

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2016-0484  
2011 CHESTNUT AVENUE**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Relocate a ca. 1938 house to Taylor, Texas.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled, stone-veneered house with an integral one-car garage and a partial-width shed-roofed entry hood on plain metal posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration.

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**RESEARCH**

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There is a building permit and utility records for a frame house at this address built by Robert Johnson in the fall of 1938; he and his wife, Margaret are listed as the owners of this house in the 1940 city directory, where he is listed as a contractor. In 1940, the house was being rented by Lottie Womack, who appears in both city directories and the census report of that year. She had no occupation listed in the city directories but the census report shows her as a widow who worked as a cook in a boarding house. Another widow, Lillie Morrison, rented the house in the mid-1940s, and then it was purchased by Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden, who are listed as the owners and occupants in the 1947 city directory. Adolphus D. Holden was the district superintendent of the Austin Methodist Church, and had previously lived on San Bernard Street. Prior to that, they had lived in El Paso, Texas. They rented the house out in the late 1940s, and after Adolphus' death in 1951, Bernice Holden moved back into this house, staying until around 1960. She is listed variously as a matron at Samuel Huston College, a teacher at a business college, and an office secretary at Huston-Tillotson College. After she moved out of this house, it was rented by the Rev. Carlos T. and Zora V. Ollison, who lived here until around 1963. Rev. Ollison was the pastor at Friendly Will Baptist Church in South Austin. Around 1963, the Rev. Owen S. Davis and his wife, Cecilia, moved to Austin to take over the pastorship of the Ulit Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, a position he held until his retirement 40 years later in 2003.

According to Pastor Wright, the current pastor of the Greater Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, Rev. Davis was a missionary who brought several families from Africa to Austin and adopted a baby girl from Africa as his own. Like other African-American pastors in the city, Rev. Davis likely held prayer meetings and other social functions at this house.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is not listed in any City survey to date.

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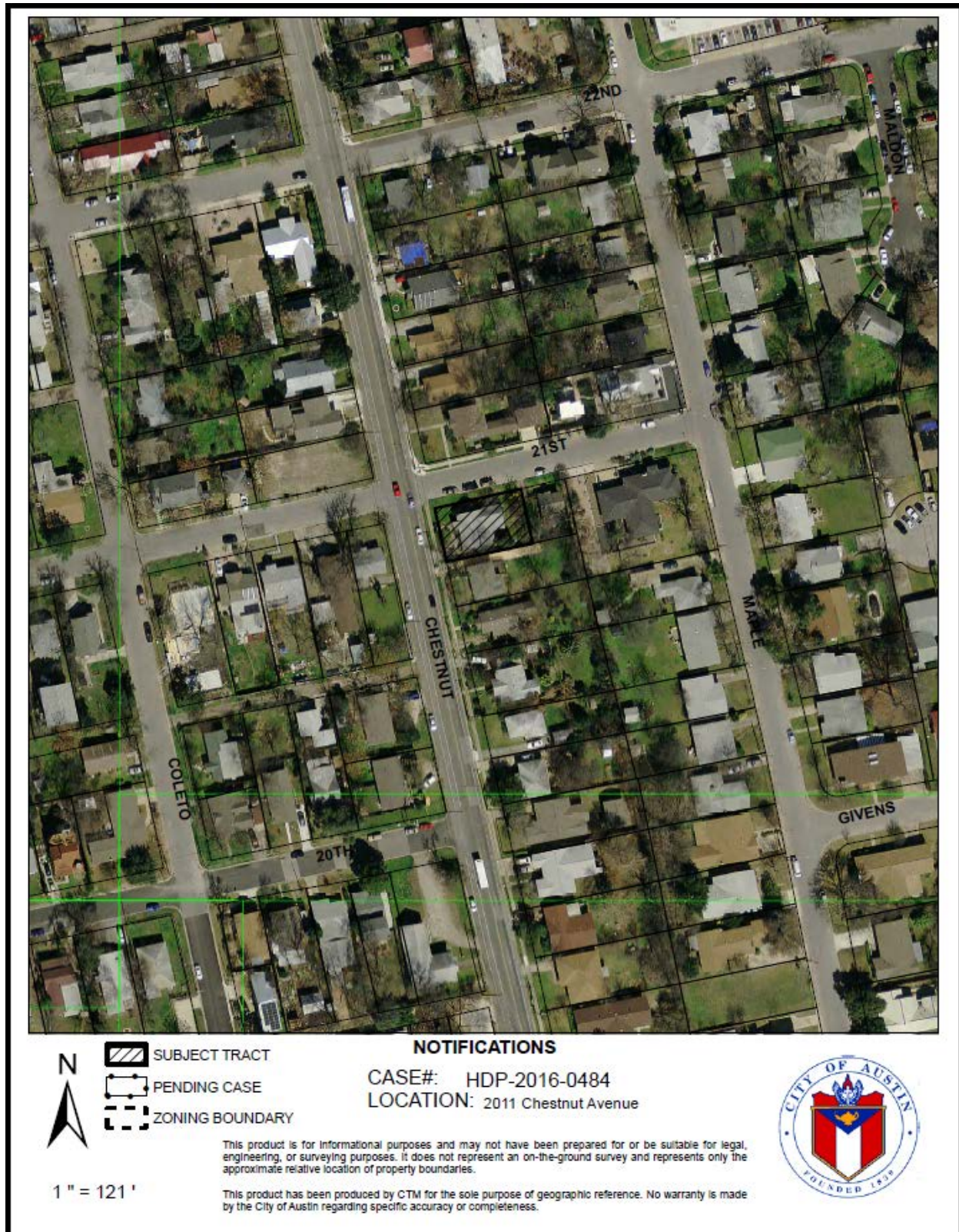
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Initiate historic zoning, or postpone to allow more time to evaluate information concerning the Holdens and Rev. Davis' role as the leader of an African-American church in Austin in the mid-1960s. This may be too important a building to consider removal without all available information concerning the occupants. If the Commission votes to release the permit, then staff recommends the 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.

## LOCATION MAP





2011 Chestnut Avenue  
ca. 1938



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
2011 Chestnut Avenue

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

1992	Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.
1985-86	Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.
1981	Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.
1977	Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.
1973	Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.
1968	Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.

- 1965 Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners  
Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.
- 1962 Rev. Carlos T. and Zora V. Ollison, renters  
Pastor, Friendly Will Baptist Church, 414 W. Johanna Street.  
Also listed is Carlos T. Ollison, Jr., a delivery man for L. East Produce, wholesale Poultry, 706 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis are not listed in the directory.
- 1959 Bernice S. Holden, owner  
Office secretary, Huston-Tillotson College  
NOTE: Rev. Carlos T. and Zora V. Ollison are listed at 604 W. Annie Street; he was the pastor of Friendly Will Baptist Church, 414 W. Johanna Street.
- 1955 Bernice S. Holden, owner  
Teacher, Business College (no listing in the alphabetical section of the directory).
- 1952 Bernice S. Holden, owner  
Widow, Adolphus D. Holden  
Matron, Samuel Huston College
- 1949 James W. and Florine Earls, renters  
Presser, Brown's Cleaners, 1710 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Bernice Holden is not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory.
- 1947 Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden, owners  
District superintendent, Austin Methodist Church
- 1944-45 Lillie Morrison, renter  
Widow, T.A. Morrison  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Rev. Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden are listed at 1152 San Bernard Street; neither had an occupation shown.
- 1941 Lottie Womack, renter  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The 1942 El Paso city directory shows A.D. and Bernice Holden living in that city. Neither had an occupation listed.
- 1940 Robert S. and Margaret Johnson, owners  
Contractor  
NOTE: Lottie Womack is not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory.
- 1939 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: There is a listing for a Lottie M. Womack in the directory. She was a maid at the Aljo Beauty School and lived at 1615 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: There does not seem to be a listing for Robert S. and Margaret Johnson in the directory. None of the listings are for a Robert S. Johnson, none have a wife named Margaret, and none are listed as a contractor.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES****Lottie Womack (c. 1940 – ca. 1942)**

Lottie Womack appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renter of this house. She was a 33-year old Texas-born widow who worked as a cook in a boarding house. She had no children listed with her. She was white.

**Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden (ca. 1946 – ca. 1960)**

Adolphus Holden appears in the 1910 U.S. Census as the 19-year old son of Joseph H. and Jannetia Holden, who owned their own farm in Medina County, Texas. Adolphus Holden was born in Texas and is listed as being at school. His father, Joseph H. Holden was 61, had been born in Louisiana, and is listed as a farmer. His mother, Jannetia Holden, was 51, had been born in Texas to Mississippi-born parents, and had no occupation listed. Adolphus had 2 older brothers: Thomas S., 21, who is listed as being at school; and Aaron C. Holden, 20, who was an odd job laborer. The Holdens also had 6 younger children: Emmitt, 16, a farm worker; Art, 15, a farm worker; Frank S., 13; Robert H., 11; Leola, 8; and Lee Ella, 5. In addition, Joseph Holden's half brother, Thomas Brown, 65, lived in the household. He was born in Louisiana, and was a farm laborer.

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that Adolphus Holden was living on E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street (no house number given) in Austin. He was born in Alton, Texas, and was a laborer at Sam Huston College. He was single.

The 1932 Fort Worth city directory shows Rev. Adolphus Holden as the pastor of Cowan's Chapel M.E. Church in that city. He did not have a wife listed in the directory.

Adolphus Holden died February 23, 1951 at the VA Center in Temple Texas. He was born in 1891 in Texas, and was a minister. He was buried in Hondo, Texas. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.

**Rev. Owen and Cecilia Davis (ca. 1964 – ca. 2004)**

**DAVIS, Cecelia, 84, of Austin died Sunday. Services 11 a.m. Saturday, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church. Burial Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville. Arrangements by King-Tears.**

Death notice for Cecelia Davis  
Austin American-Statesman, March 6, 2002



### **Cecelia Davis**

Cecelia Davis, 84, was born April 27, 1917, and died March 3, 2002.

There will be a viewing at King-Tears Mortuary, 1300 E. 12th Street on Friday, March 8, 2002, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 9, 2002, at Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue, in Austin.

She leaves to mourn her husband of 62 years, the Reverend O. S. Davis; two sisters, three children, seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Obituary of Cecelia Davis  
Austin American-Statesman, March 8, 2002

**DAVIS, O.S., 89, of Austin died Wednesday. Services 11 a.m. Thursday, St. John Tabernacle. Burial Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville. Arrangements by King-Tears.**

Death notice for Rev. Owen S. Davis  
Austin American-Statesman, March 21, 2004





**Rev. O. S. Davis**

On the 14th day of February 1915, in the Pleasant Spring Community of Centerville, Texas, Hayward and Mary Hannah Davis were blessed with twin boys, Oven and Erven Steen.

Oven Steen accepted his calling to the ministry at age 16. From the time of his calling into the ministry until 1963, Rev. Davis was the Pastor of several churches throughout the state of Texas. In 1949, under the National Baptist General Convention Rev. Davis accepted the call to go to Africa as a Missionary. On February 3, 1963, he became the pastor of Ulit Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. His tenure as the Pastor lasted 40 years. As his health began to fail, Rev. Davis entered into retirement on February 2, 2003.

He leaves to cherish memory two sons, O.S. Jr. and wife, Polly of Farmington, New Mexico, and Jessie Davis of Austin; one daughter, Julia Henderson of Austin; other relatives and friends.

Wake service, Wednesday, March 24, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.

Funeral service will be held Thursday, March 25th 11:00 a.m. at St. John Regular Baptist Association, 7501 Blessing Avenue, Austin, TX. Interment Cook Walden Capital Parks.

King Tears Mortuary, Inc.

Obituary of Rev. Owen S. Davis  
Austin American-Statesman, March 24, 2004

Robt. Johnson

2011 Chestnut Ave.

247

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3

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- Sunrise

Frame residence.

245n - 10/18/33

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Building permit to Robert Johnson for this house (1938)

Connection Charge \$ #544 14896A  
 Application for Sewer Connection. 3722  
 NW/II Austin, Texas, 10/12 1938  
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
 City of Austin, Texas  
 Sir:—  
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions  
 on premises owned by Robert Johnson  
 at 2303 E 21st Street,  
 further described as lot 6, block 6, outlet 46,  
 subdivision C.R. Johns, division B, plat 42,  
 which is to be used as a Res  
 In this place there are to be installed Coc fixtures.  
 —I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance  
 charge.  
 5<sup>th</sup> DEEP Respectfully, R.W. Lippell  
AT - P L for B. Lippell  
 Stub Out  
 Connected 10-18 193 d Permit Pl  
 Size of Main 8 inches.  
 Size of Service 4 inches. OK, 10-14-38  
13 Feet Deep in ST LB  
34 Feet from Property Line  
 Feet from Curb Line Con 35' 8"  
 Inspected by B. Lippell of 21 PL  
 Connection made by Hurry PA 1121  
10375 1150

Sewer connection application by Robert Johnson for this address (1938)

OWNER	O.S. Davis	ADDRESS	2011 Chestnut Ave.
PLAT	247	LOT	3
		BLK.	1
SUBDIVISION	C.R. Johns		
OCCUPANCY	Addn to den		
BLDG. PERMIT #	185131	DATE	8-27-79
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	3,000.00
CONTRACTOR	Same	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	
Remodel & addn to exist res.			

Building permit to Rev. Owen S. Davis to construct an addition (1979)



The old Ulit Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, where Rev. Owen S. Davis preached while living in this house.