

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 16, 2015
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2015-0976
2604 WOODMONT AVENUE**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1938 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame Colonial Revival-styled house with a full-width, shed-roofed, independent porch on plain, round wood columns, with a full-width balustrade above; single 6:6 windows with wood-panel wainscoting beneath and full-height wood shutters; fluted pilasters form the door surround; carport and garage addition to the left of the main house with a matching balustrade at the front roofline.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1938 by Frank and Margaret Gibson, who lived here until around 1943. Frank Gibson was a native of Nebraska, who had played professional baseball in Detroit from 1913 to 1927. He was living in Texas by 1917, when he registered for the draft, showing that he was living in Manor, Texas and had no other employment besides being a baseball player. By 1920, he was working as a salesman for a general store in Manor. He and Margaret moved to Austin around 1936, and built this house. He worked as a utility man for the City Power Plant, and eventually moved to Edna, Texas, where he was employed by the city utilities. He died in Edna, Texas in 1961.

From around 1943 until around 1960, the house was owned and occupied by George E. and Mildred Hurt. George E. Hurt was born in Liverpool, England, and came to the United States in 1920. He taught school in Dallas for several years, and moved to Austin in 1935. He was the director of the Longhorn Band at the University of Texas from 1936 to 1949. He died in 1960.

From 1960 to around 1970, the house was owned and occupied by Thomas B. and Grace McFarlin. Thomas B. McFarlin was from Burnet County, and was a salesman for IBM in Dallas in the 1930s. He established his own business, the Dallas Tabulating Service, after World War II, and moved to Austin in 1960 as a salesman and representative of Sperry Rand Univac. He retired in 1972 to his ranch home near Liberty Hill.

Dorsey B. and Geneva Hardeman purchased the house in the early 1970s, and lived here for many years. Dorsey Hardeman was very active in Texas government – he was the mayor of San Angelo, Texas in the 1930s, was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1938, and served 22 years in the Texas Senate following his military service in World War II. He was appointed to the Texas Water Commission in 1969 as the executive director, and later served as a commissioner on the Commission.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Postpone to December 14, 2015 to fully evaluate alternatives to demolition. This house is a good example of the 1930s Colonial Revival style, and is associated with several prominent people, including Col. George Hurt, the director of the Longhorn Band for many years, and Dorsey Hardeman, a prominent state senator. Every effort should be made to explore ways

to preserve this house and adaptively re-use it before resigning to demolition. If the Commission decides to release the permit, then staff recommends completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2015-0976
Address: 2604 WOODMONT



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.

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.

2604 Woodmont Avenue
ca. 1938



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
2604 Woodmont Avenue

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

1992	Dorsey B. and Geneva M. Hardeman, owners Retired
1985-86	Dorsey B. and Geneva M. Hardeman, owners Retired
1981	Dorsey B. and Geneva M. Hardeman, owners Commissioner, State Department of Water Commissioners
1977	Dorsey B. and Geneva M. Hardeman, owners Commissioner, State Water Rights Commission
1973	William H. and Cheryl Luedecke, III, owners Proprietor, Luedecke Company, realtors, 4305 Marathon Boulevard. NOTE: Dorsey and Geneva Hardeman are listed at 600 W. 10 th Street, Apt. 643; he was a commissioner for the State Water Rights Commission.
1968	Thomas B. and Grace D. McFarlin, owners Salesman, Univac, 1003 W. 6 th Street.

- 1962 Thomas B. and Grace D. McFarlin, owners
District manager, Remington Rand, office equipment, calculators, adding machines, typewriters, 1003 W. 6th Street.
- 1959 George E. and Mildred Hurt, owners
Director, University of Texas
- 1955 George E. and Mildred Hurt, owners
Band director, University of Texas
- 1952 George E. and Mildred Hurt, owners
No occupation listed
- 1949 George E. and Mildred Hurt, owners
Director, Longhorn Band, University of Texas
- 1947 George E. and Mildred Hurt, owners
Teacher, University of Texas
- 1944-45 George E. and Mildred Hurt, owners
Band director, University of Texas
- 1941 Frank G. and Margaret Gibson, owners
Foreman, City Power and Light Plant
NOTE: George E. and Mildred Hurt are listed at 1506 Mohle Drive; he was the band director at the University of Texas.
- 1939 Frank G. Gibson, owner
Utility man, City Power Plant
NOTE: Margaret Gibson is not listed in the directory.
- 1937 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Frank G. Gibson is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Frank G. and Margaret Gibson (ca. 1938 – ca. 1943)

Frank and Margaret Gibson are listed as the owners of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census. The house was worth \$5,000. Frank G. Gibson was 49, had been born in Nebraska, and was a labor foreman for the City. Margaret Gibson was 51, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Frank, 12, who had been born in Texas.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Frank G. and Margaret Gibson as the owners of a farm in Manor, Texas. Frank G. Gibson was 29, had been born in Nebraska, and was a salesman in a general store. Margaret B. Gibson was 30, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. With them lived a niece, Ruth Bonner, 10, who had been born in Arkansas.

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows Frank Gilbert Gibson was living in Manor, Texas, and was without employment. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1890 and was a baseball player. He was married, tall, with a medium build, and had dark grey eyes and black hair.

There is a photograph of Frank Gibson from 1914 with the Detroit American League baseball team. There is an indication from Professional Baseball Players and the Baseball Almanac that Frank Gibson played from 1913 to 1927.

He was living in Edna, Texas at the time of his death at the age of 70 on April 27, 1961. He was an electrician for the City of Edna Public Service Company, and had lived in Edna for 2 years.

George E. and Mildred Hurt (ca. 1943 – ca. 1960)

George Enoch and Mildred Hurt appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 1506 Mohle Drive, which was worth \$5,500. George E. Hurt was 43, had been born in England, and was a teacher at the University of Texas. Mildred Hurt was 37, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Their daughter, Diana Sue, was 4 and had been born in Texas. The family had lived in Dallas in 1935.



Band Leader, Col. Hurt Dies

Colonel George E. Hurt, 63, of 2604 Woodmont, director of the University of Texas Longhorn Band for 13 years, died in a local hospital Thursday afternoon.

Funeral services will be held in Weed-Corley Funeral Home Saturday at 10 a. m. Dr. Frederick Brooks will officiate. Burial will be in Memorial Park.

Col. Hurt, who was born in Liverpool, England, came to the United States in 1920 and had lived in Austin since 1935. He taught in the Dallas Public Schools before coming to Austin. Col. Hurt was director of the Longhorn Band from 1936 to 1949. Forced to retire because of a stroke, he was made director emeritus of the band.

A ROTC instructor with rank of colonel, Hurt was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Austin Lodge No. 12 AF&AM, Scottish Rite Bodies, York Rite Bodies, Ben Hur Shrine and the ROJ. He served in the British army in World War I and obtained the rank of major.

Hurt was an accomplished violinist, having presented many recitals in Europe before coming to the United States. He played for the coronation of King George V in 1911. He was graduated from the Royal Naval School of Music and passed the Royal Academy examinations in 1914.

Survivors include his widow and two daughters, Diana Sue Hurt and Hilda Jane Hurt, all of Austin.

News story of the death of George E. Hurt
Austin American, July 22, 1960

COL. GEORGE E. HURT

Funeral services for Col. George E. Hurt, 63, 2604 Woodmont, will be held at Weed-Corley Funeral Home Saturday at 10 a.m. Dr. Frederick Brooks will officiate and burial will be in Memorial Park. Graveside services will be under auspices of Austin Lodge No. 12, AF&AM.

Pallbearers will be Dr. S. Esquivel, Ben Lee Chote, Wiley Glaze, Clyde Littlefield, Ed Rather, Roy Martin, Noel Amstead and J. T. Browning.

Funeral notice for George E. Hurt

Austin American, July 23, 1960

HURT, Mildred I., 79, of Austin, died Thursday. Graveside services 10 a.m. Saturday at Austin Memorial Park. Survivors: daughters, Diana Temple of Austin, Hilda Kremenek of San Antonio; mother, Exer Falls of Austin; four grandchildren. (Weed-Corley)

Obituary of Mildred Hurt
Austin American-Statesman, August 1, 1980

Thomas B. and Grace McFarlin (ca. 1960 – ca. 1970)

Thomas B. McFarlin appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the 23-year old son of R. Houston and Minnie E. McFarlin of Burnet County, Texas, where they owned their home on the Bertram and Liberty Hill Road. Thomas B. McFarlin had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. His father was a farmer.

Thomas B. McFarlin Sr

Thomas B. McFarlin Sr., age 86, of Liberty Hill, Texas, passed away Saturday, December 25, 1993.

Mr. McFarlin was born on April 1, 1907, at the family ranch, the son of Rufus McFarlin and Minnie Powell. He graduated from Bertram High School and University of Texas in Austin. He joined IBM in 1932 and was top salesman for several years. Mr. McFarlin was captain of the U.S. Public Health Service during World War II. He later started Dallas Tabulating Service in 1946, moved to Austin in 1960 with Sperry Rand Univac where he retired in 1972. He had resided at his ranch home since retirement. He married Grace Prather Darden in Waco, Texas, in 1936. She preceded him in death May, 1972.

Survivors include his sons, Thomas B. McFarlin Jr. and wife, Mary of Colleyville, Texas, William Darden McFarlin and wife, Ann of Arlington, Texas; daughter, Mary Prather Beckham and husband, Steve of Dallas, Texas; three grand-daughters, Darden Beckham, Laurie McFarlin and Mary Dyer; two grandsons, David Beckham and Jim McFarlin; two sisters, Sue Taylor of Bertram, Texas, and Jo Stephens of Lometa.

Services will be 1:00 PM Monday, December 27, 1993, at Clements-Wilcox Chapel in Burnet, Texas, with Reverend Sid Spiller officiating. Interment at South San Gabriel Cemetery.

Pallbearers are R.E. Brewer of Bertram, Robert Stephens of Houston, Hal Stringer of Waco, Jack Schultz of San Angelo, William P. Davis of Waco and Rodney Mason of Grapevine. Honorary pallbearers are William E. Darden of Waco and Davis Temple of Waco.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the South San Gabriel Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Collins, Box 152, Bertram, Texas 78605, in memory of Tom B. McFarlin Sr. Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home in Burnet.

Obituary of Thomas B. McFarlin
Austin American-Statesman, December 27, 1992

Dorsey and Geneva Hardeman (ca. 1975 -)

Dorsey Hardeman appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as a lodger in the home of Emma Cannon in San Angelo, Texas. He was 36, had been born in Tennessee, and was a lawyer in private practice.



Dorsey B. Hardeman

Dorsey B. Hardeman, age 89, of Austin, long time state official and former mayor of San Angelo died August 11, 1992 in Austin.

He was born December 11, 1902 in Henderson, Tennessee, son of professor N.B. & JoAnna Hardeman. He received his early education at Freed-Hardeman College, founded by his father and A.G. Freed in 1908. He attended the University of Florida and earned his LLB from Vanderbilt University.

Mr. Hardeman moved to Texas for his health in 1932 and was active in government, business and legal affairs until his retirement as a member of the Texas Water Commission in 1982. He practiced law in San Angelo for four years in the office of the late Judge James Cornell before being elected Mayor in 1936. In 1938, he was elected to the House of Representatives and served two terms before resigning to join the US Army Air Corps as a private. He was sent to officers training school and was commissioned to serve in the Headquarters of the Judge Advocate General.

In 1946, Hardeman was elected to the State Senate where he served for 22 years, becoming one of the most powerful legislators with his knowl-

edge of the constitution, legislative procedures and as chairman of the State Affairs Committee. In 1969 Governor Preston Smith appointed him executive director of the Texas Water Commission and later was named a commissioner and went on to serve with distinction under three Texas governors and wrote or adjudicated most Texas water laws for over 40 years.

Senator Hardeman was proud of his Tennessee heritage, but as an adopted son of Texas, often noted the link of that heritage to many Tennessee-Texans who preceded him - notably General Sam Houston and ancestors General William P. Hardeman and Bailey Hardeman, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and for whom Hardeman County, Texas was named. His fierce pride in his Texas citizenship prompted many an impassioned speech or confrontation with people of lesser valor - often quoting verbatim dates of historical events, wars, national heroes, etc. He defended his views vigorously in the legislature and with his departure from that body was proclaimed "the end of an era" for his type in government. Besides his careers in law and politics, he was a co-owner of the historic St. Angelus Hotel in San Angelo, had farming and ranching interests in Texas and Colorado, and owned and operated a title company in West Texas.

While active in many phases of legislation, Mr. Hardeman listed as his major accomplishments the sponsorship of a revised code of Criminal Procedure and the establishment of a state senior university in San Angelo. The Stacy Dam and Reservoir on the Upper Colorado River was another project of which he was justifiably proud to have been actively involved in from its inception to its completion. He was a strong supporter of this project, and as a member of the Water Commission was greatly gratified when the building of the dam became a reality.

Senator Hardeman had hereditary membership in Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Republic of Texas, Knights of San Jacinto, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Order of Stars & Bars, the Baronial Order of Magna Charta, Hugenot Society, Knights of Malta and he held an honorary membership in the Greek order of St. Denis of Zante. His commitment to these organizations was the preservation of history and personal heritage. He was a life member of Texas State Historical Association. He was also a member of the American Legion, State Bar of Texas and the Travis County and Tom Green County Bar Associations.

Survivors include his wife, Geneva; sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Francine of Sonora, and Bryan and Rebecca of Austin; grandchildren, William Bryan Hardeman, Genny and Joy Hardeman of Austin; niece, JoAnne Bradshaw of Atlanta, Georgia; nephews, Nicholas H. Powers of Memphis and Joe Hardeman Foy of Houston. His parents and two sisters predeceased him in death.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, August 13, 1992 at 2:00 PM at Weed Corley Funeral Home with private interment at the Austin State Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Texas State Historical Society.

Obituary of Dorsey Hardeman
Austin American-Statesman, August 13, 1992

Frank Gibson

2604 Woodmont Ave.
W. 80' of
1

18

Westfield A

Frame residence & box garage

239n - 8/29/38

6

Building permit to Frank Gibson for the construction of this house and box garage (1938)

IN: 10000
144

Austin, Texas

Received of Frank Gibson Date Aug 27th, 1938

Address 2604 WOODMONT Ave.
1700 Stamford Lane

Amount Two and 50/100--- \$ 2.50

Plumber Fox-Schmidt Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection <u>10-3-38</u>	No. Fittings Curb Cock Elbow St. Elbow Bushing Reducer 1/4" Pipe Lead Comp. Nipples Union Plug Tee Stop Box Lid Valves Job No. Reg. No.	
Size of Tap Made <u>3/4"</u>		
Size Service Made <u>3/4"</u>		
Size Main Tapped <u>1 1/2"</u>		
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock		
From Prop. Line to Curb Cock		
Location of Meter <u>SOUTH-4-HOUSE</u>		
Type of Box <u>LOCK</u>		
Depth of Main in St. <u>3'</u>		
Depth of Service Line		
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main		
Checked by Engr. Dept. <u>6-13-39 ves</u>		

INDEXED Rich

Water service permit to Frank Gibson for this house (1938)

Tom McFarlin

2604 Woodmont Ave.

144 W. 80' of 1

18

Westfield "A"

Frame addition to existing attached garage.

79654 5-2-61

200.00

W. T. Walker

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CARPORT

Building permit to Tom McFarlin for the construction of a carport (1961)