

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 16, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0618
4708 RUE STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1950 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan building; side-gabled roof; asbestos shingle siding; multi-lite steel-sash windows.

RESEARCH

4708 Rue Street was occupied by Walter and Helen Swanson for more than thirty years, from the time it was built until at least 1985.

Walter Conrad “Bud” Swanson was born in 1920 in Austin. He graduated from UT in 1941 and served as a bomber pilot in World War II. Swanson worked at the State Employment Commission for his entire career, beginning as an examiner and later serving as the assistant placement chief and a comptroller. Swanson also served in the Air Force Reserve, and was named commander of an Air Reserve Recovery Squadron in 1961; at that point, he had 23 years of service in the Air Force. Swanson retired from the Texas Employment Commission between 1981 and 1985. He was also involved with the Masons, the American Legion, and Covenant Presbyterian Church. Walter Swanson died in 2015 in Austin.

Helen Marjorie Swanson (nee Robisher) was born in 1921 in Austin. She attended UT before marrying Walter Swanson, her high school sweetheart, in 1942. The couple had three children. Helen Swanson was involved with women’s groups associated with First Southern Presbyterian Church (now Central Presbyterian Church). She returned to school at UT and completed her degree in education in 1961, teaching for the next decade in Austin and Houston. She died in 2016 in Austin.

STAFF COMMENTS

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 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 criteria.
 - a. **Architecture.** The house is designed with Minimal Traditional influences and does not appear to be architecturally significant.
 - b. **Historical association.** Walter and Helen Swanson lived in the house for more than thirty years. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
 - 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 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.

The property does not appear to be eligible for designation as a historic landmark.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of the existing building, then relocation over demolition; but release the demolition 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.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 333'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0618

LOCATION: 4708 RUE ST

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.



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (east) façade and north elevation of 4708 Rue Street.

Occupancy History

Completed by Historic Preservation Office staff, November 2019

1949	Address not listed
1952	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Examiner, State Employment Commission
1955	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Examiner, State Employment Commission
1957	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Examiner, State Employment Commission
1959	Walter C. and Helen M. Swanson, owners Analyst, State Employment Commission
1960	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Analyst, State Employment Commission
1965	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Specialist, State Employment Commission

1968	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Placement specialist, State Employment Commission
1973	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Assistant placement chief, State Employment Commission
1977	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Assistant placement chief, State Employment Commission
	Robert Swanson, renter Student
1981	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Comptroller, Texas Employment Commission
1985	Walter C. and Helen R. Swanson, owners Retired
1992	B. Jones, renter Bookkeeper

Background Research

SWANSON,

Walter Conrad "Bud"

Walter Conrad (Bud) Swanson died peacefully at home the afternoon of April 6, 2015. He was the youngest child of Charles Conrad and Amanda Ekberg Swanson, born on April 9, 1920 in Austin, Texas. He was predeceased by his parents, his brothers, Raymond and Wilfred (Swede) Swanson, his sisters Dorothy Swanson and Evelyn Wheat. He is survived by his wife, **Helen Robisher Swanson**, whom he married on May 24th, 1942, and his children, Richard (Ann) Swanson, Susan (Tom) Hutchison, and Bob (Diane) Swanson, his sister-in-laws, Hazel Nichols and Betty (Bill)

Bassett. He is also survived by 5 grandchildren, Wes (Cochise Hollings) Hutchison, Kevin (Vicki) Hutchison, Amanda (Scott) Brown, Denise (Matt) Chumlea and David Swanson, seven great grandchildren, four nieces and a nephew.

Bud was very active and a sports enthusiast all of his life. He was an All-state guard for Austin High School from which he graduated in 1938. He met Helen in high school and their love lasted for over 77 years. He was an Eagle Scout and served in World War II as a bomber pilot in the European Theater and later as an instructor pilot. After the war he joined the Texas Employment Commission where he served in various capacities until his retirement in 1980. He served as a reserve officer in the US Air Force and retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel. Bud was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church and through the years he served as an Elder and Deacon in the Presbyterian church.

He was proud of the fact that he was retired longer than he had worked, since his retirement was so active and productive. Bud and Helen traveled to Canada, twice to Sweden and many places in the United States often participating in the reunions of the 303rd Bomb Group. Several times one or more of their children were privileged to accompany them. Bud also was an artisan making many fine pieces of stained glass, wood, and refinishing "treasures" he found in various places. He happily shared many of these with friends and family members. He and Helen loved the time they spent together at their house in the country and shopping for art and antiques with friends when they could. Bud played tennis until, at 92, an elbow condition required that he discontinue playing.

Bud will be remembered as a loving and caring son, brother, husband, dad, grandpa, uncle, brother-in-law and friend. He will be sorely missed but his influence on the lives of his family and friends will continue for many years to come.

Pallbearers are Wes Hutchison, Cochise Hollings, Kevin Hutchison, David Swanson, Matt Chumlea and Scott Brown.

Bud's favorite color was red. Please feel free to honor him by wearing something red.

A visitation will be held at Cook-Walden Funeral Home, 6100 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX, on Thursday, April 9, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 pm. A Graveside Service will be held at Austin Memorial Park at 2800 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX at 10:30 am Friday April 10, 2015, followed by a Memorial Service at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 3003 Northland Dr, Austin, TX at 2:00 pm with a reception will follow at the church.

Walter Swanson obituary, Austin American-Statesman, 4/9/2015.

SWANSON, HelenMarjorie **Robisher**

Helen Marjorie **Robisher Swanson** died peacefully at her home in Austin on January 31, 2016. She was predeceased by her parents Tom and Velma **Robisher**, her sister Betty Jane **Robisher** Bassett and her husband of nearly 73 years, Walter Conrad (Bud) **Swanson**.

She was born in Austin on August 30, 1921 and attended Austin High School, graduating in 1939. **Helen** was an excellent student with a sharp mind and a love of learning. At Austin High she was in Red Jackets, National Honor Society, GAA (Girls Athletic Assn.) , Rainbow Girls and received the coveted green A from Miss Brooks, which exempted her from her final exam in English. She attended the University of Texas until World War II began in late 1941. After Bud completed flight training in the U. S. Army Air Corps, they were married at the First Southern Presbyterian Church (now Central Presbyterian Church) in May 1942. They traveled extensively in the United States as part of Bud's military service, with a brief respite while he served overseas in late 1942 and early 1943.

After the war they settled in Austin where she was wife and mother and was very active in church activities. Her main priority was raising children. When they approached college age and additional income was needed, **Helen** returned to the University of Texas, where she completed her degree in education in the fall of 1961. She taught in elementary school for several years in Austin (Mathews and Rosedale) and in Houston, leaving the profession in 1970, having successfully helped all three children with their college degrees. At this point grandchildren began to arrive and **Helen's** attention turned to them. After Bud retired in 1980 the two of them traveled, visiting Hawaii and Scandinavia (twice) and many places in the continental United States. They attended many of Bud's 303rd Bomb Group reunions over a period of 20 years and made numerous new friends as well as renewed friendships with some they had met during the war. The last reunion they attended was in Savannah in 2004 and all three of their children and their spouses accompanied them. **Helen** enjoyed art, painting, needlework, knitting, sewing and collecting antiques. She was an exceptional and enthusiastic cook. Many of her recipes were spread through the family and among friends and are still used today. She also used recipes of others, always giving credit, but frequently modifying them to add her own special touch.

Most importantly, **Helen** was a Christian and had a strong faith. She witnessed her faith to all with whom she came in contact. She was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and participated in Bible study for many years. She also had a life-long interest in history and politics.

Helen was a wonderful person, filled with wisdom and love, and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Helen Swanson obituary, Austin American-Statesman, 2/4/2016.

Building Permits

Gray & Becker, Inc.		4708 Rue Street	
184	4	A	-
Shoalmont #3			
Frame residence and garage attached.			
43317 2-1-50		\$6000.00	
Owner			
5			

Building permit for wood-frame residence and attached garage issued to Gray & Becker, Inc.,
2/1/1950.

570554-1107NLL 65-200

Receipt No. 14721 Application for Sewer Connection No. 26275

Austin, Texas, 6-23-1950

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by Gray & Becker at 4708 Rue Street,
further described as Lot 4 Block A Outlot 1 Division 1
subdivision Shoalmont #3 Plat 184 which is to be used as a res

In this place there are to be installed 5 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 38918

I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.

Depth at Prop. Line 3' 5' depth 6-26-50
Respectfully,
Phar Lewis

Sub-~~Out~~ } 3' N of SLL
Connected (Location)

Date 7-10-50

By Willard

NOTE: Connection Instruction 6" Sewer in St + 17' dug
Main 15' E of W.R. (Rock)
6" Sub 3" N of SLL A 2275

Sewer tap permit issued to Gray & Becker, 6/23/1950.

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		C No. 6497
Austin, Texas		
Received of	GRAY V BECKER	Date 6-23-50
Address	4708 RUE	
Amount	TWENTY V NO 1100	20
Plumber	REAS LEWIS	Size of Tap 3/4
Date of Connection	7-12-50	
Size of Tap Made	3/4"	
Size Service Made	3/4"	
Size Main Tapped	2" C.I.	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	25'	
From N- Prop. Line to Curb Cock	41'	
Location of Meter	CURB	
Type of Box	LOU	
Depth of Main in St.	3'	
Depth of Service Line	2'	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	Per main	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	8-9-50 R.W.	

No. Fittings	Size	
1	98"	Curb Cock
1	3/4" Cop.	Elbow
1	3/4" S. C. P.	Stop
1	3/4" C. I. P.	Bushing
1	2" x 3/4" Tap - S. C. P.	Reducer
3	3/4" Cop.	Pipe
		Lead Comp.
		Nipples
		Union
		Plug
		TEE
		Stop
		Box
		Lid
		Valves
		Job No. W. 323-502
		P. g. No. N. P. 1

Water tap permit issued to Gray & Becker, 6/23/1950.