

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2013-0576  
709 DRISKILL STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1931 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled, frame bungalow with a partial-width inset porch on the left half of the front façade; two front doors at right angles to each other on the porch; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; synthetic siding.

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**RESEARCH**

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Utility permits show a sewer connection application for this address in 1931; the house appears on the 1935 Sanborn map. It was built as a rental house – the first known occupants were Harry and Ethel Stenson. Harry Stenson was a Chicago-born machinist; Ethel was originally from Texas. They were living in Chicago in 1930 before moving into this house, and lived here until around 1934. A service station attendant rented the house in the mid-1930s, then it was occupied by Ludwig Moretti and his extended family until the early 1940s. Ludwig Moretti was born in Italy and had a tile shop at the house. He lived here with his daughter, Marie, her husband, an older traveling salesman for a publishing company, and their children. The house was occupied by a series of tenants thereafter, including a taxi driver (but not for Roy Velasquez), the proprietor of the Spanish Village Café No. 2 on South Congress; a life insurance agent, and a construction worker.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house appears in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage relocation over demolition if feasible, but release the permit upon 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.

## LOCATION MAP



 SUBJECT TRACT  
 ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2013-0576  
 LOCATION: 709 Driskill 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.

709 Driskill Street  
ca. 1931



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 709 Driskill Street

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

1992	Phillip D. Wroebe, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Phillip D. Wroebe was a new resident at this address.
1985-86	Anthony Amaro, renter No occupation listed
1981	No return
1977	Lydia Ybarra, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Lydia Ybarra was a new resident at this address.
1973	Roberto and Averrelia De La Rosa, renters Construction worker NOTE: The directory indicates that Roberto and Averrelia De La Rosa were new residents at this address.

1968	Valentino and Olga Lemas, renters Laborer
1962	Vacant
1959	Robert C. and Ruth G. Hernandez, renters Agent, Fidelity Union Life Insurance Company, 1705 Congress Avenue.
1955	Jerry and Alice McClain, renters Driver, Carnation Milk Company
1953	Fred and Lena Bies, owners Proprietor, Spanish Village Café No. 2, 121 South Congress Avenue. NOTE: Spanish Village Café No. 1 was at 802 Red River Street, and was owned by someone else.
1949	Talley B. and Rose Taylor, renters Driver, Owl Taxi, 102 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street.
1947	George T. and Tish Johnson, renters Elevator operator, Travis County Court House
1944-45	George T. and Louise Johnson, renters Elevator operator, Travis County Court House
1941	Ludwig Moretti, owner Proprietor, Moretti Tile Shop (at the house).
1939	Ludwig Moretti, owner Proprietor, Moretti Tile Shop (at the house). NOTE: The address is listed as 611 Driskill Street.
1937	Ludwig Moretti, owner Proprietor, Moretti Tile Shop (at the house) NOTE: The address is listed as 611 Driskill Street.
1935	John H. and Marie Arend, renters Attendant, Court House Service Station, 907 Guadalupe Street. NOTE: The address is listed as 611 Driskill Street.
1932-33	Harry L. and Ethel Stenson, renters Machinist, Mountjoy Parts Company, 204-06 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street. NOTE: The address is listed as 611 Driskill Street.
1930-31	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Harry and Ethel Stenson are not listed in the directory.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### Harry and Ethel Stenson (ca. 1931 – ca. 1934)

Harry and Ethel Stenson appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of a house at 2202 Canterbury Street. Harry Stenson was then 47, had been born in Illinois, and was a machinist. Ethel Stenson was then 40, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had three children: Harry, Jr., 17; Willard, 15; and Rose Marie, 12. The 1930 U.S. Census shows

Harry and Ethel Stenson renting a house in Chicago, Illinois, where Harry was a machinist. His 1918 draft registration card shows that Harry Stenson was living in Elgin, Texas, and worked as a mechanic for a man in Coupland. He had been born in Chicago, Illinois, was single, and had fair hair and blue eyes.

### Ludwig Moretti (ca. 1936 – ca. 1944)

Ludwig Moretti appears in the 1940 U.S. Census at this address; he was then a 78-year old widower, had been born in Italy, and had no occupation listed. He is listed with his daughter and son-in-law, Francis and Marie Washburne, who are listed as the renters of this house. Francis Washburne was a 65-year old, Massachusetts-born traveling salesman for a publishing company; Marie Moretti Washburne was 39, had been born in Mexico, and had no occupation listed. They had three children: Ronald, 16, Emil, 15, and Mary, 12. All the children had been born in Texas, and none had an occupation listed. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Ludwig and Fannie Moretti renting a house at 117 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin; he was the proprietor of a tile shop. His wife, Fannie, had been born in Mexico and had no occupation listed. Ludwig Moretti died in San Antonio on March 26, 1953.

Connecting Charge \$ 12.00 No 10272

Application for Sewer Connection.

NW 1/4 Austin, Texas, 7-21- 1931

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 Mr. Lindahl 709 Washburne at 98 East Ave. Street W 37.8' Lat 5' Blue residence which place is to be used as a residence

In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.

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

Respectfully, Harold Gurney Harold

Location of Public Sewer Alley

Stub Out 4

Connected 7-23 1931

Size of Main 6 inches

Size of Service 4 inches

4 Feet Deep

10 Feet from Property Line in Alley

Feet from Curb Line

Inspected by W. G. Bates

Connection made by M. M. Morris started B-679

RICHTER'S-AUSTIN

Sewer connection application for this address (1931)

OWNER Fred Vellason ADDRESS 709 Driskill St.

PLAT 10 LOTW part of B5K. 2 DIV

SUBDIVISION Original

OCCUPANCY Remodel &amp; Repair Residence

BLD PERMIT # 86522 DATE 1-15-63 OWNERS ESTIMATE 1950.00

CONTRACTOR Scheumack Bros. NO. OF FIXTURES -

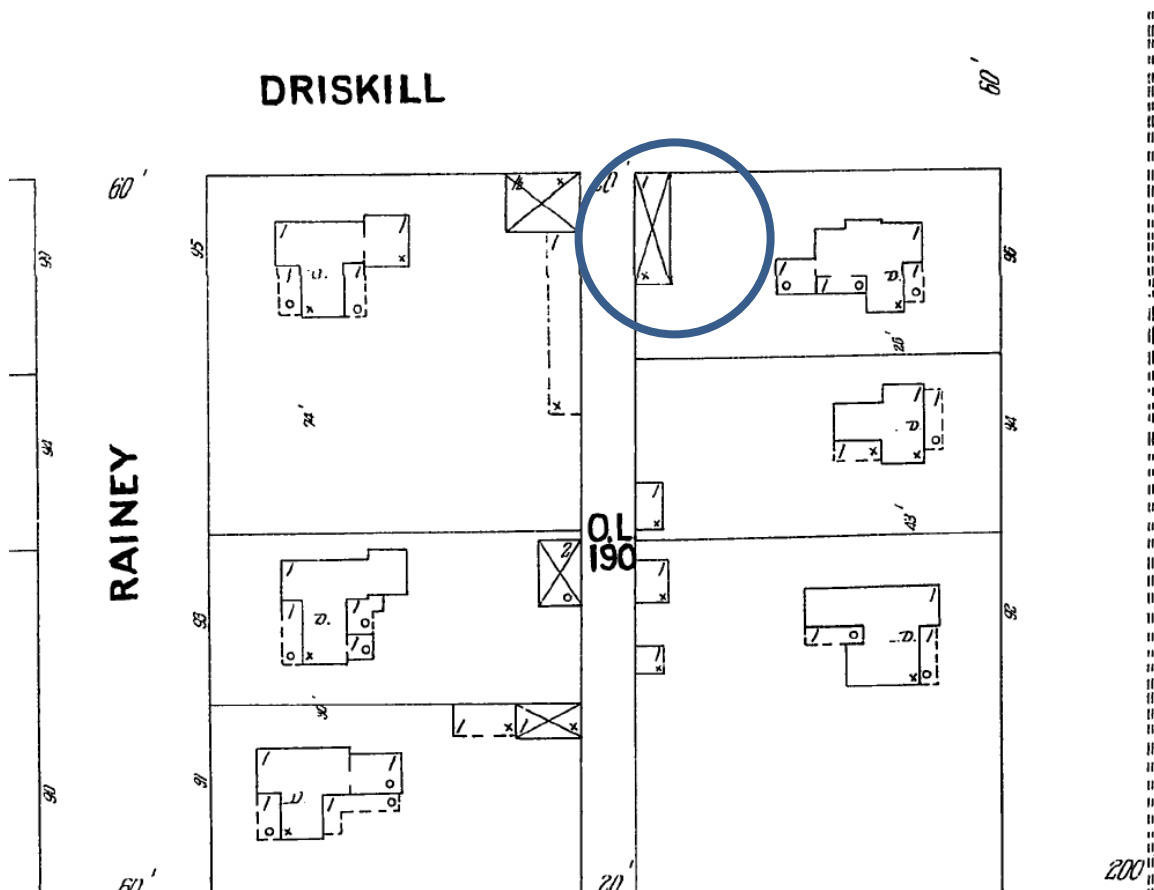
WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #

RESIDENCE

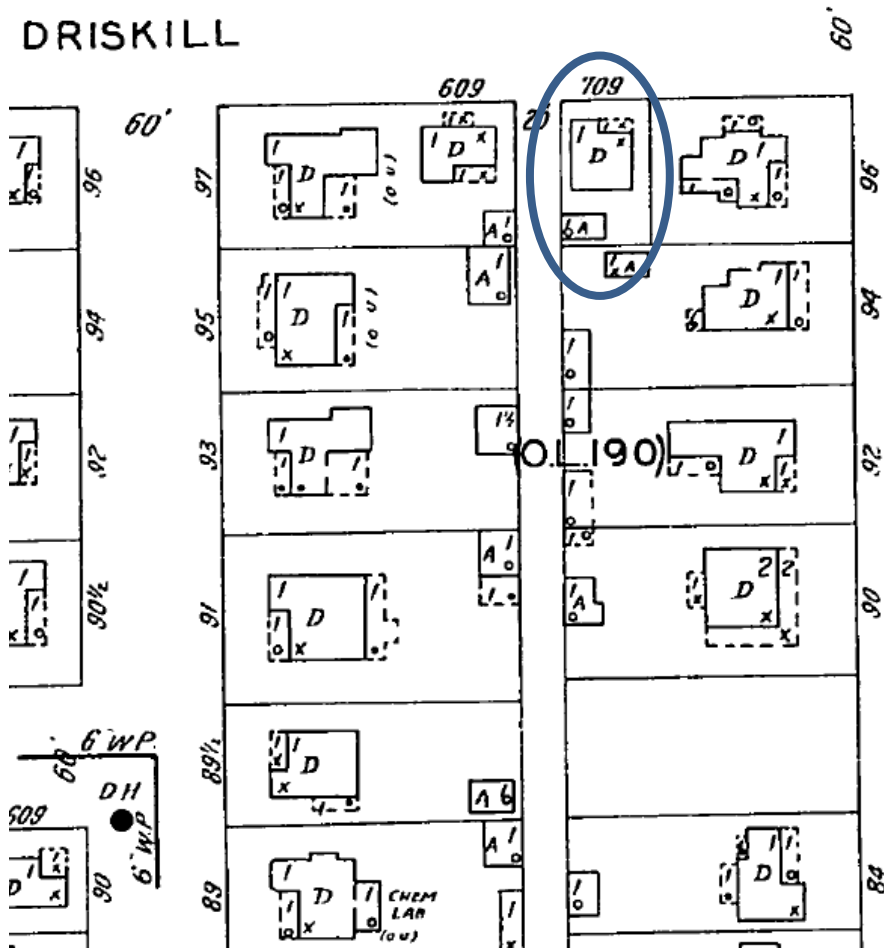
Level, paint, hang sheetrock

9-15-72-131827-repair exist residence

Building permit to remodel and repair the house (1963 and 1972)



# DRISKILL



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the same configuration as the 1935 map above.