

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 21, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0795
1903 VISTA LANE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1947 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, hipped-roof stuccoed frame house with a partial-width inset porch on ornamental metal supports; integral two-bay garage; stone veneer on front porch.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1947 by local contractor W.W Huff. The first owns and occupants were Jerry and Beverly bell, who lived here until around 1955. Jerr Bell was a life insurance salesman. Around 1955, the house ws purchased by S.N. and Ebba Ekdahl, who lived here for the rest of their lives. S.N. Ekdahl was retired when he and his wife bought this house, but he had long been on the faculty of the University of Texas in the physical education department, and had served as the sanitary inspector for the University Health Service in the 1920s. Ekdahl's duties were to inspect all university buildings, grounds, fraternity and sorority houses, boarding and rooming houses, cafes, swimming pools, theaters, and any other places where students congregate and deliver a written report of their cleanliness and sanitation. Ekdahl, a native of Sweden, was also a career military man in the U.S. Army.

STAFF COMMENTS




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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, 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 warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0795
1903 VISTA LANE



1" = 208'

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.

1903 Vista Lane
ca. 1947



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1903 Vista Lane

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

1992	Charles E. and Julie B. Walker, renters Bridge designer
1985-86	Ebba C. Ekdahl, owner Retired
1981	Ebba C. Ekdahl, owner Retired
1977	Ebba C. Ekdahl, owner Widow, S.N. Ekdahl Retired
1973	S.N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl, owners Retired
1968	S.N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl, owners Retired
1965	Sigurd N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl, owners

Retired

- 1961 Sigurd N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl, owners
No occupation listed
- 1957 Sigurd N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl, owners
No occupation listed
- 1953 Jerry A. and Beverly Bell, owners
Agent, Southland Life Insurance Company, 712 Brown Building.
NOTE: Sigurd N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl are listed at 1702 Mohle Drive; neither had an occupation shown.
- 1952 Jerry A. and Beverly Bell, owners
Agent, Southland Life Insurance Company, 721 Brown Building.
- 1949 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Jerry A. Bell (Beverly is not listed), was an agent for the Southland Life Insurance Company with offices at 720 Brown Building; he lived at 1906 Salina Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Sigurd N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl (ca. 1955 – ca. 1986)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Sigurd N. and Ebba C. Ekdahl as the owners of the house at 1 Enfield Road; that house was worth \$6,500. Sigurd N. Ekdahl was 44, had been born in Sweden, and was an instructor at the University of Texas. He had immigrated to the United States in 1901. Ebba C. Ekdahl was 29, had been born in Texas to Swedish-born parents, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

According to his 1975 death certificate, Sigurd Neal Ekdahl was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1886, and was living in this house at the time of his death. He was an instructor in physical education at the University of Texas. He had served in the Army in World War I, and was an American citizen.

The University of Texas Bulletin of July 15, 1922 shows S.N. Ekdahl as the sanitary inspector for the University Health Service. The American Journal of Public Health for 1922 described UT's student health staff, and stated: "The medical staff established a system to improve the sanitation of all university buildings, grounds, fraternity and sorority houses, boarding and rooming houses, cafes, swimming pools, picture shows, and all other places where students congregate. The sanitary inspector makes regular inspections, files reports in writing to the chief of staff, and corrective measures are instituted where defects of found."

The Alcalde for May, 1966 had an article that S.N. Ekdahl was decorated by the Swedish Consul General, and referenced that S.N. Ekdahl had been with the university's physical education department for 31 years. Ekdahl had retired from the University of Texas in 1966, and was the president of the Texas Swedish Cultural Foundation, a group which sponsors an exchange program between Swedish and American students. The Austin-based organization has been promoting scientific, industrial, and artistic cultural exchange between the two countries since 1951.

EKDAHL, Col. S.N. (ret.),
88, of 1903 Vista Lane, died
~~Sunday, January 12, 1975, 2:30 p.m.~~
Thursday at Weed-Corley
Funeral Home. Survivors:
wife, Mrs. Ebba C. Ekdahl of
Austin; brother, Bert Ekdahl
of Falun, Sweden.

Obituary of S.N. Ekdahl
Austin American-Statesman, January 13, 1975

Ebba Ekdahl

Mrs. S.N. (Ebba) Ekdahl, age 90, of Austin died Sunday.

She was a member of Tarrytown United Methodist Church and was a charter member of the Wednesday Morning Music Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Col. S.N. Ekdahl, US Army Retired.

Survivors include her nephew, Michael Ekdall, Houston; niece, Nancy Pearce, Albuquerque, New Mexico; sister-in-law, Lydia Moye, El Paso.

Services 10:00 AM, Tuesday, Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Burial Austin Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to a favorite charity.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar. 452-8811.

S. N Ekdahl 1903 Vista Lane
155 86 & No 25 of 87

Tarrytown pl

enlarge rear porch

56948 5-20-54

150.00

day labor

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Building permit to S.N. Ekdahl to enlarge the rear porch (1954)