

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**APRIL 27, 2015**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2015-0291**  
**2007 E. 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1910 house.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, hipped-roof, frame house with board and batten siding, a partial-width inset porch on plain, square wood posts, and a variety of windows in single and double configurations, including what is likely the original 4:4 windows on the side of the house, and a pair of 6:6 windows on the front.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1910, and appears on the 1922 Sanborn map with its current configuration. The first known occupants were Tobe and Jessie Bryant. At the time they moved into this house, Tobe Bryant was the assistant manager of a family business, Bryant and Franklin, furniture movers, which was located at 2001 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. He soon thereafter became a blacksmith, and by the mid-1910s, he and his brother Lee had Bryant Brothers, a blacksmith shop, at 302 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1918, according to his World War I draft registration card, he was a self-employed blacksmith. However, the 1920 city directory shows him working for the Tips Foundry and Machine Company, a fact that is confirmed by the 1920 U.S. Census report. He had been married to a woman named Jessie when he built this house, but by 1930, according to city directories and the census report, his wife's name was Rhoda. Tobe Bryant was listed as a stone mason in the 1930 U.S. Census, but city directories do not list his occupation for that time period. He and Rhoda moved out of this house around 1935, and by 1940, the house was a rental property. One of Tobe Bryant's sons, Eules (listed as Urless in the census report) was among the renters of the house in the early 1940s, and the large family of James and Bessie Washington are listed at 2007½ E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street – but it is not clear whether this was a separate structure, or an apartment within the house itself. In the mid-1940s, the house was the home of an African-American social club, the Lone Eagle Club, while it also had apartments that were rented. The house has remained a rental unit since the ownership of Tobe Bryant.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

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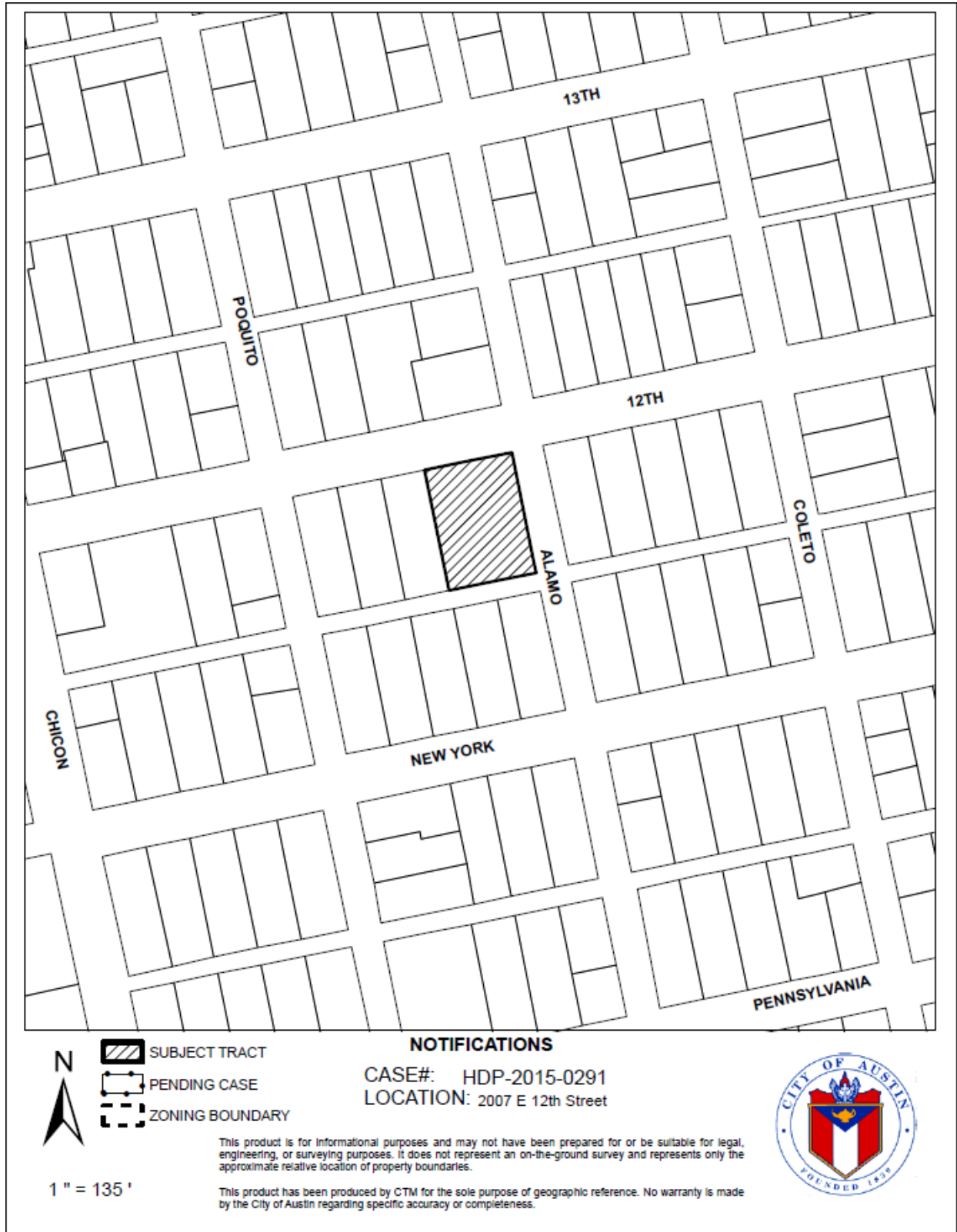
The house is listed with a high priority for preservation in the Historic Resources Survey of East Austin (2000).

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Postpone to May 18, 2015 to further consider alternatives to demolition. This house is remarkably intact, and has a significant history as the early home of an African-American entrepreneur, Tobe Bryant, who was involved in a family furniture moving business, as well as a family blacksmith business in the 1910s. This house is also on a large piece of property, although a large portion of it is a swale, and could serve as a centerpiece for a proposed development on the site. However, careful consideration needs to be made of the context of this house – this section of E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street was a center of the African-American community in Austin for many years – a house just down the street to the east was the home of a prominent religious leader in Austin, and it was in that house that a large African-American Baptist congregation was formed in the 1920s.

## LOCATION MAP





2007 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
ca. 1910







## OCCUPANCY HISTORY

### 2007 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Willis Washington, renter Service station attendant
1981	Rachel L. Morgan, renter Retired
1977	Rachel L. Morgan, renter No occupation listed
1973	Dorothy Basperd, renter Employed at Villa Capri Motor Lodge, 2400 N. Interregional Highway.
1968	Vacant
1962	A: George Coleman, Jr., renter No occupation listed B: Sterling Maxwell, renter No occupation listed ½: Emma Finex, renter No occupation listed
1959	A: Vacant B: Matilda McBrier, renter Waitress, Raven Club, beer, 2148 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street. ½: Vacant
1955	Vacant B: Leroy and Gladys Foster, renters Busboy, Tarrytown Restaurant, 2425 Exposition Boulevard. ½: King Lee, renter No occupation listed  Roosevelt and Emma L. Sparks, renters Employed by Willie Kocurek, household appliances and service station, 1818-22 San Jacinto Boulevard.
1952	Aurelia Shaw, renter Helper, Tarrytown Restaurant, 2425 Exposition Boulevard. Rear: Willie F. Johnson, renter No occupation listed ½: King Lee, renter Porter  Lula B. Washington, renter No occupation listed

1949	<p>Aurelia Shaw, renter Maid Rear: Willie F. Johnson, renter No occupation listed ½: King Lee, renter Porter</p> <p>Bessie Washington, renter No occupation listed</p>
1947	<p>Lucy Dobbins, renter No occupation listed</p> <p>Lone Eagle Club Maurice Hodge, Jr., secretary ½:: I.C. and Gold Mae Darby, renters No occupation listed</p> <p>James Washington, renter No occupation listed</p>
1944-45	<p>Lone Eagle Club Monroe Hodge, secretary ½: James and Bessie Washington, renters Yardman</p>
1941	<p>Walter S. Mitchell, renter Waiter ½: Euless and M. Helen Bryant, renters No occupation listed</p> <p>James and Bessie Washington, renters No occupation listed</p>
1939	<p>Walter Mitchell, renter Waiter, Driskill Hotel Coffee Shop, 6<sup>th</sup> and Brazos Streets.</p>
1937	<p>Lee and Emeline Gregg, renters No occupation listed</p>
1935	<p>Tobe S. and Rhoda Bryant, owners No occupation listed</p>
1932-33	<p>Tobe S. and Rhoda Bryant, owners No occupation listed</p>
1930-31	<p>Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant (colored), owners No occupation listed</p>
1929	<p>Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant (colored), owners No occupation listed</p>
1927	<p>Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant (colored), owners</p>

## Laborer

1924	Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant (colored), owners No occupation listed
1922	Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant (colored), owners No occupation listed
1920	Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant (colored), owners Laborer, Tips Foundry and Machine Company, 300 Crockett Street.
1918	Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant (colored), owners Proprietor (with Lee Bryant), Bryant Brothers, blacksmiths, 302 W. 14 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1916	Tobe S. Bryant (colored) Proprietor (with Lee Bryant), Bryant Brothers, blacksmiths, 300 W. 14 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1914	Tobe S. Bryant (colored) Laborer
1912-13	Tobe S. Bryant (colored) No occupation listed
1910-11	Tobe S. Bryant (colored) Blacksmith, 1193 Poquito Street.
1909-10	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Tobe S. Bryant is listed at 2001 E. 12 <sup>th</sup> Street. He was the assistant manager of Bryant and Franklin (Pleasant Bryant, manager), furniture movers, 2001 E. 12 <sup>th</sup> Street.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES****Tobe S. and Jessie Bryant; Tobe S. and Rhoda Bryant (ca. 1910 – ca. 1935)**

According to his 1918 World War I draft registration card, Tobe Bryant was 44 years old, and lived at 2007 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. He was a self-employed blacksmith with his shop at 302 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Jessie Bryant is listed as his wife.

Tobe and Jessie Bryant appear as the owners of this house in the 1920 U.S. Census. Tobe Bryant was 48, had been born in Texas, and was a mechanic at a foundry. Jessie Bryant was 42, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Tobe and Rhoda Bryant as the owners of this house, which was worth \$1,600. Tobe Bryant was 54, and worked as a stone mason. Rhoda Bryant was 57, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed.

There is a Tobe Bryant listed in the 1900 U.S. Census for Taylor, Texas, whose age is the same as the Tobe Bryant who eventually lived in this house. He was a day laborer on a farm. He had a wife named Georgia, and 4 children.

There is no death record for Tobe Bryant, Jessie Bryant, or Rhoda Bryant, and none of them were buried in a city cemetery. At the time of their probable deaths, the Austin newspapers did not publish obituaries of African-American citizens.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Robert Hearne, Walter Mitchell, and Frank Phillips as the renters of this house, with Urless Bryant and his family renting 2007½ E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Robert Hearne was 32, had been born in Texas, and was a porter for a state department. Walter Mitchell was 30, had been born in Texas, and was a waiter in a hotel. Frank Phillips was 29, had been born in Texas, and was a porter for a dormitory. Urless Bryant was 26, had been born in Texas, and was a cook in a dormitory. His wife, Mary was 30, had been born in Texas, and was a maid in a private home. With them lived Urless' sister, Ethel, 31, also a maid in a private home. Also at 2007½ E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street was the large family of James and Bessie Washington. James Washington was 49, had been born in Texas, and was a construction laborer. Bessie Washington was 46, had been born in Texas, and was a cook for a private family. They had 7 children: Bernice, 22, a maid for a private family; Mattie, 17; Lula, 15; Merron, 13; Viola, 11; Valley, 9; and Frank, 8. There was also a grandson in the home, Bobby Fowler, 1.