HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS HDP-2016-0573 1131 MASON AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1953 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a partial-width, front-gabled, partially-projecting inset porch; 1:1 metal-framed windows.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1953 by Bennie Lee Davis and his wife, Ethel. Bennie Lee Davis grew up in Bastrop County, the son of a tenant farmer. He worked as a plumber at the University of Texas. Bennie Lee and Ethel Davis lived here until around 1970. The house was then either rented out or vacant. Bennie Lee and Ethel's daughter, Joyce, rented the house in the early 1970s when she worked as a stenographer for the Texas Education Agency.

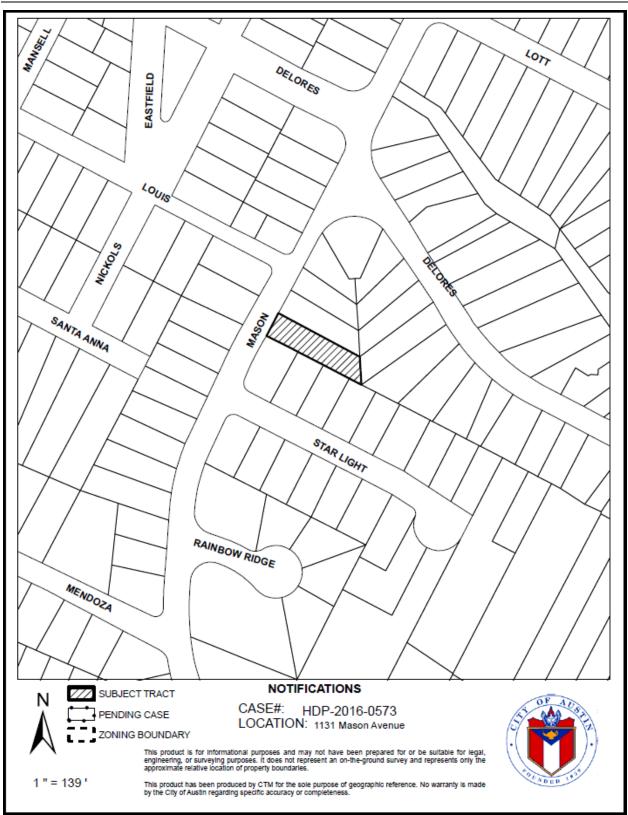
STAFF COMMENTS

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit. The house lacks the architectural and historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark and does not retain sufficient integrity to justify documentation.

LOCATION MAP





1131 Mason Avenue ca. 1953

OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1131 Mason Avenue

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Vacant
1981	Lethia Barks, renter Employed at Brackenridge Hospital
1977	Vacant
1973	Joyce M. Davis, renter Stenographer, Texas Education Agency
1968	Bennie L. and Ethel Davis, owners Utility worker, University of Texas Also listed is Joyce Davis, an office secretary at the Texas Education Agency.
1965	Bennie L. and Ethel Davis, owners Utility worker, University of Texas
1962	Bennie L. and Ethel Davis, owners

	Plumber, University of Texas
1959	Bennie L. and Ethel Davis, owners Plumber, University of Texas
1955	Bennie L. and Ethel Davis, owners Plumber, University of Texas
1954	The house is listed as under construction. NOTE: Bennie L. and Ethel Davis are listed at 1133 Mason Avenue; he was a plumber at the University of Texas.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Bennie L. and Ethel Davis (ca. 1953 - ca. 1970)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Bennie L. Davis as the 5-year old son of Ben and Luella Davis of Bastrop County, Texas. He had been born in Texas. His father was a farmer on a rented farm.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Bennie Lee Davis as the 14-year old son of Ben and Louella Davis of rural Bastrop County, Texas. Bennie Lee Davis had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. His father, Ben Davis, 43, was a Texas-born farmer. His mother, Louella Davis, 35, had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. Bennie Lee was the 2nd of the couple's 5 children. With them lived Louella Davis' mother, Virginia Burleson, a 56-year old widow who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

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Obituary of Bennie L. Davis Austin <u>American-Statesman</u>, June 17, 1973

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Water service permit to Bennie Lee Davis for this house (1953)

Betty Lee Davis 1131 Mason Ave

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Building permit to Betty (Bennie) Lee Davis for a frame addition (1954)

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Sewer service permit to Bennie Lee Davis for this house (1969)