

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2017
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2017-0355
2807 CLEARVIEW DRIVE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1946 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, L-plan, brick-veneered house with a gabled roof; partial-width inset porch to the left of the projecting front gable; single Colonial Revival-styled fenestration, including an 8 window in the projecting front gable.

RESEARCH

The house was built by E.J. Hood in 1946; the first occupants were James E. and Marjorie Bridges, who are listed as the renters of the house in the 1947 city directory, and then as the owners in directories of the 1950s. James E. and Marjorie Bridges lived here until around 1955. He was the proprietor of Bridges Furniture Company, at 416 Congress Avenue, a store that was in business from 1946 to 1966. In 1953, he and Marjorie established the Marbridge Foundation near Manchaca; the foundation provides residential services and training for over 200 adults with learning disabilities on what is now a 300-acre campus. From this house, the Bridges moved to 2505 Pecos Street.

The house was then purchased by J. Milton and Mary E. Overstreet, who lived here from around 1955 until Milton's death in 1993. Milton Overstreet was a purchasing agent for the State of Texas.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey to date.

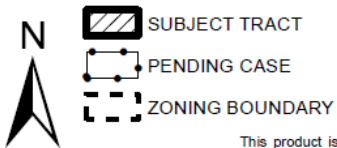
The house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a brick-veneered post-World War II house with minimal traditional features. The house has no architectural distinction.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was the home of James and Marjorie Bridges for about 9 years, and although the Bridges were noteworthy for their establishment of the Marbridge Foundation in Manchaca, there may be other houses, including the one they moved to in 1955, at 2505 Pecos Street, that have a longer period of significant associations with the Bridges Family. The later owner, Milton Overstreet, does not appear to have any significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

LOCATION MAP



1" = 250'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2017-0355
2807 CLEARVIEW DRIVE

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.



2807 Clearview Drive
ca. 1946



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
2807 Clearview Drive

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
July, 2017

1992	John M. and Mary E. Overstreet, owners Retired
1985-86	John M. and Mary E. Overstreet, owners Retired
1981	John M. and Mary E. Overstreet, owners Retired
1977	John M. and Mary E. Overstreet, owners Retired
1973	J. Milton and Mary E. Overstreet, owners Purchasing agent, State Building Commission
1968	J. Milton and Mary E. Overstreet, owners Purchasing agent, State Board of Control
1965	J. Milton and Mary E. Overstreet, owners Purchasing agent, State Board of Control

- 1961 Milton and Mary E. Overstreet, owners
Purchasing agent, State Comptroller's Office
- 1957 Milton and Mary E. Overstreet, owners
Clerk, State Board of Insurance Commissioners
NOTE: James E. and Marjorie Bridges are listed at 2505 Pecos Street.
- 1953 James E. and Marjorie Bridges, owners
President/general manager, Bridges Furniture Company, 416 Congress Avenue.
NOTE: Milton and Mary E. Overstreet are not listed in the directory.
- 1949 James E. and Marjorie Bridges, owners
President/general manager, Bridges Furniture Company, 416 Congress Avenue.
- 1947 James E. and Marjorie Bridges, renters
James: President/general manager, Bridges Furniture Company, 416 Congress Avenue.
Marjorie: Clerk, Bridges Furniture Company, 416 Congress Avenue.
- 1944-45 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: James E. and Marjorie Bridges are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**James E. and Marjorie Bridges (ca. 1946 – ca. 1955)**

J. E. BRIDGES, President, Bridges Furniture Co., Austin. The Bridges Furniture Co., presenting a complete line of household furniture, appliances and carpets, was organized on March 27, 1946, with J. E. Bridges as president, Mrs. James E. Bridges, vice-president, and Howard Cox, secretary-treasurer.

Initially employing 10 persons, the company now employs 25; the store-proper contains 23,000 square feet of display space, with 10,000 square feet of warehouse space. In October, 1949, Bridges bought out Abernathy Furniture Co. and now is one of the largest furniture stores in Austin. Many new innovations have been added from time to time to give Austin the most modern facilities in home decoration. The latest among these is the new decorated galleries, offering a complete decorative service with nationally known brands and with professional decorators in charge. The store has recently been air conditioned throughout.

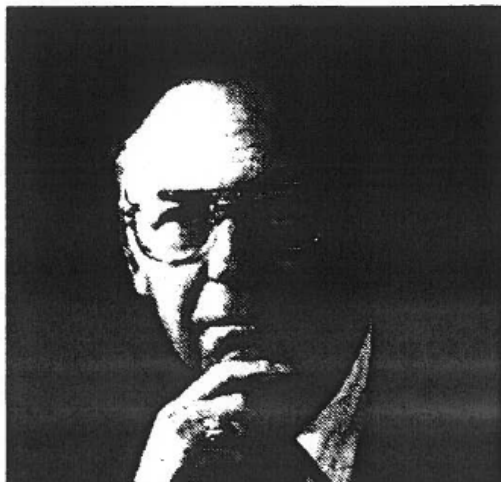
Mr. Bridges was born on Dec. 25, 1907, in Inman, S. C., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe F. Bridges; his father was a cotton farmer. He attended public schools at Inman and Columbia, S. C., and his first job was as an outside salesman and collector for a furniture company in Columbia in 1927. He was later promoted to salesman, then to advertising and display manager, and next to assistant manager of the store. From 1936 to 1941 he was manager of a furniture store in Chattanooga, Tenn., and in 1941 transferred to New Orleans, La., as store manager, a position he re-

signed in 1946 to come to Austin.

He was married on Dec. 24, 1927, to Marjorie Davis; they have one child: James Edgar, Jr. Mrs. Bridges also acts as saleslady and decorator for their store.

Mr. Bridges is a member of the Kiwanis Club and chairman of several club committees, a member of the Austin Country Club, and he lists boating and fishing at his lodge on Lake Travis as his hobbies.

Business listing for James E. Bridges
Central Texas Professional and Business Directory (1952)



J. E. (Ed) Bridges

J. E. (Ed) Bridges, co-founder and Chairman Emeritus of Marbridge Foundation died June 10, 2001.

Mr. Bridges, a 51 year resident of Austin, established Marbridge Foundation Inc. in Manchaca, Texas, in June 1953, as a private non-profit organization to provide supervised living and training for their son, Jim, and other adults with various cognitive challenges.

Survivors include his wife of 74 years, Margie D. Bridges; and his son, J.E. Bridges Jr.; a brother, Paul Bridges of Charlotte, North Carolina; a sister, Thelma Thorton of Spartanburg, South Carolina; and his beloved nephew, Dr. Roy Campbell of Orangeburg, South Carolina.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, June 13th from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the Weed Corley-Fish Funeral Home located at 3125 North Lamar in Austin.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 14th in the Marbridge Chapel of Love on Marbridge Ranch located at 2310 Bliss Spillar Rd. in Manchaca led by the Reverend Tom Heger of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Manchaca, Texas. Interment will follow in a private ceremony at the Bridges' family cemetery located on the Marbridge Ranch campus.

Pallbearers will be Ralph Pfluger, Randolph Walker, Chris Winslow, Bob Fullbright, Bob May, and Randy Van Camp. Honorary pallbearers will be all former and current members of the Marbridge Foundation Board of Directors.

James Edgar Bridges was born December 25, 1907 to Joseph F. Bridges and Molly Littlefield Bridges in Inman, South Carolina. He worked for Haverty Furniture Stores for 20 years and managed Haverty Furniture Stores in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. and Mrs. Bridges owned and operated Bridges' Furniture located at 416 Congress Ave. in Austin from 1946 until 1966.

With the closing of Bridges' Furniture, Mr. Bridges devoted his full energies to Marbridge. At his death, Mr. Bridges was Chairman Emeritus of Marbridge Foundation, Inc.

Marbridge was founded in a small ranch house on 80 acres in Manchaca. Today Marbridge encompasses 300 acres, three residential communities for more than 200 adults with cognitive challenges, as well as the Marbridge Garden Center, in Manchaca. Since its opening in 1953, Marbridge has provided long-term residential care and training to more than 2,000 adults with cognitive challenges.

Mr. Bridges was a longtime member and former deacon at 1st Baptist Church of Austin. At his death he was a member of Woodlawn Baptist Church in Austin. Mr. Bridges was a member of the Ben Hur Shrine Temple of Austin; a past Commissioner of the Manchaca Volunteer Fire Department; and a member of Manchaca Optimists. He was a charter member and former President of the Texas Association of Retarded Children, past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Austin Travis County MHMR Center, in 1982 co-recipient, with his wife, of the American Association on Mental Deficiency Special Award, given by the American Association on Mental Retardation, and recognized as one of 10 outstanding citizens in 1987 by the Counseling and Pastoral Care of Austin.

Arrangements are under the direction of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 North Lamar, Austin, Texas 78705.

The family expresses its heartfelt appreciation to all the staff members of the Marbridge Villa that surrounded Mr. Bridges with loving care in his final days.

The family requests memorial contributions, in lieu of flowers, made to Marbridge Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 2250, Manchaca, TX 78652.

Obituary of James E. Bridges
Austin American-Statesman, June 12, 2001

Marbridge's 'guardian angel' took adults with disabilities under wing

By Dick Stanley

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

For more than 50 years, Marjorie "Marge" Bridges aided thousands of adults with learning disabilities at the ranch that she and her husband co-founded for the benefit of their son who had mental retardation.

Bridges, who also lived at Marbridge, the 300-acre ranch in Manchaca on Austin's southwestern edge, died there Tuesday. She was 96.

"She was a guardian angel for adults who need and depend upon the kindness of others," said her nephew, Bob Fullbright, president and chairman of the nonprofit Marbridge Foundation.

Bridges' husband of 74 years, J.E. "Ed" Bridges, died at the ranch in 2001. Their son, Jim Bridges, 76, still lives there.

Marge Bridges was born in 1908 in Whitepath, a small town in the mountains of north



Marjorie
Davis
Bridges

1908-2005

central Georgia. She and her husband founded and operated Bridges Furniture Co., at 416 Congress Ave., from 1946 until they sold it in 1966 to devote full time to the foundation that they created in 1953.

It began as a working, 87-acre ranch for boys who needed an alternative to the mental institutions of the day. Its name derived from her names, Marge and Bridges.

Through the years, it expanded, offering training in job skills such as horticultural, landscaping, farming and computers.

Today, more than 300 people

reside on the Marbridge campus that comprises three communities — the ranch, Mabee Village and Villa Nursing and Rehabilitation. There is also a summer camp.

Thousands of area gardeners have purchased plants at the Marbridge Garden Center, whose employees are residents of the campuses.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. today at Weed Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar Blvd. Funeral services are Thursday in the ranch's chapel, 2310 Bliss Spillar Road, Manchaca.

The foundation maintains a Web site at www.marbridge.org with information about tuition and admission.

"Ed and Marge Bridges were truly leaders in the movement away from institutions and toward community and training facilities," Fullbright said.

dstanley@statesman.com; 445-3629

Obituary of Marjorie D. Bridges
Austin American-Statesman, January 12, 2005

John Milton and Mary E. Overstreet (ca. 1955 – ca. 1993)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows John M. and Mary E. Overstreet living in a rented house in Brownsville, Texas. John M. Overstreet was 29, had been born in Kentucky, and was the owner and manager of a hardware company. He had lived in Harlingen, Texas in 1935. Mary E. Overstreet was 25, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. She had lived in San Benito, Texas in 1935. They had 2 children: Milton P., 3; and Martha E., 1. Both children had been born in Texas.

John Milton Overstreet

John Milton Overstreet, age 83, of Austin died Tuesday, November 30, 1993.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, in the Forest Oaks Mausoleum Chapel, Oak Hill, Texas. Entombment will be in Forest Oaks Mausoleum.

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

Obituary of John Milton Overstreet
Austin American-Statesman, December 2, 1993

E. J. Hood

2807 Clearview Drive

144

172

Tarrytown #3

Brick veneer residence and box garage

28395

\$7,500.00

Owner

8

#145031 9-10-74 Milton Overstreet

Frm. Addn. to Exist. Res. Utility Rm.

72 Sq.Ft

700.00

Undated building permit to E.J. Hood for the construction of the house, and building permit to Milton Overstreet for the construction of a utility room (1974)

Receipt No.

6125

Application for Sewer Connection

Nº 20681

NW/II

Austin, Texas,

6-26-

1946

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by

E. J. Hood

at

2807

Clemens Dr.

Street,

further described as Lot

172

Block

Outlot

Division

subdivision

Larson # 2

Plat

144

which is to be used as a

Res.

In this place there are to be installed

38 fixtures.

Plumbing Permit No.

22325

I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.

6-29-46

Depth at Prop. Line

3 - 4 1/2

at Main

Respectfully,

Sub-Unit

Connected

36' N of S L L

(Location)

C. M. Sharp

Date

7-8-46

By

E. V. Johnson

NOTE: Connection Instructions

6' Sewer in Meadowbrook Dr. 4' deep

Main 13' W of E R.

B-1327

Sewer connection application by E.J. Hood for this address (1946)