

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**  
**PR-2021-121876**  
**OLD WEST AUSTIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**2400 PEMBERTON PLACE**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a contributing building.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, hipped-roof Ranch house with enclosed garage, painted brick veneer, multilight metal windows, and metal roof.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house at 2400 Pemberton Place was built for Dr. Ralph Hanna and his family in 1949. Hanna, a pediatrician, was one of the nation's leading cerebral palsy clinicians; he was widely lauded for his research, leadership, and compassion as a medical practitioner and patient advocate. Dr. Hanna served on the board of the Austin Cerebral Palsy Center as well as president of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Texas, regional vice-president of the UCPA, chairman of the UCPA's Medical Professional Advisory Board, and chairman of the Austin Cerebral Palsy Center's medical advisory board. Dr. Hanna also served on the first board of directors of the Jewish Community Council of Austin, a philanthropic and service organization.

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The property contributes to the Travis Heights-Fairview Park National Register Historic District.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain low integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it does not meet two criteria:
  - a. Architecture. The building does not appear to convey architectural significance.
  - b. Historical association. The property is associated with Dr. Ralph Hanna, pediatrician and civic leader.
  - 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 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**

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Release the demolition permit. Although Dr. Ralph Hanna's contributions as a physician and educator are significant to Austin's history, the house no longer retains integrity. All new construction plans for National Register Historic District properties must be reviewed by the Historic Landmark Commission prior to permit issuance.

# LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

**NOTIFICATIONS**  
**CASE#:** PR 2021-121876  
**LOCATION:** 2400 PEMBERTON PLACE

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



*Google Street View, 2020*

### Occupancy History

City Directory Research, July 2021

1959	Ralph J. Hanna, owner
1957	Ralph J. and Marie B. Hanna, owners Children's Medical Center
1955	Ralph J. and Marie B. Hanna, owners Children's Medical Center
1952	Ralph J. and Marie B. Hanna, owners Children's Medical Center

### Biographical Information

## Dr. Hanna Lists Cerebral Palsy Causes

Dr. Ralph Hanna listed three causes of cerebral palsy in a talk before the Cerebral Palsy Parents group Monday night at the Center, 909 West 28th, telling the group that the final job of helping the palsied child is one for the parents.

He emphasized that the child could be greatly helped through speech and physical therapy at Cerebral Palsy Centers, such as

the local one, but the 24-hour a day task of re-educating the cerebral palsied child belongs to the parents.

To the 42 parents and patients in the audience (some of the latter students at the University of Texas), Dr. Hanna gave the following causes for cerebral palsy: (1) occurrences before birth, including diseases of the mother (such as German measles during the first three months of pregnancy) or serious injury to the mother; toxemia of the mother, and Rh blood difference between mother and unborn child; (2) injury at birth resulting from premature birth, prolonged labor, too quick delivery breech birth, lack of oxygen during birth, badly handled forceps delivery; (3) accidents shortly after birth, such as one causing a lack of oxygen.

Quoting from his medical school notes of 15 years ago, Dr. Hanna said he considered only one sentence regarding cerebral palsy in his class notes at that time as still accurate in today's medical knowledge.

"Cerebral Palsy research is today where cancer research was 25 years ago," he said. "We've just begun in the past five years to compile case records and set seriously to work to prevent so many children being born so handicapped."

Dr. Hanna pointed out that present-day statistics compiled through school records in large cities indicated that one of every 700 children born is severely handicapped by cerebral palsy. The occurrence is much greater where slightly affected children are also counted.

He explained the functions of the brain in a simple diagram, showing how impairment of certain centers could cause nerves directing muscles not to function properly. He quoted finding of Professor William Keiller, for many years teacher of anatomy at the University of Texas Medical School, who is responsible for much of medical knowledge concerning the pathways of the brain.

## Hanau Funeral Rites Conducted

Private funeral services for Ralph N. Hanau, 2400 Pemberton Place, were held Tuesday afternoon at the Cook Funeral Home.

He is survived by one son, Dr. Ralph Hanna of Austin; two sisters, Mrs. Carrie Stearnes of Long Island and Mrs. F. Levy of New York City; one brother, Albert Hanau of New York City; and three grandchildren, of Austin.

Pall bearers were William Koen, Jack Lebo, Jake Hirschfeld, Dr. Raleigh Ross, Dr. George Clark, Dr. M. D. McCauley, Leonard Dure, and William Kay Miller.

Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Oct 28, 1952*

## Palsy Center Workers Get Recognition

Dr. Ralph Hanna, physician board member of the Austin Cerebral Palsy Center, told the Austin Exchange Club Wednesday that the institution has received national recognition after less than nine years of operation.

He paid tribute to Mrs. Bess Harris Jones and Mrs. Pete Cullen for their successful pioneering efforts to establish the center in the fall of 1946. He asserted that wherever these centers exist, it has been the work of laymen that has brought them into being and not the medical fraternity.

Dr. Hanna asserted that the educational side of the center's patients has also been taken care of as well as the therapeutic phase. The center now offers classwork for the first and second grade children as well as kindergarten classes. Patients are making a good record in the third, fourth and fifth grades in the public schools.

Is the work of the cerebral palsy center paying off? Dr. Hanna asserted that a year ago a law student who made the highest averages in the UT Law School was so multiply-handicapped that he was unable to write.

he was unable to write.

"But he had such a fine mind that he was employed by the Humble Oil Company and he has already been given a promotion," Dr. Hanna reflected.

The speaker said that due to limited physical plant and staff, the center can only give one-half hour of therapy three times a week, while patients, taught in the techniques, provide one hour of home care for each half-hour given at the center.

"If we had a larger building and a larger staff, it would be possible for us to have five such training periods a week," he added.

Bob Meek announced the Exchange Club will entertain a group of boys and girls next Tuesday from 2 to 4 p. m. at the club's annual Sunshine Special outing in Zilker Park. The program calls for rides for the children at Kid-dieland Park on Barton Springs Road for an hour starting at 2 p. m. to be followed with refreshments and games in Zilker Park. Exchangettes will cooperate by preparing sandwiches for the affair. The children will be transported to and from the park in special buses.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jul 28, 1955*



# Organization Formed By Jewish Community

A new organization—the Jewish Community Council of Austin — has been formed to embrace Austin's entire Jewish community into a united program of philanthropy, culture and service.

At a meeting in the vestry rooms of Congregation Agudas Achim, a constitution adopted by the Austin Jewish Community was formally implemented with the new organization.

Dr. Morris Polsky was elected president of the JCCA. Other officers are Dr. Ernest Goldstein, Jim Novy and Mrs. Milton T. Smith, vice presidents; Gene Ravel, recording secretary; Mark Silverstone, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Gus Schnell, treasurer.

Members of the board of directors are Melvin Rutt, Herman Schmidt, Mrs. Harold Novy, **Dr. Ralph Hanna**, Mrs. Louis Laves, Jack Baumel, Sol Smith, Mrs. Ben Blond, Mrs. Sanford Bauman Jr., Phil Parker, William Koen, Stanley Fudell, Louis Laves, Milton Smith, Rabbi Eli Gottesman, Mrs. Mendel Nussbaum, Saul Gellman, Dr. Otto Lippmann, Mrs. Sol Smith, Morton Polsky, Rabbi Harold Krantzler, E. H. Saulson, Mrs. Earl Podolnick, Louis Rose, Sanford Bauman Jr., Mrs. Max Marks, Louis Snyder, Mrs. Stanley Fudell, Hy Samuelson and Louis Hirschfeld.

"The purposes of JCCA," Dr. Polsky said "are philanthropic, cultural and service. Its largest single activity is the Jewish Welfare Fund (formerly known as Austin Jewish Federation) which is the community's united fund raising effort for worthy religious, charitable and cultural purposes of a Jewish nature, and which includes local, national and overseas needs. In addition there are contemplated such activities as a community survey, a bulletin and community calendar, a day camp and others. This organization helps coordinate and supplement work done by existing agencies; where no existing organization undertakes a project, JCCA may do so, if deemed worthy and feasible."

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); May 24, 1956*

## 3 Austinites Given Posts

DALLAS, Nov. 3 ~~UP~~—Austin placed three men as top officers of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Texas at a membership meeting Sunday.

**Dr. Ralph Hanna** was elected president. Dean Jack Holland of the University of Texas was elected vice president for administration, and Fred Barkley, assistant treasurer.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Nov 3, 1958*



Austin Statesman-UPI

**PALSY ASSIST**—Jesse Williford Jr., 4, son of Sergeant and Mrs. Jesse Williford and a patient at the Cerebral Palsy Center, gets a good look at something special in movie discount coupons when he is visited by Mrs. Natalie Barraga, left, secretary-treasurer of the Capital Area United Cerebral Palsy Association Inc., and Dr. Ralph Hanna, right, state UCPA president. The discount coupons provide a 15-cent reduc-

tion in ticket cost for the movie on Dr. Albert Schweitzer's life which begins Thursday at the Texas Theatre. For each coupon turned in at the box office, the Texas will give 10 cents to the UCPA, and the money will be added to the CP Center's building expansion fund. UCPA board members have been distributing the coupons about the city for days.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Dec 4, 1958*

## UCPA Chicago Talks Will Review Research

Research in cerebral palsy which is made possible by the support of Austin and communities across the nation will be reviewed at the United Cerebral Palsy Associations' 11th annual

conference in Chicago opening Thursday for a three-day session, Dr. Ralph Hanna, chairman of the local association's board of directors, said here Tuesday.

Dr. Hanna said that scientists will report on their investigations which are supported by United Cerebral Palsy grants to more than 1,000 delegates assembled from all 341 UCPA affiliates in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Among these delegates will be Dr. William G. Wolfe, president of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Texas, Inc. and Edlie Simmons, president of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Capital Area, Inc.

The reports will represent a cross-section of UCPA's medical research and training program the local UCPA leader revealed. He said the speakers will include Dr. James B. Campbell of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; Dr. Ruth Rhines of the University of Chicago; Dr. Samuel A. Kirk, Institute of Research in Exceptional Children, University of Illinois; Dr. Edward F. Domino, University of Michigan School of Medicine; Dr. Maury Massler, University of Illinois School of Dentistry; and Dr. Harry Elam of Cook County Hospital, Chicago.

Dr. Hanna said their investigations, along with a host of other research projects sponsored by United Cerebral Palsy are the result of financial backing of the "53 Minute March on Cerebral Palsy" conducted annually by the local affiliate.

## Dr. Hanna Southwest UCP Veep

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Dr. Ralph Hanna, well known Austin pediatrician Friday was elected vice president for United Cerebral Palsy's 5 state Southwest area, composed of Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas, at United Cerebral Palsy's National Convention being held in St. Louis, Mo.

As regional vice president, Dr. Hanna is the senior volunteer officer for United Cerebral Palsy in the Southwest and a member of the National Board of Directors for United Cerebral Palsy Associations Inc.

Dr. Hanna is a graduate of the University of Texas Medical Branch and served his internship and residency at the Los Angeles County General Hospital. Other offices he has held include: president of UCPA of the Capital Area; chairman of the Medical Professional Advisory Board of UCPA of the Capital Area; president, UCPA of Texas; assistant vice president, Southwest Region of UCPA. He is a member of the American Academy of CP.

For the past eleven years, he has served on the Advisory Committee for Special Education, Austin City Schools. In 1958, he served on the Governor's Conference for the handicapped. A regular guest lecturer at the University of Texas Summer session on "Care of crippled children in the classroom," he also served as consultant in pediatrics to the psychological clinic at the University of Texas.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Nov 15, 1960 and Mar 8, 1963*



## City Palsy Center Plans Expansion

(Note: This is one of a series of articles being published in this newspaper in connection with the Austin United Fund's "Thank You Week." The observance comes on the heels of a successful campaign in which the organization's volunteer solicitors raised 191.9 per cent of their goal.)

Austin Cerebral Palsy Center will expand its program during the coming year, offering a more complete schedule of therapy and teaching and treating more children for longer periods as a result of the generosity of Austin and Travis County citizens during the recent United Fund campaign.

The center is, of course, one of the United Fund's family of agencies, and receives its principal support through the fund.

Some 70 boys and girls are being treated currently at the CP Center, and more will be added before the end of 1966, Toffee Nassar, executive director, said.

Among the improvements expected before the end of next year are the addition of another speech therapist to the staff, he pointed out. The majority of the children who have cerebral palsy have trouble with their speech, he said.

In addition, the pre-school work of the center will be expanded, offering a more complete program than previously—more and varied activity and for longer hours.

Nassar compared the pre-school group to a specialized sort of "head start" class for youngsters whose handicap in

entering public school is not "cultural deprivation" but physical handicaps.

Cerebral Palsy is a handicap caused largely by injury to the brain and it has a variety of symptoms, both mental and physical, including involuntary spasmodic motions and difficulty in the control of voluntary movements.

Included in the program of improvements planned for the coming year is the center's playground, which will receive some new equipment. In addition, there is a new 16 millimeter motion picture projector, used for lectures, classes and in-service training for therapists.

Youngsters being treated at the center range in age from 18 months to 21 years, though most are between three and 13, Nassar pointed out.

Supervising the treatments at the center is a medical board of 11 physicians, headed by Dr. Ralph Hanna, Austin pediatrician. The board also examines children before they are admitted, to see if (1) their problems will be helped by the type treatment offered, and (2) what the course of therapy should be.

Austin Cerebral Palsy Center is only one of the list of more than 30 agencies which are supported through the United Fund's single campaign each year, leaders noted.

## Returns to Post

# Dr. Hanna Heads Cerebral Palsy

Dr. Ralph Hanna, pediatrician, has been elected president of United Cerebral Palsy of Capitol Area Inc., sponsors of the Darrell Royal Vocational Training School, 102 Congress Avenue.

Hanna returns to a post he held in 1955-57, when he was first president of UCP-Austin. He succeeds Mrs. Maurice Jacobs. Hanna was UCP-Texas president in 1958-61 and regional vice president of the national association in 1963-64.

Dr. William G. Wolfe, special education chairman at The University of Texas, followed Hanna as second UCP-Austin president and becomes a national vice-president this spring.

Hanna is an assistant professor in special education on a part-time basis. This combines teaching and student consultation on medical aspects of rehabilitation and the handicapped child.

Dr. B. H. Amstead, UT engineering professor, continues as chairman of UCP-Austin board.

Travis County Court Judge J. Travis Blakeslee and Richard Karotkin of Economy Furniture are vice-presidents succeeding Howard Lane of Austin Savings and Loan and Mrs. Homer Mayhall.

Austin National Banker Har-

Mrs. Bryon Smith.

Hanna has named Wolfe and UT special education faculty members as professional advisors.

Committees include: Campaign and finance: UT football coach Darrell Royal and Karotkin, co-chairmen; Amstead, Bengston and M. J. Anderson.

Women's: Mrs. Wallace Scott, chairman.

Legislative: Attorneys Pearce Johnson and Fancher Archer.

Program services: Blakeslee, chairman; Lane and Postmaster Oliver Bruck.

Community relations: Amstead, chairman; Bengston and Anderson.

The new UCP-Austin president and Wolfe are members of the medical-professional advisory and evaluation board of UCP-Texas, which meets Saturday in Fort Worth.

Other members of that board include Rosalind Giles, child welfare director of State Department of Public Welfare; UCP-Texas executive director L. H. Prodoehl; Associate Professor Oliver H. Brown, UT educational psychology; Charles S. Eskridge, field services director, regional vocational rehabilitation training center, UT special education; Assistant Commissioner C. G. Fairchild of Texas Education

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Dec 28, 1965 and Jan 8, 1966*

New groom R. Harry Akin now takes on a home with lawn to keep. The mayor and family move from their Westgate apartment next week to 2400 Pemberton Place. He'll be leasing from Dr. Ralph Hanna, who moved from there to a Cambridge Tower apartment...

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Sep 29, 1967*



## Permits

REPLACES STUB B-5832

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		C N° 4435
Austin, Texas		
Received of	DR. RALPH HANNA	Date 9-22-49
Address	2400 PEMBERTON PLACE	
Amount	THIRTY & NO/100	\$30.00
Plumber	V.R. WATTINGER	Size of Tap 1"
Date of Connection	9-27-49	
Size of Tap Made		
Size Service Made		
Size Main Tapped		
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	7-5'	
From Prop. Line to Curb Cock		
Location of Meter	CURB	
Type of Box	LOU	
Depth of Main in St.		
Depth of Service Line		
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main		
Checked by Engr. Dept.	10-9-49 RHP	

No. Fittings	Size	Material
	Curb Cock	
	Elbow	
	St. Elbow	
	Bushing	1 1/2" x 1"
	Reducer	1 1/2" x 1"
	Pipe	
	Lead Comp.	
	Nipples	
	Union	
	Plug	
	Tee	
	Stop	1 1/2"
	Lid	"
	Valves	
	Job No.	W-327-502
	Req. No.	

## Water Service Permit, 1953

Dr. &amp; Mrs. Ralph Hanna

2400 Pemberton Place

158

8

Pemberton Heights #11

Brick veneer and frame residence and car  
port attach.

42011 9-21-49

\$28,240.82

R. J. Pekar

## Building Permit, 1949

Ralph Hanna

2400 Pemberton Place

158

8

Pemberton Heights #11

Brick veneer addition to rear of res.

47966 4-3-51

\$4500.00

R. J. Pekar

## Building Permit, 1951