## HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION AUGUST 22, 2016 DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS HDP-2016-0535 2920 E. 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET

#### PROPOSAL

Demolish a house that was moved onto its current site in 1951.

#### ARCHITECTURE

One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a partial-width shed-roofed, independent porch on ornamental metal supports; catty-corner front doors, each with a single-light transom; single 2:2 fenestration.

#### RESEARCH

The house was moved to its current site in 1951 from 2605 Rosewood Avenue. Listings in the city directories for the Rosewood Avenue address do not begin until the directory of 1941, and this house is clearly much older than a ca. 1941 construction date. However, the 1935 Sanborn map does not go far enough east to show the 2600 block of Rosewood Avenue and there are no earlier building permits indicating its relocation from another site to Rosewood Avenue around 1940.

While situated on Rosewood Avenue, the house was rented by Anglo families – Lambert and Emma Anderson rented the house in the early 1940s – he was a janitor for the public schools; J. Leslie and Nettie Fox are listed as the owners of the house in the mid-1940s – he was a warrant officer for the Police Department. James and Eddie Edmiston rented the house in the late 1940s; he was an electrician.

Hawe Alexander moved the house from Rosewood Avenue to its current location in 1951. Mildred Alexander had the Austin Beauty Service in the house in the early 1950s. Lillie M. Wesman, the widow of a plasterer, purchased the property around 1954 and lived here until her death in 1972. Lillie Wesman was a maid in the Capital National Bank Building at 7<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets.

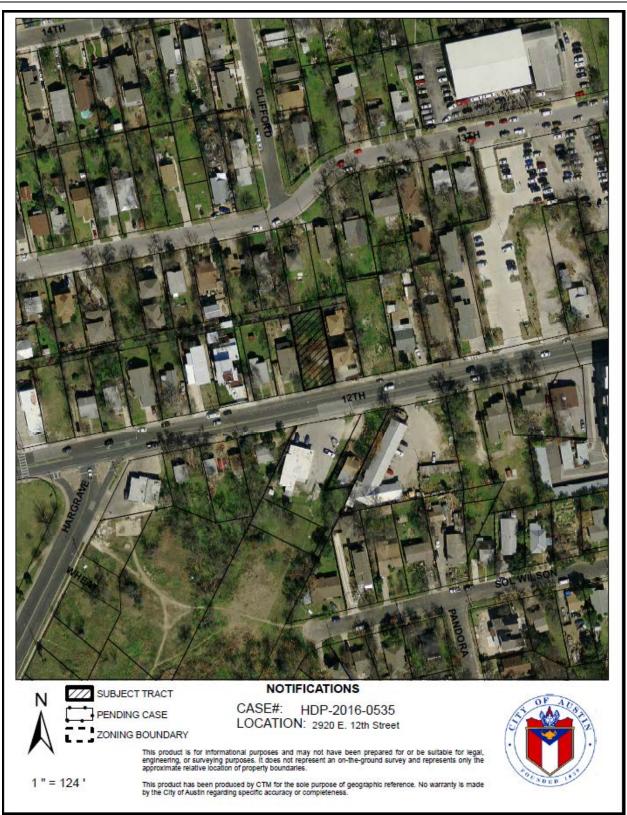
#### STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey to date.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then staff strongly recommends relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City documentation package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center. While the house is a very good example of vernacular late Victorian residential design, nothing is known of its history and location prior to 1941, making individual designation as a historic landmark unjustified.

#### LOCATION MAP



2920 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Undocumented age; moved to the current site ca. 1951



# OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2920 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Delores Butler, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory shows Delores Butler was a new resident at this address.
1981	Nathaniel Williams, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Nathaniel Williams was a new resident at this address.
1977	Ola M. Cleveland, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Ola M. Cleveland was a new resident at this address.
1973	Vacant
1968	Lillie M. Wesman, owner No occupation listed

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1965	Lillie M. Wesman, owner Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1962	Lillie M. Wesman, owner Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1959	Lillie M. Wesman, owner Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1955	Lillie M. Wesman, owner Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1952	Austin Beauty Service Mildred Alexander, proprietor NOTE: Mildred Alexander lived on Rural Route 1.
	Robert R. and Beatrice Williams, renters
	Laborer NOTE: Lillie Wesman is listed at 1407 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street. She was a maid for a private family.
1949	The address is not listed on 12 <sup>th</sup> Street. The house was moved from 2605 Rosewood Avenue in 1951. The following entries are for the house at its Rosewood Avenue location.
	James C. and Eddie Edmiston, renters Electrician Also listed is James C. Edmiston, Jr., no occupation shown.
1947	James L. and Nettie Fox, owners Warrant officer, City Police Department
1944-45	J. Leslie and Nettie Fox, owners Warrant officer, City Police Department
1941	Lambert A. and Emma Anderson, renters Janitor, public schools
1940	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Lambert and Emma Anderson are listed at 1001 E. 53 <sup>rd</sup> Street; he was janitor.
1939	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Lambert and Emma Anderson are listed at 5015 Avenue G. He was a salesman for a creamery.

# **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

# Lambert and Emma Anderson (ca. 1939 – ca. 1941 at the Rosewood Avenue address)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows L.A. and Emma Anderson as the renters of this house when it was at 2605 Rosewood Avenue. L.A. Anderson was 35, had been born in Texas, and was a janitor in the public schools. Emma Anderson was 33, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 4 children: Margaret Ann, 9; Emily, 5; Betty Lou, 3; and L.A. Jr., 2. All of the children had been born in Texas.

The 1930 U.S. Census lists Lambert and Emma Anderson as the renters of a farm in Precinct 2 of Travis County. Lambert Anderson was 26, had been born in Texas to a Swedish father, and was a cotton farmer. Emma Anderson was 23, had been born in Texas to German-born parents, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

Lambert Anderson died in September, 1957; Emma Anderson died in December, 1957. Both are buried in Houston, Texas. They were living in Spring, Texas at the time of their deaths.

# Lillie Wesman (ca. 1953 – ca. 1972)

Frank and Lillie Westman [sic] are listed in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 204 Navasota Street in Austin. Frank Wesman was 31, had been born in Texas, and was a plasterer. Lillie Wesman was 20, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

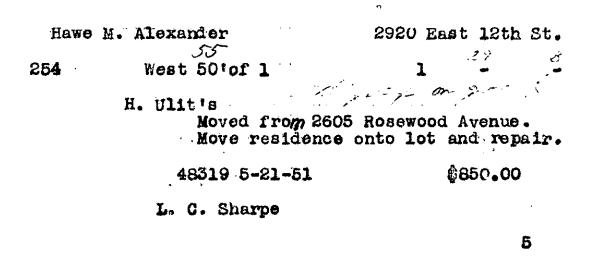
Frank Wesman died of food poisoning in 1936. He and Lillie were living in an un-numbered house on Attayac Street. He was a laborer who had been born in Seguin, Texas.

Lillie Wesman was living in this house at the time of her death in 1972. She did housework.

MRS. LILLIE MAE WESMAN Mrs. Lillie Mae Wesman, 62. ł of 2920 East 12th Street died in а local hospital Thursday. Funeral will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at the New Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Rev. Lavada Durst officiating. Burial will be ín the Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of King-Tears Mortuary, Inc. Survivers include her father, John Tabor of San Antonio; one brother, James Tabor, of Sanh Antonio; her step-father, George Woodson; one sister, Mrs. Julia Bryant of Austin. 1

Obituary of Lillie Wesman Austin <u>American-Statesman</u>, November 11, 1972

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Building permit to Hawe Alexander to move the house from 2605 Rosewood Avenue to this location (1951)

45	WATER SERVICE PERMIT C Nº 9199. Austin, Texas Received of . H. M. ALEXANDER Date 6-5-5-
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	Water service permit to H.M. Alexander for this address (1951)

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#### SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No :0/1411

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