

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

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CASE NUMBER: C14H-2010-0005

HLC DATE:

February 22, 2010

PC DATE:

April 13, 2010

APPLICANT: Robert P. and Edythe Schmidt Michel

HISTORIC NAME: Jacob and Bertha Schmidt House

WATERSHED: Waller Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 712 Sparks Avenue

ZONING FROM: SF-3-CO-NP

TO: SF-3-H-CO-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-CO-NP) district to single family, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan – Historic (SF-3-H-CO-NP) combining district zoning.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from single family, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan (SF-3-CO-NP) district to single family, conditional overlay, neighborhood plan – Historic (SF-3-H-CO-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 7-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The Jacob and Bertha Schmidt House is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984), but without a research priority for preservation.

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Hancock Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The ca. 1924 Jacob and Bertha Schmidt House is an excellent example of a gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival house and was the home of Jacob Schmidt, the founder of Yaring's Department Store and a prominent figure in Austin's Jewish community.

**Architecture:**

Two-story rectangular-plan gambrel-roofed side-gabled Colonial Revival house with a symmetrical composition, paired 6:6 windows and single 8:8 windows on the second floor enclosed sunporch to the right and open porch to the left of the central block of the house. The house is in excellent condition and maintains its historic appearance.

Colonial Revival houses were the most popular house design style in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century throughout the country. Colonial Revival was based upon the architecture of the American colonies, and symbolized pride in American history. Colonial Revival houses are generally side-gabled, with a symmetrical composition, multi-light windows, and decoration around the front door, including pilasters and pediments. The Schmidt House embodies all of the distinguishing characteristics of Colonial Revival design.

**Historical Associations:**

The house was built in 1924 for Jack Pillow, the cashier of the Calcasieu Lumber Company, founded by William Sherman Drake, Sr. in the 1880s. Pillow left the house and the company in 1930 amid an embezzlement scandal, and turned the Sparks Avenue house over to William Drake, who sold the house to Jacob Schmidt (1889-1965). Born in Hungary, Schmidt came to the United States in 1907, landing in New York, where he worked in a slaughterhouse and brewery. He moved to Seguin, Texas shortly thereafter, and began peddling clothing to area farmers, a very common occupation for Jewish immigrants in the early 1900s. From his peddling business, he opened a clothing store in Yorktown, Texas in 1915, and later opened stores in Beeville and San Marcos. He moved to Austin in 1930, opening the Jacob Schmidt Department Store on E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; he opened Yaring's on Congress Avenue in 1936, which was the city's leading ladies' fashion store for many years. Yaring's was named for his wife, whose maiden name was Yahr. Schmidt was also a very prominent member of Austin's fledgling Jewish community, active in the establishment and growth of the synagogue. After his death in 1965, the business was continued by his son; the Sparks Avenue house has remained in the Schmidt family since 1930, and is currently occupied by Jacob Schmidt's grand-daughter and her husband.

**PARCEL NO.:** 02150602190000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 18 and the South 6 feet of the East 50 feet of Lot 33, Outlot 1, Division X, and Lots 19 and 20, Outlot 1, Division X, Harris Park Addition.

**ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$11,810 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,000

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$846,299

**PRESENT USE:** Residence

**CONDITION:** Excellent

**PRESENT OWNER**

Edythe S. Michel  
712 Sparks Avenue

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Austin, Texas 78705

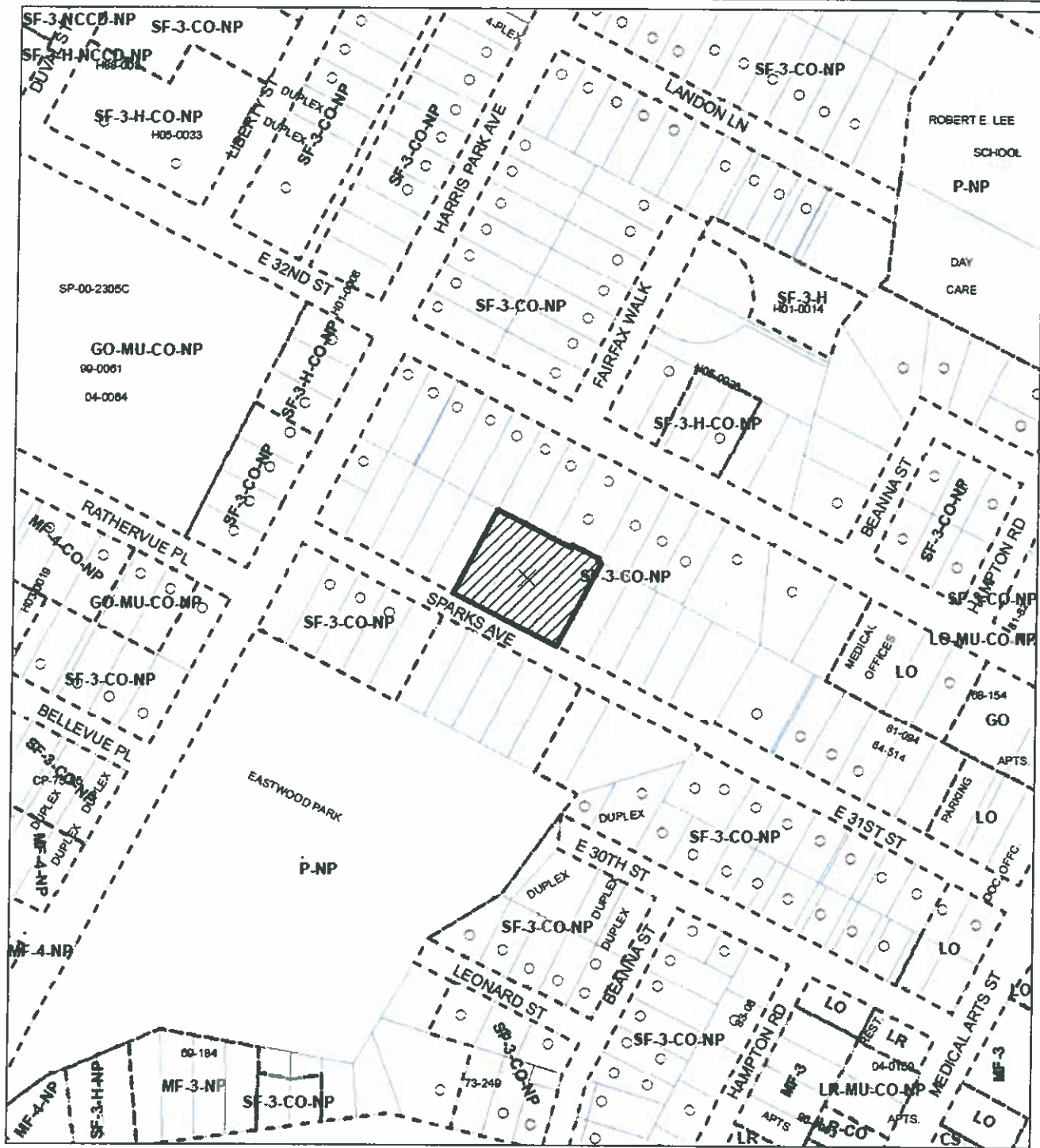
DATE BUILT: ca. 1924

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: None apparent.




ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Jack Pillow (1924)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

## LOCATION MAP



1"  $\approx$  200'

 **SUBJECT TRACT**  
 **ZONING BOUNDARY**  
 **PENDING CASE**

OPERATOR: S. MEEKS

**HISTORIC ZONING**  
**ZONING CASE#: C14H-2010-0005**  
**ADDRESS: 712 SPARKS AVE**  
**SUBJECT AREA: 0.000 ACRES**  
**GRID: J24**  
**MANAGER: S. SADOWSKY**



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