PROPOSAL

Demolish a house of unknown age (but believed to be ca. 1920s) that was moved onto this site from an unknown location in 1946-1947.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular plan, hipped-roof frame house with a Cumberland-style configuration of double front doors, each with a 2-lite transom and a 1:1 window to the side; almost-full-width hipped roof independent porch on plain posts; shed-roofed frame addition to the rear left of the original structure.

RESEARCH

City building permits reveal that this house was moved onto this site from an undisclosed location during the winter of 1946-1947. Although apparently moved here as a rental property, the house was purchased by Walter E. and Edith L. Hamilton around 1954. Walter E. Hamilton was a carpenter; they did not live here long. The next occupants were also owners of the property: Felix M. and Blanche P. Bonnet. Felix M. Bonnet was a maintenance man and mechanic at Austin State Hospital. He grew up in rural Travis County on a farm owned by his parents. Before moving into this house, Felix and Blanche Bonnet lived in rural Travis County and Felix worked in a cedar yard. They lived here until around 1966; the next occupants were their son and his wife, Raymond and Fannie Bonnet, who lived here at least through the early 1990s. Raymond Bonnet was a truck driver for the Texas Electrical Co-Operatives association. They owned this house until Fannie’s death in 2016.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the scope 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 two criteria necessary for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

a. Architecture. The house is a very simple Cumberland-style house with its twin entries; there are only a handful left in Austin. This house appears to be very intact with the exception of the rear side addition. This house may meet the criterion for architecture as a vernacular Cumberland-style house and example of lower working class housing.

b. Historical association. The house was moved onto the site in 1946-1947, and while within the historic period, not knowing the original site of the house leaves much of its history unknown. Several working class families have lived in and owned this house over the years, but 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.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Strongly 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.
1302 W. 51st Street
Moved onto this site from an unknown location ca. 1946-1947

OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1302 W. 51st Street

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

1949  The address is not listed in the directory.
      NOTE: The house was moved onto this lot in 1946-47 per city building permit records.

1952  Thomas L. and Ruby T. Clopton, renters
      Groundsman, State School

1955  Walter E. and Edith L. Hamilton, owners
      Carpenter

1959  Felix M. and Blanche P. Bonnet, owners
      Mechanic, Austin State Hospital

1962  Felix M. and Blanche P. Bonnet, owners
      Mechanic, Austin State Hospital

1965  Felix M. and Blanche Bonnet, owners
      Maintenance man, Austin State Hospital
      NOTE: Raymond and Fannie Bonnet are not listed in the directory.
1968 Raymond and Fannie Bonnet, owners  
Employed by the Texas Electrical Co-Operatives, 8140 Burnet Road.

1973 Raymond and Fannie Bonnet, owners  
Plumber's helper, Ace Plumbing (not listed in the directory).

1977 Raymond and Fannie Bonnet, owners  
Driver, Vernon Bonnet (not listed in the directory).  
NOTE: Earlier city directories show that Vernon Bonnet had an electrical contracting business; in later years, he moved to Georgetown, Texas.

1981 Raymond and Fannie Bonnet, owners  
Driver, Texas Electrical Co-Operatives, 8140 Burnet Road.

1985-86 No return  
NOTE: Raymond and Fannie Bonnet are not listed in the directory.

1992 Raymond A. and Fanny Bonnet, renters  
Driver, Texas Electric Co-Operatives, 8140 Burnet Road.  
Also listed are Randy Bonnet, employed by the Texas Electric Co—  
Operatives; and Raymond A. Bonnet, Jr, a supervisor at IBM.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:  
Felix Bonnet (ca. 1958 – ca. 1966)  
Felix M. Bonnet appears in the 1920 U.S. Census as the 14-year old son of William and Mary C. Bonnet, who owned their farm in rural Travis County. Felix M. Bonnet was born in Texas and had no occupation listed. He was the 3rd of William and Mary Bonnet's 7 children listed in the census report. Felix' father, William Bonnet, 43, was born in Texas to a Texas-born father and a German-born mother, and is listed as a farmer. Mary Bonnet, 38, was born in Texas and had no occupation listed. Felix' two older brothers are both listed as farm laborers.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows F.M. and Blanche Bonnet living in a rented house on McGregor Lane in rural Travis County. F.M. Bonnet was 34, had been born in Texas, and was a cedar checker in a cedar post yard. Blanche Bonnet, 31, had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. They had 6 children: son R.B., 10; Vernon, 9; Lucille, 7; Lloyd, 5; Mildred, 2; and Esther, 5 months. The family lived in Leander, Texas in 1935.
BONNET, Blanche, 83, of Georgetown died Tuesday. Services 2 p.m. today, Davis Funeral Home, Georgetown. Burial New Hope Cemetery, Cedar Park.

Death notice for Blanche Bonnet
Austin American-Statesman, April 30, 1992

BONNET, Felix M., 89, of Georgetown died Tuesday. Visitation 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Davis Funeral Home, Georgetown. Services 10 a.m. Friday, Davis Funeral Home. Burial New Hope Cemetery, Cedar Park.

Death notice for Felix M. Bonnet
Austin American-Statesman, July 12, 1995
Raymond and Fannie Bonnet (ca. 1966 – )
Raymond Allison Bonnet married Fannie Laverne Stark in Travis County on January 23, 1963, Raymond Bonnet's 18th birthday.

BONNET, Raymond Allison Sr., 67, of Austin died June 28. Survived by wife Fannie. Services 10 a.m. today, Walnut Creek Baptist Church. Burial Walnut Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Arrangements by Cook-Walden, Lamar location.

Death notice for Raymond Bonnet
Austin American-Statesman, July 5, 2012

BONNET, Fannie L.
Age 71, of Austin, passed away March 22, 2016. Service March 26, 2 p.m. at Walnut Creek Baptist Church-Austin. Cook Walden Funeral Home, Austin, TX.

Death notice for Fannie Bonnet
Austin American-Statesman, March 25, 2016

J. S. Brown
1302 West 51st Street
192 4 A

Lynndale #1
Move residence onto lot & repair (frame)
31871 10-11-46 $500.00

A. F. Morrow

Building permit to move this house onto the lot from an unknown location (1946)
**WATER SERVICE PERMIT**

**No. 3273**

Received of: J. S. Brown  
Address: 1302 W. 51st St.  
Amount: TWENTY DOLLARS  
Amount: $20.00  
Plumber: BRIDSO  
Date of Connection: 6-27-47  
Size of Tap: 3/4"  
Date of Connection: 6-27-47  
Size of Tap Made: 3/4"  
Size Main Tapped: 6"  
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock: 9'  
From E Prop. Line to Curb Cock: 21'  
Location of Meter: CURB  
Type of Box: LOCK  
Depth of Main in Street: 2.5'  
Depth of Service Line: 2.5'  
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main: 34'  
Checked by Engr. Dept.  

**INDEXED**

Water service permit for this address (1947)

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**SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT**

**No. 22242**

Received of: J. S. Brown  
Address: 1302 W. 51st St.  
Amount: $  
Builder or Owner: J. S. Brown  
Plumber:  
Lot: 4  
Block: A  
Subdivision: Lyndale #1  
Plat No: 192  

Date of Connection: 6-10-47  
By City: 11.5' W/EEL  
By Plumber:  
Checked By: Augustine M. Reyes  
Size Main:  
Main Assign: Extension required  
Stub Depth: Prop. Line 3'  
Stub Location:  
Book No.: A-1964  
Paving Cut: No.  

Sewer service permit for this address (1947)