HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MARCH 28, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0082-B
408 W. 38½ STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1938 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-and-a-half story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled, stone-veneered split-level house with front-facing stone-veneered gablet dormers, and a central entry framed with a stone lintel; the façade has a symmetrical composition with a pair of multi-light wood casement windows on each side of the entry; the lower set of windows is at ground level, and they are smaller than the primary windows in the front-facing gablets.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1938 by Milton W. Kelley, an athletic trainer at the University of Texas, who later lived here with his wife, Ethel, in the 1960s. Until that time, however, the Kelleys rented the house out. In the early 1940s, the house was rented by Jack and Frances Hudspeth, both of whom were prominent in the field of education. Both Jack and Frances Hudspeth were public school teachers – Jack went on to be long-time educator in the Austin public schools, and then transitioned to writing textbooks for the Steck Company. Frances became an administrator at the University of Texas. She worked closely with Harry Ransom, and some say she was the driving force behind the establishment and construction of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, acquiring, curating, and developing the now-world-famous collection. She became the managing editor of the Texas Quarterly in 1958, and continued her work with the University of Texas until her death in 1972. After renting this house, the Hudspeths moved to 2419 Hartford Road, where they remained for the rest of their lives. Unfortunately, that house has been remodeled beyond recognition.

In the mid-1940s, the house was rented by Henry C. and Ruth Meyer. Henry C. Meyer was a hardware store owner from Rockdale, Texas, who later served as a member of the State Board of Control in the 1930s. One of his sons, Bruce G. Meyer, also rented the house after his father passed away. Bruce G. Meyer was a book-keeper.

Finally, in the 1960s, the house was occupied by the original owners, Milton W. and Ethel K. Kelley, who were retired at the time they lived here.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not within the bounds of either the Hyde Park National Register Historic District nor the Hyde Park Local Historic District, but is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984); it had no priority for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff strongly encourages the applicant to seriously consider preservation, adaptive re-use, and rehabilitation of this house on this site, as it is the only known house left in Austin associated with Frances Hudspeth, a dynamic force in the establishment of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. However, staff recognizes that the association of this house with the Hudspeths is relatively short-lived: they rented the house for about 5 years in the 1940s. If rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of this house is not feasible, then 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



N

SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

1 " = 250 '

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0082

407 W. 39TH STREET UNIT A & B

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.

408 W. 38½ Street
ca. 1938





OCCUPANCY HISTORY
408 W. 38½ Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
August, 2013

1992	The address is not listed in the directory.
1985-86	The address is not listed in the directory.
1981	The address is not listed in the directory.
1977	The address is not listed in the directory.
1973	Vacant
1968	Milton W. and Ethel K. Kelley, owners Retired
1962	Milton W. and Ethel K. Kelley, owners No occupation listed
1959	Bruce G. and Josephine Meyer, renters Book-keeper, State Board of Control NOTE: Milton W. and Ethel K. Kelley are not listed in the directory.
1955	Bruce G. and Josephine Meyer, renters Book-keeper
1952	Bruce G. and Josephine Meyer, renters Book-keeper
1949	Bruce G. and Josephine Meyer, renters Book-keeper, Cook Funeral Home, 1100 Colorado Street.
1947	Henry C. and Ruth Meyer, renters No occupation listed
	Bruce G. and Josephine Meyer, renters Purchasing agent, Capital Prefabricators (Capital City Lumber Company), homes, tourist cottages, vacation cottages, 6616 Dallas Highway (Georgetown Road).
1944-45	Henry C. and Ruth Meyer, renters No occupation listed
1941	Jack and Frances Hudspeth, renters Jack: Coordinator, public schools Frances: Secretary to the dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Texas.
1940	Jack and Frances Hudspeth, renters Jack: Teacher, public schools

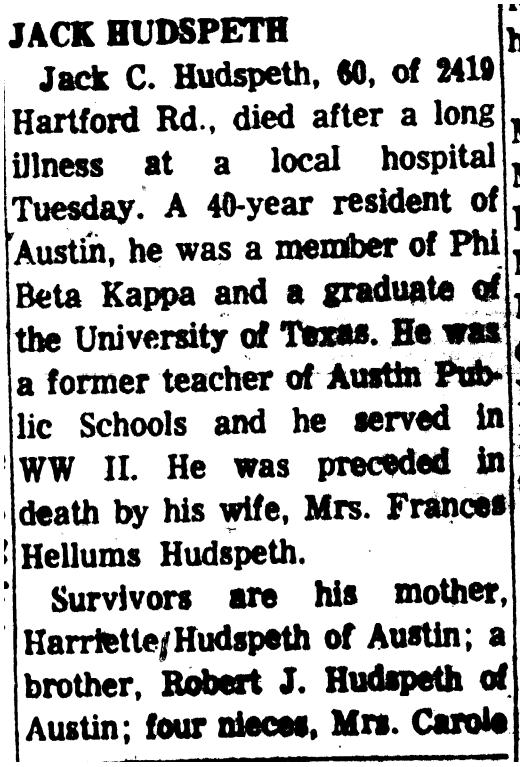
Frances: Teacher, public schools

1939 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Jack and Frances Hudspeth lived at 2207 Dam Boulevard. He was a coordinator in the public schools; she was a public school teacher.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Jack and Frances Hudspeth (ca. 1938 – ca. 1943)

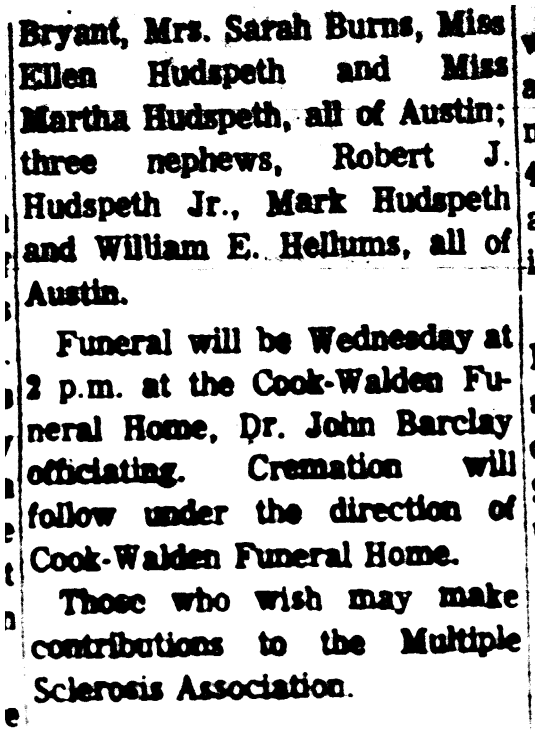
Jack and Frances Hudspeth appear as the renters of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census. Jack Hudspeth was 29, had been born in Iowa, and was the science supervisor for the public schools. Frances Hudspeth was 32, had been born in Texas, and was a substitute teacher in the public schools. With them lived Frances' mother, B.M. Hellums, a 57-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed.



JACK HUDSPETH

Jack C. Hudspeth, 60, of 2419 Hartford Rd., died after a long illness at a local hospital Tuesday. A 40-year resident of Austin, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a graduate of the University of Texas. He was a former teacher of Austin Public Schools and he served in WW II. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Frances Hellums Hudspeth.

Survivors are his mother, Harriette Hudspeth of Austin; a brother, Robert J. Hudspeth of Austin; four nieces, Mrs. Carole



Bryant, Mrs. Sarah Burns, Miss Ellen Hudspeth and Miss Martha Hudspeth, all of Austin; three nephews, Robert J. Hudspeth Jr., Mark Hudspeth and William E. Hellums, all of Austin.

Funeral will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Dr. John Barclay officiating. Cremation will follow under the direction of Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

Those who wish may make contributions to the Multiple Sclerosis Association.

Obituary of Jack Hudspeth
Austin American, November 29, 1972

From The Handbook of Texas:

HUDSPETH, FRANCES B. HELLUMS (1907–1972). Frances B. Hellums Hudspeth, museum administrator, curator, and librarian, was born on November 4, 1907, in Hico, Texas, the daughter of William E. and B. (Morgan) Hellums. While growing up she lived in several Texas cities, but by 1924 the family had settled in Austin. Frances Hellums graduated from Austin High School and subsequently taught in the high schools of Lamesa and Rising Star. She received a B.A. degree with honors from the University of Texas in 1933 and taught science in the Austin public schools from 1930 to 1939. She married Jack Chever Hudspeth on June 1, 1934. She began her association with the University of Texas in 1940 as an attendance clerk and continued as statistical clerk, administrative secretary, and executive assistant in the office of the dean of arts and sciences. During most of her university career she worked closely with **Harry H. Ransom** and served in his succession of offices. Ransom referred to her appreciatively as "the Colonel." In 1958 she began her official association with the **Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center** and the publication of the ***Texas Quarterly***, of which she was managing editor from 1958 until her death. She handled a vast range of responsibilities for the growing Humanities Research Center, working on acquisitions with donors, estates, and dealers, and on the housing, sorting, and exhibiting of collections at a time when the HRC did not have a permanent home.

Hudspeth's wide experience helped her to bring her talents and energy to bear on her most important project, the task of putting together a central repository for the HRC. She and Ransom had unique insights into the needs of the center and on a daily basis attended to the work of architects, engineers, builders, furnishers, and staff members in every phase of construction. With Ransom she shared a remarkable knowledge not only of the holdings of the HRC in its formative years but of the many special collections such as the Cora Maud O'neal collection of French decorative arts, the library and study from the home of John Foster Dulles, and the Willoughby-Blake silver collection. She and Ransom planned the HRC building to house collections in rare books and manuscripts, theater arts, photography, and the history of science, as well as reading rooms, study rooms, a conservation lab, offices, and carrels for graduate students. Frances Hudspeth had a special interest in the first two floors, which house the James A. Michener Collection of Twentieth Century American Paintings. She was working on this part of the center at the time of her death in an Austin hospital on January 29, 1972. She was a self-effacing woman who shunned credit for her work. She lived a life of devotion to her family, the university, and books. She is buried beside the grave of her mother in Hico, Texas.

Henry C. and Ruth Meyer (ca. 1943 – ca. 1948)

Henry C. and Ruth Meyer appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 1711 Pearl Street. Henry C. Meyer was 79, had been born in Texas, and was a member of the State Board of Control. Ruth Meyer was 58, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Lenora Meyer, 23, a stenographer in a law office.

Both the 1920 and the 1930 U.S. Census show Henry C. Meyer as the owner of a hardware store in Rockdale, Texas. The 1930 census report shows his son Bruce as a surveyor for the highway department.



Ex-Control Board Member Dies

Henry Conrad Meyer, 81, retired member of the State Board of Control, died in a local hospital Wednesday night. He was a member of the board from 1933 to 1940.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Ruth Gentry Meyer of Austin; two sons, H. C. Meyer Jr., of Sweetwater and B. G. Meyer of Belton; and one daughter, Mrs. R. D. Deputy of Denton.

Obituary of Henry C. Meyer
Austin American, January 29, 1948

Bruce and Josephine Meyer (ca. 1948 – ca. 1960)

Bruce Meyer appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the son of Henry C. and Ruth Meyer of Rockdale, Texas. Bruce Meyer was 20, had been born in Texas, and was a surveyor for the highway department. The 1940 U.S. Census shows Bruce G. and Josephine Meyer living in a house they owned in Overton, Rusk County, Texas. Bruce G. Meyer was 30, had been born in Texas, and was the president of a tank-cleaning company. He had lived in Kilgore, Texas in 1935. Josephine Meyer was 29, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. She had lived in Austin in 1935. They had no children listed with them.

Bruce G. Meyer

Bruce G. Meyer, 76, of 1604 Northwood died Friday.

Funeral services will be held at 9:00 AM, Monday, in the Davis Chapel of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home with Monsignor Joseph Schmitt officiating. Interment wil be at 2:00 PM, Monday, in Myrtle Cemetery in Ennis, Texas.

Mr. Meyer was the husband of Jo C. Meyer of Austin; father of Bruce G. Meyer, Jr. of Denver, Colorado, and Mary Jo McNeely of Austin; grandfather of seven; and great-grandfather of one.

Honorary pallbearers include: Debra Ann Snow, Rod C. Richburg, Jr., Robert M. Richburg, Deanne J. Richburg, Camille E. Meyer, Ann C. Meyer, and Jennifer Meyer.

In lieu of flowers expressions of sympathy may be made in memorials to the American Lung Association.

Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar location.

Obituary of Bruce G. Meyer
Austin American-Statesman, May 18, 1986

Milton W. and Ethel Kelley (ca. 1960 – ca. 1972)
Milton W. and Ethel Kelley are listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 705 E. 38th Street, which was worth $4,000. Milton W. Kelley was 49, had been born in Kansas, and was an athletic trainer at the University of Texas. Ethel Kelley was 43, had been born in Kansas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Robert, 19, who had been born in Nevada and had no occupation listed. The 130 U.S. Census shows the Kelley family at 218 E. 25th Street. Milton is listed as an athletic trainer at the University of Texas.

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

No. 10963

Received of M W Kelley Date Sep 15,1938

Address 408 West 38½

Amount Two and 50/100-- $ 2.50

Plumber Lanier Size of Tap 1"

Date of Connection 11/10/38
Size of Tap Made ¾
Size Service Made ¾
Size Main Tapped 2"
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 3'
From E. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 5"
Location of Meter CURB
Type of Box Curb
Depth of Main in St. 2'
Depth of Service Line 2'
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 7'
Checked by Engr. Dept. 6-12-39 RS

No. Fittings	Size.
1 Curb Cock	¾"
1 Elbow	¾"
1 St. Elbow	¾"
1 Bushing	¾x1"
1 Reducer	1"x¾"
6' Pipe	¾"
1 Lead-Comp. Wiped Joint	
2' Nipples	¾"
1 Union	¾"
1 Plug	¾"
1 Tee	¾"
1 Stop	¾"
1 Box	Curb
1 Lid	=
Valves	
Job No.	CS-12-38
Req. No.	BENSON

Water service permit to M.W. Kelley for this address (1938)

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT No. 14813

Austin, Texas

Received of ~~Lanier~~ Date 9/15/1938

Address 408 W. 38½

Amount $

Builder or Owner W. M. Kelley Plumber

Lot ~~16-17~~ Block 14 Subdivision Hyde Park #2 Plat No.

Date of Connection 11/8/1938
By City 44' W/EPL
By Plumber
Checked By Boatright
Size Main 6" Depth 3½'
Main Assign. in St., 12' from PL
Stub Depth Prop. Line 3'
Stub Location
Book No. A-535
Paving Cut No.

No. Fittings	Size	Price
15' Pipe	4"	1.50
Pipe		
Wyes		
Bends		
Reducers		
Plugs		
Sand		
Gravel		
Remix		
Stoppers		
Castings		.15
1 Other tap		
Labor:	1½ day	4.50

Sewer service permit to W.M. Kelley for this address (1938)