

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

HLC DATE: July 6, 2022

PC DATE: August 9, 2022; August 23, 2022

CASE NUMBER: C141H-2022-0099

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 2002 Scenic Drive

APPLICANT: Historic Landmark Commission (owner-opposed)

HISTORIC NAME: Delisle House

WATERSHED: Lady Bird Lake

ZONING CHANGE: SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 10

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from family residence – neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) zoning to family residence – historic landmark – neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning. Should the Commission decide against recommendation over owner objection, require completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package prior to permit release.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION: Architecture, landscape features, and historical associations

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommend historic zoning based on architectural significance, landscape features, and historical associations, on a motion by Commissioner Koch. Commissioner Tollett seconded the motion. Vote: 10-0

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: August 9, 2022- Postponed to August 23, 2022 per Planning Commission request.

CITY COUNCIL DATE: TBD

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS:

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Kimberly Collins, 974-2727

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS: Austin Lost and Found Pets, Austin Neighborhoods Council, Central West Austin Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, Friends of Austin Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Empowerment Foundation, Preservation Austin, SELTexas, Save Barton Creek Assn., Save Historic Mundy District, Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group, TNR BCP - Travis County Natural Resources, Tarrytown Alliance, Tarrytown Neighborhood Association, West Austin Neighborhood Group

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: A valid petition against historic zoning has been filed by the owner's agent.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

§25-2-352(A)(3)(b)(i) Architecture. The property embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a recognized architectural style, type, or method of construction; exemplifies technological innovation in design or construction; displays high artistic value in representing ethnic or folk art, architecture, or construction; represents a rare example of an architectural style in the city; serves as an outstanding example of the work of an architect, builder, or artisan who significantly contributed to the development of the city, state, or nation; possesses cultural, historical, or architectural value as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian or vernacular structure; or represents an architectural curiosity or one-of-a-kind building. A property located within a local historic district is ineligible to be nominated for landmark designation under the criterion for architecture unless it possesses exceptional significance or is representative of a separate period of significance.

The primary building is a good example of Spanish eclectic architecture with Modern-style Fehr and Granger influences. The accessory structure is a unique example of eclectic, mid-century, and Gothic Revival architecture; it features unique Mansbendel keystones throughout. It appears to convey architectural significance as a one-of-a-kind structure in Austin.

The primary building at 2002 Scenic Drive, known historically as River Street or River Avenue, is a two-story Spanish eclectic residence with Modern and eclectic additions constructed during the historic period. It is clad in stucco and masonry and capped with a compound-hipped roof with deep eaves. Fenestration includes multi-light wood casement windows irregularly placed throughout. A cylindrical turret with a crenelated parapet and arched windows flanks an open masonry porch that leads to an expansive designed landscape.

The secondary building is an eclectic Gothic Revival cottage. It is two stories in height with an arched palisade, cedar-shake roof, and masonry cladding. A two-story turret with faux chequerboard trim dominates the principal elevation. Each round

arch includes a limestone keystone carved by famed local stoneworker Peter Mansbendel.

A renovation was designed circa 1946-47 by prominent Austin architects Fehr & Granger. Officially established in 1946, Fehr & Granger was one of the first and possibly most influential mid-century modern architectural firms in Austin. The firm flourished, with an extensive body of work consisting of both residential and commercial projects. They received multiple awards for their work in the magazine Progressive Architecture.

§25-2-352(A)(3)(b)(ii) Historical Associations. *The property has long-standing significant associations with persons, groups, institutions, businesses, or events of historic importance which contributed significantly to the history of the city, state, or nation; or represents a significant portrayal of the cultural practices or the way of life of a definable group of people in a historic time.*

The property appears to have significant historical associations with builder, entrepreneur, and optician Raymond Delisle.

The house at 2002 Scenic Drive, called River Street or River Avenue before 1940, was constructed around 1923 by Raymond Maurice Delisle as his homestead. Delisle, the son of a Houston architect, built 16 other houses in the River Street area while also working as an optician in Austin. He owned and operated the Austin Optical Company from the early 1920s until his retirement around 1940. He was one of the 1927 incorporators of the Urnite Manufacturing Company. Urnite, a synthetic stone material created by Austinite C.F. Paul, appears to have been used in several landscape features, and terraces around the property. Delisle's other designs appear to reflect his unique "fairytale cottage" aesthetic, and his own home is a testament to his appreciation for Gothic Revival detailing.

Later occupants include William Foster and then Mr. and Mrs. K.D. Shoudy. After the Shoudy family lost a young son while living at the property in 1945, they sold the house to C.H. and Mildred Slator. It stayed in the Slator family until 2021, according to TCAD records. C.H. Slator, was a local attorney and co-owner of the Tavern (ca. 1953).

§25-2-352(A)(3)(b)(v) Landscape Feature. *The property is a significant natural or designed landscape or landscape feature with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.*

The property appears to have a significant and unique designed landscape with aesthetic and historical value. Some landscape features, including the arched bridge and bench, appear to incorporate Delisle's Urnite material. This local Austin-based building material is rare today. Additionally, the landscape designed by Delisle specifically relates to his architectural vision for the house, with meandering walks, an expansive lawn, and an early swimming pool built into the hillside topography to provide a river view.

PARCEL NO.: 0117090604

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 3-5 LESS S39.53 FT OF E26.74FT AV OF LOT 5 BLK 4 LAUREL HEIGHTS

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: Non-homestead, no cap: \$16, 107.62 total, city portion \$5,654.81. Homestead: \$8,500 total (capped), city portion \$2,500 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$3,503,552

DATE BUILT Ca. 1923

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1923-1972

INTEGRITY: High

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Addition to the primary residence during the historic period

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Raymond and Ammon Delisle

PRESENT USE: Residential, vacant

PRESENT OWNERS: Michael P. Murphy

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 22-047398
 LOCATION: 2002 SCENIC DRIVE



1" = 250'

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

Northwest view of primary residence



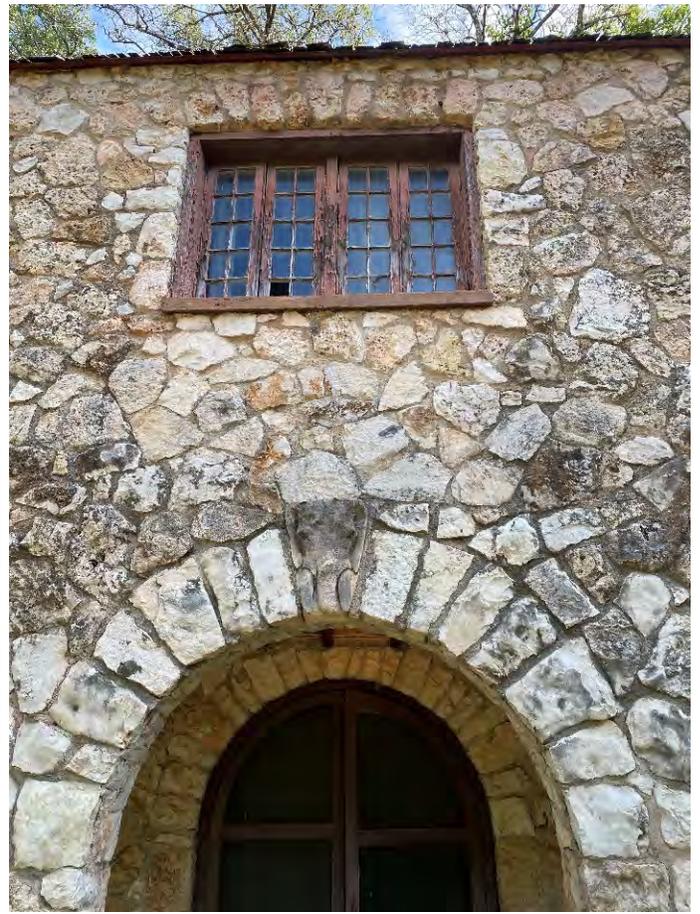
Northwest view of accessory building



North-facing view of accessory building



West-facing view of accessory building



North-facing view of accessory building (middle window)



West elevation of accessory building



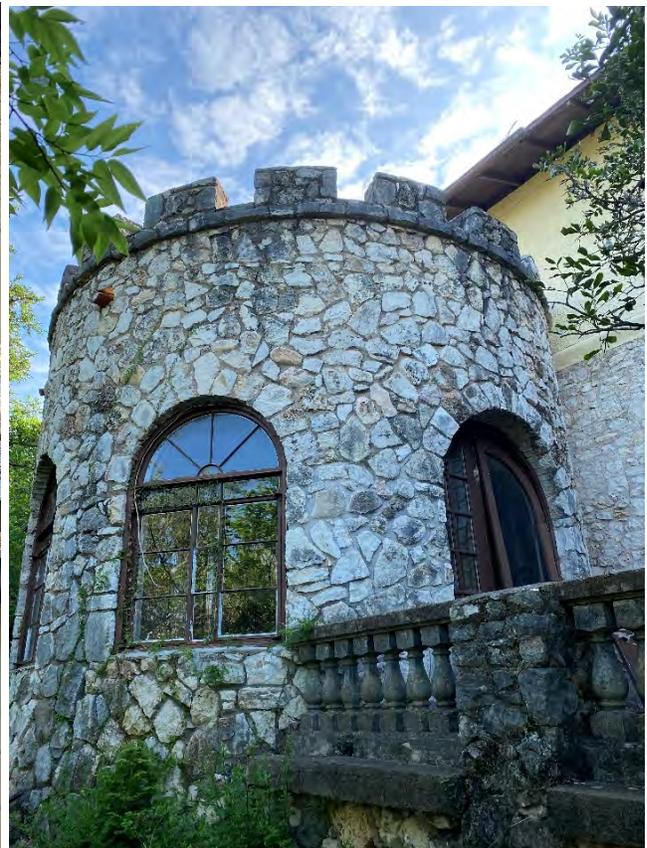
West elevation of accessory building



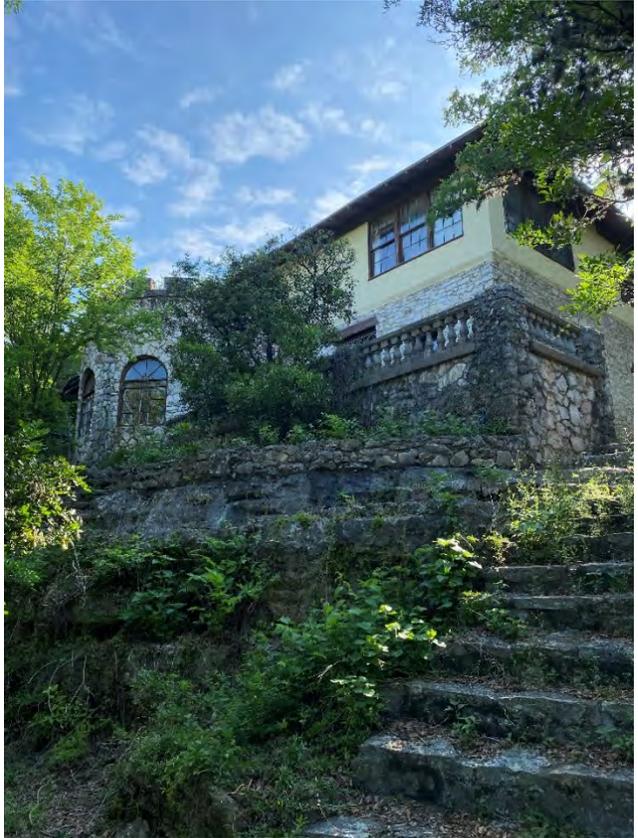
North elevation of primary residence



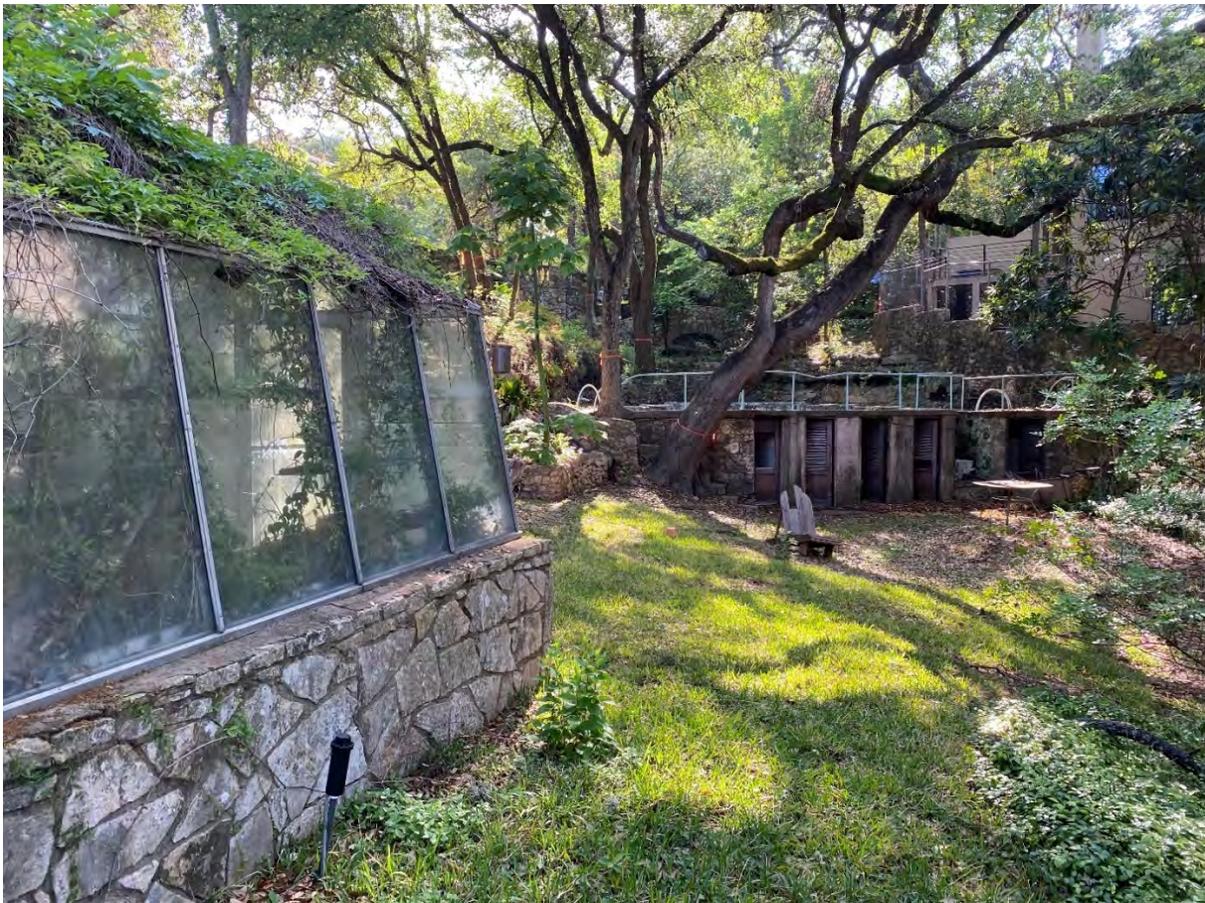
Primary residence



West elevation turret (primary residence)



West elevation (primary residence)



Landscape (Southside of property)



Landscape (Southside of property)



Landscape (Southside of property)



Landscape (Southside of property)



Pool (Southside of property)



Bridge (Southside of property)



Bench (South of primary residence)

Historic Preservation Office, 2022

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, March 2022

1959	C. H. and Mildred E. Slator, owners Lawyer 1211 Perry-Brooks building
1957	C. H. and Mildred E. Slator, owners Lawyer 1211 Perry-Brooks building
1955	C. H. and Mildred E. Slator, owners Lawyer 1211 Perry-Brooks building
1952	C. H. and Mildred E. Slator, owners Lawyer 1211 Perry-Brooks building
1949	C. H. and Mildred E. Slator, owners Lawyer 709 Littlefield building
1947	Address not listed

Aerials



1940 Aerial



1977 Aerial



1977 Aerial

Permits

5

WATER SERVICE PERMIT C N^o 9135 ¹⁶⁵

Austin, Texas

Received of CH. SLATOR Date 5-22-51

Address 2002 SCENIC DRIVE

Amount THIRTY FIVE ~~AND 100~~ ⁰⁰ 35

Plumber S Size of Tap 1/4

Date of Connection: 5-24-51

Water service permit, 1951

382 RTMS

C. H. Slator

2002 Scenic Drive

165

3, 4, and 5

4

-

-

Laurel Heights

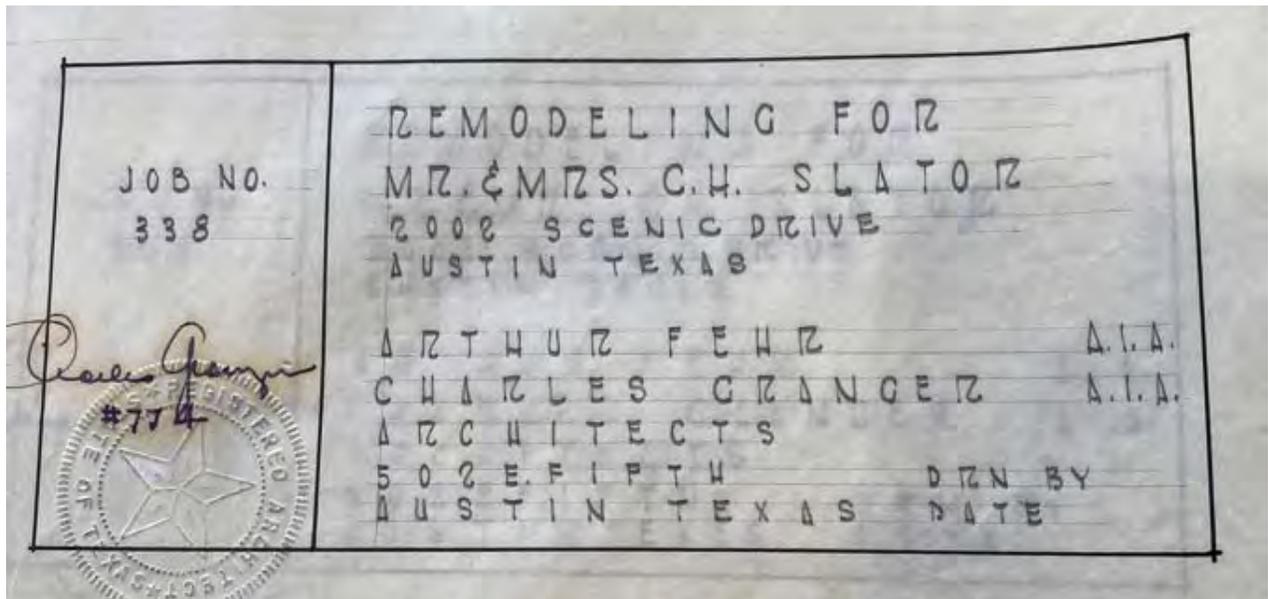
Masonry addition to residence.

40019 1-17-49

\$16,000.00

W. T. Walker and Son

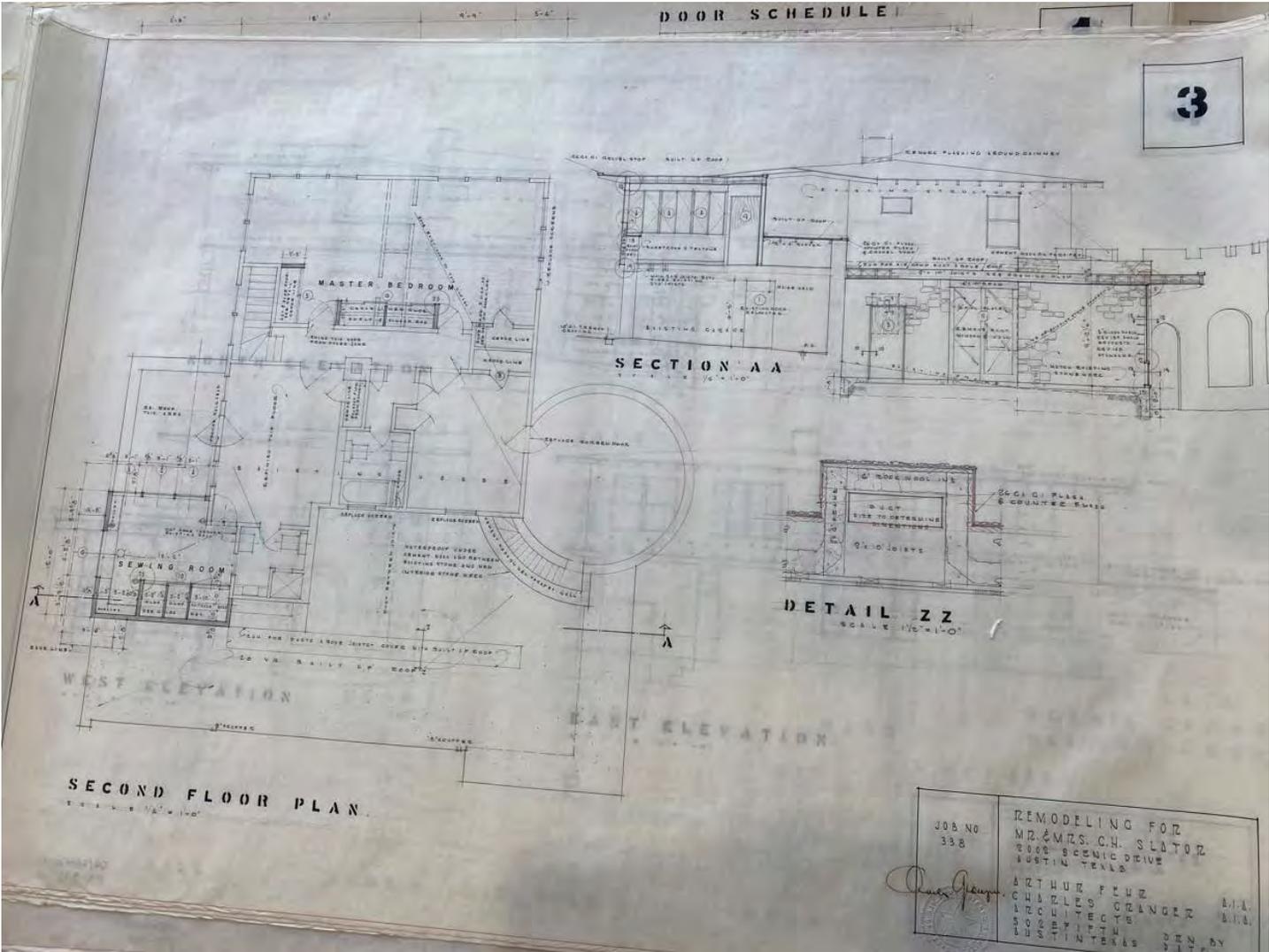
Building permit, 1949



Fehr & Granger Stamp

DOOR SCHEDULE

3



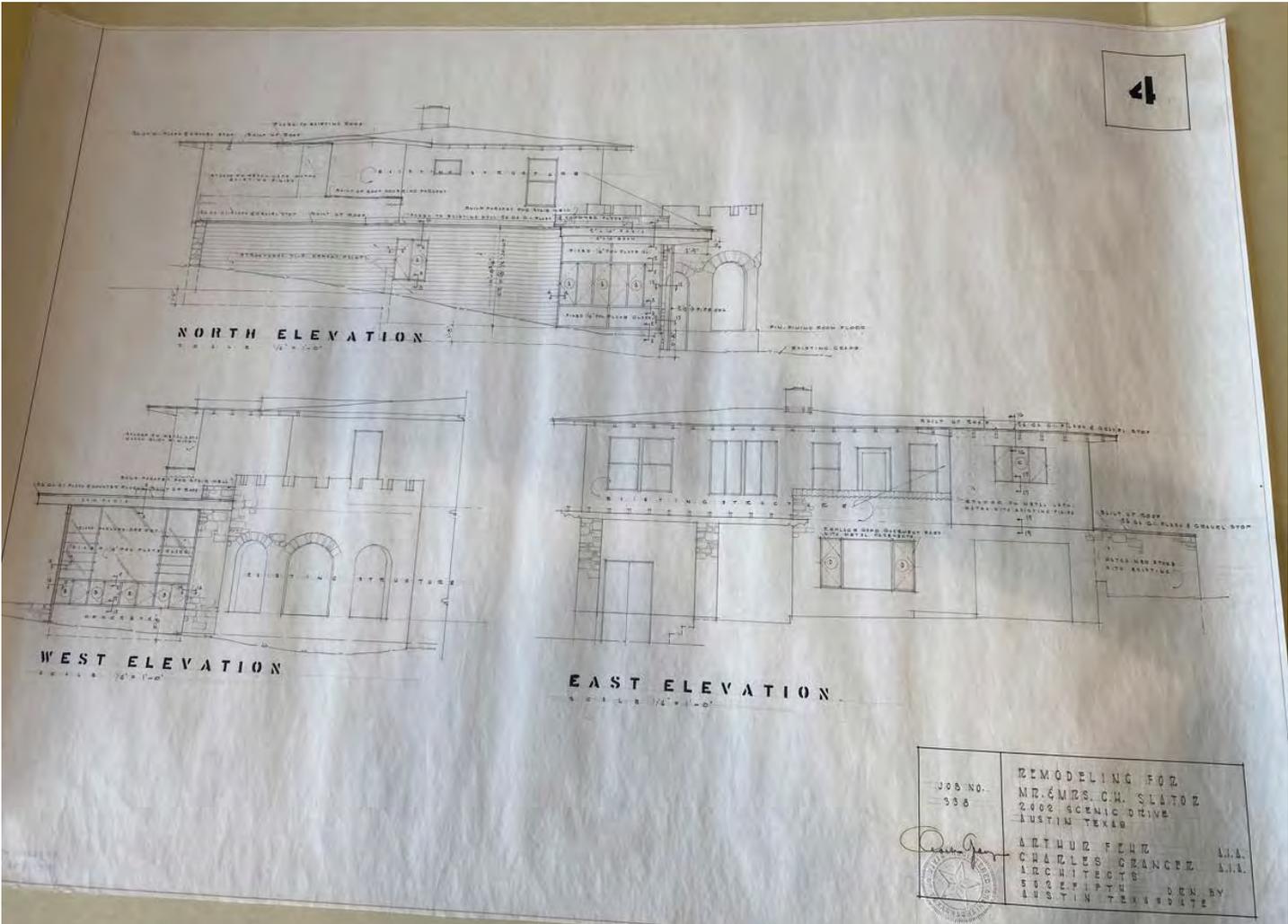
JOB NO
338

REMODELING FOR
MR. & MRS. C.H. SLATOR
8008 SCENIC DRIVE
AUSTIN TEXAS

ARTHUR FEHR
CHARLES GRANGER B.A.
ARCHITECTS B.A.S.
1502 WEST 11TH
AUSTIN TEXAS DEN. BY

Fehr & Granger remodel plans.

4



Fehr & Granger remodel plans.

Classified Ad 4 -- No Title

The Austin American (1914-1973); Dec 10, 1944;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
pg. 23

108--WANTED: REAL ESTATE
WANTED TO buy one 8 room and 1 6
room house from owner, immediate
possession necessary. Write or contact
William J. Foster, 2002 Scenic Drive,
Austin.

Delisle Rites Set at 3 P.M.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jan 6, 1953;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
pg. 16

Delisle Rites Set at 3 P. M.

Raymond Maurice Delisle, 63, resident of Austin for the past 35 years, died at his home Monday. A retired optical, he owned the Austin Optical Company for 25 years until about 10 years ago.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Ammon Delisle; a daughter, Mrs. Ed Wroe Jr., both of Austin; two sons, Robert R. Neyland, Fort Worth and Major Mayo W. Neyland, Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio; a brother, Ernest A. Delisle, Los Angeles, Calif. and an aunt, Mrs. F. L. Adams, Atlanta, Ga.

Funeral services were scheduled at St. David's Episcopal Church Tuesday at 3 p. m. with the Rev. Charles A. Summers officiating. Burial was in Austin Memorial Park under the direction of the Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

George M. Taylor Dies at Son's Home

The Austin American (1914-1973); Jan 21, 1945;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
pg. 12

KENNETH D. SHODY, JR.

Kenneth D. Shoudy, Jr., infant son of Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Shoudy, 2002 Scenic drive, died in a local hospital Friday night. Besides his parents, he is survived by one sister, Lois Jan.

The body will be at the Weed-Corely Funeral home until 3 p. m. Sunday when it will be taken to the First English Lutheran church where services will be held at 4 p. m. Rev. Lewis P. Speaker will officiate and burial will be in Memorial park.

Delisle Timeline

1889

Raymond Maurice Delisle, born February 8, 1889, to Adrien and Florence McLeod Delisle in Chattanooga, Tennessee; there are four sons in the family (Ernest, Eugene, Raymond, and Albert)

ca. 1900

Delisle family moves to Houston, Texas; father works as architect

1917–1918

Delisle registers for draft in Houston, No. M1509

Delisle marries Gladdys (sometimes Gladys) Katherine Legg of London, Ontario, March 2, 1918, Christ Church, Houston; born March 1890 to Archie and Margaret Legg

1919

Raymond M Delisle, 1908 Drew Ave, Houston, Texas, Optician (Houston City Directory, 1919, lists this address as also the home of Adrien Delisle and Albert J. Delisle)

Delisles move to Austin, Texas

Death of “infant Delisle” (male, premature birth), October 5, 1919, Physicians’ and Surgeons’ Hospital [610 W. 17th], Austin; buried October 6, 1919, in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin

1920

March 17, 1920 (Travis County Deed Records, Book 328, p. 555)

Margaret A. Stiles to R. M. Delisle, part of Lot 4, Block 5, James Subdivision, Outlet No. 3, Division 2 (may be the first property purchased by Delisle)

1920 city directory: R. M. Delisle (Austin Optical Co.), rms 712 W 14th, Austin, Texas
Austin Optical Co., 204 W. 6th

1922

April 12, 1922 (Book 335, p. 283A)

J. M Walsh et al. (owners of Wm Walsh Estate) to R. M Delisle, 13.45-acre tract “out of what is known as Walsh Place,” Division B; “adjacent to and just northeast of the Lake Austin Dam in Travis County”; \$8,800 (\$3,000 in cash plus six promissory notes).

1922 city directory: Raymond M Delisle (Austin Optical Co., Gladys), r 1011 W. 17th, Austin, Texas
Austin Optical Co., 108 W. 6th

1923

May 2, 1923 (Book 349, p. 267A)

R. M. Delisle and Gladdys K. Delisle to J. Garland Shelton, part of 13.45 acres of Walsh Place Addition, Division B

1924 city directory: Raymond M Delisle (Austin Optical Co., Gladys), r Lake Austin, Austin, Texas

Austin Optical Co., 108 W. 6th

1925

May 18, 1925 (Book 394, p. 72A)

R. M. Delisle and Gladdys K. Delisle to A. J. Kleberg, part of 13.45 acres of Walsh Place Addition, Division B

1926

July 31, 1926 ("deed of conveyance lost before the same was filed"; replacement deed "to correct the record" executed July 30, 1929; see below)

R. M. Delisle and Gladdys K. Delisle to Harry Hartman, 13.45 acres [less carve-outs of sold parts] of Walsh Place, Division B; \$2,000 cash plus five promissory notes of \$1,500 each

October 4, 1926 (Book 396, p. 68A)

R. M. Delisle and Gladdys K. Delisle to O. G. Hofheinz, part of Walsh Place, Division B

1927

1927 city directory: Raymond M Delisle (Austin Optical Co., Gladys), r Lake Austin

Austin Optical Co., 108 W. 6th

February 24, 1927, divorce decree filed in Bexar County

1928

April 9, 1928 (Book 450, p. 249A)

E. C. Fallwell and Sallie M. Fallwell to R. M. Delisle, Lots 3 and 4, Block 4, Laurel Heights Addition No. 1; \$950 (\$550 cash, \$400 note)

July 12, 1928 (Book 450, p. 248A)

E. C. Fallwell and Sallie M. Fallwell to R. M. Delisle, Lot 5, Block 4, Laurel Heights Addition No. 1, \$400 (\$100 cash, \$300 note)

1929

July 30, 1929 (Book 473, p. 179A); replacement deed "to correct the record"

R. M. Delisle and Gladdys K. Delisle [now "femme sole"] to Harry Hartman, 13.45 acres of Walsh Place Addition, Division B [less carve-outs]

1929 city directory: Raymond Delisle (Austin Optical Co.), res Laurel Heights

1930–1931 city directory: Raymond M Delisle, Laurel Heights, Lake Austin

Austin Optical Co., 202 Norwood Bldg.

1931

April 28, 1931 (Book 465, p. 571A)

- E. H. Perry to R. M. Delisle, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, Block 5, Laurel Heights; \$2,000 (\$1,500 cash, \$500 note)
- 1932 city directory: Raymond M Delisle, Lake Austin
- 1935 city directory: Raymond M Delisle, Lake Austin
- 1937 city directory: Raymond M Delisle, Lake Austin
- 1939
- 1939 city directory: Raymond M Delisle (Austin Optical Co.), 1906 Laurel Ave. [changed to Matthews Drive in November 1940]
- January 1, 1939, marriage to Ammon McGaughey Neyland (Book 37, p. 517); notice of license issued: *Austin American*, December 24, 1939 [1938?]; previous marriage to Mayo W. Neyland, June 5, 1921, Hunt, Texas
- December 27, 1939, R. M. and Ammon Delisle of 2002 River St., Austin, Texas, sail from New Orleans as cruise passengers on the S.S. *Santa Marta*, returning January 4, 1940
- 1940 city directory: Raymond M Delisle, 2002 River Av [changed to Scenic Drive in November 1940], Laurel Heights
- 1941
- January 4, 1941, R. M. and Ammon Delisle of 106 W. 6th, Austin, Texas, sail from Havana, Cuba, as cruise passengers on the S.S. *Tolca*, arriving in New Orleans on January 6, 1941
- 1941 city directory: Raymond M Delisle, 2002 River
- 1942 city directory: Raymond M Delisle, 2002 River Av, Optician, Ammon Delisle, Austin, Texas
- 1942
- Delisle registers for draft in Austin, No. U-2607; lists himself as "retired optician"
- 1944
- May 8, 1944 (Vol. 744, p. 119)
- R. M. Delisle and Ammon Delisle to B. L. Shannon and Amy Shannon, Lots 3, 4, and 5 in Block 4 and Lots 1 and 2 in Block 5, Laurel Heights, includes "premises and improvements"; \$20,000 note
- 1947 city directory: Raymond M. Delisle, 2200 San Gabriel, Austin, Texas
- 1949 city directory: Raymond M. Delisle, 2200 San Gabriel
- 1953
- January 5, 1953, death of R. M. Delisle (age 63), buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
- 1953 city directory: Ammon Delisle, 3600 Meredith, Austin, Texas, R M Delisle
- 1957 city directory: Mrs. Ammon Delisle, 2103a Woodmont Av, Austin, Texas
- 1960 city directory: Mrs. Ammon Delisle, 2103a Woodmont Av
-
- 1988
- October 8, 1988, death of Ammon Delisle (age 87), buried in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

Timeline of Raymond Delisle family

Mrs. DeLisle Hostess at Lake Austin Home
The Austin Statesman (1921-1973): Aug 12, 1923;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
 pg. A1

Mrs. DeLisle Hostess at Lake Austin Home

Mrs. R. M. DeLisle entertained with a delightful swimming and bridge party Thursday at her home on Lake Austin. The lovely home, with its patio and private swimming pool, has been the inspiration of a number of charming entertainments this summer, and this affair was not unlike its predecessors.

The guests arrived early and at once donned their bathing suits, following which a number of bridge games were played. Mrs. Roy West was presented with a vase in lavender luster as winner of high score, and Mrs. Earl Simms, Mrs. Felix Thaxton, Mrs. E. G. LaMay and Mrs. Malcolm Reed Jr. won the table prizes, bridge score sets. Miss Ida Tobin cut the consolation, a deck of cards.

A refreshing luncheon was served at noon to the following guests: Mmes. Sanford Smith, Robert Dale of Houston, Earl Simms, Paul Simms, Joe K. Johnson, Ed Johnson, John Ward, Malcolm Reed Jr., Jeff Dibrell, Felix Thaxton, McKean Ellers, Tom Steely, E. G. LaMay, Fred Penick, Roy West and Miss Ida Tobin.



NEW FACTORY

Urnite Develops Austin Product.

Urnite Manufacturing company, Austin's newest manufacturing plant, was incorporated this past week in the office of the Secretary of State with A. M. Bohn, M. Holck, A. M. DeLisle, C. F. Paul and Max Werkenthin as incorporators.

Urnite is the name of a patented synthetic stone, a process worked out by an Austin man, C. F. Paul. This new stone has the appearance of white marble, but is much lighter and possesses exceptional strength.

"Articles of any design can be manufactured from this process stone," Max Werkenthin pointed out, "and its qualities of strength and lighter weight make it superior over concrete or metal."

The Urnite Manufacturing company was organized for the purpose of developing this invention and for manufacturing urns, benches, tables, fountains, bird baths and similar articles for the beautification of the home and garden, Mr. Werkenthin said.

At present these articles are manufactured at a small plant near the Austin dam. The new corporation plans to erect a temporary building in the immediate future on a tract of land just south of the Woodward Body Works on the Post road.

During the past year, a number of urns, birdbaths, benches and fountains have been manufactured by the company. C. B. Cook has two urns of a beautiful design before his funeral home on Colorado and Eleventh street. A birdbath has recently been on display at the Griffith Drug company. Barker Motor company has several decorative pieces from the Urnite company decorating their sales room during the showing of their new line of cars.

"We are planning to have a goodly supply of garden fixtures on hand by the time gardens are blooming this spring," Mr. Werkenthin stated "and we know that our fixtures are going to do their part to make Austin a 'City Beautiful.'"

Urnite Plant Size To Be Tripled Soon

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Aug 15, 1927;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
pg. 3

**Urnite Plant Size
To Be Tripled Soon**

Increasing its capital stock from \$5000 to \$30,000, the Urnite Manufacturing company, synthetic stone manufacturing company and one of Austin's newest, will open on Sept. 1 a plant triple the size of its present one, Max Werkenthin, president of the company, said Monday morning.

The controlling interest in the company will be kept by the original stockholders, Mr. Werkenthin said, and those stockholders will constitute the board of directors. The men who owned stock in the company when it first opened operations in April were C. F. Paul, Max Werkenthin, R. M. DeLisle, H. M. Bohn and M. Holck.

URNITE PLANT IN OPERATION: Durable Building Material Is Made Here

The Austin American (1914-1973); Aug 14, 1927;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman

pg. B47

URNITE PLANT IN OPERATION

Durable Building Material Is Made Here.

Urnite, a manufactured stone substance weighing but one-tenth ordinary stone, harder and more durable than cement, is a product developed by C. F. Paul, Austin chemist, and now being manufactured here by the Urnite corporation, composed of Austin business men. Urnite is being made into tables, benches, decorative and ornamental ware. Its extensive use in building industries was predicted by Mr. Paul.

The Urnite corporation is a \$30,000 manufacturing concern, having as its officers H. M. Bohn, Manfred Holck, R. M. de Lisle and Max Werkenthin. Mr. Paul is in charge of operations of the plant.

The company's office are located in the new Masonic building. The factory is on the Post road, near Penn field.

Urnite Firm Growing Fast: Products Sold All Over Southwest
The Austin American (1914-1973); Aug 12, 1928;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
 pg. A5

Urnite Firm Growing Fast

Products Sold All Over Southwest.

One of Austin's youngest and fastest growing industries is the **Urnite** Manufacturing company, located on the Post road, three and one-half miles south of the city.

A \$30,000 corporation, this young firm has been established since March, 1927, and its growth is reflected in its steadily increasing volume of business.

Incorporators are H. M. Bohn, M. Holck and M. J. Werkenthin, all Austin men.

The **Urnite** company makes a specialty of garden lawn furniture, which includes seats, rotunda benches, fern bowls and the like.

PRODUCT IS DURABLE

These products are manufactured by applying a plastic solution over a rust-proof steel fabricated form. According to Werkenthin, the result is a product very light and durable, having the appearance of concrete. Construction material is all bought in Austin, he said.

Although spending practically all of its money here, the volume of business done by the firm comes mostly from other cities. Shipments recently have been made to Mexico City, Oklahoma and Long Island, N. Y.

The firm already has dealers in San Antonio, Beaumont, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas and New Braunfels, and expects to establish others soon.

In speaking of the firm's business, Mr. Werkenthin stated that the plant itself is the company's best advertising medium. Many people travelling between Austin and San Antonio stop in to load a piece of furniture on their way.

21 COATS APPLIED

Barton's Beauty Program Urged: Woodland Effect for Resort Suggested by Bohn
The Austin American (1914-1973); Jun 30, 1929;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
 pg. 33

Barton's Beauty Program Urged

Woodland Effect for Resort Suggested by Bohn

Barton Springs, the municipal pleasure resort located two miles southwest of the city of Austin, would be decorated in woodland effect if the suggestion made by H. M. Bohn of Austin is adopted by the park board and the city council.

Mr. Bohn pointed out that visitors to Brackenridge park comment favorably on the rustic bridges, wooden benches and other woodland decorations which are found there. He proposes that the same type of fixtures be installed in the local municipal park.

Tells of Enterprise

Although these benches and bridges look like real wood, they are not wood at all, Mr. Bohn pointed out as he unfolded the story of a new enterprise which has been started here in Austin.

Mr. Bohn happens to be the president and general manager of the **Urnite** Manufacturing company, whose plant is located on the San Antonio post road about three miles south of Austin. A few years ago he traveled through Central America and in Guatemala City and San Salvador, he saw what appeared to be ornamental tree stumps, rustic bridges and other apparently ornamental wooden park fixtures.

'Concrete Woodwork'

He examined more closely and found that these ornamental fixtures were not fashioned from wood, but from a new reinforced concrete process stained in a color so natural that "it will even fool a woodpecker" as he expressed it. These fixtures are made by a special Spanish process which secret has gradually drifted northward until now it is fairly well known in Texas and has even reached Austin.

About three months ago the **Ur-**

nite Manufacturing company turned its attention to the manufacture of woodland decorations employing this special process. This concrete woodwork, as it is called for lack of a better trade name, is made of concrete reinforced with metal lath and steel treated with a special chemical while the cement is setting. The workman is required to work out the design very rapidly and the process requires unusual skill and dexterity.

The **Urnite** Manufacturing company has employed an expert for his work named L. McHenry, who learned the art from the Mexicans. Mr. Bohn also makes designs from this special process. Although this phase of the firm's work has been in use here only three months, half of the capacity of the **Urnite** Manufacturing company's plant has been turned over to this concrete woodwork, Mr. Bohn asserted.

Samples of this work are now on display at the Country club grounds and favorable comments have been received from members.

Plans Drawn

Plans have been drawn for the balcony and terrace of the new home of R. M. DeLisle, which are to be fashioned from this special process and when completed will present the appearance of a woodland scene. Work on this contract will be started by the **Urnite** Manufacturing company within the next few weeks.

The **Urnite** Manufacturing company opened its plant here two years ago in charge of a group of Austin men to bring a new industry to this city. During that time the company has been making urns, bird baths, toad stools, wading pools, sun dials, lawn benches and other fixtures for the yard and porch out of a special concrete process which withstands all forms of weather and other elements.

The company has equipped the stations of the Southland Red Ball Motorbus company at Austin, Temple, Waco, and San Marcos and has sent some of its products to New York, Wisconsin, Missouri and Mexico, Mr. Bohn said.

Officers of the company are: H. M. Bohn, president and general manager; Manfred Holck, vice president; Max J. Werkenthin, secretary-treasurer; A. W. Griffith, director and R. M. DeLisle, director.

Austin Gardens To Be Opened; Annual Violet Crown Pilgrimage Described
*The Austin American (1914-1915), Apr. 2, 1912,
 Precious Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Suburban
 DE. A.*

Austin Gardens To Be Opened

Annual Violet Crown Pilgrimage Described

A foretaste of the delights of the pilgrimage of the Violet Crown Garden club on April 16 and 17 is given in the prospectus of the trip as compiled by Mrs. G. G. Commons, chairman of the pilgrimage.

Should other incentive to go on the garden pilgrimages be needed it will be found in the fact that one 35 cent ticket admits you to the pine gardens and the funds derived from ticket sales will be used during the coming year for the garden club's warlike activities.

The list of gardens to be visited, nine in number, includes those in which the natural beauty of the setting has been allowed to dominate the arrangement and the more sophisticated in which the work of the gardener as well as the art of the sculptor, has been called into play.

Laguna Gloria, former home of Mrs. Clara Driscoll, has long been a show place in Austin. The correlation of native beauty and the landscaper's art are used in a delightful way. There are for example some beautiful statuae, brought from Italy, representing the four seasons, these being a part of the formal gardens, while much of the outlying natural surroundings have been left intact.

Tradition has it that this was the site originally selected by Stephen F. Austin for his home.

Laguna Gloria is situated on Mount Bonnell road, as is also the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Dunbar, high up on what was, as rumor has it, at one time a hostler's hideout. The Dunbars have used ingenuity and industry, more perhaps of the latter than the former, in its planning and the result is most satisfactory, since the native ruggedness has been transformed into a picturesque setting for their home. From the screened porch one has a view of the distant purple tinted hills and a sweep of water.

Lilace Strand Sentry
 Fringing the edge of the hillside are native shrubs which are suited to the locality, and, skirting the lower edge is the cactus bordered drive. Two large lilacs stand sentry at the top of the entrance steps.

At 2002 Bivler street, descending the hillside down to the very edge of the lake, Dr. and Mrs. R. M. MacLair have their home surrounded by unusual gardens. Winding paths thread here and there below the rock walls and among the ledges, dotted here and there with flowers and shrubs. Behind the hill one comes to the swimming pool and the boat pier.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Garvis Swafford, 1611 Neches, is an example of what can be done with the small house and garden. It stands just off one of our downtown business streets and its front faces one of Austin's rock-bottom river beds. The garden in the rear is walled in, part of the wall forming an outdoor fireplace. Winding rock steps lead from the terrace up to a tiny pool at the top at the entrance to the garden.

The house with its postage stamp terraced hillside garden, brings an old world setting to a new world cottage right in the heart of town.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Sullivan have arranged the spacious grounds about their home, 2004 Bridal Path, with an eye both in the artistic and the utilitarian. One rear slope is occupied by the orchard between the trees of which vegetables and potatoes in quantities sufficient for home use are planted.

A rose garden lines the lower edge along the creek bank. Still another slope is a color-studded rock garden going down to a terrace, barbecue pit and pool among the trees. Numerous native oaks line the front walk shading the house and the game court.

Dr. H. T. Parlin has developed a garden about a group of native oaks at his home, 103 West Third street. It was also planned for privacy and as an escape from the street. The stone court is an ornamental part of the terrace necessitated by the early stages in drainage from the south. It also serves to tie the house more intimately to its surroundings. Because of the shade this is a green garden, shrubby rather than a flower garden.

Travis Heights Gardens
 The homes of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Murchison, 1504 Alta Vista, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Walker, 1509 Alta Vista, and Mr. and Mrs. Clay Milledge, 1405 Alta Vista, have each their claim to attention. An outstanding feature of the Murchison home is the formal planned arrangement of shrubbery at the front entrance as one climbs the steps to the house. Receding masses of wild ferns and other plants droop down to a concrete shaded terrace which also forms the roof to the garage.

Adding this, above, and lower down the hillside, is the home of the Horace Walkers. A wide flagstone driveway leads to the door. Blooming shrubs and flowers are massed against the boundary walls. In the rear flowers and vegetables share the sunny beds. A score or more of climbing Paul Scarlet roses cover the trellis about three sides of the tennis court, and from the court may be seen a real view of leafy hillside with roofs peeping through here and there.

Across the street from these homes live the Clay Milledges. The front lawn slope is terraced and planted with shrubbery. At the rear are the usable and attractive outdoor living quarters. Three pools at different levels lead down to the barbecue pit with its stone tables and benches.

San Antonio Ceremony Unites Pair: Mildred Edgar Becomes Bride Of C. H. Slator

The Austin American (1914-1973): Nov 2, 1947;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
pg. A9

San Antonio Ceremony Unites Pair

Mildred Edgar
Becomes Bride
Of C. H. Slator

In a double-ring ceremony read Tuesday noon in the Alamo Heights Methodist Church in San Antonio Miss Mildred Edgar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Edgar Sr., 51 Summit View, Austin, became the bride of C. H. Slator, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Slator Sr. of Llano.

The Rev. Kermit Gibbons officiated.

Mrs. Reynolds N. Cate of San Antonio and Colonel Alfred P. Peisch of Fredericksburg attended the couple, and only members of the immediate families were present for the ceremony.

The bride wore a custom-made suit of beige French velour fashioned in a mandarin design and heavily embroidered in rose beige and gold thread. Her accessories were of bronze reptile, and she wore a corsage of bronze orchids. For "something old" an antique gold pin that had belonged to her paternal grandmother was pinned at the neckline of her blouse.

Immediately following the ceremony members of the wedding party attended a champagne party and luncheon in the Percaux Room of the St. Anthony Hotel. This was followed by a cocktail party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds N. Cate, 140 Castano Avenue.

Afterwards the couple left for New Orleans from where they sailed Nov. 1 on the SS Antikua for Havana, Cuba, and Guatemala. On their return they will live in their new home at 2002 Scenic Drive, Austin.

Mrs. Slator studied fine arts at Southwestern University, Mary Hardin-Baylor College and the University of Texas. Mr. Slator received his degree from the University of Texas and is now practicing law in Austin.



MRS. C. H. SLATOR

The Austin American (1914-1973): Nov 2, 1947

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It's News



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The Austin Statesman (1921-1973): Nov 19, 1954

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