

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016
NRD-2016-0064
1714 Cromwell Hill
Old West Austin

PROPOSAL

Partial demolition to accommodate a new addition to the north and west elevations of the house.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes to add approximately 1,500 square feet to the house in two additions. The existing two-story sunporch to the left of the principal block of the house will be converted to enclosed space with vertical metal siding on the first floor, horizontal metal siding on the second floor, steel-framed windows, and a metal roof. There will be a new front door installed, and a cut stone ledge and bench in front of the house. A two-story connector between the right side of the house and the garage will have horizontal metal siding. A new hipped roof with metal sheathing will extend from the proposed connector across the garage door opening. The back of the house will have vertical metal siding on the proposed rear addition and steel-framed windows. The applicant is further proposing a metal awning which will require the removal of the existing balconet above the central front entry.

RESEARCH

This ca. 1938 Colonial Revival house was built by Earl and Marinda Middleton. Earl Middleton was in the wholesale grocery business in LaGrange, Eagle Lake, and Beaumont. He retired in 1938 and moved to Austin. After his death in 1945, his widow continued to live in this house until around 1957. Marinda Middleton was president of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century and state organizer for the Huguenot Society. She also was a member of several colonial genealogical societies. The house was then owned by Cecil B., Jr. and Eleanor Smith. Cecil B. Smith, Jr. worked at his father's auto dealership. Around 1966, the house was purchased by Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, who lived here through the 1990s. Henry E. ("Mac") Mecredy was from Virginia and was in the military until 1965, when he went to work for the City of Austin Planning Department. He retired from the city in 1980.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The Old West Austin National Register Historic District has no design standards for additions to contributing houses. General design principles for additions to contributing houses in historic districts emphasize compatibility in terms of size, scale, materials, fenestration patterns, and massing with the house and other contributing houses within the district.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff had earlier recommended a change in the material for the addition, but upon further reflection, the metal siding will have a wood-like appearance, and while a non-traditional material for the historic district, it is compatible with the materials of the house. Staff recommends retaining the existing balconet and entry treatment for the house and removing the metal awning, which are not compatible with the district or the style of the house. Staff does not have an objection to the additions, although staff continues to believe that a more traditional material and fenestration pattern would be much more compatible with the style of the house, but staff definitely feels that the existing house should remain

untouched and not “modernized.” This is a classic example of Colonial Revival architecture and should not be compromised. 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, to document the existing conditions at the house.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 135'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: NRD-2016-0064

LOCATION: 1714 Cromwell Hill

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.





WOOD RESIDENCE



Rendering of the proposed addition.

1714 Cromwell Hill
ca. 1938





OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1714 Cromwell Hill

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

1992	Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, Jr., owners No occupation listed
1985-86	Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, Jr., owners Henry: Proprietor, Walburg Company (not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory). Virginia: Senior clerk, University of Texas
1981	Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, Jr., owners Henry: Supervisor, City Engineering Department Virginia: Senior clerk, University of Texas
1977	Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, Jr., owners Research analyst, City Planning Department
1973	Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, Jr., owners Senior planner, City Planning Department

Also listed are Martha J. Mecredy, a nurse's aide at the Central Texas Nursing Home, 8007 Burnet Road; Virginia A. Mecredy, a student; and William T. Mecredy, a tech at the State Highway Department.

- 1968 Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, Jr., owners
Employed by the City of Austin
Also listed is William Mecredy, a student.
- 1965 Vacant
NOTE: Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy, Jr. are not listed in the directory.
- 1962 Cecil B. and Eleanor D. Smith, Jr., owners
Salesman and treasurer, C.B. Smith Motors, Volkswagens, 405 N. Lamar Boulevard.
- 1959 Cecil B. and Eleanor D. Smith, Jr., owners
Sales manager, C.B. Smith Motors, Dodge and Plymouth automobiles, 803 W. 5th Street.
- 1955 Marinda Middleton, owner
Widow, Earl Middleton
No occupation listed
NOTE: C.B. and Eleanor Smith, Jr. are not listed in the directory.
- 1952 Marinda Middleton, owner
Widow, Earl Middleton
No occupation listed
- 1949 Marinda Middleton, owner
Widow, Earl Middleton
No occupation listed
- 1947 Marinda Middleton, owner
Widow, Earl Middleton
No occupation listed
- 1944-45 Earl and Marinda I. Middleton, owners
No occupation listed
- 1941 Earl and Marinda I. Middleton, owners
No occupation listed
- 1940 Earl and Marinda Middleton, owners
No occupation listed
- 1939 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Earl and M.I. Middleton are listed at 1408-A Riverside Drive; neither had an occupation shown.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Earl and Marinda Middleton (ca. 1939 – ca. 1957)

His 1918 World War I draft registration card shows Earl Middleton living in Victoria, Texas, where he was the manager of the Schuhmacher Company, a wholesale grocery company. He was born in 1874, was of tall stature and had a stout build. He had red hair and blue eyes.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows E. and Mrs. M. Middleton as the renters of a house in Victoria, Texas. Earl Middleton was 45, had been born in Illinois, and was the manager of a wholesale grocery business. Marinda Middleton was 43, had been born in Illinois, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 sons: E.B., 22; B.W., 19; and J.D., 14. All of the boys had been born in Illinois, and all were students – the two older boys at the university. With them lived Earl's mother, an 82-year old Ohio-born widow with no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Earl and Marinda Middleton as the renters of a house in Beaumont, Texas, where Earl Middleton was the manager of a wholesale grocery business. Marinda Middleton had no occupation listed. None of their children were listed with them.

His 1945 death certificate shows that Earl Middleton was living in this house at the time of his death. He was born in 1874 in Jacksonville, Illinois to the Rev. Samuel Middleton and his wife, Margaret. He was a wholesale grocer.

Her 1957 death certificate shows that Marinda Middleton was living in this house at the time of her death. She was born in 1876 in Gifford, Illinois. She was a housewife.

EARL MIDDLETON

Earl Middleton, 70, Austin resident for about seven years, died in a local hospital Sunday morning. He was a prominent wholesale groceryman, having been associated with the Schuhmacher company since 1908. He was branch manager in La Grange, Eagle Lake and Beaumont where he retired in 1938 and moved to Austin. Middleton was a member of the Central Christian church, Macon Lodge No. 8 AF & AM, Decatur, Ill., Eastern Star, a member of the Knights Templar commandery in Beaumont and the Shrine in Galveston.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. E. Middleton, Austin; two sons, Dr. E. B. Middleton, College Station and J. Bent Middleton, Dallas. Three grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Weed-Corley Funeral services will be conducted at the home Monday at 5 p. m. The Rev. Jack Suggs will officiate and burial will be in Oakwood cemetery.

Obituary of Earl Middleton
Austin American, September 3, 1945

MRS. EARL MIDDLETON

Mrs. Earl Middleton, 80, died Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at her home, 1714 Cromwell Hill.

Funeral services will be held at Weed-Corley Funeral Home Wednesday at 2 p.m. with Rev. Lawrence Bash officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Mrs. Middleton had been a resident of Texas since 1907. She moved to Austin from Beaumont in 1937.

She was a past president-general of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century and state organizer

for the Huguenot Society. She was also a member of the Daughters of 1812, Daughters of the American Revolution, Dames of the Court of Honor, American Colonists, and of Capitol Chapter 803, Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by two sons, J. D. Middleton of Austin and Errol Middleton of Bryan; three sisters, Mrs. L. F. Brannon of New Rochelle, N.Y., Mrs. D. C. Walker of Butte, Mont., and Mrs. Deb Ward of Harlingen; and three grandchildren.

Obituary of Marinda Middleton
Austin American, January 30, 1957

MRS. EARL MIDDLETON

Funeral services for Mrs. Earl Middleton, 1714 Cromwell Hill, were held at Weed-Corley Funeral Home at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Dr. Lawrence Bash officiated and burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers were N. K. Woerner, E. J. Safarik, W. A. Darter, D. R. Ward, Albert Davis and Dr. Joe Bailey.

Funeral story for Marinda Middleton
Austin American, January 31, 1957

Henry E. and Virginia Mecredy (ca. 1966 -)



Mac Mecredy

Henry Edwards Mecredy, Jr., 90, of Austin, died September 8, 2006 at the William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home in Temple after a brief illness. Services are under the direction of Sheffield Funeral Home of Temple.

Mac is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ginger and their children, Henry Mecredy, III, Bill Mecredy and his wife Wendy, Martha Butler and Virginia Ann Mecredy, all of Austin. He is also survived by his grandchildren Patrick Mecredy of Houston, Evan Mecredy, Sean Mecredy, Sarah Butler and Ryan Mecredy, all of Austin, and by his siblings, Jim Mecredy of Martinez, Georgia and Jane Mecredy of Dolores, Colorado.

Mac was born in City Point, Virginia on June 2, 1916 and grew up in Roanoke, Virginia. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1941. While posted at Camp Hood, Texas he met Virginia Ann Taylor of Temple and they were married on December 24, 1942. During World War II, Mac served in the South Pacific. After the war he served in Korea, Japan, Germany, Oklahoma and Virginia before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1965. Mac also worked in the City of Austin Planning Department until his retirement in 1980.

Mac's remains will be cremated and his ashes spread at VMI and at the family plot in the Little River - Wilson Valley Cemetery in Little River, Texas. Private family services will be held in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the charity of your choice.

Obituary of Henry E. Mecredy, Jr.
Austin American-Statesman, September 12, 2006

E. Middleton

1714
~~1715~~ Cromwell Hill
 94 & W. 10' of
 95

Enfield C

Stone veneer residence-garage attached

248n - 11/8/38

11

1-26-78# 170132- Henry E. Mecredy- Res. Repair & remodel res.
 4,200.00

Building permit to Earl Middleton for the construction of this house (1938) and to Henry E.
 Mecredy for repairs and remodeling (1978)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
 Austin, Texas

No. 11360 *A*

INDEXED

Received of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ E. Middleton Date ~~Nov 12 1938~~

Address 1714 Cromwell Hill

Amount Two and 50/100 - - - - \$ 2.50

Plumber Gissell Size of Tap $\frac{1}{2}$

Date of Connection 11-15-38

Size of Tap Made $\frac{3}{4}$

Size Service Made $\frac{3}{4}$

Size Main Tapped 6"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock INSIDE OF PROPLINE

From WES/Prop. Line to Curb Cock 56'6"

Location of Meter CURPLINE

Type of Box LOCK

Depth of Main in St. ✓

Depth of Service Line ✓

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main ✓

Checked by Engr. Dept. 6-13-39 *OK*

No. Fittings	Size.	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tee	Stop	Box	Lid	Valves	Job No.	Req. No.
1	$\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$	✓													38-1015	30200
1	$\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$	✓														

INDEXED *DOUGLAS*

Water service permit to Earl Middleton for this house (1938)

Connection Charge \$ 6.28 N^o 15014 ✓

Application for Sewer Connection.

SM T Austin, Texas, Nov 14 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 E. Middleton
at 1713 Cromwell Hill Street,
94 x 20 10' x 95
further described as lot _____, block _____, outlot _____,
subdivision Maple C, division _____, plat 90,
which is to be used as a res.

In this place there are to be installed 11 fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance
charge.

Respectfully,
location R. J. Smith, P. M. Smith

Stub Out 12-14-38

Connected _____ 1938 Permit No.
11-14-38

Size of Main _____ inches.

Size of Service _____ inches. 1 1/2, 12-12-38

1 1/2 Feet Deep Top of Paving 4/3

_____ Feet from Property Line

_____ Feet from Curb Line Stub 8.5-13

Inspected by Bonting of W L L

Connection made by _____ 10.510 11-868

Sewer connection application by Earl Middleton for this house (1938)