

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
MARCH 24, 2014  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2014-0123  
306 W. MILTON STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1925 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame shotgun-style house with a full-width, shed-roofed, independent porch on plain square wood posts; single fenestration with a combination of likely original 1:1 windows and modern replacements.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1925 by Gus Becker as a rental property; no houses were listed in city directories on W. Milton Street until the edition of 1927. The first tenants of the house were African-American and later Mexican-American. There was a sizable African-American community in the vicinity – the Goodwill Baptist Church at the corner of Milton and Newton Streets was an African-American congregation.

Around 1938, the house was purchased by Simeon J. and Ray Saunders, who lived here until around 1965. Sim Saunders was a native of Burnet; his father had run a grocery business in Marble Falls in the 1910s. Sim moved to Austin with his parents by 1920 – they were living on E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Sim's father was a paper hanger, Sim and his older brother, Herbert were both house painters. While living in this house, Sim worked as a painter, and as a laundry worker, but mostly had no occupation listed in the city directory listings. His wife, Ray, was a laundry worker. After Sim died in 1958, Ray continued to live in the house until around 1965. The house has been a rental unit since that time.

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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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Release the demolition permit. The house has been altered, and lacks the requisite architectural and historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark. Due to the alterations to the house, documentation of the structure is not justified.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 162'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0123

LOCATION: 306 W Milton 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 CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



306 West Milton Street  
ca. 1925



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 306 West Milton Street

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

1992	Estolio and Dora Vasquez, renters Estolio: No occupation listed Dora: Waitress, Al Capone's, restaurant, Barton Springs Road at Riverside Drive.
1985-86	Tomas Arellano, renter No occupation listed
1981	Isabel and Janie Reyes, renters No occupation listed
1977	Isabel and Janie Reyes, renters Mill cutter, Calcasieu Lumber Company
1973	Isabel and Janie Reyes, renters Mill cutter, Calcasieu Lumber Company
1968	Isabel and Janie Reyes, renters Laundry worker, South First Cleaners, 1905-A S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street.

1962	Mrs. Ray C. Saunders, owner Widow, Simeon J. Saunders No occupation listed
1959	Mrs. Ray C. Saunders, owner Widow, Simeon J. Saunders No occupation listed
1955	Simeon J. and Rae C. Saunders, owners No occupation listed
1952	Simeon J. and Ray Saunders, owners No occupation listed
1949	Simeon J. and Ray Saunders, owners Simeon: Checker, San Jacinto Laundry and Dry Cleaning, 1600 San Jacinto Boulevard. Ray: Checker, San Jacinto Laundry and Dry Cleaning, 1600 San Jacinto Boulevard.
1947	Simeon J. and Ray Saunders, owners Employed by San Jacinto Laundry and Dry Cleaning, 1600 San Jacinto Boulevard.
1944-45	Simeon J. and Ray Saunders, owners Checker, San Jacinto Laundry and Dry Cleaning, 1600 San Jacinto Boulevard.
1941	Samuel J. and Ray Saunders, owners Samuel: Painter Ray: Checker, San Jacinto Laundry and Dry Cleaning, 1600 San Jacinto Boulevard.
1939	Samuel J. and Ray Saunders, owners Samuel: No occupation listed Ray: Laundry worker, San Jacinto Laundry and Dry Cleaning, 1600 San Jacinto Boulevard.
1937	Jesse M. and Anna Arnold, renters Laborer, Texas Public Service, 422 Congress Avenue. NOTE: S.J. Saunders is not listed in the directory; Ray Saunders is listed as a laundress at the San Jacinto Laundry and Dry Cleaning, but had no residential address listed in the directory.
1935	Jesus and Sofia Hernandez, renters No occupation listed
1932-33	Onia McAlister, renter No occupation listed Also listed is Lucille McAlister, no occupation stated.
1930-31	Siensa Sosa, renter Widow, Nicholas Sosa
1929	Joseph and Sallie Hitchcock, renters

No occupation listed  
NOTE: The house is listed as 304 W. Milton Street.

1927 John and Alice Randolph (colored), renters  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The house is listed as 304 W. Milton Street.

1924 No houses are listed on W. Milton Street.  
NOTE: John Randolph (no wife listed) lived at 406 East Avenue; he had no occupation listed in the directory.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Joseph and Sallie Hitchcock (ca. 1928 – ca. 1930)**

Joseph and Sallie Hitchcock appear in the 1900 U.S. Census for Austin; they were living in the home of her brother, Henry Herbert, and his wife, Louise, on W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street near Dam Boulevard. Joseph Hitchcock was then 33, had been born in Texas, and was a wood hauler. Sallie Hitchcock was then 25, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Lela, who was a year old. With them lived Joseph's mother, Elizabeth Hitchcock, a 70-year old Missouri-born widow with no occupation listed. Sallie Hitchcock's brother, Henry Herbert, was 31, had been born in Texas and was a bartender.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Joe and Sallie Hitchcock living in Marble Falls, Texas, where Joe was a farmer; Sallie had no occupation listed. They had 4 children: Laila, 11; Joe, 7; Herbert, 6; and Allie, 2. All of the children had been born in Texas.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Joe Hitchcock living with his son, Joe, and Joe Jr.'s wife Laura on a farm on the Oak Hill Road in Travis County. Counted in the same house but not the same household was Joe, Sr.'s son, Herbert, and Herbert's wife, Rhoda. The extended clan included Joe Sr.'s daughter, Lela Clawson with her children. All family members with occupations are listed as farm laborers. Sallie Hitchcock is not mentioned in the census report.

##### **Simeon J. and Ray Saunders (ca. 1938 – ca. 1965)**

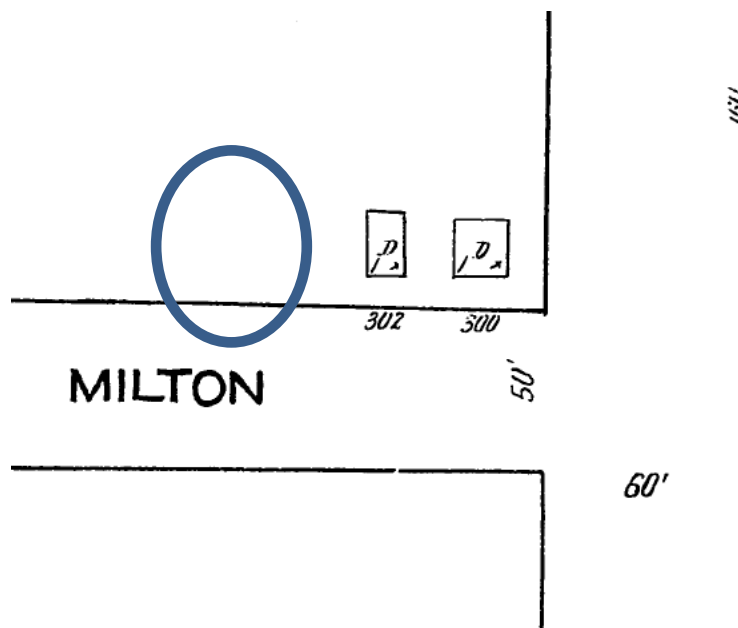
Simeon J. Saunders appears in the 1920 U.S. Census as the 22-year old son of Ernest and Sally Ann Saunders, who rented at house at 1000 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin. Simeon J. Saunders had been born in Texas, and was a house painter, as was his older brother, Herbert. Their father, who had been born in England, was a paper hanger. The 1910 U.S. Census shows the family living in Marble Falls, Texas, where Ernest A. Saunders was a grocery merchant. The oldest son in the family was a house painter; neither Herbert nor Simeon had occupations listed.

**SIM J. SAUNDERS**

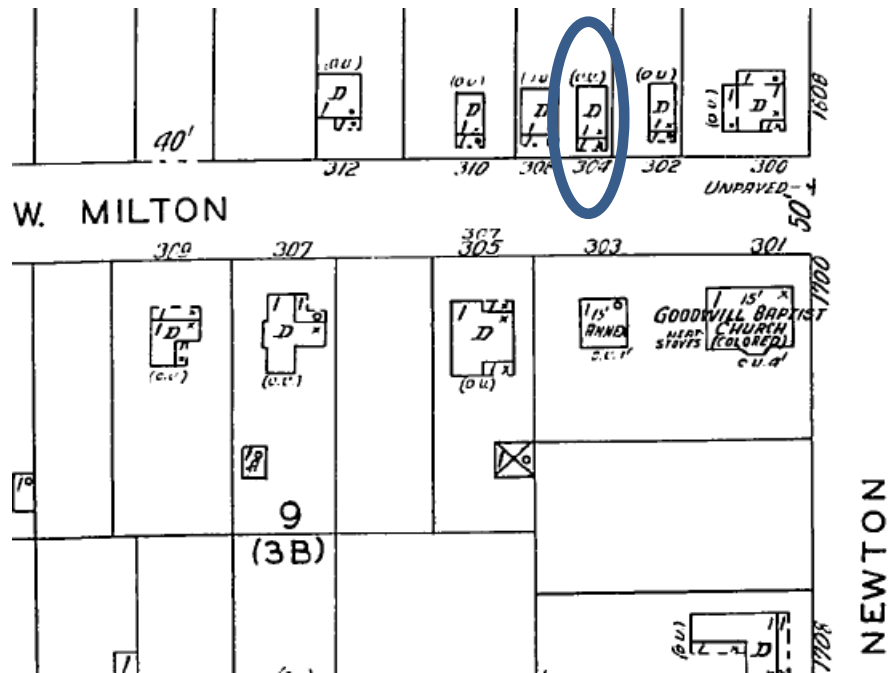
Sim J. Saunders, 60, died in a local hospital Sunday. He has been a resident of Austin 46 years and was employed by the San Jacinto Laundry. He is survived by his wife; one son, James F. Boothe of San Antonio; one daughter, Mrs. Geo. Kidwell of Norwalk, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. J. L. Monroe of Baytown and Mrs. Mary Irving of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and one brother, W. E. Saunders of Houston.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday from Wilke-Clay Funeral Home with Rev. W. C. Hartgrove officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

Obituary of Simeon J. Saunders  
Austin American, October 6, 1958



The 1922 Sanborn map shows the site as vacant.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house with its former address of 304 W. Milton Street.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the house on a single lot with the house formerly next door at 308 W. Milton Street.

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

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE Austin, Texas

No. 4 3603

M. *Gus Becker* Address *306 W. Milton St*

Plumber *Schutze* Size of Tap *1/2* Date *11-4-30*

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection *11-14-30*

Size of Tap Made *3/4*

Size Service Made *3/4 Cop*

Size Main Tapped *2" 6" CI*

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock *10'*

" " " " " *3'*

Location of Meter *Curb*

Type of Box *Loch*

Depth of Main in St. *2'*

" " Service Line *2'*

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main *32'*

Checked by Engr. Dept. *304, 12-2-30*

No. Fittings	Size
1	Curb Cock 5"
1	Elbow 3/4"
1	St. Elbow 3/4"
1	Bushing 3/4" x 1/2"
1	Reducer to Compelling
33'	Pipe 3/4"
	Lead Comp.
	Nipples
	Union
	Plug
	Tee
	Stop
1	Box Lock
1	Lid Lock
1	Drain Valve
	Req. No. <i>5188</i>

Foreman's Signature *Smith*

INDEXED

Water service permit to Gus Becker for this address (1930)

Ray C. Saunders  
E. 22' of 8 and W.  
122 3' of 9 B

306 West Milton St.

Swisher Addition  
Demolish front porch.  
Box addition to rear of residence.  
35633  
11-3-47 \$200.00

Owner

Building permit to Ray C. Saunders to demolish the front porch and build a rear addition (1947)