

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**  
**JUNE 22, 2015**  
**NRD-2015-0049**  
**1705 W 29<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Old West Austin NRD**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish the existing circa 1939 contributing structure.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, irregular-plan, hipped-roof brick house with detached garage in the rear of the lot. It is considered a Styled Ranch form characterized by a hipped roof, shutters, and slightly recessed front entry. Single horizontal pain metal windows.

**PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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Demolish the existing building.

**HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY**

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The property was built around 1939 to 1940. The house remained vacant for its first year but by 1942 Albert and Mildred Cook owned and lived in the property. Albert was a hydraulic engineer for the State Board of Water Engineers. After he passed in 1951, Mildred started working first as a clerk and then as a librarian. Mildred sold the house to the Balkes who owned the house until the mid to late 1980s. Chester was a photographer who worked for various companies.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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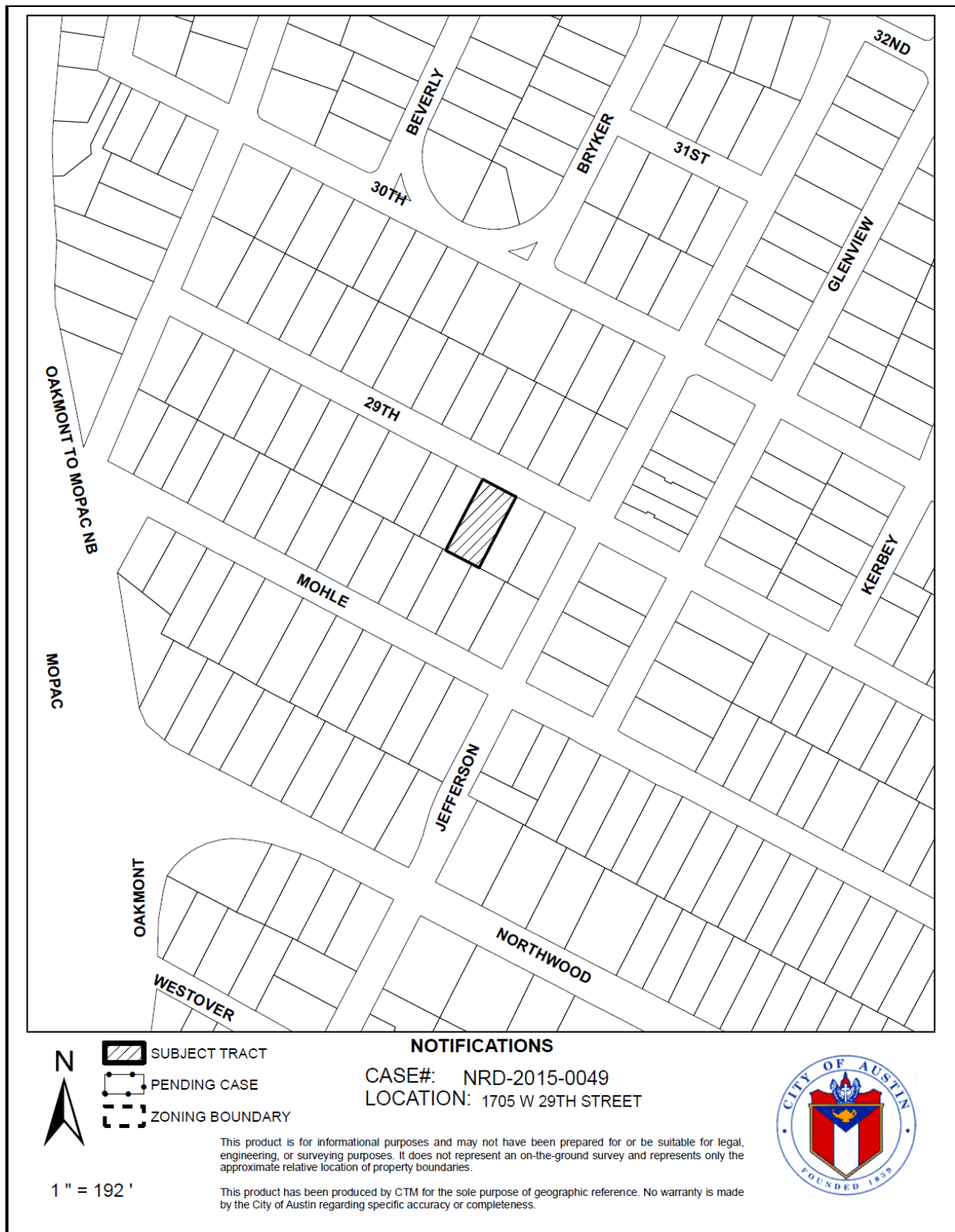
The house is listed as contributing to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Release the permit upon the Commission's review of the plans for new construction complete a City of Austin Documentation Package prior to release of the demolition permit. The house has neither the architectural nor the historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

## LOCATION MAP



1705 W 29th Street  
Circa 1939



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1705 W 29th Street

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

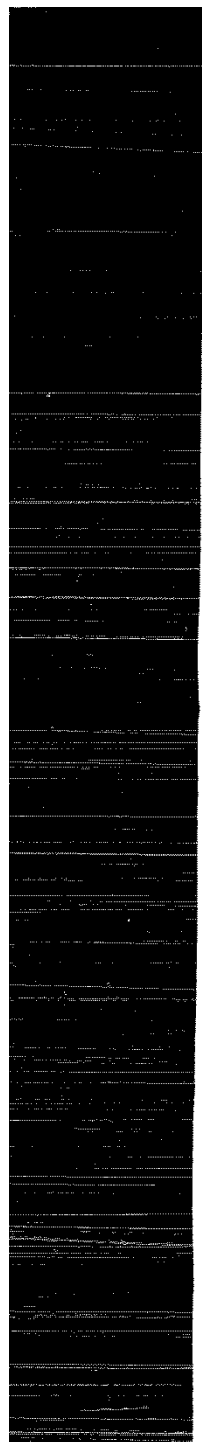
1992	Clifford Frohlich, owner Senior Research Scientist at UT
1985-86	Chester and Rena Balke, owner Retired
1981	Chester and Rena Balke, owner Retired
1977	Chester and Rena Balke, owner Photographer at Geyhound Photography
1973	Chester and Rena Balke, owner Photographer at Geyhound Photography
1968	Chester and Rena Balke, owner Photographer at Geyhound Photography
1962	Chester and Rena Balke, owner Routeman Duffy's Photo Services

1959	Chester and Rena Balke, owner Balke's Photo Laboratory at 207 W 19 <sup>th</sup> Street
1955	Mildred Cook (widow), owner Assistant Librarian at Austin Public Library
1952	Mildred Cook (widow), owner Clerk
1949	Albert and Mildred Cook, owner Hydraulic engineer at the State Board of Water Engineers
1947	Albert and Mildred Cook, owner Hydraulic engineer at the State Board of Water Engineers
1944-45	Albert and Mildred Cook, owner Hydraulic engineer at the State Board of Water Engineers
1942	Albert and Mildred Cook, owner Hydraulic engineer at the State Board of Water Engineers
1940	Not Listed

## Biographical Information

### Chester Blake Obituary

May 5, 1991 Austin American Statesman



can, Austin, Mary Moreno, Round Rock, Texas, Carol Ramsel, Dallas, Texas, Julia A. Guardiola, Austin; brother, Andrew Alvarez, Austin; his faithful companion, Boots; 16 nieces and nephews; and 17 great nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers are G. Rene Guardiola, William Duncan, Mark Howard, Michael Howard, Robert Moreno and Andrew Alvarez.

Arrangements entrusted to Mission Funeral Home, 1615 E. 1st, 476-4355.

#### Chester Balke

Chester Balke, age 92, of Midland died Saturday.

He was formerly a longtime Austin resident, where he was a member of Hyde Park Christian Church for over 50 years.

For many years he owned and operated the Balke Photo Studio and was later affiliated with the Greyhound Photo Company of Houston.

Survivors include his wife, Rena Lee Balke of Midland; two daughters and sons-in-law; Jo Ann and John D. Johnson of Midland, and Renean and Jessie Cowan of Devine, Texas; three grandchildren, Sheryl Beesley, Karen Livesay and Casey Cowan; two great-grandchildren, Garrick Livesay and Dee Ann Wiedel; brother, Presley Balke of Austin; three sisters, Lena Wenkel of Round Rock, Andanilla Gruetzner of Elgin, Mary Lee Tucker of Round Rock; and an number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2:00 PM, at the Weed-Corley Chapel. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery Annex.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar. 452-8811.

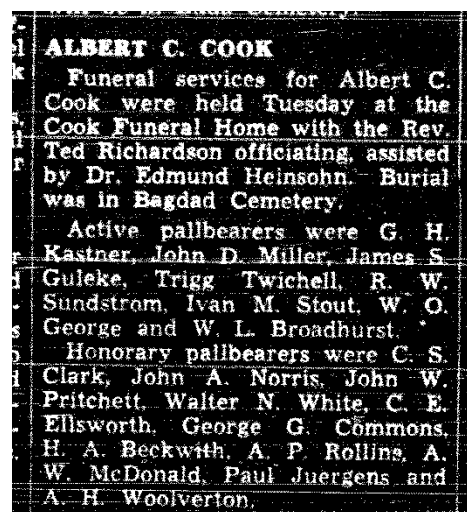


**Rena Lee Balke** was born February 11, 1906, in Manor, Texas. She attended school in Austin, graduating from high school here. Mrs. **Balke** then attended the University of Texas. She married Chester **Balke** on November 28, 1934, in Austin. He preceded her in death in 1991. She was a member of the Memorial Christian Church. Mrs. **Balke** died at a local hospital Friday, December 31, 1999. She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, JoAnn and John D. Johnson of Midland, and Renean and Jessie Cowan of Devine, Texas; her sister-

inlaw, Mary Lee Tucker; three grandchildren, Deeann Wiedel, Garrick Livesay, and Branson Livesay; and one niece. Visitation will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Sunday, January 2, 2000, at Ellis Funeral Home in Midland, Texas. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM, Monday, January 3, 2000, in Memorial Christian Church with Reverend Clark Ford officiating. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM, Tuesday in Oakwood Cemetery Annex in Austin. Ellis Funeral Home in Midland, 915-683-5555, is handling the arrangements. The family requests memorials be directed to Memorial Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, 1001 Andrews Highway, Midland, Texas 79701; or Buffalo Trail Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America, 1101 West Texas, Midland, Texas 79701.

Albert Cook

February 28, 1951 Austin American



Mildred Cook

April 1, 1996 Austin American Statesman

