

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
APRIL 27, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2015-0232  
2101 E. 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1937 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled, frame house with board-and-batten siding, and a central, partial-width, front-gabled independent porch on plain, square wood posts; 1:1 fenestration.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1937 and was a rental unit. The first tenants were Horace and Emma Walker, who lived here until around 1941. Horace Walker worked as a porter for several filling stations. Bertha Parnell, a maid, is listed as the renter of the house through the late 1940s. From the late 1940s through the mid-1950s, James and Maude Miles are listed as the owners of the house; he was a vulcanizer for Willie Kocurek and later went to work for Austin Goodyear. The house had a series of short-term owners through the late 1950s, was vacant in the early 1960s, then owned by Tommie and Ruby Smith in the late 1960s. He was a janitor at the State Department of Health. Through the 1970s, the house was vacant. The only entry in city directories from 1973 through 1992 was for George Simmons, a retired man, who rented the house in the mid-1980s. Otherwise, the house was vacant.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is not included in the Chestnut Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey (2001) or in any other City survey.

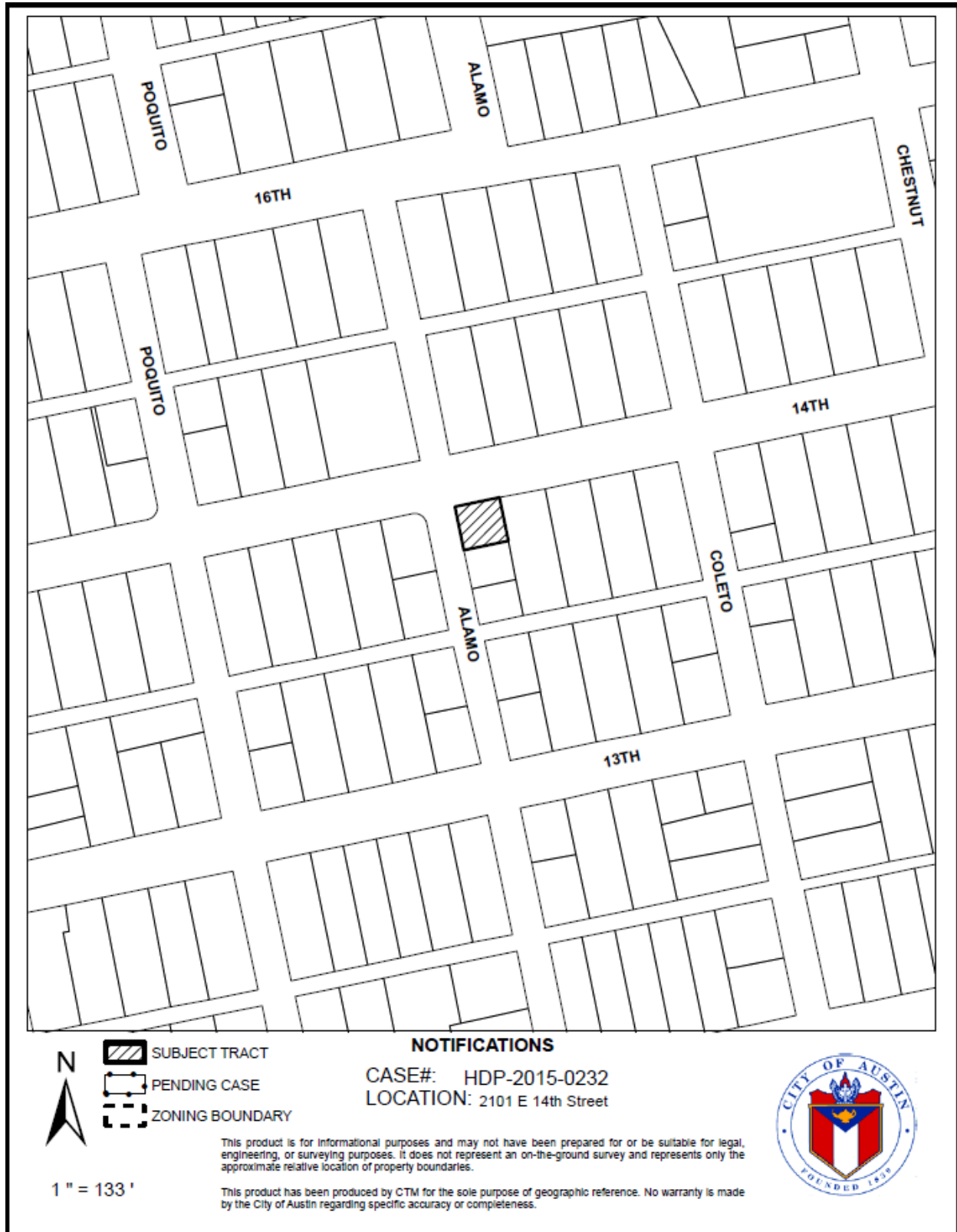
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use over demolition, or postpone to May 18, 2015 to better evaluate alternatives to demolition. This is a very small house, but it has a classic style and is integral to the preservation of the character of the Chestnut neighborhood. If the Commission votes to release the permit, staff recommends 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 prior to release of the permit.

## LOCATION MAP



2101 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
ca. 1937



### OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2101 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	George Simmons, renter Retired NOTE: The directory indicates that George Simmons was a new resident at this address.
1981	No return
1977	Vacant
1973	Vacant
1968	Tommie L. and Ruby M. Smith, owners Janitor, State Department of Health
1962	Vacant
1959	Robert and Pauline McCraddock, owners Cook, University of Texas

- 1955 Jimmy Myers, owner  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: James and Maude E. Miles are listed at 1220 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. He was an attendant at Miller-McLean Tire Service, 307 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1952 James and Maude Miles, owners  
Serviceman, Austin Goodyear, tires, 101 Congress Avenue.
- 1949 James and Maude Miles, owners  
Vulcanizer, Willie Kocurek, tires, service station, and appliances, 307 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 1818 San Jacinto Boulevard.
- 1947 Bertha M. Parnell, renter  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: James and Maude Miles are not listed in the directory.
- 1944-45 Bertha M. Parnell, renter  
Maid, T.H. Williams and Company, ladies' department store, 500-02 Congress Avenue.
- 1942 Bertha M. Parnell, renter  
Maid  
NOTE: Horace and Emma Walker are listed at 2906 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a laborer.
- 1941 Horace and Emma Walker, renters  
Porter, Willis Armstrong Service Station, 410 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1939 Horace and Emma Walker, renters  
Porter, Corley & Berry Service Station, 1701 Lavaca Street.
- 1937 Horace and Emma Walker, renters  
Porter, Corley & Berry Service Station, 1701 Lavaca Street.
- 1935 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Horace Walker (no wife listed) lived at 1700 Coletto Street. He was a tire changer for Hicks Rubber Company, 325-27 Congress Avenue.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### Horace and Emma Walker (ca. 1937 – ca. 1941)

Horace and Emma Walker appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of this house. Horace Walker was 24, had been born in Texas, and was a porter at a filling station. Emma Walker was 26, had been born in Texas, and was a cook in a private home. They had no children listed with them.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Horace Walker as the 14-year old nephew of Thomas Francis, who owned his house in Precinct 3 of Travis County. Horace Walker was a student in the junior high school. His uncle, Thomas Francis, was a roofer. Horace's older sister, Rose, also lived in the household. She was a student at Anderson High School.

### Bertha Parnell (ca. 1941 – ca. 1948)

There is a listing for a Bertha Parnell in the 1940 U.S. Census of Paris, Texas, but it is not clear if this Bertha Parnell is the same person who lived in this house in the mid-1940s. The Bertha

Parnell listed in the census report was a 45-year old African-American woman who rented her home in Paris; she had been born in Texas, and worked as a cook and a maid for a private family. She had a daughter, Johnnie Smith, who was 32, and worked as a housemaid for a private family.

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

## PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE

AUSTIN, TEXAS

No. 5051 39

Mrs. W. E. Franklin Address 2101 E 14th

Plumber Harper + Lusscomb Size of Tap 1/2 Date 1-19-37

Renewed 1 serv. on E-22 220

Date of Connection 1/22/37

Size of Tap Made 3/4

Size Service Made 3/4

Size Main Tapped 4"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 11'

From V. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 46'

Location of Meter AT-CURB

Type of Box LOCK

Depth of Main in St. 20"

Depth of Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 9'

Checked by Engr. Dept. J.D. 2-13-37

**INDEXED**

Foreman's Report	
No. Fittings	Size
1 Curb Cock	3/4"
1 Elbow	3/4"
1 Bushing	3/4" x 1/2"
1 Reducer	2" x 1 1/2"
2" Pipe	34'
Lead Conn.	3/4" x 3/4"
1 Nipples	3/4" x 3/4"
Union	
Plug	
Tee	
1 Stop	Flex-A-N-Con
1 Box	LOCK
1 Lid	
Valves	
Req. No.	1733

Foreman's Signature BENSON

Water service permit to Mrs. W.E. Franklin for this address (1937)