

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MARCH 25, 2013
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
2615 PECOS STREET
HDP-2013-0086**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1960 house.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-level irregular-plan, Mid-Century Modern-style ranch house with stone veneer and frame siding, banks of aluminum-framed windows, and an almost flat hipped roof.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1960 by Walter Carrington Homes, a local homebuilder, for Irwin and Helen Spear. Irwin Spear taught botany and biology at the University of Texas from 1953 to 1994. He passed away in 2002; Helen Spear is still alive.

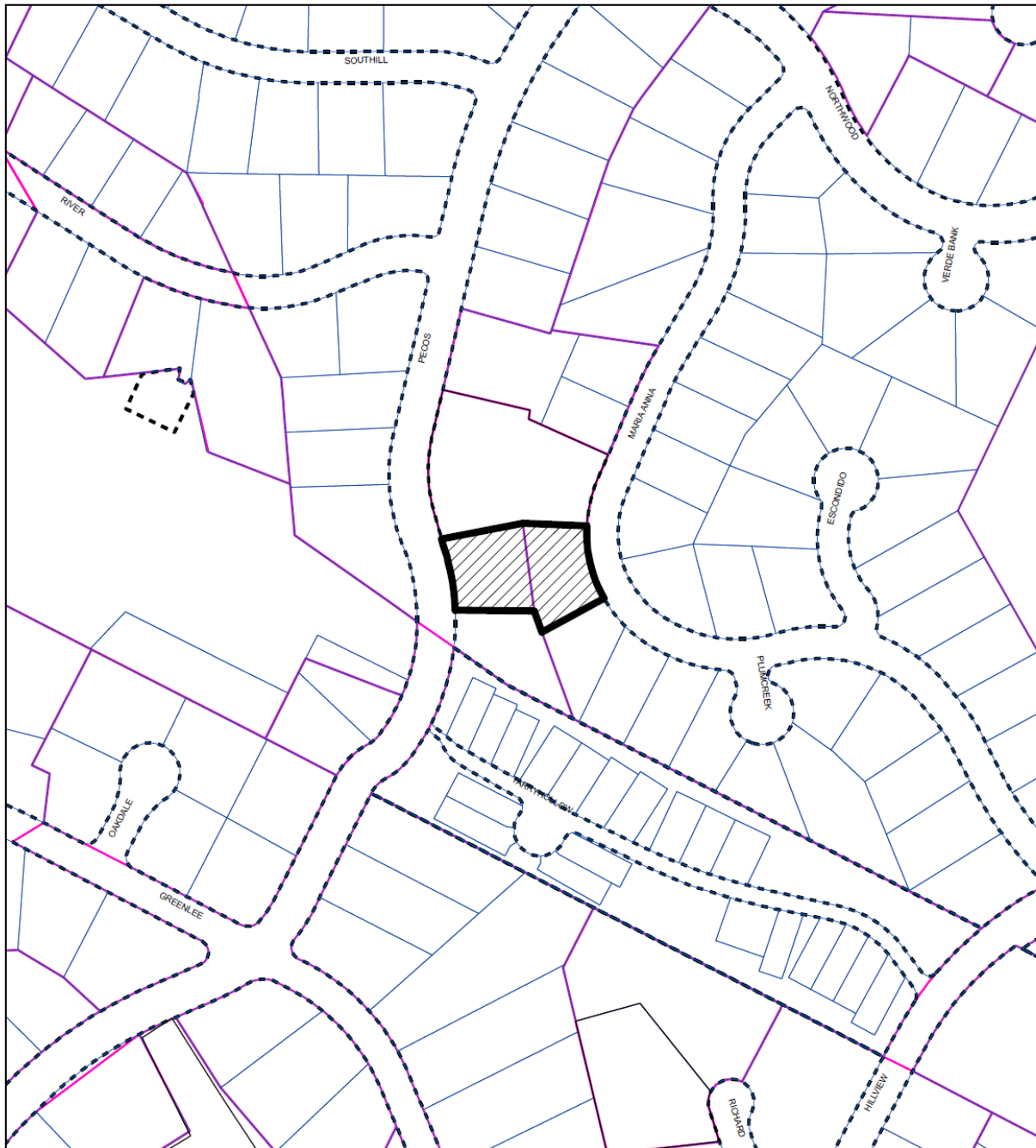
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the demolition permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history of the house, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2013-0086
LOCATION: 2615 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.

2615 Pecos Street
ca. 1960







OCCUPANCY HISTORY

2615 Pecos Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
March, 2013

1992	Irwin and Helen Spear, owners Professor, University of Texas
1985-86	Irwin and Helen Spear, owners Professor, University of Texas
1981	Irwin and Helen Spear, owners Irwin: Professor, University of Texas Helen: Counseling specialist, University of Texas
1975	Irwin and Helen Spear, owners Professor, University of Texas
1969	Irwin and Helen Spear, owners Associate Professor, University of Texas
1963	Irwin and Helen Spear, owners Associate Professor, University of Texas
1961	Irwin and Helen Spear, owners Associate Professor, University of Texas
1960	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Irwin and Helen Spear are listed as living at 2005 Stamford Lane; he was an associate professor at the University of Texas.

NOTE: The house was built by Walter Carrington, the president (1960) of Carrington Built Homes, "Austin's Quality Custom Homes." The company was located at 5611 Adams Avenue. In the 1961 directory, Walter Carrington was also the president of Cardinal Construction Company, Carret Corporation, Crestline Homes, and Walnut Creek Development Company.

Walter Carrington

2615 Pecos Street

171 2

M

Herman Brown #2 Sec I

Frame residence W/CP and playroom under

75608

3/18/60

16500.00

owner

10

25886

S.33367

RESIDENCE

Building permit to Walter Carrington, the builder of this house, for its construction (1960)

2 Herman Brown
BLK 17
SEC 171

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

INDEXED No. 26105

Received of WALTER CARRINGTON Date 5-13-60

Address 2615 PECOS ST

Amount FIFTEEN + 110/line \$ 1500

Plumber ADDL SEETAP E 25886 Size of Tap 1"

Date of Connection _____

Size of Tap Made _____

Size Service Made _____

Size Main Tapped _____

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock _____

From Prop. Line to Curb Cock _____

Location of Meter _____

Type of Box _____

Depth of Main in St. _____

Depth of Service Line _____

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main _____

Checked by Engr. Dept. 5-13-60

REPLACES FD. TAP. E-25886

SEE TAP E-25886

No. Fittings	Pipe	Corp. Cock	Cop. to Iron ell	Cop. to Cop. ell	Cop. to Iron Coupling	Cop. to Cop. Coupling	Angle Stop	Stop	Bushing	Nipples	Service Clamp	Valve	Meter Box	Lock Lid	Drain Tile	Drain Tile Lid	Stop & Drain	Job No.	Foreman

INDEXED

Water service permit to Walter Carrington, the builder of this house (1960)



Irwin Spear

Irwin Spear, 78, of Austin, died suddenly on Thursday, March 21, 2002, due to heart disease complications.

He was born on January 4, 1924, in New York City to Jennie and Philip Spear. He received a B.S. in Botany from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard University. His education was interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WW II. He served in Canada and the South Pacific doing radar-weather work.

Teaching and education were significant aspects of his life. He fulfilled that as a Professor of Botany and Biology at the University of Texas at Austin from September 1953, until his retirement in January 1994. He received numerous National Science Foundation Grants and nine teaching excellence awards during his tenure. His most recent honor was being named a Plan II Fellow. His dedication to teaching young people was exemplified by his 28-year service of designing and directing NSF summer programs for high ability high school students at the University of Texas to encourage future generations of scientists. For many years former students would stop him around town to tell him of the significant impact he had on their lives, which was very gratifying to him.

Irwin also believed strongly in civic responsibility. He spent many hours campaigning for the social, political and environmental causes that were dear to his heart. He was a proud card carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union and a "yellow dog Democrat." Until his death he served on the boards of the West Austin Neighborhood Group and the Cornell Club of Austin.

Above all Irwin had a deep and abiding love for his family. He married Helen Charney in 1949, and together they had Scott, Laura, Sona, Robin and Jodie. Irwin was very proud of the many accomplishments of his wife, children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was a loving and supportive son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and uncle.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Ivan Spear; and beloved daughter, Robin Spear Bartone.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 52 years; his dear sister, Ann Fein of Washington, D.C.; sister-in-law, Bea Spear of Tamarac, Fla.; brother-in-law, Evan Charney of Falmouth, Mass.; his four surviving children and their spouses (Marie Spear, Jerry Nast, Dave Bartone, and Mike Goldberg); his grandchildren, Ben, Diana, and Philip Spear of Madison, Wis., Natalie and Neil Smith of Corpus Christi, Rud Nast of Austin and Adam, Loren, Evan, Seth, and Ethan Goldberg of Austin. Also surviving are numerous cherished nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, and cousins.

The family wishes to thank Dr. George Lowe and Dr. Thomas Riggs for their skilled and compassionate care. We also thank the dedicated staff at North Austin Medical Center and the physicians at Austin Diagnostic Clinic.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 24, 2002, at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, Austin, TX 78705.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Friends of Reed Park, Plan II at UT-Austin, ACLU or the American Heart Association.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, Austin, TX 78705 - (512) 452-8811.

Obituary of Irwin Spear
Austin American-Statesman, March 23, 2002

IN MEMORIAM

IRWIN SPEAR

Irwin Spear died at his home in Austin on March 21, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Helen, four children, Scott Spear, Laura Smith, Sona Nast, and Jodie Goldberg, six grand-children, five step grand-children and sons-in-law Jerome Nast, Michael Goldberg, and David Bartone. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Robin Bartone. Dr. Spear was a member of The University of Texas at Austin faculty from September 1953 until January 1994. He remained an active participant in University, community, and scholarly affairs until his death.

Dr. Spear was born on January 4, 1924, in New York City. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army Air Corps from January 1943 until February 1946. While in the army, Dr. Spear and his colleagues were in the first crew to monitor the development and movement of a hurricane on radar. Using this medium, they also discovered the existence of the strong upper level winds that later became known as the *jet stream*.

Dr. Spear received a B.S. in botany from Cornell University in 1947. He enrolled as a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in September 1947, and completed a Ph.D. in biology in 1953. While a graduate student, he held a Traveling Fellowship from Harvard University to the Atkins Garden in Cienfuegos, Cuba during the summer of 1949 to study the eradication of an introduced weed that had escaped and overrun more than a million acres of range lands and sugar fields. He also held a Traveling Fellowship to conduct research with Professor F. G. Gregory at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, England from August 1950 until January 1952.

Dr. Spear spent his entire faculty life at The University of Texas at Austin, from September 1953 until his retirement in January 1994. At the University, Professor Spear was very active in teaching and won nine teaching awards during his years of service. His influence went far beyond the teaching of undergraduates. He was a member of the College Board and Educational Testing Service National Committee on Biology Advanced Placement for four years. He was a dedicated educator for summer science training programs and received 25 National Science Foundation grants to run these outstanding programs. He also edited many biology textbooks of the day. One publisher commented upon receiving an extensively edited version that it was too much work to adhere to his suggestions. Dr. Spear then wrote back and asked him to remove his name from the published list of editors for the series!

As he was known to be a strict reviewer of scientific information, Dr. Spear also was known to be a very demanding taskmaster of students, but he also gave them generous encouragement to reach their academic and intellectual potential. Over the years, he promoted the advancement of hundreds of bright young students, many of whom had the greatest respect and admiration for him. He often singled out students who had difficulties in the first exam of the semester and invited them to his home for informal discussions so that he could help them gain insight and encouragement to do their very best. Following are excerpts from typical thank you letters:

I want to thank you for being such a fine teacher, one of the best that I have had. In addition to expanding my useful knowledge, your course made me more aware of the life around me and in me.

What you provided to me, and I didn't even realize it at the time, was a sincere belief that I can be the one to affect the future within my sphere of influence. You forced me to defend by beliefs, and I needed the practice. Thank you for being a part of my life and teaching me some very important lessons. I have not [forgotten] and will not forget you.

Somehow I felt the need to check in after a few decades. I always wanted to tell you (but never took the time) that I appreciate everything you did for me. You also made me learn to learn. No one ever before or since demanded so much from me.

There are a few memorable experiences at The University of Texas that continue to shine on my life and career. The most outstanding was my exposure as a student to Dr. Irwin Spear, my freshman Plan II biology professor, and later, my biology advisor within Plan II. I mastered the art of taking Dr. Spear's notorious exams and chose to take all of his offered botany courses that are part of my science requirement. Dr. Spear embodies the best qualities of teaching. As an alumnus, I have continued my support to UT both professionally and financially and serve actively as a Plan II pre-med mentor as well as the ophthalmologist for the UT Women's Athletic Department. With this perspective, I consider Dr. Spear a real treasure within the UT system.

Dr. Spear was very active in the development of innovative Plan II tutorial courses covering biological problems affecting the future of man, and human sexuality, as well as a summer workshop for high school teachers of advance placement biology courses. One of his later courses, Botany for Gardeners, was a unique blend of sophisticated plant physiology concepts intermingled with hands-on experiences in using these concepts to produce outstanding vegetable gardens each year. Frequently, the students took their produce home for the dinner table along with the knowledge of how it was synthesized!

Dr. Spear also was very active holding many important university committee assignments. He was a member of the

Faculty Senate and the University Council in the 1960s and 1970s. He successfully promoted the acceptance of biology advanced placement testing at the University and helped to formulate the biology and botany honors programs at their inception in the early 1960s. One of his greatest interests centered around the University's Plan II program. He was an active member of the Plan II Committee as well as the Plan II Advising Committee for many years. Dr. Spear also was named a Plan II Scholar.

Outside of the academic community, Dr. Spear was very active in civic affairs. He was a proud member of the American Civil Liberties Union and served until his death on the boards of the West Austin Neighborhood Group and the Cornell Club of Austin.

Above all, Professor Spear was a loving and caring husband and father. He will be sorely missed by his many friends, family, colleagues, and former students.

University of Texas Memorial Resolution
July 28, 2003