

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
OCTOBER 22, 2012
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2012-0289
2617 PECOS STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1961 house.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story rectangular-plan Mid-Century Modern style house with stone and wood veneers, a round-arched doorway with stained glass surrounds, tall, round-arched windows at the front elevation, and casement windows elsewhere. The house has an integral garage, built into the bottom of the house to the left of the main entrance, and a small inset porch above the garage door with a Mid-Century Modern-detailed railing.

RESEARCH

The house was designed by architect Leonard Lundgren and his firm, Lundgren and Maurer, for Dr. Albert D. Sellstrom and his family in 1961. The Sellstroms have lived in the house until very recently. Dr. Sellstrom is professor emeritus in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Texas, and has published several volumes on the French playwright, Corneille.

Leonard Lundgren, the architect for this house, was known for his Mid-Century Modern designs in both residential and commercial buildings. He received his degree in architecture from UT in 1949 and began practicing in Austin. In February, 1953, he partnered with Ed Maurer, a 1950 UT architectural graduate, and established their firm of Lundgren & Maurer, with offices at 1003 W. 24th Street.

The firm designed a wide range of buildings, including medical centers, public buildings for the State of Texas and the City of Austin, commercial retail stores, banks, office buildings, churches, schools, and residences, but they were probably best known for their hotel designs, including many for the Holiday Inn chain of hotels throughout the world. In 1954, the firm received an AIA Award for Merit for the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity House, an excellent example of the Modernist or International style of architecture at the University of Texas. After the firm dissolved in the 1970s, Lundgren continued to practice as Lundgren & Associates, then went on to become a partner in an international hotel consulting firm.

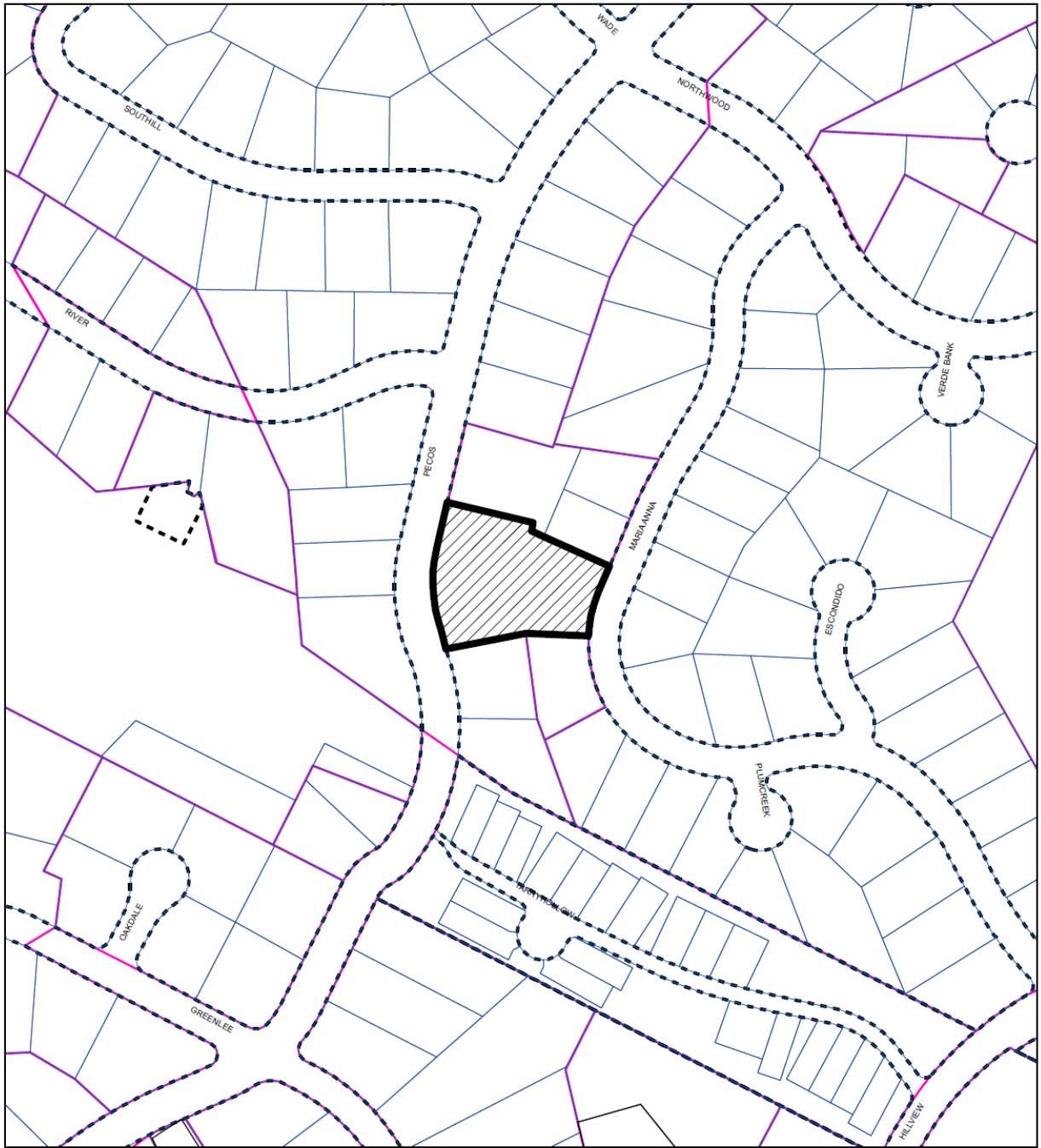
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any city survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff truly hesitates to recommend release of the permit with the completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history for archiving at the Austin History Center. While the house has clear and significant architectural significance – it is by far one of the best Leonard Lundgren residential designs in Austin and is virtually intact according to the original drawings at the Austin History Center, it does not appear to have sufficient historical associations to warrant individual designation.

Staff strongly encourages the applicant and prospective owner of this property to please reconsider demolition of this excellent and intact example of Lundgren's Mid-Century Modern residential designs in Austin.



SUBJECT TRACT



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2012-0289
LOCATION: 2617 Pecos 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.

2617 Pecos Street
ca. 1961



Detail of front entry, integral garage, and porch railing



Detail of front entry and porch railing



Detail of front entry sidelights



Detail of porch railing



Detail of porch railing



Detail of south wing



Detail of south wing



Detail of wall cladding; south wing



Interior view of staircase showing the stone interior walls and the front door (through the stair railing)



Details of the interior stone walls, a hallmark of mid-century modern design, incorporating traditionally outdoor materials into interior spaces and the open floorplan.





Detail of the stone walls and arches on the interior of the house.

OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2617 Pecos Street

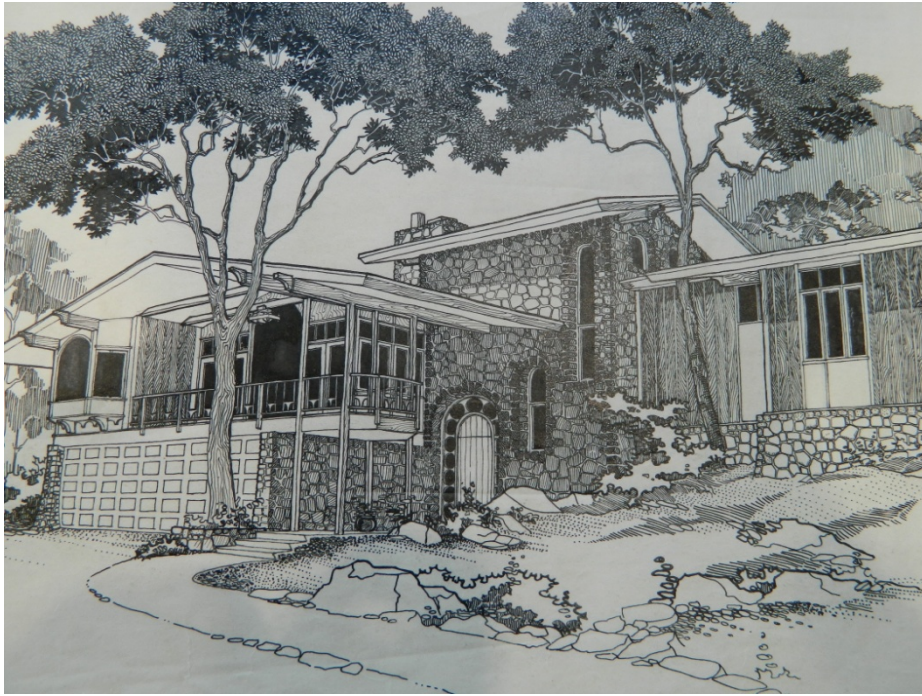
City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
September, 2012

1992	Albert D. and Eleanor Sellstrom, owners Retired
1985-86	Albert D. and Eleanor Sellstrom, owners Retired
1981	Albert D. and Eleanor Sellstrom, owners Professor, University of Texas
1973	Albert D. and Eleanor Sellstrom, owners Professor, University of Texas
1967	Albert D. and Eleanor Sellstrom, owners Assistant professor, University of Texas
1963	Albert D. and Eleanor Sellstrom, owners Assistant professor, University of Texas
1962	The house is listed as under construction.

The 1930 U.S. Census reveals that Albert Donald Sellstrom was the son of Albert and Amelia Sellstrom; Albert Sellstrom owned a hardware store in Elgin, Texas. Albert Donald Sellstrom was born in Bastrop County, Texas in 1926. In 1937, the elder Albert Sellstrom passed away; Amelia and Albert Donald moved to Austin. Neither had an occupation listed in the 1940 census report. Albert Donald Sellstrom married his wife, Eleanor, in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1958. He is professor emeritus in the Department of French and Italian at the University of Texas, and has authored several books on the French playwright Corneille, including Corneille, Le Cid, and Corneille, Tasso, and Modern Poetics.



1961 rendering of the house by Leonard Lundgren of Lundgren & Maurer, Architects



Detail of front section of the house showing the round-arched door and windows in the central entryway, the integral garage, and the porch above.



Detail of the front entryway



Detail of south wing

Dr. Donald Sellstrom

2617 Pecos St.

171

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M

Herman Brown # 2

Rock Veneer Residence and Garage and Mechanical
Room Integral

81244

9-11-61

31,000.00

Robert C. Gray Const. Co.

10

E29084

36381

RESIDENCE

5-15-78# 172941- Donald Selstrom- Pool

Private swimming pool & req. enclosure devices- 868sq.f
6,000.00

Building permit to Donald Sellstrom for the construction of the house (1961)