

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 26, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0374
608 PARK PLACE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1936 duplex.

ARCHITECTURE

Tow-story, L-plan, brick veneered duplex with minimal Tudor Revival details, including a prominent exterior chimney on the front of the house. The house was single, paired, and triple 1:1 fenestration and a front-gabled projecting entryway.

RESEARCH

The duplex appears to have been built around 1936 by Sanford Hereford, and housed several members of the extended Hereford family until the 1960s. The Hereford family was from Conroe, Texas, and moved to Austin in the 1930s. Sanford Hereford's wife, Claudia (who later operated a rooming house here), son Odis (who was a student at the University of Texas around the time the family built this house), and Claudia's sister, Annie Russell and her husband, lived here from the time of the construction of the house until the 1960s. They had multiple tenants over the years, although it is not clear whether this house was originally and up-and-down duplex, or whether the additional residential units were in the back yard. Their tenants included a department manager for a ladies' clothing store, a purchasing agent, professional workers for the U.S. Geologic Survey, and a number of students. Not until the late 1950s was the house converted into a rooming house, operated by Claudia Hereford, and 1940s, and later by Gladys Spelce, who lived here from around 1961 until around 1970. The house is described as offering furnished rooms in city directories until around 1970.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed 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 two-story duplex with minimal Tudor Revival detailing, especially in its gabled entrance and its prominent exterior chimney. There does not appear to be any architectural distinction.
 - b. **Historical association.** The house was a duplex with a variety of tenants until the late 1950s, when it became a rooming house. Tenants were middle-class and students; 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, 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



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0374
608 PARK PLACE



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.

608 Park Place
ca. 1936



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
608 Park Place

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
August, 2019

- 1935 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: The house was built in 1936, according to building permit and utility records.
NOTE: Hugh H. and Annie Russell are not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Nathan F. and Mary Lipstet are not listed in the directory.
- 1937 Hugh H. and Annie Russell, renters
No occupation listed
½: Nathan F. and Mary Lipstet, renters
Department manager, Snyder's Smart Shop, clothing, 714 Congress Avenue.
- 1939 Hugh H. and Annie R. Russell, renters
Salesman
½: O.G. Hereford, renter
Student, University of Texas
NOTE: O.G. Hereford was the son of the builder of this house, S.R. Hereford.

- 1941 Hugh H. and Annie R. Russell, renters
No occupation listed
½: Otis G. and Katherine Hereford, renters
Recorder, U.S. Geologic Survey
- Chester I. and Lorine Ziegler, renters
Meter engineer, LCRA
- 1944-45 Hugh H. and Annie R. Russell, renters
No occupation listed
½: Odis G. and Katherine Hereford, renters
Purchasing agent
- 1947 Hugh H. and Annie Russell, renters
Employed by the Capitol Tavern, 1010 Congress Avenue.
½: Dale and Addie Yost, renters
Dale: Hydrographer, U.S. Geologic Survey
Addie: Office secretary
Also listed is Ivan D. Yost, a student at the University of Texas.
- 1949 Hugh H. and Annie Russell, renters
No occupation listed
½: Douglas W. and Margaret Stewart, renters
Student
- 1952 Hugh H. and Annie Russell, renters
No occupation listed
½: Willmer W. and Marie Hoyer, renters
Student, University of Texas
- 1955 Claudia M. Hereford, owner
Widow, J.R. Hereford
No occupation listed
NOTE: Claudia Hereford was Odis Hereford's mother.
½: Vacant
Also listed are Hugh H. and Annie Russell; neither had an occupation listed.
- 1959 Claudia Hereford, owner
Furnished rooms
NOTE: Claudia Hereford was Odis Hereford's mother.
NOTE: Hugh H. and Annie Russell are not listed in the directory.
- 1962 Mrs. Claudia Hereford, owner
Furnished rooms
NOTE: Claudia Hereford was Odis Hereford's mother.
½: Gladys Spelce, owner
No occupation listed
- 1965 Gladys Spelce, owner
Furnished rooms
½: Linda Medlin, renter
Student

- Jherry L. York, renter
Student
- 1968 Gladys Spelce, owner
Furnished rooms
½: Frederick E. Keefer, renter
Student
- 1973 Vacant
½ A: Enrique and Mary Cano, renters
No occupation listed
½ B: Vacant
- 1977 Vacant
- 1981 Melissa Richardson, owner
Student
NOTE: The directory indicates that Melissa Richardson was a new resident at this address.
½ A: Diane Duncan, renter
Student
NOTE: The directory indicates that Diane Duncan was a new resident at this address.
½ B: Sharon Woodworth, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that Sharon Woodworth was a new resident at this address.
- 1985-86 Edward Gavina, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that Edward Gavina was a new resident at this address.
½ A: Robert Tubbs, renter
No occupation listed
½ B: Vacant
- 1992 A: Stephen L. Wallace, renter
No occupation listed
B: Vacant
C: Vacant

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Hugh H. and Annie Russell (ca. 1936 – ca. 1958)

Hugh (shown in the census report as Hulen) H. and Annie R. Russell appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of this house. Hugh H. Russell was 50, had been born in Texas, and was a car salesman. Annie R. Russell was also 50, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They lived in Bertram, Texas in 1935.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Hugh H. and Annie R. Russell living in the home of her mother, Emma A. Savage, who owned her house in Bertram, Texas. Hugh H. Russell was 40, had been born in Texas, and was an automobile salesman. Annie R. Russell was also 40, had been born in Texas, and was a saleslady in a dry goods store. Annie Russell's mother, Emma Savage, was a 63-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed.

H.H. Russell married Annie Savage in Bell County, Texas in November, 1927.

Henry Hughlin Russell's 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that he was living at Florence, Texas at the time of his registration. He was born in 1888 near Belton, Texas, and was a laborer. He was single. He was of medium height, had a stout build, black hair, and brown eyes.

Henry Hulen Russell's 1958 death certificate shows that he was born in Belton, Texas in 1888, and was living at this address at the time of his death. He was a salesman. Annie Ruminta Savage Russell was born in 1889 and died in Conroe, Texas in 1981. Both are buried in the Bear Creek Cemetery in Bertram, Texas.

HENRY HULEN RUSSELL

Henry Hulen Russell, 70, of 608 Park Place died in a local hospital Saturday. He had been a resident of Austin 25 years and was a veteran of World War One.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Annie Russell of Austin; one sister Mrs. W. W. Crass of Belton.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a. m. Monday at the Hytlin-Manor Funeral Home with Dr. Lory Hildreth officiating. Graveside services and burial will be at 12 noon Monday in Bear Creek Cemetery at Bertram.

Obituary of Henry H. Russell
Austin American-Statesman, November 9, 1958

RUSSELL, Annie Ruminta, 91, of Conroe, died Tuesday. Graveside services 10 a.m. today at Bear Creek Cemetery in Bertram. Survivors: nephews, Charles Hereford of Conroe, James O. Bailey of Wichita Falls; nieces, Emma Bell Goolsby of Houston, Charlsie McCoy of Cross Timbers, Mo., Alta Cox of Palacios. (Metcalf Funeral Home, Conroe)

Obituary of Annie Russell
Annie Russell was the sister of Claudia Hereford
Austin American-Statesman, August 14, 1981

Odis G. and Katherine Hereford (ca. 1938 – ca. 1946)

Otis G. Hereford appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the 12-year old son of Sanford R. and Claudia M. Hereford, who rented an apartment in Conroe, Texas. Otis had been born in Texas. His father, Sanford R. Hereford, 32, had been born in Texas, and worked at the Light Plant. His mother, Claudie M. Hereford, 31, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Otis had a younger brother, Raymond, 8, who had been born in Colorado.

Otis Gerrie Hereford's 1940 World War II draft card shows that he was born in Bertram, Texas in 1917, and was living in Austin at the time of his registration. He was a student at the University of Texas. He was 5'-8" tall, weighed 155, and had a light complexion with black hair and hazel eyes.

Odis and Kathryn R. Hereford appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as renters at this address. Odis Hereford was 22, had been born in Texas, and was a recorder for the U.S. Geological Survey. Kathryn Hereford was 21, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed.

Odis and Kathryn Hereford divorced in 1951. He then married a woman named Dixie Petty.

Odis Gerrie Hereford was living at 1304 Mariposa in Austin when he was killed in an automobile accident on US. Highway 290. 9 miles east of Johnson City, Texas. He was born in 1917 in Bertram, Texas, and was a machine operator for the Internal Revenue Service.

**HEREFORD, Claudia Myrl, '78,
610A Park Place, died Saturday.
Services were Monday at Weed-Cor-
ley Funeral Home. Burial in Ber-
tram. Survivors: sons, O. Q. Here-
ford of Austin, R. O. Hereford of
Beaumont, Charles Ray Hereford of
Conroe; sister, Annie Russell of Aus-
tin.**

Obituary of Claudia Hereford, the mother of Odis Hereford, who ran a rooming house here in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Austin American-Statesman, April 11, 1977

**HEREFORD, Odis Gerrie, 61, of
Austin, died Thursday. Memorial
services 1 p.m. today at Crofts Fu-
neral Home in Johnson City. Sur-
vivors: wife, Mrs. Dixie Hereford of
Austin; daughter, Sharon Kay Gen-
try of California; brothers, R.D.
Hereford of Beaumont, Charlie Her-
eford of Conroe.**

Obituary of Odis Hereford
Austin American-Statesman, March 31, 1979

1940 U.S. Census

In addition to showing H.H. and Annie Russell and Odis and Kathryn Hereford (listed separately on another page of the census report), the census also shows Chester L. and Lorine Zeigler as the renters of 608½ Park Place. Chester L. Zeigler was 28, had been born in Pennsylvania, and was an electrical engineer for the LCRA. He lived in Dallas, Texas in 1935. Lorine Zeigler was 28, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. She lived in Graham, Texas in 1935. They had no children listed with them.

Gladys Spelce (ca. 1961 – ca. 1970)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Gladys Kinard (later Spelce) living with her mother in Cameron, Texas. Gladys Kinard was 27, had been born in Texas, and was a beautician at home. Her mother, Allie Kinard, was a 58-year old Texas-born widow who was a seamstress at home. The women rented their home.

Carl C. and Gladys Spelce are listed in the 1942 city directory for Abilene, Texas; Carl C. Spelce was in the U.S. Army.

Gladys K. Spelce was born in 1912 and died in El Paso, Texas in 1992. She is buried in Arlington, Texas.

S. R. Herford

608 Park Place

Residence

155 - 4/27/36

10

Building permit to S.R. Hereford, the husband of Claudia Hereford, and the father of Odis Hereford, for the construction of this house (1936)

Connection Charge \$ 12.00 No 12376 ✓
Application for Sewer Connection.
 6000 Austin, Texas, Feb. 14, 1936
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements
 City of Austin, Texas 2-17-
 Sir:—
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on
 premises owned by J. R. Hereford
 at 608 Park Place Street
 further described as lot 63, block _____, outlot _____
 subdivision College Court division X, plat 56
 which place is to be used as a Duplex
 In this place there are to be installed 8 fixtures
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance
 charge.
 Respectfully,
B. J. ...
 Stub Out
 Connected 2-19-36 193 6
 Size of Main 8 inches
 Size of Service 4 inches
5.5 Feet Deep in at
 _____ Feet from Property Line
 _____ Feet from Curb Line
 Inspected by _____
 Connection made by Ernest ...
436 ✓ AKO A-2826

people want to make
 in the city
 still in as soon
 as possible

Sewer connection application for this address to S.R. Hereford, the husband of Claudia Hereford, and the father of Odis Hereford (1936)

OWNER	Mrs. Gladys Spelce	ADDRESS	608 Park Place
PLAT	65	LOT	63
		BLK	--
SUBDIVISION	College Court		
OCCUPANCY	Rooming House		
BLD PERMIT #	105856	DATE	11-17-67
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	500.00
CONTRACTOR	Owner	NO. OF FIXTURES	--
WATER TAP REC #	--	SEWER TAP REC #	--
Repair exist. rooming house			
Building permit to Gladys Spelce for repairs to the rooming house (1967)			



The site of the current duplex is shown as vacant on the 1935 Sanborn map.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the brick-veneered building as well as additional units at the rear of the lot.