

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 23, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0305
1415 ALAMEDA DRIVE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-and-a-half story, rectangular-plan, steeply pitched side-gabled frame Tudor Revival house with a central, front-gabled projecting entry bay containing the round-arched entry; partial-width inset porch to the right of the entry bay with segmental-arched arcade; battered brick exterior chimney to the left of the entry bay; single and paired multi-light casement windows.

RESEARCH

The house was built around 1936; the first owners and occupants were Martin K. and Selma Manz, who lived here until around 1958. Martin K. Manz was a buyer for the Kash-Karry grocery store chain in Austin, while Selma was the superintendent and timekeeper for the Household Aide Project of the WPA until after World War II, when Martin established his own food brokerage company, Finks-Manz, with offices at 104 W. 1st Street. Selma Manz began working for the company as well, at first as an office secretary, then office manager, then book-keeper, before her death in 1957. Martin Manz moved from the house shortly after Selma's death.

The house was listed as vacant in the 1959 city directory, then owned by a salesman, Walter B. Sorenson, and his wife, R. Josephine, in the early 1960s. Roy L. Clark, a department manager for the City Power and Light Department, and his wife, Billie, owned and occupied the house in the mid-1960s through the early 1970s. The house was a rental property through the early 1990s.

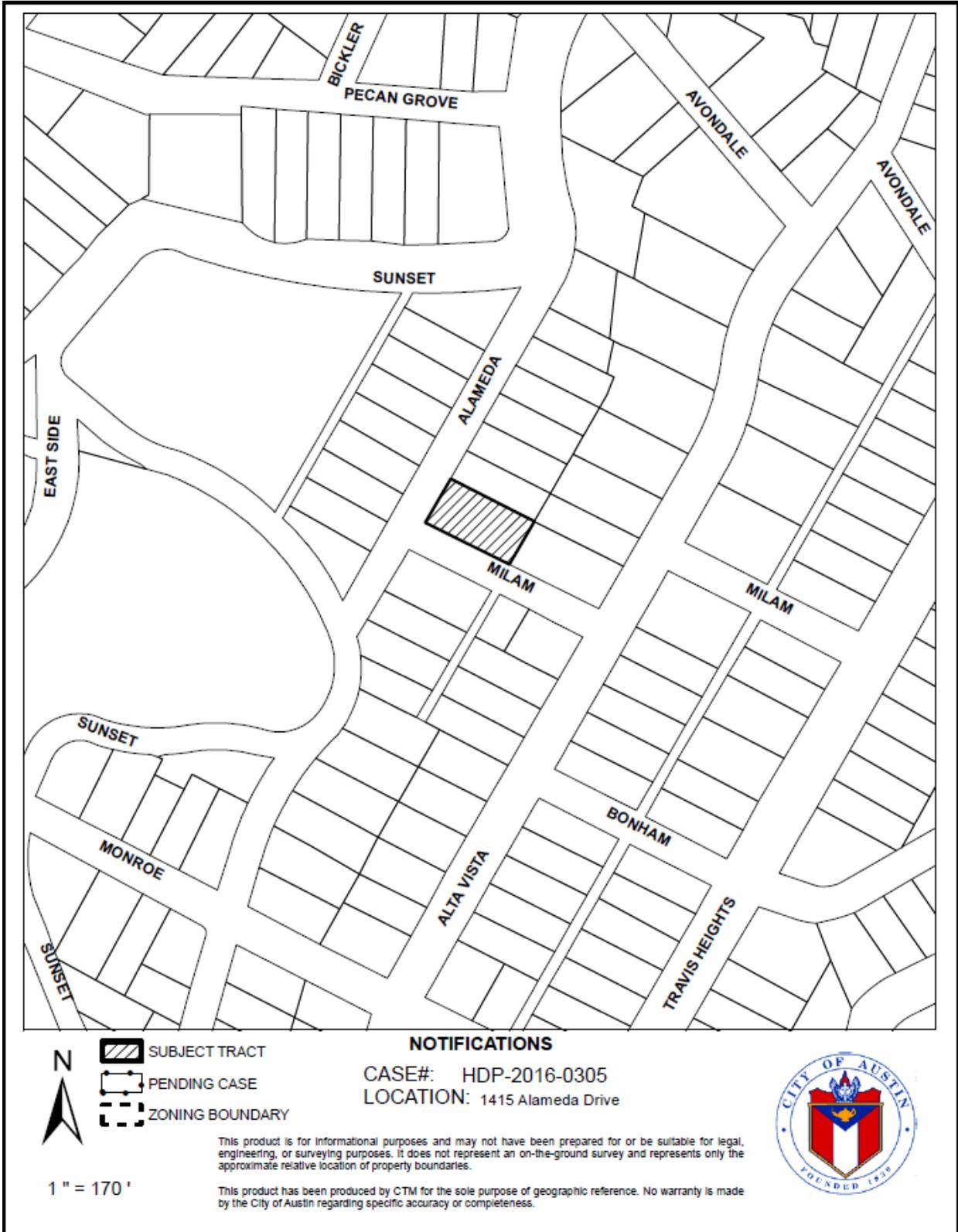
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, but release 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. The house has neither the architectural nor the historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



1415 Alameda Drive
ca. 1936



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1415 Alameda Drive

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
May, 2016

- 1992 Patricia Hill, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that Patricia Hill was a new resident at this address.
- 1985-86 Vacant
- 1981 Bill Barbisch, renter
Lawyer
- 1977 R. and Karen Mayers, owners
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that R. and Karen Mayers were new residents at this address.
- 1973 Roy L. and Wilmetta Clark, owners
Department manager, City Power and Light Department
- 1968 Roy L. and Billie Clark, owners
Electrician
- 1962 Walter B. and R. Josephine Sorenson, owners
Salesman
NOTE: Roy L. and Billie Clark are not listed in the directory.
- 1959 Vacant
- 1955 Martin K. and Selma Manz, owners
Martin: Proprietor, Finks-Manz Company, Ltd., food brokers, 104 W. 1st Street.
Selma: Book-keeper, Finks-Manz Company.
- 1952 Martin K. and Zelina [sic] Manz, owners
Martin: Proprietor, Finks-Manz Company, food brokers, 104 W. 1st Street.
Selma: Office manager, Finks-Manz Company.
- 1949 Martin K. and Selma Manz, owners
Martin: Proprietor, Finks-Manz Company, food brokers, 104 W. 1st Street.
Selma: Office secretary, Finks-Manz Company.
- 1947 Martin K. and Selma Manz, owners
Clerk
- 1944-45 Jerome C. and Marietta Hofmayer, renters
U.S. Army
NOTE: Martin K. Manz is not listed in the directory; Selma Manz is listed as a timekeeper for the City Finance Department; she lived at 3113 Lafayette Avenue.

JP Verdict Returned In Manz Death

A verdict of death by self-inflicted asphyxiation was rendered Saturday in the death of Mrs. Selma P. Manz, 49, prominent Austin woman who was found dead beneath her parked car in the garage of her home at 1415 Alameda Drive.

The verdict was returned at the scene by Justice of the Peace J. H. Watson.

Police were called to the woman's home by her husband, Martin K. Manz, after the body was found about 5:40 a.m. by a Hillcrest Dairy routeman, Curtis Hennig, of 5511 Bennett.

Mrs. Manz had been ill for some time, and under a doctor's care, police said.

Hennig told detectives Fred Hooper and William Waggoner that he heard the car motor running in the garage when he arrived at the house to make a milk delivery. He said he opened the garage door and saw the body lying beneath the rear of the vehicle with the motor running. Strong carbon monoxide fumes were still in the garage.

Mrs. Manz had been a resident of Austin for many years and was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Tri-L Club of Austin Lions Club.

She is survived by her husband; her mother, Mrs. Anna Raebler of Weimar; and two sisters, Mrs. Estella Strayhorn of Castroville and Mrs. Ruby Larson of Dallas.

Funeral services will be held at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home Monday at 3 p.m. with Rev. Albert F. Jesse officiating.

The family has requested that those who desire, may make a contribution to the Cancer Fund.

Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

News story on the suicide of Selma Manz
Austin American-Statesman, May 19, 1957

MRS. SELMA R. MANZ

Funeral services for Mrs. Selma R. Manz will be held at Wilke Clay Funeral Home Monday at 3 p.m. with Rev. Albert F. Jesse officiating.

Pallbearers will be Frank Wendel, Leslie Rabel, E. A. Haschke, Ernest Best, Willie I. Kocurek and Raymond G. Knippa.

Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Funeral notice for Selma Manz
Austin American, May 20, 1957

Martin K. Manz

Martin K. Manz, born February 9, 1908, in Austin, died Thursday, March 15, 1990.

He was preceded in death by his youngest sister, Mildred Osoba.

He was the son of the late Reverend and Mrs. K.G. Manz, and was a life-long and very faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

He graduated from Austin High School and attended the University of Texas. He worked for the Kash Karry Grocery Company until World War II, during which time he served in the Quatermaster Corps. After the war, he formed the Martin K. Manz Company, a food brokerage firm, which he operated until his retirement in 1977.

He was a member of the Founders Lions Club of Austin for more than 50 years.

He is survived by his wife, Anna Ruth Ogden Harris Menz; son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Judy Harris of Hobbs, New Mexico; daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Tom Tracy of Scottsdale, Arizona; daughter and son-in-law, Sally and Lon Rankin of Austin; grandchildren, Mark William Tracy, Mark Robert Harris, Xan Tracy Leighton, Sarah Louise Harris, Martin Christopher Rankin, Jennifer Lynn Rankin, and Austin Colin Tracy; and one great-grandchild, Adam Scott Leighton. Also surviving Mr. Manz are his three sisters, Olga Haschke, Esther Barsun and Ruth Studtmann; and many nieces and nephews.

