadowsky (Historic Preservation Officer) and members of the Historic Commission:

[steve.sadowsky@austintexas.gov](mailto:steve.sadowsky@austintexas.gov)

[Laurie.Limbacher@austintexas.gov](mailto:Laurie.Limbacher@austintexas.gov)

[Mary.Galindo@austintexas.gov](mailto:Mary.Galindo@austintexas.gov)

[Andrea.Roberts@austintexas.gov](mailto:Andrea.Roberts@austintexas.gov)

[Leslie.Wolfenden-Guidry@austintexas.gov](mailto:Leslie.Wolfenden-Guidry@austintexas.gov)

[terrimyers@preservationcentral.com](mailto:terrimyers@preservationcentral.com)

A very short and simple sample letter follows:

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Dear Mr. Sadowsky and Historic Landmark Commission members:  
Re: HDP-2014-1117, 2014-130950-PR

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed demolition of 1409 Canterbury St. This property, built circa 1909, reflects the history of our neighborhood. I respectfully ask the owner of this property to consider alternatives to demolition.

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Here's information from the historic review (<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=224786>), if you'd like to add more to your email.

**ARCHITECTURE** One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a partial-width shed-roofed porch on plain, square wood posts; single 2:2 fenestration; fish-scale imbrication in the tympanum of the projecting front gable; synthetic siding.

**STAFF COMMENTS** The house is listed in the East Austin Historic Survey (1980), indicating its significance.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION** Either postpone to February 23, 2015 or initiate a historic zoning case to enable the applicant to consider alternatives to demolition. This house, while appearing in disrepair, is a classic example of vernacular turn of the century architecture in East Austin, and every effort should be made to evaluate its potential for rehabilitation and preservation as part of the historic context of East Austin.

Please forward this email to anyone in the neighborhood who might be interested. If you have any questions, please email me. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
JoAnn Estrada Artot  
1503 Canterbury St.

Dear Mr. Sadowsky and Historic Landmark Commission members:  
Re: HDP-2014-1117, 2014-130950-PR

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed demolition of [1409 Canterbury St.](#) This property, built circa 1909, reflects the history of our neighborhood. I respectfully ask the owner of this property to consider alternatives to demolition.

Historically in Central Austin the last four years, demo-ing means maxing the lot for homes and square footage for developers to maximize profits and be damned the visual chaos they create often, when the lot size allows, and it could here, and there will be 2 possible contemporary homes not looking at all like the neighborhood, and these type of contemporary cheaply built structures are not a solution or desireable in the middle of such an intact block- please consider site plan before you allow this structure to be completely demo-ed - the new owner was aware of the possible conflict this would cause amongst the neighbors interesting in historic and visual preservation vs maximization in our small community south of Cesar Chavez.

Amy Thompson had the opportunity to tour the home and in her estimation "the property may well be a candidate for landmark status. The house is clearly an example of a 19th century L-plan (wing and gable) Folk Victorian house with original window openings and original 2/2 double-hung wood windows (a pretty rare and exciting feature these days). The front door is clearly period - if not original, likewise the fishscale-type shingles in the gable ends and the porch roof). The porch post may indicate an even earlier date of construction, if they reflect the original design, as chamfered posts and pilasters indicate a date of possibly 1885-95. This would make the home among the oldest structures in its subdivision.

The home appears to be from the historic period. From the inside, it is clear that the addition was constructed with salvaged historic materials (i.e. longleaf ship lap).

Inside, the original floor plan is intact. From both a preservation and ecology friendly perspective, the considerable amount of viable long leaf pine in the interior (ship lap and

flooring) and the bead board ceilings (which appear to be from an historic period) should be salvaged regardless of the level of structural preservation pursued.

Please intervene and put a moratorium on this demo until more information can be obtained from the developer as to their site plan. - or have them sell the structure and move it offsite and have an enforceable substantial time frame to execute this maneuver for the buyer – whatever they're planning to build will take time to get permitted.

Run down is not a reason to demo a 106 yr. old house in one of austin's original inner city neighborhoods still mostly in tact - it is a reason to 'fix it up' so walking around the neighborhood doesn't feel crazy with development that doesn't fit the visual landscape. Many houses in our neighborhood have had their footprints increased significantly without demo of the original home and this one could easily have the same done with it

The meeting for the demolition permit is [tonight](#):  
[Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m.](#) | Room 325, One Texas Center | [505 Barton Springs Road](#)

**ARCHITECTURE** One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a partial-width shed-roofed porch on plain, square wood posts; single 2:2 fenestration; fish-scale imbrication in the tympanum of the projecting front gable; synthetic siding.

**STAFF COMMENTS** The house is listed in the East Austin Historic Survey (1980), indicating its significance.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION** Either postpone to February 23, 2015 or initiate a historic zoning case to enable the applicant to consider alternatives to demolition. This house, while appearing in disrepair, is a classic example of vernacular turn of the century architecture in East Austin, and every effort should be made to evaluate its potential for rehabilitation and preservation as part of the historic context of East Austin

Sincerely,  
 A resident/neighbor on Navasota

Tina Pumilia Hindsite 20/20

Mr. Sadowsky, thank you for including this in your packet regarding the proposed demolition of 1409 Canterbury (HDP-2014-1117 on tonight's agenda) in East Austin. My name is Alberto Martinez, I am a member of the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning team.

I have been contacted by a number of residents in area who are opposed to this demolition and on their behalf and mine I would like to register our opposition to this demolition because of the historic significance of the house and because of the loss it would mean to East Austin and the city as a whole.

There are far too many of our old structures being torn down, many of which seem repairable. An excellent example is the house at the corner of Canterbury and Chalmers streets, where the new owners have taken great steps to bring the house back into functioning, liveable and beautiful condition.

Each time we lose one of these old homes, a bit more of our heritage is gone and is replaced with structures that are too large and completely contradictory to the neighborhood plan adopted by the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team. More often than not, they are replaced with two hulking structures that barely fit on the lot, but make the most money for the developer.

As has been painfully illustrated by the destruction of the piñata shop on East Cesar Chavez, this neighborhood is under intense pressure from developers, many of whom know, or care little about the impact they have on the quality of life of the residents.

I implore the Landmark Commission to take a stand that assures every effort is made to retain the house at 1409 Canterbury and its rightful place in the history of our neighborhood and our city.

Thank you so much for your time and your efforts.

-Alberto Martinez

**Sterling Bryant**, resident of 1409 Canterbury, was a World War II hero and purple heart recipient who disappeared with the rest of the 'Torchy Tess' crew in the China Sea. He is memorialized in the Oakwood cemetery as well as at Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines, Fort William McKinley.

He's pictured (below) with the crew of the 59383 "Navy's Torchy Tess" (top row, far right) on page 261 of the book, "Fighting Colors: The Creation of Military Aircraft Nose Art". Caption: This crew was lost on May 6, 1945 after the other plane in its patrol (Crew 10) returned to base with heavy damage. The Lasater (pilot James Allan "Tex" Lasater") crew flew on alone, and after minor radio contact was never seen or heard from again. This story, including Bryant's participation, is chronicled in *VPB-118, The History of Navy Patrol Bombing Squadron 118, 'The Old Crows'*.

Sterlin C. Bryant Jr.  
Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class,  
U.S. Navy United States Naval Reserve  
Entered the Service From: Texas  
Service #: 5763263  
Date of Death: May 07, 1946  
Wars or Conflicts: World War II  
Memorialized: Tablets of the Missing  
Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines, Fort William McKinley  
Awards: Purple Heart



Crew 3 in front of BuNo 59383, with Torchy Tess nose art; U.S. Navy Photo (Courtesy James Pettit)

PPC Lt. J. A. "Tex" Lasater Crew 3 of VPB-118 consisted of: (Back L-R) Ewell W. Smith AMM2c (plane captain), Ens. Kenneth W. Gibson (co-pilot), Lt. J.A. "Tex" Lasater (PPC), Lt. (jg) Clarence J. Milner (co-pilot), Charles W. Jacobs AMM3c (3rd mechanic), Sterlin C. Bryant, Jr. AMMF3c (4th mechanic) (Front L-R) Harry F. Brockhorst ARM3c (2nd radio), Robert E. Miller AOM2c (bombardier), Arden M. Ardaiz AOM3c (ordnanceman), Robert A. Carr AMMF3c (2nd mechanic), Davis McCallister ARM2c (1st radio), William J. Hawkins ARM3c (3rd radio); (not in photo: Willis L. Thornton, Jr. AOM3c (ordnanceman/gunner), who came over from the Binning crew)

The 1925 birth certificate (see attached) of Sterling C. Bryant, Jr. lists his residence as 1409 Canterbury. Sterling was 5 years old when the 1930 census was done at 1409 Canterbury.

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

21725 B.O.V.S. FORM B  
19231

PLACE OF BIRTH  
(1) County Tarrant  
City Austin  
(No. 1409 Canterbury St. 7th Ward)

(2) FULL NAME OF CHILD Sterling Calvin Bryant Jr (If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed)

(3) Sex of Child Male (4) Twin, triplet, or other X (5) Number in order of birth 1 (12) Legitimate yes (13) Date of Birth Mar 23 1925 (Month) (Day) (Year)

FATHER (6) FULL NAME Sterling Calvin Bryant (7) RESIDENCE Austin Texas 1409 Canterbury St. (8) COLOR White AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 30 (Years)

MOTHER (14) FULL MAIDEN NAME Fronia May Wells (15) RESIDENCE Austin Texas (16) COLOR White AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 24 yrs (Years)

(9) BIRTHPLACE Driftwood Texas (17) BIRTHPLACE Longview Texas (18) OCCUPATION Carpenter (18) OCCUPATION Housewife

(11) Number of children born to this mother, including present birth 1 Number of children of this mother now living 1

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE\*

(19) I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive stillborn at 10 15 P M. on the date above stated.

(Signature) George M. Dechard (Physician or Midwife)  
Address Austin Texas  
Given name added from a supplemental report 192  
report 192  
Registrar.

Form 52b-7-23-1023 50m.

## References:

[http://www.abmc.gov/search-abmc-burials-and-memorializations/detail/WWII\\_98571#.VP2givnF98E](http://www.abmc.gov/search-abmc-burials-and-memorializations/detail/WWII_98571#.VP2givnF98E)

<http://www.vpb-118.com/Lasater.php>

[http://austin.bibliocommons.com/item/show/885043067\\_fighting\\_colors](http://austin.bibliocommons.com/item/show/885043067_fighting_colors)

The United States Naval Reserve's records spell his first name with the "g": "Sterlin C Bryant Jr". He was Aviation Machinists Mate 2nd Class, Missing in Action (Lost at Sea) off the China coast while serving in the Navy, June 1945. He was officially declared dead in June 1946.

Newspaper article titled "Navy Lists Death"

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph283293/m1/4/zoom/>  
<http://goldstarfamilyregistry.com/heroes/sterlin-calvin-bryant>

Sterling's gravesite at Oakwood cemetery, Austin:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=qr&GRid=88389613&ref=acom>  
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=26212640&Plpi=93677365>

*VPB-118, The History of Navy Patrol Bombing Squadron 118, 'The Old Crows'*

[http://www.amazon.com/VPB-History-Navy-Bombing-Squadron/dp/B001IW9OOM/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1425915351&sr=8-1&keywords=History+of+Navy+Bombing+Squadron+118](http://www.amazon.com/VPB-History-Navy-Bombing-Squadron/dp/B001IW9OOM/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1425915351&sr=8-1&keywords=History+of+Navy+Bombing+Squadron+118)

[http://www.vpnavy.com/vp118\\_notice.html](http://www.vpnavy.com/vp118_notice.html)