

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 16, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0693
2719 WOOLDRIDGE DRIVE**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a one-story house built ca. 1961. The property is located in the Old West Austin National Register Historic District, but is noncontributing to the district.

ARCHITECTURE

1-story, side-gabled house with a second-story overhang; vertical wood siding and brick veneer; fixed wood-sash windows.

RESEARCH

William Junius “Bill” Carter constructed the house around 1961 and lived there until at least 1992. Carter was born in 1914 in Childress, Texas, to a farming family. Bill Carter received degrees from Abilene Christian College, Texas Tech University, the University of Texas, and Stanford University. He had professional expertise in engineering mechanics and machine design and personal interests in theology, aircraft design, and sailboat design and racing. In 1940, Carter was living in Houston, where he worked as a draftsman at the Hughes Tool Company and taught night school at the University of Houston. He joined the UT Mechanical Engineering faculty in 1941 and taught pilot training for the War Department. In addition to an award-winning teaching career, Carter worked for many companies, including the UT Defense Laboratory and Boeing Aircraft. Carter married Ammie Evans in 1968, divorcing before marrying Arlene Spivey in 1973. A UT Memorial Resolution after Carter’s death noted that “no technical problem was beyond a ‘Bill Carter’ solution.” Bill Carter retired from teaching in 1977 and died in 1994.

Ammie Jean Carter (nee Evins or Parnell) was born around 1933. Little information was found during research, though it is known that she married William Carter in 1968 in Travis County. The couple had one son before they divorced prior to 1973.

Ada Arlene Carter (nee Spivey) was born in 1927. She married James Douglas Witt in 1947 in Lubbock, and the couple had four children. In 1948, Arlene was attending Texas Technical College in Lubbock, where she studied English and served as Vice President of Sigma Tau Delta. The couple divorced prior to James Witt’s death in 1968, and Arlene married William Carter in 1973 in Travis County. Her date of death was not located during research.

The building and a later addition were designed by Walter Eugene George, Jr. George was a local architect, national leader in historic preservation, and educator at UT Austin and UTSA. He was born in Wichita Falls in 1922, studied architecture at UT, and received a Master of Architecture at Harvard after serving during World War II. He worked for various local architecture firms during school and after graduation, and established a private practice in 1952. Projects included the restoration of buildings at Yorktown Battlefield (Virginia), the Sixth Floor Museum at the Kennedy assassination site in Dallas, other historic buildings around the country; as well as new residential, religious, and civic buildings. George died in 2013.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The house is a noncontributing property in the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building retains 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 demonstrates significance according to at least one criterion.
 - a. **Architecture.** Designed by Eugene George, Jr., the building is an intact example of the Mid-Century Modern style and appears to be architecturally significant.
 - b. **Historical association.** William J. and Arlene Carter lived in the house for more than 30 years, from the time the house was constructed until at least 1992. Dr. Carter taught mechanical engineering at UT for more than thirty years, where he was a well-loved instructor, and developed new sailboat designs as a hobby. More research is needed to determine if there are 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 property does not appear to possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the community, Austin, or Texas as a whole.
 - 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

Postpone the case to allow further research into Dr. Bill Carter and Eugene George, Jr. If the Commission votes to release the demolition permit at this meeting, then staff recommends 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.

Due to the building's location in a National Register historic district, the Commission must review and comment on proposed plans for new construction. No plans have been received to date.

LOCATION MAP



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0693
LOCATION: 2719 WOOLDRIDGE DR



1" = 333'

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 (west) façade of 2719 Wooldridge Drive.



North elevation and west façade. Source: www.austinsilentmarket.com



West elevation. Source: www.austinsilentmarket.com



South and west elevations. Source: www.austinsilentmarket.com

Occupancy History

City directory research, Austin History Center
By Historic Preservation Office staff
November 2019

1959	Address not listed
1962	William J. Carter, owner No occupation listed
1968	William J. and Ammie Carter, owners Professor, UT
1973	William J. Carter, owner Professor, UT
1977	William J. and Arlene Carter, owners Professor, UT
1981	William J. and Arlene Carter, owners Retired
1986	William J. and Arlene Carter, owners Retired
1992	William J. and Arlene Carter, owners Retired

Background Research



William Junius Carter, n.d. Source: findagrave.com.

FEBRUARY, 1952

FROM DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

THIS unusual 28' sloop is the product of Professor William J. Carter, of the University of Texas, Austin, Tex., for he not only designed her but built her, made her sails and owns and sails her on Lake Travis, on the lower Colorado River. She is plywood-planked and decked and has fir structural members. Fastenings are Anchor-fast nails and Weldwood glue. Her hollow extruded aluminum mast was fabricated by the Zephyr Products Co.; her standing rigging is by Mac Whyte and her hardware was made in part by Merriman Bros. and in part by Prof. Carter and Edward Hamilton, of Austin, Texas.

Her designer points out that her keel may seem unusual because of the forward

projection of the bulb, but says that since the waters of Lake Travis are deep and clean, there is no trouble with weeds or debris fouling it. Incidentally, in order to facilitate "back yard" casting, the 600-lb. lead keel bulb was cast in layers or "washers" as indicated on the plans. The fin is of composite wood and steel construction.

The cuddy cabin was added to provide stowage space for gear and also to make possible simple accommodations for a couple to throw down sleeping bags and cruise for a few days. Prof. Carter says that advantage has been taken of the fact that plywood will bend readily in only one direction to design a hull which can be completely described by analytical geometry.



Sailboat design by William J. Carter, 1952. Source: Telltale, Austin Yacht Club newsletter, September 1988.



Engine Co. 24 / South Austin Fire Station (5800 Nuckols Crossing Road), designed by Eugene George, Jr. Source: Google Street View, 2017.



House at 3929 Balcones Dr., designed by Eugene George, Jr. for his family. Source: Google Street View, 2019.



910 Lavaca Street, designed by Eugene George, Jr. in 1978. Source: Google Street View, 2018.

Building Permits

Lot 2, Blk. 1
WATER SERVICE PERMIT SEC 62
 Edgemont Addition **Austin, Texas** E No 28350

Received of *William J. Carter* **INDEXED**
 Address *5719 Wooldridge Dr* Date *5-17-61*
 Amount *Eighty + no paid* \$ *50.00*
 Plumber *RICH* Size of Tap *1 1/4"*

REPLACES PWD TAP - 7293

Date of Connection	<i>9-26-61</i>
Size of Tap Made	<i>1 1/4"</i>
Size Service Made	<i>1 1/4"</i>
Size Main Tapped	<i>6" C. I.</i>
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<i>2'</i>
From <i>50.</i> Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<i>15'</i>
Location of Meter	<i>CURB</i>
Type of Box	<i>TROWAY</i>
Depth of Main in St.	<i>2'</i>
Depth of Service Line	<i>2'</i>
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<i>24'</i>

No. Fittings	Size
<i>25</i> Pipe	<i>1 1/4" COP</i>
<i>1</i> Corp. Cock	<i>1 1/4"</i>
<i>1</i> Cop. to Iron ell	
<i>1</i> Cop. to Cop. ell	
<i>1</i> Cop. to Iron Coupling	<i>1 1/4"</i>
<i>1</i> Cop. to Cop. Coupling	<i>1 1/4"</i>
Angle Stop	
Stop	
Bushing	
<i>2</i> Nipples	<i>5" X 1 1/2" BRASS</i>
<i>1</i> Service Clamp	<i>6" X 1 1/4"</i>
<i>1</i> Valve	<i>1 1/2"</i>
<i>1</i> Meter Box	<i>TROWAY</i>
<i>1</i> Lock Lid	
<i>1</i> Drain Tile	
<i>1</i> Drain Tile Lid	
Stop & Drain	
Job No.	<i>2133-700-502</i>
Foreman	<i>J. Powell</i>

10-10-61 Ingr. Dept. *10-10-61* JNP

Water tap permit issued to William J. Carter, 5/17/1961.

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT No 35705 A
Austin, Texas

Received of *William J. Carter* Date *5-17-61*
 Address *2719 Wooldridge Dr*
 Amount *Fifty + no paid* \$ *50.00*
 Builder or Owner *Same* Plumber *RICH*
 Lot *2* Block *1* Subdivision *Edgemont* Plat No. *62*

Date of Connection	<i>11-15-61</i>
By City	<i>in account</i>
By Plumber	
Checked By	<i>aldrige</i>
Size Main	<i>6"</i> Depth <i>3'</i>
Main Assign:	<i>in easement across lot</i>
Stub Depth	<i>5'</i> Prop. Line
Stub Location	<i>to be anywhere in back</i>
Book No.	<i>D-784 A1568</i>
Paving Cut	<i>11-10-61</i> No. <i>626</i>

No. Fittings	Size	Price
<i>5</i> Pipe	<i>6" Bone</i>	<i>1.25</i>
<i>1</i> Pipe		
<i>1</i> Wyes	<i>6" rye Bone</i>	<i>.90</i>
<i>1</i> Bends	<i>6" Bone</i>	<i>.90</i>
Reducers		
Plugs		
Sand		
Gravel		
Femix		
Stoppers		
Castings		
<i>1</i> Other	<i>drain</i>	<i>1.50</i>
Labor	<i>for foreman</i>	<i>2.51</i>
<i>8</i> hr. Labor		<i>10.00</i>
Total		<i>17.06</i>

Sewer connection permit issued to William J. Carter, 5/17/1961.

Dr. Wm. J. Carter	2719 Wooldridge Dr
62	1
2	
Edgemont Place	
Brick Veneer Residence & Basement & Detached carport.	
79866	20,000.00
5-17-61	
W.T. Walker & Sons	10
W.E. 28350	S.35705
RESIDENCE?	

Building permit for brick veneer residence and carport issued to Dr. Wm. J. Carter, 5/17/1961.

OWNER	William Carter	ADDRESS	2719 Wooldridge Dr.
PLAT	62	LOT	2
		BLK	1
SUBDIVISION	Edgemont Pl.		
OCCUPANCY	Res. - Storage		
BLD PERMIT #	147974	DATE	2-27-75
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	950.00
CONTRACTOR	Huebner Constr.	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC #	E 28350	Exist	SEWER TAP REC # 35705 Exist
	Frm. Addn. to Acc. Bldg.	78 Sq.Ft.	

Building permit for wood-frame addition to accessory building issued to Dr. Wm. J. Carter, 2/27/1975.