

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 17, 2018
PERMIT IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
 NRD-2018-0077
 1506 Wethersfield Road
 Old West Austin Historic District

PROPOSAL

Construct a rear addition; raise the roofline, window openings, and windows; and add a front dormer to a ca. 1948 house. Demolish a ca. 1948 detached garage.

ARCHITECTURE

Side-gabled, rectangular-plan house with a front-facing gable and corner entry porch; Minimal Traditional style. Clad in wood siding, with double-hung wood-sash windows.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The proposed project includes a number of changes to the existing house:

- 1) Raising the height of the front gable massing approximately 3', maintaining the same roof slope;
- 2) Addition of a front-facing shed dormer with fixed aluminum- or vinyl-sash windows. The dormer is proposed to extend to the wall of the house below it;
- 3) Replacement of the corner entry porch with a half-width front porch extending to the house's front wall;
- 4) Expansion of most window openings (except some on the north and south side walls) and replacement of the 1:1 wood-sash windows with fixed and single-hung aluminum- or vinyl-sash windows;
- 5) Replacement of the front door; and
- 6) Demolition of a substantial portion of the rear wall to connect a new addition.

A detached rear garage is proposed to be demolished.

The project also includes construction of a one-story rear addition at the rear of the building. The addition features a cross-gabled roof, hardiplank cladding, and fixed and single-hung aluminum- or vinyl-sash windows. The addition has a footprint of 1,014 square feet.

RESEARCH

The house was built around 1948 for Victor and Vickie Holecek, who lived there until at least 1992. Victor Holecek worked as a bookkeeper for the Calcasieu Lumber Company. Vickie Holecek (nee Prnka) was active in the local Czech Catholic Women's Union.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The property is contributing to the Old West Austin Historic District. It does not appear to meet the standards for designation as a historic landmark.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain a high degree of integrity.

- 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 does not appear to be architecturally significant.
 - b. **Historical association.** Victor and Vickie Holecek lived in the house for at least 50 years. However, there do not appear to be significant historical associations.
 - 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 appear to possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the community, Austin, or Texas as a whole.
 - e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are used to evaluate projects on contributing buildings in National Register historic districts. Applicable standards include:

- 1. *A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.*
The building's use will remain single-family residential.
- 2. *The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.*
- 5. *Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*
The proposed project substantially alters the historic character of the property. Raising the roof height, adding a front-facing dormer, changing the window openings and window materials, and making the entry porch deeper will markedly change the building's appearance.
- 9. *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.*
- 10. *New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*
The proposed addition would have a minimal impact on the essential form and integrity of the historic property if removed. It will require the removal of some historic materials, but on a rear wall.

The proposed project somewhat complies with the standards. The proposed addition is compatible with the historic house, but the proposed alterations to the existing building will render it non-contributing in the historic district.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION




Encourage the applicant to retain the original height of the front gable, retain the original roofline without the shed dormer, retain the original window openings and windows on the

front façade and north wall, and retain the depth of the entry porch even if the porch is extended. The Commission can offer comments at this meeting or request that the applicant return in January with revised plans. If the Commission decides to comment on the application at this meeting, staff recommends completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

LOCATION MAP



1" = 333'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: NRD-2018-0077

LOCATION: 1506 WETHERSFIELD RD

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 (east) façade and north elevation of 1506 Wethersfield Road.

Occupancy History

Completed by Historic Preservation Office staff
November 2018

- 1949-92 Victor J. and Vickie E. Holecek, owners
Bookkeeper, Calcasieu Lumber Company (1952-77)
James K. Holecek, renter (1959, 1968)
Clerk, Calcasieu Lumber Company (1959); employee, IRS (1968)
Alice K. Holecek, renter (1968)
Student
Dennis F. Holecek, renter (1977)
Student

Background Information

Victor Jacob Holecek was born in West, Texas, in 1913 to German immigrant parents. His father died while Victor was still a young child, and his mother operated a dry goods and grocery store. Victor moved to Austin between 1935 and 1940. A bookkeeper by trade, Victor worked at the South Railroad Owner Line in 1940, then the Calcasieu Lumber Company from 1940 until around 1977. He took a leave from Calcasieu to serve in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He played semiprofessional baseball in the 1940s. Victor Holecek died in 2004 in Austin.

Victoria "Vickie" Eva Holecek (nee Prnka) was born in West, Texas, in 1914 to Czech immigrant parents who owned a farm. She moved to Austin in the late 1930s and married Victor Holecek in 1940. The wedding announcement noted that the couple were both from West, so Vickie may have moved to Austin to marry Victor. The couple lived at 607 W. 5th Street, 605 Park Boulevard, 708 Wethersfield, and 2912 Pearl Street before moving to 1506 Wethersfield Road around 1948. The couple had at least three children. Vickie was active in the local Czech Catholic Women's Union, helping to organize social events and hosting events such as the annual Christmas meeting in her home at 1506 Wethersfield. She died in 2010 in Austin.

**Vickie Prnka,
Mr. Holecek
Are Married**

**Early Morning
Ceremony Read
For Couple**

Miss Vickie Prnka and Victor Holecek, both of Austin and formerly of West, were married at 9 a. m. Tuesday at St. Mary's church with the Rev. James J. O'Brien officiating.

The bride's brother, Frank Prnka, gave her in marriage.

Miss Bessie Pechel of La Grange was maid of honor, and bridesmaids were Misses Willie Mae Jupe of West and Lydia Kuiner of Houston.

Tony Gallia of Penelope served as best man. Ushers were Frank Prnka of West and Paul Matocha of Austin. Frances Struhall was ring bearer.

Dr. R. L. Struhall and Raymond Prasatik were witnesses.

After a short wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Holecek will make their home in Austin. Mr. Holecek is employed with Calcasieu company.

Wedding announcement in The Austin Statesman, 9/10/1940.

Victor Jacob Holecek, 90, passed away on Thursday, February 05, 2004, at Seton Hospital. He was born on July 24, 1913, to Andrew and Katie Wolf Holecek in West, Texas. Victor served his country in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He played semi-pro baseball in the 1940's and continued to love this sport throughout his entire life. He was an active participant of St. Mary's Cathedral Church as an usher, a Mass server, and a Holy Name Society member. He also loved to play dominoes.

He is survived by Vickie, his wife of 63 years; brother, Roman Holecek and wife, Emma of Tours; sons, James Holecek of Cedar Park and Dennis Holecek of Dickinson; daughter, Kathie McClanahan of Galveston; grandchildren, Kenneth Holecek of Cedar Park, Mark Holecek of Austin, Susan Ewing and husband, Todd of Round Rock, Sharon Morales and husband, Fernando of Pearland, Christopher McClanahan of Houston, Jeffrey McClanahan and fiancée, Becca of Austin, Courtney, Brandy, David and Dennis McClanahan of Galveston, Katie Holecek of League City; great-grandchildren, Addison and Kaitlyn Ewing of Round Rock, Christopher and Allyson Cochran of Galveston, and Raelynn Parfait of Galveston.

Honoring Victor Holecek as pallbearers will be his grandsons.

The Family wishes to thank with great gratitude the 7th floor Oncology staff at Seton Hospital. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m., Sunday, February 8, with the recitation of the Rosary at 7:00 p.m., in the Colonial Chapel of Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, February 9, 2004, in the Colonial Chapel of Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Entombment will follow at Assumption Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Cathedral Restoration Fund or the charity of your choice. Service will be held Tuesday, February 10, 2004, 1:00 p.m., at New Bethel Baptist Church. Public may view Monday, February 9, 2004, from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Family has received Personal and Professional Services from Fuller Sheffield Funeral Services Inc.

Obituary, *Austin American-Statesman* 2/8/2004.

Victoria (Vickie) Eva Prnka Holecek

Victoria (Vickie) Eva Prnka Holecek passed away from this earthly life to her eternal happiness on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, at the age of 95. Heaven's headline reads today: "Victor and Vickie are reunited after 6 years." Vickie was born in West, Texas, on December 21, 1914. She enjoyed visiting and sharing stories with her family and friends. Sewing, gardening, walking, cooking, baking, and playing dominoes were among her favorite activities. St. Mary Cathedral was her parish for over 70 years. Mrs. Vickie Holecek will be missed by many that knew her. We are all consoled by the memories of her long, happy, and full life.

She is survived by her sisters Genevieve Krueger, Angeline Birkes and husband Robert; sons, James Holecek, Dennis Holecek; daughter, Kathie McClanahan; grandchildren, Kenneth Holecek and wife Jennifer; Mark Holecek; Susan Ewing and husband Todd; Sharon Morales and husband Fernando; Christopher McClanahan and wife Cindy; Jeff McClanahan and wife Lori; Courtney McClanahan; Brandy Parfait; David McClanahan; Dennis McClanahan; Katie Holecek; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Honoring Vickie Holecek as pallbearers will be her grandsons.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 8, 2010, with a recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m. in the Colonial Chapel of Cook-Walden Funeral Home. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, August 9, 2010, at St. Mary Cathedral. Entombment will follow at Assumption Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers and customary remembrances, the family requests that memorial contributions be directed to St. Mary Cathedral, 203 East 10th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to Mark Holecek, for his dedication and care of Mama for the last six years.

Obituary, *Austin American-Statesman* 8/8/2010.

Building Permits

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		C No	597
Austin, Texas			
Received of	VICTOR J. HOLECEK		Date 4-13-48
Address	1506 WETHERSFIELD		
Amount	TWENTY AND 00/100		\$20.00
Plumber	MARK BURNETT		Size of Tap 3/4"
Date of Connection	4-19-48		
Size of Tap Made			
Size Service Made			
Size Main Tapped			
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock			
From S- Prop. Line to Curb Cock	20'		
Location of Meter	CURB		
Type of Box	LOOK		
Depth of Main in St.			
Depth of Service Line			
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main			
Checked by Engr. Dept.	5/2/48 - RPB		
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.
1									3/4" SUCRE		1 Tee	1 Stop	1 Box	1 Lid		4-13-48	5-02

Water service permit issued to Victor J. Holecek, 4/13/1948.

Application for Sewer Connection		No	24087
Receipt No.	9585	Austin, Texas 4-13-48	
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 Victor J. Holecek at 1506 Wethersfield Road Street.			
further described as Lot	42	Block	Outlot
subdivision	Enfield F	Plat	153
which is to be used as a Res.			
In this place there are to be installed 5 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 29307			
I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.			
Depth at Prop. Line	3	Respectfully,	
State Out Connected	24' N of S L in Eas	Mark Burnett	
(Location)		(RPB)	
Date	5-14-48		
By	Strong		
NOTE: Connection Instruction 6" American Basement at rear of lot about 5 ft deep Main 2.5' W of W.T.E. (Rack) A-1005			

Sewer tap permit issued to Victor J. Holecek, 4/13/1948.

Victor J. Holecek 1506 Wethersfield Rd.
153 42 - - -
Enfield "A"
Frame residence and garage
37275
4-13-48 \$7000.00
Robert Clark

Building permit issued to Victor J. Holecek for a wood-frame residence and garage together valued at \$7,000, 4/13/1948.