

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JUNE 22, 2015
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2015-0403
1605 HETHER STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1937 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a central, front-gabled overdoor hood with an open tympanum with ornamental pickets, and supported by triangular knee braces; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1937 by Othello and Ara M. Routon, who lived here until around 1960. Othello Routon was a mechanic for Austin Transit, the predecessor to Capital Metro. The house appears to have been a rental unit since that time.

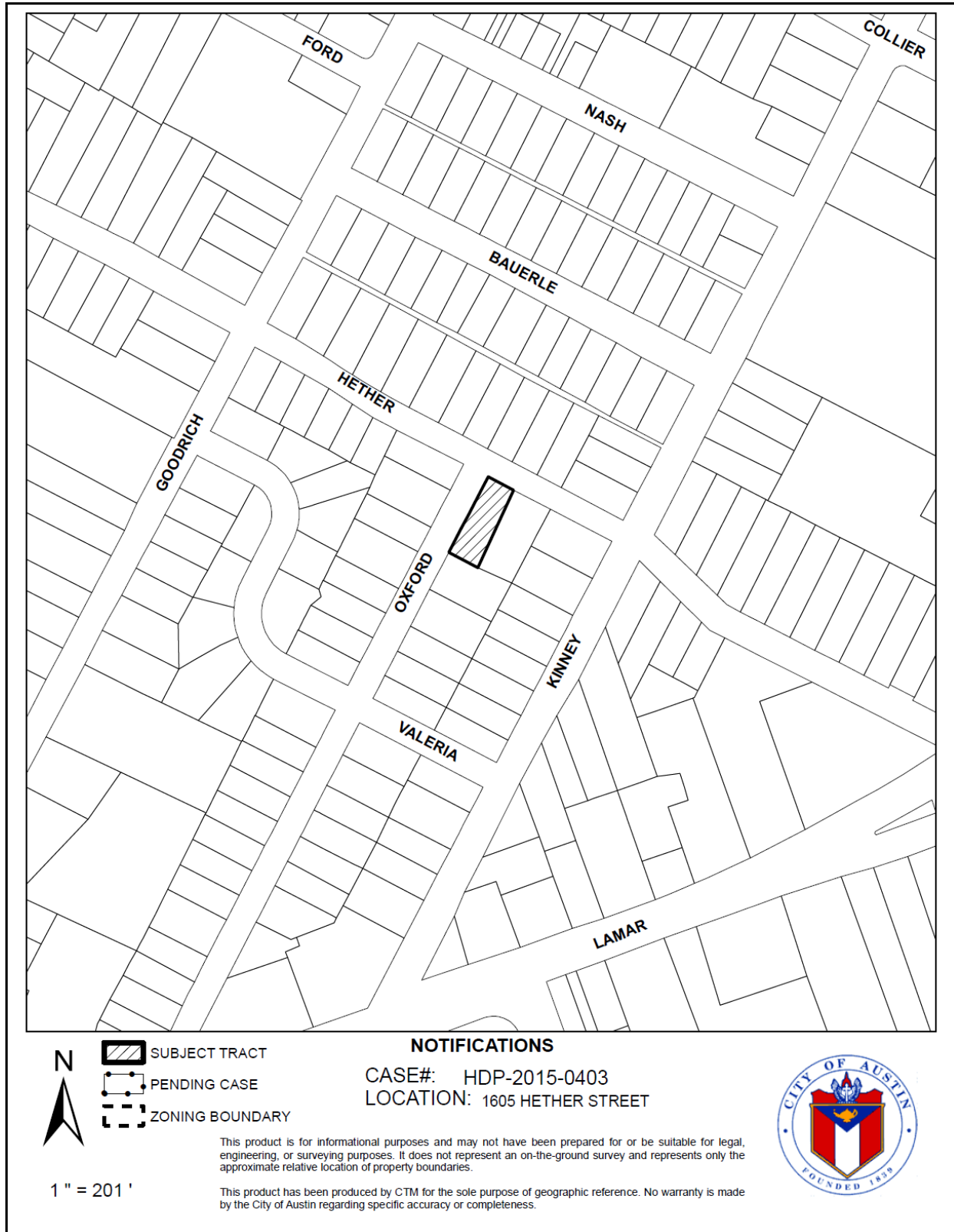
STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use if feasible, or postpone to the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Commission to fully evaluate alternatives to demolition. While the house does not have the requisite architectural or historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark, it is a remarkably well-preserved example of a 1930s cottage that is representative of the architecture and social history of the neighborhood, and every consideration should be given to preserving this house rather than demolishing it. If the Commission votes to release the permit, then staff recommends the 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



1605 Hether Street
ca. 1937



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1605 Hether Street

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

1992	George Swisher, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that George Swisher was a new resident at this address.
1985-86	No return
1981	No return
1977	No return
1973	Kaywin F. and Linda Carter, owners Teacher, public schools
1968	Raymond L. and Alice C. Cannon, renters Printer
1962	Vacant
1959	Othelo C. and Ara M. Routon, owners Mechanic, Austin Transit Company

1955	Othelo C. and Erie Routon, owners Mechanic, Austin Transit Company
1952	Othelo C. and Ara M. Routon, owners Mechanic, Austin Transit Company
1949	Othelo C. and Ara M. Routon, owners Mechanic, Austin Transit Company
1947	Othelo C. and Ara M. Routon, owners Mechanic, Austin Transit Company
1944-45	Othelo C. and Ara M. Routon, owners Mechanic, Austin Transit Company
1941	Othelo C. and Ara M. Routon, owners Mechanic, Austin Transit Company
1939	Othelo C. and Ara M. Routon, owners Mechanic Also listed are Cullen M. and Lenora Routon; he was an auto mechanic.
1937	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Othello and Ara Routon are listed at 412 Pressler Street; he was a repairman for the Austin Street Railway Company. At the same address lived Cullen M. Routon, a mechanic for the Austin Street Railway Company; Morrison Routon, no occupation shown; and Wendell Routon, a soda dispenser for Eldridge Moore Drug Store No. 2, 1300 Congress Avenue.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**Othelo and Ara M. Routon (ca. 1938 – ca. 1960)**

O.C. and Ara Routon appear as the owners of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census. The house was worth \$2,000. O.C. Routon was 35, had been born in Texas, and was a mechanic for the city bus company. Ara Routon was 39, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Alma, 8.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows O.C. and Ara Routon renting a duplex at 2203 Willow Street. O.C. Routon was a clerk in a grocery store; Ara Routon was a laundress.

O.C. Routon

O.C. Routon, age 82, died September 12, 1987.

He was an Austin resident for 55 years.

Survivors include wife, Ara M. Routon; daughter, Alma Sullivan; granddaughter, Vickie Denney; sister, Vern Roe.

Graveside services will be held Monday, September 14, 1987 at 3:00 PM at Forest Oaks Memorial Park, with Pastor T.J. Thomas officiating.

Arrangements entrusted to Forest Oaks Funeral Home, 6300 W. William Cannon Drive at Hwy 290 West, Austin. 892-1172.

Obituary of Othello Routon
Austin American-Statesman, September 13, 1987

Ara Routon

Ara Routon, age 91, of Austin died Monday, November 30, 1992.

Mrs. Routon is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Jack and Alma Sullivan of Austin; granddaughter, Vickie Denney and husband, Patrick, of Selah, Washington; and great-granddaughter, Laura Denney of Selah, Washington.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 PM Thursday, December 3, 1992, at Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Memorial Park Cemetery with Reverend T.J. Thomas officiating.

Arrangements made by Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home, 6300 W. William Cannon Drive. 892-1172.

Obituary of Ara Routon
Austin American-Statesman, December 2, 1992

O. C. Rowden 1605 Hether Street
 107 West 50' of 31, 32, 33, 34,
 35 & 36 B -

Oak Hill Addition

Frame addition to rear of residence

34327 7-1-47

\$500.00

Owner

None

Building permit to Othelo C. Routon – misspelled here – for the construction of a rear frame addition (1947)

O. C. Routon 1605 Hether St.
 107 31-32-33-34-35-36 B

Oak Hill Addn.

Frame Accessory Bldg.

83029

3-5-62

200.00

Owner -

CARPORT

Building permit to Othelo C. Routon for the construction of a frame carport (1962)