

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 27, 2020
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
NRD-2020-0017
1500 WOOLDRIDGE ROAD
OLD WEST AUSTIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

PROPOSAL

Replace all windows, alter the entrance, relocate and replace garage doors, and remove rear-facing exterior stairs and small attached closet.

ARCHITECTURE

2-story irregular-plan house clad in masonry and lap siding. Features include 6-over-6 wood-sash and casement vinyl-sash windows, a masonry chimney, and a covered porch and 2-story attached garage at the rear, facing Stark Place.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The project has four parts:

- 1) Replace all windows with 6-over-6 clad-wood windows;
- 2) Enlarge and replace the front entrance from a single door with sidelights to paired multi-lite clad-wood doors;
- 3) Replace two garage doors with one double-with roll-up paneled metal garage door; and
- 4) On the north (rear) wall, remove covered exterior stairs and a small attached closet at the ground floor.

RESEARCH

The house was constructed around 1937 by James G. and Ethel Umstattd, who lived there at least until 1970 with an interruption around 1949. In 1952 and 1959, the Umstattds shared the building with a renter in a rear unit.

Dr. James Greenleaf Umstattd was born in 1896 in Missouri. After finishing high school, James taught at a local school while he earned a B.S. in education from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College. He enrolled in the U.S. Navy during World War I. Afterwards, he worked as a high school teacher and supervisor in West Virginia, while earning his master's degree from the University of Missouri. He received a doctorate from the University of Minnesota, then moved to Detroit to teach at Wayne State University. In 1938, Greenleaf moved to Austin to teach in the University of Texas's School of Education, where he remained until 1972. During World War II, he took a one-year break to teach at Biarritz American University in France, returning to the U.S. in 1946. During his time at UT, Umstattd published at least five books and received a teaching excellence award from the UT Students' Association (1963). James Umstattd died in Austin in 1988.

Martha Ethel McNutt Umstattd was born around 1896 in Kentucky. She married James Umstattd in 1918; the couple had two sons. She was active in the Delta Gamma sorority alumni chapter, the University Ladies Club, and the Austin Woman's Club. Martha Umstattd died in Austin in 1970.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The house is a contributing property in the Old West Austin National Register Historic District. It does not appear to meet the standards for designation as a historic landmark.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building retains a moderate degree of integrity. An open front corner porch has been enclosed.
- 3) Properties must meet at least two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (City of Austin Land Development Code Section 25-2-352). The property does not appear to be significant under any criteria.
 - a. **Architecture.** The building does not appear to be architecturally significant.
 - b. **Historical association.** James and Martha (Ethel) Umstattd occupied the house for at least 40 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 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.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are used to evaluate projects in National Register historic districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

- 2) *The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.*
The project generally retains the property's historic character by preserving features, spaces, and spatial relationships. New windows will match existing windows in lite patterns. The changes proposed to the secondary and rear elevations will not adversely impact the property's historic character. The new entrance doors will enlarge the door width to one atypical of the historic period, but the project generally meets this standard.
- 5) *Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*
All windows will be replaced. The project does not meet this standard.
- 6) *Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive features, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials.*
Though the historic windows will be replaced, the lite patterns of the new windows will match that of the historic windows. The project somewhat meets this standard.

The proposed project somewhat meets the standards.

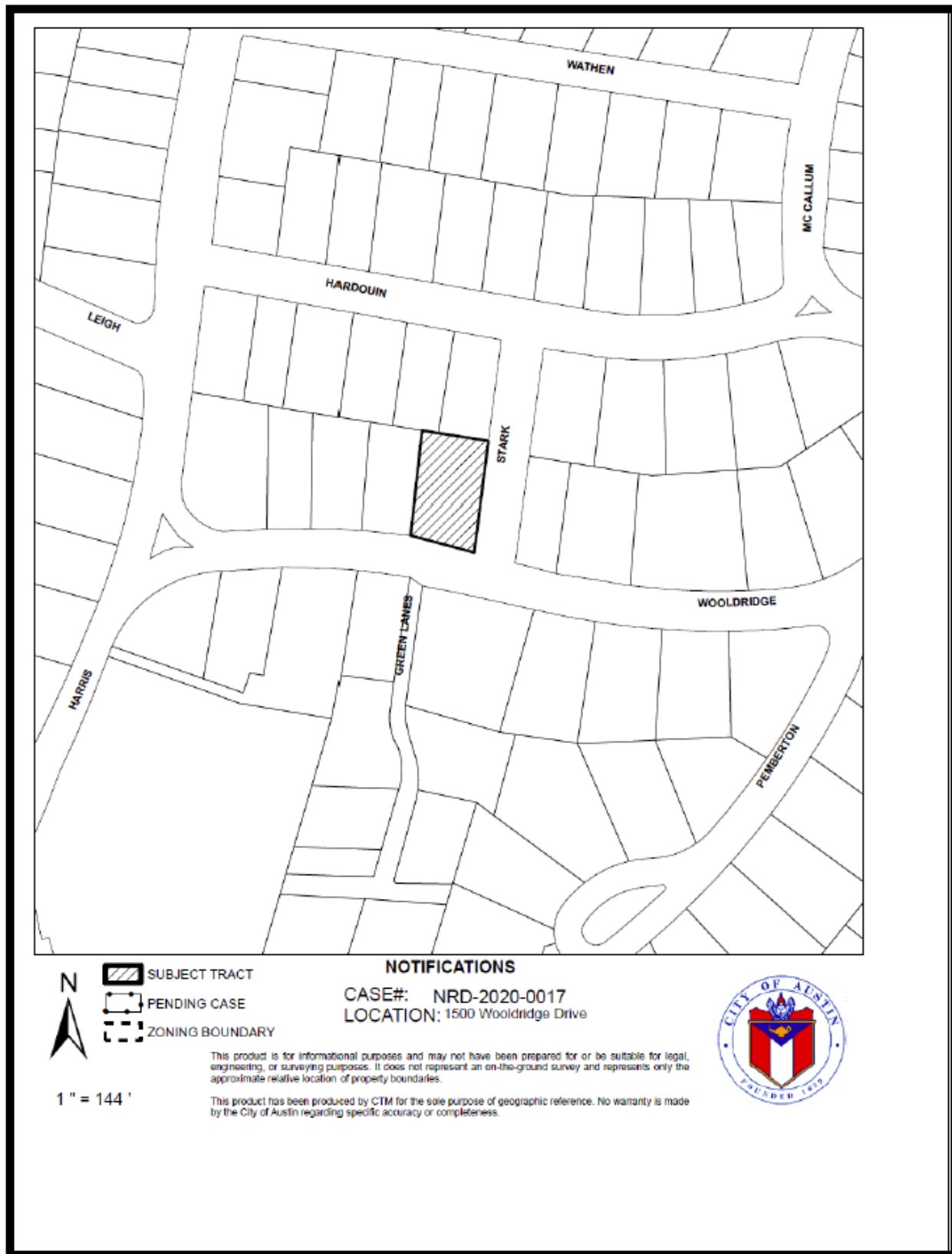
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not reviewed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the plans with the advisory recommendation that historic windows and the front door configuration and materials be retained.

LOCATION MAP



PROPERTY INFORMATION*Photos*

Primary (south) façade of 1500 Wooldridge Road. Source: Google Street View, March 2019.



East elevation, looking north. Source: Google Street View, March 2019.



East elevation. Source: Google Street View, March 2019.

Occupancy History

City directory research, Austin History Center
 By Historic Preservation Office staff
 April 2020

Note: Directory research available through 1959 only, due to library closure.

1937	Address not listed
1939	James G. and Ethel M. Umstattd, owners Professor, UT
1941	James G. and Ethel M. Umstattd + 1 child, owners Professor, UT
1944-45	James G. and Martha Umstattel, owners Professor, UT
1947	James G. and Martha Umstattd, renters Professor, UT
1949	Alvin W. and Dorothy Marchak, owners Student
1952	James G. and Ethel Umstattd, renters Professor, UT Fred Penick Jr. and Isabelle Penick, renters Student, UT (Fred); nurse, Benjamin R. Eppright (Isabelle)
1955	James G. and Catherine H. Umstattd, renters Professor, UT
1959	James G. and Ethel Umstattd, owners Professor, UT Rear: Donald I. Wood, renter Professor, UT

Background Research

As 'Ineffective, Obsolete': Lecture Use Hit
The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Feb 10, 1965;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
 pg. 45

As 'Ineffective, Obsolete'

Lecture Use Hit

A University of Texas professor who believes the lecture method is "ineffective and obsolete" may stir a lively discussion among college teachers.

Dr. James G. Umstattd, professor of curriculum and instruction, writes in his just published book, "College Teaching," that the lecture procedure was inherited from an authoritarian era and it "carries prestige as a dignified and respectable college teaching procedure. It is hoary with age." The University Press of Washington, D.C., is publisher.

"Democratic methods such as the student panel, the critical student report, the conference plan and other procedures which give the student the opportunity for self-expression are sometimes considered soft pedagogy by the professor who likes to be known as severe," Dr. Umstattd observes.

Dr. Umstattd energetically advocates independent study on the college student's part. Since conducting controlled experiments in independent study at the University of Minnesota over a five-year period, 1930-35, he has given his students freedom for independent reading and learning for the past 30 years.

He believes the key job of the college teacher is to use a positive approach and to show the value of the course and its significance to modern culture.

"The teacher must never use the negative, such as employing fear of low marks, threats or sarcasm. The student has to be the learner and he isn't going to learn unless he is motivated from within," Dr. Umstattd contends.

Dr. Umstattd, who received a teaching excellence award from the UT Students' Association in 1963, has taught a course on college teaching at the University for 15 years. He is the author of four other books dealing with problems of college instruction and administration: "Teaching Procedures in 28 Colleges and Universities," "Instructional Procedures at the College Level," "Institutional Teacher Placement" and "Student Self-Support at the College Level."

He has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Society of Arts (London), and has taught in the summers at Duke, Harvard, University of Southern California, University of Oregon and University of Minnesota.

"Lecture Use Hit," The Austin Statesman, 2/10/1965.

MRS. MARTHA UMSTATTD

Mrs. Martha Ethel McNutt Umstattd, 74, 1500 Wooldridge, died in a local hospital Wednesday. She was a member of the Christian Church.

Survivors are her husband, Dr. James G. Umstattd, Austin; sons, Mac Umstattd, Austin, and Dr. Robert G. Umstattd, Austin; sister, Miss Lillian McNutt, Hugo, Colo.; and sister-in-law, Mrs. Amy McNutt, San Antonio.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 4 p.m. at Central Christian Church with entombment in Memorial Hill Mausoleum. Dr. Mark Randle and Dr. John Barclay will officiate.

Death announcement for Martha Umstattd, The Austin Statesman, 1/7/1970.

Building Permits and Maps

158
2

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

E No 12402 158

INDEXED

Received of J. G. UMSTEAD Date 7-25-57

Address 1500 WOOLDRIDGE DR

Amount FORTY AND NO/100 \$ 40.00

Plumber GARBET Size of Tap 1 1/2"

Date of Connection 8-2-57

Size of Tap Made 1 1/2"

Size Service Made 1 1/2"

Size Main Tapped 6" C. I.

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 11'

From W. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 5'

Location of Meter Curb

Type of Box TWO WAY

Depth of Main in St. 2'

Depth of Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 4'

Checked by Engr. Dept. JUL 10-10-57

No. Fittings	Size
1 Corp. Cock	1 1/2"
1 Elbow	1 1/2" Cap. to IRON
1 Elbow	1 1/2" Corp. Cock
Bushing	
Reducer	
3 Pipe	1 1/2" Cap
Lead Comp	
12 Nipples	8 x 1 1/2"
1 Union	TILE
1 Plug	1" Lid
1 Plug	8 x 1 1/2" Service Clamps
Stop	
1 Box	TWO WAY
1 Lid	1"
1 Valves	1 1/2"
Job No.	W 323-700-502
Req. No.	

A. Powell

Water tap permit issued to J. G. Umstead, 9/26/1957.

Wm. Madden Hill 1500 Wooldridge Dr.

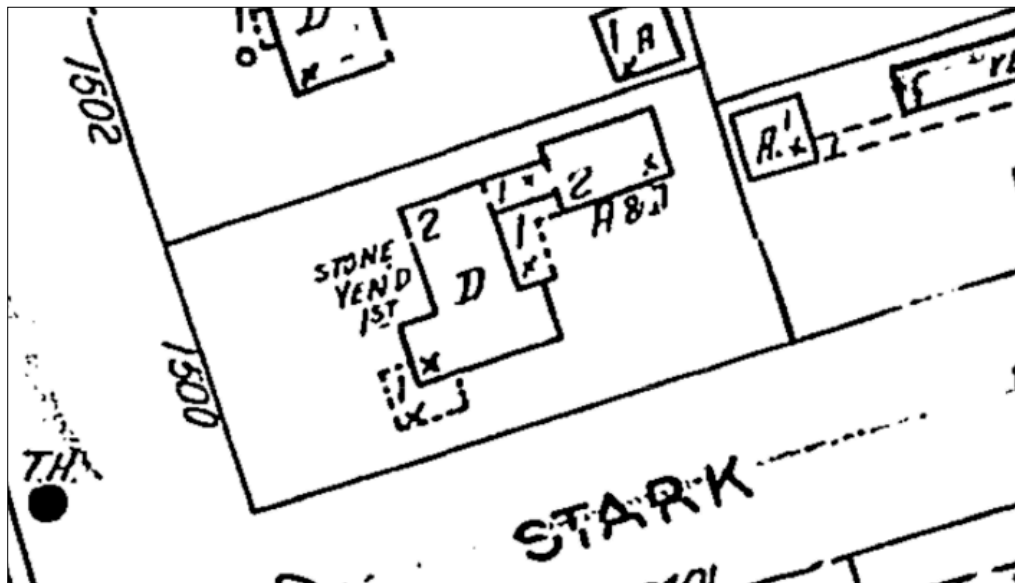
158 - 2 6 & 15' of 5 -

Pemberton Hgts.

2-story rock venner & frame res. with
garage integral
195N - 7-9-37

13

Building permit issued to William Madden Hill for a 2-story rock veneer wood-frame residence with an integral garage, 7/9/1937.



1961 Sanborn map showing open porch at front right corner and original 1-story hyphen connecting the house and garage.