

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**  
**HR-2021-154877**  
**OLD WEST AUSTIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**1411 ETHRIDGE AVENUE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1939 contributing building and associated outbuildings.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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Two-story, symmetrical-plan, cross-gabled Classical Revival house with 6:6 and 9:9 wood windows, horizontal siding, and a full-width porch supported by boxed columns. Details include dentils at cornice, sidelights and transom at front door, Classical cornice returns at gable ends, and wood shutters.

**RESEARCH**

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The house and outbuildings at 1411 Ethridge Avenue were built in 1939 for Claude A. and Clara Williams. Claude Williams served as Texas' assistant Secretary of State at the time of the home's construction. He went on to head the Texas Unemployment Commission.

By 1949, Dr. Revace (called Sam) and Margaret Ann Swearingen had purchased the property. Dr. Sam Swearingen served as the chief of staff, chief of surgery, and chairman of the Board of Trustees at Brackenridge Hospital; he later became chief of staff at the Austin State Hospital, medical director of the Denton State School, and medical director of the San Angelo State Center.

**PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The property contributes to the Old West Austin 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 may meet two criteria:
  - a. Architecture. The building is constructed in the Classical Revival style.
  - b. Historical association. The property is associated with Claude A. Williams and Dr. Revace "Sam" Swearingen.
  - 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 may include a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city. Further landscape research may be required.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Consider initiating historic zoning. Should the Commission decide against initiation, require completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package prior to permit release. Additionally, new construction in National Register districts must be reviewed by the Commission prior to release of the demolition permit.

# LOCATION MAP



- N
- SUBJECT TRACT
- PENDING CASE
- ZONING BOUNDARY

**NOTIFICATIONS**  
CASE#: HR 21-154877  
LOCATION: 1411 ETHRIDGE AVE



1" = 417'

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, September 2021

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1959 | Revace O. and Margaret Swearingen, owners<br>Physician, 2 Medical Arts Sq.         |
| 1957 | Revace O. and Margaret Swearingen, owners<br>Physician, 2 Medical Arts Sq.         |
| 1955 | Revace O. and Margaret Swearingen, owners<br>Physician, 611 W 15 <sup>th</sup> St. |
| 1952 | Revace O. and Margaret Swearingen, owners<br>Physician, 611 W 15 <sup>th</sup> St. |
| 1949 | Revace O. and Margaret Swearingen, owners<br>Physician, 611 W 15 <sup>th</sup> St. |
| 1947 | Claude A. and Clara Williams, owners<br>Lawyer                                     |

- 1944 Claude A. and Clara Williams, owners  
Chairman and Executive Director, Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission
- 1941 Claude A. and Clara Williams, owners  
Assistant Secretary of the State of Texas
- 1939 Address not listed

*Biographical Information*

\$3,500.  
Claude A. Williams, two-story frame residence and frame garage with servants quarters, 1411 Ethridge avenue, \$7,000.  
Mrs. George Milton, frame residence.

*The Austin American (1914-1973); Jul 9, 1939*

## Law Practice Rule Given

A ruling that attorneys representing the C.T. corporation in attempting to file permits of foreign corporations to do business in Texas were violating the "unauthorized practice of law" statute, has been written by Atty. Gen. Gerald C. Mann's office.

The opinion, requested by the secretary of state's department, said that in the case cited, the attorney was acting as the agent of the C.T. corporation, and that in effect the corporation was an intermediary, representing the firms seeking to file for permits to do business in Texas.

It said the C.T. corporation was not "employing an attorney in regard to its own affairs."

"The whole tenor and objective of the unlawful practice act," the opinion said, "are contravened" by the arrangement through which the C.T. corporation secures the services of an attorney to represent it while it represents another corporation.

Answering an inquiry by Claude A. Williams, assistant secretary of state, the ruling held that the state department was authorized to refuse to accept the filings of such applications.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Sep 5, 1939*

## Williams Asks Proposal Go Into Draft Legislation

The proposal that registration for employment in war industries be included in pending draft legislation was made Tuesday by Claude A. Williams, chairman and executive director of the Texas Unemployment Compensation commission, in a wire to senate and house military affairs committees.

Williams' wire pointed out the advantages of utilizing the employment service facilities in 48 states, two territories and the District of Columbia. These state employment services now operate 1,500 full-time offices and 3,000 part-time offices, staffed by over 15,000 trained employees. Because of their years of experience in recruiting qualified workers for industry, the state employment services have been designated by the president and the OPM as the official labor supply agency for the defense program.

Williams said that modern war requires the proper allocation of man power between industrial and armed forces. Men with defense production skills should be placed where they can produce war materials with which to equip a modern army.

Under the first selective service act, many skilled and technical workers were inducted into branches of the armed services where their abilities were lost. If this condition is to be prevented, Mr. Williams declared, under new legislation now pending, one registration should be undertaken for both military and civilian purposes, with careful classification of each registrant's abilities to determine where he can serve best.

Mr. Williams said "This is an emergency situation and we are ready to do whatever job is required in the interest of national defense. This type of registration program would be no new experience to the Texas State Employment Service."

"Mr. Williams' suggestion is entirely logical in registering and

classifying the nation's men and women for emergency service," Mr. J. H. Bond, director of the Texas State Employment Service, said. The State Employment Services have been recruiting labor for all

war industries for a year, and each employment office is fully familiar with the labor supply and demand in its area and is now functioning smoothly in a nation-wide setup. It was pointed out.

Sen. Wagner's bill to extend federal social security would cost Texans an added 90 million dollars a year, if enacted, according to Chmn-Dir. Claude A. Williams of the Texas unemployment compensation commission.

In the text of an address prepared for delivery before the National Retail Dry Goods association in New York next Wednesday, Williams made this estimate, condemned the Wagner bill and predicted its defeat by congress.

"Sen. Wagner's bill will not pass, because the rank and file of the American people will realize that it will cost money and that they who are now employed will have to pay the bill. They will consider it a luxury which they cannot afford," the draft of speech says. Further statement is contained in it that Williams believes "our system of free enterprise demands that we continue our modest system of social security and that it be left in the hands of the state authorities who are close to the people."

Chmn. Williams also has made public text of an address he is scheduled to make Monday in Washington before the national conference on social security, a conference sponsored by the social security council of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

In this Washington talk, Chmn. Williams planned to stress the harm that might be done by excessive unemployment payments to returning war veterans. He stressed that a system of paying a sum of money for 52 weeks, equal to or exceeding the prevailing wages of most of the veterans would "put a premium on idleness."

He prepared to suggest his own idea of a compensation plan for returning soldiers, which he said so far has not been suggested. "Pay each and every veteran a stipulated amount for a definite length of time, as a matter of right, without regard to a work test."

Williams said that in Washington he will ask the social security council to put its weight behind efforts to have congress restore the employment services to the states that were taken over into the United States employment service, as in the case of Texas, before the war.

## Williams on Way To Washington To Argue On USES Question

By American-Statesman Capitol Staff

Claude A. Williams, former chairman and executive director of the Texas Unemployment Compensation commission, was en route to Washington, D. C., Saturday to participate in a national radio debate on whether or not the employment service should be returned to state control immediately. Williams will speak for state control.

The debate will take place on the Mutual Broadcasting System's program, the American Forum of the Air, Tuesday at 8:30 p. m. (CST). It can be heard locally through Station WRR.

### USES Head Opposes

Other participants will be John J. Corson, former national director of the US Employment Service; Ted F. Silvey, chairman of the CIO reconversion committee and Stanley Rector, chairman of the legislative committee, interstate conference of employment security agencies. Rector and Williams will oppose Corson's and Silvey's contention that the employment service should remain permanently under the federal government, Williams said.

Pres. Truman vetoed an appropriation bill Dec. 22 which carried a rider which would have returned the employment service to the states.

### Williams Disagrees

Commenting on the controversy before his departure for Washington, Williams took issue with Pres. Truman's veto message which said the legislation was improperly attached to the appropriation bill. He also described the president's action as "in line with what appears to be a definite plan to keep the country in a state of turmoil and confusion in its efforts to reconvert to peacetime economy. No other single piece of legislation considered by the congress last year would have done more to bring about speedy reconversion and rehabilitation of the returning veterans and the displaced war workers," he said.

## O. Henry P-TA Sets Meeting For Thursday

Dr. and Mrs. R. O. Swearingen, co-presidents of the O. Henry Junior High P-TA, announced that the Tuesday night meeting will be a "Back To School Night" program.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p. m., and parents are being urged to take this opportunity to meet their children's teachers, as well as to become members of the P-TA group.

New officers serving with the Swearingens in 1957-58 include Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Hill, vice presidents; Dr. and Mrs. T. J. Archer, recording secretaries; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Alley Jr., corresponding secretaries; Mrs. Carolyn Hamilton, treasurer; Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Bud Smith, parliamentarians; and Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Thomas, historians.

Committee chairmen are Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Acers, student aid; Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Holt, home room; Mr. and Mrs. George Sandlin, hospitality and courtesy; Dr. and Mrs. Charles P. Hardwicke, membership; Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Craig Jr., publication; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cruseman, publicity; Dr. and Mrs. G. D. Stallworth, bulletin; Dr. and Mrs. Hal McCuiston, legislative; Dr. and Mrs. Harris Williams, mental health and youth development; Mrs. Harold G. Robinson, program; and Mrs. Herman West, band booster.

seem to take the edge off.

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Being worthwhile and furthering the worthy causes is no strain at all when you can do it under circumstances like out at Margaret Ann Swearingen's the other morning where I joined the committee working on the script and tagging the (I almost described them as magnificent, stupendous and glamorous, but I won't because I hate those Hollywood words) prizes for the JHH Style Show day luncheon.

We had a fine time, got the job done and ended with a tasty bowl of chili and rice. What an opportunity to catch up on the gossip!

Greedy as I am, I wouldn't miss that luncheon for anything. Might win something. Don't forget if you want to be in on the thing you have to get your reservation to Margaret Ann by tomorrow, or you haven't a chance.

The tickets are \$3 (plus tax, darn it) and that includes the meal, the tip, a generous contribution to the Children's home and your name in the pot for one of the lamps, silver serving pieces, the handsomest sweater you ever saw, and dozens of other welcome additions for the acquisitive.

(Margaret Ann is Mrs. R. O. Swearingen, 1411 Ethridge, and her phone number is GR 2-5372.)

# Nursing School Grads Receive Their Caps

Ten members of the freshman class who have successfully completed the first nine months of the preclinical program received their caps Wednesday afternoon at the Brackenridge Hospital School of Nursing Auditorium, 707 East Fourteenth Street.

Rev. Edward V. Long, pastor of St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, gave the invocation and benediction. Waldo Hill, assistant administrator of Brackenridge Hospital, welcomed the guests.

The student nurses were: Nita Susan Banks of Hallettsville; Maxine Belmira Cantu, Taylor; Alice Contreras, San Marcos; Sophie Ellen Frangullie, Palacios; Patricia Ann Hrnair, Schulenburg; Marilyn Sue Loesch, San Antonio; Paula Newell, Leander; Paula Sue Pierson, Odessa; Sandra Marie Rheinlaender, New Braunfels; and Linda Marie Spahn, San Antonio.

Following the address of welcome by Hill, Petra Elizabeth Trevino and Mary Lou Zunker, senior student nurses, sang "The Lord's Prayer" with accompaniment by Mrs. Eugene Melton Grider.

The main address was by Revace O. Swearingen, M.D., member of the hospital board of trustees. The class was presented by Mrs. C. H. Garrett, III, instructor of Brackenridge Hospital School of Nursing.

The caps were awarded by Mrs. Edith Huck Turner, director of the school. The ceremony of lighting the candles was conducted by Mrs. Jerry Wayne Preston, president of the student council, after which Mrs. Garrett lead the class in the Florence Nightingale pledge.

S. H. Dryden, M. D., chief-of-staff at Brackenridge, gave an address congratulating the newly capped student nurses, after which the student nurses A Capella choir sang the "Brackenridge Alma Mater" by Zoch.

The processional and recessional were played by Mrs. Grider, senior student nurse.

A reception was held following the ceremony.

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# Sam Swearingen Dies; Ex-Brackenridge Chief

Dr. Revace "Sam" Swearingen, former chief of staff at Brackenridge Hospital, died Sunday at his home in Carlsbad.

A University of Texas Medical School graduate, Dr. Swearingen was the chief physician at Brackenridge in 1958-59.

He was a member of the board of directors of the Marbridge Foundation here and was a former Brackenridge board member.

At the time of his death, Dr. Swearingen was medical director of the San Angelo State Center.

Christian Wake will be 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home here. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Austin's Catholic Church.

Entombment will be in Assumption Mausoleum.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Margaret **AND** Swearingen of Carlsbad; a



**DR. SAM SWEARINGEN**

Requiem Mass Wednesday

daughter, Mrs. B. Brent "Cissy" Livingston of Lubbock; two sons, Revace Lee Swearingen of Victoria and John Winston Swearingen of Austin; a brother, Merwin H. Swearingen of Corrigan.

**DR. REVACE O. (SAM)  
SWEARINGEN**

Dr. Revace O. (Sam) Swearingen, 58, of Carlsbad, Texas is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Ann Swearingen, of Carlsbad, Texas, daughter Mrs. B. Brent (Cissy) Livingston, of Lubbock, two sons Revace Lee Swearingen, of Victoria and John Winston Swearingen of Austin, one brother Merwin H. Swearingen of Carrigan.

Funeral Services will be held at the Cook-Walden Funeral Home, 1100 Colorado, Tuesday at 7:30 pm. Requiem mass will be celebrated at St. Austin's Catholic Church Wednesday at 10 am. Reverend Edward Pietruche, CSP will officiate.

Entombment will follow in the Assumption Mausoleum.

Doctor Swearingen graduated from the University of Texas and the University of Texas Medical School, served his internship at Gallinger Municipal Hospital, Washington, D.C. Served his surgery residency at Brackenridge where he was chief of Resident Staff, and was with the United States General Hospital in Guam from 1944-1946. He was chief of the Active Brackenridge Staff and Chief of Surgery for two periods of term. Elected member of the Board of Trustees of Brackenridge Hospital, and member of the Board of Directors of the Markridge Foundation, he served as Chief of Staff and surgery consultant at the Austin State Hospital and was a medical director of the Denton State School from 1967-1971. At the time of his death he was Medical director of San Angelo State Center. Dr. Swearingen was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Travis County Medical Society, Tom Green and County Medical Society, Texas State Medical Society, American Medical Association, The Journal Club of Austin and the North Concho Lions Club.

*The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980); Mar 12, 1974*

Permits

Application No. 1327 No. 15885  
 APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.  
 Austin, Texas, 7-7 1939  
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
 City of Austin, Texas  
 Sir:—  
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions  
 on premises owned by Claude A. Williams  
 at 1411 Ethridge Ave. Street  
 further described as lot E 22' of 2, all block 22, outlet  
 subdivision Pemb. Hts. division \_\_\_\_\_, plat 159  
 which is to be used as a Res.  
 In this place there are to be installed 13 fixtures.  
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance  
 charge.  
 Respectfully,  
Claude A. Williams

Sewer Service Permit, 1939

Claude A. Williams 1411 Ethridge Ave.  
 159 - 22 E 22' of 2, all  
 3 and  
 W 18' of 4

Pemberton Heights

2 story frame residence and frame garage  
 with servant quarters.

278N 7-6-39  
 Building Permit, 1939

Dr. R. O. Swearnigne <sup>NGEN</sup> 1411 Ethridge Ave.  
 159 E 22' of 2-a-13-W 18' of 4 22

Pemberton Heights  
 add storage room south side of garage with breezeway.  
 Frame 2 story add to res-

67067 7/23/57 11400.00  
 Ernest Parker add 4

Convert screen porch on 1st floor & add to game room.  
 1st floor: game room-breakfast & utility room  
 2nd floor: 2 bedrooms- 1 bath

Building Permit, 1957

OWNER	Charles Villasenor	ADDRESS	1411 Ethridge Avenue
PLAT	159	LOT	E 22' of 2, 3, & 18' of 4
			22
SUBDIVISION	Pemberton Hts.		
OCCUPANCY	Residence		
BLD PERMIT #	115266	DATE	11-27-69
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	\$3,500.00
CONTRACTOR	owner	NO. OF FIXTURES	several
WATER TAP REC #	Exist	SEWER TAP REC #	Exist

Remodel exist residence  
 Building Permit, 1969