

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 26, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0386
503 LELAND STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1930 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, pyramidal-roofed frame house with a partial-width entry hood on non-original wood posts; single and double 1:1 fenestration with wood screens; synthetic siding. The siding and the entry hood supports are believed to have been added to the house in a 1952 remodeling project by Henry and Sadie Needleman.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1930 by Alton P. Walker, a driver for the Driskill Hotel Laundry, and his wife, Julia. The Walkers lived here until around 1934. Zora Crews, a stenographer for the State Department of Health and music teacher, purchased the house around 1934 and lived here until around 1946. Henry and Sadie Needleman, who had moved to Austin from Brooklyn, New York, are listed as the renters of the house in the 1947 city directory, then the owners thereafter. Henry Needleman started off as the manager of the Fair Store, a department store on E. 6th Street, and later became the proprietor of the White House, dry goods, also in the 300 block of E. 6th Street. After Henry's death in 1960, Sadie Needleman continued to live here, and operated Henry's Family Shoe Store until her death in 1980. The house has been a rental property for much of the time since Sadie Needleman moved out shortly before her death.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was listed with no priority for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

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 simple box house with a non-original front entry hood and synthetic siding. The house reflects a common style with no architectural distinction and has compromised integrity with the entry hood and siding.
 - b. **Historical association.** The house was built by a hotel laundry driver, and has been owned and occupied by a stenographer for a state agency, and later by the proprietors of a small, discount department store. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
 - 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.
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, 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

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0386
503 LELAND STREET



1" = 200'

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.

503 Leland Street
ca. 1930



2012 photograph



2019 photograph

OCCUPANCY HISTORY 503 Leland Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
July, 2012

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1992 | John H. Nichols, renter
No occupation listed |
| 1985-86 | John Nicoles, renter
No occupation listed |
| 1981 | John Henry Nichols, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that John Henry Nichols was a new resident at this address. |
| 1977 | Sadie Needleman, owner
Widow, Henry Needleman
Proprietor, Henry's Family Shoe Store, 423 E. 6 th Street. |
| 1973 | Sadie Needleman, owner
Widow, Henry Needleman
Proprietor, Henry's Family Shoe Store, 423 E. 6 TH Street. |
| 1969 | Sadie Needleman, owner
Widow, Henry Needleman
Proprietor, Henry's Family Shoe Store, 423 E. 6 TH Street. |
| 1965 | Sadie Needleman, owner
Widow, Henry Needleman
Proprietor, Henry's Family Shoe Store, 423 E. 6 th Street. |
| 1962 | Sadie Needleman (not listed as owner)
Widow, Henry Needleman
Proprietor, Henry's Family Shoe Store, 423 E. 6 th Street. |
| 1958 | Henry and Sadie Needleman, owners
Proprietor, The White House, dry goods, 309 E. 6 th Street. |
| 1953 | Henry and Roslyn S. Needleman, owners
Proprietor, The White House, dry goods, 309 E. 6 th Street. |
| 1949 | Henry and Sadie Needleman, owners
Proprietor, The White House, dry goods, 309 E. 6 th Street. |
| 1947 | Henry and Sadie Needleman, renters
Manager, Fair Store, department store, 321 E. 6 th Street.
Also listed is Gertrude Needleman, no occupation stated.
NOTE: Zora Crews is not listed in the directory. |
| 1944-45 | Zora Crews, owner
Stenographer |

NOTE: Henry and Sadie Needleman are not listed in the directory.

- 1941 Zora Crews, owner
No occupation listed
- 1939 Zora Crews, owner
Stenographer, State Department of Health
- 1937 Zora Crews, owner
Stenographer, State Department of Health
- 1935 Zora Crews, owner
Stenographer, State Health Department
NOTE: Alton P. and Julia Walker are listed at 515 Leland Street; he was a driver.
- 1932-33 Alton P. and Julia Walker, owners
Solicitor, Driskill Hotel Laundry
NOTE: Zora Crews is listed at 311 (305) Leland Street; she was a stenographer for the State Department of Health.
- 1930-31 Alton P. and Julia Walker, owners
Driver, Driskill Hotel Laundry
- 1929 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Alton P. Walker (no wife listed) was a driver for the Driskill Hotel Laundry; he lived at 1905 Newton Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Alton P. and Julia Walker (ca. 1930 – ca. 1934)

Alton P. and Julia A. Walker appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$2,500. Alton P. Walker was 26, had been born in Texas, and was a driver for a laundry. Julia A. Walker was 24, had been born in Texas to Tennessee-born parents, and was a nurse in general practice. They had no children listed with them.

By 1940, according to the U.S. Census of that year, Alton P. and Julia A. Walker were living in a house they owned worth \$2,000 on an Austin rural route. Alton P. Walker was 36, had been born in Texas, and was a laundry truck operator for a retail laundry. Julia A. Walker was 34, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Alice J., 8, who had been born in Texas. The family lived in Austin in 1935.

Alton Parker Walker died in Christmas Day, 1966; his last address was 515 Leland Street in Austin. He was born in 1903 in Houston and was the proprietor of Walker's Repair Shop, Electrical and Mechanical, sales and service. He was a widower.

ALTON WALKER IS SERIOUSLY INJURED IN AUTO COLLISION

South Austin Youth Suffers
Broken Bones and Painful
Cuts in Avenue Smash.

Alton Walker, aged 18 years, suffered a broken collarbone, a strained back and cuts in his face and on his back when a Ford delivery truck which he was driving was wrecked in a collision with an automobile driven by Mrs. Leverych of Manor, Wednesday, near the intersection of Eighteenth street and Congress avenue. The injured youth was rushed to his home in South Austin immediately after the accident and placed under the care of a physician. Relatives announced Thursday morning that he was improving slowly although he spent an uncomfortable night.

According to witnesses, Walker's truck was hit from the side by the Manor woman's automobile. Mrs. Leverych was prostrated following the accident, they reported. No complaints were filed. Damage to Walker's truck amounts to several hundred dollars, it is stated.

Alton Walker is injured in an auto collision
Austin Statesman, November 4, 1920

ALTON P. WALKER

Alton P. Walker, 63, of 515 Leland Dr., died Sunday in a local hospital. A resident of Austin most of his life, he was a member of the Grace Methodist Church, Masonic Hill City Lodge No. 456 A.F.&A.M., and the Austin Scottish Rite Bodies.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Robert M. Edgar; three sisters, Mrs. Felma Dugosh, San Antonio, Mrs. Ruth Burke Houston, and Mrs. Nolie Parker, Austin; five brothers, Walter W. Walker, Newport News, Va., Robert A. Walker, Horace Walker, Leslie Walker and Sims A. Walker, Austin; and two grandchildren.

Funeral is pending at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

Obituary of Alton Walker

Austin American-Statesman, December 26, 1966

ALTON P. WALKER

Funeral services will be held for Alton P. Walker, 63, of 515 Leland Drive Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home with Rev. Howard MacAllister, pastor of Grace Methodist Church, officiating, assisted by Rev. John Gilbert, pastor of First Methodist Church, Lockhart.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Robert M. Edgar Jr. of Austin; 3 sisters, Mrs. Felma Dugosh of San Antonio, Mrs. Ruth Burke of Houston and Mrs. Nollie Parker of Austin; 5 brothers, Robert A. Walker, Horace Walker, Leslie Walker and Sims A. Walker, all of Austin and Walter W. Walker of Newport News, Virginia; and 2 grandchildren.

Pallbearers serving at the chapel will be Frank R. Boothe, Webster D. Witter, Ben Bishop, Homer D. Walker, Sims Walker Jr. and John Potts. Masonic graveside services in Oakwood Cemetery will be under auspices of Hill City Lodge 456 AF&AM.

Masonic pallbearers will be M. E. Johnson, H. E. Collins, K. D. Wingfield, Max W. Stone, S. P. Jones and R. B. Sanders.

Obituary and funeral notice for Alton Walker
Austin Statesman, December 27, 1966

Zora Crews (ca. 1934 – ca 1946)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Zora Crews as the owner of this house, which was worth \$2,000. She was then 47, single, had been born in Texas, and was a stenographer for the State Health Department. The 1930 U.S. Census shows her renting a house at 2620 Wichita Street near the University of Texas campus. She was a secretary for the Public Health Department. The 1920 U.S. Census shows her as the 27-year old daughter of William and Carra Crews of Uvalde County, Texas. Her father was a farmer; Zora was a music teacher. The 1910 U.S. Census shows the Crews family in Bexar County, Texas, where William Crews was a real estate dealer. 17-year old Zora had no occupation listed. In 1900, the family was farming in Karnes County, Texas.

MRS. ZORA CREWS

UVALDE -- Zora Crews, 81, of Sabinal, died Wednesday in a San Antonio hospital. She had been a music instructor in public schools.

Funeral will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Central Christian Church in Sabinal, Rev. Ray Anderson officiating. Burial will be in Sabinal Cemetery.

Survivors include a brother, E. H. Crews of San Antonio; five sisters, Mrs. Ethel Ketler of Philadelphia, Pa., Mrs. Willie Pressley and Mrs. Ola Upson, both of San Antonio, and Mrs. Margaret Hess and Mrs. Gladys Hare, both of Uvalde; three nephews, five nieces; and several great and great-great nephews and nieces.

Obituary of Zora Crews
Austin American-Statesman, February 28, 1974

Henry and Sadie Needleman (ca. 1946 – ca. 1980)

Henry and Sadie Needleman appear in the 1940 U.S. Census of Brooklyn, New York with their two daughters and a son. Both Henry and Sadie were then 39. Henry had been born in Romania; Sadie in New York. Henry worked as a confectionary storekeeper. Sadie had no occupation listed.

HENRY NEEDLEMAN

Henry Needleman of 503 Leland Street died in a local hospital Thursday. Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Sadie Jacobson Needleman of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Sam Novy of Austin and Mrs. Stanley Schindler of New York City; one son, Martin Needleman of Buffalo, N. Y.; one sister, Mrs. Schprincha Simon of New York; one brother, Hymie Needleman of New York; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 3:30 p.m. at Cook Funeral Home, with Rabbi Samuel I. Zacuto officiating.

Pallbearers will be Max Roberts, Jim Novy, Louie Hirsch, John Harwitz, Sol Ginsburg and Hyman Samuelson.

Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Obituary of Henry Needleman
Austin American, September 9, 1960

NEEDLEMAN, Sadie, 79, 7004 Shoal Creek Blvd., died Thursday. Graveside services 3 p.m. Sunday at Agudas Achim Cemetery. Survivors: daughters, Gertrude Novy of Austin, Rosalyn Shinlar of Connecticut; son, Morton Needleman of Austin. (Cook-Walden)

Obituary of Sadie Needleman
Austin American-Statesman, November 8, 1980

Henry Needleman

503 Leland Street

124

52x205'

Swisher Addition

Repair and remodel residence and erect
carport.

50570 4-4-52

\$1700.00

Jim Ragland

Building permit to Henry Needleman to repair and remodel the house and build a carport (1952)