

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 23, 2012
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2012-0079
3204 MEREDITH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1941 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story irregular-plan stone veneered frame house with a hipped roof and single and paired 1:1 windows. The original garage was demolished in 2003 and a new two-story garage structure has been built in its place.

RESEARCH

The building permit for this house was issued in 1941 to Hugh Blodgett, a professor of psychology at the University of Texas. Blodgett and his wife, Bonnie only lived in the house until around 1944. The house was then owned and occupied by Millard B. Barton, and his wife, Gay. Barton was a professor of aeronautical engineering at the University of Texas. They lived here until the mid-1950s. From then until the late 1980s, the house was owned and occupied by Larry and Vashti Meriage. Larry Meriage was a cashier for a life insurance company when he and Vashti bought this house; he later went to work for the State Industrial Accident Board, where he became the chief of staff services. Vashti Meriage was a nursery school teacher and later worked for the Austin Radiological Association as a clerk.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any city survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the demolition permit. The house has neither the architectural nor the historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

3204 Meredith Street
ca. 1941



Two-story garage (2003)

OCCUPANCY HISTORY 3204 Meredith Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
March, 2012

1992	Frank ;M. and Lucy Netherton, renters Broke, A.G. Edwards
1985-86	Larry and Vashti Meriage, owners Staff services chief, State Industrial Accident Board
1981	Larry and Vashti Meriage, owners Staff services chief, State Industrial Accident Board
1977	Larry and Vashti Meriage, owners Staff services chief, State Industrial Accident Board
1973	Larry and Vashti Meriage, owners Administrative technician, State Industrial Accident Board
1969	Larry and Vashti Meriage, owners Larry: Employed by the State Industrial Accident Board Vashti: Clerk, Austin Radiological Association
1964	Larry and Vashti Meriage, owners Cashier, Security National Life Insurance Company, 425 Perry-Brooks Building, 8 th and Brazos Streets.
1958	Larry and Vashti Meriage, owners Larry: Cashier, Austin Life Insurance Company, 300 W. 8 th Street. Vashti: Teacher, Tarrytown Day Nursery School, 2601 Exposition Boulevard.
1953	Millard V. and Gay Barton, owners Professor, Engineering mechanics, University of Texas NOTE: Larry and Vashti Meriage are listed as living at 2209 E. Windsor Road; he was a clerk for Austin life Insurance Company, 300 W. 8 th Street.
1949	Millard V. and Gladys Barton, owners Professor, University of Texas
1947	Millard V. and Gladys Barton, owners Professor, University of Texas
1944-45	Millard V. and Gladys Barton, owners Professor, University of Texas NOTE: Hugh C. and Bonnie Blodgett are listed as living at 2909 Glenview Avenue; he was an associate professor at the University of Texas.
1942	Hugh C. and Bonnie Blodgett, owners Associate professor, University of Texas

1941

The address is not listed in the directory.

NOTE: Millard V. and Gladys Barton are not listed in the directory.

HUGH CARLTON BLODGETT
Hugh Carlton Blodgett, 75, of 1314 Westover Road, died in a local hospital Sunday morning. He was a retired professor at the University of Texas, a veteran of World War I and had been a resident of Austin for 44 years.
Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Yvonne Blodgett of Austin; one son, Carlton Colombat of San Francisco, Calif.; two daughters, Miss Carol Blodgett of Austin and Mrs. Jim Griffin of San Francisco, Calif.; and two sisters, Mrs. Frank Crum of Diamond Spring, Calif., and Mrs. Chandon Hopkins of Gridley, Calif.
The body was taken to San Antonio Monday morning by Hytlin-Manor Funeral Home for cremation.

Obituary of Hugh Blodgett
Austin American, October 16, 1972

IN MEMORIAMHUGH CARLTON BLODGETT

Dr. Hugh Carlton Blodgett, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, of The University of Texas at Austin, died in Austin on October 15, 1972 after a long and distinguished career as teacher, research worker and administrator.

Hugh Blodgett was born in Zamora, California on November 21, 1896, the son of Carlton S. Blodgett and Esther Heard Blodgett. After a childhood spent in Zamora and Woodland, California he attended college in 1917 at College Park Academy in San Jose and enlisted in the Navy that year. He became an Ensign in submarines and was discharged with that rank in January 1919 at which time he enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley. There he obtained the A. B. degree in 1921 and the Ph.D. with a major in psychology and a minor in physiology in 1925.

His earliest published research was a study with Professor George Malcomb Stratton of the effect of the sight and smell of blood on the behavior of cattle. (Contrary to popular belief there was no discernible effect.)

His Doctor's dissertation, done under the supervision of Professor Edward Chase Tolman, was published under the title, "The effect of the introduction of reward upon the maze performance of rats," became a classic in the field of animal learning and is frequently cited even today.

While a graduate student at Berkeley, he married Georgia Colombat, and after he received his degree, the couple moved to Cambridge where Blodgett served as a teaching assistant at Harvard University. The following year, 1927-28, Blodgett served as Instructor at Lehigh University. The next year he moved to The University of Texas.

Their first child, Joan, was born to the Blodgetts while they were at Lehigh, and a second, a son, Carlton, was born after they had moved to Austin. Both children have survived them.

In 1932 he was invited to the Bekhterev Institute of the Brain where he spent some months as Visiting Scientist. Back at The University of Texas, after serving as Instructor and Assistant Professor, he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1936 and to Professor in 1944. During 1950 and 1951 he was Visiting Professor at the University of California at Los Angeles and Visiting Research Scientist at Berkeley.

In 1933, after the death of his former wife, Georgia, Blodgett married Yvonne Bledsoe with whom he lived until his death. They had one child, a daughter Carol, who with his wife survived him and live in Austin at the present time.

In the forties, Blodgett became active again in research--the previous decade had provided virtually no funds for research and Blodgett had been able to maintain only a token laboratory. He now pioneered work in "space" learning and was able to show through the use of a uniformly-lighted dome that rats had great difficulty learning a maze when the surroundings lacked visual structure.

With the formation in 1951 of the psychophysics section of the Defense Research Laboratory, Blodgett was able to investigate another research field that had interested him for years, that of hearing. He was active in the Laboratory until the formation in 1957 of the Radiobiological Laboratory attracted him back to the study of animal learning. He was one of the trainers of our first space voyager, the monkey, Sam.

Blodgett served as chairman of the Department of Psychology from 1948 to 1950 and again from 1960 to 1962 when his age brought about his mandatory retirement from administration. He retired from teaching in 1971.

In addition to his place in the field of psychological research, Blodgett will be long remembered because of his role for many years as Graduate Advisor. In that capacity he made great friends with scores of graduate students, not only in his own fields, but throughout the department. As a consequence of the warmth, the humanity and the wisdom he brought to that service, the Department is naming the graduate student lounge in his memory. All of us who knew him are richer for having had that privilege.

Important publications

- 1924 A further observation on cattle and excitement from blood. Psychological Review, 1924, 31, 336-338.
- 1929 The effect of the introduction of reward upon the maze performance of rats. The University of California Publications in Psychology, 1929, No. 8, 113-134.
- 1929 An analysis of the behavior units in maze learning. Procedures of the 9th International Congress of Psychologists, 1929, 9, 85-86.
- 1944 With Kenneth McCutchan
Choice point behavior in the white rat as influenced by spatial opposition and by preceding maze sequence. Journal of comparative Psychology, 1944, 37, 51-70.
- 1946 Reynold's repetition of Blodgett's experiment on latent learning. Journal of experimental Psychology, 1946, 36, 184-186.
- 1946 With Kenneth McCutchan
Place learning and anticipation as failure of place discrimination. Journal of comparative Psychology, 1946, 39, 351-357.
- 1947 With Kenneth McCutchan
Place versus response learning in the simple T-maze. Journal of experimental Psychology, 1947, 37, 412-422.
- 1947 With Kenneth McCutchan
Anticipation and place learning II: anticipation in a visually homogeneous environment. Journal of comparative and physiological Psychology, 1947, 40, 165-175.
- 1947 With Kenneth McCutchan
Kalish's report on the non-correction method and the delayed response: a correction. Journal of comparative Psychology, 1947, 40, 13.
- 1948 With Kenneth McCutchan
Relative strength of place and response learning in the T-maze. Journal of comparative and physiological Psychology, 1948, 41, 17-24.
- 1949 With Kenneth McCutchan and Ravenna Mathews
Spatial learning in the T-maze: the influence of direction, turn, and food location. Journal of experimental Psychology, 1949, 39, 800-809.
- 1952 With L. A. Jeffress and B. H. Deatherage
Masking of tones by white noise as a function of the interaural phases

and with the behavioral and physiological implications of launch, space flight, and recovery using the Rhesus monkey. Work was done at the Radiobiological Laboratory at The University of Texas, at Holloman Air Base, Wright Patterson Air Base and at Wallops Island, Virginia. Now published in reports of the Air Force School of Aviation.

- 1963 With W. Lynn Brown
Response rate decrement and recovery following gamma irradiation.
Radiation Research, 1963, 19, 242-243.
- 1964 Completed work on classified task with School of Aviation Medicine, Aerospace Division, on incapacitating effects of neutron radiation, at Radiobiological Laboratory, The University of Texas, and at the Armed Forces Radiobiological Institute, National Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.
- 1966 With W. Lynn Brown, Donn Henderson, R. M. Ritter and J. S. Pizzuto
Some effects on operant conditioning produced by ionizing radiation of the whole-head. Journal of genetic Psychology, 1966, 108, 253-261.

Millard Barton was a professor of Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Texas. His best-known work was Fundamentals of Aircraft Structures, published in 1948, while he was living in this house.

Vashti L. Meriage

Vashti L. Meriage, 65, of 3204 Meredith passed away Tuesday.

Survivors include her husband, Larry Meriage of Austin; daughter, Vashti Tottenham of Austin; son, Michael Larry Meriage of Lott; four grandchildren.

Funeral services 1:30 PM, Thursday, Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home, Chapel of the Bells with Dr. Jack Heacock officiating. Burial, Oakwood Cemetery.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions to American Cancer Society or charity of your choice.

Services under the direction of Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home.



Larry Meriage

Larry Meriage, age 84, of Austin, died Wednesday, January 20, 1999.

Larry was a member of the Hill City Masonic Lodge #456 A.F. & A.M. He was a 32 degree Scottish Rite Mason and was a member of the Ben Hur Shrine Temple and Shrine Patrol Precision Drill Team. Larry was a longtime member of the Founders Lions Club and a member of the First United Methodist Church. He was a veteran of World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Grace Perry Meriage, of Austin; son, Mike Meriage and wife, Marilyn, of Lott; daughter, Yashti Meriage McNeill and husband, Russ, of Marble Falls; grandchildren, Tricia Tottenhan, of Austin, Michelle Meriage, of Troy, Monica Meriage, of Denton, and Matthew Meriage, of Lott; great-grandchild, Christopher Perez, of Troy; brothers, Paul Meriage, of Port Richey, Florida, and Mike Meriage, of Midland, Pennsylvania; sisters, Amelia Meriage, of Primrose, Pennsylvania, and Sally Chiff, of Bulger, Pennsylvania; and many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive visitors Friday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral services are 2:00 p.m. Saturday at Amey Funeral Home, with Reverends John McMullen and Bruno Schmidt officiating. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions to American Parkinsons Disease Association.

Services are under the direction of Amey Funeral Home, 7811 Rockwood Lane, two blocks east of Mopac, south of W. Anderson Lane, 452-4001.

Obituary of Larry Meriage
Austin American-Statesman, January 22, 1999

H.C. Blodgett

3204 Meredith St

164

56 & East 1/2 of 65

Tarrytown #4

Stone Venr & Frame Res & Frame Garage

21549 - 4-3-41

8

CONNECTION CHARGE \$ 43006 No. 17575A
 APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.

Austin, Texas 4-3 1941
 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 Dr. H.C. Blodgett
 at 3204 Meredith Street,
56 & E. 1/2 of 65
 further described as lot _____, block _____, outlot _____,
 subdivision Tarrytown #4 division _____, plat 164,
 which is to be used as a Res
 In this place there are to be installed 8

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance
 charge. 3 1/2' DEEP Respectfully, R.H. Lissell
AT - PL
 Stub Out

Connected 6-6 1941 See Pd
 Size of Main 6 inches. 4-3-41
 Size of Service 4 inches. 6-3-41
 Feet Deep 04

37 Feet from Property Line Con 2 1/2' W
 Feet from Curb Line of ELL

Inspected by Harrison
 Connection made by H.C. Blodgett B-1444
14951 Extensive Required col

OWNER	Larry Meriage	ADDRESS	3204 Meredith St
PLAT	164	E 1/2 of 55 & all 56	
	LOT	BLK.	DIV
SUBDIVISION	Tarry Town		
OCCUPANCY	Frame addn to residence		
BLD PERMIT #	89899	DATE	10-29-63
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	4500.00
CONTRACTOR	Texas Lumber Co.		NO. OF FIXTURES
			5
WATER TAP REC #		SEWER TAP REC #	
2 BEDROOMS & BATH			

The detached garage was demolished in 2003 and replaced with a two-story accessory building.

