

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 18, 2017
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2017-0705
4605 LESLIE AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1951 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a partial-width extended-roof entry porch on ornamental metal posts; single 1:1 and multi-light fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house was built over the winter of 1951 – 1952 in the Cedar Valley subdivision, developed for African-Americans after World War II. Thomas and Jessie Ellison, the first owners of this house, lived here until their deaths almost 60 years later. Thomas Ellison was employed by Braniff Airways as a sky cap and porter until his retirement. His obituary references that he was instrumental in helping African-American GI's obtain financing to purchase homes.

STAFF COMMENTS

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

The house may meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:




- a. **Architecture.** The house is a frame 1950s post-World War II cottage, a common style; it has no distinction within its architectural style.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was built by Thomas Ellison and his wife, Jessie; according to his obituary, he was influential in helping African-American GI's returning home to purchase homes in segregated subdivisions like Cedar Valley. While the house may not have the requisite level of historical associations, it is part of a potential historic district incorporating the Cedar Valley Subdivision.
- 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 location of this house within the Cedar Valley Subdivision reflects its importance as a contributing structure to a potential Cedar Valley Subdivision historic district, which would have community value.
- 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

Staff recommends postponement of this case to January 22, 2017 to evaluate the possibility of recognizing Cedar Valley as a historic district. If the Commission votes to release the demolition permit instead, then staff recommends relocation over demolition, but in any case, the 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



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 167'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2017-0705
4605 LESLIE AVENUE

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.



4605 Leslie Avenue
ca. 1951



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 4605 Leslie Avenue

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

1992	Thomas and Jessie Ellison, owners Retired
1985-86	Thomas and Jessie Ellison, owners Retired
1981	Thomas and Jessie Ellison, owners Employed by Braniff Airlines
1977	Thomas and Jessie M. Ellison, owners Employed by Braniff Airways
1973	Thomas and Jessie B. Ellison, owners Cargo serviceman, Braniff International Airways
1968	Thomas and Jessie Ellison, owners Cargo serviceman, Braniff International Airways
1964	Thomas and Jessie Ellison, owners Porter, Braniff Airways

- 1958 Thomas and Jessie Ellison, owners
Porter, Braniff Airways
- 1953 Thomas and Jessie Ellison, owners
Employed at the Municipal Airport
- 1952 The street is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Thomas and Jessie Ellison are listed at 1805 Sanchez Street. He was a
porter for the City Airport Division.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**Thomas and Jessie Ellison (ca. 1952 – ca. 2014)****Jessie Harvey Ellison**

Jessie Harvey Ellison was born on April 29, 1925 to Evander and Jessie Harvey. She went to be with her Lord on February 23, 2009. Jessie lived a very full life using her many talents to excel educationally, professionally, socially, recreationally, and most importantly in her Christian journey. She passionately loved her family and they loved her. She attended school and received a certification as a child-care administrator. With this certification, she founded the Zion Hill Baptist Church Day Care Center and served as its director for many years. She used her business acumen to become the first black unit director for Stanley Home Products in Texas. She used her homemaker abilities to serve as a governess and private home professional.

Jessie's motto was "...there is no excuse for not having an education." She enrolled in and completed continuing education courses at the University of Texas at Austin and later Austin Community College.

Jessie was an avid reader and traveled extensively. She had a wealth of knowledge on many subject and could articulate that knowledge in a manner that held the listener spellbound. Her favorite travel destination was Hawaii. She had a special affinity for the island of Maui and she and her husband returned to the island on many occasions.

Jessie used a strong Christian heart to feed the hungry (both physically and spiritually), administer to the sick and serve humanity. She was a 55-year active member of the Zion Hill Baptist Church. Jessie's church activities included serving as church clerk for over 20 years, Mission II president, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School director and as a deaconess. She was known for her Christian spirit and benevolent heart in all of these capacities. She was the founding president of the Austin Chapter of the PHILLOS, a sorority and service organization affiliated with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Jessie, along with her husband and family, were some of the first residents of Cedar Valley, a suburb in far east Austin, built specifically for black WWII veterans. Jessie and Thomas were everyone's "mother and father." Jessie always provided an ear, her wisdom and her saviour Jesus Christ to all, and many, many children who grew up in Cedar Valley still visit and express their love for and thanks to her. She established the Girl Scout troop for the community and served as PTA president for many years.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, five brothers, Oliver Harvey, Jimmie Lee Harvey, Eddie Harvey, Walter Harvey, Slim Harvey, two sisters, Ollie Mae Kennard and Ruth Ross, and one son, Thomas Ellison, Jr.

She leaves to deeply mourn her loss and cherish her memory her husband, Thomas Ellison, Sr.; two sisters, Ethel Swisher and Eunice Henderson (Noah); two daughters, Carol Ellison-King (Les), Joan Ellison-Satterwhite (Bradford); two sons, Burt Ellison (Linda), Kenneth Ellison (Alice), 27 grandchildren, 65 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren, a host of brother and sister in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many, many friends.

A wake service will be held this evening, 6:00 p.m. at King's Tears Mortuary. Funeral service 12:00 noon Saturday, February 28, 2009 at Zion Hill Baptist Church. Interment Evergreen Cemetery.

Obituary of Jessie Harvey Ellison
Austin American-Statesman, January 27, 2009



Thomas Ellison, Sr., 90, of Austin departed this life peacefully on January 16, 2014, surrounded by loving family members. He was born April 5, 1923 to Beatrice and Walter Ellison, Sr. He was married to Jessie Harvey Ellison (deceased) for 66 years.

Thomas was a loyal employee of Braniff International Airlines for 35 years. He started out as a skycap at the old Austin airport (off Airport Boulevard) prior to its move to Mueller (off Manor Road). Thomas ended his career with Braniff as an air freight supervisor, and retired when Braniff was purchased by American Airlines. He received many awards, accolades, and certificates for his hard work and dedication to the company and the traveling public. Many, many travelers knew Thomas by his first name and always stopped to chat because Thomas had such a quiet calm nature, engaging personality, kind listening ear, profound wisdom and knowledge of the world.

In his early adulthood, Thomas served as a scoutmaster, was active in the Sims Elementary PTA, served as an election judge for precinct 129, was active in the NAACP, and various neighborhood organizations.

Thomas, a WWII veteran of the Pacific Theater, sought and received Congressional support for the building of a subdivision for black WWII veterans under the GI Bill. The subdivision, near the current Morris Williams golf course, was a thriving community with manicured lawns and two-parent households.

Thomas loved to travel and he, along with his wife, traveled to Hawaii on several occasions, often vacationed in California, and visited many of the contiguous states and Canada.

In addition to his family, some of his greatest joy came from helping others. Thomas was generous with his treasure and his time. Individuals would come to Thomas for transportation assistance and/or money to tide them over "until payday." He never said "No".

Thomas was described by men as a "man's man" or "the man" because he embodied the strength, character and uprightness described in several verses of Proverbs. "He fears the Lord; He hates what is false; He hates evil; He does what is righteous; He speaks the truth; He is humble, not proud; He has a calm spirit; He is patient; He is concerned about goodwill/peace; He forgives those who wrong him; He is not vindictive."

Thomas was a devoted deacon of the Zion Hill Baptist Church for 62 years. During that time, he also served in various capacities including president of the deacon board and brotherhood. He was a dedicated Christian and walked a Christian path.

Thomas was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Jessie, and his son, Thomas, Jr. He leaves to mourn a family who loved him dearly. Four children, Carol Ellison-King, Joan Ellison-Satterwhite, Burt (Linda), and Kenneth (Marsha). A brother, Henry Ellison (Bayless), daughter-in-law Doris Ellison and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, 5 great-great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, and friends who adored him.

The funeral will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at the Zion Hill Baptist Church, 1701 Chestnut Avenue, at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Obituary of Thomas Ellison

Austin American-Statesman, January 21, 2014

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		D	Nº	5290
Austin, Texas				
Received of	ROGER NEWHALL		Date	12-27-50
Address	4605 LESLIE Avenue			
Amount	TWENTY		\$	20.00
Plumber	TRAVIS PLEGG CO.		Size of Tap	1 1/1
Date of Connection	2-4-52			
Size of Tap Made	3/4"			
Size Service Made	3/4"			
Size Main Tapped	2" CI			
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	2.5'			
From W- Prop. Line to Curb Cock	30'			
Location of Meter	CURB			
Type of Box	20x20			
Depth of Main in St.	3'			
Depth of Service Line	2'			
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	3' main			
Checked by	Eng. Dept. 3-16-52			
INDEXED				
No. Fittings	Size			
1 Curb Cock	5/8" C.C.P.			
1 Elbow	3/4" C.C.P.			
1 St. Elbow	3/4" Sweep			
1 Bushing	3/4" COP			
1 Reducer	2" x 3/4" TAP			
4 Pipe	3/4" COP			
Lead Comp.				
Nipples				
Union				
Plug	TILE			
1 Stop	1" x 1/2"			
1 Box	40x40			
1 Lid				
Valves				
Job No.	20-323-502			
Req. No.	11-1000			

Water service permit for this address (1952)

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

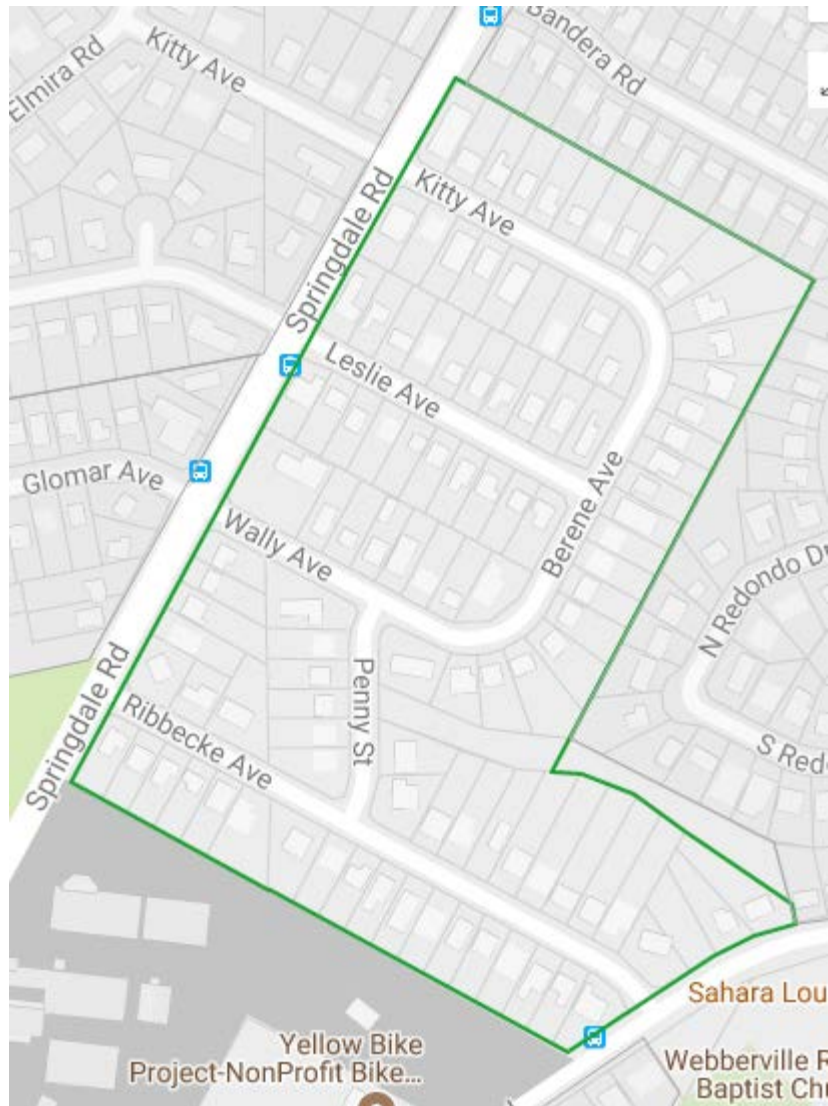
Nº 35381 ✓

Rush
Received of THOMAS ELLISON Date 3-10-61
Address 4605 LESLIE AVE
Amount Fifty + no/100 \$ 50.00
Builder or Owner Home Plumber OWNER
Lot 3 Block 3 Subdivision CEDAR VALLEY Plat No. 357

Date of Connection	<u>3-14-61</u>	No. Fittings	<u>3</u>	Price	<u>75</u>
By City	<u>2 - EdWILL</u>	Pipe	<u>6"</u>	Size	<u>6"</u>
By Plumber	<u>Rangel</u>	Wyes	<u>1</u>	Bends	<u>carb</u>
Checked By	<u>Rangel</u>	Reducers		Plugs	
Size Main	<u>8"</u>	Sand		Gravel	
Depth	<u>±5'</u>	Remix		Stoppers	
Main Assign.	<u>20' S of N TR</u>	Castings		Other	<u>1 bag</u>
Stub Depth	<u>3'</u>	Labor:	<u>6 hr</u>		<u>7.50</u>
Prop. Line	<u>2</u>		<u>1- hr</u>		<u>2.40</u>
Stub Location	<u>2' West of West 1st Line</u>		<u>1- hr truck</u>		<u>1.50</u>
Book No.	<u>A-5021</u>				<u>14.11</u>
Paving Cut	<u>On 4-25-60</u>				<u>27</u>
No.	<u>27</u>				<u>14.11</u>

Drill 3-10-61

Sewer service permit for this address (1961)



The Cedar Valley subdivision

CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS MADE ON 3 NEGRO HOUSING ADDITIONS

Progress was in evidence on three residential additions for Negroes in Austin.

Actual building was scheduled to begin Aug. 1 in one addition, plats and plans for a second addition were to be submitted to City Planner William Parker by the Thursday 5 p. m. deadline, and final Federal Housing Administration approval was awaited on a third.

W. H. Bullard, investor and home builder, said actual house construction would begin Aug. 1 on a city-approved subdivision in East Austin.

"Construction will start with 10 or perhaps 20 houses," he said.

Bullard purchased the 26-acre site for a Negro home development from H. B. Claggett. The subdivision, to be known as Cedar Valley, will be situated immediately north of Downs Field fronting on Springdale and Webberville Road.

SOME OF THE houses will sell for \$5,000, Bullard said, although most of them will run from \$8,000 to \$8,000. All have received city and county and Veterans Administration approval, he added, and the FHA has given preliminary approval. Many of the houses will be sold under 100 per cent GI loans, Bullard predicted.

Building of the homes, he said, will be financed through the First Austin Investment Corporation of which Bullard is vice president. There are 108 lots, he added, and he expected to complete 30 houses by the end of this year.

Plats on a second sub-division to be considered by the City Plan Commission will make the 5 p. m. deadline Thursday set by the commission in order to have them con-

sidered during its July 13 meeting, word from Engineer Julian Montgomery's office indicated.

The subdivision, to be built in North Austin, missed a former deadline on May 25. It will be known as the Sam Clark addition.

Mrs. Russell Lombard, whose husband is president of the Crescent Industries which is planning the new development, said no production schedule had been set up. She estimated 95 houses would be erected in the first of two sections, with the houses expected to sell for \$6,000.

"They will be constructed in order to gain FHA and VA approval for loans," she said.

No actual work has started on the site, however.

The Rev. Adam R. Black, pastor of the Rising Star Baptist Church and moderator of the St. John Regular Baptist Association, is heading the large Negro project, Mrs. Lombard said. He is expected to make an announcement concerning the entire project soon, she added.

A. D. Stenger, architect and builder, is awaiting FHA approval on loans on his sub-division near Holy Cross Hospital.

His sub-division as a whole has received FHA approval, however, Stenger said.

"It has been raised to the highest rating," Stenger said, "due to its location in regard to business and shopping centers, schools and churches for Negroes, and for its drainage and paved streets."

The heavy volume on the San Antonio FHA office brought about by

the state's expanded building program, has caused the delay, he explained.

PARKER POINTED out the effort taken by the City Plan Commission to lay out these sub-divisions.

"They have been developed under good, orderly plans," he explained, "to provide all the needs of the occupants within their own area. Developers went beyond usual efforts to set them up."

All shopping, church, playground and school needs are planned within the separate areas, he said, forming complete units.

As an example, the North Austin sub-division, he explained, is bound by thoroughfares—the Interregional Highway on the east, Anderson Lane on the north, the thoroughfare connecting Anderson Lane with Airport Boulevard on the west, and Airport Boulevard on the south.



'A' FAIRWAY FOODS

Article on the establishment of Cedar Valley Subdivision for African-American residents
Austin Statesman, June 29, 1950



ON BERENE STREET--This two-bedroom home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Houston is located at 1415 Berene Street, in the Cedar Valley subdivision. It is of asbestos shingle, has a detached garage.

A home in the Cedar Valley Subdivision featured in Austin Homes Beautiful
Austin American-Statesman, September 14 1952



1415 Berene Street today (December, 2017)

Street Lights 'Dim' In Cedar Valley

The prospect of street lights for Cedar Valley, a new subdivision near Downs Field, east of Airport Boulevard, is not bright.

City Manager Walter Seaholm told the City Council that the nearest street light circuit is two miles away and it will be some while before Cedar Valley will have lights.

Article on the provision of street lights for the Cedar Valley Subdivision
Austin Statesman, March 20, 1953

10 Russians To Observe Homes Here

Austin builders will show the American home as it is planned and constructed in subdivisions to the 10-member delegation of Russian builders who will spend two days in Austin Oct. 23-24.

One of 13 American cities to be chosen to display the American way of life in its true setting — the American home — Austin's specific assignment is to show the subdivision aspect of home building.

Frank C. Barron, Austin builder and real estate man, was named by S. R. Sheppard, president of the Austin Home Builders Association, to head a committee planning the Russians' Austin visit.

First Day

The first day of the tour, the Russians will be shown the Delwood Four-Windsor Park-Gaston Park-Manor Hill areas where 2,000 homes have been built or proposed during the last two years. Also, the builders will be shown the Air Conditioned Village and Cedar Valley, residential subdivision for Negroes.

After these tours, the Russians will be guests of the Builders Development Corporation at a barbecue at W. H. Bullard's 2,000-acre Sun Valley Ranch.

On Oct. 24, the Russians will tour the city and Barton Hills subdivision.

Traveling by commercial plane, the Russian entourage will arrive in Austin at 12:08 p. m. Oct. 23 and will leave at 1:57 p. m. Oct. 24 en route to New Orleans.

Serving with Barron on the planning committee are W. H. Bullard, Clyde Copus Jr., Nelson Puett, Ned A. Cole, Walter R. Carrington, S. R. Sheppard and Wayne A. Burns.

Charles Granger, president of the Travis County Society of Architects, will represent the architects on the reception committee. Also to participate in greeting the Russian delegation will be Mayor Tom Miller and City Council Members Mrs. Emma Long, Wesley Pearson, Ben White and Lester C. Palmer.

The Austin hosts plan to have interpreters from the University of Texas on hand to answer the visitors' questions. Also, informational signs, in the Russian language, will be posted along the tour route.

Russians Expected

The Russian delegation will be headed by I. K. Kuzuilla, minister of city and urban construction in the Soviet Union. Other members of the group will be V. Y. Isaev, chief of the board of construction for Leningrad; A. A. Dubrovin, deputy minister of city and urban construction for the Republic of Russia; P. A. Spyshtnov, chief of the division of sanitary technical construction of the state committee of construction of the council of ministers of the Soviet Union.

Also, F. A. Shevtsov, senior scientific researcher of the Vozdeo Construction Institute; A. V. Vlasov, president of the Academy of Architecture; L. P. Miasnikov, deputy minister of timber, cellulose and paper production; N. P. Lysenko, chief of the board of construction for Kiev; V. N. Galitsky, chief of the board of housing and public construction of the province of Moscow; and V. S. Timofeyev, chief of office, board of construction of Moscow.

Victor Zegal, second secretary of the Soviet embassy in Washington, will accompany the delegation on the tour.

Article on the visit of 10 Russians to Austin to inspect subdivisions, including Cedar Valley
 Austin American-Statesman, October 9, 1955

Representative views of the Cedar Valley subdivision (December, 2017)





THE STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF TRAVIS) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, Ralph Oakley, Trustee, owner of that certain 2688 acre tract of land out of the J.C. Tenneyhill League, Travis County, Texas, and also being that certain tract or parcel of land conveyed to me by deed of record in Volume 871 at page 182 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas, do hereby adopt this map or plat as my subdivision to be known as CEDAR VALLEY ADDITION and I have dedicated and do hereby dedicate to the public all streets shown hereon as far as my interest may appear, and I do further dedicate to the public for drainage purposes the tract as indicated on the attached map or plat.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of September, A.D. 1948.

Ralph Oakley
Ralph Oakley, Trustee

THE STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF TRAVIS)

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Ralph Oakley, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the 2nd day of September, A.D. 1948.

(Seal)

Richardine Quinn
Notary Public in and for Travis County, Texas

APPROVED FOR ACCEPTANCE:

Date 9/9/48 *[Signature]*
E. M. Threlk, Director of Public Works

APPROVED BY CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Date 9/14/48 *Walter G. Gorman*
Date 9/14/48 *[Signature]*
Chairman Secretary

FILED FOR RECORD

At 11 o'clock A.M. 17 day of Nov, A.D. 1948

Miss Emilie Limberg
Miss Emilie Limberg, Deputy
Clerk, County Court, Travis County, Texas.

THE STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF TRAVIS)

I, Miss Emilie Limberg, Clerk of the County Court, within and for the County and State of Texas, do hereby certify that the foregoing instrument, with its Certificate of Authentication was filed for record in my office on the 17 day of Nov, A.D. 1948 at 11 o'clock A.M. and duly recorded on the 17 day of Nov, A.D. 1948 at 11:30 o'clock A.M. in the Plat Books of said County in Book 5, Page 55.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE COUNTY Court of said County the date last written above.

Miss Emilie Limberg
Miss Emilie Limberg
Clerk, County Court, Travis County, Texas.

Plat of Cedar Valley
Plat Book 5, page 55 (1948)



A section of the Cedar Valley plat