

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
AUGUST 22, 2016  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2016-0511  
1702 KENWOOD AVENUE**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, cross-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width, front-gabled independent porch on stone piers; single and paired 1:1 fenestration with decorative wood screens.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1936, and was first rented by Charlotte Stride, a bond clerk in the Board of County and District Road Indebtedness; she lived here until around 1938, when the house was rented again by Virginia Stassinis and her two daughters. Virginia Stassinis was a stenographer for the WPA. John Henderson and his wife Mamie rented the house in 1940; he was a substitute clerk at the post office. From around 1943 until around 1950, the house was rented then owned by Giles and Mary Lou Spillar. Giles Spillar was the general manager of the Night Hawk restaurants in Austin, the first Austin restaurant to stay open all night, and reputedly the first to serve African-American customers.

The house became a rental unit again around 1950, and continued as a rental through the early 1990s. Tenants included a field rep for the Texas State Federation of Labor, a consultant to the State Youth Development Council, a salesman for White Swan Institutional Foods, an instructor at St. Edward's University, and a date analyst.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, 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 is an excellent example of a mid-1930s bungalow, and is integral to the architectural context of the neighborhood, but does not qualify as an individual landmark.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

**NOTIFICATIONS**

CASE#: HDP-2016-0511

LOCATION: 1702 Kenwood Avenue

1" = 117'

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.





1702 Kenwood Avenue  
ca. 1936



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1702 Kenwood Avenue

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

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1992    | Kenneth P. and Kay Mueller, renters<br>Kenneth: Data analyst, Department of Human Services<br>Kay: Employed by William S. Guyton Associates, hydrologist, 3355 Bee Caves Road. |
| 1985-86 | Kenneth P. and Kay Mueller, renters<br>Data analyst, University of Texas   |
| 1981    | Kenneth P. and Kay Mueller, renters<br>No occupation listed<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Kenneth P. and Kay Mueller were new residents at this address.               |
| 1977    | David Rubinstein, owner<br>Instructor, St. Edward's University<br>NOTE: Kenneth P. and Kay Mueller are not listed in the directory.  |

- 1973 Gladys E. Worden, renter  
Widow, P. James Worden  
Clerk, R.W. Byram & Company, engineers and consulting geologists, 706 Guadalupe Street.
- 1968 Gladys E. Worden, renter  
Widow, P. James Worden  
Clerk, R.W. Byram & Company, engineers and consulting geologists, 302 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1965 H. William and Sula B. Wetzel, renters  
Salesman, White Swan Institutional Food, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Street.  
NOTE: Gladys Worden, the widow of P.J. Worden is listed at 2104 Kenwood Avenue. She was a business machine operator for R.W. Byram & Company, engineers and consulting geologists, 302 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1962 H. William and Sula B. Vetzel, renters  
Salesman, White Swan Institutional Foods, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Street.
- 1959 H. William and Sula B. Wetzel, renters  
Salesman, John Bremond Company, wholesale groceries, 301 San Jacinto Street.
- 1955 Hank S. and Sophie Brown, renters  
Field rep, Texas State Federation of Labor  
NOTE: Sula B. Wetzel is listed as the proprietor of Wetzel Real Estate, 1707 Newning Avenue, also her home. H. William Wetzel does not appear to be listed in the directory.
- 1952 Earle E. and Farry B. Meadows, renters  
Consultant, State Youth Development Council
- 1949 Giles D. and Mary L. Spillar, owners  
General manager, Night Hawk, restaurant, 1907 Guadalupe Street and 336 S. Congress Avenue.
- 1947 Giles D. and Mary L. Spillar, renters  
General manager, Night Hawk, restaurant, 1907 Guadalupe Street and 336 S. Congress Avenue.
- 1944-45 Giles D. and Mary L. Spillar, owners  
Manager, Night Hawk No. 1, restaurant, 336 S. Congress Avenue.
- 1941 John and Mamie Henderson, renters  
Substitute clerk, Post Office  
NOTE: Giles and Lou Spillar are listed at 2610 Post Road; he was listed as a clerk.
- 1939 Virginia Stassinis, renter  
Stenographer, WPA  
Also listed are Ethyl Stassinis, a student at the University of Texas; and Julia Stassinis, a stenographer.

- 1937 Charlotte Stride, renter  
Widow, Jack Stride  
Bond clerk, Board of County and District Road Indebtedness
- 1935 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Charlotte Stride is listed at 604 Ruiz Street (now Lamar Boulevard); she was a bond clerk for the Board of County and District Road Indebtedness.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Charlotte Stride (ca. 1936 – ca. 1938)**

Charlotte Stride is listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owner of the house at 1009 E. 43rd Street in Austin; that house was worth \$4,250. She was a 42-year old Missouri-born widow who worked as a secretary for the Road Bond Board. With her lived her mother, Anna Maunder, 69, a Missouri-born widow with no occupation listed. They also had a lodger, Charles Hammond, a Georgia-born used car salesman.

##### **Giles and Lou Spillar (ca. 1943 – ca. 1950)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Giles and Lou Spillar as the renters of the house at 1910 Newning Avenue. Giles Spillar was 26, had been born in Texas, and was the manager of a café. Lou Spillar was 23, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Ronald, 2, who had been born in Texas.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Giles D. Spillar as the 16-year old son of William H. and Ruby Spillar, who rented their home at 710 [?] E. 41<sup>st</sup> Street in Austin. Giles had no occupation listed. His father was a conductor on the steam railroad.

# **Past Night Hawk manager promoted restaurant classes**

**By Dick Stanley**  
American-Statesman Staff

Giles Spillar was fresh out of high school in 1932 when he became a counterman and cook for 75 cents a day, frying and serving Frisco burgers at the new Night Hawk Restaurant on South Congress Avenue.

By the time he retired in 1965, Spillar was vice president and general manager of the locally legendary chain of restaurants in Austin, Houston and San Antonio. He died Friday after a struggle with cancer. He was 86.

The Night Hawk chain closed in the early 1990s, but Spillar had long since moved on to teaching at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, where he helped popularize restaurant management as a course of study at Texas community colleges.

"He was affectionately known as 'Teach' throughout the industry, for all the training he did," said Richard Jackson, director of the Texas Restaurant Association, which Spillar served as president of in 1964.

But it was at the old Night Hawk on South Congress where Spillar made many of his Austin friends, said Mary Lou Spillar, his wife of 65 years.

"When it first opened," she said, "the specialty was hamburgers, and then they became a wonderful steakhouse."



**Giles  
Spillar**  

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1914-2000

The restaurant, on the northeast corner of the intersection of South Congress Avenue and Riverside Drive, was the chain's flagship, although it was a replacement for an original, smaller place that washed away in a 1935 flood of the Colorado River.

The first Austin restaurant to stay open all night, the Night Hawk was a popular gathering spot for politicians and was known as the city's first restaurant to serve African Americans.

"It made me real sad," Giles Spillar told the Austin American-Statesman in 1990 when the restaurant closed. "It was a place where a mayor, a truck driver, or everybody else could come. It just had a great, great tradition."

Services for Spillar, who is survived by his wife, two sons, a brother, nieces, nephews and friends, will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Harrell Funeral Home, 4435 Frontier Trail. Gordon Smith of Riverbend Church will officiate.

You may contact Dick Stanley at [dstanley@statesman.com](mailto:dstanley@statesman.com) or 445-3629.

News story on the death of Giles Spillar  
Austin American-Statesman, September 17, 2000

**SPILLAR, Mary Lou**, 92, homemaker, of Waco, formerly of Austin, died Monday. Visitation 6 p.m. today, Harrell Funeral Home. Services 2 p.m. Wednesday, Assumption Cemetery.

Death notice for Mary Lou Spillar  
Austin American-Statesman, June 24, 2008

## Mary Lou Spillar

Mary Lou Spillar, the last of twelve children of Ada and Doss Sloan and Austin resident, passed away peacefully on June 23, 2008 to begin a new journey.

She was born June 12, 1916 in Manor Texas.

For many years, she was a member and active volunteer of the South Austin Hospital Auxiliary. Lou was a dedicated wife and mother for over 65 years, and was always concerned about the welfare of others. She had special talent in fun parties and gatherings. Lou pursued many interest. She was devoted and proud of her children and husband and was especially close to her many friends. Her cheerfulness and good humor would light the heart and soul of everyone she knew and met. Lou was truly unforgettable and will be loved always.

Her husband Giles Spillar of Austin preceded her in death.

Survivors are her two sons, Ronnie and Tommy Spillar and her lovely daughter in law Nelta; three step grandsons and two great step grandchildren.

Graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m., June 25, 2008 at Assumption Cemetery.

The family request memorial contributions are directed to Riverbend Church.

Obituary of Mary Lou Spillar  
Austin American-Statesman, June 25, 2008

## Henry William and Sula Wetzel (ca. 1957 – ca. 1966)

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows the Henry William Wetzel was living in Kyle, Texas, where he worked as a clerk. He was born in San Marcos, Texas in 1893, and was single. He was of medium height and build, had brown eyes and black hair.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Henry W. and Sula B. Wetzel as the owners of a house in Kyle, Texas. Henry W. Wetzel was 47, had been born in Texas, and was a general insurance agent. Sula B. Wetzel was 42, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2



sons: William B., 19; and Henry W., Jr., 12. Both boys had been born in Texas. The family had a lodger, James M. Shows, a 56-year old Texas-born widower who was a vice-president of a bank.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Henry and Sula Wetzel renting a house in Kyle, Texas with their 2 sons. Henry Wetzel was a salesman in a dry goods store.

**WETZEL, Mrs. Sula Bryan, 80, of Austin, died Thursday. Private graveside services 10 a.m. today at Austin Memorial Park. Survivors: husband, Henry Wetzel Sr. of Austin; son, Henry Wetzel Jr. of Austin; sister, Mrs. (Abbey) Turner of Giddings; two grandchildren. (Weed-Corley)**

Death notice for Sula Wetzel  
Austin American-Statesman, November 18, 1978

**WETZEL, Henry William, Sr., 89, of Austin, died Friday. Graveside services 11:15 a.m. today at Austin Memorial Park. Survivors: son, Henry Wetzel Jr. of Austin; two grandchildren. (Weed-Corley)**

Death notice for Henry William Wetzel  
Austin American-Statesman, August 22, 1981

Kurt Meyer

1702 Kenwood

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33

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Travis Heights

Residence

176 - 11/16/36

Building permit for the construction of this house (1936)