HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 25, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0082 - A
407 W. 39TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1913 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled Cumberland-style frame house with a full-width, shed-roofed independent porch on plain, square wood posts and brick piers; single and paired multi-light fenestration; non-historic porch railing.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1913. The first occupant was Hal C. Weaver and his wife, Susie, who lived here until around 1915. A native of Michigan, Hal C. Weaver was an instructor in electrical engineering, and also in mechanical engineering at the University of Texas. From 1915 to around 1917, the house was occupied by Gus K. Eifler, who with James M. Faulk, operated by the Hyde Park Drug Store at 40th and Guadalupe Streets. For a year or so on either side of 1920, the house was rented by Eric V. and Ellen Berkman. Eric V. Berkman was a grocery clerk who later became the manager of a retail grocery store.

Carl and Maxie Lewis were the longest-term occupants of this house. They lived here from 1933 to around 1943. Carl Lewis was a book-keeper, who worked for the J.R. Reed Music Company on Congress Avenue.

From around 1943 to around 1950, the house was rented by Gerald E. and Karleen Williams. Gerald E. Williams was a native of Oklahoma, but grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, and was a public school principal in Sweetwater, Texas for a time. He became active in the Boy Scouts of America, and is listed as the assistant scout executive in the 1944-45 city directory, the first that indicates his residency in this house. Williams was also very active in the Baptist Church, and served as the student director for the University Baptist church and education director for the First Baptist Church.

The house has been a rental property for many years. More recent tenants included a clerk for the State Department of Public Welfare, and a salesman.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is neither within the boundaries of the Hyde Park National Register Historic District nor the Hyde Park Local Historic District. The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but with no priority for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of this house if possible, then strongly encourage relocation over demolition. The house is a good example of a 1910s vernacular Cumberland style house that appears to be relatively intact, if a little shabby, and should be preserved and rehabilitated, even if on a new site. Staff does not believe that the house has the requisite historical and architectural significance for landmark designation, and therefore, with the above request to seriously consider relocation over demolition, recommends 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.

407 W. 39th Street
ca. 1913



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
407 W. 39th Street

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

1992	Steph R. Kelley, renter Construction machine operator, University of Texas NOTE: The directory indicates that Steph R. Kelley was a new resident at this address.
1985-86	R.S. Kelly, renter No occupation listed
1981	Vacant
1977	Adele H. Hill, renter Clerk, State Department of Public Welfare
1973	Adele H. Hill, renter Accounting clerk, State Department of Public Welfare
1968	Adele H. Hill, renter Clerk, State Department of Public Welfare
1962	Adele H. Hill, renter

Clerk, State Department of Public Welfare

1959 Bill J. and Madge Cole, renters
Salesman, Strass Franks (not listed in the main directory).
NOTE: Adele H. Hill lived at 409 W. 39th Street; she was a clerk for the State Department of Public Welfare.

1954 William J. and Mildred Wilder, renters
William: Operator, Jefferson Chemical Company, 7114 Georgetown Road.
Mildred: Clerk, State Department of Public Safety

1952 G.B. and Margaret Liggitt, renters
No occupation listed

1949 Gerald E. and Karleen Williams, renters
Student director, University Baptist Church, 2130 Guadalupe Street.

1947 Gerald E. and Karleen Williams, renters
Student director, University Baptist Church, 2130 Guadalupe Street.

1944-45 Gerald E. and Karleen Williams, renters
Assistant scout executive, Boy Scouts of America, 605 Brazos Street.
NOTE: Carl H. and Maxie Lewis are listed at 1700 Virginia Avenue; he was a book-keeper.

1941 Carl H. and Maxie Lewis, renters
Book-keeper, J.R. Reed Music Company, 805 Congress Avenue.

1939 Carl H. Lewis, renter (Maxie is not listed)
Book-keeper, J.R. Reed Music Company, 805 Congress Avenue.

1937 Carl H. and Maxie Lewis, renters
Book-keeper, J.R. Reed Music Company, 805 Congress Avenue.

1935 Carl H. and Maxie Lewis, renters
Salesman, J.R. Reed Music Company, 805 Congress Avenue.

1932-33 Prosper B. and Bessie Gray, renters
Clothes cleaner, Waverly Thurman, 620 Colorado Street.

William L. and Mattie R. Miller, renters
No occupation listed
NOTE: Carl H. and Maxie Lewis are listed at 3108 Helms Street; he was a book-keeper for the J.R. Reed Music Company.

1930-31 W.W. and Kibby Brown, renters
Salesman

1929 Leonard and Annie Doughty, renters
Lawyer
Also listed is John F. Doughty, no occupation stated.

1927 Vacant

1924 Willie Simmons, renter
Widow, J.M. Simmons
Teacher, Baker School

1922 Marvin H. and Alva Gossett, renters
Proprietor, Purity Feed Company, 210 W. 4th Street.

1920 Eric V. and Ellen Berkman, renters
Clerk, University Cash Grocery, 2316 Guadalupe Street.

1918 Vacant

1916 Gus K. Eifler
Proprietor (with James M. Faulk), Hyde Park Drug Store, drugs, toilet articles, soda water, cigars, and tobacco, 40th and Guadalupe Streets.
Also listed is Nicholas Eifler, no occupation stated.
NOTE: Hal C. Weaver is listed as an instructor in mechanical engineering and a research associate in mechanical engineering in the Division of Engineering at the University of Texas. He lived at 2318 Trinity Street.

1914 Hal C. Weaver
Instructor in electrical engineering, University of Texas.

1912-13 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Hal C. Weaver is listed as an instructor in electrical engineering at the University of Texas; he roomed at 103 E. 22nd Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Hal C. and Susie Weaver (ca. 1913 – ca. 1915)

Hal C. and Susie Weaver appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 2318 Trinity Street in Austin. Hal C. Weaver was 36, had been born in Michigan, and was a stationary engineer. Susie Weaver was 32, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 daughters: Helen, 5; and Margaret, 3.

RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL FACULTY ON THE DEATH
OF PROFESSOR HAL C. WEAVER

After twenty years of loyal service as a member of the Faculty of the College of Engineering, Professor Hal C. Weaver passed away on January 12, 1929.

Professor Weaver set high standards of accomplishment as a teacher. He was a progressive and energetic leader in his field, and through his efforts built up, in spite of his heavy physical handicaps, the Department of Mechanical Engineering to its present high state of efficiency.

In the practice of his profession he showed skill and ability as evidenced by his work in connection with the University Power Plant for which he was the Engineer.

The University lost in him an excellent instructor, the community lost a worthy citizen and his friends lost a dependable and admired companion.

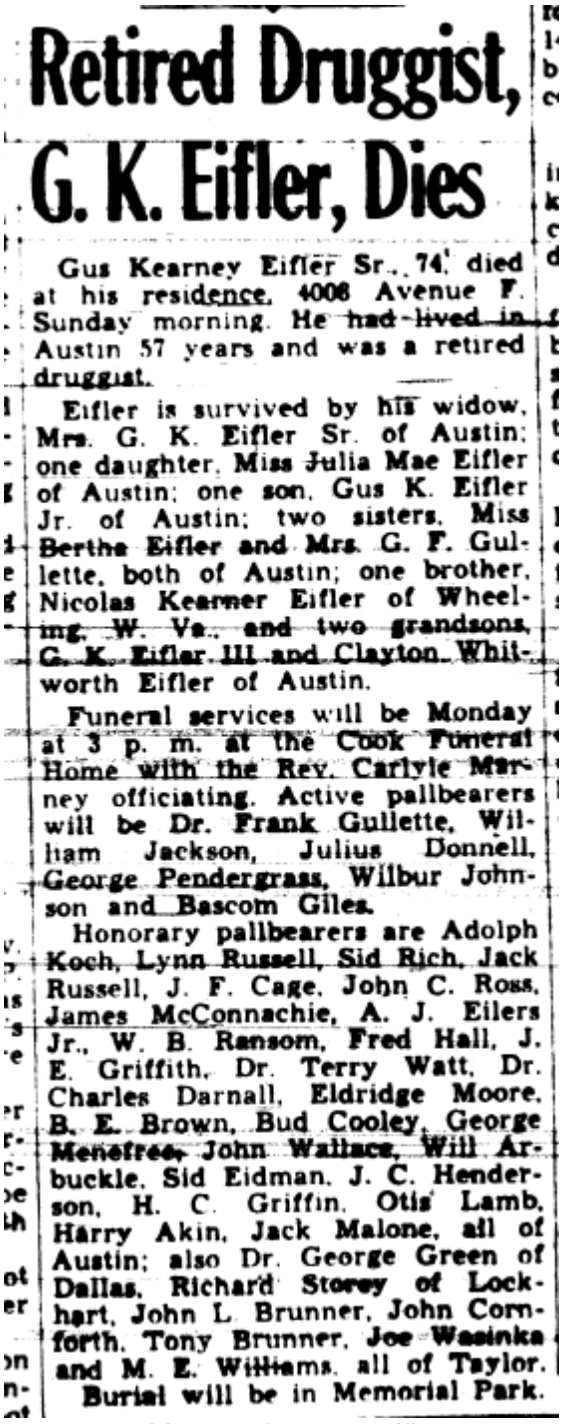
We, his University Colleagues, wish hereby to express by formal vote our respect and affection for Mr. Weaver and our sympathy for his bereaved family.

A. E. Cooper
S. P. Finch
J. A. Correll

Memorial resolution of the University of Texas upon the death of Hal C. Weaver (1929)

Gus K. and Beatrice Eifler (ca. 1915 – ca. 1917)
G.K. and Beatrice C. Eifler are listed in the 1920 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 4008 Avenue F in Austin. G.K. Eifler was 44, had been born in Tennessee, and was a druggist. Beatrice C. Eifler was 37, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 children: Julia May, 13; and G.K., Jr., 11, both of whom had been born in Texas.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Gus K. and Beatrice Eifler living in Taylor, Texas, where Gus was a pharmacist in a drug store.



Retired Druggist, G. K. Eifler, Dies

Gus Kearney Eifler Sr., 74, died at his residence, 4008 Avenue F, Sunday morning. He had lived in Austin 57 years and was a retired druggist.

Eifler is survived by his widow, Mrs. G. K. Eifler Sr. of Austin; one daughter, Miss Julia Mae Eifler of Austin; one son, Gus K. Eifler Jr. of Austin; two sisters, Miss Bertha Eifler and Mrs. G. F. Gullette, both of Austin; one brother, Nicolas Kearner Eifler of Wheeling, W. Va., and two grandsons, G. K. Eifler III and Clayton Whitworth Eifler of Austin.

Funeral services will be Monday at 3 p. m. at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Carlyle Marney officiating. Active pallbearers will be Dr. Frank Gullette, William Jackson, Julius Donnell, George Pendergrass, Wilbur Johnson and Bascom Giles.

Honorary pallbearers are Adolph Koch, Lynn Russell, Sid Rich, Jack Russell, J. F. Cage, John C. Ross, James McConnachie, A. J. Eilers Jr., W. B. Ransom, Fred Hall, J. E. Griffith, Dr. Terry Watt, Dr. Charles Darnall, Eldridge Moore, B. E. Brown, Bud Cooley, George Menefree, John Wallace, Will Arbuckle, Sid Eidman, J. C. Henderson, H. C. Griffin, Otis Lamb, Harry Akin, Jack Malone, all of Austin; also Dr. George Green of Dallas, Richard Storey of Lockhart, John L. Brunner, John Cornforth, Tony Brunner, Joe Wasinka and M. E. Williams, all of Taylor.

Burial will be in Memorial Park.

Obituary of Gus K. Eifler
Austin American, November 28, 1949

Eric V. and Ellen Berkman (ca. 1919 – ca. 1921)

The 1920 U.S. Census shows E.V. and Ellen Berkman as the renters of this house. E.V. Berkman was 29, had been born in Texas to Swedish-born parents, and was a clerk in a grocery. Ellen Berkman was 31, had been born in Texas to Swedish-born parents and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them. By 1930, according to the census report of that year, the Berkmans had moved to 4101 Avenue C, a house they owned, and which was worth $4,000. Eric Berkman was the manager of a retail grocery store. They had no children.

William W. and Kibbie Brown (ca. 1929 – ca. 1932)
The 1930 U.S. Census shows William W. and Kibbie Brown as the renters of this house. William W. Brown was 42, had been born in Tennessee, and was a traveling salesman for road machinery. Kibbie Brown was 42, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 children: Clovis A. Brown, 15; and Mary B. Brown, 8. Both children had been born in Texas.

Carl H. and Maxie Lewis (ca. 1933 – ca. 1943)
The 1940 U.S. Census shows Carl H. and Ida Maxie Lewis as the renters of this house. Carl H. Lewis was 47, had been born in Texas, and was the book-keeper for a retail home appliance store. Ida Maxie Lewis was 44, had been born in Tennessee, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Doris J., 23, a operator for the telephone company; Arthur D., 21, a private tutor; and L. Maxie Louise, 19. All the children had been born in Texas.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Carl H. and Maxie Lewis renting the house at 1714 Lavaca Street. Carl H. Brown was a 36-year old book-keeper for a music store. Maxie was 32 and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Doris J.., 13; Arthur D., 11; and Louise, 9. They had 5 lodgers in their home: Ruby Greer, 20, a Texas-born clerk in the Land Office; Louis Aderholt, 24, a Texas-born automobile salesman; Louis Machu, 24, a Texas-born auto mechanic; Billie Tittsworth, 18, a Texas-born waiter in a boarding house; and Chilton Greer, 28, a Texas-born clerk in the State Comptroller's Office.

LEWIS, Carl H., 86, 4505 Placid Place, died Tuesday. Services 11 a.m. today at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Burial, Austin Memorial Park.

Obituary of Carl H. Lewis
Austin American-Statesman, November 29, 1979

Maxie C. Lewis

Maxie C. Lewis, age 86, of Austin died Wednesday.
She is survived by a son, Arthur Dee Lewis, Potomac, Maryland; daughters, Doris L. Copeland, San Antonio, Louise Wierus-cheske, Austin; sister, Mayme Smith, Granville, Texas; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild.
Graveside services, 2:00 PM Thursday, Austin Memorial Park.
Memorial may be made to the Organ Fund of the Tarrytown United Methodist Church.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

Obituary of Maxie C. Lewis
Austin American-Statesman, March 17, 1983

Gerald E. and Karleen Williams (ca. 1943 – ca. 1950)
Gerald E. and Karleen Williams appear in the 1940 U.S. Census for Sweetwater, Texas. Gerald E. Williams was 28, had been born in Oklahoma, and was a public school principal. Karleen Williams was 25, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Margarette, 1. They had lived in rural Crockett County, Texas in 1935.

Gerald E. Williams

Gerald E. Williams, age 81, of Austin died Saturday.

Mr. Williams was born in Cowlington, Oklahoma. He attended Pharr-San Juan Public Schools, Pharr, Texas, and earned his BA degree from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, in 1932. He received his MA degree from U.T. Austin in 1937. In his professional career he was a teacher and principal, and was associated with Boy Scouts of America for many years. He had been the Educaiton Director at the University Baptist Church and the First Baptist Church of Austin, and was the Assistant Executive Director of Automotive Wholesalers of Texas. He had been most recently, Executive Director of Austin Associaiton of Retarded Citizens. He was a licensed minister, and a deacon in the Baptist Church, and was active in Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and was former president of Austin Knife and Fork Club.

Mr. Williams was married to Margaret Karleen Low of Abilene from August 30, 1933, until her death September 27, 1985.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Elizabeth who loved and cared for him since their marriage February 9, 1986, and by his children, Jinx Lacey of Austin, Jerry Williams, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Chima Clanton, Mandeville, Louisiana, and their families, Kim and Katelin Calvert, Houston; Susan and Steve Jones, Austin, Laura Lacey, Austin, Denise and Alexis Williams, Tulsa, and Buz, Kerry and Leah Clanton, Mandeville, Louisiana; a sister, Helen Eplen, Abilene; and a brother, Van Williams, New York City; and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by a step-son and his wife, Rhett and Candy Stone of Austin.

Services will be 10:00 AM, Tuesday, November 17, 1992, at the First Baptist Church, Austin, with Reverend Browning Ware officiating.

Pallbearers will be Walter Matthews, Frank Phillips, Harold Moore, Dell Sheftall, Jack Goodman, Johnnie Jones, Harold Hemingson, J.H. Arnette, Buz Clanton, Steve Jones, Bill Low and Rhett Stone. Honorary pallbearers will be the Mixed Nuts Sunday School Class, and the Deacons of First Baptist Church. Burial will be in Memorial Hill Park.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home Monday evening. [illegible] Funeral Home in charge of arrangements

Obituary of Gerald Williams
Austin American-Statesman, November 16, 1992