HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JANUARY 27, 2020  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2019-0698  
609 HEARN STREET  

PROPOSAL
Demolish a ca. 1914 house.

ARCHITECTURE
One-story rectangular-plan house with Cumberland-style double doors. It is clad in horizontal wood siding with paired 1:1 wood windows. Its hipped roof is covered with composition shingles.

RESEARCH
The house at 609 Hearn Street was built around 1914 by William W. Hearn and his wife Ellen. William Washington Hearn was born on February 22, 1888 to homebuilder and firefighter John L. Hearn and dressmaker Aurelia Mills Hearn. William Hearn's childhood home at 902 Blanco Street was designated a historic landmark in 2005 based upon its architecture and association with John and Aurelia Hearn, middle-class entrepreneurs who contributed to Austin's growth at the turn of the twentieth century.

After his father's death, William Hearn followed in his footsteps and worked as a carpenter to support the family alongside his siblings, also craftspeople. By 1914, he had moved to the Deep Eddy area. The street was named for the Hearn family, who occupied three adjacent addresses at 605, 607, and 609. William and his brother Claude married sisters Ellen and Alice Johnson and constructed similarly-styled homes next door to each other. Ellen and Alice's family lived two blocks away on Dam Boulevard (now Lake Austin Boulevard) and Johnson Street, apparently named for the Johnson family. William Hearn was active in the carpenters' union and ran for public office at least once during his lifetime. William and Ellen Hearn had three children; their son Norman G. Hearn, who briefly occupied the second unit at 609 Hearn St. with his wife Dorothy, was killed in World War II in 1945.

After William Hearn's death in 1964, his nephew Calvin E. Hearn and Calvin's wife June M. Hearn occupied the home. Calvin Hearn's childhood home was next door at 607 Hearn, and during the late 1940s and '50s, he occupied the garage apartment at 605 Hearn. Calvin, like his uncle, learned his father's trade as a bricklayer and ran for public office on a platform of working-class values. June Marie Frels Hearn occupied the home until her death in 2011. The home remained in the Hearn family for 105 years until its sale in 2019.

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 two criterion:
   a) Architecture. The building is a National Folk house with Cumberland-style double doors, uncommon elements which are becoming increasingly rare.
   b) Historical association. While the elder generation of the Hearn family has already been honored by the designation of 902 Blanco, the Commission may wish to consider the combined contributions of the younger Hearns, with respect to their unusually tight-knit familial ties to the Deep Eddy area.
   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**

Strongly 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. While the home is significant for its association with the Hears, and would be considered a contributing building if a surrounding historic district were proposed in Deep Eddy, it does not rise to the level of architectural significance as the Hearn home at 902 Blanco Street.
PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos

Sources: Historic Preservation Office, 2020; Google Street View, 2019
Occupancy History
City Directory Research, Austin History Center, January 2020

1992  Calvin E. and June Hearn, owners
      Retired

1985-86 Calvin E. and June Hearn, owners
        Retired

1981  Calvin E. and June Hearn, owners
        Retired

1977  Calvin E. and June Hearn, owners
        Brick mason

1973  Calvin E. and June Hearn, owners
        Brick mason

1968  A. Vacant
      B. Larry Wynn, renter

1965  A. R.F. Peterson, renter
      B. Ellen Hearn, owner
      Wid. Wm. W.

1962  A. Donald and Sheila Eaton, renters
      Salesman, Wholesale Electronics
      B. William W. and Ella Hearn, owners

1959  A. Tom J. and Mary Rich, renters
      Agent, E.T. Morris Insurance
      B. William W. and Ella Hearn, owners

1955  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1952  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1949  A. Joe A. Parris, renter
      Salesman, Paul Fuller Co.
      B. William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1947  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter, Fulcher Burgher

1944-45 William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
       Carpenter

1941  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
       Carpenter

1939  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
       Carpenter

1937  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
       Carpenter

1935  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
       Carpenter
1932-33  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
          Carpenter
          Seamstress, EMS & Sons
Norman G. and Dorothy Hearn, renters
No occupation listed
Bookkeeper, Steck Company

1927  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1924  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1922  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1920  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1918  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1916  William W. and Ellen Hearn, owners
      Carpenter

1914  Address not listed
      William W. Hearn, carpenter, listed as resident 1 block north of West 6th Street, opposite
      the Deep Eddy Boat Club.

1912  William W. Hearn, carpenter, listed at 902 Blanco with mother and siblings.

Biographical Information

*WILLIAM W. HEARN*
Funeral services for William Washington, Hearn were held
Wednesday at the Cook Funeral Home with Rev. William P.
Caldwell officiating. Burial was in Austin Memorial Park.
Pallbearers were Calvin Hearn, John Ward, Garey Zim-
mernan, Davis Zimmerman, Leonard Johnson and Edward
Johnson.

*MRS. ELLEN J. HEARN*
Funeral services for Mrs. El-
en J. Hearn were held Thurs-
day at Cook Funeral Home
with Rev. William P. Caldwell
officiating. Burial was in Aus-
tin Memorial Park.
Pallbearers were Gary Zim-
mernan, David Zimmerman,
Edward Johnson, Randolph
Johnson, Calvin Hearn and Dan-
ny Smith.

Calvin Eugene Hearn passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, on Saturday, September 8, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. He was born in Austin on January 10, 1925, to Claude and Alice Hearn and lived for the last 38 years of his life in the house on Hearn St. which was built by his uncle and stood next-door to his boyhood home. He was very proud of being a fourth-generation Austinite. Many of his working years were spent as a brick mason, and he liked to point out numerous buildings around town that he had worked on. When illness forced him to retire early, he spent much of his time perusing garage sales where he made many friends amongst the other bargain hunters. Calvin was a very intelligent, honest, forthright, and fiercely independent man who will be greatly missed by many. He was preceded in death by his parents and his older brother Claude Hearn. Survivors include his beloved wife of 62 years, June Hearn; daughters, Kathy Boyer, Carol Ciccone, and Linda Hearn; son, Wayne Hearn and his wife Kathy; sons-in-law, Herb Boyer and Kevin Wylie; grandchildren, Jason and Christina Boyer, Jeff Wylie, and John and William Hearn; great-grandchildren, Taylor and Madison Eppard, and Hannah and Hayden Boyer; brother, Leslie Hearn and his wife Jean; sister-in-law, Mildred Hearn; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Funeral services will be held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. The family would like to thank Dr. John Doty for his many years of compassionate care, and the staff of Hospice Austin and his caregivers from Angel Healthcare for making his last weeks more comfortable. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Hospice Austin or a charity of your choice.

Obituary for Calvin E. Hearn.

June Marie Hearn, age 84, of Austin, Texas, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on Monday February 21, 2011. She was born on August 16, 1926 in Yoakum Texas to John & Ella Frels. In 1945, she met and married her husband of 62 years, Calvin Eugene Hearn. They resided most of their lives on Hearn Street in Austin where they lovingly raised their four children Kathy, Carol, Wayne, and Linda. June was retired from the University of Texas where she worked at the Petroleum Extension Service for 15 years. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Calvin; sisters, Ethel Gustwick, Anne Brown, and Dorothy Blackwell; and brother John Frels. She is survived by daughters, Kathy Boyer, Carol Ciccone, Linda Hearn; son, Wayne Hearn; daughter-in-law, Kathy Hearn; sons-in-law, Herb Boyer, Kevin Wylie and Luke George; grandchildren, Jason Boyer, Christina Jellison and husband Jared, Jeff Wylie and John and William Hearn; great grandchildren, Taylor and Madison Eppard, and Hannah and Hayden Boyer. Family and friends were always the most important thing in June's life. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice Austin or St. Martins Lutheran Church. Funeral services will be held Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., at St. Martins Lutheran Church. 4435 Frontier Trail Austin, TX 78745 (512) 443-1366

Obituary for June Marie Frels Hearn.
Source: https://www.harrellfuneralhomes.com/obituary/316978/June-Hearn/
W. W. Hearn, 609 Hearn Street, announced his candidacy for constable of precinct three, Saturday, subject to the action of the democratic primaries.

Mr. Hearn, in making the announcement, said that he was born in and had been reared in Travis County. He is a carpenter by trade and has belonged to the union for about 25 years. His family is composed of his wife and two children, the children having received their education in Austin public schools. Mr. Hearn is 48. He has been a taxpayer of Austin and Travis county for many years.

According to his friends, Mr. Hearn is well acquainted with the business men of Austin.

"In seeking the office of constable of precinct three, I pledge the use of all my efforts in seeing that the law is enforced fairly, if elected." Mr. Hearn says in his announcement, "I wish to take this news story as a vehicle to personally ask all those living in precinct three to give me their vote in the coming election."

Mr. Hearn's friends state that he is open minded and well qualified to hold the office for which he is running. An active campaign for his election will be made by his friends. Mr. Hearn will also participate in a drive for votes, based on his personal qualification to hold office. His friends say that he believes in fairness and square dealing in every respect.

"I am making this race at the invitation of many of my friends," Mr. Hearn says.

Mr. Hearn says that Hearn Street, on which he lives, was named after his family.
Union Labor Notes

Labor Day will be a banner day for Austin and Central Texas, judging from the plans announced by the general Labor Day celebration committee of some 50 active members of Austin organized labor.

In addition to the mammoth parade, in which all business firms, civic organizations, city, county and state officials and employees are invited to participate, a day filled with fun and frolic for young and old, will be the order of the day at Barton Springs, ending with a big dance at night.

A $50 cash prize will be given for the best float in the parade and all who wish to enter a float are to telephone H. K. Daniel, 2-2108.

A spirited contest between a number of ladies, one of which will be elected Labor Day Queen, will be one of the features of the day.

The queen will lead the parade on a float. Each local union has been requested to appoint a young lad from among the families of that local as a contestant.

At Zilker Park, a speaker will deliver the Labor Day address.

A riot of fun will be the donkey baseball game.

There will also be a bathing beauty review for ladies and another one for men--ladies will be judges of the men's review.

For the children, there will be numerous games, all of which will carry prizes. The city recreation department has agreed to co-operate in the celebration.

W. W. (Bill) Hearn was elected parade marshal and he will be assisted by 50 members of as many locals.

The steering committee of five ladies and men will appoint all of the sub-committees to look after the details at their next meeting when actual work for the celebration will be in full swing.

Instead of the regular program that is usually published for Labor Day celebrations, a special tabloid section of the American-Stateman will be published Sunday, Sept. 1.

Further announcements of entertainments will be made from time to time.

Tailors' Union Activity Here Increases

At the regular meeting of the journeymen tailors' union last Monday, additional members were obligated to hold their record of not holding a meeting without obligating new members.

It was reported that a number of new firms will sign the union agreement before the next meeting.

The firms that are signing are showing their willingness to work hand in hand with the employees to raise the standards of the industry in Austin.

The next meeting will be held at the Labor Temple, 10th and Mission streets, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

Gillespies Return From Galveston

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Gillespie have returned from a vacation to Galveston. Mr. Gillespie is the secretary-treasurer of the lathers union.

Addresses on Labor Planned Here

The Austin Trades Council has completed arrangements to have Dr. William States Jacobs of Houston for a series of lectures on labor at Woodrige Park July 20, 21 and 22.

Dr. Jacobs was pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Houston for a number of years. He is an ardent supporter of organized labor.

He has a number of close personal friends in Austin who will be invited to appear on the platform each night.

His coming will be advertised in advance and many are expected to hear him speak. Loud speaker equipment will be installed.

The Austin American: Jul 5, 1936.
Pvt. N. G. Hearn
Killed in Germany

Pvt. N. G. Hearn, 29, was killed in action April 8 in Germany, according to information received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hearn of 600 Hearn street.

He had been in the army about three years and overseas about two months. Before entering the service he was employed by Sherwin-Williams Paint company.

Other survivors are his widow, Mrs. Ruth Hearn of High; two daughters, Keren Hearn of High and Gale Hearn of Althemer, Ark., and a sister, Mrs. Steve Zimmerman of San Antonio.

Obituary

Pallbearers were Robert Francis, E. B. Howell, Jim Lockwood, Lieutenant Arian Clark, Captain John Bierwirth, Marshall Hubbell, S. Ed Smartt, C., C. Epriqht, Paul Bowman and W. A. Minke.

MRS. JANE E. CORNELIUS

Funeral services for Mrs. Jane E. Cornelius, 68, were conducted at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home Monday. The Rev. L. R. Cole officiated and burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers were John Gould, Jr., John W. Glass, Alvin Johnson, Robert Johnson, J. Bryant Tucker and Edward Fannihill, all nephews.

NORMAN G. HEARN

The body of Private Norman G. Hearn will arrive in Austin Tuesday afternoon. Hearn was born in Austin Sept. 10, 1915, and was killed in Germany April 8, 1945.

Funeral services will be held at the Cook Funeral Home Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. with Dr. Daniel Grieder officiating. Burial will be with full military honors, with graveside services directed by Major Horace H. Shelton. Adolph Hohertz, commander of American Legion Post No. 76 will act as chaplain and Verner Stohl will sound taps. Burial will be in Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Edwin Hearn, Claude E. Hearn, Calvin Hearn, Leslie Hearn, Albert Harris and C. A. Clayton.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Ruth Hearn of Paris, Texas; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hearn of Austin; two daughters, Karen and Gayle Hearn of Austin, and a sister, Mrs. Steve Zimmerman of San Antonio.

MRS. MAGGIE E. MONTGOMERY

Funeral services for Mrs. Maggie E. Montgomery were held Monday afternoon at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. E. L. Sparks officiating. Burial was in Memorial Park.

DANIEL F. ORTEGA

Funeral services for Private First Class Daniel F. Ortega were held Monday afternoon at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. E. Z. Bello of Houston officiating. Burial was with full military honors, with the graveside services under the direction of Major Horace H. Shelton. Adolph Hohertz, commander of American Legion Post No. 76 acted as chaplain and Verner Stohl sounded taps. Pallbearers were Raul Guerrero, Ananias Perez, Elias Ruiz, Victor Avelia, Charles Hernandez, Henry Dominguez of San Antonio. Burial was in Memorial Park.

Building permit notice for Calvin E. Hearn's childhood home next door to 609 Hearn St. The Austin Statesman and Tribune; Nov 6, 1915.
### Building Permits

#### Water Service Permit

- **W. W. Hearn**
- **Address:** 609 Bearne Street

**Permit Details:**
- **Date:** 6-28-38
- **Number:** 10615
- **Plumber:** Jno. L. Martin
- **Amount:** $2.50

**Water tap permit, 6-28-38**

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<th>Size Service Made</th>
<th>Size Main Tapped</th>
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<td>1/2</td>
<td>3/4</td>
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**Checked by Eng. Dept.:** 6-28-38

- **W. W. Hearn**
- **Water tap permit, 6-28-38**

**Chas. Johnson**

- **Glassed porch addition to rear of res.**
- **Res. No.:** 54606
- **Permit for addition, 8-1-53**
- **Owner:**
- **Permit for addition, 8-1-53**