

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JUNE 25, 2018  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2018-0260  
2406 SCHULLE AVENUE

## PROPOSAL

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Demolish a ca. 1954 house.

## ARCHITECTURE

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One-story, L-plan brick-veneered frame house with hipped roofs, raised brick quoins on the corners; and metal-framed, multi-lite casement windows.

## RESEARCH

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The house was built in 1954 for Ralph A. Lewis, Jr., and his wife, Mary Etta; they lived here for the rest of their lives. Ralph A. Lewis, Jr. was from one of the oldest families in the Tarrytown area of Austin; he went into his family's florist and garden supplies business with his father, and maintained the business until he passed away in 2000. Tarrytown Florist was in business until very recently at the spot purchased by Ralph A. Lewis, Jr. on Exposition Boulevard across the street from Casis Elementary School.

## STAFF COMMENTS

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

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a 1954 ranch-style house with some anomalous Georgian Revival elements, especially in the raised brick quoins on the corner of the projecting bay. The house does not appear to possess any architectural distinction.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was built by Ralph A. Lewis, Jr., and his wife, Mary Etta; they ran the Tarrytown Florist for many years. Outside of being well-known throughout the community for their floral arrangements, there do not appear to be significant historical associations with Mr. or Mrs. Lewis that would qualify the house for landmark designation under this criterion.
- 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

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, but 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. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 137'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0260  
 LOCATION: 2406 Schulle 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.



2406 Schulle Avenue  
ca. 1954



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2406 Schulle Avenue

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

1992	Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners Proprietor, Tarrytown Florist, 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
1985-86	Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners Proprietor, Tarrytown Florist, 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
1981	Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners Proprietor, Tarrytown Florist, "A distinctive floral service, member FTD, also plants, fertilizers, insecticides, and garden supplies," 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
1977	Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners Proprietor, Tarrytown Florist, 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
1973	Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners Proprietor, Tarrytown Florist, 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
1968	Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners Proprietor, R.A. Lewis Florist, 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
1965	Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners

- Proprietor (with R.A. Lewis), R.A. Lewis, Florist, 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
- 1962      Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners  
Proprietor (with R.A. Lewis), R.A. Lewis Florist, 2815 Exposition Boulevard.
- 1959      Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners  
Proprietor (with Ralph A. Lewis, Sr.), Tarrytown Florist, 2406 Exposition Boulevard.
- 1955      Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis, owners  
Proprietor (with Ralph A. Lewis, Sr.), Tarrytown Florist, 2425-B Exposition Boulevard.
- 1953      The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis are listed at 2408 Schulle Avenue. He was the proprietor (with Ralph A. Lewis, Sr.) of Tarrytown Florist and Garden Supplies, 2425-B Exposition Boulevard.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Ralph A., Jr. and Mary E. Lewis (ca. 1954 - )**

Ralph A. Lewis, Jr. appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the 16-year old son of Ralph A. and Dora Lewis, who owned their home at 3606 Windsor Road in Austin. Ralph A. Lewis, Jr. was born in Texas and had no occupation listed. His father, Ralph A. Lewis, Sr. was a 43-year old Texas-born auditor for the State Property Office. His mother, Dora Lewis, 47, had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. Ralph A. Lewis, Jr. had a younger sister, Norma Jean, 15, who had been born in Texas.

Ralph A. Lewis, Jr. was born in Austin in 1923 and died in Austin in 2000. Mary Etta Lewis was born in Dallas, Texas in 1925 and died in Windsor, Sonoma County, California in 2015. Both are buried in Austin.



### **R. A. Lewis Jr.**

R. A. Lewis Jr., master Florist, passed away on his 78th birthday, November 2, 2000. He was born in the old Seton Hospital, November 6, 1923, to Colonel Ralph A. Lewis and Dora Paschall Lewis.

The family homestead was west of Austin, "in the country" at the end of a dirt road, now known as Windsor Road. The Lewises were one of the first families to settle in Tarrytown. As a young boy, R.A. loved to fish along the banks of the Colorado and watch the deer swim across Lake Austin near Taylor's Slough. When he wasn't roaming the woodsy fields and caves of Tarrytown, he was riding his horse out Duval Avenue to court his high school sweetheart, Mary Etta McCormick. He graduated from Austin High in the infamous year of 1941, enrolled in the University of Texas awaiting acceptance into the Army Air Force. At age 22 he earned his wings as a B-17 bomber pilot which was perhaps his most gratifying accomplishment. Flying and flowers were R.A.'s passion.

In 1945, R.A. and Mary were married. Returning home after the war, he once again entered UT while working part-time in a floral shop. Two weeks later he dropped out and worked full-time at the florist. After one year he and Mary opened their own shop in the Tarrytown Center. He was 23 years old. In 1962 he bought the property in the Casis area, where the existing family business continues to flourish. R.A. proudly served Lady Bird Johnson, many Governors of Texas dating back to Ma Ferguson, and the grande dames of Austin for 54 years. As a young man he was very active in the floral industry, serving on the Board of the Texas State Florist Association and active in the Austin Florist Association. For several years he designed and produced the Austin Area Garden Center's Annual Flower & Garden Show. They honored him with a lifetime membership. He was a charter member of the West Austin Rotary Club organized in the 1950's and was most recently honored as the last active surviving charter member.



R.A. is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Mary Eta McCormick Lewis; their daughter, Suzanne Lewis, of Austin; sister, Norma Anderson and husband, Tom, and family; lifelong friends, Hal and Liz Starkey; his cherished comrade, Greyson Elizabeth Smith and her son and daughters, Carmel Gibson, Brandy Gibson and Selena Greyson Smith.

Services will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2000, at 2:00 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 2206 Exposition Blvd., with the Reverend David Fikes and long time family friend, the Reverend Jacquie Hoffman of Fairfax, California, presiding.

Family graveside burial will follow at Austin Memorial Park.

Serving as pallbearers are Joe Faught, Cannel Gibson, Jack Hanks, David Kurio, Kelton Spiller and Scott Starkey. Honorary pallbearers include Hal Starkey, Ray McCormick, Tommy Anderson, Roy Beard, Reed Hawn, Jack Randall, Duke Covert, Jack Balagia, Tom Gay, Bob Penrose, Richard Moore, Milton Messer, George Warren, Chuck Stahl, Walter Chamberlain and The West Austin Rotary Club.

The family wishes to acknowledge and thank Hospice Austin and Suzie Gick of the Texas Oncology Center for all their excellent care, love and attention.

Flowers are welcome.

Memorial contributions may be made ~~to the American Cancer Society or Hospice Austin.~~

~~Arrangements with Need Corley Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N Lamar, 4523611.~~

Obituary of Ralph A. Lewis, Jr.  
Austin American-Statesman, November 7, 2000

*Mary Lewis began every morning with a cup of coffee and the Austin American Statesman obituaries. As a florist she was West Austin's confidante. She was the first to know who was born, whom we loved, whom we thanked, who was engaged, who was ill and whom we lost. As wife of R.A. Lewis, she referred*



to herself as "the man behind the man." She was his compass rose. On April 4th, 2015, R.A. plucked his high school sweetheart up in Piper 99 Papa from a private airstrip and they soared off to eternal paradise.

Mary Lewis died a merciful death in Windsor, CA in the arms of hospice angel Mary Cordill while daughter Suzanne momentarily stepped away to ferry a friend. Born September 9, 1925 in Dallas, Texas to Hugh and Addie Lee McCormick, Mary moved to Austin in 1932. Windsor Road in those days was still a dirt road, but it wasn't long before R.A. was riding his horse down it to woo her in Hyde Park. They married in 1945, established Tarry Town Florist in 1946 and toiled hand in hand for the next 55 years. At age 16, Mary worked at the Austin Public Library, a job she adored until R.A. snagged her for the flower shop. She was an author, animal lover, the kindest of sweethearts, the absolute best mother, and greeted all with that beautiful smile.

The other love in Mary's life was daughter Suzanne. As best friends they traveled the world together. A memorable trip for both was to the Orkney Islands, Scotland. A bucking ferry across the stormy North Sea was nothing compared to the rough waters they plied battling life with dementia. Their last travel adventure was a road trip back to Northern California, a place they both cherished. Accompanied by dear friend Jennie Newton, Judge the Italian Spinone, and wheelchair, they followed Route 66 via the Grand Canyon and Yosemite across the Sierra and into the rolling hills of Sonoma County all the way to the Pacific.

Mary is preceded in death by husband R.A. Lewis and brother Ray McCormick. She is survived by Suzanne Lewis of Santa Rosa, CA, dearest niece Mary McCormick English of Smithville, TX, and other cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Tess Shevick of Terene Manor and Sutter Hospice for treating Mary with the ice cream, compassion and respect she so deserved.

Honorary pallbearers are Scott and Julia Starkey, Liz Starkey, Tom Wood, Marj Beard, Emily Little, David Kurio, Jennie Scott Newton, Jacquie Hoffman, Rich Randall, Dennis Sweazea, Frank English, Laurens Fish, Jr., A.R. and Fran Lochridge Perez, in addition to all "the girls."

Mary's favorite flower was the carnation. However, in lieu of flowers, (R.A. and David please forgive us), please send contributions to Austin Pets Alive. Mary's beloved dog, Piper, will accompany her on her final journey.

Graveside services will take place in Austin Memorial Park. Reverend Jacquie Hoffman will officiate.

God grant me golden moments and minutes more. -- Mary Lewis

Obituary of Mary E. Lewis  
Austin American-Statesman, April 9, 2015

# First Baptist Scene Of Ceremony

**Mary Etta McCormick,  
F-O R. A. Lewis, Jr.,  
Exchange Vows Here**

Miss Mary Etta McCormick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. McCormick, 100 East 30th street, became the bride of F-O R. A. Lewis, Jr., son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. R. A. Lewis, in a double ring ceremony Saturday night at the First Baptist church.

The service was read by Dr. W. R. White before an altar centered with a basket of white gladioli, banked with palms, and illuminated by white tapers in candelabra.

Prenuptial music included "Because" and "I Love Thee" sung by Miss Elizabeth Townsley and several organ numbers by Miss Esma Beth Anderson, who also played the traditional wedding march.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a white marquissette gown over a taffeta slip, a fitted bodice and long sleeves. A ruffle formed the yoke and trimmed the hemline. Her bouquet was a colonial arrangement of stephanotis centered with a white orchid and backed with tulle tied with white satin and showered with stephanotis.

## Attendants

The matron of honor was Mrs. George H. Gower, and bridesmaids were Misses Dorothy Moore, Norma Jean Lewis, sister of the bridegroom, and Bobbie Jean Davis, cousin of the bride. They wore identical blue marquissette dresses with fitted bodices, and small ruffles of the same material accenting the bouffant hipline and sleeves.

The flower girl, Pasty Ann Agosta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Agosta of Dallas, wore a pink net dress. She and all the bridesmaids carried bouquets of spring flowers and wore small clusters of flowers in their hair.

The bridegroom was attended by Wallis Schulle, best man, and Lt. John Kingsberry, usher.

**Couple UT Exes**

A reception at the home of the bride's parents followed the ceremony. The house was decorated with white iris and bridal wreath. The table was laid with a lace cloth on which was a three tiered cake. Mrs. Andy Agosta cut the cake, and Mrs. Henry Penfield poured punch. In the house party were Misses Lorene Butcher, Fay Wiese, Betsey Allen, and Mesdames Charles Henry, J. C. Bair, C. M. Cleveland, Roy Miller, H. A. Butcher, and T. C. McCormick.

The mother of the bride wore a black aqua-trimmed dress with a corsage of gardenias. The mother of the bridegroom wore an aqua dress and a gardenia corsage.

The bride was graduated from

Austin high school and is a junior in the University of Texas. She was formerly an employe of the Austin public library.

F-O Lewis was graduated from Austin high school and attended the University of Texas before joining the air forces in 1943.

For going away the bride wore a gold gaberdine suit with black patent leather accessories and an orchid corsage. The couple will make their home in Kingman, Ariz., where F-O Lewis will be stationed.

Story on the marriage of R.A. Lewis, Jr. and Mary Etta McCormick  
 Austin American-Statesman, March 18, 1945



Austin American-United Press

When little Suzanne Lewis came with her little basket of flowers to see the floral decorations set up in the Driskill Hotel lobby for the convention of the Texas State Florists' Association, she didn't expect to see this 30-foot tall arrangement of Birds 'of Paradise and her blue eyes mirrored her wonderment. Suzanne, 20 months old, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Lewis Jr. of 2406 Schulte Avenue. The spectacular arrangement was created by her father, operator of Tarrytown Flowers.

Story referencing the flowers of R.A. Lewis, Jr. at the Driskill Hotel  
 Austin American-Statesman, July 8, 1956

## R. A. Lewis To Talk At AWC Luncheon

R. A. Lewis of the Tarrytown Florist Shop will speak to members of the Austin Woman's Club at their luncheon meeting Thursday at 11:30 a. m.

Mr. Lewis will illustrate his talk on "Traditional Flower Arrangements" with displays from his shop.

The literature and lecture committee will be in charge of the program.

R.A. Lewis addresses the Austin Woman's Club on flower arranging  
Austin American-Statesman, March 3, 1957

### WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

**B** No. 8491 <sup>168-10</sup>

Received of \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7-17-53  
Address 2406 Schuller Ave  
Amount St. b vac. lot \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Plumber \_\_\_\_\_ Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection 7-17-53  
Size of Tap Made 3/4"  
Size Service Made 3/4"  
Size Main Tapped 6"  
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'  
From S; Prop. Line to Curb Cock 26'  
Location of Meter Front  
Type of Box Lock  
Depth of Main in St. 1'  
Depth of Service Line 2'  
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 8'  
Checked by Engr. Dept. 9-23-53 132

**INDEXED**

No. Fittings	Curb Cock	Elbow	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tee	Stop	Box	Lid	Valves	Job No.	Req. No.

Water service permit for the site of this house, noted as a vacant lot (1953)

R A Lewis Jr 2406 Schulle  
166 120 x 60 RA Lewis tr - -

unplatted

brick ven res & gar attchd

57253 6-21-54

14000.00

Hal Starkey

9

Building permit to R.A. Lewis, Jr. for the construction of this house (1954). The builder is noted as Hal Starkey.

2500 Paving and Sand  
120 x 60

### WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

E No. <sup>1660</sup> 2084

Received of Hal Starkey Date 10-12-54

Address 2406 Schulle

Amount Thirty and No/100 \$ 30.00

Plumber Richard Griggs Size of Tap 1"

Date of Connection 10-21-54

Size of Tap Made 1"

Size Service Made 1"

Size Main Tapped 6" C.I.

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 25'

From S - Prop. Line to Curb Cock 26'

Location of Meter CURB

Type of Box HOSE

Depth of Main in St. 3'

Depth of Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 6'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 11-2-54

No. Fittings	Size	
	Curb Cock	
	Elbow	
	St. Elbow	
	Bushing	
	Reducer	
8	Pipe <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
	Lead Comp.	
1	Nipples <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
1	Union <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
	Plug <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
1	Tee <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
1	Stop <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
1	Box <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
1	Lid <u>1 1/2" C.I.</u>	
	Valves	
	Job No. <u>70-525-502</u>	
	Req. No. <u>41-0-11</u>	

INDEXED

Water service permit to Hal Starkey, builder, for this address (1954)

Receipt No.

## Application for Sewer Connection

No.

33760H  
4039

22147

Austin, Texas

10-13

1954

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

Hal Starkey at 2406 Schultz Street,  
 further described as Lot 120 of The Re-Union Block Outlot        Division         
 subdivision 2nd plat Plat 166 which is to be used as a Residence

In this place there are to be installed 9 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 8229 A  
 I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge. 10-13-54 B2

Depth at Prop. Line 3'

Respectfully,

Stub Out  
Connected5' N. A. S. L. L.  
(Location)Date 10-18-54By D. E. Ligon

NOTE: Connection Instruction 6" sewer in St. 22.5' west of 1st St.  
6" stub 5' dp. 5' 6" n. of N. A. S. L. L. curb  
A-2385

Sewer connection by Hal Starkey, builder, for this address (1954)

City records indicate a permit to repair the fire damage to the house in 1992.