

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 22, 2019
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
NRD-2019-0022
1014 GASTON AVENUE
OLD WEST AUSTIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

PROPOSAL

Enlarge and reconfigure window openings on primary façade and rear and side elevations of a ca. 1939 contributing building.

ARCHITECTURE

Cross-gabled wood-frame house built in the Tudor Revival style; multi-lite wood-sash windows; inset entry porch.

RESEARCH

Ilse Hirschfield Griffith was the longest-term resident of 1014 Gaston Avenue, occupying the house between 1941 and 1949, with a break in the mid-1940s when the Griffiths lived in Corpus Christi and rented the house. Ilse was born in 1900 in Texas to a Texan mother and German immigrant father, who worked as a doctor. Ilse married Llewellyn B. Griffith by 1923, and the couple had two sons. Ilse worked as a secretary around 1940-42 and later managed the record department of William Charles Music (around 1947 until at least 1949). She was also involved in the American Legion Auxiliary. Ilse Griffith moved to San Antonio by 1973, where she volunteered with the San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio Herb Society, Institute of Texas Cultures, and Texas Folklore Society. She died in San Antonio in 1999.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The proposed project has three parts:

- 1) Enlarge existing window opening on primary (west) façade and install a multi-lite sliding door.
- 2) Enlarge existing door opening on rear (east) façade and install a multi-lite sliding door with arched transoms above; install glass and metal awning above.
- 3) Reconfigure four window openings on side (south) façade and install new multi-lite clad-wood and aluminum- or vinyl-sash windows.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The house is a contributing property in 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, having been constructed ca. 1939.
- 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 is an intact example of the Tudor Revival style, but does not appear to be architecturally significant.

- b. **Historical association.** Ilse Griffith lived in the house for a period of time in the 1940s. There do not appear to be significant historical associations with the house.
- 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 in National Register historic districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

- 1) *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.*

The proposed project retains most of the historic character of the building. The new door opening on the primary façade utilizes and enlarges an existing opening, and the door will have a similar lite pattern to existing multi-lite windows. No other changes are proposed to the primary façade.

The proposed changes to the window openings on the side and rear elevations will not significantly impact the historic character of the building.

- 2) *Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.*

The proposed project does not add conjectural features and will not create a false sense of historical development. The new sliding door on the primary façade is clearly a modern door form.

- 4) *Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*

The proposed project includes limited changes to three sides of the building, primarily to increase accessibility. The building's form, scale, cladding, most windows, and decorative elements will be preserved.

- 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.*

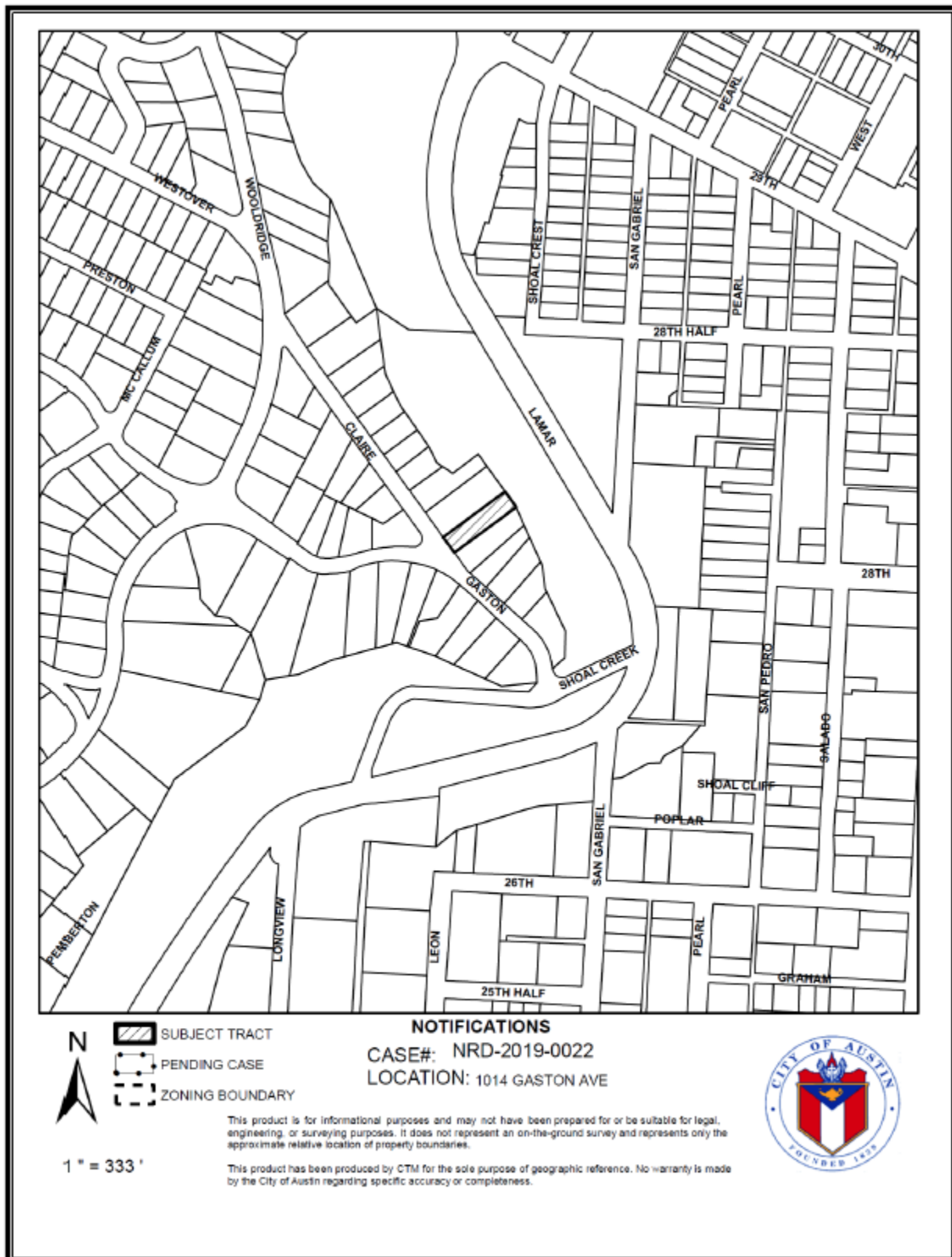
The proposed project entails removal of one window on the primary façade, four windows on the side (south) elevation, and one door (likely non-historic) on the rear elevation. The new sliding doors will be differentiated from the old by their modern style, particularly the doors, and new windows and doors will have multiple lites to match the character of the existing house.

The proposed project meets most of the standards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Comment on and release the plans.

LOCATION MAP



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (west) façade of 1014 Gaston Avenue.



Primary (west) façade. The window proposed for enlarging is at the lower right.

Occupancy History

City directory research, Austin History Center
 By Historic Preservation Office staff
 March 2019

- 1939 Not listed
- 1941 Llewellyn B. and Ilse Griffith and one child; owners
 District valuator
 Charles C. Griffith
 Student
- 1944 Woodward W. and Dolly Altgelt, renters
 U. S. Army
- 1947 Charles C. Griffith, renter
 Office assistant, State Highway Department
 Ilse Griffith
 Manager, record department, William Charles Music Office
 Llewelyn Griffith Jr.
 Student
- 1949 Mrs. Ilse Griffith, owner (widow Charles C.)—*staff note: this is likely a typo in the city directory, as Ilse was married to Llewellyn B. Griffith and the mother of Charles.*
 Salesman, William Charles Music
- 1952 Edwin D. and Henrietta Taylor, owners
 Director, State Health Department
 Gursham A. and Doris Hall, owners
 Engineer
- 1955 Donald F. and Helen Hall, renters
 Austin Lacquer Co. (Donald); The Hall Co. (Helen; located at 1508 San Antonio)
- 1959 Conwell Smith, renter
 No occupation listed
- 1962 Conwell and Francis J. Smith, renters
 Conwell Smith wholesale trucks (320 S. Lamar)
- 1965 Vacant
- 1968 J. Howard and Beverly J. Haydon, renters
 Lawyer (205 Capitol National Bank Building)
- 1973 James M. and Nancy H. Patterson, renters
 Architect (507 W. 14th Street)
- 1977 William L. and Anne Huey, renters
 Artist

- 1981 No return
- 1986 Peggy J. Pickle, renter
No occupation listed
- 1992 James L. and Deborah Smith, renters
Physician (4007 James Casey #B130)

Background Research

Ilse's Attic



Ilse Griffith of Ilse's Attic
Photo by Michael Nye

Many of you have browsed through the commemorative pins, T-shirts and fiesta collectables under the tent in the King William Park on Fair Day. (Ilse's Attic is being relocating this year to Queen's Alley, between the Masonic Lodge and St. Joe's on Washington St.) This is the King William Association store and it's called "Ilse's Attic" in honor Ilse Griffith, who lived at 422 East Guenther from 1973 until she died in 1999 at age ninety-nine. During those years, she took her turn as KWA board president (1974-1976) and served as KW Fair Chair when she was seventy-five. (She's thought to be the first Fair Chair to serve for two consecutive years – 1973 and 1974). You might have run into Ilse at Bonham Elementary when you went to vote because she served as our precinct judge for over twenty years until she retired the year before she died.

Ilse attended Bonham Elementary and graduated from Brackenridge High School in 1916 with the school's very first graduating class.

After retiring from her years with Groos Bank, she became active as a volunteer with The San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio Herb Society, Institute of Texas Cultures and Texas Folklore Society, to name a few. Her interests were varied and far-flung but history and politics were her two main passions. She could talk endlessly about early Texas politics, especially political scandals such as the election of Lyndon Johnson and the lost ballot box and the Parris of Duvall County.

Her bookcases were crammed with history books and news articles. She held membership in several historical societies. She was also a collector of cook books (although she rarely cooked), old post cards and Mexican folk art collected from the family's many trips to Mexico.

She had a sense of humor until the very end. When Ed Day was called when she fell at her home and had to be taken to Nix Hospital for her final trip (insisting all the while that she didn't need medical attention), her last words to him were, "Ed, thank you for helping a fallen woman."

Bill Cogburn

Excerpt from "The King William Fair remembers neighborhood heroes," King William Association, <http://www.ourkwa.org/articles/history-people/416-the-king-william-fair-remembers-neighborhood-heroes>.

Building Permits

L. B. Griffith	1014 Gaston Ave.
-	E. 55' of 13 & W. 20'
-	of 14
Shoal Terrace	
Stone veneer & frame res.	
276n - 6/20/39	
8	

Building permit issued to L. B. Griffith for a stone-veneer wood-frame residence, 6/20/1939.

Connection Charge \$ 12 83 No. 15840
APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.
 Austin, Texas, June 22 1939
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
 City of Austin, Texas
 Sir:—
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions
 on premises owned by L. B. Griffith
 at 1014 Gaston Ave. Street,
E. 55th of 13th W. 20
 further described as lot E-14, block _____, outlot _____,
 subdivision Shool Terrace, division _____, plat _____,
 which is to be used as a residence
 In this place there are to be installed 8 fixtures.
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance
 charge.
 4' DEEP Respectfully, [Signature]
 AT-P.L.
 Stub Out
 Connected 7-19 1939 Permit Pd.
 Size of Main 6 inches. 6-22-39
 Size of Service 4 inches. 6-24-39
4 1/2 Feet Deep in ST Q.V.
7 Feet from Property Line Stub out
 Feet from Curb Line 5 1/2' E of
 Inspected by Southgate E Line
 Connection made by Terry of Hanna
11639 11791
A-1046

Sewer connection permit issued to L. B. Griffith, 6/22/1939.

Permits from 1984 indicate that a screened porch and breakfast room were added and the house remodeled.

Permits from 1996 indicate that the attic was remodeled to create a bedroom, bathroom, and deck.

Permits from 2003 indicate that a second-floor study was added and the screened porch remodeled.

Permits from 2008 indicate that a balcony was enclosed to create a screened porch.