

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 21, 2018
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2018-0188
1803 CEDAR AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1933 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width inset porch; single 1:1 fenestration with a modern replacement window in the façade; ornamental metal porch posts and railings.

RESEARCH

It is very difficult to determine the date of construction for this house as the address in city directories fluctuated and does not correspond to contemporary Sanborn maps. Further, there were several people named Arthur Smith who lived in adjacent houses in this neighborhood. However, from around 1933 onward, we can clearly establish that this house was the home of Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, who lived here until they passed away in 1997 (Lulu) and 2002 (Arthur).

Arthur V. Smith was born in Bastrop County, Texas to a farm laborer. He moved into Austin around 1933, and rented this house, which he appears to have purchased around 1935. Arthur Smith was first a porter and laborer, but he spent most of his career in the field of construction, specifically, excavation, working for several major companies doing excavation work in the Austin area. His wife, Lulu, began working as a beautician in Elfreda's Beauty Shop on E. 19th Street (now Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) around 1946. She opened her own beauty shop in this house around 1959, and continued working until her retirement around 1990.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not recommended for individual designation nor as contributing to a potential historic district in the East Austin Historic Survey (2016), but staff believes that the house has a history worth considering for preservation.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house may meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a frame early 1930s bungalow with a partial-width inset porch, and has had several modifications that have compromised its integrity of materials and design – the windows have been replaced, the porch posts and railings have been replaced, and it appears that the siding is not original, although that will require further investigation to substantiate the findings in the East Austin Historic Survey. It does not appear that the house would satisfy the criterion for architectural significance.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was owned and occupied by the same family for 70 years. Arthur Smith was an excavation contractor, and his wife, Lulu, was a professional beautician who had her salon in this house for about 30 years. Beauty salons were very significant in the world of African-American women in the 1950s and 1960s, and further investigation is warranted to determine the role of Lulu Smith in the African-American community at that time.




- 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.** If additional research bears out a significant contribution by Lulu Smith through her beauty salon in this house, then the house could qualify for landmark designation under the criterion of community value as it relates to the role of African-American women in Austin in the mid-20th century, and their gathering places, specifically beauty shops, where community issues were discussed in a free environment.
- 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

Postpone to June 25, 2018 to allow for further research on the significance of Lulu Smith and her beauty shop in the larger context of African-American community and culture in East Austin. If the Commission decides to release the permit instead, then staff recommends 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" = 333'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0188

LOCATION: 1803 CEDAR 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.



1803 Cedar Avenue
ca. 1933



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1803 Cedar Avenue

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
May, 2018

1992	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners Retired
1985-86	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners Arthur: Powderman, B.L McGee Construction (not listed in the directory) Lulu: Proprietor, Lulu's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1981	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners Arthur: Powderman, B.L McGee Construction (not listed in the directory) Lulu: Proprietor, Lulu's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1977	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners Arthur: Powderman, B.L McGee Construction (not listed in the directory) Lulu: Proprietor, Lulu's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1973	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners Arthur: Powderman, B.L McGee Construction (not listed in the directory) Lulu: Proprietor, Lulu's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1968	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners

	Arthur:	Powderman, Austin Engineering, underground utility contractors, 203 E. Riverside Drive.
	Lulu:	Proprietor, Lulu's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1964	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	Powderman, H&M Construction, 711 W. 7 th Street.
	Lulu:	Proprietor, Lulu's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1961	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	Employed by C.F. Gill Excavating (not listed in the directory)
	Lulu:	Proprietor, Lulu's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1957	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	Laborer
	Lulu:	Operator, Elfreda's Beauty Shop, 1700½ E. 19 th Street.
1954	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	Construction worker
	Lulu:	Operator, Elfreda's Beauty Shop, 1700½ E. 19 th Street.
1952	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	Hammer man
	Lulu:	Operator, Elfreda's Beauty Shop, 1700½ E. 19 th Street.
	NOTE: Lulu Smith is listed separately at 2110-A E. 12 th Street.	
1949	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	Laborer
	Lulu:	Operator, Elfreda's Beauty Shop, 1700½ E. 19 th Street.
1947	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	Laborer, S.B. Ricks, excavating contractor, 400 West Avenue.
	Lulu:	Operator, Elfreda's Beauty Shop, 1700½ E. 19 th Street.
1944-45	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	No occupation listed	
1941	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Laborer	
1939	Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith, owners	
	Porter	
1937	Arthur V. and Lula Smith, owners	
	Arthur:	No occupation listed
	Lula:	Maid, Emery H. Hughes, 1013 Harper Lane; Hughes was the president of the Zenith Life Insurance Company.
1935	Arthur V. and Lula Smith, renters	
	No occupation listed	
	NOTE: The address is listed as 1801 Cedar Avenue.	
	NOTE: There is another Arthur Smith with a wife named Delnora at 1803 Cedar, but it appears that this address refers to the house now known as 1805 Cedar Avenue. This Arthur Smith was a baker. Census reports show that the Arthur Smith married to a Dell Noye Smith was significantly older than Arthur Van	

Smith, even though it appears that they lived next door to each other for some time. Arthur Smith's 1962 death certificate shows that he was living at 1805 Cedar Avenue, and that he was a cook who had been born in Caldwell County, Texas in 1887. The informant on the death certificate was Van Smith.

- 1932-33 Unknown. Arthur V. and Lula Smith are not listed in the directory. The directory does list a Van and Vivian Smith as the renters of a house at this address, but Arthur Van Smith's 1980 death certificate shows that he was a baker born in 1909, and that he was the son of Arthur and Delnoie Hudspeth Smith. His wife's name was Vivian Brown Smith.
NOTE: The address is listed as 1801 Cedar Avenue. Arthur and Dell N. Smith are listed at 1803 Cedar Avenue in the cross-reference section of the directory, but at 1805 Cedar Avenue in the alphabetical section of the directory. He was also a baker.
- 1930-31 Unknown
NOTE: There is no listing for 1801 Cedar Avenue, and the alphabetical section of the directory shows Arthur and Dell Noye Smith at 1805 Cedar Avenue.
- 1929 Unknown
NOTE: There is no listing for an 1801 nor an 1803 Cedar Avenue; Arthur and Dell Noye Smith are listed at 1805 Cedar Avenue. Also at 1805 Cedar Avenue are Van and Vivian Smith; Van Smith was a porter at a bakery; Arthur Smith was a baker.
- 1927 There is no listing for a Van Smith in the directory. Arthur and Delnora Smith are listed at 1805 Cedar Avenue; he was a helper at the American Bakery and Café, 1006 Congress Avenue.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Arthur V. and Lulu A. Smith (ca. 1929 – ca. 2002)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Arthur V. and Lulu Arlene Smith as the owners of this house, which was worth \$1,000. Arthur V. Smith was 28, had been born in Texas, and was a porter and chauffeur for a private family. Lulu A. Smith was 27, had been born in Texas, and did housework in a private home. They had no children listed with them.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Arthur V. Smith as the 17-year old son of Caldwell and Dollie Smith, who rented their farm in rural Bastrop County, Texas. Arthur was the oldest of the couple's 5 children. He, along with all of his siblings but the youngest two, are listed as farm laborers. His father was a farmer and his mother was a farm laborer.

Lula Arlena Smith

Mrs. Lula Arlena Smith was born February 6, 1913, in Caldwell County. She was the daughter of Calvin and Lillie Allen and attended public schools in Dale and Austin, Texas. She also attended Huston-Tillotson College. She passed away Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at a speciality care hospital in Austin.

Lula was preceded in death by her parents and nine brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her dearly beloved husband of 62 years, Arthur V. Smith; a devoted and caring daughter, Alicia (Kelly) Reed and her husband, Stanley Reed, all of Austin; one brother, Clifford Allen of Houston, Texas; a very special cousin and best friend, Eddie Marie Humphrey, and her husband Rev. Charles Humphrey, Austin; and numerous relatives and friends.

She was a long-term resident of Austin and a member of Corinth Baptist Church in Austin. Her life was a life of service and devotion to her family and her church. She was one of the charter members in the organization of Corinth Baptist Church, March 1939, where she served faithfully until illness and finally death. Her church activities included President of the Senior Choir for many years, Vice President and President of the Senior Mission Society, Sunday School Teacher, and Church Financial Secretary. Her love for her church and its well being was of utmost importance to her.

Lula also worked many years in Austin as a professional beautician. She loved her work and enjoyed working with people in whom she would come in contact along the way. She touched many hearts over the years. Her presence as a beloved wife and mother will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Visitation will be 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday evening, June 23, 1997, at King-Tears Mortuary. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, June 24, 1997, 2:00 p.m. at Corinth Baptist Church, with Rev. Levester Wilson, Sr. officiating. Burial will follow in Capital Memorial Park Cemetery.

Arrangements by King-Tears Mortuary, Inc., 1300 East 12th Street, Austin, Texas.

Obituary of Lulu A. Smith
Austin American-Statesman, June 22, 1997



Arthur Van Smith

Arthur Van Smith, age 90, departed this life, Monday, January 7, 2002, at St. David's Hospital after a brief illness. He was a life-long resident of Austin, Texas, working as a contractor for many years before retirement, and a faithful member of Simpson United Methodist Church in Austin.

His parents, one sister, two brothers, and his devoted wife of 62 years, Lula A. Smith, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his caring and devoted daughter, Alicia (Kelly) Smith Reed; one brother, Robert (Ola Mae); and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Special thanks to the doctors and nursing staff at St. David's Hospital and Dr. David Garza for their professional care and services.

Funeral service Saturday, January 12, 2002, 1:00 p.m. at Simpson United Methodist Church, 1701 E. 12th Street, Austin. Interment Cook-Walden Capital Memorial Park Cemetery. (King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.)

Obituary of Arthur Van Smith
Austin American-Statesman, January 11, 2002

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE Austin, Texas **INDEXED** No. A 2829

M. Dellmaie Smith Address 1803 Cedar Ave

Plumber Wm Andrew Size of Tap 1/2 Date 11-2-29

CHANGED TO 3/4 MAIN AND RENEWED

SERVICE WITH 3/4 COPPER ON 750 Gal

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection 11/5/29

Size of Tap Made 3/4

Size Service Made 3/4

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 8'6"

" " " " " 3'

Location of Meter at curb

Type of Box lock

Depth of Main in St. 2'

" " Service Line 15'11"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 12'6"

Checked by Engr. Dept. 12-29-29

INDEXED 307

No.	Fittings	Size
2	Curb Cock	5/4"
1	Elbow	3/4"
1	St. Elbow	3/4"
1	Bushing	3/4"
1	Reducer	3/4"
1	Pipe	1 1/2"
1	Lead Cont.	3/4" X 3'
1	Nipples	3/4"
1	Union	3/4"
1	Flange	3/4" X 5" m.p.
1	Tee	3/4"
1	Stop	3/4"
1	Box	3/4"
1	Lid	3/4"
	Valves	
	Req. No	2473

Foreman's Signature Burman

1929 water service permit to Dell Noye Smith for 1803 Cedar Avenue, but it is not clear if this permit applies to the current house with this address, or the house now known as 1805 Cedar Avenue.

Arthur V. Smith 1803 Cedar Ave.

38 10 1

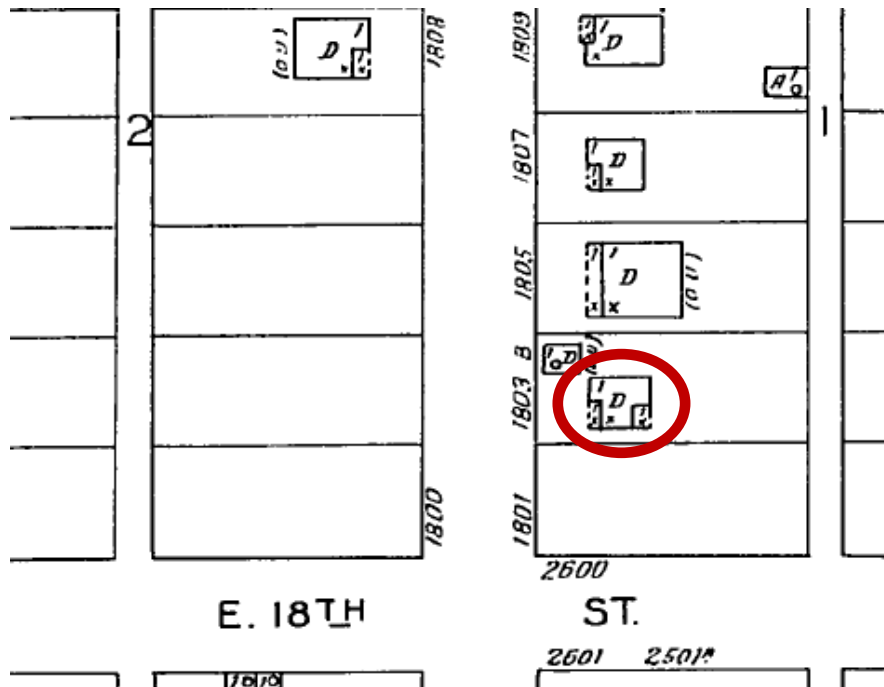
Glenwood Addn.

Fr. Addn. to rear of Res.

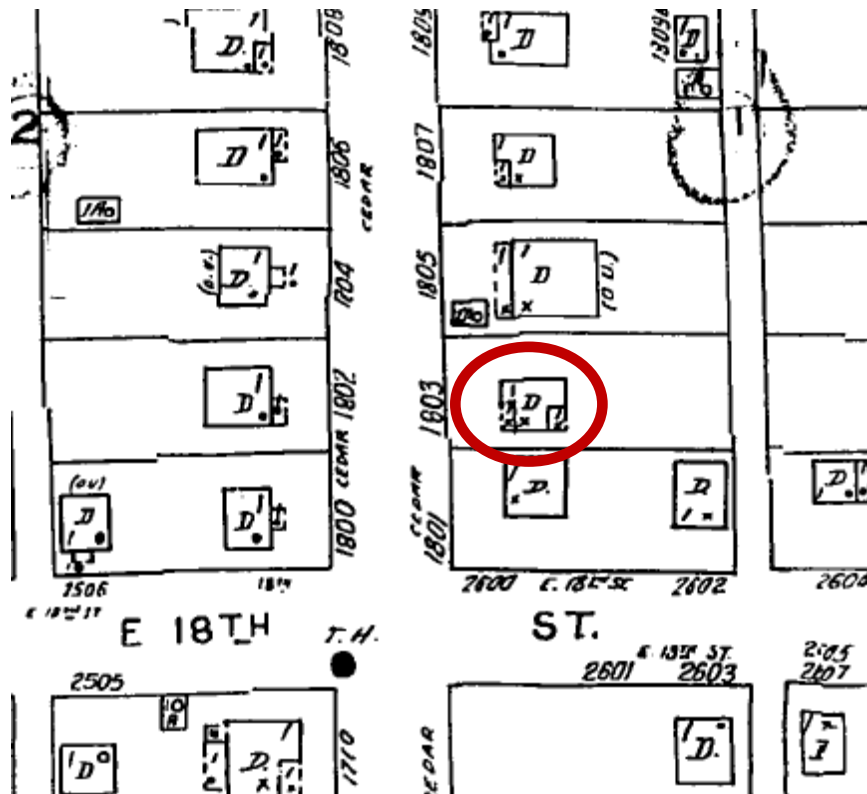
63545 4-23-56 \$1,000.

Owner 3

Building permit to Arthur V. Smith for a frame addition to the rear of the house (1956)



The houses at 1803 and 1805 Cedar Avenue appear on the 1935 Sanborn map; there is no house corresponding to an address of 1801 Cedar Avenue, although 1801 Cedar is referenced as an address in the city directories of the period. This map also shows a second dwelling unit on the site of 1803 Cedar Avenue.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows a house at 1801 Cedar Avenue, and houses with the same configurations as shown on the 1935 map for 1803 and 1805 Cedar Avenue.