

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2015-0784  
1506 BOULDIN AVENUE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Relocate a ca. 1939 house to outside the city.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, wing-and-gable plan frame house with a partial width, integral shed-roofed independent porch on plain, square, wood posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; scalloped wood ornamentation at the base on the tympanum of the principal front-facing gable; boxed wood chimney.

**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1939 by Virgil and Malissie Pope, who lived here until around 1943. Virgil Pope was a Texas-born painter, who had previously worked as a night watchman at the Texas School for the Deaf. Around 1943, the house was purchased by Earl and Ermer Grace Summerow. Earl Summerow was born near Houston, and worked at a tire store and as a city firefighter before joining the U.S. Navy during World War II. His ship exploded while being loaded with ammunition in Papua New Guinea in 1944, killing all aboard. His widow is listed as the owner and occupant of the house in the 1947 city directory; she then married electrician Alfred Hess and lived here with him in the late 1940s. From around 1950 on, the house has been a rental unit, with tenants including an employee of the State Department of Agriculture, a waitress at the old Night Hawk, and in the early 1990s, famed local guitarman Charlie Sexton.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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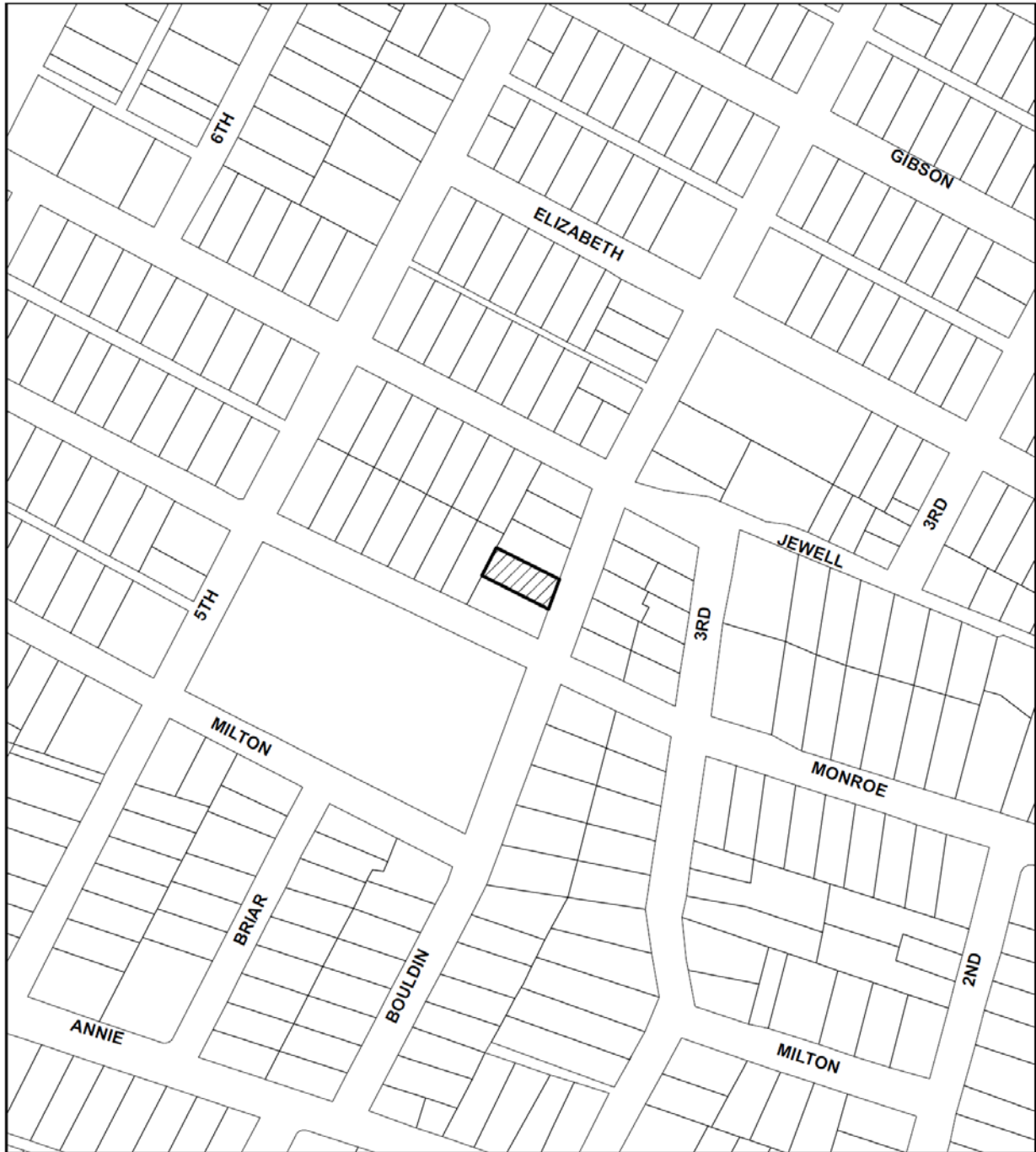
The house is not listed in any City survey.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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The house is proposed for relocation rather than demolition, which staff supports, although staff contends that the better alternative would be to adaptively re-use this house, which represents the scale, materials, and massing of the neighborhood. However, this house does not have the architectural nor the historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark, so staff must recommend release of 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



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2015-0784  
Address: 1506 BOULDIN AVENUE



1" = 200'

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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1506 Bouldin Avenue  
ca. 1939



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY

### 1506 Bouldin Avenue

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

1992	Charles W. Sexton, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Charles W. Sexton was a new resident at this address.
1985-86	Jacqueline Butler, renter Employed by the State of Texas
1981	Jacqueline Butler, renter No occupation listed
1977	Jacqueline Butler, renter Student NOTE: The directory indicates that Jacqueline Butler was a new resident at this address.
1973	Robert and Sue Miars, renters No occupation listed
1968	Alfred P. and Marie Herrera, renters Driver, Linen Supply Company (not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory).
1962	Edith Bates, renter Waitress, Night Hawk Restaurant (multiple locations)
1959	Norman T. and Mildred Heard, renters Employed by the State Department of Agriculture
1955	The address is not listed in the directory.
1952	W.A. and Doris Dieterich, renters No occupation listed
1949	Alfred B. and Erma G. Hess, owners Electrician
1947	Ermer G. Summerow, owner Widow, Earl Summerow No occupation listed
1944-45	Earl and Ermer Summerow, owners U.S. Navy
1942	Virgil and Mallissie Pope, owners Painter

NOTE: Earl and Ermer Summerow are listed at 1905 Brackenridge Street. He was a city fireman; she was a book-keeper for Austin Goodyear.

- 1941 Virgil and Malissie Pope, owners  
Painter
- 1940 Virgil and Melissa Pope, owners  
Painter (office at the house)
- 1939 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Virgil Pope is listed as a painter living at 1215 Newton Street.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **Virgil and Malissie Pope (ca. 1939 – ca. 1943)**

Virgil and Malissie Jane Pope appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$2,000. Virgil Pope was 50, had been born in Texas, and was a painter. Malissie Jane Pope was 51, had been born in Missouri, and had no occupation listed. With them lived their daughter, Gladys A., 26, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed; and another daughter, Lake Scott, 26, who had been born in Oklahoma and had no occupation listed. Lake's husband, Adrian T. Scott, 22, had been born in Texas and was a delivery man for cleaning and pressing company.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows V. and Mellissia Pope as the renters of the house at 1008 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Austin. V. Pope was a 41-year old Texas-born night watchman at the Deaf School. Mellissia Pope was 42, had been born in Missouri, and was a cleaner and presser at a cleaning shop. They had 3 children: Gladys, 16; Truman [?], 14; and Lake, 12. All three girls had been born in Texas.

**VIRGIL POPE**

Funeral services for Virgil Pope, 72, of 505 Normandy will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Wilke-Clay Funeral Home with Rev. Gordon B. Bays officiating.

He had been a resident of Austin for 36 years and was a member of Congress Avenue Baptist Church. He was a retired painting contractor and was associated with the sheriff's department for a number of years.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Virgil Pope; three daughters, Mrs. Robert Wheeler, Mrs. John Haldeman and Mrs. John R. Durbin, all of Austin; two sisters, Mrs. Maude Spurlock of Fort Worth, and Mrs. Aubry Jones of Cleburne; a brother, Arthur Pope of Cleburne; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be R. E. Harsch, A. B. Burt, Lee Whitaker, Clyde Hill, M. L. Leath and William A. Hergotz.

Burial will be in Capital Memorial Gardens.

Obituary of Virgil Pope  
Austin American, January 10, 1962

**Earl J. Lee and Ermer G. Summerow (ca. 1943 – ca. 1944)****Erma Grace Summerow Hess and Albert B. Hess (ca. 1945 – ca. 1950)**

Earl J. Lee Summerow, Jr. and his wife, Ermer G. Summerow are listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of an apartment at 1117 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. Earl J. Lee Summerow was 21, had been born in Texas, and was a service man for a retail tire and rubber company. Ermer G. Summerow was 20, had been born in Texas, and was a stenographer for a retail tire and rubber company. They had no children listed with them. Earl Summerow had lived in rural Travis County in 1935.

Earl J. Lee Summerow was born in 1918 in Goose Creek, Harris County, Texas. He died on the U.S. S. Mount Hood in Seadler Harbor, Manus Island, Admiralty Islands, Papua New



Guinea on October 10, 1944 when the ship exploded while being loaded with ammunition. All 350 men on board were killed.

Ermer Grace Summerow married Alfred Berge Hess after Earl J. Lee Summerow's death. They lived in this house in the late 1940s. E. Grace Summerow Hess died in Kerrville in 2008; Alfred Hess died in Kerrville, Texas in 2009.

V. Pope

1506 Bouldin Ave.

114

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1

18

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Monroe Heights

Frame residence-box garage

265n - 3/31/39

4

Building permit to Virgil Pope for the construction of this house (1939)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		No. 12523A	
Austin, Texas		INDEXED	
Received of	V. Pope	Date	4/13/39
Address	1506 Bouldin Ave		
Amount	Two and 50/100		2.50
Plumber	McAlpine	Size of Tap	1/2
Date of Connection	4/13/39		
Size of Tap Made	3/4		
Size Service Made	1/2		
Size Main Tapped	2'		
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	13'		
From Prop. Line to Curb Cock	5'		
Location of Meter	C. 1494		
Type of Box	2-6-11		
Depth of Main in St.	2'		
Depth of Service Line	2'		
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	10'6"		
Checked by Engr. Dept.	5-8-39 LE		
No. Fittings	1 Curb Cock		
	1 Elbow		
	1 St. Elbow		
	1 Bushing		
	1 Reducer		
	1 1/2" Pipe		
	1 Teed Comp.		
	1 Nipples		
	1 Union		
	1 Plug		
	1 Tee		
	1 Stop		
	1 Box		
	1 Lid		
	Valves		
Job No.	C 58-1014		
Reg. No.	34744		

Water service permit to Virgil Pope for this address (1939)

## SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No. 15480 71

Austin, Texas

Received of J.C. McALPINE Date 3-30-39  
 Address 1506 BOULDIN AVE.  
 Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Builder or Owner V. POPE Plumber \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lot 18 Block 1 Subdivision \_\_\_\_\_ Plat No. 114

Date of Connection	<u>5-24-39</u>	
By City	<u>3'S/NULL</u>	
By Plumber		
Checked By	<u>BOATRIVHT</u>	
Size Main	<u>6"</u>	Depth
Main Assign.		
Stub Depth		Prop. Line <u>2'</u>
Stub Location		
Book No.	<u>A-1087</u>	
Paving Cut		No. _____

No. Fittings	Size	Price
<u>42 1/2</u>	Pipe <u>4"</u>	<u>4.25</u>
	Pipe	
	Wyes	
<u>1</u>	Bends <u>4"</u>	<u>.40</u>
	Reducers	
	Plugs	
	Sand	
	Gravel	
	Remix	
	Stoppers	
	Castings	
<u>1</u>	Other <u>4" TAP</u>	<u>.15</u>
	Labor: <u>2 DAYS</u>	<u>6.00</u>
		<u>10.80</u>

Sewer service permit referencing Virgil Pope as the owner of the house (1939)