

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**  
**OCTOBER 26, 2015**  
**NRD-2015-0105**  
**Old West Austin National Register District**  
**2502 Jarratt Avenue**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Construct a one story rear addition and a new two garage building.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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The original building is a 1938 Colonial Revival with a cross gable form. It has return gabled front facing gable and a partial colonnade front porch and is sidelined in lap siding. It has wood six over six double hung wood windows. This is a contributing building to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.

## **PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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Construct a one story addition. The addition will have hardi siding to match the house and will have side gables to match the cross gable form of the building. The pitch of the roof ridge of the new addition will be higher than the existing 1 story cross gable ridge, but the roof slope will be the same to create one continuous pitch. The windows being installed will be multi-pane windows and will have a size over six form with a small divided light transom. The addition will also have return gable ends to match the gable ends on the house.

The proposal also includes building a 2 story garage and guest apartment. The building will be sided in hardi and have return gables and six over six windows to match the house. On the first floor will be a two car garage door that faces the front of the lot. This building will not be highly visible from the right of way as it is set mostly behind the house.

## **HISTORY**

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This 1938 Colonial Revival building was first occupied by W.M (William) Thorton and his wife Minnie. While William lived in Austin, he was a correspondent for the Dallas News and Dallas Morning News. The Rosenblums, Joseph and Eva, who ran a produce business at W 3<sup>rd</sup> and Guadalupe lived in the house throughout the 1940s. The longest tenet of the house was Meade and Dorothy Griffen. They lived in the house for almost 40 years from shortly after they married till Meade's death in 1974. Meade served on both the Texas Supreme Court and the state Court of Criminal Appeals, as well as was assistant Attorney General under Crawford Martin. Meade Griffen wasn't the only notable resident of the house as Kathy Cronkite, Walter Cronkite's daughter, also lived in the house in the 1980s a early 90s.

**STANDARDS FOR REVIEW**

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This property is within the Old West Austin National Register Historic District and projects are evaluated by the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation. The applicable Guidelines are:

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

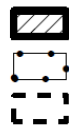
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Release the application as submitted. The changes that are being proposed are on the rear or separate from the house. While the new addition will have a higher ridge line than the original one story ridge line, it will not affect the overall feeling and essential form of the house as the ridge line will still be lower than the two story section of the historic home. The garage building is separate from the house and is built in a simple form with details and materials that are similar to the house.

This house has potential landmark listing for its architecture and association with Meade F. Griffen. It is staffs opinion that the changes to the building would not affect a potential Historic Landmark Listing for this property as the changes to the property are at the rear of the structure and the historic character of the property will be retained and preserved.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 200'

CASE#: NRD-2015-0105  
Address: 2502 JARRATT AVENUE

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.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



**2502 Jarett**

Circa 1938



### OCCUPANCY HISTORY

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

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1992    | Kathy Cronkite, Renter<br>Air Personality KLBJAMFM                               |
| 1985-86 | Kathy Cronkite, Renter<br>No Occupation Listed                                   |
| 1981    | Vacant   |
| 1977    | Noel J. and Jandel Dolce, Owner<br>Architect at Noel J. Dolce and Associates     |
| 1973    | Meade F. and Dorothy Griffen, Owner<br>Retired                                   |
| 1968    | Meade F. and Dorothy Griffen, Owner<br>Associate Justice for State Supreme Court |
| 1962    | Meade F. and Dorothy Griffen, Owner<br>Associate Justice for State Supreme Court |
| 1959    | Meade F. and Dorothy Griffen, Owner  |

## Associate Justice for State Supreme Court

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|---------|---|
| 1955    | Meade F. and Dorothy Griffen, Owner<br>Associate Justice for State Supreme Court                  |
| 1952    | Joseph and Eva Rosenblum, Owner<br>Produce buyers   |
| 1949    | Joseph and Eva Rosenblum, Owner<br>Produce buyers   |
| 1947    | Joseph and Eva Rosenblum, Owner<br>Produce Shippers   |
| 1944-45 | Joseph and Eva Rosenblum, Owner<br>Joseph Rosemblum Co Produce at W 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Guadelupe |
| 1941    | William M. and Minnie L. Thorton, Owner<br>Chief of Bureau for Dallas Morning News                |
| 1939    | William M. and Minnie L. Thorton, Owner<br>Correspondent  |
| 1937    | William M. and Minnie L. Thorton, Owner<br>Correspondent Dallas News and Journal                  |

**Biographical Information**

GRIFFIN, MEADE FELIX (1897–1974). Meade Felix Griffin, who served on both the Texas Supreme Court and the state Court of Criminal Appeals, was born in Cottonwood, Callahan County, Texas, on March 17, 1897, the son of W. F. and Frances Lodi (Patterson) Griffin. He received an A.B. degree in 1915 and an LL.B. in 1917 from the University of Texas, and in August 1917 he was in the first graduating class of the Officers' Training Camp at Leon Springs. In World War I he rose to the rank of major of infantry; in World War II he was promoted to colonel. He helped establish the trial section of the United States Army's war crimes department at Wiesbaden, Germany, at the end of the war.

Griffin was admitted to the bar in 1917 and practiced in Tulia, where he was county attorney from 1917 to 1919 and mayor in 1919; he served as county judge in Hale County from 1923 to 1926 and as district attorney for the Sixty-fourth Judicial District from 1927 to 1934. In 1949 Governor Beauford H. Jester appointed him to the Texas Supreme Court, where he served as associate justice until his retirement in 1968. A year later he was appointed a special judge to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, thus becoming one of few men who have served on both of the highest courts in Texas. He also served as an assistant attorney general under Crawford Martin.

On June 2, 1917, Griffin married Eleanor Sykes, from whom he was divorced in 1950; they had two children. He married Dorothy Porter on November 8, 1950. He received the Rosewood Gavel Award from St. Mary's University in 1965 and was a member of the American Legion and the State Bar of Texas, in which he was chairman of numerous

committees. Griffin died in Austin on June 3, 1974, and was buried in the State Cemetery, Austin.

From: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fgr62>

Meade Felix Griffin



Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1949-1968

Special Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 1969

Meade Felix Griffin was born March 17, 1894 in Cottonwood, Callahan County, Texas. He attended The University of Texas, earning a B.A. degree in 1915 and an LL.B. in 1917. In August 1917 he completed officer training camp and served as a major in the infantry during the First World War. He was admitted to the bar in 1917 and began practicing law in Tulia, in the Texas panhandle between Lubbock and Amarillo. He was married the same year, and he and his wife had two children.

Griffin's public service career began in 1919, when he was elected mayor of Tulia. In 1920 he moved to nearby Plainview, where he continued to practice law. He served as Swisher County attorney (1919-20), as county judge of Hale County (1923-26), and as district attorney of the Sixty-fourth Judicial District (1927-34). He served two years as director of the Texas Bar Association and two years as director of the group's successor, the State Bar of Texas, and served on various committees of both groups. Griffin, who rose to the rank of

colonel during the Second World War, served as chief of the prosecution subsection of the U.S. Army's War Crimes Branch in Germany at the close of the war.

Griffin was appointed an associate justice by Gov. Beauford H. Jester following the resignation of A. J. Folley from the court in 1949. He served on the court until retiring in 1968. In 1969 he was appointed a special judge to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, thus becoming one of few judges to serve on both of the state's highest courts. From 1969 to 1971 he was an assistant attorney general.

Divorced from his first wife in 1950, Griffin married again later that year. He died in Austin June 3, 1974, and was buried in the Texas State Cemetery.

### **Looking Back: Meade Griffin had key role in shaping Plainview 01-13-2008**

Posted: Sunday, January 13, 2008 12:00 am

(NOTE: This is part of a series entitled "Looking Back," offering interesting glimpses into Plainview history. Originated to coincide with the city's centennial, articles rely heavily on information gleaned from Herald files.)

By DOUG McDONOUGH

Herald Managing Editor

When Meade Felix Griffin died at age 80 on June 3, 1974, he was laid to rest in the State Cemetery in Austin □ a fitting tribute to someone who had served on both of the highest courts in Texas.

But aside from his statewide legal legacy, Griffin left a deep imprint on Plainview and the region through a number of civic groups he organized and institutions he helped create. The Plainview Daily Herald, in his front page obituary on June 4, 1974, explained, "A number of organizations, service clubs, development areas and community and public facilities were begun and perpetuated in Plainview through the leadership and work of Judge Griffin."

According to The Handbook of Texas Online, Griffin was born in Cottonwood, Callahan County, Texas, on March 17, 1897.

He moved to Tulia in 1914 and received an academic degree from the University of Texas in 1915 and graduated from its law school in 1917. According to The Herald, Griffin worked "his way through college by waiting on tables, mowing lawns and doing other jobs."

In addition to being admitted to the bar in 1917, he also graduated from the first officers training camp at Leon Springs and subsequently served in the infantry during World War I, rising to the rank of major. He also served in World War II.

He returned to Tulia and began his legal practice while serving as county attorney from 1917-19 and mayor in 1919.

In 1920, Griffin moved to Plainview and practiced in the legal firm of Kinder and Russell until 1923.

He served two terms as county judge of Hale County, then district attorney from 1927-34.

He returned to private law practice in 1935 with the law firm of Griffin and Morehead.

Except during his military service in World War II, Griffin was a member of that firm until being appointed to the Texas Supreme Court.

Without his knowledge, Griffin was "drafted" to be chairman of the local draft board when it was activated prior to World War II, and he held the post until he went to war himself.



Griffin re-entered military service in 1942 as a lieutenant colonel in the infantry. He subsequently was detailed to the Judge Advocate General's Department and helped established the Trial Section of the U.S. Army branch on war crimes as chief of the prosecution subsection at Wiesbaden, Germany. He was discharged as a colonel in 1945 and retired as colonel, Judge Advocate General's Department, in 1953.

A member of the American Legion from his service during WWI, Griffin helped organize the Tulia post and was a charter member before moving to Plainview. He also was a charter member and first commander of Plainview's American Legion post.

An Episcopalian, Griffin was a lay reader at St. Mark's Episcopal Church from 1921 until moving to Austin in 1949. He was instrumental in acquiring a chapel from the Amarillo air base that was being closed after the end of World War II and securing the necessary permits to move the structure on the highway between Amarillo and Plainview. The former air base chapel continues to be used as St. Mark's sanctuary at 710 Joliet.

His son, Fred, was the artist, designer, manufacturer and installer of the stained glass windows in the church.

Griffin was active in the Plainview Chamber of Commerce, serving as board chairman and member of its Board of City Development. He was one of the organizers and longtime board members of the Plainview Rotary Club.

The Herald noted that Griffin, as county judge, broke a tie among county commissioners to establish the work of the county agent and county home demonstration agent. During his tenure, various county agencies as well as a public nursing service began. A county jail, adjacent to the courthouse and used for more than 50 years, was built for the sum of \$13,000.

Also while serving as county judge, Griffin and the commissioners planted a large number of pecan trees on the courthouse square. Many of those trees continue to thrive.

In an interview with Vera Dean Wofford, Griffin explained why the pecan trees were planted.

"While I was county judge, the borers got into the black locust trees which were on the courthouse lawn and, over the protests of quite a few people including the president of the Garden Club, we had those trees cut down and destroyed."

In the same interview, he remembered a scene from 1923.

"The red brick administration building of Wayland Junior College sat right at the head of Seventh Street to the west of town. Seventh Street was lined on each side with those locust trees almost meeting in the center, and that year they were all bloomed out in white. . . .

"That particular day there had been a good spring shower. When I started home, it had quit raining but the clouds hung in the west behind that red brick building, the sun came out through the clouds, and the street was lined with those white-blossomed trees, and it was one of the prettiest sights I ever saw. Those locusts had to be dug up shortly after that, because the borers got in them."

Griffin was among a select group to hold title to the then vacant property between Broadway Park and Hillcrest Addition in 1946. The committee found a developer who was willing to build houses on the lots in the tract, easing a housing shortage and helping the city grow.

He was a participant in the original Pioneer Round-Up in 1927 and served as parade marshall each year until entering military service in 1942. After moving to Austin, Griffin made a point to return each May to ride in the annual parade.

Numerous young people found care and refuge in the Griffin home through the years and many considered him as a father. Among those was Louis Thomas, who would later serve as Plainview mayor.

Griffin and Eleanor Sykes were married on June 2, 1917. A civic leader in her own right, Eleanor Griffin championed numerous causes. One continues to carry her name — the Eleanor Griffin Children's Development Center.



They had two children, Fred and Mary Ellen, who is married to longtime West Texas State University bandmaster Gary Garner.

The Griffins divorced in 1950 after about 33 years of marriage, and he married Dorothy Porter later that year.

His obituary noted that Griffin was a Plainview resident from 1920 until his appointment as associate justice of the Supreme Court of Texas in 1949.

Upon his retirement from the Supreme Court in 1968, he served as a special judge to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in 1969, and was assistant attorney general under Crawford Martin from September 1969 to Oct. 1, 1971.

He received the Rosewood Gavel Award from St. Mary's University in 1965, and the Texas Tech Law School honors his memory with the annual Judge Meade F. Griffin Award, which is given by former briefing attorneys.