

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 11, 2017
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2017-0513
919 VALDEZ STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a church building moved onto the property in 1957.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled wood-frame building constructed in a vernacular style with a shed-roofed addition. The building is clad in shiplap wood siding and features 8-light wood-sash windows and a partially enclosed entry porch. A small gable-roofed bell tower sits atop the ridge line.

RESEARCH

919 Valdez Street was constructed on Bergstrom Air Force Base as a military barracks. In 1957, Fernando C. (Fred) and Mary Resendez Powers purchased and moved this building and one other from the base. The building at 919 Valdez served as a mission church beginning in 1959, while the building at 917 Valdez Street became the Powers' home.

An ordained minister who was fluent in Spanish, Mary Powers chose Montopolis with the goal of ministering to the neighborhood's predominantly Hispanic community. At the time, Montopolis had approximately 2,000 residents. According to Powers's daughter Mary Garcia, the Gethsemane Assembly of God was the first nondenominational Protestant church in the neighborhood and drew congregation members who lived nearby. At its peak, 40 to 60 people attended services in the church, though only three families—children of original congregants—were still attending when the church shuttered its doors circa 2010. Ms. Garcia said that she felt the church had "served its purpose."

The building was expanded early on to meet the church's needs. In 1961, a one-story frame addition was constructed on the north side of the building to house a kitchen and dining room, as well as Sunday school classrooms. A one-story masonry addition at the northeast corner was proposed in 1977-78. However, it is not clear if it was built, as the entire building appears to be of wood-frame construction.

The Gethsemane Assembly of God was chartered in 1957 and first located at 807 Montopolis Drive. Records from the General Council of the Assemblies of God show that the church was chartered as Gethsemane de las Asambleas de Dios, though Austin city directories list the name in English. The church changed its name twice: in 1971 to Gethsemani de las Asambleas de Dios and in 2006 to Gethsemani Assembly of God.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey. It is not designated at the state or national levels.

919 Valdez Street does not appear to meet the criteria for designation as a historic landmark.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old, having been constructed prior to 1957.

- 2) The building retains a moderate degree of integrity. Though the building's materials appear to be original, it sustained a large side addition. It was moved from its original location; however, its primary association in this consideration is with the Gethsemane Assembly of God in its current location.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (City of Austin Land Development Code (Section 25-2-352). The property does not appear to demonstrate significance according to any of the criteria.
 - a. **Architecture.** The building is built in a vernacular style. It does not appear to be architecturally significant.
 - b. **Historical association.** The building was associated with an Assembly of God congregation from 1959 until circa 2010. However, there do not appear to be significant historical associations based on archival research and community inquiries.
 - c. **Archaeology.** The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
 - d. **Community value.** The property does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the Montopolis neighborhood, or a particular group. Rev. Mary Powers made house visits to invite people to attend church, and the church held garage sales and Thanksgiving dinners open to neighborhood residents. However, the church did not play a significant role in Montopolis's history. It is not listed on a 1995 USGS topographic map that includes landmarks such as the cemetery, country club, trailer park, school, parks, drive-in theater, and Dolores Church (which did actively engage in addressing neighborhood issues in the 1950s-60s and onward).
 - 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. If rehabilitation and adaptive re-use are not feasible, then encourage relocation over demolition and 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.

LOCATION MAP



1" = 182'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2017-0513
LOCATION: 919 Valdez Street



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.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (west) façade of 919 Valdez Street



Detail of north elevation



Building, n.d. (Source: Austin's Montopolis Neighborhood, by Fred L. McGhee, p. 88)

Occupancy History

City directory research, Austin History Center
By Historic Preservation Office staff
October 2017

1955 Address not listed

1959 Address not listed

1962-73 Gethsemane Assembly of God
Rev. Mary Powers is listed from ca. 1968 to ca. 1973.

1977-86 Templo Getsemani de las Asambleas *[sic]* de Dios

Occupant Notes

No information was found on Gethsemane Assembly of God or Templo Getsemani in newspaper archives, with the exception of a few funeral notices.

Rev. Mary Resendez Powers was born in 1928 and grew up in San Antonio. She married Fernando (Fred) Powers and had at least three children. In 1953, she and her family were living on W. James Street; by 1954, they had moved to 917 Valdez Street. Rev. Powers ministered to the congregation until 2010, two years before her death in 2012.

Fernando C. (Fred) Powers was born in 1915 to an American father and Mexican mother. He spent his early years in El Paso. He served in the Army from 1944 to 1952 and worked

as a baker at Pan Dandy after leaving (see article excerpt below). By 1987, Fred and his family had moved to Pflugerville, where he died in 1999.

Everyone
should
see
the
new
Pan Dandy
Bakery!

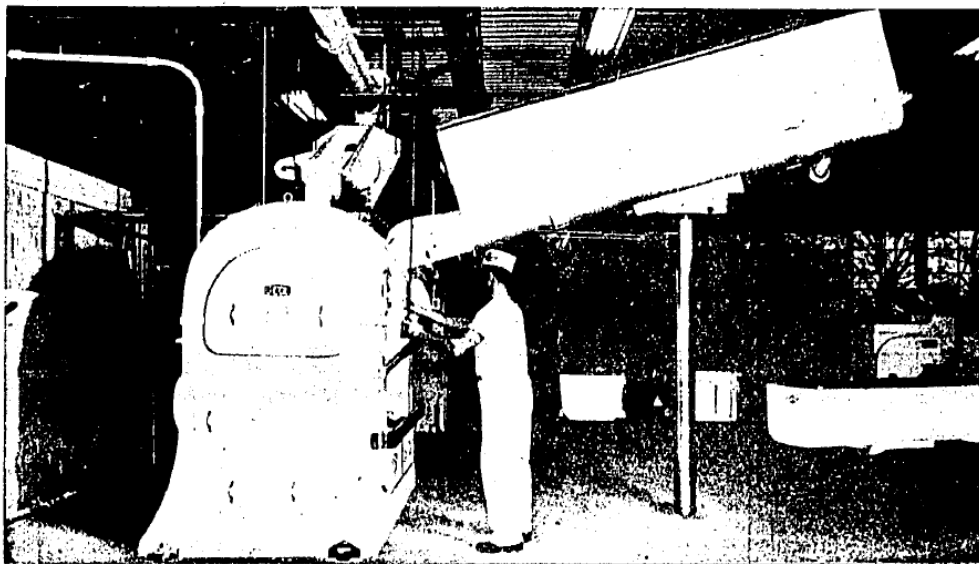
MAKE it a point to attend
OPEN HOUSE at the new

Page B-8—Austin, Texas

The American Statesman

Sunday, May 16, 1954

Photo Tour of Pan Dandy



HOW IT'S DONE—All of Central Texas is invited to attend Pan Dandy's big open house this week at the big, new Tillery Street plant. Guided tours will be conducted, and guests will see how their favorite bread is prepared. Here's the

initial process, pictured above, with Fred Powers, a member of the Pan Dandy staff, turning on a switch to one of the giant mixers. There is a final mixing process which produces a lighter, finer texture to the finished loaf.

Building Permits

Assembly of God Church

919 Valdez St.

680

10

8

Chernosky #16

Building onto lot _ repair & convert for
church.

68118

12/20/57

600.00

owner

4

13581

28335

OFF STREET PARKING AS PER ORDINANCE
CHURCH

Permit to relocate, repair, and convert a building into a church, 12/20/1957.

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

Nº 28335A

Received of Assembly of God Church Date 12-20-57
 Address 919 Valdez
 Amount Sum to fine on 11-11-57 \$ 25.00
 Builder or Owner Chernosky Plumber Primmer
 Lot 10 Block 8 Subdivision Chernosky #16 Plat No. 680

Date of Connection	By City	By Plumber	Checked By	Size Main	Depth	Main Assign.	Stub Depth	Stub Location	Book No.	Paving Cut	No.	No. Fittings	Price	Size
3-27-58	3 S of NLL		Primmer	8"	±5½'	35' E & W PL	6'	to be @ NLL	A-4080	3-21-58	87	15' Pipe	3.75	6" Con.
												Pipe		
												Wyes		
												Bends	98	6" Con.
												Reducers		
												Plugs		
												Sand		
												Gravel		
												Remix		
												Stoppers		
												Castings		
												Other	98	6" Con.
												Labor	16 Hrs.	20.00
												Truck	1 Hr.	1.50
												Person	1 Hr.	1.90
												Total		\$29.11

Sewer permit, 12/20/1959.

Assembly of God Church

919 Valdez St.

680

10

8

Chernosky #16

Frame addition to church bldg.

79443

4-12-61

700.00

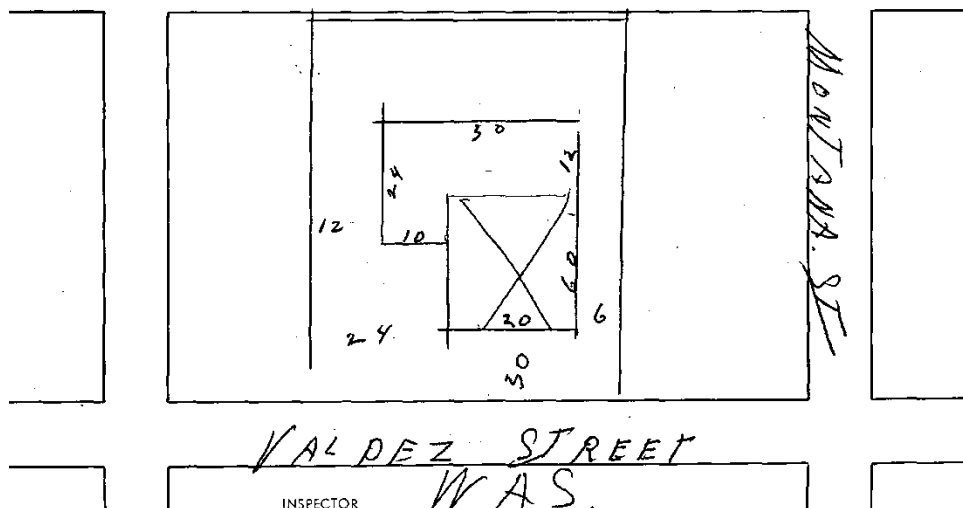
owners

1 sink

KITCHEN & DINING ROOM

Building permit for wood-frame addition, 4/12/1961.

ADDRESS: <u>919 VALDEZ ST.</u>		LOT. <u>10</u>	BLK. <u>8</u>	SUB. <u>Chernosky #16</u>
PLAT. <u>680</u>	FIRE ZONE <u>3</u>	USE DIST. <u>A</u>	H & A DIST. <u>1</u>	OCCUPANCY <u>KIT. B. DIN. R.M.</u>
4-24-61 LAYOUT	5-18-61	FRAMING	5-18-61	FINAL
79443				
PRINC. BLDG.	ACC. BLDG.	PRINC. BLDG.	ACC. BLDG.	SPECIAL NOTES
FOUNDATION	CONCRETE	FLOOR-JOIST SIZE & O.C.	2x6	30x12-410x12
FR. SETBACK	30	CEILING-JOIST SIZE & O.C.	2x8	Church.
AGGREGATE & MIN. SIDE YD.	5	STUD SIZE & O.C.	2x4	W.D. SIDING
SIDE STREET YARD		MASONRY WALL		
		STAIRS REQ. AND NO.		
		ATTIC FIRE STOPS REQ.		
		FIRE WALLS REQ. & NO.		
		ROOF OVERHANG	1	
		NECESSARY BLDG. CONN.		
		ROOM VENTILATION		
		WATER & SEWER RELEASE		
		PLMB. DEPT. RELEASE		
		HEATING & A/C RELEASE		
		ELECTRIC DEPT. RELEASE		
		ENG. DEPT. RELEASE		
		FIRE MARSHAL RELEASE		
		ROOF OVERHANG	1	F.C. Power..
		PAYED PARK REQ. & NO.		4-12-61
				Assembly of G.O.D Church.
50 X 119.20				



INSPECTOR W.A.S.

OWNER Assembly Of God Church ADDRESS 919 Valdez St.

PLAT 680 LOT 10 BLK 8

SUBDIVISION Chernosky #16

OCCUPANCY Church Classrm

BLD PERMIT # 161603 DATE 1-14-77 OWNERS ESTIMATE 2,500.00

CONTRACTOR Same NO. OF FIXTURES None

WATER TAP REC # _____ SEWER TAP REC # _____

1 story mas addn to existing church

Building permit for masonry addition, 3/7/1978. It is not clear if the addition was constructed.

Address: 919 VALDEZ ST		Permit: 161603		Plat: 680	
Lot: 10		Block 8	Subdivision:		
		Outlot	Chernosky #16		
Fire Zone: 3	Use Dist. A & 1 st	Occupancy: ONE STORY MASONRY ADDN TO EXISTING CHURCH			
1-19-77	Layout	Framing	3-7-78	Final	Commercial
Foundation		Floor joist size & o.c.	Bldg. Conn.		Parking
Front setback		ceiling joist size & o.c.	Room Vent.		Exits
Total & Min. side yard		stud size & o.c.	Stairs		Exit lights
Side St. Yard			Rails		Fences
			Attic Vent.		Corridors
			Insulation		
Type Const.		W. Insulation	Hood Vent.		
Spec. Permit #		Sheetrock	Glass		
BOA		Commercial Sheetrock	Deadbolts		
		Occup. Sep.	Fireplaces		
		Thru out			
Owner: Assembly of God Church			Contractor: Owner		

Clerk F.I./W		Date 1-14-77
Address:		
<p>Hand-drawn site plan showing an existing building footprint with dimensions 15' by 5' and a proposed addition labeled 'Existing' with dimensions 10x40. The plan is oriented with North (N) at the top. The street name 'VALDEZ' is written below the plan.</p>		
Inspector: <i>WJA</i>		

Inspection form for masonry addition, 3/7/1978. It is not clear if the addition was constructed.