

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 21, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0827
2004 E. 8TH STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1939 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, cross-gabled brick-veneered house with single and paired 1:1 fenestration; wood shingles in the tympanum of the front-facing gable. The brick veneer was added to the house in 1959.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1939 by Earl and Homerzelle Swisher, who lived here until around 1943. Earl Swisher was a public school teacher. He and Homerzelle eventually moved to the San Francisco Bay area of California, where they passed away.

In the mid-1940s, the house was rented by Thomas and Ruth Mayes. Thomas Mayes was a native of Hempstead, Texas, and graduated from Prairie View A&M College with a degree in agriculture. He became the Negro Extension Agent for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service around 1940, and in this capacity, he was instrumental in bringing new innovations in agriculture to African-American farmers in Travis County. He also helped African-American farmers secure loans and maintain both their farms and their credit. He was a strong supporter of 4-H Clubs for African-American children, and worked diligently to help his constituents win awards for their agricultural projects. He worked closely with Opal Washington in the Negro Extension Office; her home on E. 7th Street is also a city historic landmark, as is the site of the Negro Extension Office on Lydia Street. By all accounts, Thomas Mayes was exemplary, influential, and inspiring to a large number of African-American farm families in Travis County in his 30-year career. Ruth Banks was also active in the African-American community in Austin; she was a public school teacher at Blackshear Elementary.

From the late 1940s until around 1960, the house was the home of Walter and Phoebe Banks. Walter Banks was a school teacher. From the early 1960s until the mid-1980s, the house was owned and occupied by Emory and Kathy Williams. Emory Williams was a warehouseman for Frostex Frozen Foods.

STAFF COMMENTS




The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Postpone to December 19, 2016 to fully evaluate alternatives to demolition. The house appears to be substantially intact and is a typical example of late 1930s residential architecture, plus has associations with Thomas Mayes, an influential leader in the African-American community, that warrants further investigation. Staff will not recommend release of the permit, but if the Commission votes to do so, then staff recommends 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



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 139'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0827
LOCATION: 2004 East 8th St.

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.



2004 E. 8th Street
ca. 1939



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2004 E. 8th Street

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

1992	Fred D. and Gladys Overton, renters Retired
1985-86	Fred D. and Gladys Overton, renters Retired NOTE: The directory indicates that Fred D. and Gladys Overton were new residents at this address.
1981	Emory Williams, owner Retired
1977	Emory and Ruth Williams, owners Retired
1973	Emory and Kathy M. Williams, owners Warehouseman, Frostex Foods, 1179 Springdale Road.
1968	Emory and Kathie M. Williams, owners Warehouseman, Frostex Foods, 2617 E. 6 th Street.

- 1965 Emory and Kathie M. Williams, owners
Warehouseman, Frostex Frozen Foods, 2617 E. 6th Street.
- 1961 Emory and Katie M. Williams, owners
Warehouseman, Frostex Frozen Foods, 2617 E. 6th Street.
- 1957 Walter R. and Phoebe Banks, owners
Teacher
NOTE: Emory and Katie M. Williams are listed at the rear of 2007 E. 13th Street; he was a warehouseman for Glazier Frosted Foods, 2617 E. 6th Street.
- 1953 Walter R. Banks, owner
Teacher
- 1949 Walter R. and Phoebe Banks, owners
Teacher
- 1947 Thomas A. and Ruth M. Mayes, renters
Thomas: Agricultural agent, County Negro Extension Service, 610 E. 7th Street.
Ruth M.: Teacher, Blackshear School
- 1944-45 Thomas A. and Ruth Mayes, renters
No occupation listed
- 1941 Earl M. and Homerzelle Swisher, renters
Teacher, public schools
NOTE: Thomas A. and Ruth Mayes are not listed in the directory.
- 1940 Vacant
NOTE: Earl Swisher is listed at 1610 E. 7th Street; he was a public school teacher. Homerzelle Swisher is not listed in the directory. The 1939 city directory shows Earl and Homerzelle Swisher at 1208 Navasota Street; he was a public school teacher.
- 1939 The address is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Earl and Homerzelle Swisher (ca. 1939 – ca. 1943)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Earl and Homerzell Swisher as the owners of this house, which was worth \$1,900. Earl Swisher was 25, had been born in Texas, and was a public school teacher. Homerzelle Swisher was 23, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 children: Earline, 23; and Homerzelle, 1. Homerzelle's mother, Lula Cash, a 56-year old Texas-born widow, also lived in the house. She had no occupation listed.

Earl Swisher died in Alameda County, California in August, 1958. Homerzell Cash Swisher died in Alameda County, California in January, 1985.

Thomas A. and Ruth M. Mayes (ca. 1943 – ca. 1948)



Ruth M. Mayes

Mrs. Ruth M. Mayes, of Austin, 83, passed away Monday, August 14, 1989.

Mrs. Mayes was born in Littig, Texas, where she attended public schools. She completed her high school education at Tillotson College in Austin, received her BA degree in education from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, and her MA degree in remedial reading from Southern California University. Mrs. Mayes was a dedicated teacher in the Littig, Lockhart, and Austin school districts for a total of 44 years.

Mrs. Mayes leaves to cherish her memory her husband of 55 years, Thomas A. Mayes; sister, Mrs. Johnnie Humphrey of Austin; daughter, Mrs. Tommie Mitchell; grandchildren, Mrs. Shawneequa Harris of San Antonio, Mrs. Scheherazade Perkins of Houston, Luther Mitchell, Jr. of Waco; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, August 18, 1989, at 12:00 Noon, at Wesley United Methodist Church, Austin.

Funeral arrangements by King-Tears Mortuary.

Obituary of Ruth Mayes
Austin American-Statesman, August 17, 1989

Services for Thomas Mayes, extension agent, are Saturday

By **REBECCA THATCHER**
American-Statesman Staff

Services will be Saturday for Thomas Mayes, who helped area farmers and taught countless rural children during his 39-year career as an agricultural extension agent. Mayes, 89, died Monday from complications of a fall, his family said.

Mayes, who also owned property and businesses in Austin, was given a humanitarian award in 1985 in recognition of his work at what was then the Negro Chamber of Commerce.

"Mayes leaves a legacy of ambition and community concern, as well as business accomplishments," said Thaddeus McDonald, who worked with Mayes at the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. "I admired his wit and his humor and his ambition and his ability to inspire young people."

Mayes was born and raised in Hempstead. He graduated from



Thomas Mayes: Former Texas extension agent remembered for his concern about the farm community.

Prairie View A&M University in 1932 with a degree in agriculture. He taught school for one year before beginning his career with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

For most of Mayes' career, the extension service was segregated, and his job was to help black farmers and their families. He was a strong supporter of 4-H Clubs and worked to make sure his club members won regional and state awards for their projects and livestock.

Opal Washington, who worked

with Mayes at the extension service for many years, recalled how he chafed at the second-rate treatment the extension service sometimes gave its black agents. But she said Mayes never let discrimination prevent him from helping any farm family.

"One of the things the farmers most appreciated about him is that he had the know-how to help them secure loans and to pay them back," Washington said.

Mayes retired from the extension service in 1970.

Survivors include his wife, Blandie Marie Fitch Mayes; two daughters, Tommye Mitchell of Waco and Dorish Shaheed of La Verne, Calif.; and a stepdaughter, Sandra McIntyre of St. Louis, Mo.

A wake will be at 7 p.m. today at King-Tears Mortuary, 1300 E. 12th St. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1160 San Bernard St. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery.

News story on the death of Thomas Mayes
Austin American-Statesman, April 25, 1997

Walter R. and Phoebe Banks (ca. 1948 – ca. 1960)

BANKS, Walter R., 79, of Austin died Thursday. Wake 6 p.m. Sunday, Fuller-Sheffield Funeral Home. Services 11 a.m. Monday, Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Burial Assumption Cemetery.

Death notice for Walter R. Banks
Austin American-Statesman, March 20, 1993

Phoebe Banks died in Fort Worth in 2006.

Emory Williams (ca. 1960 – ca. 1981)

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that Emory K.L. Williams was born in Buda, Texas in 1893, and was living in Austin at the time of his registration. He was a laborer, who had a wife and 2 children. He was of medium height with a stout build, and had black hair and black eyes. ?? Is this the father?

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Emory Williams, Jr., as the 24-year old son of Emory and Maude Williams, who owned their home at 709 W. Mary Street in Austin. Emory Williams, Jr. had been born in Texas and was a truck driver for a wholesale produce company. He was the 2nd of the couple's 8 children. Emory Williams, Sr. was 46, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer. Maude Williams, 44, had been born in Texas, and was a servant for a private family. All of the children in the family over the age of 18 were employed at various jobs including a yardman, a servant for a private family, and a car greaser at a service station.

Mr. & Mrs.
Earl Swisher

2004 E. 8th St.

~~28~~
29

8

21

14

B

Grandview Addn.

frame res.

288n - 9-25-39

4

Building permit to Earl Swisher for the construction of this house (1939)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

N^o 14826
Sec 28

Received of E. Swisher Date Dec 1st, 1939

Address 2004 East 8th

Amount Two and 50/100-- \$ 2.50

Plumber Smoot Size of Tap 2"

Date of Connection 12-4-39

Size of Tap Made 2 1/4"

Size Service Made 2 1/4"

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 9'6"

From E. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 14'

Location of Meter CHMB

Type of Box WOOD

Depth of Main in St. 3'6"

Depth of Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 2'6"

Checked by Engr. Dept. 1-5-40 LE

CHANGE TO 4" MAIN AND
REPLACE WITH COPPER (E-15269
9-16-55)

No. Fittings	Size	Description
1	2 1/4"	Curb Cock
1	2 1/4"	Elbow
1	2 1/4"	St. Elbow
1	2 1/4"	Bushing
1	2 1/4"	Reducer
1	2 1/4"	2 1/2" pipe
1	2 1/4"	Leak Comp 2 1/4" CONNECTION
2	2 1/4"	Nipples 2 1/4" COPPER-P.
1	2 1/4"	Union 2 1/4" 10-11" 11" 12"
1	2 1/4"	Plug
1	2 1/4"	Tap
1	2 1/4"	Stop
1	2 1/4"	Box
1	2 1/4"	Lid
1	2 1/4"	Valves
1	2 1/4"	Job No. 4197
1	2 1/4"	Req. No. BENSON

INDEXED

Water service permit to Earl Swisher for this house (1939)

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No. 16308A

Austin, Texas

Received of Ace. Date 11/7/1939
 Address 2004 E. 8th.
 Amount \$
 Builder or Owner Earl Simsher Plumber
 Lot 14 Block 21 O.L. 8 Subdivision Grandview Plat No. 28

Date of Connection	<u>11/9/1939</u>	No. Fittings	Size	Price
By City	<u>2' W/EIL</u>	15" Pipe	4" 1.50	
By Plumber		Pipe		
Checked By	<u>Boatright</u>	1 Wyes	4" .40	
Size Main	<u>4" Depth 3'</u>	Bends		
Main Assign.	<u>in St. 14' from PL</u>	Reducers		
Stub Depth	<u>Prop. Line 2'</u>	Plugs		
Stub Location		Sand		
Book No.	<u>B-976</u>	Gravel		
Paving Cut	<u>No.</u>	Remix		
		Stoppers		
		Castings		
		Other		
		Labor:	<u>3/4 day 2.25</u>	
			<u>total 4.15</u>	

Sewer service permit for this house (1939)

Emory Williams

2004 East 8th St.

29

14

21

Grandview Place

Repairs to residence

74690

11/23/59

1196.00

T.J. Oliver

=

Rearrange partitions new kitchen cabinets new floors
 redecorate

Building permit to Emory Williams for repairs to the house (1959)

Emory Williams

2004 East 8th St.

29 14

21

Grandview Place

Remodel & Repair Residence

74840

12/10/59

1200.00

Scheumach Bros.

=

Apply insulating siding & cut brick stone

Building permit to Emory Williams for siding modifications (1959)