ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2010-0021 **HLC DATE:** June 28, 2010
PC DATE:

APPLICANT: Francis Wilde, owner

HISTORIC NAME: Olson-Foster House

WATERSHED: Waller Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 3808 Avenue H

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NCCD to SF-3-H-NCCD

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from family residence – neighborhood conservation (SF-3-NCCD) combining district to family residence – historic landmark – neighborhood conservation (SF-3-H-NCCD) combining district zoning.

The Olson-Foster House meets the criteria for designation for its architectural and historical significance, in that it is an excellent example of a 1930s brick Tudor Revival-styled cottage and typifies middle-class architecture in the Shadow Lawn subdivision. The house is also associated with the Frank Olson family, prominent Swedish-American farmers, as well as the R.C. and Anna Nellie Foster, who represent the Lebanese-American community in the Hyde Park area.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

CITY COUNCIL DATE: **ACTION:**

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD **ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky **PHONE:** 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

One-story irregular-plan, side-gabled brick-veneered cottage with a central, front-gabled projecting entry containing a round-arched entry and door; paired and triple 1:1 fenestration with 9:1 wood screens. The house is typical of the Shadow Lawn section of Hyde Park, which was designed for the middle class in the 1930s and 1940s.

Historical Associations:

The house was built in 1934 for Frank Oscar and Esther Olson by Martin Shipe and Sons. Olson was a successful pioneer farmer who lived in the house until his death in 1945. He was born in Illinois to Swedish immigrants, but then the family relocated to Texas and pursued agriculture around Manor. The 1900 U.S. Census shows Frank O. Olson as the 25-year old son

of Mr. B. Olson, who was living in rural Travis County. Frank O. Olson was born in Illinois in 1874; both of his parents had been born in Sweden. The 1900 census report shows that Frank was married to Esther, who had been born in 1879 in Texas to Swedish-born parents. Frank is listed as a farmer in the census report. The Olson family had moved to Texas between 1874, when Frank was born in Illinois, and 1882, when a younger sister, Ida, was born in Texas. Olson's 1917 World War I draft registration card shows Frank and Esther Olson living at Manor, Texas, where he was engaged as a farmer. The 1930 U.S. Census shows F.O. and Esther (Easter) Olson living in rural Travis County; F.O. was then 55 years old; Esther was then 52. The only child living with them at that time was their daughter Gladys, who was then 13. The Olsons owned the house they lived in, which was worth $3,000. Olson is listed as a cotton farmer. Neither Esther nor Gladys had an occupation listed. Frank O. and Esther Olson purchased this lot from Victor and Ida Bengston in 1925, and moved into Austin between 1930 and 1934, when they had this house built. The materials for the house came from Becker Lumber Company, as evidenced by the release of the mechanic's lien on the property. Frank Olson is listed as a farmer in city directories of the 1930s and 1940s. Their daughters, Bendella, a teacher, Dora, a stenographer for the State Highway Department,, Mildred, an invoice clerk for E.M. Scarbrough & Sons Department Store, and Gladys, a clerk with the Texas Insurance Checking Office, all lived in the house through the early 1940s. Gladys married Robert W. Meacham, who is listed as the home-owner in the 1944-45 city directory.

After Frank's death in 1945, only Esther and her daughter Dora remained in the house. Dora worked for the State Highway Department for many years. After her mother's death in 1960, Dora remained in the house another year, then sold the property to R.C. and Anna Nellie Foster.

Robert C. Foster ran the R.C. Foster Mercantile Company, a dry goods store on E. 6th Street. Originally from North Carolina, Foster walked into Austin from San Antonio in 1939, having already made his mark in the business world selling towels, toothpaste, and other necessities to work camps during the Depression. Anna Nellie Foster was the daughter of Alex Joseph, a prominent Lebanese immigrant, who, like many of his countrymen, opened a grocery business in Austin. The family remained very close over the years, and represent the tightly-knit Lebanese-American community in Austin. Anna Nellie and two of her sisters all lived on Avenue H and raised their families together. Nellie Foster passed away in 1985. R.C. Foster passed away in 2005. The house was sold in 2006 to Rex and Cynthia Baker, III, whose son, Rex IV was going to the University of Texas School of Law. They sold the house in 2009 to the current owner, Francis (Frank) E. Wilde, who leads global supply chain strategy initiatives for Dell Computers.

PARCEL NO.: 02180601120000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The South 70 feet of Lot 40, Shadow Lawn

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: $4,951 (owner-occupied); city portion: $1,158.

APPRAISED VALUE: $431,394

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS:
Francis Wilde
3808 Avenue H
Austin, Texas 78751

DATE BUILT: ca. 1934

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: None.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Frank O. and Esther Olson (1925)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

LOCATION MAP

SUBJECT TRACT

ZONING BOUNDARY

PENDING CASE

HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2010-0021
ADDRESS: 3808 AVENUE H
GRID: J25
MANAGER: S.SADOWSKY

This map has been produced by the Communications Technology Management Dept. on behalf of the Planning Development Review Dept. for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

Olson-Foster House
3808 Avenue H
ca. 1934

A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

OK to go SS 4-13-10

PROJECT INFORMATION:

#10443978

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

APPLICATION DATE: 5-25-10
FILE NUMBER(S): C14-2010-0021
TENTATIVE HLC DATE:
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE:
TENTATIVE CC DATE:
CASE MANAGER: S. Sadowsky
CITY INITIATED: YES / (NO)
ROLLBACK: YES/NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: R. Ramos

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: Francis E. Wilde
2. PROJECT NAME: Olson-Foster House
3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): 3808 Avenue H
ZIP 78751 **COUNTY:** Travis
IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:

LOCATED 70 **FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE** N. S. E. W. (CIRCLE ONE) **SIDE OF** Avenue H **(ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY** _____ **DISTANCE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH** 38th **CROSS STREET.**

AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES .2 **(OR) SQ.FT.** 8,725

5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:

EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
SF-3	Residence	~~0218060112~~ (tax map) 40	.2	Residence	SF-3-H

SCANNED

Grid#: 1125 waller creek/urban

RELATED CURRENT CASES:

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE? (YES / NO) FILE NUMBER:

7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT? (YES / NO) FILE NUMBER:

8. SUBDIVISION? (YES / NO) FILE NUMBER:

9. SITE PLAN? (YES / NO) FILE NUMBER:

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

10. VOLUME/ PAGE: Book 3 Vol 71 TAX PARCEL I.D. NO. 213100

OTHER PROVISIONS:

11. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES / NO
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD,NP, etc)

12. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES / NO National Register

13. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES / NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)
TRIPS PER DAY:
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S):

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

14. X SOLE ___COMMUNITY PROPERTY ___PARTNERSHIP ___CORPORATION ___TRUST

If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION:

15. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION

SIGNATURE: NAME: Francis E. Wilde

FIRM NAME: Dell Inc. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (214) 402 - 2180

STREET ADDRESS: 3808 Avenue H

CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78751

EMAIL ADDRESS: Frank_Wilde@dell.com

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

16. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

SIGNATURE: Mandy Schmidt NAME: Mandy Schmidt

FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: (512) 992-5578

STREET ADDRESS: 707 W. 18th St.

CITY: Austin STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 78701

CONTACT PERSON: Mandy Schmidt TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: schmidt.mandy@gmail.com

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY:

_____

D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTAL VERICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Mandy Schmidt 2/23/10

Signature **Date**

Mandy Schmidt

Name (Typed or Printed)

_____

Firm (If applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Mandy Schmidt 2/23/10

Signature **Date**

Mandy Schmidt

Name (Typed or Printed)

_____

Firm (If applicable)

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, Mandy Schmidt (Print name of applicant) have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

3808 Avenue H
(Address or Legal Description)
Austin, TX 78751

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

Mandy Schmidt
(Applicant's signature)

2/23/10
(Date)

TAX CERTIFICATE NO 1054202
Nelda Wells Spears
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9473

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 02-1806-0112-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

BAKER REX G III & CYNTHIA G
4901 MCGREGOR LN
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX 78620-3311

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

S70FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN

ACRES .0000 MIN% .000000000000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 3808 AVENUE H

This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interests are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s):

YEAR	ENTITY	TOTAL
2009	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*
TOTAL SEQUENCE 0		*ALL PAID*

TOTAL TAX:	*ALL PAID*
UNPAID FEES:	* NONE *
INTEREST ON FEES:	* NONE *
COMMISSION:	* NONE *
TOTAL DUE ==>	*ALL PAID*

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2009 $10,164.60

ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2009 EXCEPT FOR UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.
The above described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional rollback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code).
Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of $10.00 for all Tax Certificates.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF 02/04/2010

Fee Paid: $10.00

Nelda Wells Spears
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: C. Valdez

VALDEZC printed on 02/04/2010 @ 09:06:44:70 Page# 1

SCANNED

F.1: Deed Chronology

Transaction	Vol. / Page
Victor & Ida J. Bengston to Frank Oscar & Esther Olson. S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN November 1, 1925 $700	Vol 380, pp 291-292.
Pearl & L.C.Nelson; Dora Olson; Hildegard & A.D Johnson; Bendella & Tom Stokes; Mildred & Milton Jarl; Gladys & Robert W. Meachum; all acting Individually and as Independent Executrix of the Estate of Esther S. Olson, deceased, to Robert Coleman and Anna Nellie Foster. S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN (enclosed) June 3, 1961 $11,000	Vol 2312, pp 21-28.
Robert Coleman Foster Senior to Robert Coleman Senior Revocable Living Trust S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW September 28, 2001	Docket # 2001187113
Robert Coleman Senior Revocable Trust to Rex G and Cynthia G Baker S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN Warranty Deed with Lender's Lien (enclosed) May 31, 2006 $460,687 ($150,000 principal Lender's Lien)	Docket #2006105581
Rex G. III Baker and Cynthia Baker to Francis Wilde S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN January 22, 2010 $344,000.00 Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien	Docket # 20090090

F.2: Occupancy History

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1934	House probably built in 1934 when Frank Oscar Olson bought the property and moved in with his family.	• City Directory
1935-1936	• Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (typist State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av	• City Directories

	H • Gladys, resident 3808 • Mildred (invoice department E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H	
1937	• Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (clerk), resident 3808 • Mildred L (clerk E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H)	• City Directory
1939	• Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (telephone operator), resident 3808 • Mildred L (cashier E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H)	• City Directory
1940	• Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (Employee at Texas Insurance Checking Office), resident 3808	• City Directory
1941	• Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • M Gladys (Clerk, Texas Insurance Checking Office), resident 3808 • Mildred L (cashier E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H)	• City Directory
1942	• Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (Clerk, Texas Insurance Checking Office), resident 3808	• City Directory
1944-1945	• Meacham Robt W (Gladys), homeowner 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway	• City Directories

	Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H	
1946-1948	• Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H	• City Directories
1949	• Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • Esther (widow Oscar), homeowner 3808 Av H	• City Directory
1950 - 1960	• Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • Esther (widow Oscar), homeowner 3808 Av H	• City Directories
1961	• Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H	• City Directory
1962-1965	• R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th • Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H	• City Directories
1966 - 1967	• R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th • Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H • Robt C Jr (student), resident 3808 Ave H	• City Directories
1968	• Carolyn (student), resident 3808 Ave H • R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th • Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H • Robt C Jr (student), resident 3808 Ave H	• City Directory
1969	• Carolyn (clerk, Prudential Insurance), resident 3808 Ave H • R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th • Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H • Robt C Jr (student), resident 3808 Ave H	• City Directory
1970-1978	• Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H	• City Directories
1979-1985	• Robt C (Anna) Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H	• City Directories
1986-2000	• Robt C, Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co. 1802 E. 6th Street, homeowner 3808 Avenue H	• City Directories
2001 –	• Foster Robt C	• City Directories

2006		
2006 – 2009	Rex G IV Baker, UT Law Student	• Neighborhood Inquiry
2009 – Present	Francis E. Wilde, Dell	• Current Owner

F.3: Biographical Data

FRANK OSCAR AND ESTHER OLSON

The house was built in 1934 for Frank Oscar and Esther Olson by Martin Shipe and Sons. F. O. Olson was a successful pioneer farmer who lived in the house until his death in 1949. He was born in Illinois to Swedish immigrants, but then the family relocated to Texas and pursued agriculture. Olson served in the U.S. Military in World War I. Esther was a dedicated mother and housewife.

After Frank's death, Esther remained in the family home until her passing in 1960. The Olsons raised six daughters: Miss Dora Olson, Mrs. Pearl Nelson, Mrs. Hildegard Johnson, Mrs. Bendella Stokes, Mrs. Mildred Jarl, and Mrs. Gladys Meachem. Miss Dora Olson lived in the house for a year after her mother's death. She worked as a lobby clerk for the State Highway Department and remained in Austin until her death in 2009. Esther also had two sisters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. The Olsons were both buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, TX through the local Lutheran Church.

Sources:
Military Registration Card
Ancestry.com
City of Austin Internment Report

ANNA NELLIE FOSTER

Nellie Foster was the wife of Robert Coleman Foster, an occupant of the Avenue H home for the later part of her life. She and her family contributed greatly to the history and culture of the Shadow Lawn neighborhood and the City of Austin. Nellie was born to parents Alex and Manoon Joseph, who emigrated from Lebanon, then to Austin. Alex and Manoon had 5 children: Gloria, Julia, Richard, Nellie, and Agnes. The Joseph family augmented the Lebanese culture still found today in Austin. Nellie and her three sisters Victoria, Julia, and Agnes all resided in homes on Avenue H, raising their families together. All four sisters were beauticians prior to raising their children. Before moving to Avenue H, the Joseph family (three sons and four daughters) resided in the area of downtown Austin at108 East First Street, close to the current location of the Austin Convention Center. Nellie's childhood home has been preserved to this

day. Her father, Alex Joseph, operated a grocery store on Congress. Many of the Joseph children owned several stores and buildings around Austin.

Gloria Joseph, married to Vic Zigup, lived on Avenue H and owned half of the Con Street Cafe. Julia and her husband Gus Attal lived at 3810 Ave H. Gus founded A&A Appliance, located on Burnet Road until its closing last year. Julia & Gus had three kids: Ronnie who took over A&A Appliance from Gus and lives in Austin; Sonny ran a pawn shop on 6th Street until his recent passing; and Judy who lives in San Antonio. Richard Joseph currently lives in Houston.

Alex Joseph exemplified the hard work and perseverance of many immigrating families to the United States. Alex Joseph was a proud citizen, as he enlisted in World War I while living with his family, before moving to Avenue H. Alex Joseph lived at 3805 Avenue H with one of Nellie's sisters, Agnes, in 1963. He remained there until his death in 1965. Agnes remained on the block until 2009, when she passed away in the home at the age of 87. Prior to Alex residing in the home, Agnes lived there with her husband Leo E. Owens. Leo, however, died two years after their marriage while serving overseas in Korea. Their son Lee, who was 6 months old when his father passed away, still lives in the home today.

The Lebanese population in Texas often resided in close-knit communities, exemplified by Nellie and her family on Avenue H. The Lebanese culture also began to assimilate into the Roman Catholic Church in Texas. Following this movement, Nellie and her sisters were all life-long members and contributors to St. Mary's Cathedral Catholic Church of Austin. Additionally, the Lebanese influence holds strong as the tradition of trading was often the business of choice for the culture. It is no surprise that Nellie's husband, Robert Coleman Foster, was also in the same business as her family, as he operated and owned R. C. Mercantile Company.

Robert Coleman Foster and Nellie Foster had 2 children who lived in the 3808 Avenue H home with them, Carolyn and Coleman. In honor of Carolyn's marriage to Richard Groeskopf in January of 1970, Nellie planted a pecan tree in the front yard of 3808 Avenue H; the tree continues to grow in the front yard. Carolyn, who works for Prudential, lives with her husband in Round Rock. Coleman lives in Austin and works as a coin dealer.

Nellie Foster passed away in the Olson-Foster home on December 23, 1985. She and her family left a lasting impact on Shadow Lawn, as her husband continued to thrive in the family home. Likewise, her large family still continues to work and add to the spirit of the City of Austin.

Sources:

Ancestry.com
Military Registration Card
Oral History from Catherine Moor (neighbor and family friend)
Oral History from Lee Owens (family member)
Austin American Statesman Obituary of Anna Nellie Foster December 23, 1985
Pecan Press *Agnes Joseph Owens Obituary* written by Avenue H resident Catherine Moore

ROBERT COLEMAN FOSTER

Robert Coleman (R.C.) Foster began his occupancy in the Olson-Foster home in June of 1961, with his wife, Anna Nellie. A prominent businessman, R.C. quickly became well-known in the neighborhood, as he was referred to as the "Mayor of The Block".

Robert was born on July 16, 1917 in Davie County, North Carolina to Mr. Coleman Fosters and Mrs. Mary D. Williams. He traveled to Austin from San Antonio in 1939, walking every step of the 80 mile journey. In February of 1944, R. C. married Anna Nellie Joseph, whom he stayed with until her passing in the Olson-Foster home in 1985.

R. C. was a successful businessman throughout his lifetime. During the Depression, he earned a living by selling towels, toothpaste and other necessities to various camps of workers. Robert used his experience and knowledge to form his own business in Austin, R. C. Mercantile Company. This place of business was centrally located Austin at 1802 East Sixth Street. He owned R. C. Mercantile for over sixty years.

Robert was a kind and friendly soul, and graced Avenue H with his personality. The block was tightly-knit, as Nellie's three sisters all owned homes also on The Avenue. This made it simple for all of the cousins to grow up and play together with all of the families. A family friend ascertains that R.C. Foster often spent his leisure time on the front porch, enjoying his cigars and chatting with the passersby. Additionally, his obituary depicts him smoking a cigar with an American top hat. At one point in his life, Robert Coleman and his friend Senator Walter Richards walked the long journey from Avenue H all the way down to the Night Hawk Restaurant near Lady Bird Lake nearly every night.

R.C. and Anna Nellie occupied the Olson-Foster home from 1961 until their respective passings, spending a majority of their lives in the Shadow Lawn home. They raised two children, Robert Coleman Foster, Jr. and Carolyn Foster in the family home. Robert Coleman passed away on June 12, 2005 in Austin. In addition to his son and daughter, R. C. was survived by various grandchildren and great grandchildren of Austin, where the Foster family name still stands strong, all beginning with the determined and hard-working Robert Coleman Foster. His body rests in peace with his wife at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Austin.

Sources:
North Carolina Birth Index – Vital Statistics of Davie County, N.C. (1917)
Oral History from Catherine Moor (neighbor and family friend)
Google map of R. C. Mercantile Company location
Austin American Statesman Obituary of Robert Coleman Foster June 15, 2005

REX BAKER IV

Rex Baker IV lived in the Olson-Foster home from 2006-2009 while attending the University of Texas School of Law. He continued the Baker family legacy of earning a law degree with honors from the same institution as 3 generations before. His parents Rex Baker III and Cynthia Baker bought the home in 2006. Both parents are practicing lawyers in Dripping Springs, Texas.

Rex III is a member of the UT System Chancellor's Counsel, allowing him to actively support current law students attending his alma mater. In addition, Rex III and Cynthia contribute to the Chancellor's Excellence Endowment, which provides assistance to students throughout Texas. This leads to improving the education of our community and state for years to come.

Rex Baker IV is currently an associate member of Gardere's Corporate practice group in Houston, Texas. He specializes in Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions, Energy Industry Team, and Private Equity Industry Team.

Sources:
University of Texas Systems Archive "Their Traditions are Building a Better Future"
Oral History from Kathy Schmidt (neighbor and friend)

FRANCIS E. WILDE

In 2009, Francis (Frank) E. Wilde bought the home. Wilde currently leads global supply chain strategy initiatives for Dell. His career began developing customer relationship management and supply chain management software for SEER Technologies. He then transitioned to management consulting with Deloitte Consulting, leading technology integration and strategy and performance improvement engagements within Deloitte's Strategy & Operations practice. The strategy and performance improvements required a mix of technology integration as well as process engineering and change management to create value for his clients.

After nine years with Deloitte Consulting, Wilde joined Hewlett-Packard and led a performance improvement organization to launch strategic technology accounts. The organization helped launch global accounts totaling $2.3 billion in value. Wilde then became an account executive for our account with American Airlines and had P&L responsibility for a software application development business with American Airlines, a $240 million contract.

Having spent his career in consulting and operational roles, Wilde launched a strategy consulting practice focused on marketing strategy, performance improvement and performance management utilizing a mix of organizational design, technology integration, and change management to create value for the clients.

In addition to impressive professional achievements, Wilde is a devoted and active citizen. He currently serves an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy. In 1991, Wilde was member of the winning team in the National Academic Decathlon. The team won regionals, state, and nationals. For their great accomplishment, the team met Phil Graham, Lloyd Bentsen, and

George H.W. Bush in a reception in the Rose Garden following the competition (See attached article). Wilde has also had the great honor of meeting presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton for his various successes.

Wilde comes from a lineage of high achievers. The great Irish poet and playwright, Oscar Wilde, is an ancestor of the current tenant. In addition, the Wilde family designed and built the moveable sign around Times Square in New York City, at a time before electronic signs were developed.

Wilde remains active in community service and philanthropic initiatives. In the past, he has led Deloitte Consulting Community Service Committee in the San Francisco Bay Area, served on the Executive Board for Habitat for Humanity San Francisco, and led community service initiatives for Deloitte Consulting and Hewlett-Packard throughout his career. Wilde enjoys strengthening the communities in which we operate. He plans to bring his dedication and strength of service to the citizens of The City of Austin.

The Olson-Foster home has been home to various tradesmen and professionals that have positively influenced the history of the City of Austin. The wide variety of industries practiced by the tenants displays an accurate snapshot of the diverse and essential positions that keep our city progressing.

F.4: Historical Events

No known historically significant events occurred at this location.

F.5: Photographs

Attached

F.7: Reproductions

Attached

F.8: Site Plan

Please see attached maps.

Basis for Recommendation:

The ca. 1934 Olson-Foster House is an exceptionally well maintained example of brick Tudor Revival bungalow. As this style of home is uncommon in the city of Austin, it is therefore frequently recognized as historically significant architecture. In addition to the style of home, the area and time period in which the structure was built add value to its place in the community.

ARCHITECTURE

Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a recognized architectural style, type, or method of construction.

A one story, streamlined, brick Tudor Revival-Style bungalow. The house is front-gabled, with a triangular-pitched roof. Round arched front doorway with decorative hardware; also, decorative entryways in the back and side of home. The entryway exhibits a round arched window, consistent with the design of the front door.

Interior of the home also embodies classic Tudor design. The central hallway divides the home into two distinct areas: living quarters and community rooms (Wikipedia). Wood flooring and medieval-inspired light fixtures bring the Tudor style to life throughout the home. Multi-paned windows are presented in groups of 2 and 3, a key characteristic of the Revival Style (Antique Home).

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Has significant associations with persons, groups, institutions, businesses, or events of historical importance which contributed to the history of the city, state, or nation

Robert Coleman Foster and Anna (Nellie) Foster were the second owners of this house. The family occupied the home from 1961 until 2005. Nellie came from a large family of Lebanese immigrants, Alex Joseph and Manoon Joseph. Four of the Joseph sisters – Nellie, Victoria, Julia, and Agnes - lived on Avenue H and raised their families, many of whom have had a direct and lasting impact on the city of Austin, the State of Texas, and the United States.

Agnes Joseph Foster married Leo Owens, who fought and died for his country in the Korean War. Their son, Lee Owens, still lives in the house he was raised in at 3805 Avenue H. Julia and Gus Attal built and lived in the home at 3810 Avenue H. Gus's brother, Wolford Attal, is the grandfather of Charles Attal, who is now the promoter and booker for the annual Austin City Limits Music Festival.

In addition to the Joseph decedents, two other Lebanese families lived on Avenue H during this time. The Foster family represents a subset of an important immigrant population in Austin.

Robert Coleman Foster grew to be an important figure in Austin through his contributions in both business and the Hyde Park neighborhood. The R C Mercantile Company was located in Central Austin, owned and operated by R C for over 60 years. Part of the sign advertising the merchandising store can still be seen on the east 6th street building, a reminder of Foster's long-lasting service of providing goods to the city of Austin. Foster is an excellent example of an enduring figure during difficult times and his presence in the neighborhood as "Mayor of the Block" ascertains his unforgettable character.

**Represents a significant portrayal of the environment of a group of people in a historic time:*

The Olson-Foster home was constructed during the historically significant architectural boom of the 1930's. During this time, the developer of the Shadow Lawn District, Martin Shipe, envisioned and created more affordable homes for middle-class citizens utilizing the Tudor Revival Bungalow architecture (Hyde Park Neighborhood Association). This wave of construction was historically significant as it led to the early efforts of Austin's suburban development and the advent of self-sufficient communities.

Homes in the Shadow Lawn subdivision were built later than the surrounding Hyde Park area, as Shipe left the land to his wife and daughter. Eventually, the land was used as fair grounds; evidence of the land's history can still be seen in the curve in 39th street, which follows the path of the old fair tack.

Shipe's development of Hyde Park correlates directly to the advancement of Austin in residential districts. Building homes for more socioeconomic levels than just upper-class, the Hyde Park boom set a precedent for the City of Austin citizens to live comfortably and centrally in Tudor Revival Bungalows (HPNA). The Olson-Foster home is a direct result of this movement in this architectural design shift.

COMMUNITY VALUE:

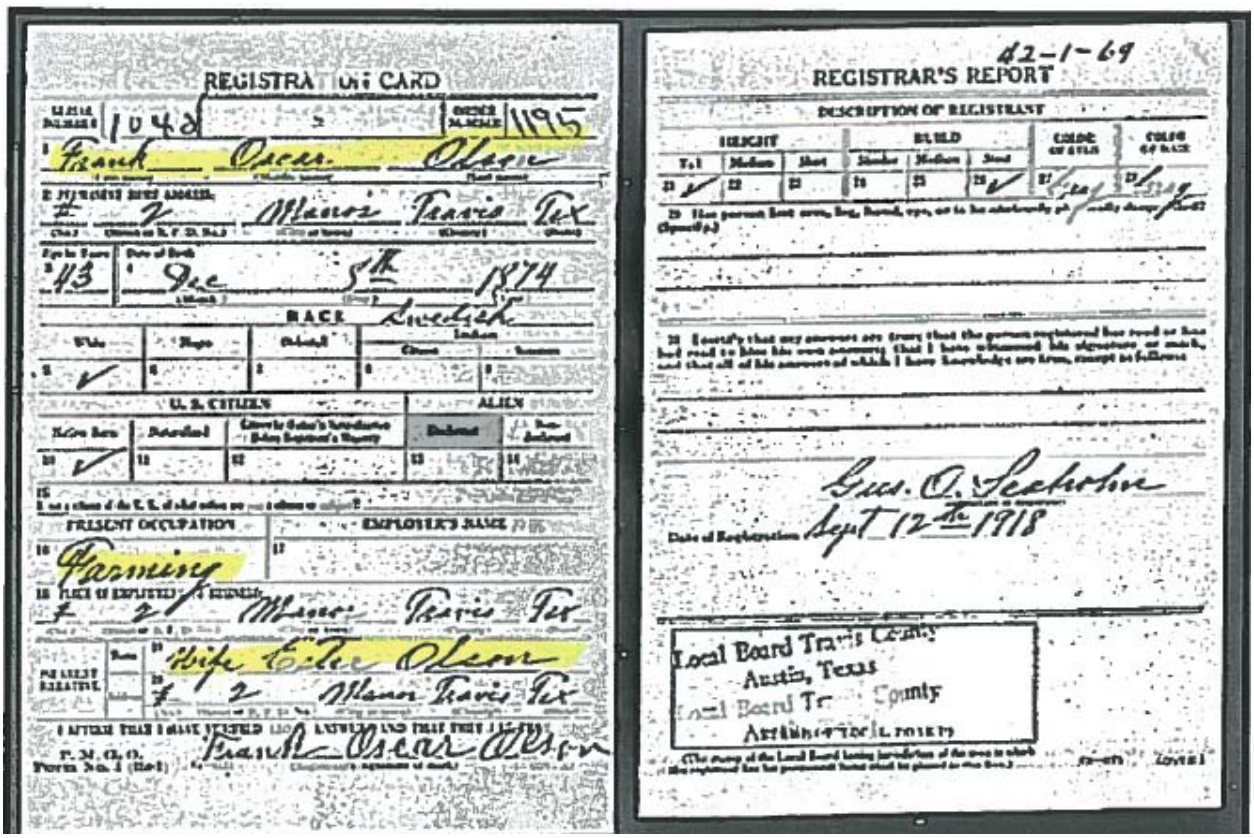
In addition, the house adds value to the community as "contributing structure" in the Hyde Park Historic District, as it aligns with the following criteria: it was built during the mid 1930's, a period of significance for Hyde Park; and, it retains its general appearance from that time (HPNA).

The Olson-Foster home stands today as it did when constructed in 1934. The Travis County Property Information exemplifies that no major structural improvements have been made to the home, and the floor plan retains its historic character.

As previously highlighted, the 1930's represents an important time period for the Hyde Park Historic District as this was a time where significant residential changes occurred in the neighborhood. As the neighborhood began to shift away from its aristocratic origins and appeal increasingly to the middle and working class, a major architectural shift from lavish Queen Anne

style designs to the more modest, bungalow style house was seen (HPNA). The Tudor Revival-Style of the Olson-Foster House embodies this design shift of the 1930s in the Hyde Park Historic District.

This significance is also noted by similarity in style of the homes surrounding the Olson-Foster House. Four neighboring homes on Avenue H display the same modest, brick Tudor-style common to the construction of the time. The Olson-Foster House is a true representation of this historical time for the Hyde Park Neighborhood, and recognizing this important historical resource would add value in establishing the already historic neighborhood as an official local historic district.



Frank Oscar Olson's World War I draft registration card

F. O. OLSON

F. O. Olson, 71, prominent Austin citizen, died at a local hospital Saturday. Surviving are his widow, six daughters, Mrs. Lawrence Nelson of Elgin, Mrs. Milton Jarl, Mrs. Robert Meacham and Miss Dora Olson, all of Austin, Mrs. Tom Stokes and Mrs. A. D. Johnson, both of San Antonio; one sister, Mrs. Ida Bengtson of Austin. The body is at the Hyltin Funeral home.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2:30 p. m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran church with the Rev. J. E. Chester, assisted by Dr. A. L. Scott, officiating.

Obituary of F.O. Olson
Austin American-Statesman, January 28, 1945

OLSON—Funeral services for F. O. Olson, pioneer resident and farmer of Travis county, were held at the Gethsemane Lutheran church Monday at 2:30 p. m. with the Rev. J. E. Chester and Dr. A. L. Scott officiating. Burial was in Oakwood under direction of Hyltin Funeral home. The body was removed to the family home, 3808 Avenue H, Sunday afternoon. Pallbearers were Lawrence Olson, Ernest Olson, Henry Anderson, Emil Anderson, Hilding Anderson and Elton Halmberg.

MRS. ESTHER OLSON

Mrs. Esther Olson, widow of the late F. O. Olson of 3808 Ave. H, died in a local hospital, Monday. Survivors are six daughters, Miss Dora Olson of Austin, Mrs. L. C. Nelson of Elgin, Mrs. A. D. (Pete) Johnson of San Antonio, Mrs. Tom G. Stokes of Houston, Mrs. Milton H. Jarl and Mrs. R. W. (Bob) Beachem both of Austin; three sisters, Mrs. Emma Strom and Miss Anne Holmberg both of Austin and Mrs. Victor Nelson of New Sweden; one brother, Robert Holmberg of New Sweden; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church with the Rev. M. L. Lundquist, officiating.

The body will lie in state at the Church from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery, under the direction of the Cook Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Emil Anderson, Hildging Anderson, Herman P. Becker, Dr. Oliver Strom all of Austin, Eddie Westling, Austin and Lawrence Olson of New Sweden.

Obituary of Esther Olson
Austin Statesman, October 3, 1960

MRS. ESTHER OLSON

Funeral services for Mrs. Esther Olson were held Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 p. m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church with the Rev. M. L. Lundquist officiating.

The body will lie in state at the church from 2 until 3:30 p. m.

Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery under the direction of the Cook Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Emil W. Anderson, Hilding Anderson, Herman P. Becker, Dr. Oliver Strom, Ed Westling and Lawrence Olson of New Sweden.

Funeral notice for Esther Olson
Austin Statesman, October 4, 1960

Anna Nellie Joseph Foster

Anna Nellie Joseph Foster, 70 of Austin died Monday. She was a life-long resident of Austin and a member of St. Marys Cathedral Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, R.C. Foster, of Austin; one son, Coleman Foster of Austin; One daughter, Carolyn Foster Grosskopf of Houston; three sisters, Mrs. Victoria Zegub, Mrs. Julia Altal, and Mrs. Agnes Owens, all of Austin; one brother, Richard Joseph of Houston; and five grandchildren.

A rosary service will be recited at 7:00 PM, Wednesday night in the Colonial Chapel of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home. The funeral mass will be at 1:00 PM Thursday in St. Marys Cathedral, with Father Henry Bourgeois CSC officiating.

Burial will follow in Mt. Calvary cemetery.

Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

Robert Coleman (R.C.) Foster, Sr.

Robert Coleman (R.C.) Foster, Sr., 87, of Austin passed away Sunday, June 12, 2005. He was born July 16, 1917 in Davie County, North Carolina to Coleman and Della Foster.

Robert Coleman Foster came to Austin in 1939 by way of San Antonio. He walked every step of the way from San Antonio to Austin. Mr. Foster owned R.C. Foster Merchandise Co. Inc. for more than 60 years.

Mr. Foster married Nellie Joseph on February 12, 1944. On December 23, 1985 she preceded him in death. He is also preceded in death by his siblings, Lester Foster, Raymond Foster, Elizabeth Mazzolini, Lucille Redman, Rad Foster, Bertie Foster Baity and Herman Lee Foster.

He is survived by his son, Robert Coleman Foster, Jr. and wife, Mary Ann of Austin; daughter, Carolyn Foster Grosskopf and husband, Richard of Houston; grandchildren, Jennifer Foster Halter and husband, David of Austin; Robert Louis Foster of Dallas, Janalyn Rebecca Foster of Austin, Courtney Grosskopf McHenry and husband, Dan of San Antonio and Allison Kimberly Foster of Austin; great grandchildren, James David Halter, Joseph Robert Halter and John Edward Halter; brother, Glenn Foster; sister, Juanita Foster Hauser, both of Yadkinville, N.C.; sister-in-law, Agnes Joseph Owens and nephew, Lee Owens. He is also survived by a loving friend, Olivia Maldonado of Austin and numerous nieces and nephews in North Carolina and Central Texas.

The family will receive friends at 6:00 p.m., followed by Rosary services at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 15, 2005 in the Colonial Chapel of Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 16, 2005 at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, 12041 Bittern Hollow, Austin, Texas 78758, with Father William Brooks officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Austin.

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6400 North Lamar