

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 25, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0685
705 W. MONROE STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1902 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, pyramidal hipped-roof frame house with a full-width inset porch on single, monumental square wood posts; double front doors; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

While the house may not be as old as 1902, it certainly dates from the first decade or two of the 20th century, judging from its architecture. City directories show that James L. Wimberly, and his wife, Matilda, were living in this section of South Austin around 1902, but the lack of street addresses and house numbers in the early city directories may indicate that the Wimberly family was living in another, older house from the time they first appear in the city directory listings. However, it is clear that they were living at this location at least by 1909, and lived here until 1930, when they moved to a house on West Annie Street, adjacent to their grocery store on S. 1st Street. James L. Wimberly was a carpenter, who also operated a saloon on South Congress Avenue around 1914; he then went into the grocery business, and had a store in the 600 block of West Annie Street, before moving to a store on S. 1st Street, which was an area of mom-and-pop grocery stores throughout the first half of the 20th century. After they moved to their house on Annie Street, their son, Porter, a truck driver for the City Sanitation Department, moved into this house, and lived here with his wife Opal, for about 4 years. He and Opal then moved into his parents' old house on W. Annie Street, and the house was rented by C. Douglas Benson and his wife, Mary Ruth. C.D. Benson was a compressor operator and ditcher for the City Water Department. They lived here until around 1938. The demographics of the neighborhood then underwent a change, as this house, and the one next door, at 701 W. Monroe, then became occupied by African-American families. Herman and Mabel Smith and Nannie Brown are listed as the residents of the house in city directories from the late 1930s through around 1946. Herman Smith is listed as a cook at the Texas School for the Deaf in the 1944-45 city directory; the 1940 U.S. Census shows him as a street paver with a WPA project. Nannie Brown was a widow who worked as a laundress for private families. The house was then a rental property through the early 1950s; it was then rented by Henry (Enrique) and Angelita Serna, who lived here until around 1964. Henry Serna was a truck driver for Superior Dairies, and late for Mrs. Baird's Bakery; he was a native of Laredo, and had worked in a CCC reforestation camp at the time of the 1940 U.S. Census. Leslie C. Wagner, a plumber, then rented the house from the mid-1960s until his death in 1982. The house was a rental property thereafter.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and re-use if feasible; 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 the Austin History Center.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0685
LOCATION: 705 W Monroe



1" = 166'

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.

705 West Monroe Street
ca. 1902



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
705 West Monroe Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
August, 2014

1992	Neal Herr, renter No occupation listed
1985-86	Neal Herr, renter No occupation listed
1981	L.C. Wagner, renter Retired
1977	Beulah Wagner, renter No occupation listed NOTE: L.C. Wagner is not listed in the directory.
1973	Leslie C. and Katherine C. Wagner, renters No occupation listed NOTE: Beulah Wagner is not listed in the directory.
1968	Leslie C. and Katherine C. Wagner, renters Plumber

- 1962 Henry F. and Angelita Serna, renters
Driver, Mrs. Baird's Bakery, 701 Tillery Street.
NOTE: Leslie C. Wagner is listed as a plumber living at 2501 E. 1st Street.
- 1959 Henry F. and Angelita Serna, renters
Driver
- 1955 Henry F. and Angelita Serna, renters
Salesman, Superior Dairies, 600 E. 1st Street.
- 1952 Daythene Montgomery, renter
Waitress, Hut's 808 W. 6th Street or 206 Barton Springs Road.
NOTE: Henry and Angelita Serna are not listed in the directory.
- 1949 The address is not listed in the directory.
- 1947 Delores Cardenas, renter
Clerk
- 1944-45 Nannie Brown, owner
Widow, Sylvester Brown
Maid
- Herman and Mabel Smith, renters
Cook, State School for the Deaf
- 1941 Nannie Brown, renter
Not listed in the directory
- 1939 Anna Brown, owner
No occupation listed
- 1937 C. Douglas and Mary A. Benson, renters
Compressor operator, City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1935 C. Douglas and Mary A. Benson, renters
Employed by the City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1932-33 Porter E. and Opal Wimberly, renters
Helper, City Sanitation Department
- 1930-31 Porter E. and Opal Wimberly, renters
Helper, City Garbage Department
NOTE: James L. and Matilda Wimberly are listed at 602 W. Annie Street. He was the proprietor of a grocery store at 1720 S. 1st Street.
- 1929 James L. and Matilda Wimberly, owners
No occupation listed
NOTE: Porter and Leola Wimberly are listed at 1702 S. 3rd Street; he was a helper with the City Garbage Department.
- 1927 James L. and Matilda Wimberly, owners
Manager, Wimberly Filling Station, 1710 W. 1st Street.

- 1924 Albert and Gertrude Finley, renters
No occupation listed
- 1922 James L. and Matilda Wimberly, owners
No occupation listed
Also listed is Porter Wimberly, no occupation stated.
- 1920 James L. and Matilda Wimberly, owners
Grocery, 608 W. Annie Street.
- 1918 James L. and Matilda Wimberly, owners
Grocery, 608-10 W. Annie Street.
NOTE: The house is listed as 711 W. Monroe Street.
- 1916 James L. and Matilda Wimberly
Saloon, 1303 S. Congress Avenue.
NOTE: The address is listed as 711 W. Monroe Street.
- 1914 James L. Wimberly
Carpenter
NOTE: The address is listed as 705 W. Monroe Street.
- 1912-13 James L. Wimberly
Carpenter
NOTE: The address is listed as 707 W. Monroe Street.
- 1910-11 James L. Wimberly
Carpenter
NOTE: The address is listed as 715 W. Monroe Street.
- 1909-10 James L. Wimberly
No occupation listed
NOTE: The address is listed as 715 W. Monroe Street.
- 1906-07 James L. Wimberly
Janitor, Court House
NOTE: No house number is listed.
- 1905 James L. Wimberly
Carpenter
NOTE: No street address is listed.
- 1903-04 James L. Wimberly
Carpenter
NOTE: The address is listed as the northeast corner of 7th and Mary Streets in the Bouldin Addition.
- 1900-01 Unknown
James L. Wimberly is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

James L. and Matilda Wimberly (ca. 1902 – ca. 1930)

The 1900 U.S. Census shows Jim and Matilda Wimberly living with his father, Robert W. Wimberly in rural Travis County. Jim Wimberly was 32, and listed as a farmer, as was his father. Matilda had no occupation listed. They do not seem to appear in the 1910 U.S. Census.

James L. and Matilda Wimberly appear in the 1920 U.S. Census at 705 West Annie Street (likely an error in the census report). They owned the house. James L. Wimberly was 52, had been born in Texas, and was a retail grocery merchant. Matilda Wimberly was 40, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Porter, 19, a laborer; daughter Willie, 14; and daughter Ellen, 5. All the children had been born in Texas. With them lived James L. Wimberly's father, R.W. Wimberly, a 91-year old Georgia-born widower with no occupation listed. The 1930 U.S. Census shows James L. and Matilda Wimberly at 602 W. Annie Street, a house they owned, and which was worth \$2,000. James L. Wimberly was 62 and listed as a grocery store merchant. Matilda Wimberly had no occupation listed. With them lived their daughter, Ellen, 15, who had no occupation listed.

Porter and Opal Wimberly (ca. 1930 – ca. 1934)

Porter Wimberly appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renter of this house. He was 29, unmarried, and was a carpenter in building construction. The 1940 U.S. Census shows Porter and Opal Wimberly living at 602 W. Annie Street, the house his parents moved to from this house on Monroe Street. He was 39, and drove a truck for the City Sanitation Department. His wife, Opal, was 26, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Leola, 9; Doris, 7; and Elbert, 5. His parents, Jim and Matilda, are listed at 1708 S. 1st Street; neither of them had an occupation listed.

JIM WIMBERLY
 Jim Wimberly, 79, former resident of Austin, died at his home in Brady Thursday. Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Jim Wimberly of Brady; three daughters, Mrs. Frankie Johnson of Sunset, Mrs. Ellen Locklear of Voca and Mrs. Willie Leverett of Austin; one son, Peter Wimberly of Austin; two brothers, John Wimberly of Austin and Robert Wimberly of Chicasha. Funeral services will be held at the Cook Funeral Home at 2 p. m. Sunday with the Rev. E. M. Putman officiating. Burial will be in the Masonic Cemetery.

Obituary of James L. Wimberly
 Austin American, June 28, 1947

MRS. MATHILDA S. WIMBERLY

Mrs. Mathilda S. Wimberly died Wednesday at her home, 602 West Annie.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. C. L. Leverett of Voca, Texas, and Mrs. Joe Locklear of Houston; one son, Porter Wimberly of Austin; 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Friday at 2:30 p.m. at Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. R. L. Bennett officiating. Burial will be in Masonic Cemetery.

Obituary of Matilda Wimberly
Austin American, August 25, 1955

MRS. MATILDA S. WIMBERLY

Funeral services for Mrs. Matilda S. Wimberly will be held Friday at 4 p.m. at Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. R. L. Bennett officiating. Pallbearers will be Gilbert Joseph, Burnham Fallwell, Alex Boatright, Owen Schnell, H. G. Hudson and J. D. Smith. Burial will be in Masonic Cemetery.

Funeral notice for Matilda Wimberly
Austin American, August 26, 1955

WIMBERLY, Porter E., 75, 602 W. Annie, died Thursday. Services 2 p.m. Monday at Calvary Assembly of God Church. (Cook-Walden)

Death notice for Porter E. Wimberly
Austin American-Statesman, October 17, 1976

C. Douglas and Mary R. Benson (ca. 1934 – ca. 1938)

C. D. and Mary Ruth Benson are listed in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 615 W. Elizabeth Street in Austin. C. D. Benson was 23, had been born in Texas, and was a machine operator for the City Water, Light, and Power Department. Mary Ruth Benson was 21, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 children: James, 3, and Mary, 3 months. By 1940, according to the U.S. Census report, Charles D. and Mary Benson owned the house at 713 W. Monroe Street. He was a ditcher for the City Water Department. She had no occupation listed. They had 4 children.

Herman and Mabel Smith; Nannie Brown (ca. 1940 – ca. 1946)

Herman and Mabel Smith appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$600. Herman and Mabel Smith were African-American. Her was 38, had been born

in Texas, and was a city street paver for the WPA. Mabel Smith was 37, had been born in Texas, and was a servant for a private family. They had 2 children: Hazel, 9; and Herman, Jr., 8. With them lived Mabel's two older children, Mabel Blackman, 17; and Freddie Blackman, 15. Both had been born in Texas and neither had an occupation listed. Also in the household was Nannie Brown, a 40-year old African-American widow, who is listed as a partner. Nannie Brown was a laundress at the house for a private family. She had a daughter, Rosa Lee Brown, 14, who had no occupation listed. By 1940, the house next door, at 701 W. Monroe, was also occupied by an African-American family, headed by a 53-year old widow who was also a laundress at home for a private family. There were no other African-American families listed in this block of the census report for 1940.

Henry F. and Angelita Serna (ca. 1953 – ca. 1965)

Enrique Serna appears in the 1940 U.S. Census for Laredo, Texas as the 17-year old son of Jose and Jacinto Serna, both of whom had been born in Mexico. Enrique was born in Texas and was in a CCC reforestation camp at the time of the census. His father was a chauffeur for a private family.



Angelita Everett Serna

Angelita Everett Serna, 79, of Austin, died peacefully in her home surrounded by her loved ones, on Tuesday, March 30, 2004. She was born on October 2, 1924, in San Diego, Texas.

Her parents, Anatolio Everett and Cruz Soliz Everett, and her beloved sister, Stella, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Enrique. She was a devoted mother to Raquel S. Gonzales (Albert), Enrique Serna Jr., Eladio Serna (Toni), and Rosie Serna-Baldwin (Steve). She was blessed with eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A Wake will begin at 7:00 p.m., Friday, at Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 3, 2004, at St. Ignatius, Martyr Catholic Church, Reverend Joseph A. Tomei, C.S.C., as celebrant. Interment will follow at Assumption Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice Austin, 4107 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78759.

Arrangements by Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home, 2620 S. Congress, Austin, 442-1446. You may view memorials at www.wcfish.com.

Obituary of Angelita Serna
Austin American-Statesman, April 1, 2004

Leslie Carl and Lucille Wagner (ca. 1965 – ca. 1982)

Leslie Carl and Lucille Wagner appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of a house at 1604 E. 4th Street in Austin. L.C. Wagner was 34, had been born in Texas, and was a plumber; Lucille Wagner was 35, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

Leslie Carl Wagner

Leslie Carl Wagner, age 76 of 705 W. Monroe, died Friday.

He was a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local #286.

Survivors are one son, H.L. Langston, Sr., Houston; sisters, Irma Dahlin, Lillian Rogers, Ethel Wagner, all of Austin, Florence Winterberg, Houston; brothers, Carl F. (Billy) Wagner and Eugene Wagner, both of Austin; two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren.

Services are 10:00 AM Monday at Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home, Chapel of the Bells, with Reverend A.D. Eberhart officiating. Burial in Assumption Cemetary.

Pallbearers are Bob Long, Frank Armstrong, Buster Farrow, Haskell McNair, Jimmy Hardcastle, Otis Homesly.

Obituary of Leslie C. Wagner
Austin American-Statesman, July 18, 1982