

Historic Landmark Commission
May 21, 2012
Demolition and Relocation Permits
HDP-2012-0112
1603 Chicon Street

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-and-a-half story rectangular-plan cross-gabled frame Tudor Revival-styled cottage with a “catslide” roof over the partial-width inset porch; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; small front-gabled dormer containing an attic vent in the main part of the side-gabled section of the front roof.

RESEARCH

City utility permits indicate that the house was built in 1936 for R. James Fields, who is listed as the owner and the occupant of the house until his death in November, 1959. Fields was born in Texas, and the 1920 U.S. Census report shows him as the son of R.W. Fields, who was a general laborer. R. James Fields was also a general laborer in the 1920 census report, but by 1930, he was married and worked as a chauffeur for a private family. His wife, Metra, worked as a laundress for a private family. Until building this house, R. James and Metra Fields lived in the 1900 block of E. 17th Street, just around the corner from this house. Metra Fields died in 1945; James remarried around 1950. His second wife was named Dura, and they lived here until James’ death in 1959. James had several jobs after his stint as a chauffeur as reflected in the 1930 U.S. Census. He listed his occupation as chef in the 1939 city directory and as a cook in the 1944-45 city directory, with intervening and later work as a porter and warehouseman at Davidson Sash and Door Company, which was located at E. 5th and San Marcos Streets. After James’ death in 1959, the house was vacant for a time, then became a rental property owned by Dr. Sidney White.

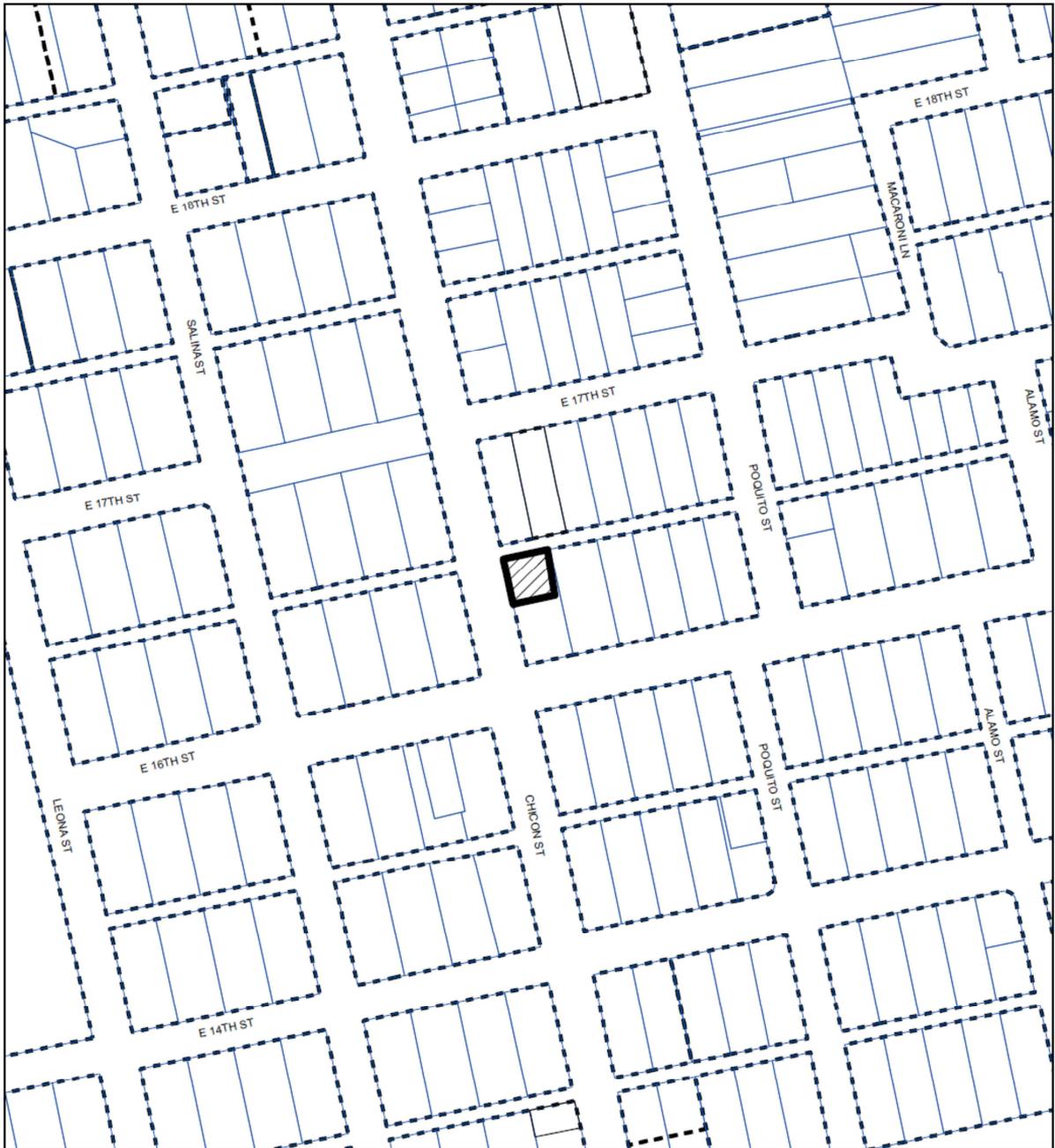
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the demolition permit. The house appears to be in very poor condition, and lacks the requisite architectural and historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2012-0112
LOCATION: 1603 Chicon Street



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 the Planning and Development Review Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

1603 Chicon Street
ca. 1936



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1603 Chicon Street

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Vacant
1981	Edward and Katherine Davis, renters Instructor, Texas Instruments
1977	Minnie Pollard, renter Manager, Centennial Liquor Store, 1900 E. Martin Luther King Boulevard.
1973	Minnie Pollard, renter Manager, Centennial Liquor Store, 1900 E. 19 th Street.

1969	Ernest and Susan Shuler, renters Retired
1964	Vacant
1958	R. James and Dura L. Fields, owners Warehouseman, Davidson Sash and Door Company, 500 San Marcos Street.
1953	R. James and Dura L. Fields, owners No occupation listed
1949	R. James and Dura L. Fields, owners Porter, Davidson Sash and Door Company, 500 San Marcos Street.
1944-45	R. James and Metra Fields, owners Cook
1941	R. James and Metra Fields, owners Helper, Davidson Sash and Door Company, 500 San Marcos Street.
1939	R. James and Metra Fields, owners Chef
1935	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: R. James and Metra Fields are listed at 1906 E. 17 th Street; he had no occupation listed.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

R. James and Metra Fields (ca. 1936 – ca. 1945)

R. James and Dura Fields (ca. 1950 – ca. 1959)

James and Metra Fields appear in the 1930 U.S. Census living in a rented house at 1906 E. 17th Street. James Fields was then 23 years old, had been born in Texas, and worked as a chauffeur for a private family. Metra Fields was then 22 years old, had been born in Texas, and worked as a laundress for a private family. The couple had two daughters and a son, all under the age of 8. The 1920 U.S. Census shows James Fields as the son of R.W. Fields, a laborer who lived at 1900 E. 8th Street. R.W. Fields had no wife listed in the census; James was 13 and not married, but worked as a laborer as well.

Metra Fields died in November, 1945; James Fields died in November, 1959. Neither had an obituary in the Austin newspapers. There is no record of death for Dura Fields in Texas, nor any record of her marriage to James Fields after Metra passed away.

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 4762

M. R. J. Fields NEA Address 1605 [unclear] **INDEXED**

Plumber Gaden Size of Tap 1/2 Date 11-12-36

CHANGED TO 6" MAIN AND RENEWED SERVICE WITH 3/4" COPPER ON D-44-15 Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection 11/17/36

Size of Tap Made 3/4

Size Service Made 3/4

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 13'

From N. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 42'

Location of Meter AT-CURB

Type of Box LOCK

Depth of Main in St. 2'

Depth of Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 28'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 12-5-36

No. Fittings	Size	Foreman's Report
2	Curb Cock 3/4"	
1	Elbow 3/4"	
1	St. Elbow 3/4"	
1	Bushing 3/4"	
1	Reducer 3/4"	
24	Pipe 3/4"	
1	Lead Comp.	
1	Nipples 3/4"	
1	Union	
1	Plug	
1	Tee	
1	Stop BOX AN CONER	
1	Box	
1	Lid	
	Valves	
	Req. No.	<u>11543</u>

Foreman's Signature BEVISON

INDEXED

Water service permit to R. James Fields (1936)

Connection Charge \$ 12.00 Duplicate
Application for Sewer Connection. No 12960A

NE/TJ Austin, Texas, Nov. 12 1936

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 James Fields at 1103 Allen St. Street, further described as lot 9910, block 3, outlot _____, subdivision _____, division 8, plat 39, which is to be used as a res

In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.

9 1/2 FEET Respectfully, S. W. Jodew
AT - PL

Stub Out _____
Connected 11/20 1936 Con 39' East
Size of Main 6 inches. of West
Size of Service 4 inches.
9 Feet Deep in alley lot line
9 Feet from Property Line in alley
Feet from Curb Line _____

Inspected by Boatright
Connection made by Arango

Sewer connection application by James Fields (1936)

OWNER Dr. Sidney White ADDRESS 1603 Chicon
 PLAT 39 LOT 10 BLK. 3 DIV
 SUBDIVISION C.R. Johsn Sub
 OCCUPANCY Remodel & repair res
 BLD PERMIT # 89529 DATE 10-1-63 OWNERS ESTIMATE 2200.00
 CONTRACTOR Hunt Yett Const Co. NO. OF FIXTURES
 WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #
 RESIDENCE
Sheet rock house, new roof, demolish acc bldg

Building permit to Dr. Sidney White (who never lived here) to remodel and repair the house (1