

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2016-0120

HLC DATE:

December 19, 2016

PC DATE:

APPLICANTS: Tadd and Holly Lanham, owners

HISTORIC NAME: Darnall House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 2805 Wooldridge Drive

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) combining district to single family residence – Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

Architecture and historical associations.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is beyond the bounds of the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

The ca. 1941 Darnall House is one of the earliest, if not the first, International Style house in Austin. Designed by Fehr and Granger, a locally prominent architectural firm, noted particularly for their later International Style and mid-century Modern buildings in Austin, several of which are designated historic landmarks.

The International Style has its origins in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s, particularly among the practitioners of the Bauhaus School of design in pre-Nazi Germany. The American proponents of the International Style included nationally-known architects such as Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Philip Johnson, all of whom designed buildings which have become icons of modern American architecture. The principles of International Style design include the use of rectilinear forms, a surface devoid of applied ornamentation, the extensive use of glass and steel, particularly in long, horizontal bands of

windows, and cantilevered forms. In the United States, the International Style was applied more commonly to commercial buildings than to residential designs.

The Darnall House is a two-story, stone-veneered house that features all of the hallmarks of the International Style: a blocky composition, flat or low-slung roof, horizontal bands of windows, and a plain exterior. The exterior and design of the Darnall House is completely intact; the house is currently undergoing an interior restoration that includes the restoration of the original steel casement windows. The house has Cordova Cream limestone exterior walls, steel casement windows, and D'Hanis tile, as well as the flowing floorplan favored by designers of the International Style. Fehr and Granger's design for this house was executed by local builder Ernest Parker, who built many homes in Pemberton Heights and other neighborhoods in West Austin.

Historical Associations:

The house was designed and built for Dr. Charles Milton Darnall and his wife Gertrude "Queenie" who lived here until they sold it to the present owners. Dr. Darnall was born in Llano, Texas, the son of a local physician and proprietor of the local pharmacy. He graduated from high school in Llano and came to Austin to attend the University of Texas. While in Austin, he worked at Brackenridge Hospital to help with his educational expenses and experiences. After earning his medical degree from the University of Texas, Dr. Darnall entered his internship at the Medical and Surgical Hospital of San Antonio. From there, he was awarded a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where he met and married his wife, the former Gertrude "Queenie" Miller of North Dakota. Queenie Miller trained to be a nurse in Rochester, Minnesota, the home of the Mayo Clinic. They married in 1933, and settled in Austin in 1934, where Dr. Darnall established his practice in the Norwood Building, later the Capital National Bank building at 114 W. 7th Street. After serving in World War II, Dr. Darnall came back to Austin and established a medical practice with Dr. Horace Cromer, who had also been trained at the Mayo Clinic. Two more Mayo Clinic-trained doctors joined the practice in the late 1950s, and eventually, they outgrew their downtown offices, and moved to the new Medical Park Tower on W. 35th Street. Their practice became known as the Capital Medical Clinic.

Dr. Darnall and his wife were very active in civic and professional affairs in Austin, including the Austin Society of Internal Medicine, the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association, and other local groups. Dr. Darnall also served as the chief of medical services at Seton Hospital. Queenie Darnall was very active in the Junior League and several organizations associated with St. David's Episcopal Church, including the establishment of the Next-to-New Shop, a thrift store that is still located on Burnet Road.

PARCEL NO.: 0217000411

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: .57AC BLK 3 JONES & SEDWICK

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$8,500 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,500 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,237,350

PRESENT USE: Single family residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS:

Tadd and Holly Lanham
2805 Wooldridge Drive
Austin, Texas 78703

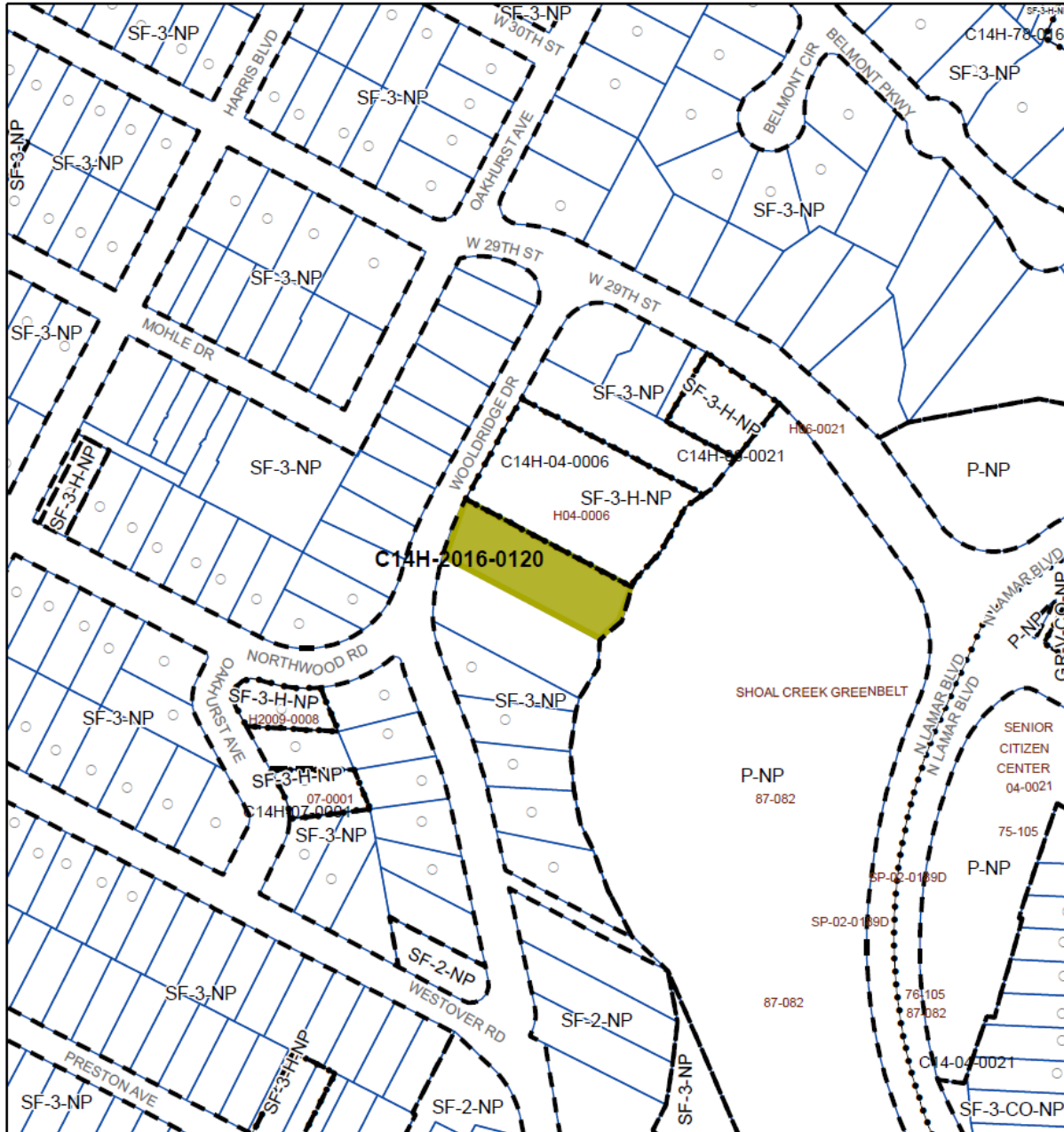
DATE BUILT: ca. 1941

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: None. The house is currently undergoing an interior restoration, including the restoration of the original steel casement windows.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Dr. Charles Milton and Gertrude “Queenie” Darnall (1940)

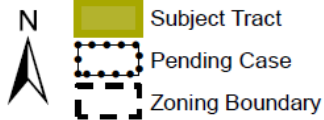
OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: Contributing to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.

LOCATION MAP



ZONING

Case#: C14H-2016-0120



1" = 200'

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 the Planning and Zoning Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



Created: 11/3/2016



City of Austin - Historic Preservation Office
Historic Zoning Application Packet

F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

Occupancy Research for 2805 Wooldridge Drive.

Note: Per discussion with Barbara Darnall Clinton, daughter of the original owner, her family owned the house for the entire period from 1941 through September 2014. To confirm our understanding, we conducted additional research using a selection of City Directories available at the Austin History Center. The text below is copied directly from the applicable City Directory. Also note that some directories misspelled the Darnall's last name ("Darnell").

Year	Occupant Name / Directory Text	Reference Source
1935 1937	Darnall Chas M (Gertrude) phys 906 Norwood Bldg h2212 Oldham* (*address prior to building 2805 Woolridge)	City Directory
1939	Darnall Chas M (Gertrude; 1) phys 906 Norwood Bldg h1403 W 29th* (*address prior to building 2805 Woolridge)	City Directory
1940 1941	Darnell Chas M (Gertrude M; 1) phys 906 Norwood Bldg h1403 W 29th* (*address prior to building 2805 Woolridge)	City Directory
1942	Darnell Chas M (Gertrude M; 1) phys 906 Norwood Bldg h2805 Wooldridge Dr.**	City Directory
1944-45	Darnell Chas M (Gertrude M; 1) phys h2805 Wooldridge Dr.**	City Directory
1947 1949 1952 1955	Darnall Chas M (Gertrude M) phys 605 Capital Natl Bank bldg h2805 Wooldridge dr	City Directory
1960	Darnall Chas M (Gertrude M; Darnall Cromer & Pearce) h2805 Wooldridge dr Darnall Cromer & Pearce (Chas M Darnall Horace E Cromer Francis M Pearce) phys 605 Capital Natl Bank bldg	City Directory
1963	Darnall Chas M (Gertrude M; Darnall Cromer Pearce & Bynum) h2805 Wooldridge dr Darnall Cromer Pearce & Bynum (Chas M Darnall Horace E Cromer Francis M Pearce Grover L Bynum) phys 605 Capital Natl Bank bldg.	City Directory
1974	Darnall Charles M (Gertrude M) phys 1301 W 38 th St Suite 601 h2805 Wooldridge Dr	City Directory
1980 1984	Darnall Charles M & Gertrude M; phys Capital Med Clinic h2805 Wooldridge Dr	City Directory
1985-86	Darnall Gertrude M h2805 Wooldridge Dr	City Directory

1996	Darnall C M	Cross Reference Directory
2005	Darnall Gertrude M & Charles M; retd h2805 Wooldridge Dr (A)	Polk City Directory
2010	Darnall C M 2805 Wooldridge Dr	Greater Austin Whitepages
2011 to 2014	Barbara Darnall Clinton (second home / periodic)	Inquiry with Barbara Darnall Clinton

****Note:** Per discussion with Barbara Darnall Clinton, the family rented rooms in the Darnall House during the period that Dr. Darnall served in the European Theatre of World War II. However, the City Directories from that time show Dr. and Mrs. Darnall as being the owners/occupants.

Section F3 - Biographical Data on Owners

Biographies of Dr. Charles Milton and Gertrude (Queenie) Miller Darnall

Dr. Charles Milton Darnall (July 3, 1906 - February 16, 1984)

"They all stood around the bed and said 'There's the Doctor Darnall. There's the new Dr. Darnall.'" This begins the story, in his own words, of a man's life. Born on July 3, 1906 in rural Llano, Texas to Dr. Charles and Ona Darnall, Dr. Charles Milton Darnall's early life in the Texas hill country was at period markedly different than today. Llano was four hours from Austin by car and had just over 1500 people supported by corn and cotton farming, cattle and sheep ranching, and the granite industry.

Dr. Darnall's father was a physician in Llano, and he also owned the local corner pharmacy. The medical profession was instilled in "the new Dr. Darnall" from the earliest age.

"I went to school in Llano; graduated from high school in 19 and 23, and came to Austin and got a job over at Brackenridge for my room, board, and laundry. At that time, Brackenridge Hospital was the city hospital. It consisted of an old red building which is still there and part the present city hospital [on 15th street]."

Dr. Darnall's early education and career occurred in a time before modern medicine – a time when there was enormous human suffering and death from disease such as pneumonia, flu, malaria, typhoid fever and polio. It was also a time well before "specific medicines" and world-changing discoveries such as penicillin the polio vaccine.

Dr. Darnall first worked at Brackenridge Hospital while attending the University of Texas and the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston (during summer breaks). He earned his M.D. degree in 1930 and worked at an internship at the Medical and Surgical Hospital in San Antonio. During that internship, a prominent physician in San Antonio helped expand Dr. Darnall's training and education by writing the following to the Mayo Brothers clinic in Rochester, Minnesota:

[To:] Dr. Don (Donald Balfour, a renowned Mayo physician). We're sending Charlie Darnall up there for you to train...if you think he needs any training. He knows everything and if you don't think he doesn't know it, just ask him. He'll tell you. Darnall is not the stature of the usual Texan. He's a lot smaller but he's a product of the depression and we've outfitted him with heavy red underwear and so on. We're sending him to you, and we appreciate...what you do for him."

Imagine Llano, Texas in 1931, in the throes of the great depression, and the profound achievement described in *The Llano News*, Thursday, August 13, 1931 edition: "Young Llano Man to go to the Mayo Brothers Clinic." The paper goes on to write that Dr. Darnall was one of seventy-five people selected out of a pool of 2000 applications. They also wrote that "Dr. Darnall made a splendid record for himself as a student, has met with success since he has been in San Antonio, and now even greater possibilities await him..." This was accurate journalism.

During his time at the "Mayo Brothers," Dr. Darnall studied Internal Medicine, performed research and co-authored a scholarly publication, *A clinic on acute, old-fashioned gout with special reference to its inciting factors. Med Clin North Am. 1933;16 (May)*. This article referenced in newspaper articles of the time and, more recently in 2010, the Mayo Clinic Proceedings Article *Rheumatology Practice at Mayo Clinic: The First 40 Years – 1920 to 1960*.

After completing his fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Darnall returned home to Austin with his wife Gertrude ("Queenie"), and he started his medical practice on March 10, 1934:

I didn't know enough to practice medicine so I went to the Mayo Clinic and had a fellowship in medicine up there and I came back here in 19 and 34 and opened an office in the Norwood Building, which was quite an edifice. It was the first air conditioned building in Austin...that's where a major portion of the doctors were.

Around the same time as his practice began to grow, Dr. Darnall and his wife Queenie had a daughter, Barbara. Barbara was raised in Austin and attended local schools including the nearby Bryker Woods Elementary and Austin High School.

Dr. Darnall's practice grew during the period from 1934 to 1942, a time when he practiced medicine by himself in the Norwood Building. It was also around this time that Dr. Darnall met Arthur Fehr, who was both a friend and patient of Dr. Darnall. Dr. and Mrs. Darnall worked with Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger, also a friend of the Darnalls, to design the International Style home at 2805 Wooldridge Drive. The house was designed in 1940 to meet the needs of their young family. It included many built-in shelves throughout the house, casework and vertical phonograph record storage

in a mahogany paneled office. It also had a special room – “Barbara’s Room” on the original second floor plans and presented in the attached photos – designed specifically for their young daughter. It was house of fine craftsmanship, incredible form, elegance, and permanence. Today, it still is.

Shortly after completing the house at 2805 Wooldridge Drive and enjoying professional success, Dr. Darnall was called to serve his country during World War II. He served as a Major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was stationed in the European Theater of Operations. Dr. Darnall provided medical support during the Battle of the Bulge / Ardennes near Bastogne, Belgium.

1942 until 1946. I was gone four years... Then I came back and started our here again, by myself, until 1948, Dr. Cromer came, and we were partners then.

Dr. Darnall was joined in 1948 by Dr. Horace E. Cromer, also from the Mayo Clinic. In 1957, the practice was joined by Dr. Frances M. Pearce, and later, Dr. Grover L. Bynum. These original founders became the Capital Medical Clinic, named in part for the later renamed Norwood Building (the Capital National Bank Building). Over decade later in in June 1968, the practice had grown to seven member doctors, all trained at the Mayo Clinic, and the practice moved to the newly built Medical Park Tower, located where it still is today at 1301 W 38th Street in Austin.

Beyond studying at Mayo, starting a growing a medical practice, and raising a family, Dr. Darnall was actively involved in the local and statewide communities of medicine. Dr. Darnall served as the Chief of Medical Services at Seton Hospital. He was a member and past President of the Austin Society of Internal Medicine, and a member of the American and Texas Medical Associations. He also served as Secretary and Treasurer for the Texas Club of Internists, a small group formed in 1924 whose members are among the more outstanding Internists in the state. He served at all the hospitals in Austin including St. David’s, Seton, and Brackenridge. He was also the doctor to many prominent local families and political leaders, but appropriately Dr. Darnall refused to identify specific patients when interviewed as described immediately below.

Dr. Darnall graciously shared his knowledge and history with our community toward the end of his life. During the period from 1980 to 1983, Dr. Darnall performed four oral history interviews for the Austin Public Library. These interviews, which were a source for some of the material and quotes above, described several topics like early Texas medicine, the general history of the Brackenridge hospital and its early laboratories. Dr. Darnall’s recordings are on file at the Austin History Center.

Dr. Darnall was a man from the country who achieved success in his profession and prominence in our community. From Llano, to Austin, to San Antonio, to Rochester, to Bastogne, and home to Austin for good, Dr. Darnall’s was an extraordinary life that left our community with the continuing legacies of his family, his medical practice, and his home.

Gertrude (Queenie) Miller Darnall (August 21, 1911 - February 16, 1984)

Gertrude (Queenie) M. Darnall was born in Harvey, North Dakota on August 21, 1911 to Lawrence Oberst Miller and Gertrude Wolf Miller. Home to many German immigrants, Harvey was a town of around 1500 people, 100 miles northeast of Bismark, North Dakota. During Gertrude Darnall’s young life, the town was on a freight division point for the “Soo” (St. Paul – Sault Ste Marie Railway), a mercantile trading post, and significant producer of wheat in the region.

Traveling 500 miles down the road, past Fargo and Minneapolis, Gertrude Darnall attended the Saint Mary’s School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota. The school operated from 1906 to 1970 to provide nurses to the Saint Mary’s hospital, and the school was known for the quality of its faculty and curriculum. Around the time Gertrude Darnall was attending the school in 1932, the school underwent its first review by the National League for Nursing as accreditation standards were established. Gertrude Darnall earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the school, and this is where she met her future husband, Dr. Charles Darnall, who was working on a three-year fellowship with the Mayo Clinic.

They were married in 1933 in Northwood, Iowa and moved to Austin in 1934. As Dr. Darnall’s medical practice grew, Mrs. Darnall began a lifetime of service to her community through community organizations such as Junior League of Austin and other organizations associated with the medical community and her church, St. David’s Episcopal Church of Austin.

Gertrude Darnall was a leader in the Seton Hospital Auxiliary, an organization that consisted of members of the community who volunteered their time to support the hospital and its patients, and she served as President of the Travis County Medical Alliance (TCMA) in 1938-1939. TCMA was founded in 1924 and continues to operate today to provide support to a broad variety of philanthropic and education initiatives in the community.

In addition to her years of service to the community through well-known organizations, Gertrude Darnall made a lasting contribution to the community over 50 years ago. She was founding member of the Next-to-New Shop of St. David's Episcopal Church, a consignment shop and outreach ministry sponsored by St. David's Parish. Next-To-New is now a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation and has been operated by volunteers from the community since 1959. Next-To-New provides several important channels for fund-raising activities. They operate a consignment shop at 5435 Burnet Road. Using this model, consignors receive half of the selling price of each item while Next-to-New receives half of the price of consigned items. Next-to-New's portion used for charitable causes managed by the Grants Committee of St. David's Episcopal Church. They also provide an important and highly-skilled service through the Estate Committee of the Next to New Consignment Shop.

The Committee manages sales for people who are moving or settling an estate. They are highly trained and experienced in organizing, pricing and providing thoughtful services, and the Committee worked with the current owners of the Darnall House to identify and keep many of the original home furnishings associated with the home. For example, when working with current Darnall House owners, the Committee identified and provided historical context to several important pieces for preservation (e.g. original custom furniture, original Eames molded plywood chairs, and various artwork). The also removed some items for estate sale being careful not to damage the Darnall House original construction materials such as the mahogany panels in the office and pipe metal railing.

The talent and charity of this organization are a gift to our community from Gertrude Darnall and the founding members of Next-to-New. The organization has raised over \$1MM since its inception, and a significant portion of its proceeds were donated to organizations that minister to disabled persons, medically fragile children, the homeless, the elderly, and other worthy causes.

Like her husband, Gertrude Darnall provided a lifetime of service to our committee and her family. She lived in and, with her family's support, protected and cared for the Darnall House until passing away on September 29, 2010.

Dr. and Mrs. Darnall's daughter, Barbara Darnall Clinton, currently resides in Houston.

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March 7, 2016

Ms. Mary Jo Galindo
Historic Landmark Commission
City of Austin
Post Office Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767-8865
Sent via E-mail

Re: The Darnell House. 2805 Wooldridge

Dear Chair Galindo and Commissioners:

Preservation Austin respectfully requests your support of the landmark designation for the Darnell House located at 2805 Wooldridge. The Darnell House, designed by Fehr and Granger and constructed in 1941, maintains a high degree of architectural integrity with its' original stone exterior, casement windows and floor plan all intact. The house is a contributing building to the Old West Austin National Register District. The nomination states that it is "one of the earliest and possibly the first International Style house in Austin and is now the best, most intact residential example of this style remaining". (Old West Austin National Register District Nomination, Section 7, p. 17, 2003)

The architects, Fehr and Grainger, are locally prominent architects who designed not only houses but commercial buildings as well. They became partners in 1938 and designed this excellent example of the International Style just three years into their partnership. The firm continued after the war, winning local and national recognition for projects such as the Sneed residence (1953) in Austin, O. Henry Junior High School (1954) in Austin, Saint Stephen's Chapel (1955) in Austin, and Clifton Hall at Texas Lutheran College (1956) in Seguin, Texas. Fehr and Granger were published in *Progressive Architecture* in 1958 and they were honored with two awards from the journal in 1959. Their works also include: the Texas Restaurant Association Building, Austin, 1958; St. John's Elementary School, Austin, 1958; Wooten Elementary School, Austin and buildings for the Lower Colorado River Authority. Their Robert Mueller Airport in Austin, Texas received a Design Award in 1959 and another award in 1961. In 1959, the Hillview Unit for Brown Schools, Inc. in San Marcos, Texas received an Educational Award Citation

This house meets two of the criteria for designation: architecture and historical association, as outlined in LDC 25-2-352. The house meets the criteria for architecture because it is an excellent example of the International Style which was not a common residential style in Texas. The property embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the International Style including the flat or low slope roof, long ribbons of casement windows and cantilevered sections of the roof which create a balcony. The house also meets this criteria as well as historical association because it was designed by the noted local architectural firm of Fehr and Granger. A list of their projects are noted in the paragraph above.

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For 60 years, Preservation Austin has been the leading protector of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. As such, we believe that preservation of this unique resource celebrates our past, enhances livability and a sense of identity for our city.

Instituting historic status for this home will benefit our City, and we hope you will seize the opportunity to recommend Council approval that this valuable resource be granted historic status. Thank you for your many hours of hard work to preserve what is best about Austin for future generations.

Sincerely,

Alyson McGee
President, Preservation Austin

Dr. Charles Milton Darnall

Dr. Charles Milton Darnall, age 77, a prominent Austin physician, died Thursday.

He was born on July 3, 1906 in Llano, Texas. He studied pre-medicine at the University of Texas at Austin and received his M.D. degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston. After an internship at the Medical and Surgical Hospital in San Antonio, he entered the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in 1932 as a Fellow in Medicine. After two years at the Mayo Clinic, he returned to Austin to open his practice in internal medicine. In March of this year he would have given 50 years of medical service to the Austin community. During World War II, he served as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was stationed in the European Theatre of Operations.

Among his many accomplishments, he served as Chief of Medical Services at Seton Hospital. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a member and past president of the Texas Club of Internists, a member and past president of the Travis County Medical Society, a member and past president of the Austin Society of Internal Medicine, and a member of the American Medical Association and the Texas Medical Association. He also founded the Capital Medical Clinic.

His hobbies included hunting, fishing and reading. He was an active

member of St. David's Episcopal Church.

Dr. Darnell is survived by his wife, Gertrude Miller Darnell; his daughter, Mrs. Daniel D. (Barbara) Clinton of Houston; and three grandchildren, Mary Kay, Laura and Charles Darnell Clinton.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 PM Saturday, February 18th, at St. David's Episcopal Church with Reverend T. James Bethell, Reverend Joseph Schmidt and Reverend Steve Wattfield officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers: Kenneth B. Clinton, Kilian Fehr, Clyde P. Little, John Little, Robert D. McGee, Thomas Sumners, Neil A. Watt and James E. Watt.

Honorary pallbearers: Dr. T.N. Watt, R.L. Phinary, Raymond C. Brumley, Judge Joe R. Greenhill, and the doctors of the Capital Medical Clinic: Dr. Horacio Cromar, Dr. Frank Pearson, Dr. Grover Bynum, Dr. Jack Whitaker, Dr. Keni Beasley, Dr. Sheldon Markowitz, Dr. James Lindsey and Dr. Nelson Avery.

Memorials may be sent to St. David's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, Seton Central Texas Heart Institute, or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by Wood-Corley Funeral Home.

Obituary of Dr. Charles M. Darnell
Austin American-Statesman, February 18, 1984

General Information About Our Practice

Capital Medical Clinic is a private medical group practice of specialists in Internal Medicine. Internists receive specialized training in the diagnosis and nonsurgical treatment of a broad spectrum of diseases. All physicians have been certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. We value your patronage and our staff will strive to make all of your Clinic experiences valuable and pleasant. Any comments or suggestions you make will receive our careful attention and consideration.

Our History

The Capital Medical Clinic traces its origin to the beginning of Dr. Charles Milton Darnall's practice in March, 1934 at the Norwood Building in downtown Austin. Originally from Llano, Texas, Dr. Darnall completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in Internal Medicine and started his practice upon completion. Dr. Darnall's practice was interrupted by his service in World War II. Soon after the war, he was joined in 1948 by Dr. Horace E. Cromer, also from the Mayo Clinic. In 1957, the practice was joined by Dr. Frances M. Pearce, and later, Dr. Grover L. Bynum. These original founders became the Capital Medical Clinic, named in part for the later renamed Norwood Building, which became the Capital National Bank Building.

The clinic had grown to seven member doctors, all trained at the Mayo Clinic, when the practice moved to the Medical Park Tower in June, 1968, where it still is today. As the originator of the group practice concept in Central Texas, Capital Medical Clinic has been privileged to continue to attract other superbly trained internists. Our philosophy has always been to offer the best Internal Medicine care available. With a shifting focus from treating illness to a proactive method of preventive medicine, Capital Medical Clinic has become a leader in wellness care. Our group continues to grow with an established history and a progressive future.

Section F6 Information on Architect, Builder, Contractor, etc.

The Darnall family maintained full, original signed records related to the design and construction of the house, and the current owners (Lanham) recently donated several of these items (e.g., Arthur Fehr signed detailed plans and specifications) to the Austin History Center. See F6 series supporting materials.

The following is summary of key people and companies that designed and built the Darnall House:

Architects: Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger

Arthur Fehr (1904-1969)

Arthur Fehr graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture in 1925. He continued his education, studying in graduate programs at Columbia University, New York University, and the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design in New York City. Before returning to Austin, Fehr worked with Kenneth Murchison in New York and Harvey Smith in San Antonio. During the depression, he helped with survey and restoration work of one of the missions in San Antonio. Around the same time in the 1930's, he worked for the National Park Service on the Bastrop State Park Project in Bastrop, Texas, where he met Charles T. Granger, another Austin native and University of Texas graduate.

Charles Granger (1913-1966)

Charles Granger was born in Austin in 1913. During college, he met Fehr while working as a draftsman for the National Park Service at Bastrop State Park, Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas (Austin) in 1936 and moved to Los Angeles to work with Richard Neutra after graduation. In 1938, he returned to Austin to join Arthur Fehr's architectural firm. During World War II, when commissions decreased, Granger attended Cranbrook Academy of Art, in Bloomfield, Michigan and received his master's degree in 1946. He worked with the firm Saarinen and Swanson before returning to Austin to reopen Fehr and Granger in 1946.

Fehr & Granger, the Partnership

Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger began working as associated architects in 1938, and both Fehr and Granger worked on the Darnall House and were friends of the Darnall family. Arthur Fehr signed and sealed the architectural documents associated with the house in November 1940. This Darnall House was completed in 1941 shortly before World War II, a time when Fehr closed his office and served with the Army Service Forces.

In 1946, the firm re-opened as a partnership committed to "the practice of progressive architecture." Fehr & Granger's work is well documented by the Austin History Center, previous writings of the Historical Landmark Commission, in *The Fehr & Granger Tradition at St. Stephen's*, an online booklet produced by Saint Stephen's Episcopal School (http://issuu.com/ststephens/docs/fehr_granger_booklet_2.3), and in the Fehr and Granger Collection of the Alexander Architectural Archive, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.

As noted previously by the Commission, Fehr & Granger were known for their residential, institutional, educational and ecclesiastic designs, and the firm received local and national recognition for such Austin projects as the Sneed residence, O. Henry Junior High School, Saint Stephen's Chapel, the St. Elmo-Tel, and the Robert Mueller Airport.

Both Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger were elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A) in recognition of their design work.

Shortly after becoming a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1966, Charles Granger was killed in an automobile accident. Arthur Fehr continued to run the firm until his death in 1969.

General Work: Ernest Parker, Contractor

Ernest Parker was a prominent local builder who built many homes in Pemberton Heights and West Austin including the Reilly House (Colonial Revival), the Gambrell House (Colonial Revival), the Max Starcke House (Streamline Moderne), and the Bohn House (Art Moderne).

Electrical: Bert Williams Electric Company

Heating: Whitten Sales Company

Plumbing: R.W. Gissell

Per recent Landmark designation application files, Rudolph W. Gissell was a prominent plumbing, heating, and electrical contractor. With offices on South Congress Avenue, the R.W. Gissell Plumbing and Heating Company was responsible for installing the plumbing and electrical facilities in many homes in South Austin at the time of the greatest period of development in this section of the city.

Key Suppliers: Kuntz-Sternenberg Lumber Company (corner of 5th and Red River)

Texas Quarries (still in operation).

9.1 Brief chronology and Overview of the Property's History and Development

The house was designed in 1940 by Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger, and a building permit was pulled on December 3, 1940. It was completed in mid-1941 and occupied by the Darnall family until sold to its second owner, the Lanham family, in 2014. Since purchasing the house in its largely original, unaltered condition, the Lanham family worked with Atlantis Architects and Dalgleish Construction Company to undertake a careful interior-only restoration and preservation project to bring the house up to code and perform kitchen and bath updates keeping with the original architecture. As part of the project, the owner is restoring over 100 functioning, original steel casement windows, refinishing the original oak wood floors, restoring original casework in the home's office and bedrooms, repairing/preserving the iconic flat roofs, rescreening the original rear porch, and adding concealed HVAC to a home built before air conditioning.

9.2 Primary Uses and Occupants

The home was owned by the Dr. Charles Milton and Gertrude (Queenie) Miller Darnall and family for the period from 1941 to 2014 and used as their primary residence.

9.3 Specific City Historic Landmark Criteria

9.3.1 As noted above, the property was designed in 1940 and built in 1941.

9.3.2 The house is in exceptional conditional and does not have any additions or exterior alterations. As briefly described above, the current owners are performing an interior only remodel to bring the house up to code but are carefully preserving architectural details including built-in casework, original wood floors, over 100 functional, original steel casement windows, and an original banquette with a chrome metal pipe table designed by Fehr and Granger.

9.3.1 Architecture.

With its heavily pitched Cordova Cream limestone veneer sourced from Texas Quarries in 1940, the Damall House is a unique local adaptation of the International architectural style. As described in Old West Austin Historic District submission, the house is a two-story, asymmetrical plan dwelling with attached one-story garage and is capped by a flat roof. A one-bay, flat-roofed porch supported by a metal pipe column serves as entry on the building's northwest, primary façade. A vertical front facing stone chimney breaks the horizontality of the flat roof and provides visual interest. The rear or southeast elevation contains a second floor outdoor terrace that provides a panoramic view of the greenbelt. Adding a dramatic element to the site is the steeply sloping rear portion of the lot that descends to the Shoal Creek basin. Metal-sash casement windows are typically grouped in ribbon pattern that further accents the horizontal emphasis of the design.

It was one of the earliest houses of its style in the region – the Damall family was proud that the house was the “first flat roof house in Austin.” Today, the exterior of the house remains unchanged and the entire house is characterized by its functional design, construction quality, and graceful placement on a bluff to enjoy views of Shoal Creek and uphill southerly breezes. Special elements of the Damall House include:

- 1) **Enduring Materials** – the house is built with Cordova Cream limestone, steel windows, pine v-groove boards, mahogany plywood, and D'Hanis tile on the rear screen porch. These materials are still in place today
- 2) **Functional Layout** – the Damall House has virtually no halls and the rooms flow both to each other and to the outside. Windows are placed for views and airflow, and the kitchen and baths are small but efficient.
- 3) **Economy of Design** – The house had limited formal space and little ornamentation. Trim is used sparingly – only as a transition between materials and never as an ornament. Its portals are asymmetrical, proportional, and axial.
- 4) **Sensitivity to Climate** – The house has shaded decks to the south and east and is designed to maximize breezes from Shoal Creek. Beyond view considerations, windows are placed to enjoy light from all directions. The house also has minimal west windows and the south was and is protected by trees. Every room has a screen door to the outside to enjoy the winterless climate.
- 5) **International Style** – The house has many built-ins that are not formal but are functional. Like all details in the house, built-ins integrate tautly into the home and include desks, office casework, drawers, and a

banquette. Original built-ins are still in place and functional. The house railings are also ship-like metal pipe with a nod to the Bauhaus movement and its European heritage.

- 6) **Attention to Detail** – On a smaller scale, details throughout the house reinforce each other exemplifying craft over style. Sills align with mullions, proportions repeat, and ceilings / floors flow seamlessly space to space.
- 7) **Built Permanence** – The foundation is made of concrete to last hundreds of years. It has unprecedented concrete pier and beam construction to withstand soil movement in a neighborhood and period typified by cedar stump and roughhewn foundations. The utility room has a concrete floor slab floating over a pier and beam allowing continuity of passively ventilated crawl space. All decks, including second floor, are cantilevered concrete and in original condition. Steel columns and beams handle long spans and allow ceiling joists to become fascia outriggers.

Attached are a small subset of the original Fehr and Granger drawings, with brief descriptions below. These drawings are not only interesting and beautiful but they show that the Damall House remains in original condition.

9.3.1.1 First Floor	Drawing of first floor including door and finish schedules.
9.3.1.2 Second Floor	Drawing of first floor including site plan and window schedule.
9.3.1.3 Elevations	East and West elevations
9.3.1.4 Elevations	North and South elevations and interior built-in detail.
9.3.1.5 Beam Schedule	Show concrete pier and beam schedule and dimensions.
9.3.1.6 Interior Detail	Example interior detail.

Original drawings (1940) provided by the Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

9.3.2 Historical Associations.

In addition to being designed by Fehr and Granger and built by Ernest Parker for a prominent Austin family, the Damall House is a contributing property to the Old West Austin Historic District.

The house has special prominence in the historic district because of the following:

- Out of over 1500 contributing buildings in the Old West Austin Historic District, the Damall House was 1 of 31 houses documented in detail in *Table 4. Representative Properties in the Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. This table includes detailed descriptions of key representative properties. See 9.3.2.1 attached.
- Out of over 1500 contributing buildings in the Old West Austin Historic District, the Damall House was one of four houses of the International Style, and one of two houses of the International Style that follow an asymmetrical plan.
- Built in 1941, this house was one of the earliest and possibly the first International Style house in Austin and is now the best, most intact example of this style remaining.

National Register of Historic Places Eligible

Gregory Smith, *National Register Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission* reviewed the property and determined it individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance. Per Mr. Smith, because it is already listed as a contributing property in the Old West Austin Historic District, there's no need to pursue individual listing for this building.

9.3.3 Archeology

While it's unknown if the property will yield new data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region, it's important to recognize that the property is an area well known to have been used by Native Americans living around Shoal Creek and is in close proximity, just northwest, of the Buda (Big) Boulder Spring and Splitrock boulder formation. Neighbors of the Damall House have discovered numerous arrowheads, scrapers, and other Native American implements on the bluffs overlooking Shoal Creek.

9.3.4 Community Value.

We understand that Community Value is likely associated with shared spaces such as parks, churches, and other public spaces. As such, we do not believe the Darnall House, as a single family residence, has broad community value.

9.3.5 Landscape Feature.

The austere modernist façade of the Darnall House is elegantly presented to the street with an ample front yard and graceful mature trees responsible for the home's form. The Darnall House's steeply sloping rear lot descends to a limestone bluff overlooking the Shoal Creek basin. The property is representative of and supports the flora of the Shoal Creek basin. It includes two heritage Live Oak trees, over 30 Cedar Elm trees, and many other native plants such as Red Oak trees, Redbuds, Mountain Laurels, Yaupons, Crepe Myrtles, wild Lantana, Bluebonnets, and Jasmine. It abuts to park land included in the Shoal Creek Master Plan.

In addition to the diverse and mature plant life on the property, the property also supports the animal habitat along Shoal Creek. The owners have observed interesting animal life on the property including a pair of Great Horned Owls, a Gray Fox and other smaller animals (e.g. Armadillos, Skunks, etc.).



Tadd Lanham <taddlanham@...>

Fig. 0
9.6

2805 Wooldridge - Request for Support of Local Designation.

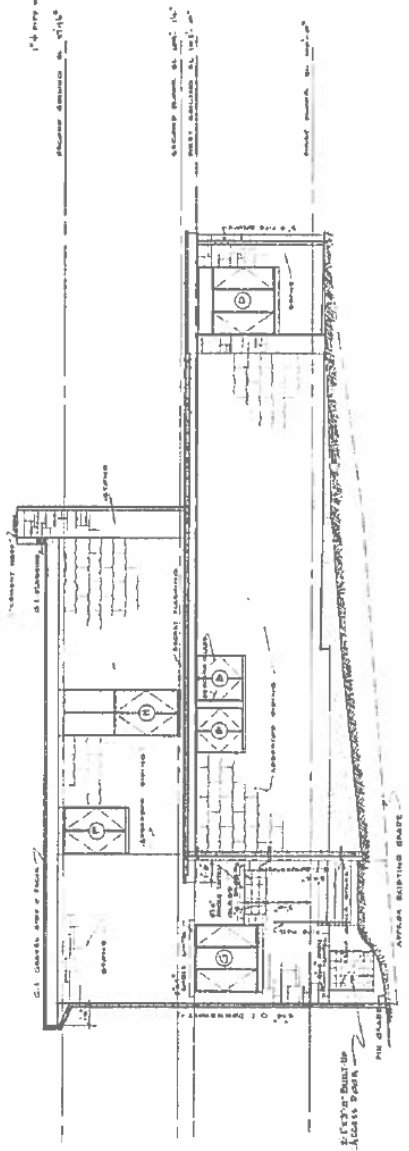
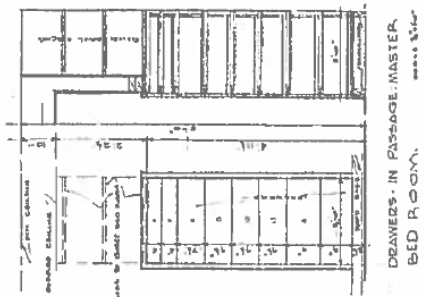
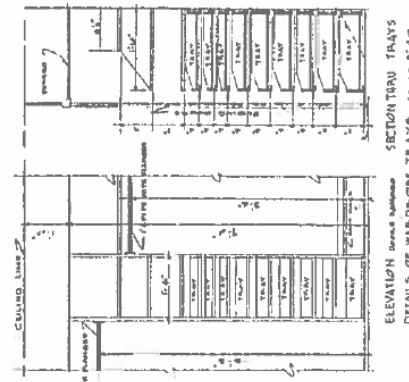
Greg Smith <Greg.Smith@thc.state.tx.us>
To: Tadd Lanham <taddlanham@...>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 3:18 PM

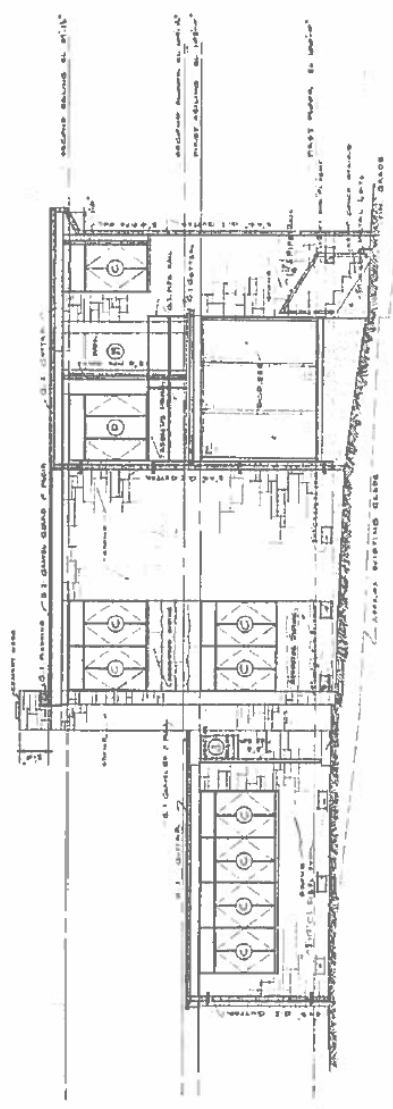
Hello Tadd

I've reviewed the materials submitted regarding the Darnall House, and I concur that it is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance. Because it is already listed as a contributing property in the Old West Austin Historic District, there's no need to pursue individual listing for this building.

Gregory Smith
National Register Coordinator
History Programs Division
Texas Historical Commission
PO Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711



NORTH



SOUTH

ELEVATIONS			
RESIDENCE FOR	DR. CHARLES W. DURNALL	DATE	10/1/26
2108 SPLIT ROCK	AUSTIN, TEXAS	ARCHT.	JOHN H. HART
ARTHUR, FERN, AIA	CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN, AIA	SCALE	1/8" = 1'-0"
JOHN H. HART	JOHN H. HART	SHEET	4

DRAWERS IN PASSAGE, MASTER BED ROOM.