

3901 BROOKVIEW RD DEMOLITION PERMIT HEARING

Historic Landmark Commission

Case Number(s) HDP-2017-0030 2017-006009 PR Attn: Steve Sadowski
Comments submitted by: Sherri Whitmarsh 1800 E 39th St, Austin TX 78722

HISTORY

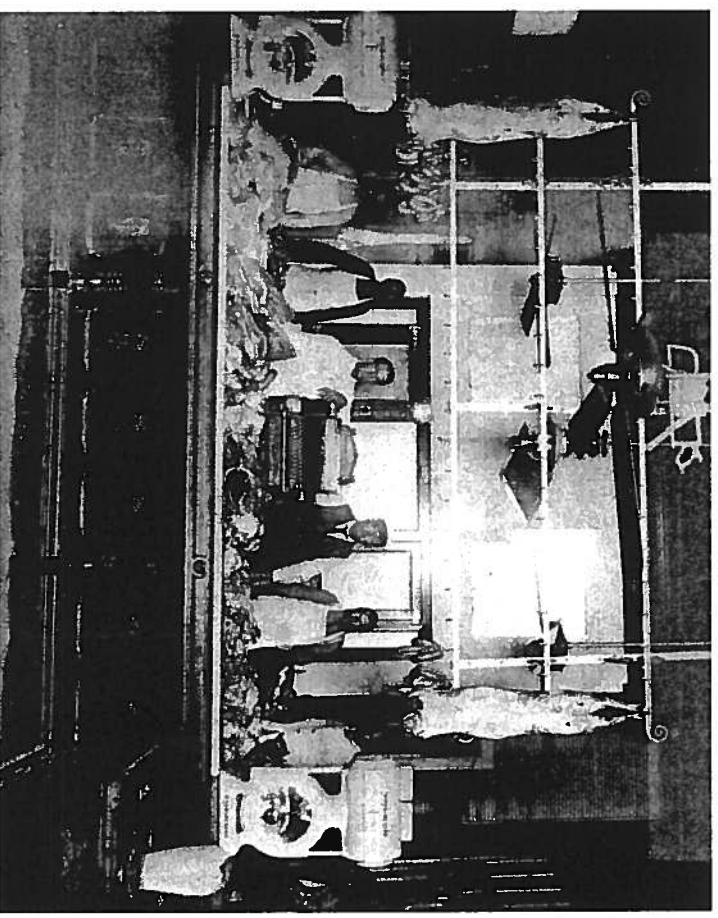
Schieffer-Willowbrook Neighborhood
and **3901 Brookview Road**

[THE SCHIEFFER FAMILY HOMESTEAD]

The first known private landowner of this property was Thomas Hawkins, who purchased 510 acres from the State of Texas on April 22, 1841. 165 acres of the property (now the Schieffer-Willowbrook neighborhood) was sold in 1850 to County Clerk Ashford B. McGill. McGill sold a 71-acre parcel to Christopher Columbus Browning in 1854. Browning was a lieutenant in the Texas Rangers, and a renowned "Indian fighter" during early settlement days. He died at home in 1870, where his wife Penina died in 1882. Their home at first had been a log cabin, later a frame home, built near what is now the intersection of Schieffer and Brookview.

During the 1870s and 1880s the widow Mrs. Browning sold various parcels including 43 acres to Ben Radkey. Radkey had a hardware store on Pecan Street and was a partner in Austin's first foundry.

Richard Schieffer, a son of Prussian immigrants, purchased 96 acres from Radkey's widow Mary in 1887. He built a dairy at what is now Brookview and Vineland, with the property as grazing land. He also owned a meat market with his brother Hermann Schieffer. His son Emmett Richard Schieffer (1883-1959) lived in the Schieffer homestead until his death. The dairy farm remained in the Schieffer family for more than 50 years.



Through the 1920s and 1930s, the property remained mostly wooded pasture land with Holstein dairy cattle. There was a slaughterhouse about midway down what is now Willowbrook Reach greenbelt, possibly a source of meat for the Schieffer family meat market.

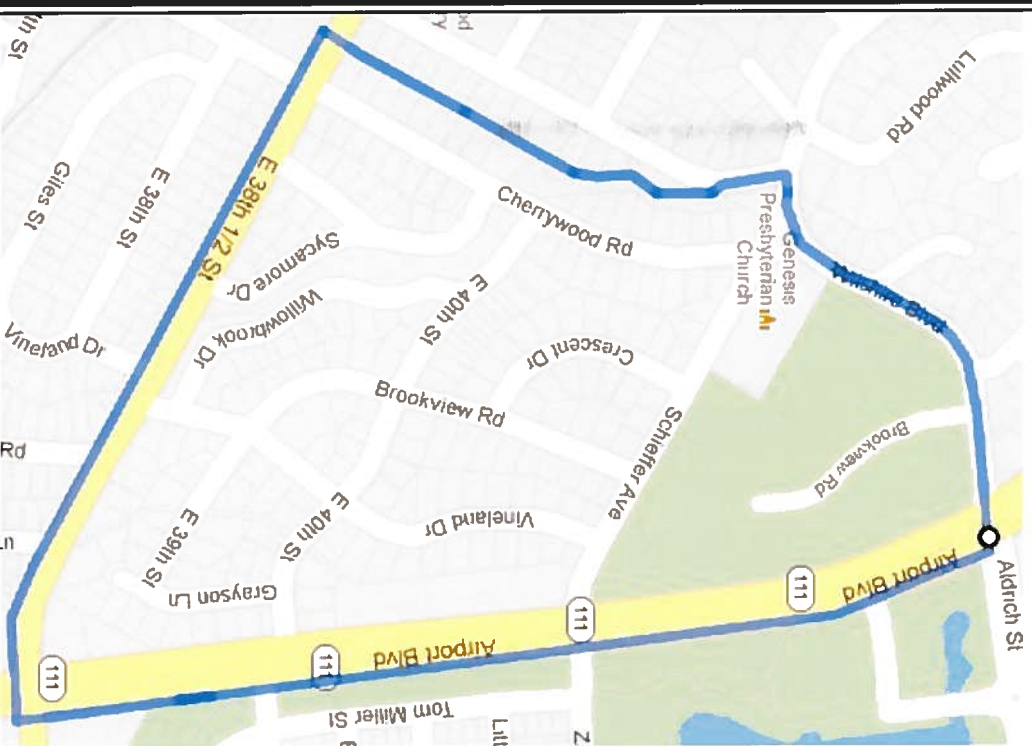
The frame farmhouse and outbuildings sat on a hill overlooking the property, and Schieffer Road was a lane leading to the house. It burned and was replaced by the brick ranch house in the heritage oak grove on the hill at Brookview and Vineland (**3901 Brookview**). Emmitt Scheiffer, the last member of the Schieffer family on the property, was living there at the time of his death in 1959.

After WWII, Emmett had sold off lots for homes in what is now the **Schieffer-Willowbrook** neighborhood. As Austin grew after that, the family also transferred or sold portions of their properties for **Maplewood Elementary School**, “Duplex Nation” (a post-WWII duplex subdivision now listed in the National Register of Historic Places), and the Delwood shopping center, the first of its kind in the nation.



—Margaret Mills, August 25, 2016

NEIGHBORHOOD



**SCHIEFFER-WILLOWBROOK
NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES:
NORTH OF EAST 38 1/2 STREET
SOUTH OF SCHIEFFER AVENUE
EAST OF CHERRYWOOD ROAD
AND WEST OF AIRPORT BOULEVARD
HOMES WERE PRIMARILY BUILT
IN THE LATE 1940S THROUGH
THE 1960S**





3901 BROOKVIEW RD









CONCERNS

- FLAGSHIP LOT AT THE CENTRAL CORE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOME CARRIES A STRONG HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO NEARBY RESIDENTS
- PROPERTY INCLUDES SIX HERITAGE OAKS, FIVE OF WHICH ARE REGISTERED TREES (#4330, #4331, #4332, #4333, AND #4335) AND DEMOLITION COULD LEAD TO TREE REMOVAL OR DISTURBANCE OF THE ROOT ZONE
- DEVELOPER PLANS TO SUBDIVIDE THE 0.63-ACRE LOT INTO 3 PARCELS, WITH A HOUSE ON EACH ONE, WHICH IS A DEED RESTRICTION VIOLATION AND WILL BE OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE SURROUNDING HOMES



DEMO REPERCUSSIONS

- INCREASED RUNOFF THAT CAUSES 1800 E 39TH ST GARAGE FLOODING
- HERITAGE TREE LOSS
- HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES

