

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
AUGUST 24, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2015-0686  
1194 COMAL STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Relocate a ca. 1915 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with an almost-full width, shed-roofed independent porch on turned wood posts; single 1:1 fenestration; transom over front door; rear-gabled one-story addition.

**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1915; it originally had an address of 1192 Comal Street. James and Nettie Patton, an African-American couple, owned and occupied the house from the time of its construction until around 1919. James Patton was a laborer. The house was then a rental property for many years thereafter, occupied by a series of African-American families, including Maggie Alexander, a cook for a private family, and also for a sorority house, Ella Harden, a maid for a private family, and William and Mamie Williams, who lived here through most of the 1930s. Willie Williams worked as a car washer for Thomson Motor Company, the local Dodge and Plymouth dealer at the time, while Mamie was a cook in a school lunch room, according to census records. From the late 1930s through the mid-1940s, the house was rented by Clifton and Annie Jones, and Velma Collins, who is listed in the 1940 U.S. Census record as a lodger in the home of Clifton and Annie Jones. Clifton Jones listed his occupation in the city directories of the time as a laborer, and the census report shows that he worked in building construction. Annie Jones was a cook in a private home. Later tenants included Robert and Lucille Ross; he was the proprietor of a photography studio on the east side, a cook, and a maid.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is listed in the East Austin Historic Survey (1980)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

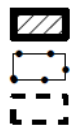
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Release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

# LOCATION MAP



1" = 200'



SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2015-0686  
Address: 1194 Comal Street

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.

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1194 Comal Street  
ca. 1915



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1194 Comal Street

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Vacant
1981	John and Pamela Bohmfalk, renters Researcher, University of Texas NOTE: The directory indicates that John and Pamela Bohmfalk were new residents at this address.
1977	No return
1973	Ernest W. Sneed, renter Retired
1968	Vacant
1962	Emma L. Pitts, renter Widow, Marvin Pitts

	Maid
1959	Leroy J. and Curlee Walker, renters Cook
1955	Warren C. and Ernest L. Green, renters Operator, Municipal Abattoir, 525 Pleasant Valley Road.
1952	Robert L. and Lucille Ross, owners Proprietor, Ross Studio, photography, 900 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1949	Robert L. and Lucille Ross, owners Proprietor, Ross Studio, photography, 900 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1947	Gillis and Grace Jefferson, renters Porter NOTE: Robert L. and Lucille Ross are listed at the rear of 1132 Salina Street; he was the proprietor of Ross Studio, photography, 900 E. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1944-45	Velma Collins, renter Maid
1941	Clifton and Annie Jones, renters Laborer
1939	Clifton and Annie Jones, renters Laborer
1937	William and Mamie Williams, renters Car washer, Thomson Motor Company, Dodge and Plymouth automobiles, 201-03 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1935	William and Mamie Williams, renters Car washer, Thomson Motor Company, Dodge and Plymouth automobiles, 201-03 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1932-33	William and Mamie Williams, renters Car washer, Thomson Motor Company, Dodge and Plymouth automobiles, 201-03 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street. NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street. NOTE: Alvin and Monnie Dobbins are listed at 1701 (1801) E. 18 <sup>th</sup> Street; he was a truck driver for Swann-Schulle Furniture Company.
1930-31	Alvin and Monnie Dobbins (colored), renters No occupation listed NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street. NOTE: William and Mamie Williams are listed at the rear of 406 E. 12 <sup>th</sup> Street. He was a car washer for Thomson Motor Company, Dodge Brothers and Plymouth automobiles, 201-03 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street. NOTE: Ella Harden is listed as a domestic living at 1401 E. 21st Street. Charles P. and Minnie Harden are listed at 1415 E. 13 <sup>th</sup> Street; he had no occupation shown.

- 1929 Ella Harden (colored), renter  
Domestic, Ambrose P. and Kate Winston, 708 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Ambrose P. Winston was a professor at the University of Texas.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street.
- 1927 Charleston and Minnie Harden (colored), renters  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Ella Harden is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street.
- 1924 Maggie Alexander (colored), renter  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street.
- 1922 Maggie Alexander (colored), renter  
Cook, Mrs. John L. (Coral) Tullis, 1915 Nueces Street.  
NOTE: John L. Tullis had no occupation listed; Coral Tullis was a student at the University of Texas.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street.  
NOTE: Henry B. and Edna Houston are not listed in the directory.
- 1920 Henry B. and Edna Houston (colored), renters  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street.  
NOTE: James and Nettie Patton are not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Maggie Alexander is not listed in the directory.
- 1918 James and Nettie Patton (colored), owners  
Laborer  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street.  
NOTE: Henry B. and Edna Houston are not listed in the directory.
- 1916 James Patton (colored)  
Laborer  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1192 Comal Street.
- 1914 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: James Patton (colored), is listed as a driver living at 815 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Henry (Horace) B. and Edna Houston (ca. 1919 – ca. 1921)**

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Hob [?] and Edna Houston as the renters of this house, which is listed as 1192 Comal Street. Hob Houston was 31, had been born in Texas to Tennessee-born parents, and was a general laborer. Edna Houston was 27, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Horace B. and Edna Houston as the owners of the house at 1204 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, which was worth \$850. Horace B. Houston was 41, and was a laborer in the cemetery. Edna Houston was 38, and had no occupation listed. Their son, Horace, Jr., was 4.

Horace B. and Edna Houston are listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 1604 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, which was worth \$950. Horace B. Houston was 51, had been born in

Texas, and did yard work at the cemetery. Edna Houston was 45, had been born in Texas, and washed clothes at home. They had 3 children: Horace B., Jr., 14; John E., 7; and Ruby Mae, 5.

### **Maggie Alexander (ca. 1921 – ca. 1925)**

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Maggie Alexander as the wife of John A. Alexander, who rented a farm in Justice Precinct 6 of Travis County. They had 5 children: George, 21; Leonza, 19; John, 18; James, 16; and Alma, 14. John Alexander was a farmer; George, John, and James Alexander are all listed as farm laborers.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Maggie Alexander as a boarder in the home of Frank Jones at 1171 Comal Street. Maggie Alexander is listed as widowed, and worked as a cook in a sorority house. With her lived her son Jim, 26, a truck driver for a transfer company, his wife, Addie Mae, 23, who had no occupation listed, and their daughter, Tommie, 2.

Maggie Alexander appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owner of the house at 1181½ Comal Street, which was worth \$1,000. She was 60-years old, divorced, and had been born in Texas. She had no occupation listed. With her lived her son, Jim, 36, and Jim's wife, Addie Mae, 34, and their 3 children: Tommie L., 12; James, 1-; and Eugene, 6. Jim Alexander was a laborer in building construction; Addie Mae Alexander was a cook in a café. Maggie Alexander also had 2 lodgers: Rhodie Skinner, a 42-year old divorcee who worked as a maid in a beauty shop; and Joe Ferrell, a 42-year old widower who worked as a porter in a studio.

### **Charleston and Minnie Harden (ca. 1925 – ca. 1928)**

Charleston and Minnie Harden appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 1415 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, which was worth \$2,700. Charleston Harden was 30, had been born in Texas, and worked as a cemetery laborer. Minnie Harden was 27, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Charleston, Jr., 7; Lettie, 4; and Rowland, 2. Charleston Harden died in Travis County September 8, 1949. At the time of his death, he was living at 2006 Leona Street. He had been born in Bastrop County in 1899, and worked as a laborer for the City of Austin.

**HARDIN, Minnie, 95, of Austin died Friday. Services 1 p.m. Tuesday, Simpson United Methodist Church. Burial Evergreen Cemetery. Arrangements by King-Tears Mortuary.**

Death notice for Minnie Harden  
Austin American-Statesman, January 10, 1999

### **Alvin and Monnie Dobbins (ca. 1928 – ca. 1931)**

Monnie Dobbins appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the sister-in-law of Celester Watkins, who rented a house at 1507 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin, with his wife, armilla, and daughter, Hortense. Monnie Dobbins was 26 [?], had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Her brother-in-law, Celester Watkins was a pastor for a fraternity house. Alvin Dobbins does not appear in the census report with his wife.

Monnie Laura Dobbins was living at 1105 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street at the time of her death on October 27, 1936. She had been born in 1904 in Travis County, and was a housewife.o

According to his 1967 death certificate, Alvin Edward Dobbins was born in LaGrange, Texas in 1904. He was a retired laborer who was living at 1806 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street at the time of his death.

**ALVIN E. DOBBINS**

Funeral for Alvin E. Dobbins will be Friday at 3 p.m. at the David Chapel Baptist Church with Rev. J. E. Obey officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Ernestine Dobbins; three sisters, Mrs. Alberta Armstead, San Antonio, Miss Lucy Dobbins, Austin, Mrs. Johnnie Mae McFarland, La Grange; one-step-daughter, Mrs. Frankie Musgrove; one niece, Mrs. Minnie Lee Rhoades; one nephew, James Armstead.

Funeral notice for Alvin E. Dobbins  
Austin American, June 9, 1967

**William and Mamie Williams (ca. 1931 – ca. 1938)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Willie and Mamie Williams as the renters of the house at the rear of 1204 Salina Street in Austin. Willie Williams was 44, had been born in Texas, and was a porter in an auto sales showroom. Mamie Williams was 35, had been born in Texas, and was a maid in a high school. They had no children listed with them.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Willie and Mamie Williams as the renters of the house at the rear of 1406 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Willie Williams was a laborer in a garage; Mamie Williams was a cook in a school lunch room. They had no children listed with them.

**Clifton and Annie Jones (ca. 1938 – ca. 1943)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Clifton and Annie Jones as the renters of this house, which is listed as 1194 Comal Street. Clifton Jones was 39, had been born in Texas, and was a helper for a building contractor. Annie Jones was 35, had been born in Texas, and was a cook in a private home. They had two lodgers: Velma Collins, 29, a waitress in a café; and Willie Mae Collins, 28, an operator in a beauty shop. Both lodgers had been born in Texas.