

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JANUARY 27, 2014  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2014-0003  
906 KINNEY AVENUE

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1940 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, L-plan, side-gabled frame house with a projecting front gable and partial-width inset porch on ornamental metal posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; metal window awnings.

**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1940 by Robert F. and Erna Rockwood, who lived here for the rest of their lives. The house was built on land apparently owned by Erna Guttman Rockwood; her brother, Walter, lived immediately next door at 908 Kinney Avenue at the time the house was built. Robert F. Rockwood had lived with his mother in a rented apartment on W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street for many years before getting married. He was a city fireman and later fire marshal; around the mid-1940s, he became a projectionist for the Texas Theater at 2224 Guadalupe Street, a job he had previously had as a younger man – he listed “moving picture operator” on his 1917 World War I draft registration card. Robert Rockwood worked as a projectionist at the Texas Theater until the mid-1950s, when he retired. Erna Rockwood was an audit clerk at Sears from the time of her marriage until the mid-1950s.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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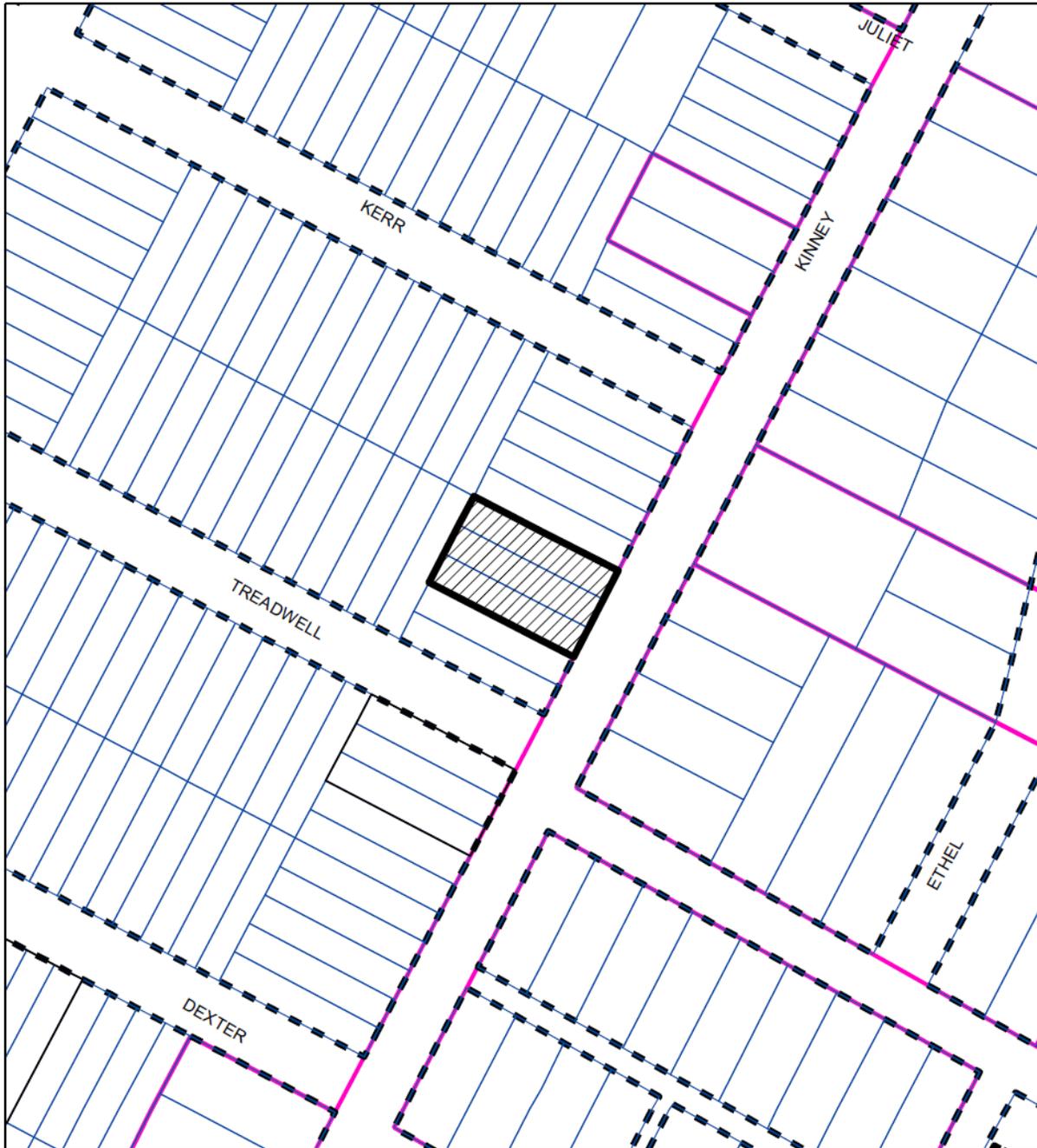
The house is not listed in any City survey.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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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 for individual designation as a historic landmark, but is a good example of working-class housing in the early Barton Hills neighborhood.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

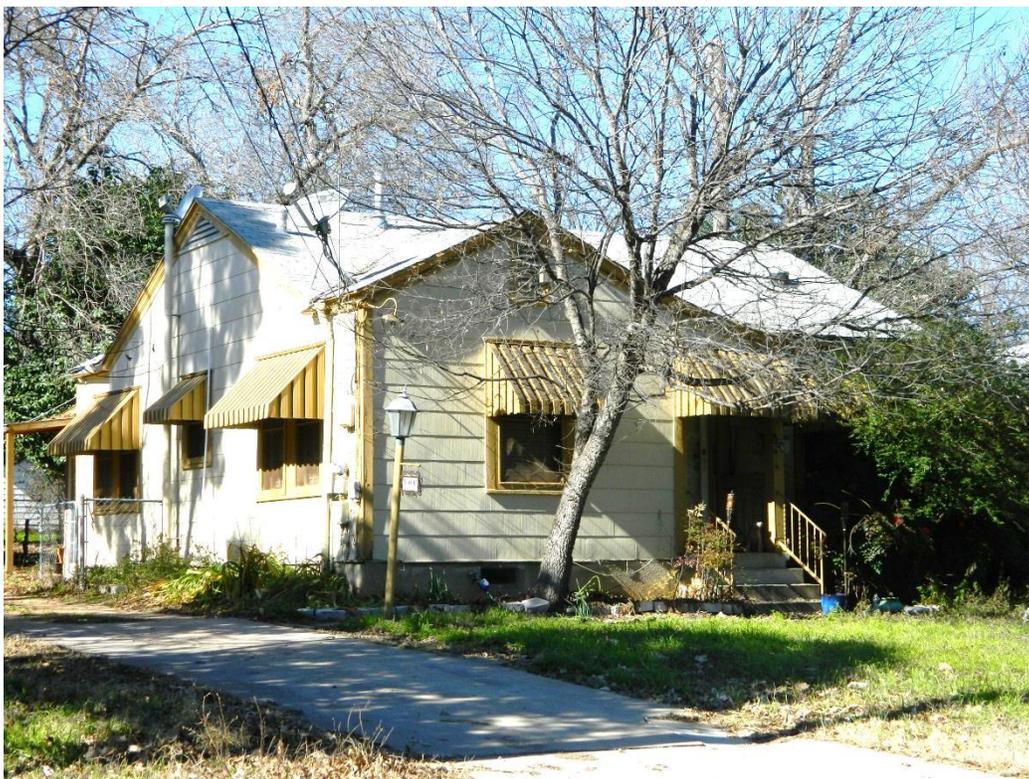
CASE#: HDP-2014-0003  
LOCATION: 906 Kinney Avenue



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.

906 Kinney Avenue  
ca. 1940



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 906 Kinney Avenue

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

1992	Robert Rockwood (not listed as owner) No occupation listed
1985-86	Erna G. Rockwood, owner Retired
1981	Erna G. Rockwood, owner Retired
1977	Erna G. Rockwood, owner Retired
1973	Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners Retired
1968	Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners Retired
1962	Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners No occupation listed

- 1959 Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners  
No occupation listed
- 1955 Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners  
Robert: Projectionist, Trans-Texas Theaters (not listed in the directory)  
Erna: Audit supervisor, Sears, 900-02 Congress Avenue.
- 1952 Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners  
Projectionist  
NOTE: Erna G. Rockwood is not separately listed with an occupation.
- 1949 Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners  
Robert: Projectionist  
Erna: Assistant supervisor, Sears, 900-02 Congress Avenue.
- 1947 Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners  
Robert: Operator, Texas Theater, 2224 Guadalupe Street.  
Erna: Auditing clerk, Sears, 900-02 Congress Avenue.
- 1944-45 Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners  
Robert: Employed by the Texas Theater, 2224 Guadalupe Street.  
Erna: Clerk, Sears, 900-02 Congress Avenue.
- 1941 Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood, owners  
Robert: Fire marshal, City Fire Department  
Erna: Clerk, Sears, 900-02 Congress Avenue.
- 1940 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood are listed at 608 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment "D". He was a fire marshal; she was a cashier at Sears, 900-02 Congress Avenue.  
NOTE: At 908 Kinney Avenue lived Walter Guttman, Erna Rockwood's brother.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

#### **Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood (ca. 1940 – ca. 1997)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Robert F. and Erna G. Rockwood living at 608 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, which they rented. Robert F. Rockwood was then 49, had been born in Texas, and was a city fire marshal. Erna Rockwood was then 29, had been born in Texas, and was an audit clerk for a department store. Robert F. Rockwood appears as the 39-year old single son of Luella Rockwood in the 1930 U.S. Census. He and his mother lived at 608-D W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, an apartment they rented. Robert F. Rockwood was a city fire marshal. His mother, Luella, a 73-year old widow, had been born in Ohio and had no occupation listed. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Robert F. and Luella Rockwood living in a rented apartment at 403½ W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. He was a city fireman.

Feedback

REGISTRATION CARD		182
1 Name of registrant	Robert Frank Rockwood	Age 27
2 Home address	1407 Colorado Street	Neighborhood
3 Date of birth	March 23	1891
4 Education (specify school)	Public School	
5 Place born	Austin Texas	
6 Occupation (if other than regular occupation)		
7 What is your present trade, occupation, or profession?	Moving Picture Operator	
8 Do you have any other occupations?	7	
9 How long employed?	See Mother's Occupation	
10 Marital status (specify date)	Single	Education

3083	REGISTRAR'S REPORT	12-17
1	Is the name of the registrant correct?	Yes
2	Is the address correct?	Yes
3	Is the date of birth correct?	Yes
I certify that the above are true, that the person registered has read and understands the above and his signature, and that all of the contents of this knowledge are true, except as follows:		
None		
Signature: R. F. Rockwood		
Date: Dec 17 1917		

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Robert Frank Rockwood's World War I draft registration card (1917) shows that he was living at 1407 Colorado Street, had been born in Austin on March 23, 1891, and was a moving picture operator for the Texas Theater. He lived with his mother.

**ROCKWOOD, Robert F., 85, 906 Kinney Ave., died Monday. Services pending at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.**

Obituary of Robert F. Rockwood  
 Austin American-Statesman, March 1, 1977

**ROCKWOOD, Robert F. (Bob), 85, 906 Kinney Ave., died Monday. Services 10 a.m. Wednesday at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home. Survivors: wife, Mrs. Erna C. Rockwood of Austin; sister, Mrs. Irma Clark of Dallas.**

Funeral notice for Robert F. Rockwood  
 Austin American-Statesman, March 2, 1977

## **Erna Guttman Rockwood**

Erna Guttman Rockwood, age 86, died Tuesday, July 29, 1997.

A native of Austin, she was born April 2, 1911, to Kathe and Sigmund Guttman. She was a member of the Parker Lane United Methodist Church where she was a member of the Martha Dorcas Circle. She was also a member of O.E.S. Chapter #472, the Heranson's Capital City Lodge #35, Sears Retirees, the Gourmet Luncheon Group, and was past president of the Credit Women of Austin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert F. Rockwood; brothers, Walter and Bill Guttman; sister, Louise Cox; and nephew, Bobby Cox.

Survivors include her nephews, Walter Guttman Jr. and his wife, Nancy, of Austin, and Frank Guttman and his wife, Linda, of Georgetown; sister-in-law, Lois Guttman; great-nieces, Paula and Jenna Guttman; and great-nephews, John Guttman, Robert Cox, and Dr. William Cox.

Funeral services will be held at 12:00 noon Thursday, in the Weed-Corley-Fish Chapel with Reverend Sue White officiating. Burial will be in Capital Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parker Lane United Methodist Church.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, 452-8811.

Obituary of Erna G. Rockwood  
Austin American-Statesman, July 31, 1997

Erna Rockwood

906 Kinney Ave.

106

-

G

6-7 & 8

-

Barton Hgts.

frame res. & box gar.

19601 - 5-20-40

5

R. F. Rockwood 906 Kinney Ave.  
106 C 6-7&8

Barton Hts.

Box Add'n. to Rear of Res.

21358 3-4-41

None

Building permit to Robert F. Rockwood for the construction of a rear addition (1941)

Connection Charge \$ 12.00 14109

**Application for Sewer Connection.**

Austin, Texas, 3/10 1938

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 Erna Guttman Rockwood at 906 Kinney Ave. Street further described as lot 6-7-8, block C, outlot subdivision Barton Hts, division \_\_\_\_\_, plat 106 which is to be used as a Res

In this place there are to be installed Coe fixtures.

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

Respectfully,  
Erna Guttman Rockwood

Stub Out \_\_\_\_\_

Connected 7-13 1938

Size of Main \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Size of Service \_\_\_\_\_ inches

5 Feet Deep

14 Feet from Property Line

Feet from Curb Line \_\_\_\_\_

Inspected by Permit 120

Connection made by 13597

Sewer connection application by Erna Guttman Rockwood for this address (1938)