PROPOSAL
Demolish a ca. 1949 house. Rear detached garage to remain.

ARCHITECTURE
One-story frame house with cross-gabled composition shingle roof, 6/6 windows, an inset partial-width front porch, and horizontal wood siding.

RESEARCH
The house was built in 1949 by Earl Howard. By 1952, it had been sold to Clarence C. and Ella F. Michalk. Clarence Michalk worked for the Texas Highway Department during his tenure in the home, first as an inspector and then as a chief laboratory assistant for the agency. By 1963, the Michalks had sold the home to Hortense M. and Leslie L. Rodgers. Leslie Rogers also worked for the state Highway Department as an accountant. The Rodgers family lived in the home for at least ten years.

By 1977 the home was owned by Sidney D. Srnensky; by 1981, it was vacant. During the mid-eighties to early nineties, it was occupied by a series of renters.

STAFF COMMENTS
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark
1) The building is more than 50 years old.
2) The building appears to retain high to moderate integrity.
3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (Land Development Code, §25-2-352).
   a) Architecture. The house does not appear to meet the criterion for architecture, as it does not embody the distinguishing characteristics of a recognized architectural style, type, or method of construction; display high artistic value; represent a rare example of an architectural style; serve as an outstanding example of artisanship or design; serve as an exemplary vernacular structure, or represent an architectural curiosity.
   b) Historical association. The house does not appear to meet the criterion for significant historical association, as it does not have long-standing significant associations with persons, groups, institutions, businesses, or events of historic importance; the Commission may consider its residents as examples of middle-class residents of Austin.
   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
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.
PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos

Google Street View, Realtor.com

Occupancy History
City Directory Research, Austin History Center, December 2019
1992    Anne Bustard, renter
         Toad Hall Children’s Book Store
1985-86  Charles S. and Connie F. Layne, renters
86       Student
1981  Vacant
1977  Sidney D. Srnensky, owner
1973  Leslie L. and Hortense M. Rodgers, owners
      Chief accountant, State Highway Department
1968  Leslie L. and Hortense M. Rodgers, owners
      Chief accountant, State Highway Department
1963  Leslie L. and Hortense M. Rodgers, owners
      Budget accountant, State Highway Department
1959  Clarence C. and Ella F. Michalk, owners
      Chief laboratory assistant, State Highway Department
1955  Clarence C. and Ella F. Michalk, owners
1952  Clarence C. and Ella F. Michalk, owners
      Chief inspector, State Highway Department
1949  Address not listed

Building Permits

Stuart Watt  1812 West 36th Street
160  7-

Oakmont Heights

Frame residence and garage.

42141 10-7-49  $6500.00

Earl Howard

Building permit, 10-7-49

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Received of EARL HOWARD
Address 1812 W. 36th St

Amount TWENTY-ONE AND 2/10 CENTS $21.02

Plumber SHARP PLBC

Size of Tap 3/4" Size of Service Line 2" Size of Curb 36"

Date of Connection 12-12-49

Water tap permit, 12-12-49