

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 28, 2013  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2013-0661  
908 RETAMA STREET

**PROPOSAL**

---

Demolish a ca. 1946 – ca. 1948 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

---

One-story, L-plan, front-gabled frame house with a central, partial-width, shed-roof, entry cover; single and paired 6:6 fenestration; the house also has a one-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame section at the rear of the front-gabled portion, with a central, partial-width, front-gabled entry cover and single 6:6 fenestration.

**RESEARCH**

---

The house appears to have been built in two sections: a 1946 building permit to J. Liston Smith, the first owner and occupant, indicates a “temporary” frame house, which may be the current front-gabled section of the house, and a 1948 building permit for a frame addition, which is probably the side-gabled section of the house, given the costs of construction listed on the building permits. J. Liston Smith and his wife, Annie, lived here until around 1951. He was a wholesale plumbing supply salesman. In the early 1950s, the house was rented by Daniel and Ruby Poole; he was a laundry plant worker. Wilson and Rosalind McCormick are listed as the owners and occupants of the house from around 1953 to around 1965. Wilson McCormick operated the King Bee Hamburgers restaurant on Airport Boulevard. King Bee grew to several locations by the early 1960s. The house has been a rental unit since around 1965; tenants have included a hospital maintenance man and a clerk for the American Statesman.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

---

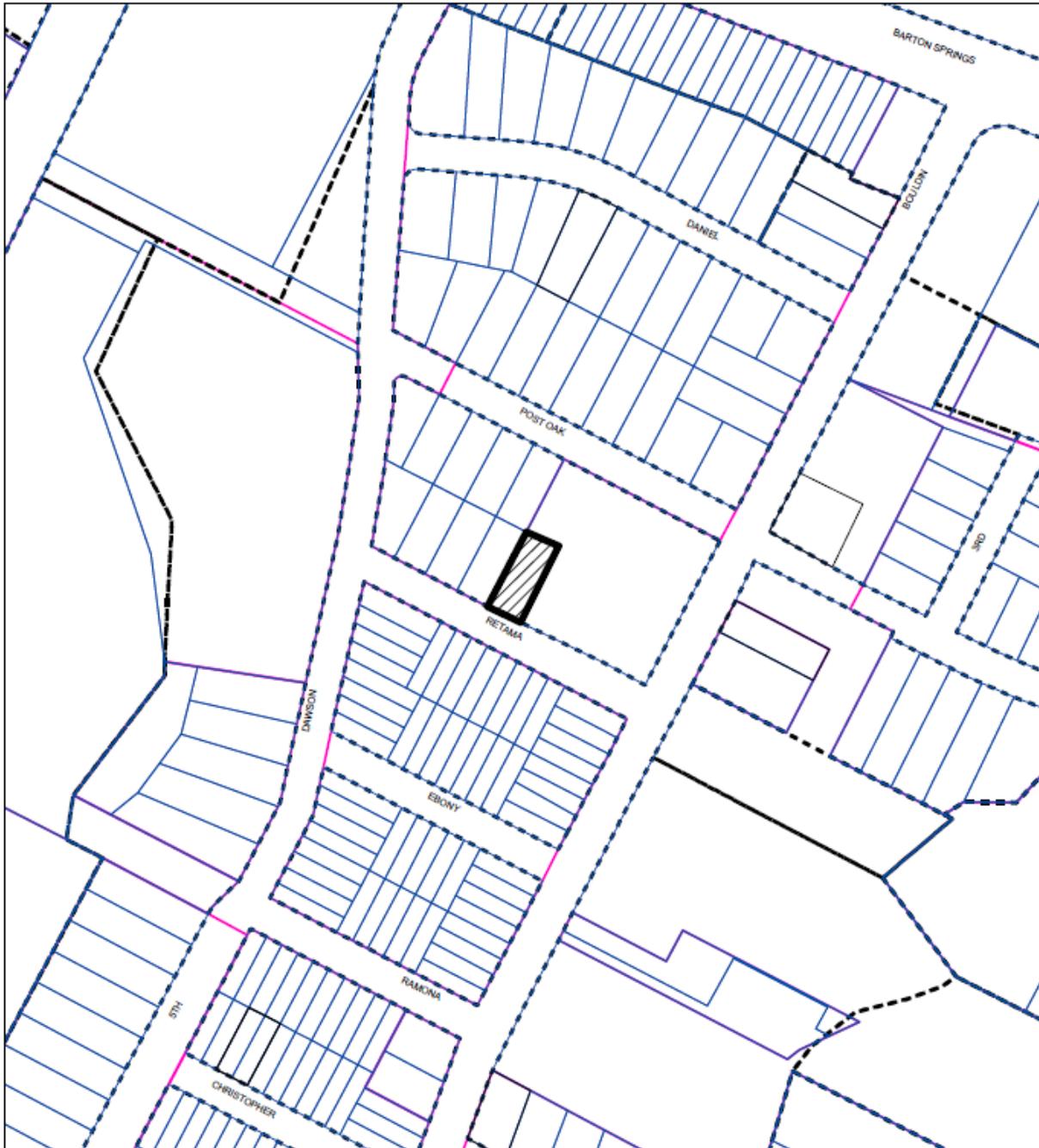
The house does not appear in any City survey.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

---

Encourage relocation over demolition, 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. The house has neither the architectural nor the historical significance to warrant individual landmark designation.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT  
ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2013-0661  
LOCATION: 908 Retama 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.

908 Retama Street  
ca. 1946 – ca. 1948





## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 908 Retama Street

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

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1992    | Paul M. Sims, renter<br>No occupation listed  |
| 1985-86 | Kathleen M. Tuohy, renter<br>No occupation listed<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Kathleen M. Tuohy was a new resident at this address.<br>Also listed is Maureen Tuohy, an employee of Jack-in-the-Box restaurant. |
| 1981    | The address is not listed in the directory.   |
| 1977    | No return   |
| 1973    | Tommy and Christine E. Anderson, renters<br>Clerk, Austin American-Statesman newspaper  |
| 1968    | Kenneth L. and Alice Gore, renters<br>Maintenance man, Holy Cross Hospital, 2600 E. 19 <sup>th</sup> Street.  |

- 1962 Wilson R. and Alice R. McCormick, owners  
Branch manager, King Bee Drive-Inn (locations at 1200 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 401 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, 1421 Airport Boulevard, and 1820 Manor Road).
- 1959 Wilson R. and Alice McCormick, owners  
Manager, King Bee Drive-Inn (location not specified).
- 1955 Wilson R. and Rosalind McCormick, owners  
Proprietor, King Bee Hamburgers, 4721 Airport Boulevard.
- 1952 Daniel R. and Ruby Poole, renters  
Plant worker, Capitol Laundry, 801 Barton Springs Road.  
NOTE: Wilson R. and Alice R. McCormick are not listed in the directory.
- 1949 J. Liston and Annie Smith, owners  
Secretary, Austin Plumbing Supply Company, 203 Congress Avenue.
- 1947 J. Liston and Annie Smith, owners  
Salesman, Austin Plumbing Supply Company, 201-05 Congress Avenue.
- 1944-45 No houses are listed on Retama Street.  
NOTE: J. Liston and Annie Smith are listed at 1700 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a salesman for San Antonio Machine and Supply Company, wholesale plumbing supplies, 201-07 Congress Avenue.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **J. Liston and Annie Smith (ca. 1946 – ca. 1951)**

J. Liston and Annie Smith appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of a house at 614 Deep Eddy Avenue in Austin. J. Liston Smith was then 32, had been born in Texas, and was a salesman for a mechanical supply company. Annie G. Smith was then 28, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had three children: Cecil, 9; Joyce, 7; and J. Liston, Jr., 6. All the children had been born in Texas. The family had lived in Brownsville in 1935. The 1930 U.S. Census shows J. Liston and Annie G. Smith as renters in Cameron County, Texas, where J. Liston Smith was listed as a clerk in an iron works.

### **Wilson and Rosalind McCormick (ca. 1953 – ca. 1965)**

Wilson and Rosalind McCormick appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of a farm in rural Travis County. Wilson McCormick was then 28, had been born in Texas, and was a farmer. Rosalind McCormick was then 23 and had been born in Texas. They had a daughter, Gayle Rae McCormick, 9 months.

**Wilson R. (Mac-Lefty) McCormick**

Wilson R. (Mac-Lefty) McCormick, of Austin, died Friday, August 7, 1987.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM, Monday in the Colonial Chapel of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home, with Reverend Howard Lang officiating. Interment will be in Hutto City Cemetery, Hutto, Texas.

Mr. McCormick was the father and father-in-law of Gayle and John Hancock of Elroy, Barbara and David Busitzski of Chesapeake, Virginia, and Linda and Greg Wilkerson of Burleson, David and Karen McCormick of Round Rock; brother of Mildred Wright of Georgetown; and grandfather of nine.

Pallbearers for the services will be all of his grandchildren, Jimmy Spradling, C.T. Hancock, Chance Bell, Glen Glasgow, Alexandria Wilkerson, Dana Spradling, Lisa McCormick, Amber Wentworth and Bob Wentworth.

Arrangements made by Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar location.

Obituary of Wilson R. McCormick  
Austin American-Statesman, August 9, 1987

J. Liston Smith	908-B Retama Street
So. 1/2 of 542	
113 AC.	

Ruth Dawson Tinnin

Temporary frame residence

30817 7-9-46

\$1800.00

Owner

