

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 22, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0535
2920 E. 12TH 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 7th 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. 12th Street
 Undocumented age; moved to the current site ca. 1951



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2920 E. 12th 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

- 1965 Lillie M. Wesman, owner
Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7th Street.
- 1962 Lillie M. Wesman, owner
Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7th Street.
- 1959 Lillie M. Wesman, owner
Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7th Street.
- 1955 Lillie M. Wesman, owner
Maid, Capital National Bank, 114 W. 7th 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. 7th Street. She was a maid for a private family.
- 1949 The address is not listed on 12th 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. 53rd Street; he was a 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,
 of 2920 East 12th Street died in
 a 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 in the
 Evergreen Cemetery under the
 direction of King-Tears
 Mortuary, Inc.
 Survivors include her father,
 John Tabor of San Antonio; one
 brother, James Tabor, of San
 Antonio; her step-father,
 George Woodson; one sister,
 Mrs. Julia Bryant of Austin.

Obituary of Lillie Wesman
 Austin American-Statesman, November 11, 1972

Hawe M. Alexander 2920 East 12th St.
 254 West 50' of 1 1
 H. Ulit's
 Moved from 2605 Rosewood Avenue.
 Move residence onto lot and repair.
 48319 5-21-51 \$850.00
 L. C. Sharpe

5

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

Handwritten: Duplex on ground

WATER SERVICE PERMIT C No. 9199

Austin, Texas

Received of H. M. ALEXANDER Date 6-5-51

Address 2920 EAST 12

Amount TWENTY \$ 20.00

Plumber ? self - has no phone Size of Tap 3/4

Date of Connection 6-25-51

Size of Tap Made.....

Size Service Made.....

Size Main Tapped 6" C-I

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock.....

From Prop. Line to Curb Cock.....

Location of Meter.....

Type of Box.....

Depth of Main in St.....

Depth of Service Line.....

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main.....

Checked by Engr. Dept. 8-8-51 RC

INDEXED

No. Fittings	Size	Curb Cock	Elbow	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tee	Stop	Box	Lid	Valves	Job No.	P. & T. No.
<i>See tag #9198</i>																		

Water service permit to H.M. Alexander for this address (1951)

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No. 601411

Austin, Texas

Received of owner Date 6/28/1951
 Address 2920 E. 12th.
 Amount \$
 Builder or Owner H.M. Alexander Plumber
 Lot W. 50' of 1 Block 1 Subdivision H. Ulits Plat No. 254

Date of Connection <u>7/3/1951</u>	No. Fittings 15' Pipe Pipe Wyes 1 Bends Reducers Plugs Sand Gravel Remix Stoppers Castings 1 Other tap saddle R33 Labor: foreman 10175	Size	Price
By City <u>stub out 2' W/ELL</u>		6" con	2.85
By Plumber <u> </u>			
Checked By <u> </u>			
Size Main <u>6"</u> Depth <u>4 1/2'</u>			
Main Assign. in St. <u> </u>			
Stub Depth <u> </u> Prop. Line <u>2 1/2'</u>			
Stub Location <u> </u>			
Book No. <u>B-1923</u>			
Paving Cut <u> </u> No. <u> </u>			

Sewer service permit for this address (1951)

Lillie Mae Wessman 2920 East 12th St
 255 W 1/2 45' of 1
 H. Ulit Resub

Carport attached to present building

65229

11-14-56

300.00

Robert Pickle.

11-15-73 139327 Remodel and repair exist. res.
 1-28-77#161934- Humie Floyd- Residence
 Repair & remodel exist res & bring to min standrs.
 850.00

Building permit to Lillie Wesman for a carport (1956) and for repairs and remodeling (1973)