

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 16, 2020
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
3711 CEDAR STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story house clad in horizontal wood siding with 1:1 screened windows; gabled roof with exposed rafter tails; and a partial-width, gable-roofed porch featuring wooden columns atop concrete bases.

RESEARCH

The building at 3711 Cedar Street was constructed around 1936. Its first owners, Elsie and Andrew Scardino, lived in the house for only three years; Andrew Scardino worked as a projectionist at the Harlem Theater, an African American theater at the corner of 12th and Salina Streets. By 1939, Alex and Hertha Melchior had purchased the house. Alex Melchior worked as a millman and cabinetmaker for the Calcasieu and Kuntz-Sternenburg Lumber Companies, as well as the business agent for a local chapter of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joisters.

From 1952 to at least 1957, the Melchiors' son Rudolph W. and his wife Mildred occupied 3711 Cedar Street. Rudolph W. Melchior worked as a mechanic for the City Filtration Plant, Tips Engine Works, and the University of Texas. By 1959, the elder Melchiors appear once again as the home's primary residents in city directories.

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 criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352).
 - a) *Architecture*. The house displays Craftsman-style influences.
 - b) *Historical association*. The house does not appear to have significant historical associations.
 - 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 appear to have significant community value.
 - 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

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" = 333'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2020-0430

LOCATION: 3711 CEDAR 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





Source: City Historic Preservation Office

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, 2020

Note: post-1959 research unavailable due to facility closure.

1959	Alex W. and Hertha G. Melchior, owners Cabinetmaker, Calcasieu Lumber
1957	Rudolph W. and Mildred Melchior, owners Laboratory mechanic, UT
1955	Rudolph W. and Mildred Melchior, owners Laboratory mechanic, UT
1952	Rudolph W. and Mildred Melchior, owners Pattern maker, Tips Engine Works
1949	Alex W. and Mildred Melchior, owners Laborer, City Filtration Plant
1947	<i>Address change to 3709 ½ Cedar Street</i> Alex W. and Hertha Melchior, owners Business agent, Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joisters No. 1751
1944-45	<i>3709 ½ Cedar Street:</i> Alex W. and Hertha Melchior, owners Millman, Kuntz-Sternenburg Lumber Co.
1941	<i>3709 ½ Cedar Street:</i> Alex W. and Hertha Melchior, owners Millman, Kuntz-Sternenburg Lumber Co.
1939	<i>3709 ½ Cedar Street:</i> Alex W. and Hertha Melchior, owners Cabinetmaker, Kuntz Lumber Co.
1937	Andrew and Elsie Scardino, owners Projectionist, Harlem Theater
1935	Address not listed

Biographical Information

ALEX MELCHIOR

Funeral services for Alex Melchior, 76, of 3711 Cedar St. will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Hytlin-Manor Funeral Home with Rev. William A. Trigg officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Hill Park.

Melchior died in a local hospital Monday. He was a retired employe of Calcasieu Lumber Co., a member of the Lutheran Church, a veteran of World War I, had been a resident of Austin since 1935, and was a member of the Sons of Hermann.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Hertha Melchior of Austin; one son, Rudolph Melchior of Austin; two brothers, Eugene Melchior, and Arthur Melchior, both of Oklahoma; two sisters, Mrs. Albert E. Krause of Austin and Mrs. R. O. Stuart of Baytown; and two grandsons, David Myron Melchior of Austin and Richard Melchior of Atlanta, Ga.

The Austin Statesman: Mar 7, 1972

Almost Miraculous What Gly-Cas Did For Mr. Melchior

Enjoys His Meals Without Distress
Afterwards, Sleeps Fine, Freed
Of Awful Aches and Pains
—After All Else Tried
Had Failed to Help
Him

"Gly-Cas gave me results I thought were impossible," said Mr. Alex W. Melchior, 1001 Eason Street, Austin, a well known gentleman of this city who has lived here a number of years, recently in talking with the Gly-Cas Man at the



MR. ALEX W. MELCHIOR

Brown & Odiorne Drug Store, 308 Congress Ave., where he is daily meeting the local public and receiving much praise and comment on the accomplishments of this valuable new remedy.

The Austin Statesman: Nov 20, 1936

Travis Lad Dies Here, Fourth '52 Polio Death

Eight-year-old Bobby Vaclavik lost his battle against polio Tuesday.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Vaclavik, Route 4, Box 37, Austin, Bobby was admitted to Brackenridge Hospital Sunday and placed in an iron lung Monday. He died shortly before noon Tuesday.

His was the third polio death in Austin and Travis County this year. The case also marked the fourth polio death at Brackenridge this year—including the three victims from within the county and a fourth from outside the county.

Five new polio cases, one from Austin and four from Central Texas, were reported by Brackenridge Hospital Wednesday.

The Austin polio patient was Richard Melchior, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph W. Melchior, 3711 Cedar Street. He was reported to be in fair condition.

The four non-county polio cases admitted to the polio ward were Gene Delany Meyers, 12-year-old daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Richard Meyers of Bastrop; Lynda Torress, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Torress, Box 335, Granger; Mrs. Donald J. Hurta, 23, wife of Daniel J. Hurta, Box 97, Taylor; and Judy Newquist, five-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lambert O. Newquist, of Elgin.

Young Melchior brings the city polio score for the year to 43 reported cases. Non-county polio patients treated at the city hospital since Jan. 1 now total 43.

No change was reported in the condition of Nat S. Perrine, retired brigadier general, who was placed in an iron lung Sunday. His condition was said to be serious.

The Austin Statesman: Jul 30, 1952

Postmen Got Idea, But Good

Three Austin postmen already know what Postmaster "O. N. Bruck means by "blazing curtains," for Fire Prevention Week came three weeks early for them.

The postmaster is sending letters to all postal employees Oct. 6-12 asking them to cooperate in National Fire Prevention Week. The first hazard mentioned in the letters is "curtains near gas stoves and kitchen ranges that can be blown into the flame by the wind."

Ironically, three postmen encountered that special hazard recently. They have been credited by the Fire Department with extinguishing a fire started by blazing curtains Sept. 18.

On that morning George Lardon, William H. Green and Gordon L. Parker were riding in Parker's mail truck on their way to their mail routes.

Lardon noticed flames coming from a window at 3711 Cedar Street. He told Parker, who promptly drove his truck to the address.

The trio ran to the back door and entered the house, where they found the curtain ablaze in the kitchen. They extinguished the fire before it could spread.

They also quieted the occupant, a woman who was alone and hysterical, according to fire department records.



This is Fire Prevention Week, but seven Austinites already this year will be unable to observe it. They met death in fires within the city limits this year to give the city three more fire deaths than during all of 1956. One of them was burned to death only Friday on the eve of Fire Prevention Week. Painting

Austin Statesman-United Press

this sign is Auvil G. Loney, inspector and investigator for the fire marshal's office. His hobby is art work, and he puts it to use in painting fire prevention signs in addition to his regular duties of inspection and investigation.

The Austin Statesman: Oct 7, 1957

Permits

Note: No permits available for 3709 1/2 Cedar Street.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE		AUSTIN, TEXAS		No. 4383
M. P. W. Verndon	Address	3709 1/2 Cedar		
Plumber Gissell	Size of Tap	1/2 Date 8-12-56		
Foreman's Report				
Date of Connection	8-13-56			
Size of Tap Made	3/4			
Size Service Made	3/4			
Size Main Tapped	6"			
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	12'			
From 8 Prop. Line to Curb Cock	16'			
Location of Meter	CURB			
Type of Box	LOCK			
Depth of Main in St.	2'6"			
Depth of Service-Line	16"			
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	21'			
Checked by Engr. Dept.	8-18-56			
No. Fittings	1 Curb Cock			
1 Elbow	1 St. Elbow			
1 Bushing	1 Reducer			
22' Pipe 3/4 Copper	1 Lead Entry 3/4 Copper Curb			
1 Wippen 3/4 Copper to Main	1 Union			
1 Plug 3/8 Meter #6667	1 Tee			
1 Stop	1 Box			
1 Lid	1 Valve			
Reg. No.	10990			
Foreman's Signature	51112			

Water tap permit, 8-12-36