

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2011-0402
1700 SAN ANTONIO STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1927 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-and-a-half story rectangular-plan side-gabled frame bungalow with a central, front-gabled dormer inset from the slope of the roof with a plain railing across the front of the dormer, a full-width inset porch on brick piers with concrete caps and double plain square wood posts; paired 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

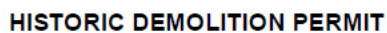
The house was built around 1927 by Frederick A. Finn, the father of Selmar A. Finn, who with his wife, Bennie, lived in the house for the rest of their lives. Selmar and Bennie Finn appear in census records dating back to 1910, when they were farmers in Wharton County; by 1920, they were living in Bastrop, where Selmar operated a meat market. They moved to Austin in the mid-1920s, and Selmar had a meat market at 206 W. 6th Street. By 1930, he was working as a meat-cutter for Clarence Saunders, who had a meat market at 202 W. 6th Street. In the early 1930s, Finn opened his own meat market again at 504 W. 19th (now MLK) Street, very close to this house, then moved it back to the 300 block of W. 6th Street in the mid-1930s. After his death in 1937, his widow, Bennie, continued to live in this house until her death in 1969. By the early 1980s, the house was being used for commercial purposes – a used clothing store, Once More With Feeling, operated here in the early 1980s; the house then became the home of Atomic City, a novelty, toy, and hip clothing store, until very recently. The house is now vacant.



STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) with a Priority 2 for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage the applicant to consider relocation of the house over demolition, but release the permit after completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of elevations of all four sides of the house, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history of the building. The house has neither the architectural nor the historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark, but is a very good representative example of a classic bungalow derivative.



 SUBJECT TRACT
 ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2011-0402
LOCATION: 1700 SAN ANTONIO ST
GRID: J23
MANAGER: STEVE 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.

1700 San Antonio Street
ca. 1927



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1700 San Antonio Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
August, 2011

1992	Atomic City, toys and clothing James Hughes, proprietor
1985-86	Atomic City, novelties, new wave clothing James Hughes, proprietor
1981	Once More with Feeling, used clothing Marcia Galinski, proprietor
1977	The address is not listed in the directory.
1973	Wray H. Morison, renter Employed by the Austin Public Library NOTE: Wray H. Morrison is listed as a new resident at this address.
1969	S.A. Finn, renter No occupation listed
1964	No return
1961	No return
1957	Bennie M. Finn, owner Widow, S.A. Finn No occupation listed
1953	Bennie M. Finn, owner Widow, S.A. Finn No occupation listed
1949	Bennie M. Finn, owner Widow, S.A. Finn Clerk
1947	Vacant NOTE: Bennie M. Finn, the widow of Selmar Finn, is listed as living at 500 W. 17 th Street, the side apartment to this house; she had no occupation listed in the directory.
1944-45	Bennie M. Finn, owner Widow, Selmar A. Finn No occupation listed
1941	Bennie M. Finn, owner Widow, Selmar A. Finn No occupation listed

1939	Bennie M. Finn, owner Widow, Selmar A. Finn No occupation listed
1937	Selmar A. and Bonnie M. Finn, owners No occupation listed
1935	Selmar A. and Bennie M. Finn, owners Proprietor, meat market, 312 W. 6 th Street.
1932-33	Selmar A. and Bennie M. Finn, owners Proprietor, Finn's Market, meats, 504 W. 19 th Street.
1930-31	Selmar A. and Bennie M. Finn, owners Meat-cutter, Clarence Saunders, 202 W. 6 th Street.
1929	Selmar A. and Bennie Finn, owners No occupation listed
1927	The address is not listed in the directory NOTE: Selmar A. and Bennie Finn were listed as living at 202 W. 7 th Street; he had a meat market at 206 W. 6 th Street.

The 1930 U.S. Census report shows Selmar and Bennie Finn at this house at 1700 San Antonio Street. They owned the house, which was worth \$6,000. They had a lodger, Hugo Auler, 28, a physician. The census report shows that Selmar Finn was then 50, had been born in Texas to a French-born father and a Swedish-born mother, and worked as a meat cutter at Saunders Store. Bennie Finn was then 49, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed in the census report. The same census report shows that his father, Fredrick Finn, was then 76, had been born in Germany, and was a tinner with his own tin shop. He lived at 500 E. 4th Street, a house that was worth \$10,000; he and his wife had two roomers there.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Selmar and Bennie Finn living in Bastrop, Texas, where he was the proprietor of a butcher shop. The 1910 U.S. Census report shows Selmar and Bennie Finn living in Wharton County, Texas, where he was a farmer. The family does not appear to be listed in the 1900 census report.

S. A. FINN

S. A. Finn 57, died at his home, 500 West 17th, Tuesday.

Surviving are his widow; his father, F. A. Finn; three sisters, Mrs. W. E. Davis of Elgin, Mrs. E. E. Nicely of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Mrs. Theodore Swenson of Austin, and one brother, B. E. A. Finn of San Francisco, Calif. The body is at the Thurlow Weed Funeral home pending completion of funeral arrangements.

Obituary of Selmar A. Finn
Austin American, January 27, 1937

S. A. FINN

S. A. Finn, 57, a merchant of Austin for the past 16 years, died at his home, 1700 San Antonio street, Tuesday night. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Bennie Lea Finn; his father, F. A. Finn, three sisters, Mrs. W. E. Davis of Elgin, Mrs. E. E. Nicely of Pittsburgh, Pa., Mrs. Theodore Swenson of Austin; and one brother, B. E. A. Finn of San Francisco, Calif.

Mr. Finn was a member of the Baptist church.

Funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. S. G. Posey at the family residence at 3 p. m. Thursday. Burial will be in Oakwood cemetery under the direction of the Thurlow Weed Funeral home.

Obituary of Selmar A. Finn
Austin American, January 28, 1937

