

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 16, 2020
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2020-0439
3807 AVENUE B

PROPOSAL

Relocate a ca. 1929 house to Round Rock, Texas.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width, front-gabled independent porch on ornamental metal supports; single and paired 1:1 fenestration. The house has an addition to the rear that was constructed in 1966 and is virtually indistinguishable from the original house except for its windows facing the back yard.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1929; the first owners and occupants were Austin R. and Maude Busch, who lived here until around 1950, although it is not certain that Austin R. Busch lived in this house with his wife. The Busch family lived in Cedar Bayou, Texas in Chambers County between Houston and Beaumont in the 1920s. Austin R. Busch worked in the oil industry as a gauger, and his 1951 obituary in the Baytown, Texas newspaper, relates that he was a lifelong resident of the area. Maude Busch was from Austin, and appears to have lived in this house with her daughter, Catherine. Austin R. Busch is not listed with Maude Busch in either the 1930 nor the 1940 U.S. census reports, but Maude Busch is listed as married rather than divorced. The 1941 Austin city directory shows Maude Busch as the widow of Austin R. Busch, but he did not die until 1951. The 1947 and 1949 Austin city directories only show Maude R. Busch. There is a real estate transfer from Austin R. Busch to Maude Busch in 1946, but it is unclear whether he transferred this property to her at that time, although her single listing in the Austin city directories thereafter appear to confirm a separation and perhaps divorce at that time. Maude Busch lived here until around 1950, when she apparently moved to Baytown. She retained ownership of this house at least through the mid-1960s, as her name appears on the building permit for a rear addition in 1966. Austin R. Busch died in Chambers County, Texas in 1951 and was buried in Baytown; Maude Busch died in 1969 and is also buried in Baytown but they do not appear to have been buried together.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not within the limits of either the Hyde Park National Register Historic District nor the Hyde Park Local Historic District.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a typical bungalow, reflecting a common style with no architectural distinction.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was the home of a woman whose apparently absentee husband worked in the oil refineries of Cedar Bayou, east of Houston. Maude Busch does not have an occupation listed in the city directories for her time in this house; there do not appear to be 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 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

Release the permit for relocation of this house to Round Rock 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. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2020-0439
 LOCATION: 3807 AVENUE B



1" = 157'

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.

3807 Avenue B
ca. 1929



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 3807 Avenue B

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
October, 2020

1959	William L. and Glen R. Wolff, renters William: Driver, Woodward Manufacturing Company Glen: Waitress, Confederate Women's Home
1957	Vacant
1955	John and Hattie M. Fowler, renters No occupation listed
1952	Robert C. Jordan, renter Hospital attendant NOTE: Maude Busch is not listed in the directory.
1949	Maude Busch, owner No occupation listed

1947	Maude Busch, owner No occupation listed
1944-45	Austin R. and Maude B. Busch, owners Gauger
1941	Maude B. Busch, owner Widow, Austin R. Busch No occupation listed
1939	Austin R. and Maude Busch, owners Oil gauger
1937	Austin R. and Maude Busch, owners Gauger Also listed is Catherine A. Busch, a student at the University of Texas.
1935	Austin R. and Maude Busch, owners Gauger Also listed is Catherine A. Busch, a student at the University of Texas.
1932-33	Austin R. and Maude Busch, owners Gauger
1930-31	Austin R. and Maud J. Busch, owners Gauger
1929	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Austin R. and Maude Busch are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Austin R. and Maude J. Busch (ca. 1929 – ca. 1950)

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Austin R. and Maud J. Busch as the renters of a house on the Cedar Bayou and Mont Belvieu Road in Chambers County, Texas. Austin R. Busch was 25, had been born in Texas, and was a farmer on his own farm. Maud J. Busch was 23, had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Catherine, 1, who had been born in Texas.

Maude Busch appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owner of this house, which was worth \$2,400. Maude Busch was 34, had been born in Texas to a father born in the Irish Free State and a Texas-born mother, and had no occupation listed. She is listed as married, but Austin R. Busch is not listed with her at this address. She had two daughters: Catherine, 11; and Frances, 8, both of whom had been born in Texas.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Maude Busch as the owner of this house, which was worth \$2,500. Maude Busch was 44, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. She is listed as married, but Austin R. Busch is not listed in the census report with her. She had two daughters listed with her: Catherine, 21, a stenographer for an oil refining company and Frances, 18. Both girls had been born in Texas.

Austin Robert Busch was living in Cedar Bayou, Chambers County, Texas at the time of his death in 1951. He was born in 1894 in Cedar Bayou, Texas, and was a pumper at an oil refinery. His

death resulted from an accident when he was hit on the back of his head from pipe hanging from a passing truck. He is buried in the Cedar Bayou Masonic Cemetery.

How Did He Die? -- **Austin Busch's Death Remains A Mystery**

How did Austin Busch die?

Investigating officers today had only the word of a nine-year-old boy to explain the mystery of how Busch, 56-year-old Baytown Refinery worker and lifelong resident of Cedar Bayou, met death as he drove his tractor across Cedar Bayou bridge on Highway 146 at 3:30 p.m. yesterday.

Busch, his head crushed, was removed from his tractor by three men who had just passed the tractor in a truck. He was dead on arrival at a Baytown hospital.

Sheriff Lewis Otter of Chambers County said the little negro boy, Gerald Sinigard, told him a pipe projecting from the side of the truck struck Busch and he slumped over. Otter quoted the boy as saying the tractor then ran on down the road and stopped when it struck a guard post.

The truck driver, E. G. Blasingame, told Chambers County officers he did not believe the pipe on his truck struck Busch. Blasingame, employed by H. H. Hardy, Gunitite contractor, said he heard a noise as he crossed the bridge.

He looked back, he said, saw a box on the bridge and decided his suitcase had blown off the truck. He drove to the end of the bridge, turned around and came back.

"We found the man on the tractor. His head was hanging off by the back wheel and blood was everywhere. We removed him from the tractor and stopped a woman motorist and asked her to call an ambulance," Blasingame said.

State highway patrolmen had been called in to make an independent investigation today after Fred Chitty, justice (See Austin Busch—Page Two)

Austin Busch's Death Remains A Mystery

(Continued From Page One)

of the peace at Mont Belvieu, failed to arrive at a verdict. Harris County officers also were assisting the Chambers County officers in their investigation.

Deputy Sheriff Arthur Barrow had preserved the muffler of the tractor, which he said was dented and smeared with red lead. He also had fragments of hair which he said he removed from the tractor. All will be sent to an Austin laboratory for analysis, he said.

Albert Hicks, 18, employed by the A. B. Lawrence ranch in Chambers County, and Carl Staples, Chambers County rice farmer and rancher, partly substantiated the boy's account of the accident, but were not actual eyewitnesses.

Hicks said he was driving up the incline to the bridge when he saw the tractor and the truck approaching. The truck passed the tractor, he said.

"Then when the truck passed me, I saw the tractor going off the road until it hit a post and the man was hanging on it," Hicks said. Hicks stopped and by the time he could get back to the tractor, the three men from the truck were there.

"They took him off the tractor and put him on the ground. The man had his feet in the tractor and his head and body were hanging over with his head beside the big wheel," Hicks said.

Staples' statement was about the same as that of Hicks.

Busch was wearing a watch he had received after completing 30 years employment at the Baytown refinery. In his spare time, Busch contracted farm work and did some farming himself.

He lived on Highway 146, about 200 yards from the scene of his

death. He had left his home less than five minutes before to go into Chambers County to do some mowing, friends said.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Cedar Bayou Methodist Church with Dr. John W. Mills, pastor, and Rev. P. W. Henckell, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, officiating. Burial will be in the Cedar Bayou Masonic Cemetery under direction of Paul U. Lee Funeral Home.

Survivors are his widow; two daughters, Mrs. Catherine Anne Fain of Kingsville and Mrs. Frances Elaine Tomson of Washington, D. C.; and two step daughters, Mrs. Geraldine Behymer and Mrs. Mildred Robicheaux of Baytown.

Also surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Florence Weston and Mrs. Annie Arrington of Baytown and Mrs. Lucy Casey of Mont Belvieu; and three brothers, F. M. Busch of Mont Belvieu, C. E. and A. J. Busch of Baytown.

Pallbearers will be W. L. Blanscett, W. E. Burnett, J. C. Green, T. C. Smith, E. H. Lewis, D. L. Dewitt and W. H. Barker.

Story on the mysterious death of Austin R. Busch
Baytown (Texas) Sun, April 20, 1951

Maude Jessie Busch was born in Austin in 1896 and died in Baytown, Texas in 1969. She is buried in Baytown.

MRS. MAUDE BECK BUSCH
Mrs. Maude Beck Busch, 73,
resident of La Porte, died there
Thursday.

Survivors are a daughter,
Mrs. Thurman Fain, La Porte;
one sister, Miss Helen Beck and
one brother, J. Lewis Beck, both
of Austin; two grandsons, David
Fain and Danny Fain; one
granddaughter, Sandra Tomson,
all of La Porte.

Funeral services will be held
at 2 p.m. Friday at the Paul U.
Lee Funeral Home in Baytown.
Burial will be in Cedar Bayou
Cemetery in Baytown.

Obituary of Maude Busch
Austin Statesman, May 9, 1969

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

No. A 2116 NW 11

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE Austin, Texas

M. A. R. Busch Address 3801
Plumber W. C. Cullerworth Size of Tap 1/2" Date 1/7/29

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection 1/8/29
Size of Tap Made 3/4"
Service Made 3/4"
Main Tapped 2"
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 11.4"
" " " " 28"
Location of Meter at curb
Type of Box iron
Depth of Main in St. 2'
" " Service Line 2'
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 14'
Checked by Engr. Dept. R. B.

INDEXED

No. Fittings	Size
1 Curb Cock	3/4"
1 Elbow	3/4"
1 St. Elbow	3/4"
1 Bushing	3/4"
1 Reducer	3/4"
12' Pipe	3/4"
1 1/2' Coupling	3/4"
1 Tee	3/4"
1 Stop	3/4"
1 Box	3/4"
1 Lid	3/4"
1 Valve	3/4"
1-2' x 3/4" Tap	3/4"

Req. No. 20823

Foreman's Signature Burner

INDEXED 2-4-29

Water service permit to A.R. Busch for this house (1929)

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No.

8168

Austin, Texas

NW/II

Received of W. G. Andrewartha Date 1-10-29
 Address 3807 Ave. B
 Amount \$ _____
 Builder or Owner A. R. Buck Plumber _____
 Lot A. R. Bush Tr. Block _____ Subdivision _____ Plat No. 78

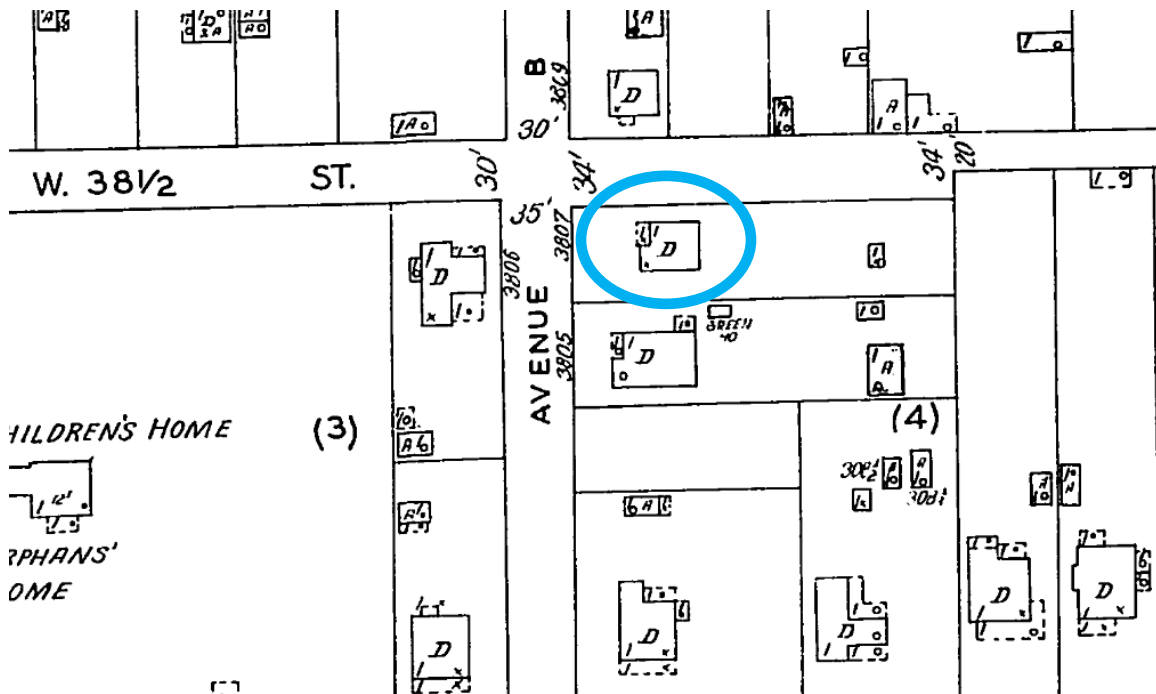
Date of Connection	<u>2-9-29</u>		No. Fittings 16' Pipe 4" Tile pipe Wyes 1 Bends 4" Reducers Plugs Sand Gravel Remix Stoppers Castings Other Labor:
By City	<u>12' N/S11 in alley</u>		
By Plumber	_____		
Checked By	<u>Tergas</u>		
Size Main	<u>6"</u>	Depth <u>4½'</u>	
Main Assign.	<u>17' from PL in alley</u>		
Stub Depth	<u>Prop. Line</u>		
Stub Location	_____		
Book No.	<u>A-544</u>		
Paving Cut	_____ No. _____		

Sewer service permit for this address noting A.R. Busch as the owner (1929)

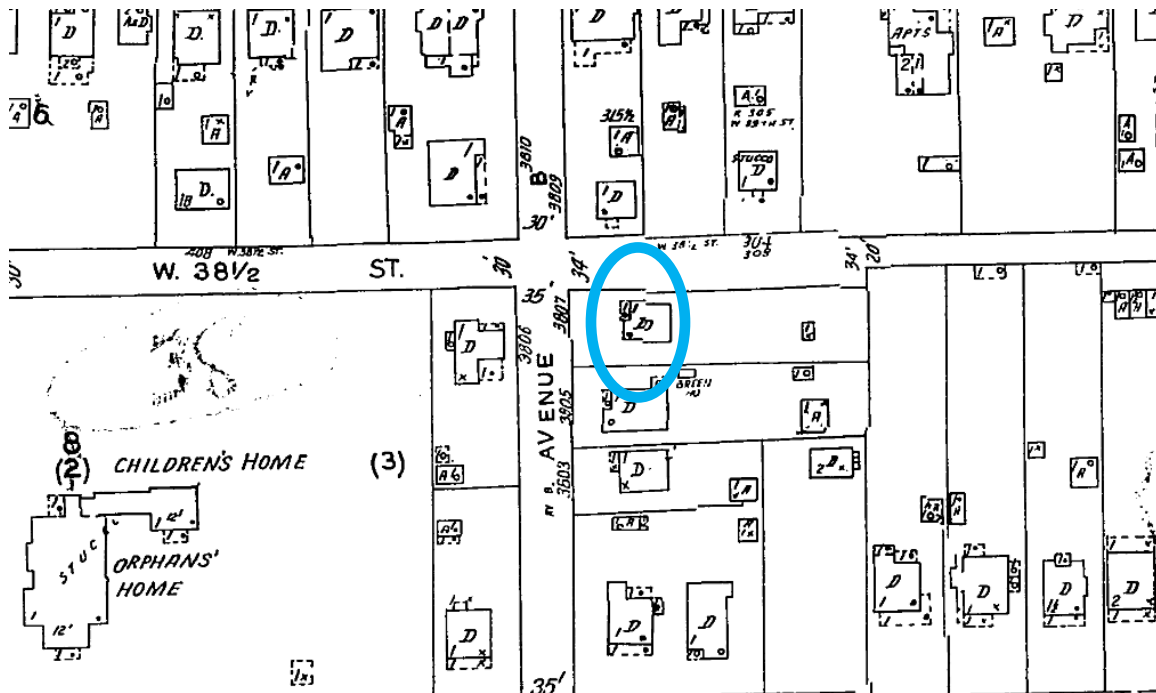
OWNER Maude Busch ADDRESS 3807 Avenue B
 PLAT 78 LOT _____ A. R. Busch BLK _____
 SUBDIVISION Unplatted
 OCCUPANCY Den Bath Garage
 BLD PERMIT # 101071 DATE 9-30-66 OWNERS ESTIMATE 4,100.00
 CONTRACTOR Al Bedinghouse NO. OF FIXTURES 3
 WATER TAP REC # _____ SEWER TAP REC # _____
 Frame Addition & Frame Accessory Building

520 sq.ft.

Building permit to Maude Busch for the construction of a frame addition and frame accessory building (1966)



The house appears on the 1935 Sanborn map.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the same configuration as the 1935 map above.