

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 21, 2016  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2016-0802  
1710 CHESTNUT AVENUE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, front-gabled frame house with single and paired 1:1 fenestration; long, one-story side-gabled addition to the south side of the original part of the house; the addition contains a carport at its south end.

**RESEARCH**

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The original part of the house appears to have been built in 1936. Joseph P. and Ida Frank Davis lived here from around 1936 to around 1948. Joseph P. Davis was a printer at the American-Statesman; Ida C. Davis was a nurse. The house was vacant in the early 1950s, then purchased by Marion and Nettie D. Woods, who lived here until very recently. Marion Davis was a porter at Stelfox Jewelers downtown, and was also a church deacon at Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church. Nettie Woods was born Nettie DeWitty, a relative of a prominent African-American family in Austin. She grew up in rural Travis County, where her father was a truck farmer. Nettie worked as a maid for a private family in 1940, prior to marrying Marion Woods and living in this house. She died in Washington, D.C. in 2015.

Marion Woods obtained a building permit for a living room in 1960; that is presumably the long addition to the south of the original house, along Chestnut Avenue.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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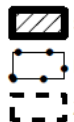
The house is listed in the Chestnut Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey (2001) with a low priority.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation of the original house 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 represents the transition of this neighborhood from Anglo- to African-American in the 1940s and 1950s, and while it does not have the requisite architectural and historical significance for individual designation as a historic landmark, it appears to be in good condition and could be re-purposed for affordable housing either on- or off-site.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0802  
1710 CHESTNUT AVENUE

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.

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1710 Chestnut Avenue  
ca. 1936



Photograph along Chestnut Avenue showing the ca. 1960 addition and carport

## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1710 Chestnut Avenue

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

1992	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Retired
1985-86	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Retired
1981	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Salesman, Stelfox Jewelers, 809 Congress Avenue and 6001 Airport Boulevard.
1977	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Porter, Stelfox Jewelers, 809 Congress Avenue and 6001 Airport Boulevard.
1973	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Porter, Stelfox Jewelers, 809 Congress Avenue, 6001 Airport Boulevard, and 5447 N. Interregional Highway.
1968	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Porter, Stelfox Jewelers, 809 Congress Avenue and 5447 N. Interregional Highway.
1965	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Porter, Stelfox Jewelers, 809 Congress Avenue and 5447 N. Interregional Highway.
1961	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Porter, Stelfox Jewelers, 809 Congress Avenue and 5447 N. Interregional Highway.
1957	Marion and Nettie D. Woods, owners Porter, Stelfox Jewelers, 809 Congress Avenue.
1953	Vacant NOTE: Marion Woods is listed at 1807 Ulit Avenue; he was a porter at Stelfox Jewelry at 809 Congress Avenue. Nettie D. Woods is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Joe P. and Ida C. Davis are listed at 5408 Duval Street. He was a printer for the Austin <u>American-Statesman</u> newspaper; she was not separately listed.
1949	Joe P. and Ida C. Davis, renters Joe: Printer, Austin <u>American-Statesman</u> , newspaper Ida: Supervisor, Seton Hospital. Also listed is Sarah Davis, no occupation shown.
1947	Joseph P. and Ida Davis, renters Printer, Austin <u>American-Statesman</u> , newspaper.
1944-45	Joseph P. and Ida C. Davis, renters

Printer, Austin American-Statesman, newspaper.

- 1941 Joseph P. and Ida C. Davis, renters  
 Joseph: Printer, American Publishing Company (Austin American-Statesman newspaper), 7<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets.  
 Ida: Nurse (at the house)
- 1939 Joseph P. and Ida C. Davis, renters  
 Joseph: No occupation listed  
 Ida: Nurse (at the house)
- 1937 Joseph P. and Frankie C. Davis, renters  
 Joseph: Printer, A.C. Baldwin & Sons, bookbinders and printers, 205 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 Frankie C.: Nurse (at the house)
- 1935 The address is not listed in the directory.  
 NOTE: Joseph P. and Ida F. Davis are listed at 3107 Dam Boulevard; he was a printer at Elliott Printing Company, 301 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street; she was not separately listed with an occupation.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Joseph P. and Ida Davis (ca. 1936 – ca. 1948)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Joe P. and Ida Frank Davis as the owners of this house, which was worth \$1,000. Joe P. Davis was 32, had been born in Texas, and was a printer for the newspaper. Ida Frank Davis was 30, had been born in Texas, and was a graduate nurse at the city hospital. They had 2 children: daughter Frankie Joe, 7; and son Nat Collins, 5. Both children had been born in Texas. The Davises were white.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Joe P. Davis as the 23-year old son of Felix and Mary Davis, who owned their home at 2209 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. Joe P. Davis was a Texas-born printer at a printing shop. His father, Felix Davis, 68, had been born in Mississippi, and had no occupation listed. His mother, Mary Davis, 64, had been born in Illinois, and had no occupation listed. Joe was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the couple's 5 children listed. His oldest brother, James, 32, was a laborer in building construction. His sister, Fannie T. Davis, was a secretary in an architect's office. None of the other adult children had an occupation listed.

**JOE P. DAVIS**

Joe P. Davis, 56, of 5408 Duval, died in a local hospital Monday. He was employed as a printer at The American-Statesman for a number of years.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Ida Frank Davis; daughter, Mrs. Frankie Joe Toole of Port Lavaca; son, Nat C. Davis of Austin; two sisters, Miss Margueritte Davis and Miss Fannie Davis of Austin; three brothers, Jim Davis and Nat Davis of Austin and Mike Davis of Houston; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. from Cook Funeral Home with Rev. John Platt officiating.

Obituary of Joe P. Davis  
Austin American, June 25, 1963

**Ida Frank Collins Davis**

Ida Frank Collins Davis, R.N., died Thursday, September 17, 1992.

She was born January 26, 1909 to Henry and Maude Collins in Austin, Texas and attended and graduated from St. Mary's Academy. Ida graduated from Brackenridge School of Nursing in 1931. She worked in various local hospitals until mid-1950, when she went to work at St. David's Hospital, retiring as OB and GYN supervisor.

Ida married Joe P. Davis in 1931. He preceded her in death in 1963.



She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Frankie Joe and Nolan Toole of Port Lavaca; son, Nathaniel C. (Nat) Davis; sisters, Aileen Herrick, and Margaret (Sis) McCullough, all of Austin; sister and brother-in-law, Babe and Jimmie Landrum of Tow; sister, Betty Joe Terrio of Austin; grandchildren, Donna King of McDade, Diane Shefflin of Austin, Debbie Judah of Snyder, Donald Toole of Port Lavaca; 11 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Miss Fannie Davis and Mrs. Mary Davis of Austin.

The family will receive visitors on Saturday, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, in the Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 PM Sunday, in Austin Memorial Park with Reverend Jim B. Cloninger of Hyde Park United Methodist Church officiating.

Those desiring, can send memorial contributions to the Hyde Park United Methodist Church or the Asbury United Methodist Church in Austin, or the Point Comfort Church of Christ in Point Comfort, Texas.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Jerry Vandel, the nursing staff of St. David's Hospital and the Retirement and Nursing Center for their care over the last 21 months.

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

Obituary of Ida Davis  
Austin American-Statesman, September 19, 1992

#### **Marion and Nettie Woods (ca. 1955 - ca. 2015)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Marion Woods as the 19-year old adopted son of Willis and Olivia Mays, who owned their home at 1907 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. Marion Woods had been born in Texas and did mill work for a wholesale grain company. His adoptive father, Willis Mays, was a janitor at the junior high school. The household included Willis and Olivia's 2 sons, one of whom was married, a daughter, and the daughter's 2 young children.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Nettie DeWitty (later Nettie Woods) as the 10-year old daughter of Oliver DeWitty of Precinct 6 of Travis County. Oliver DeWitty was a 65-year old Texas-born widower who worked as a truck farmer. He had 9 children living with him; Nettie was the 6<sup>th</sup> in the family. The 1940 U.S. Census shows Nettie DeWitty living with her uncle, W.B. Cleveland, and his wife, Eliza, in the house they owned at 2008 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. W.B. Cleveland was a Texas-born common laborer for the city. Eliza Cleveland worked as a maid in a hotel. Nettie DeWitty, then 20, worked as a maid for a private family.



### **Deacon Marion Woods**

Deacon Marion Woods, age 80, of Austin was called by our Heavenly Father on Easter Sunday morning, April 23, 2000.

He was a loving husband, father, and a faithful friend.

He is survived by his loving wife, Nettie DeWitty Woods; daughters, Honorable Ethel J. Griffin and Virginia R. Griffin; one grandson, Jason Jibri Griffin; a special niece, Darlene D. Gates of Las Vegas, Nevada; grand nieces, nephews as well as numerous cousins and friends.

Funeral services will be Thursday morning, April 27, 2000, 11:00. at Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery, (King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.)

Obituary of Marion Woods  
Austin American-Statesman, April 26, 2000



Age 96, of Washington D.C., passed away April 13, 2016. Service April 23, 12 noon at Rehoboth B.C. King Tears Mortuary, Austin, TX.

Death notice for Nettie Woods  
Austin American-Statesman, April 22, 2016

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

**PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE** AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 4241 A

M. Fannie Davis Address 1710 Chestnut Ave. **INDEXED**

Plumber Rev. Schmidt Size of Tap 1/2" Date 6-24-36

NU  
II

Date of Connection 6-26-36

Size of Tap Made 3/4

Size Service Made 3/4

Size Main Tapped 1 1/4

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7

From Prop. Line to Curb Cock 41

Location of Meter Cushline

Type of Box Lock

Depth of Main in St. 18"

Depth of Service Line 18"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 10

Checked by Engr. Dept. W.P.N. 7-6-36

**INDEXED**

Foreman's Report

No. Fittings	Size	Material
2	5/8"	Curb Cock
1	3/4"	Elbow
1	3/4"	St. Elbow
1	3/4" x 1/2"	Bushing
1	3/4"	Reducer
10	3/4"	Pipe
1	1 1/4" x 3"	Lead Comp.
1	1 1/4"	Nipples
1	1 1/4"	Union
1	1 1/4" x 3/4"	Plug
1	5/8"	Tee
1	5/8"	Box
1	5/8"	Lid
1	5/8"	Valves
1	5/8"	Req. No.

Foreman's Signature Douglas

9976

Water service permit to Fannie Davis, the sister of Joe P. Davis, for this address (1936)

Melvin Woods

1710 Chestnut Ave.

39

12

W.C. Belcher

Frame add'n to residence.

76665

6/20/60

2500.00

L. E. Foreman

LIVING ROOM

Building permit to Melvin [sic] Woods for a frame addition (1960)

OWNER Marian Woods ADDRESS 1710 Chestnut Avenue

PLAT 39 LOT 12 BLK

SUBDIVISION W. C. Belcher

OCCUPANCY Carport

BLD PERMIT # 117168 DATE 5-18-70 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$650.00

CONTRACTOR Jerome Davis NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist

Frm addn to residence

230 sq. ft.

2-10-76-154848-Nettie D. Woods-owner  
 frm addn to res 1008 sq ft. carport den bedrm  
 deck-\$6500 Chas McNeese contractor

Building permit to Marian Woods for a frame addition (1970), and to Nettie Woods for a frame addition including a carport and deck (1976)