

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 23, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0269
2301 RUNDELL PLACE**

PROPOSAL

Partial demolition and new addition to a ca. 1950 A.D. Stenger house.

ARCHITECTURE

The applicant proposes to construct a one-story addition and a second-story addition to the house. The southwest exterior wall will be demolished and a new wall will be built on the existing slab. Exterior materials for the additions will be fiber cement lap siding and limestone veneer with a standing-seam metal roof. The flat roof will be replaced with a low-pitched gabled roof with a plate glass clerestory, and existing siding will be replaced with cut limestone veneer.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1950 by A.D. Stenger, a mid-century Modern designer and builder with many houses in this area of South Austin. Stenger is listed as the owner of the house on the utility permit for the property, then sold it to Lewis U. and Kate G. Hanke, who lived here from around 1952 until around 1960. Lewis Hanke, a native of Oregon, was one of the most prominent American academics in the field of colonial Latin American history. He was the first chief of the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress, and came to Austin around 1951 to teach at the University of Texas. He established the Latin American Studies program at UT, then in 1960, moved to Columbia University, and in 1969, to the University of Massachusetts. He retired from teaching at UMass in 1975, and passed away in Amherst, Massachusetts in 1993.

The house was purchased in the mid-1960s by Kenneth B. Fiske and his wife, Patricia. Fiske is an art professor at the University of Texas, teaching drawing, painting, and life studies, and has won several prizes for his artwork. He has several pieces in the Dallas Museum of Art.

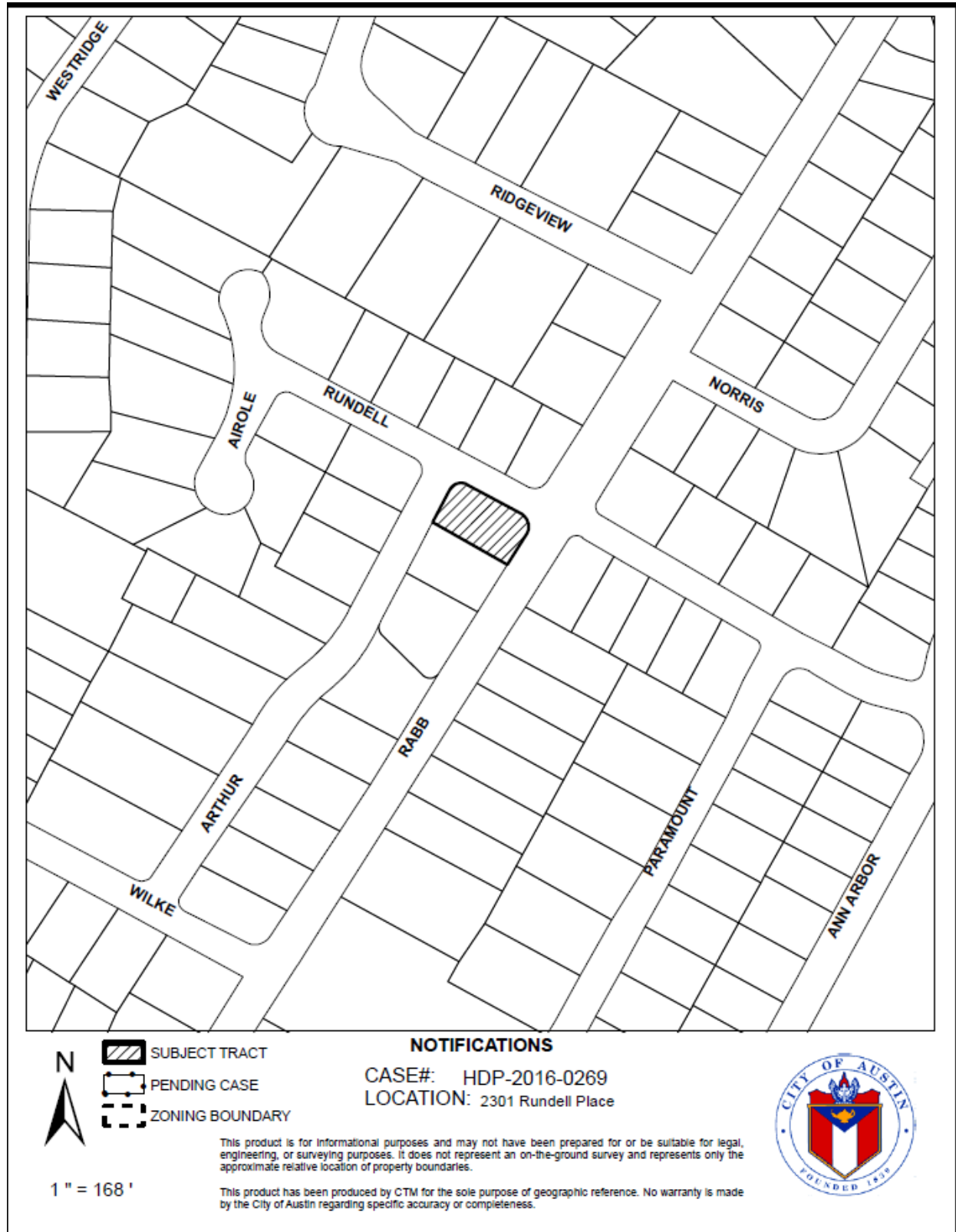
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage the applicant to retain the original materials for the front of the house, 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 applicant's proposed change from a flat roof to a low-pitched gable roof is within the vocabulary of mid-century Modern design, as well as that of A.D. Stenger designs.

LOCATION MAP



2301 Rundell Place
ca. 1950





OCCUPANCY HISTORY
2301 Rundell Place

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

- 1992 Kenneth B. and Patricia Fiske, owners
Retired
- 1985-86 Kenneth B. and Patricia Fiske, owners
Kenneth: Professor, University of Texas
Patricia: Teacher, public schools
- 1981 Kenneth B. and Patricia Fiske, owners
Professor, University of Texas
- 1977 Kenneth B. and Patricia Fiske, owners
Professor, University of Texas
- 1973 Kenneth B. and Patricia Fiske, owners
Associate professor, University of Texas
- 1968 Kenneth B. and Patricia Fiske, owners
Art professor, University of Texas
- 1962 Samuel A. and Elizabeth Patton, owners
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company, 111 E. 8th Street.
 NOTE: Kenneth B. and Patricia Fiske are listed at 615 Crestland Drive; he was
 an assistant professor at the University of Texas.
- 1959 Lewis U. and Kate G. Hanke, owners
Lewis: Professor, University of Texas
Kate: Librarian, City Public Library
 Also listed is Jody Hanke, a student.
- 1955 Lewis U. and Kate G. Hanke, owners
Lewis: Director, Latin-American Studies, University of Texas
Kate: Student
- 1954 Lewis U. and Kate G. Hanke, owners
Director, Teacher
 Also listed is Susan E. Hanke, a student.
- 1953 Lewis U. Hanke, owner
Professor, University of Texas
 NOTE: Kate G. Hanke is not listed in the directory.
- 1952 Lewis N. Hanke, owner
Professor, University of Texas
 NOTE: Kate G. Hanke is not listed in the directory.
- 1949 The street is not listed in the directory.
 NOTE: Lewis Hanke is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Lewis and Kate Hanke (ca. 1952 – ca. 1960)

Lewis Hanke (1905–1993) was a preeminent U.S. historian of colonial Latin America, and is best known for his writings on the Spanish conquest of Latin America. Hanke, along with two others, Irving A. Leonard and John T. Lanning, presented a revisionist narrative of colonial history that focused on the role of Bartolomé de las Casas, who famously advocated for the rights of Native Americans, and searched for just resolutions to the tensions between the conquistadores and the natives during the colonial period of Spanish rule. Hanke's writings documented Las Casas' work as a political activist, historian, political theorist, and anthropologist. His scholarship also uncovered evidence to support Hanke's claim that Las Casas did not act as the sole voice of conscience during the colonial era, but actually constituted the head of what was a larger reform movement by a number of Spanish colonists to prevent "the destruction of the Indies." [1] His historiography was similar to the one of his contemporary Jaime Eyzaguirre. [2]

Born in 1905 in Oregon City, Oregon, Hanke received his B.S. and M.A. in history from Northwestern University. He went on to complete his Ph.D from Harvard University in 1936. He served as the first chief of the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress, [3] and headed the Hispanic Foundation until 1951. He began his teaching career at the University of Texas, then moved on to Columbia University. Hanke later joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1969, where he remained until his retirement in 1975. [4]

To many, Hanke is considered the father of the field of Latin American studies in the United States. He created the Handbook of Latin American Studies, and that, along with his considerable historiographical achievements in Latin American history, continue to figure among the foundational works of Latin American studies research and library collections in both the U.S. and abroad. [5]

Hanke edited the Guide to the Study of US History Outside the US, 1945-1980, and the year before his retirement, he served as the president of the American Historical Association, where he oversaw the re-writing of the AHA's charter.

Hanke died on March 26, 1993, eight days after the death of his wife, Kate Gilbert Hanke. She was "la Querida Compañera de Mi Vida."

At Harvard, Hanke studied under Clarence H. Haring. During that time, Hanke published the first of his works on Bartolomé de las Casas, *Las teorías políticas de Bartolomé de Las Casas* and *The First Social Experiments in America: A Study of the Development of Spanish Indian Policy in the Sixteenth Century*. In 1936, Hanke graduated from Harvard with a degree in history. Unable to get a job during the Great Depression, Hanke was appointed director of the Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress in 1939, where he served for 12 years. His most influential work, *The Spanish Struggle* (1949), argues that "... the Spanish conquest of America was far more than a remarkable military and political exploit; that it was also one of the greatest attempts the world has seen to make Christian precepts prevail in the relations between peoples." [7] This underscores Hanke's idealistic view of Las Casas, and cuts against the prevailing narrative, then and now, of the Spanish colonists as a uniformly exploitative, hostile force vis à vis the native Americans. Hanke went on to pen works that continued to explore the concept of "the Spanish struggle for justice", as well as on topics ranging from the city of Potosi to the Good Neighbor policy. [8]

In 1974, [8] Hanke was elected President of the American Historical Association, the first Latin Americanist to hold the position. In 1989, Hanke received the Kalman Silvert Award from Latin American Studies Association, and in 1992, was honored with the Antonio de Nebrija Fifth Centenary Special Prize from the University of Salamanca.

Major works

The Spanish Struggle for Justice in the Conquest of America (1949)

All Mankind Is One: A Study of the Disputation Between Bartolome De Las Casas and Juan Gines De Sepulveda in 1550 on the Religious and Intellectual Capacity of the American Indians (1974)

People and Issues in Latin American History: From Independence to the Present (1990)

Guide to the Study of United States History Outside the U.S., 1945-1980 (1985)

Latin America, a Historical Reader (1974)

People and Issues in Latin American History: The Colonial Experience (1993)

Selected Writings of Lewis Hanke on the History of Latin America (1979)

From Wikipedia

Kenneth and Patricia Fiske (ca. 1965 -)

Kenneth B. Fiske was born in 1928. He has about 50 items in the archives of American Art. He is a painter.

According to the Alcalde of January, 1971, Mr. Fiske has taught painting, life drawing and design at the University for the past 15 years. During this time, his painting has evolved from renderings in nature to complete abstraction. The mysterious organic processes of nature have been an inspiration for his work: the largeness of the sea and the vast microcosm of organisms contained within the excitement of landscape with its many organic forms. His works have received three purchase awards from the Texas Watercolor Society in separate exhibitions. One of his drawings received the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts purchase prize in the 8th Southwestern Exhibition of Prints and Drawings, and in the 25th Annual Texas Painting and Sculpture Exhibition. Mr. Fiske's oil painting, "Plankton," won the first purchase prize.

Mr. Fiske received a B.A. degree from the University of Southern California in 1950, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1952, he received an M.A. degree in studio art with an art history thesis. His works are contained in numerous collections around the United States.

A. D. Stenger	2301 Rundell Place
202	4
A. D. Stenger	
Brick veneer and frame residence with	carport atth.
45654 7-26-50	\$10,000.00
Owner	

20-2294

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

Received of A. D. STENGER Date 8-22-50

Address 2301 RUNDALL

Amount TWENTY & NO/100 20.00

Plumber MIDDLETON PLUMBING CO. Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection 9-8-50

Size of Tap Made 3/4"

Size Service Made 3/4"

Size Main Tapped 6"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7.5'

From E. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 4.3'

Location of Meter OVER

Type of Box LOCK

Depth of Main in St. 3'

Depth of Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main Over

Checked by Engr. Dept. 102 OCT 5 1950

No. Fittings	Size	
1	Curb Cock 3/4"	
1	Elbow 3/4"	
1	St. Elbow 3/4"	
1	Flushing 3/4"	
1	Reducer 3/4"	
1	Pipe 3/4"	
	Lead Comp.	
	Nipples	
	Union	
	Plug	
1	Stop 1"	
1	Box 4.00"	
1	Lid	
	Valves	
	Job No. 20-3235	
	Per. No. 502	

INDEXED

Water service permit to A.D. Stenger for this house (1950)

A. D. Stenger 2301 Rundell Place

294 4 and north 5' of 3 - - -

Stenger Addition

Addition to frame residence.

48955 8-23-51 \$2500.00

Owner

Building permit to A.D. Stenger for an addition (1951)



May 18, 2016

City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: 2301 Rundell Place

Dear Commissioners,

Mid Tex Mod, the leading voice for the preservation of Modern architecture in our region, supports initiation of historic zoning for the house at 2301 Rundell, which is an important example of regional Modernism designed by one of Austin's pre-eminent mid-century architects. As the Central Texas chapter of Docomomo US, Mid Tex Mod's mission is to raise awareness of Modern buildings, sites, neighborhoods, and landscapes, as well as advocate for their preservation, documentation, and sustained use.

2301 Rundell Place exemplifies the design philosophy of its architect, Arthur Dallas (A.D.) Stenger, who brought Modern sensibilities to Austin's burgeoning creative middle class. With its low-pitched roof, pronounced rafter tails, clerestory windows, and natural materials including battered walls and planters of site-collected stone, 2301 Rundell is an excellent example of Stenger's work. Completed in 1950, the house has been minimally altered and retains a high degree of integrity. It is located within the A.D. Stenger Addition, a mid-century subdivision within the Barton Hills neighborhood where Stenger began his career and which still has a small but remarkable concentration of intact Stenger homes. Mid Tex Mod featured 2301 Rundell on a tour of Stenger's Barton Hills work as part of national Docomomo US Tour Day in October 2015.

The house at 2301 Rundell Place clearly meets the City's Historic Designation Criteria: it is at least 50 years old and represents a period of significance of at least 50 years ago; it retains a high degree of integrity and clearly conveys its historical significance; and it demonstrates significance in the following categories:

- (i) **Architecture:** The house is a classic example of the work of Austin's most prominent mid-century residential designer/builder, A.D. Stenger, as well as a significant work of regional Modernist residential design; and
- (ii) **Historical Associations:** 2301 Rundell Place was the residence of prominent Latin American historian Lewis Ulysses Hanke, Professor of History at the University of Texas and the Director for UT's Institute of Latin American Studies. Hanke is best known for his writings on the Spanish conquest of Latin America and is considered by many to be the father of the field of Latin American studies in the United States

Historic preservation at the local level involves a careful balance of community values and private property rights, of which we are highly respectful. Our organization believes that 2301 Rundell is a historically significant property and retains a high degree of integrity; however, we are concerned that the proposed work includes additions and alterations which could compromise the property's integrity and render it ineligible for future designation. Moreover, we believe that the Rundell Place and Airole Way comprise a potential mid-century historic district, which could be rendered ineligible by loss of a contributing property such as this. However, we are confident that it is feasible to rehabilitate 2301 Rundell in a manner that would preserve its architectural integrity yet give the owner the square footage and amenities being sought. We recommend that the property be zoned historic and all work reviewed in keeping with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* to protect this piece of Austin's history well into the future.

Thank you for your time on this case and your service on this important commission. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at midtexasmod@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsey Derrington', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Lindsey Derrington, President
Mid Tex Mod