PROPOSAL
Demolish a ca. 1965 house.

ARCHITECTURE
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
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

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
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

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 man, 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 (Emest), brothers Albert, Bill
(Leona) and Harold (Carolotta), 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,

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 Murphy, 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 Milho 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 21, 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 4,000 people 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 Maskes, who describes himself as a Jewish cowboy, began his career as a child singer, and plays pedal steel guitar as well as bass. Dallastie 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 Burhak, 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 Thos. Thompson, Perkins Alexander, Robert Chambers, and George Whiffen, bass player and baritone singer Sylvester Thompson and drummer Loyd Gumm. 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 Crafts 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

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 17th.


Thompson appears second from left in this photo commemorating the Royal Lights Singers’ 67th anniversary. The group now performs as the Sensational Royal Lights.

Source: https://www.gigsalad.com/the_sensational_royal_lights_austin
### Building Permits

**Owners:** M. Powell  
**Address:** 3304 E. 17th Street

**Subdivision:** McKinley Hts. Terrace  
**Occupancy:** Residence

**Building Permit #:** 97160  
**Date:** 10-11-65  
**Owners:**  
**Contractor:**  
**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

**Sanitary Sewer Service Permit**

- Austin, Texas  
- No.: 45058

| Plotter: By  
| Address: 3304 E. 17th St.  
| Amount:  
| Builder or Owner:  
| Lot: 1  
| Block: 14  
| Subdivision: McKinley Hts. Terrace  
| Date of Connection: 10-27-65  
| By City:  
| By Plumber:  
| Checked By:  
| Size Main: 8"  
| Depth: 74'  
| Main Assign.:  
| Sub Depth:  
| Sub Location: 13' S of NLL  
| Book No.: A-5274  
| Paving Cut:  
| Plat No.: 858  
| Total: [Details]

#### Sewer Tap Permit, 10-12-65

**Water Service Permit**

- Austin, Texas  
- No.: 45050

| Address: 3304 E. 17th St.  
| Amount:  
| Plumber:  
| Size of Tap:  
| Size of Service Made:  
| Size Main Tapped:  
| From Front Prop. Line to Tub Cock:  
| Depth of Main in St.:  
| Depth of Service:  
| From Tub Cock to Main:  
| Checked by Engr.:  

**Water Tap Permit, 10-12-65**

- No.: 45058

| Address: 3304 E. 17th St.  
| Amount:  
| Plumber:  
| Size of Tap:  
| Size of Service Made:  
| Size Main Tapped:  
| From Front Prop. Line to Tub Cock:  
| Depth of Main in St.:  
| Depth of Service:  
| From Tub Cock to Main:  
| Checked by Engr.:  

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**D. 5-9**