

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
OCTOBER 24, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0643
1606 NEWTON STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1925 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width, off-set, front-gabled independent porch on ornamental metal supports; single 1:1 fenestration with a modern wood-framed bay window in the front bay under the porch.

RESEARCH

The house was built around 1925; Gus and Marie Becker were the first owners and occupants, and lived here until around 1928. Gus Becker was a German-born farmer from the Kyle area in Caldwell County, Texas. He had no occupation listed in the city directories for the time that he and Marie lived in this house, but later operated a filling station. He was listed as a farmer and a carpenter on his 1943 death certificate.

The house was rented to Alfred and Lennie Curington in the late 1920s; he was a laborer with the City Garbage Department; Frank and Lillian Chenoweth rented the house in the early 1930s. Frank Chenoweth had no occupation listed in the city directory, but the 1930 U.S. Census that shows him and his wife living in this house indicates that he was a house painter and she did odd jobs.

John H. and Carrie Depew are listed as the renters and then the owners of this house from the early 1930s until around 1970. John H. Depew was a house painter who then went to work for the City Electrical Department as a painter. He later became an instructor and painter at the Texas School for the Deaf. Carrie Depew had no occupation listed in the city directories. After John's death in 1960, Carrie Depew lived here until around 1968. She died in 1989.

Carrie Depew sold the house to Alvin and Betty Edwards, who lived here through the mid-1970s. Alvin Edwards managed a service station on Ben White Boulevard. He also made some repairs and remodeled the house in 1968 and added a rear addition in 1969.

A retired couple owned the house in the late 1970s; the house was rented by Domingo and Virginia Hernandez in the early 1980s, and again by Virginia Hernandez in the early 1990s.

STAFF COMMENTS




The house is not listed in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon 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. The house has neither the architectural nor the historical significance to be designated as a historic landmark, but every consideration should be given to rehabilitation of this house on-site as it is typical of the architectural character of the neighborhood.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 208'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0643
1606 NEWTON STREET

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.

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1606 Newton Street
ca. 1925



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1606 Newton Street

From City Directories, Austin History Center
Prepared by the City Historic Preservation Office
October, 2016

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1992 | Virginia Hernandez, renter
No occupation listed |
| 1985-85 | Diana Martinez, owner
Driver, AISD |
| 1981 | Domingo and Virginia Hernandez, renters
Porter, Bob Miller Volkswagen, 6111 E. U.S. Highway 290. |
| 1977 | Les and Gloria Watson, owners
Retired
NOTE: The directory indicates that Les and Gloria Watson were new residents at this address. |
| 1973 | Alvin L. and Betty Edwards, owners
Branch manager, Sigmor Shamrock, service station, 1332 W. Ben White Boulevard. |

1968	Carrie Depew, owner Widow, John Depew No occupation listed
1965	Carrie Depew, owner Widow, John H. Depew No occupation listed
1962	Carrie Depew, owner Widow, John H. Depew No occupation listed
1959	John H. and Carrie DePew, owners No occupation listed
1955	John H. and Carrie DePew, owners No occupation listed
1952	John H. and Carrie DePew, owners Painter, State School for the Deaf
1949	John H. and Carrie DePew, owners Instructor, State School for the Deaf
1947	John H. and Carrie L. Depew, owners Instructor, State School for the Deaf NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.
1944-45	John H. and Carrie Depew, owners Painter, City Engineering and Building Division NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.
1941	John H. and Carrie Depew, owners Painter, City Electrical Department NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.
1939	John H. and Carrie Depew, owners Painter NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.
1937	John H. and Carrie Depew, owners Painter, City Electrical Department NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.
1935	John H. and Carrie Depew, renters Painter, City Electrical Department NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.
1932-33	John H. and Carrie Depew, renters Painter, City Electrical Department NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.
1930-31	Frank W. and Lillian Chenoweth, renters No occupation listed

NOTE: John H. and Carrie Depew are listed at 2115 Haskell Street; he was a painter.

NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.

1929 Alfred P. and Lennie Curington, renters
Laborer, City Garbage Department
Also listed is Mona Curington, no occupation shown.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.

1927 Gus F. and Marie Becker, owners
No occupation listed
NOTE: The house is listed as 1604 Newton Street.

1924 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Gus F. and Marie Becker are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Gus F. and Marie Becker (ca. 1925 – ca. 1928)

His 1918 World War I draft registration card shows that Gus F. Becker was born in 1877, and was living on RFD 2 in Kyle, Texas. He was a farmer. He was short, with a medium build.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Gus F. and Mary (Marie) Becker as the owners of a farm near Lockhart in Caldwell County, Texas. Gus F. Becker was 42, had been born in Germany, and was a farmer. Mary Becker was 38, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. With them lived their daughter and son-in-law, Irmgard and William O. Wadford, and the Wadfords' son, Arthur. William O. Wadford was 27, had been born in North Carolina, and was a farmer. Irmgard Wadford was 18, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Their son was almost a year old.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Gus F. Becker renting a house on a rural route in South Austin. Gus F. Becker was 52, had been born in Germany, and was the operator of a filling station. He had become a naturalized citizen in 1883. With him lived his daughter and son-in-law, Fred and Irene E. Maynard; both were 27. Fred Maynard had been born in Vermont, and was a helper at a filling station. Irene (Becker) Maynard had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

His 1943 death certificate shows that Gustaf F. Becker was living on a rural route of Austin at the time of his death. He was born in 1877 in Germany, and was a farmer and carpenter. He was buried in the Uhland Cemetery in Uhland, Texas.

GUSTAF F. BECKER

Gustaf F. Becker, 65, died at a local hospital Monday. Survivors are his widow; one son, O. J. Becker of San Marcos; two sisters, Mrs. Emma Harborth and Mrs. Anna Richland of New Braunfels; and one brother, William Becker of Corpus Christi.

Brief services will be held at the Hyltin Funeral home Tuesday at 3 p. m. with the Rev. J. E. Chester officiating. The body will be taken to the Uhland cemetery near Lockhart where services will be held at 4:30 p. m. Pallbearers will be William Trenckmann, Frank Trenckmann, Kermit Loney, Walter Egging, Carl Stengal and Ernest Strandtmann.

Obituary of Gus F. Becker
Austin American, September 14, 1943

Alfred P. and Lennie Curington (ca. 1928 – ca. 1930)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows A.P. and Lennie Curington as the renters of the house at 811 Eva Street in Austin. A.P. Curington was 51, had been born in Texas, and was a hauler. Lennie Curington was 48, had been born in Alabama, and had no occupation listed. They had 4 children living with them: son Olan, 21, a tailor in a tailor shop; daughter Mona, 17, a saleslady in a dry goods store; son Doyle, 10; and daughter Mamie Sprinkle, 27, and her husband, Jess Sprinkle, 21, a baker. All the children had been born in Texas. Also in the household was Sallie Bridwell, 42, Lennie Curington's sister, who had been born in Texas and was a laundress.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Alfred and Lennie Curington renting a duplex at 309 E. Live Oak Street in Austin with their son, Doyle. Alfred Curington was 61, had been born in Texas, and was a truck driver for the City Sanitation Department. Lennie Curington was 58, had been born in Alabama, and had no occupation listed. Doyle Curington was 20, had been born in Texas, and was a photographer for the state. On the other side of the duplex lived another of their sons, Olan Curington, 32, his wife, Millie, 31, and their 2 children: Ronald, 7; and LaNell, 6 months. Olan Curington was a tailor; his wife had no occupation listed.

His 1959 death certificate shows that Alfred P. Curington was born in Denison, Texas in 1879 and was living at 1407 Northridge Drive in Austin at the time of his death. He was a retired city employee.

Frank W. and Lillian Chenoweth (ca. 1930 – ca. 1932)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Frank and Lillian Chenoweth as the renters of this house, which is listed as 1604 Newton Street. Frank Chenoweth was 36, had been born in Texas, and was a house painter. Lillian Chenoweth was 20, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer doing odd jobs. Also in the household was Frank's mother, Mrs. Florence Chenoweth, a 72-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed. No children were listed with the Chenoweths.

John H. and Carrie Depew (ca. 1932 – ca. 1968)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows J.H. and Carrie Depew as the renters of the house at 1010 W. Milton Street in South Austin. J.H. Depew was 33, had been born in Texas, and was a house painter. Carrie Depew was 35, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Carrie Lee, 13; J.H., Jr., 9; and Burford, 6. All the children had been born in Texas.

JOHN H. DEPEW

John H. Depew, 64, of 1606 Newton Street died in a local hospital Saturday morning. He was a member of the Baptist Church, a retired employee of the City of Austin and a lifelong resident of Austin.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Carrie Depew of Austin; two sons, John H. Depew Jr., of Austin and Burford M. Depew of Dallas; one daughter, Mrs. Clarence W. Johnson of Austin; one sister, Mrs. T. C. Cage of San Antonio, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Hyltin-Manor Funeral Home with Rev. A. D. Eberhart officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Claude Denton, Elmo Bagby, James Priest, Winton Depew, Chester Depew and H. P. Depew.

Obituary of John H. Depew
Austin American-Statesman, July 31, 1960

Carrie DePew

Carrie DePew, age 96, of Austin, passed away Friday.

She was preceded in death by husband, John H. DePew, Sr.; sons, John H. DePew, Jr. and Burford M. DePew.

Survivors include: daughter, Carrie Lee Johnson and husband, Clarence W., Austin; sisters, Cornelia George, Austin and Winnie Johnson, Bastrop; seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service: 1:30 PM, Tuesday at Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home with Reverend A.D. Eberhart officiating. Burial, Austin Memorial Park.

Pallbearers: John (Rusty) DePew, Wayne DePew, Pete McCuiston, Paul Casaubon, John (Eric) DePew and James T. Priest.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the American Heart Association.

Services under the direction of Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home.

Obituary of Carrie Depew
Austin American-Statesman, March 5, 1989

OWNER	Alvin Lee Edwards	ADDRESS	1606 Newton St.
PLAT	122	LOT	14
		BLK	B
SUBDIVISION	Gus F. Beckers		
OCCUPANCY	Res		
BLD PERMIT #	108925	DATE	7/18/68
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	250.00
CONTRACTOR	Owner	NO. OF FIXTURES	---
WATER TAP REC #	-----	SEWER TAP REC #	----
Remodel and repair frm res			

Building permit to Alvin Edwards to remodel and repair the house (1968)

OWNER Alvin Edwards ADDRESS 1606 Newton
PLAT 122 LOT 4 BLK B
SUBDIVISION Gus F. Beckers
OCCUPANCY Porch
BLD PERMIT # 111011 DATE 1-9-69 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$25.00
CONTRACTOR NO. OF FIXTURES none
WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist
Frame addn to rear of residence
50 Sq. Ft.

Building permit to Alvin Edwards for the construction of a rear porch (1969)

A porch was constructed in 1981.