

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 25, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0473
1901 ROBINHOOD TRAIL**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1940 house.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled minimally Colonial Revival-styled frame house with a central, projecting front-gabled bay containing the principal entry; modern replacement windows; modern attached garage to the left of the principal block.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1940 by Clarence Williams, who lived here with his wife, Vera, until around 1943. Clarence Williams was a native of Jasper County, Missouri, and lived in Corpus Christi in 1930, where he and Vera owned a jewelry store. By 1940, according to the census report of that year, Clarence and Vera Williams were living at 4310 Ramsey Avenue in Austin; Clarence worked as the old age administrator for the State Treasury.

Around 1943, the house was purchased by J [oseph] Terry and Lala Renfro, who moved to Austin from Hillsboro, where they had owned a coffee shop. Upon moving to Austin, J. Terry Renfro began work for the Internal Revenue Service, a position he held while he and Lala lived in this house through the early 1950s. The house was then briefly rented by a UT professor, Franklin Young, and his wife, Jean, in the mid-1950s, and then purchased by Rev. Frank S. Doremus and his wife Betty, who lived here until the early 1980s. Frank Doremus was born in Augusta, Georgia, and became an Episcopal priest in 1944, ministering to parishes in Georgia, and then Texas. He became the Professor of Homiletics at the Episcopal Theological Seminary in 1957, and retired in 1985, all the while living in this house.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.




STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, as the house appears to be in good condition, 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



1" = 208'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0473
1901 ROBINHOOD TRAIL

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.



1901 Robinhood Trail
ca. 1940



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1901 Robinhood Trail

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

1992	A. Stuart and Anne Ashmun, renters No occupation listed
1985-86	Vacant
1981	Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus, owners Professor, Episcopal Theological Seminary
1977	Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus, owners Professor, Episcopal Theological Seminary
1973	Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus, owners Professor, Episcopal Theological Seminary
1968	Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus, owners Professor, Episcopal Theological Seminary
1965	Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus, owners Professor, Episcopal Theological Seminary

- 1962 Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus, owners
Professor, Episcopal Theological Seminary
- 1959 Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus, owners
Assistant professor, Episcopal Theological Seminary
- 1955 Franklin and Jen Young, renters
Professor, University of Texas
NOTE: Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus are not listed in the directory.
- 1952 J. Terry and Lala Renfro, owners
Supervisor collector, Internal Revenue Service
- 1949 J. Terry and Lola N. Renfro, owners
Chief, returns section, Bureau of Internal Revenue
Also listed are Robert T. Renfro, a clerk at the State Department of Public Safety;
and William C. Renfro, a recorder for the State Highway Department.
- 1947 J. Terry and Lala Renfro, owners
Zone deputy collector, U.S. Internal Revenue Service
- 1944-45 J. Terry and Lala N. Renfro, owners
Deputy collector, U.S. Internal Revenue Service
NOTE: Clarence F. and Vera R. Williams are listed at 2504 Nueces Street. He
was a watchmaker for Leutwyler's Watch Shop, 617 Congress Avenue.
- 1941 Clarence F. and Vera R. Williams, owners
Division supervisor, State Treasury
Also listed is Clarence F. Williams, Jr., a student at the University of Texas.
NOTE: J. Terry and Lala Renfro are not listed in the directory.
- 1940 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Clarence and Vera Williams are listed at 4310 Ramsey Avenue; he was
a division supervisor for the State Treasury.
Also listed is Clarence F. Williams, Jr., a student at the University of Texas.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Clarence F. and Vera R. Williams (ca. 1941 – ca. 1943)

Clarence F. and Vera Williams are listed in the 1930 U.S. Census of Corpus Christi, Texas, where they owned their house. Clarence F. Williams was 37, had been born in Missouri, and was the proprietor of a jewelry store. Vera Williams was 35, had been born in Indiana, and was a saleslady in a jewelry store. Their son, Clarence, Jr. was 11, and had been born in Kansas.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Clarence and Vera Williams as the owners of the house at 4310 Ramsey Avenue in Austin, which was worth \$2,800. Clarence Williams was 47, had been born in Missouri, and was the old age administrator for the State Treasury. Vera Williams was 45, had been born in Indiana, and was a saleswoman for children's books. They had 2 sons: Clarence, Jr., 21, who had been born in Kansas; and George, 8, who had been born in Texas. Neither had an occupation listed.

Clarence F. Williams died in California in 1958 and was buried in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Joseph Terry and Lala Renfro (ca. 1943 – ca. 1953)

Joseph T. and Lala Renfro appear in the 1940 U.S. Census for Hillsboro, Texas. Joseph T. Renfro was 35, had been born in Texas, and was the manager and owner of a coffee shop. Lala Renfro was 31, had been born in Texas, and was the manager and owner of a coffee shop. They had 2 sons: William C., 10; and Robert, 8. Both boys had been born in Texas. Joseph Terry Renfro died in 1979 in Travis County. According to his death certificate, he was born in Hillsboro, Texas in 1904, and was an examiner for the IRS. Lala Renfro died in 1993, and was buried in Jacksonville, Texas.

**RENFRO, Lala Puline Nicholson, 84, of
Austin died Friday. Services were Mon-
day. (Thompson, Jacksonville)**

Death notice for Lala Renfro
Austin American-Statesman, January 5, 1993

Rev. Frank S. and Betty Doremus (ca. 1957 – ca. 1984)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Frank Doremus as the 24-year old son of Mrs. Coles Phinzy of Augusta, Georgia, where she owned her house. Frank Doremus was born in Georgia, and worked in the Trust Department of the Georgia Railroad Bank. His mother, 49, had been born in North Carolina and had no occupation listed. The household also included a younger son, Alex, 21, who had been born in Georgia, and worked as an insurance clerk; a half-sister, Mildred Phinzy, 9, who had been born in Georgia; and Coles Phinzy's mother [in-law?], Ellen Doremus, 90, who had been born in Georgia, and had no occupation listed.

Frank S. Doremus

The Reverend Frank S. Doremus, born January 26, 1916, in Augusta, Georgia, to Hildred Owen and Frank Doremus, died peacefully April 5, 2003.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Betty; daughters, Jean Grubb and husband, Jerry, Elizabeth Manning and husband, Terry, Catherine Rains and Ellen Mahanay; grandchildren, Trey Grubb and wife, Sherri, Jon Grubb and fiancé, Mindy Fiegel, Melissa Manning, Jennifer Nunamaker and husband, Andy, and Frank Hunter Mahanay; great-grandchildren, Jordan and Dylan Grubb and Corey and Caleb Nunamaker; sister, Hildred McKagen and nephews, Phillip, Coles, Alec and Owen; and his sister-in-law, Dorothy Fishburne and nieces, Kenan and Lucia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Hildred, brother, Alec, brothers-in-law, Phillip McKagen and Charles Fishburne, and his grandson, Jonathan Mahanay.

Frank was ordained into the Episcopal priesthood in 1944. He served as rector of parishes in Darien and Jesup, Georgia, and Houston, Texas City and Beaumont, Texas. In 1957 he became Professor of Homiletics at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, where he remained until his retirement in 1985.

In his 41 years of service in the Episcopal Church, Frank Doremus touched thousands of lives as a priest, teacher, mentor and pastoral counselor. He will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched, by all who loved him.

The family wishes to express special thanks to Derrick Warren, Dad's "Buddy" who acted as companion and friend over the past 4 months, adding greatly to Dad's quality and enjoyment of life.

A memorial service will be held on April 12th, 2:00 p.m. in Austin, Texas, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6317 West Bee Cave Road, with a reception following in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to The John Hines' Chair of Homiletics at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, 606 Rathervue Place, Austin, Texas, 78705.

Funeral arrangements made by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX, 78705.

Obituary of Frank S. Doremus
Austin American-Statesman, April 7, 2003

Elizabeth F. Doremus

Jean Elizabeth (Betty) Fishburne Doremus passed away November 22, 2003. She was born in Darien, Georgia, July 8, 1923, to Charles C. and Jean Manson Fishburne.

In 1944, she married the Rev. Frank Doremus. They moved to Houston, Texas, a year later, then to Texas City, Beaumont, and eventually to Austin in 1958.

Betty's beloved soulmate, Frank, died in April 2003. She is survived by her daughters, Jean Grubb and husband, Jerry; Elizabeth Manning and husband, Terry Sullivan; Catherine Rains; and Ellen Mahanay. Also by grandchildren, Trey Grubb and wife, Sherri, Jon Grubb and fiancée, Mindy Fiegel, Melissa Manning, Jennifer Nunamaker and husband, Andy, and Hunter Mahanay; and great-grandchildren, Jordan and Dylan Grubb and Cory and Caleb Nunamaker.

Family and friends will sorely miss her wisdom, kindness, compassion and abundant love she gave unstintingly to all of us. However, we realize she has longed to be reunited with "her Frank" and rejoice in the knowledge that they are together again.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26th, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 North Capital of Texas Hwy., Austin, Texas 78746. Burial will follow at Austin Memorial Park, 2800 Hancock Drive, Austin, Texas.

Pallbearers will be Jerry Grubb, Trey Grubb, Jon Grubb, Terry Sullivan, Andy Nunamaker and Jerry Thigpen.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hospice Austin's Christopher House, 2820 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Austin, Texas 78702, or to The John Hines' Chair at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, 606 Rathervue Place, Austin, Texas, 78705.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, Austin, Texas 78705 (512) 452-8811. You may view memorials online at www.wcfish.com

Obituary of Betty Doremus
Austin American-Statesman, November 25, 2003

Clarence Williams 1901 Robin Hood Tr.

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K

Sherwood Forest

2sty. Frame Hsg. & Frame Garage attached

1910 - 1911

