

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JUNE 24, 2013
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2013-0408-B
812 SAN MARCOS STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1935 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame house with single and paired 6:6 fenestration; front-gabled over-door hood on triangular knee braces over the front door; windows arranged with two to the left side of the front door, and one to the right, identical in configuration to the house at 816 San Marcos, built the same year by the same investor.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built in 1935 by Joe Franzetti, a local businessman, as a rental property. He also built the house at 816 San Marcos Street, which is architecturally identical to this house, at the same time. The house was vacant in the 1937 city directory; the first tenant was Clarence Martin, a painter, who appears in the 1939 directory. Samuel A. Hill, a clerk (in a liquor store, as shown by the 1940 U.S. Census report), and his wife, Frances, rented the house in the early 1940s. From the early- to mid-1940s until around 1950, the house was rented by Tom and Eula Hashem. Tom Hashem was born in Texas, but of Syrian or Lebanese heritage, and operated the Pioneer Bar on E, 6th Street, with Sam Tannous, also a scion of an early Lebanese immigrant family. After the Hashem family's tenancy here, the house was occupied by a series of renters, including an upholsterer, dry cleaner, and baker. By the early 1970s, the house was rented by Ruby J. Simpkins, who worked as a maid, and lived here until her death in 1998.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend rehabilitation on site; if that is not feasible, then recommend relocation over demolition, and completion of a City of Austin Documentation package prior to release of any permit. While staff does not believe that the house has the requisite historical or architectural significance for individual designation as a historic landmark, the house would likely be contributing to a potential historic district in this area of Robertson Hill, encompassing San Marcos, Waller, and Navasota Streets between 7th and 9th Streets. Additionally, the house has served as the home for Anglo, Hispanic, and African-American families, representing residential trends in near East Austin over the past 80 years.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2013-0408
LOCATION: 810 San Marcos Street

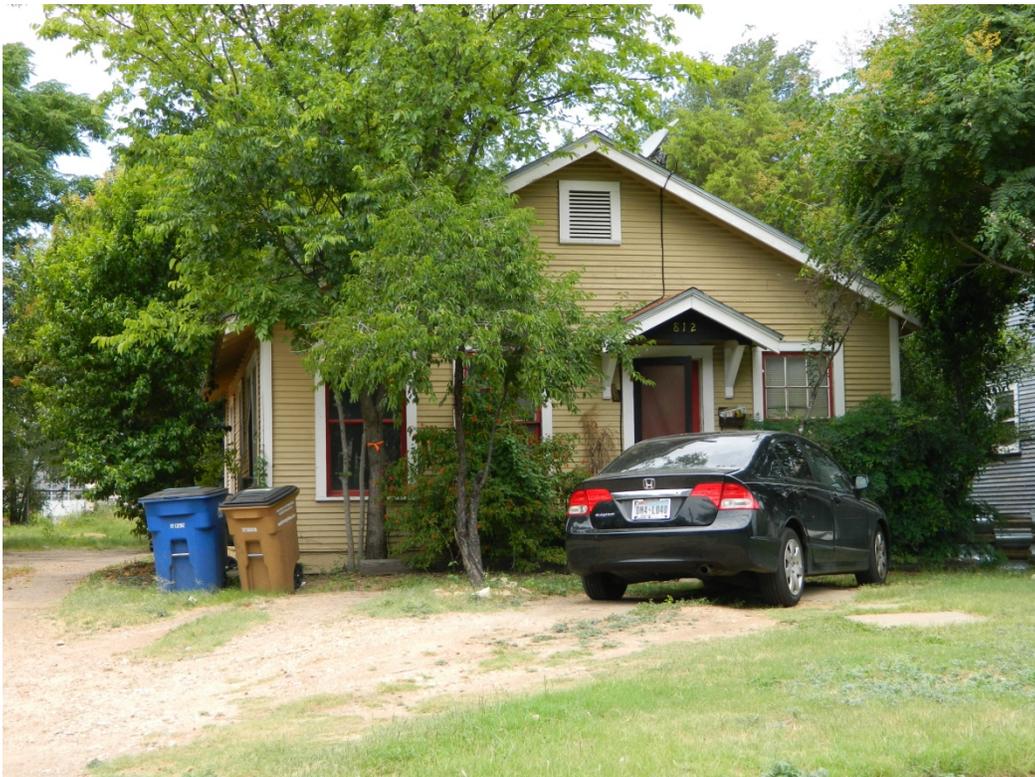


This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

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812 San Marcos Street

ca. 1935



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
812 San Marcos Street

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

1992	Ruby J. Simpkins, renter Retired
1985-86	Ruby J. Simpkins, renter Maid
1981	Ruby J. Simpkins, renter Maid
1977	Ruby J. Simpkins, renter Maid
1973	Ruby J. Simpkins, renter Maid
1968	James W. and Daisy Stewart, renters Custodian, University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio Street. NOTE: Ruby Simpkins is listed as a maid living at 1132½ Salina Street.
1962	James W. and Daisy Stewart, renters Custodian, University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio Street.
1959	Manuel and Alice Ruiz, renters Baker
1955	Earl and Consuelo Garcia, renters Cleaner, Model Cleaners, 1100 E. 6 th Street.
1952	Manuel and Beatrice Pinedo, renters Upholsterer
1949	Thomas N. and Eula Hashem, renters Proprietor (with Sam Tannous), Pioneer Bar, beer, 805 E. 6 th Street.
1947	Thomas N. and Eula Hashem, renters Proprietor (with Sam Tannous), Pioneer Bar, beer, 805 E. 6 th Street.
1944-45	Thomas N. and Eula Hashem, renters Driver, Mel-O-Toast Bakery, 1204 South Congress Avenue.
1941	Samuel A. and Frances Hill, renters Clerk NOTE: The 1942 city directory shows Samuel and Frances Hill living at 1301 E. 7 th Street; he had no occupation listed.
1939	Clarence Martin, renter Painter

1937 Vacant

1935 The address is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Samuel A. and Frances Hill (ca. 1940 – ca. 1942)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Samuel A. Hill as the renter of this house. He was then 33 years old, had been born in Texas, and was a clerk in a liquor store. He was not married at the time the census report was taken. With him in the house lived Robert A. Smith, 89, Smith's nephew and niece, Duke Robertson, 45, and Evelyn Robertson, 28. Both had been born in Texas. Duke Robertson was a carpenter for a building contractor; Evelyn had no occupation listed. Samuel A. Hill died in Travis County in 1983.

Thomas and Eula Hashem (ca. 1942 – ca. 1950)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Tom Hashem as the 22-year old Texas-born son of Joseph Hashem, and his wife, Mona, who rented a house at 818 E. 8th Street in Austin. Tom Hashem was bartender in a tavern, and had completed the 6th grade. His father, Joseph, was a native of France, and a baker for a wholesale bakery. Mona Hashem was 32 years old, had been born in Michigan, and was a saleslady in a variety store. With Tom only 10 years younger than Mona, it appears that Mona was Joseph Hashem's second wife. In addition to Tom, there were four other Hashem children, ranging in age from 19 to 9. Fred, the 19-year old, was an assistant in a pool hall. The 1930 U.S. Census shows the family living in a rented house at 810 E. 8th Street, and reveals that both Joseph and Mona Hashem's parents had been born in Syria. Joseph Hashem was listed as a baker.

Tom Hashem, Sr.

Tom Hashem, Sr., 69, a lifelong resident of Austin, died Wednesday, August 12, 1987.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He owned and operated the E-G Bar on 6th St. for 35 years.

Rosary will be said at 7:30 PM, Friday in the Colonial Chapel at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM, Saturday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Reverend William Donahue, CSC, officiating. Interment will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Mr. Hashem was the husband of Eula of Austin; father and father-in-law of Thomas J. and Lilliam Hashem of Austin, Harold G. Hashem and Mary Anne Hashem of Jacksonville, Florida, Sharon and Wynn Wilkerson of Manor, Deborah and J.R. Click of Dale, Texas, Lynn E. and Carole Buckner of Georgetown; brother of Donald Hashem, Dorothy Prather, both of Houston, and Anna Mae Hello of Austin; grandfather of six. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar location.

Obituary of Tom Hashem
Austin American-Statesman, August 13, 1987



Ruby Josephine Simpkins

Ruby Josephine Simpkins was born August 31, 1916, in Plano, Texas. Upon moving to Austin in 1925, she attended and received her elementary and secondary education in the Austin Public Schools. She was the caring and devoted mother of two children: a daughter, the late Bessie L. Kelley, and a son, James Simpkins.

Sister Simpkins grew and nurtured her Christian development as a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church for in excess of 60 years. Among her devoted friends was the late Sophia Jackson, whose family Sister Simpkins held in high esteem.

A loving, devoted and caring friend to her family and to everyone she met, Ruby Simpkins was the epitome of service, as evidenced by her career and work history with the Lindemans and the Calhouns.

Ruby Simpkins' many affiliations included the Austin Amicae Auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., the Achievement Club, the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 8906, the NAACP, the W.M. Passon Welfare Association, the Heroines of Jericho-Prince Hall Affiliation, the Sunshine Benevolent Club and St. Mary's Court #3. Ruby was an active member of the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association where she was a true friend to many. Ruby J. Simpkins was the recipient of the 1992 "Excellent Service Award" for community service and was recognized in 1993 by the TOP Ladies of Distinction in their "Salute to Seniors."

Ruby J. Simpkins departed this life on Monday, June 1, 1998.

Survivors include her son, James Simpkins, of Edinburg, Texas; granddaughters, Brigid M. Kelly, of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Amanda Simpkins, of Austin, Texas, along with other cousins and many devoted friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, 1998, at Ebenzer Baptist Church.

Obituary of Ruby J. Simpkins
 Austin American-Statesman, June 6, 1998

PERMITS

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

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 3268
 M. Joe Franzetti Address 812 San Marcos
 Plumber Gissell Size of Tap 1/2 Date 11-1-35

Foreman's Report

Date of Connection	<u>11-5-35</u>																			
Size of Tap Made	<u>3/4</u>																			
Size Service Made	<u>3/4</u>																			
Size Main Tapped	<u>6"</u>																			
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>14</u>																			
From Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>116</u>																			
Location of Meter	<u>Bushline</u>																			
Type of Box	<u>Lock box</u>																			
Depth of Main in St.	<u>30"</u>																			
Depth of Service Line	<u>30"</u>																			
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<u>8</u>																			
Checked by Engr. Dept.	<u>(11) P.H. 11-30-35</u>																			

Foreman's Signature Douglas 3

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Water service permit to Joe Franzetti for this address (1935)