

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021
PR-2021-124116/134075
TRAVIS HEIGHTS-FAIRVIEW PARK NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
2109 KENWOOD AVE

PROPOSAL

Construct a rear addition and deck, replace existing shingle roof with metal roof, demolish existing garage, replace front door, and construct a carport.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) Partially demolish siding and windows at secondary elevations. Patch siding where window openings are removed. Two original windows will be salvaged from the east elevation and reinstalled on the south elevation.
- 2) Construct a rear addition and deck. The proposed addition is clad in stained cedar shingle siding and horizontal fiber cement siding. It is one story in height and is set back from the front of the house. Its roofline follows the existing gabled roof and includes two side-elevation skylights. Proposed new 1:1 windows are aluminum-clad wood, regularly spaced throughout, and fixed clerestory windows at rear above full-height sliders.
- 3) Replace existing shingle roof with standing-seam metal roof.
- 4) Demolish the existing garage and construct a new carport within the former garage's footprint. The proposed carport is painted steel with stained wood roof.
- 5) Replace front door.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story house with partial-width gabled porch supported by boxed columns atop tapered river rock piers. The house's cross-gabled roof is clad in shingles. It has horizontal wood siding at the façade's gable end, with a combination of asbestos shingle siding and horizontal wood siding on the remainder of the house. It retains original single and paired 1:1 wood windows with historic-age screens.

RESEARCH

The house at 2109 Kenwood Avenue was constructed in 1945. Its first long-term occupants were James L. and Margaret Tarr, who moved in around 1948 from San Marcos. James L. Tarr was an executive district director with the Boy Scouts of America; later in his career, he became executive director for the nationwide organization. By 1953, the Tarrs had sold the home to the Straley family. James L. Straley was the credit manager for Bridges Furniture and an office administrator at the University of Texas, while Nancy Straley worked as a public school teacher and encyclopedia saleswoman.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects in National Register districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repairs and Alterations

3. Roofs

While a shingle roof is a more appropriate choice for the house's style, the design standards do not prohibit metal roofs in historic districts. The proposed project does not alter the character-defining porch roof pitch.

4. Exterior Walls and Trim

The proposed project salvages existing siding to patch, where needed.

5. Windows, Doors, and Screens

The proposed project changes existing window openings and moves existing windows to accommodate the rear addition; however, it includes salvage and reuse of the removed historic-age windows. The proposed new door appears appropriate to the building's age and style.

10. Accessory Buildings

The proposed project demolishes a historic-age detached garage at the rear of the lot.

Residential additions

1. Location

The proposed addition is located at the rear of the existing house. It is set back approximately 35' from the front wall of the house and minimizes loss of historic fabric by connecting to the modified rear elevation.

2. Scale, Massing, and Height

The proposed addition is one story in height, and appears subordinate to the historic building. It is minimally visible from the street.

3. Design and Style

The proposed addition is compatible with the historic building, with complementary proportions and patterns. It is differentiated by its use of modern cladding materials and slightly different window profiles at secondary elevations, as well as the stepped-down fully glazed gable end at the rear elevation.

4. Roofs

The proposed addition's roof form and slope complement the historic building's roof.

5. Exterior Walls

The proposed addition will be minimally visible from the street. Its primary and secondary cladding materials are compatible with the original house's cladding.

6. Windows, Screens, and Doors

The proposed addition's fenestration patterns are regular and blend well with the original house's patterns where they may be visible from the street.

7. Porches and Decks

The proposed rear deck is compatible with the existing house and will be minimally visible from the street.

9. Attached Garages and Carports

The proposed carport is compatible in size, massing, proportions, style, and materials. It is modern in design and does not compete with the existing house or give an appearance of false historicism. It is set back from the street and is located within the footprint of the existing garage.

Summary

The project meets the applicable standards.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

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

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). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it does not meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building displays eclectic Craftsman-style influences.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with James L. Tarr, executive director of the Boy Scouts of America; however, the period of association is only 5-7 years in duration.
 - 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

Comment on and release the plans.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

NOTIFICATIONS
CASE#: PR 21-134075
LOCATION: 2109 KENWOOD AVENUE

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



Application, 2021

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, August 2021

1959	James L. and Nancy R. Straley, owners Office worker at University of Texas Teacher, Travis Heights School
1957	James L. and Nancy R. Straley, owners Credit manager, Bridges Furniture Inc. Teacher, public school
1955	James L. and Nancy R. Straley, owners Credit manager, Bridges Furniture Inc. Student
1952	James K. and Margaret Tarr, owners Assistant scout executive, Boy Scouts
1949	James K. and Margaret Tarr, owners District executive, Boy Scouts of America
1947	Vacant

Biographical Information

OPEN HOUSE
2 P. M. TILL 5 P. M.
2109 KENWOOD
 This is a beautiful new home located in Travis Heights. Has 5 rooms, lovely hardwood floors, tile drain and splash and all tile bath, 2 car garage and can be bought for \$2,500 down payment.
WALDEN & MEEKS
 525 Littlefield Bldg.,
 2-7253

The Austin American (1914-1973); Oct 27, 1946

James L. Todd Takes Navy Training Course
 James L. Todd, 2109 Kenwood Avenue, assistant scout executive of the Capitol Area Council, left Saturday for a two-week naval training course at Bayonne, N. J.
 The rest of his family, Mrs. Todd, Billy and Mary Margaret, plan to leave Tuesday for Shawnee, Okla., where they will visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy B. Fox.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jul 25, 1950

Scout Program Expands for New Boys



JAMES L. TARR



RAY EALY

The fast buildup of personnel at Bergstrom Air Force Base is having a decided effect upon the Boy Scout program in Austin.

With hundreds of airmen and their families moving to BAFB for duty, the influx of lads eligible for scouting has met and will continue to meet a suitably expanded program.

ALREADY Cub Pack 27 on the base is embarked upon full program for boys 8 through 10 years of age, under sponsorship of the NCO Club. At Swiftex Village, between Bastrop and Elgin, Pack 192 is active.

Scout officials stress that the new boys are assured of a unit nearby almost any address their families may have in Austin. They will join the over 3,000 lads in 27 cub packs, 57 scout troops and 16 explorer units in the Capital City.

Besides the 8-10 year lads in cub packs, scout troops include boys 11 through 13 years of age, and explorers 14 through 17. The latter classification also boasts air scouts and sea scouts.

Bergstrom personnel wishing advice and assistance on enrolling their boys in scouting are urged to telephone Boy Scout Headquarters, 8-8351, or call in person at 300 East First Street.

In line with this, H. L. Gaskin,



scout executive for Austin and the 15-county Capitol Area Council, has alerted his own staff plus hundreds of volunteer adult leaders to help the newcomers.

He also cites the need for scouting leadership from airmen who were in the program elsewhere or would like to begin such work.

"THESE NEW BOYS in scouting plus those transferring from other areas are certainly most welcome," Gaskin says. "We particularly want the latter to remember that a scout's at home among his fellow scouts wherever he may be."

Gaskin's staff for Austin and Travis County includes James L. Tarr, assistant executive; Floyd E. Davis, Travis District executive; and Ray Ealy and Marshall Monroe, Travis field executives.

All of these constantly counsel and work with volunteer adult leaders in scouting. Bergstrom people are especially urged to contact any of these for information or advice.

Scout officials also point out the long-standing cooperation extended by the Air Force, particularly with explorer scouts. In the past, training facilities on air bases have been made available at times.

Liaison between bases and scout officials on a local level have been conducted by project officers, appointed by field commanders. Such a duty is handled at the University of Texas Air ROTC unit by Captain John W. Taylor.

IN THE MATTER of facilities for activities, Austin scouts believe they have one of the best in 1,100-acre Camp Tom Wooten, nine miles west of the city on Bull Creek Road. A natural outdoors mecca, it is bounded upon two sides by Bull Creek and Lake Austin.

Fishing, boating and hiking are only a few of the activities available. A concrete swimming pool is provided for swimming.

Scouts and explorers may attend the eight-week summer camp there, beginning June 10, costing only \$10 per week. In addition, through the year local scout units take advantage of the camp for weekend or holiday camps and hikes.

Installation Of Officers Set Friday

Newly elected officers of the Austin Personnel Association will be installed at a banquet meeting to be held Friday at the Westwood Country Club.

Former Governor Allan Shivers will be guest speaker for the annual ceremony.

Jack Holland, personnel director for The University of Texas, will be installed as president.

Now in its second decade, APA was organized in 1950 to promote professional personnel management and administration. Membership is represented in city, state and federal government, education, business and industry throughout the Austin area.

Other newly elected officers to be installed Friday night include Everett Auschutz, vice president; Miss Dora Bain, secretary; Jim Straley, treasurer; Miss Susie Thompson, historian; Jim Moore, advisory councillor; Jay H. Wilson, parliamentarian; Stan Penner, membership committee chairman; George C. Schutze, special projects chairman; Mrs. Jean Beasley, public relations chairman; Don Miller, attendance committee chairman; and John Dodson, survey committee chairman.

The program opens with a co-

Ex-resident of Central Texas to head national Boy Scouts

By KAY POWERS
American Statesman Staff

James L. Tarr, who began his career in professional scouting in Austin 37 years ago, has been named chief scout executive for the four million-member Boy Scouts of America.

Tarr, presently serving as scout executive of the Circle Ten Council in Dallas, succeeds Harvey L. Price of Princeton, N. J., formerly of Waco, who retires next April after 42 years as a scouting professional.

As the top professional for BSA, Tarr will direct the daily operations of the national headquarters that is responsible for administration and support of 130,000 scout troops, cub packs and explorer posts in the United States and overseas.

Tarr started his scouting career in 1941 with the Capital Area Council in Austin while living in San Marcos.

When World War II started, he entered the U. S. Naval Reserve, returning to Central Texas in 1946 to continue in scouting while living in Gonzales. In 1948, Tarr became assistant scout executive for the Capital Area Council and remained in Austin until 1952.

Tarr's selection was announced in New York Thursday by Downing B. Jenks, scouting's national president. Scout officials previously had announced plans to move national headquarters from North Brunswick, N.J., to Irving, Texas, by August.

The decision to move headquar-

ters was based, Tarr said, on ability to more effectively serve the entire country, as well as on certain economic factors.

The new chief executive said he and his wife are particularly fond of Austin, where two of their three children were born and where daughter Carolyn Tarr still lives.

In the years he has been involved in professional scouting, Tarr says he believes the "competence in leadership" programs that have been developed are outstanding, as was the decision to go co-educational on the high school level some eight years ago.

Water Service Permit, 1946

Sewer Connection Permit, 1947

Building Permit, 1945