HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JANUARY 27, 2020  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS (PARTIAL)  
HDP-2019-0756  
1009 E. 14TH STREET

PROPOSAL
Construct an addition to a ca. 1929 house.

ARCHITECTURE
One-story, T-plan building; cross-gabled roof; wood siding; 2:2 fiberglass windows; half-width porch; door with multi-lite transom.

RESEARCH
1009 E. 14th Street was built around 1929 by Robert and Delia Batts, an African American couple who occupied the house until around 1947 before moving next door to 1011 E. 14th Street. Robert Lee Batts was born in 1908 in Austin and completed school through the 10th grade. He worked as a linoleum layer at the Swann-Schulle Furniture Co. Robert Batts died in 1978 in Austin.

Delia Mae Batts (nee Daniels) was born in 1909 in Round Rock, where her father worked as a grocer and later as a farm laborer. She completed two years of college and married Robert Batts in 1929 in Austin; the couple had two children. After Robert died in 1978, Delia married Charlie Davidson in Travis County in 1980. She died in 1988.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Construct a second story atop and behind the existing building; add an attached garage to the west wall. The L-plan second-story addition is set behind the ridgeline on the east side of the building and behind the gable front on the primary (north) façade. It is clad in hardiplank siding and capped by a hipped metal roof with a front gable end that echoes that of the house. Windows will be fixed and casement with fiberglass sashes and be covered by historic-age wood screens. The garage is clad in hardiplank horizontal siding and capped by a hipped roof.

The existing horizontal wood siding, wood-sash windows, porch materials, and front door will be retained.

STAFF COMMENTS
The East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016) identified the property as contributing to a potential historic district.

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 appears to demonstrate significance according to one criterion.
a. Architecture. The house embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Folk Victorian style and appears to be significant under this criterion.

b. Historical association. Robert and Delia Batts lived in the house for more than 15 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 appear to 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.

**Committee Recommendation**

Retain the front gable as a parapet wall for the balcony. The front gable has been retained.

**Staff Recommendation**

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

Primary (north) façade of 1009 E. 14th Street.

Occupancy History
Completed by Historic Preservation Office staff, December 2019

1929 Address not listed
1930-31 Robert and Delia M. Batts, owners
      Porter Swann-Schulle Furniture Co.
1932-33 Robert and Delia M. Batts, owners
      Porter Swann-Schulle Furniture Co.
1935 Robert and Delia M. Batts, owners
      Salesman, Swann-Schulle Furniture Co.
1939 Robert L. and Delia M. Batts, owners
      Linoleum layer, Swann-Schulle Furniture Co.
1941 Robert L. and Delia M. Batts, owners
      Linoleum layer, Swann-Schulle Furniture Co.
1944-45 Robert L. and Delia M. Batts, owners
      Jobber, Swann-Schulle Furniture Co.
1947  Robert L. and Delia M. Batts, owners
       Linoleum layer, Swann-Schulle Furniture Co.

1949  John A. and Crezetta Joost, renters
       Porter, no employer listed

1952  John A. and Crezetta Joost, renters
       Laborer, no employer listed (John); clerk, Brackenridge Hospital (Crezetta)

1955  Walter W. Duncan, renter
       Dentist, 1506 E. 12th Street

1959  Victor and Johnnie M. Smith, owners
       Waiter, Elks Club

1962  Vacant

1965  State Offices, Board of Regents, State Teacher Colleges, renter

1968  Goldie M. Price, renter
       Maid, State Board of Control

1973  Vacant

1977  Unit A – Vacant
       Unit B – Jim Finney, renter
       No occupation listed

1981  Unit A – No return
       Unit B – Evan Dickson, renter
       No occupation listed

1985-86  Unit A – Jack and Jemmie Brown, owners
        Retired
        Unit B – Jack W. Brown, renter
        No occupation listed

1992  State Senate Public Health Subcommittee
Background Research

"Veteran furniture store employes [sic]," Austin American, 3/11/1940. Robert Batts is in the third row on the right side.
**Building Permits**

Water tap permit issued to Jesse Batts, 9/11/1924.

Building permit issued to Robert Batts to construct an attached garage, 3/25/1940.