

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JANUARY 27, 2020  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2019-0714  
3304 E 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1965 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story Ranch clad in stone veneer. The house has a side-gabled roof with deep eaves, a covered carport, and half-height aluminum casement windows at the main elevation.

**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1965 for Theodore and Pauline Thompson. Theo “Booster” Thompson worked as a sexton at St. David’s Episcopal Church, and was also a gospel musician for two successful quartets. He sang as a tenor with the Royal Lights Singers, who performed at the first Kerrville Folk Festival alongside headliners from 1972 to 1977, and the Bells of Joy, made famous by radio personality and musician Lavada Durst in the 1940s and ‘50s. The Royal Lights produced two albums with Sonobeat Records before creating their own label, Royal, based in the house next door to Thompson’s. Thompson held multiple offices in the Quartet Association and served as a deacon at Del Valle Missionary Baptist Church, where his wife Pauline also served as deaconess.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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*Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (Land Development Code, Section 25-2-352). The property may demonstrate significance according to one criterion:
  - a) *Architecture*. The house is constructed with Ranch and Mid-Century Modern stylistic influences.
  - b) *Historical association*. The house does not appear to meet the criterion for significant historical association; however, the Commission may wish to consider Thompson’s contributions to the Austin gospel music community when evaluating significance.
  - 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**

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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.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0714  
3304 E 17TH STREET

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*



*Sources: Realtor.com, 2019; Historic Preservation Office, 2020*



*Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, Austin History Center, December 2019

- 1992 Theodore and Pauline Thompson, owners  
Building superintendent, St. David's Episcopal Church
- 1985-86 Theodore and Pauline Thompson, owners  
Building superintendent, St. David's Episcopal Church
- 1981 Theodore and Pauline Thompson, owners  
Sexton, St. David's Episcopal Church
- 1977 Theodore and Pauline Thompson, owners  
Sexton, St. David's Episcopal Church
- 1973 Theodore and Pauline Thompson, owners  
Sexton, St. David's Episcopal Church
- 1968 Theodore and Pauline Thompson, owners  
Sexton, St. David's Episcopal Church
- 1965 Address not listed

*Biographical Information*

## Obituary for Pauline Thompson

Pauline Harvey was born on May 20, 1932 to Paul and Elizabeth (Fleming) Harvey in Austin, Texas. She confessed a hope in Christ at a young age and was a life -long member of the Del Valle Missionary Baptist Church. There she served as deaconess , usher, and was a member of the women's mission group. Pauline attended Austin and Del Valle public schools. She also attended evening classes at a business college, where math was her favorite subject.

On February 15, 1951, Pauline married Theo Thompson (deceased). Their union was blessed with five daughters. They were married for 65 plus years and always celebrated anniversaries, holidays, and birthdays together as a family.

She was a faithful wife and a loving mother, taking care of her children while managing the home in which they lived. Pauline loved God, serving in the church , and helping others. She was a faithful member until her health declined. She taught her daughters about faith in God, to cook, sew, and to be respectful and fashionable women. Some of her favorite pastimes were gardening, sewing, fishing, cooking, reading, traveling, visiting relatives, and family friends. She loved gospel music, country music, watching sports , and western movies. Pauline was active in her community and a mother figure to many of the young people in her neighborhood. To this day, she is mom to many of her daughter's friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents Paul and Elizabeth, and her husband Theo.

She leaves to cherish her memory five daughters, Carolyn T. Arnold, Janet T. Fontenette, Deborah T. Chambers, Elaine Thompson, and Jhaki T. Sterling (Ricky), all of Austin. Sisters Eva Louise Hill of San Antonio, Texas and Bobbie Jean Hutchinson of Mountain View, California, 6 grandchildren, 11 great -grandchildren, 1 great -great grandchild and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

*Obituary for Pauline Thompson, 6-10-2018.*

*Source:* <https://www.alcbf.com/obituaries/Pauline-Thompson-7/#!/Obituary>

## Obituary for Theo (Booster) Thompson

Theo was born on July 5, 1932 to Isreal and Willie Lee Thompson in Del Valle, Texas. Theo professed a hope in Christ and was baptized at a young age. He was a lifelong member of Del Valle Missionary Baptist Church where he served as a deacon until God called him home. He attended Garfield and Del Valle public schools.

Theo was a family man always working hard to make sure he provided for his family. He was a generous and caring main, helping those in need, instilling in his children to remember those less fortunate and to live Godly lives.

He loved God and loved singing His praises. Theo was preparing to sing praises to God when God chose to call him to his heavenly choir. He was a praying man, a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to many. Family was very important to him and always came together for birthdays, anniversaries and holidays.

Theo had many hobbies, you could find him sitting in his recliner watching baseball and football on any given day. He loved fishing, cooking, gardening, tinkering around the house and spending time with his family. One of his greatest joys was singing songs of praise at Sunday Gospel Brunches held at Threadgill's and Stubbs Barbecue. He was well respected throughout his neighborhood and his presence will be greatly missed. He began singing in church at a young age and continued his passion as a member of The Royal Lights (early 60's – 2001) and The Bells of Joy (2001-2016). He served as a past president and was currently serving as treasurer for The Quartet Association. His praises to the Lord through song will forever ring in our hearts.

Theo's employment includes working for the State and Paramount Theatres, Saint David's Episcopal Church and for the Horton and Frasher families where he worked for many years.

On February 15, 1951 Theo married Pauline Harvey and to this union they were blessed with five daughters.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 65+ years, Pauline Thompson. His children, Carolyn Thompson-Arnold, Janet Fontenette, Deborah Chambers, Elaine Thompson, and Jhaki Sterling (Ricky), all of Austin. Sisters Margaret, Helen, Mildred (Ernest), brothers Albert, Bill (Leona) and Harold (Carlotta), 6 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Isreal and Willie Lee, brothers, Michael, Lorenzo, Isreal, Lee Edward, L. J., Nathan, Leroy and sister Bobbie Nell.

God blessed Theo with a well lived life, the days of his years were better than Three Score and Ten.

*Obituary for Theo Thompson, 10-6-2016. Source: <https://www.alcbf.com/obituaries/Theo-Thompson/#!/Obituary>*

## Kerrville Festival Performers To Provide Contrasting Styles

KERRVILLE — Among the contrasting groups on the 1973 Kerrville Folk Festival are four representing bluegrass, contemporary folk and gospel music. The performers are the Bluegrass Ramblers from LaPorte, The Threadgills family singers, Ewing Street Times and the Royal Light Singers, all appearing at the festival May 24-28 during the Texas State Arts and Crafts Fair.

Previously announced by festival producer Rod Kennedy as appearing at the festival this year are B. W. Stevenson, Carolyn Hester, Dick Barrett, Townes Van Zant, Michael Murpley, Robert Shaw, Allen Damron, Jerry Jeff Walker, Bill and Bonnie Hearne, Peter Yarrow, Kenneth Threadgill, Mance Lipscomb and Steve Fromholz.

The Bluegrass Ramblers, lead by Johnny Martin, have played traditional Bluegrass music as a group for 10 years with their five members playing fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar and bass. They are on three other music festivals this year including the Milano Festival (April), Thompson's Festival at Kilgore (July) and Grant's Hugo, Oklahoma, Festival (August) and have a good following throughout Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri.

The Threadgills, a family of nine children ranging in age from six to 22, and backed by additional musicians, will be opening the first concert of the 1973 Kerrville Folk Festival at 8:30 p.m. on the night of Thursday, May 24, at Kerrville Municipal Auditorium. They will be performing all original music composed by members of their family.

The Threadgills, together for

four years professionally, have performed for as many as 5,000 rodeo fans and have made personal appearances for former Governor Preston Smith, U.S. Senator John G. Tower and stars like Jose Greco, Anita Bryant, Bob Hope and Carlos Montoya.

Ewing Street Times originated in Chicago five years ago and spent two years in Florida and two years in Kansas City before making Texas its home base. Lead guitarist Michael Mashkes, who describes himself as a Jewish cowboy, began his career as a child singer, and plays pedal steel guitar as well as bass. Dallasite John Vandiver, guitarist-singer-writer, was a well-known single on the midwest folk circuit before joining the foursome. Bassist "Shake" Russell of Independence, Mo., is a prolific song writer and guitarist who has a hauntingly beautiful voice. Drummer Billy Bucher, most recent addition to the group is from Iowa and has a background in classical, experimental and rock music.

The Royal Light Singers, a black gospel group of seven, were founded 20 years ago in Austin and features Willie Franklin (soprano and lead guitar) backed by tenors Theo Thompson, Perkins Alexander, Robert Chambers, and George Whitfield, bass player and baritone singer Sylvester Thompson and drummer Loyd Gumms. They have three recordings on the Sono Beat label and have performed at

dozens of Texas churches. The folk festival will be one of their rare personal appearances at a secular event.

Complete festival information regarding concert schedules daytime free events at the Texas State Arts and Craft Fair, ticket prices and accommodations in the Kerrville area may be obtained by visiting the festival ticket office, 6615 N. Lamar in Austin, Sears or the University Co-Op.

*The Austin Statesman; Apr 30, 1973*



# Del Norte

**RESTAURANT**

710 JUNCTION HIGHWAY    KERRVILLE

HOURS DAILY  
6AM-10PM  
257-3337



Chas. Scheiner Bank  
KERRVILLE, TEXAS

'WE KNOW AND SERVE  
THE HILL COUNTRY BEST ...

WE SHOULD BECAUSE WE'VE  
BEEN HERE SINCE 1869

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## 1973 KERRVILLE FOLK FESTIVAL EVENING CONCERTS

* 8:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 24	8:30 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 25	6:00 P.M. EARLY CONCERT 10:00 P.M. LATE CONCERT SATURDAY, MAY 26	8:30 P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 27
<b>THE THREADGILLS</b> <b>STEVE FROMHOLZ</b> <b>EWING STREET TIMES</b> <b>BOBBY BRIDGER</b> <b>WILLIE NELSON</b>	<b>TIMBERLINE ROSE</b> <b>SUNNY SCHULMAN</b> <b>KENNETH THREADGILL</b> <b>BLUEGRASS RAMBLERS</b> <b>PETER YARROW</b>	<b>BILL &amp; BONNIE HEARNE</b> <b>JERRY JEFF WALKER</b> <b>ALLEN DAMRON</b> <b>ROBERT SHAW</b> <b>MICHAEL MURPHEY</b>	<b>TOWNES VAN ZANDT</b> <b>BIG BILL MOSS</b> <b>DICK BARRETT</b> <b>ROYAL LIGHT SINGERS</b> <b>CAROLYN HESTER</b> <b>B. W. STEVENSON</b>

\* Opening night of the festival is co-sponsored by KERV Radio and The Kerrville Daily Times and dedicated to the people of Kerrville. The Festival's evening concerts are being recorded by PSG RECORDING STUDIOS of Austin for a Festival LP Album . . . no private recording of any kind is authorized please.

As a courtesy to those seated near you, we ask you to refrain from smoking during the concert. NO FLASH PHOTOS, PLEASE.



Providing the link between the Kerrville Folk Festival's performers and their audience—SHURE SOUNDS SYSTEMS from STRAIT MUSIC COMPANY—



(Austin's exclusive SHURE dealer.)

908 N. Lamar AUSTIN, TEXAS

1973 Kerrville Folk Festival schedule. Source: <http://www.happenstance-music.com/kff-programs.html>



1971 45 single featuring Thompson's tenor. Source: <https://sonobeatrecords.com/royal-lights-singers.html>



*45 produced by the Royal Lights Singers' own label (date unknown) featuring Thompson's vocals.*

*The label's address indicates it was based at the house next door to 3304 E 17<sup>th</sup>.*

*Source: <https://www.discogs.com/Royal-Lights-Singers-Come-Out-The-Wildness-/release/9764781>*



*Thompson appears second from left in this photo commemorating the Royal Lights Singers' 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The group now performs as the Sensational Royal Lights.*

*Source: <https://www.gigsalad.com/the-sensational-royal-lights-austin>*



## Building Permits

OWNER M. T. Powell ADDRESS 3304 East 17th Street  
 PLAT 252 LOT 14 BLK B  
 SUBDIVISION McKinley Hgts. Terrace  
 OCCUPANCY Residence  
 BLD PERMIT # 97440 DATE 10-11-65 OWNERS ESTIMATE 9,000.00  
 CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES 10  
 WATER TAP REC # 45050 SEWER TAP REC # 45058  
Frame & Brick Veneer Residence with Attached Carport &  
Storage 1374 sq.ft.

Building permit, 10-11-65

PLOTTED  
 Nov 9 1965  
 BY ABW

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT  
 Austin, Texas

Nº 45058

Received of M. T. Powell Date 10-11-65  
 Address 3304 E. 17th St.  
 Amount \$17.61  
 Builder or Owner owner Plumber Warren  
 Lot 14 Block 11 Subdivision McKinley Hgts. Terrace Plat No. 252  
 Date of Connection 10-27-65  
 By City 13' S of NLL  
 By Plumber SELVERA  
 Checked By SELVERA  
 Size Main 8" Depth 7 1/2'  
 Main Assign. 20' W of E. 17th  
 Stub Depth 5' Prop. Line 2 1/2'  
 Stub Location 13' S of NLL  
 Book No. A-5274 IN LORETO DRIVE  
 Paving Cut 6.10-25-65 No. 271

No. Fittings	Size	Price
1	8" Pipe	2.25
1	8" Wyes	
1	8" Bends	
1	8" Reducers	
1	8" Plugs	
1	8" Sand	
1	8" Gravel	
1	8" Remix	
1	8" Stoppers	
1	8" Castings	
1	8" Other	
1	8" TAP	1.00
1	8" Labor	1.00
1	8" TRUCK	1.50
1	8" FOREMAN	2.40
1	8" Total	17.61

OWNER KNOWS OF EASEMENT ON LOT AND WILL NOT HAVE HOUSE OVER EASEMENT.

Sewer tap permit, 10-12-65

WATER SERVICE PERMIT  
 Austin, Texas

Nº 45050

Received of M. T. Powell Date 10-12-65  
 Address 3304 E. 17th St.  
 Amount \$7.00  
 Plumber owner Size of Tap 1/2"  
 Date of Connection 10-27-65  
 Size of Tap Made 1/2"  
 Size Service Made 1/2"  
 Size Main Tapped 1/2"  
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'  
 From N Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'  
 Location of Meter CURB (5. METRE)  
 Type of Box TWO WAY  
 Depth of Main in St. 1'  
 Depth of Service Line 1'  
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 1'  
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 10-28-65

No. Fittings	Size	Price
1	1/2" Pipe	1.00
1	1/2" Corp. Cock	1.00
1	1/2" Cop. to Iron ell	1.00
1	1/2" Cop. to Cop. ell	1.00
1	1/2" Cop. to Iron Coupling	1.00
1	1/2" Cop. to Cop. Coupling	1.00
1	1/2" Angle Stop	1.00
1	1/2" Stop	1.00
1	1/2" Bushing	1.00
1	1/2" Nipples	1.00
1	1/2" Service Clamp	1.00
1	1/2" Valve	1.00
1	1/2" Meter Box	1.00
1	1/2" Lock Lid	1.00
1	1/2" Drain Tile	1.00
1	1/2" Drain Tile Lid	1.00
1	1/2" Stop & Drain	1.00
1	1/2" Job No. 82132300-502	1.00
1	1/2" Foreman	1.00

RESIDENTIAL WATER

Water tap permit, 10-12-65