

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2014-0704**  
**915 W. 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Relocate a ca. 1915 house to Elroy, Texas.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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Two-story rectangular-plan, hipped-roof, frame house with vinyl siding; prominent gable-pedimented front porch on square posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration.

**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1915 for Ami S. and Ruth Rife, who lived here until around 1917. Ami S. Rife was from Lockhart, where he had a dry goods and grocery business. He had a general merchandise business while living in this house in Austin; by 1920, he and Ruth had moved back to Lockhart, where he was a general merchandise merchant.

Physician Claud A. Mathews, and his wife, Vena, rented the house from around 1917 to around 1923. Mathews was the son of an Austin physician and surgeon, William G. Mathews. He grew up at 506 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Claud Mathews' wife, Vena was a music teacher; she and Claud divorced at some point before 1940; the 1940 U.S. Census shows Vena Mathews living at another house on W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, and Claud A. and Annie Jane Mathews living on Carolyn Avenue. Claud Mathews died in 1945.

Eugene Digges, a clerk for Von Boeckmann-Jones, a local printer and bookbinder, and his wife, Katherine, rented the house in the late 1920s; Thomas C. Green, the superintendent of the City's water filtration plant, rented the house as a single man in the early 1930s. Around 1931, the house was purchased by Myrtle Candler, a widow. Mrs. Candler lived here until her death in 1947. Architect Harwell Harris and his wife rented the house in the mid-1950s; the house has been a rental property since then, with tenants including a lawyer, educators from the University of Texas, and students.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house appears in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but with no priority for research.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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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 designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2014-0704  
Address: 915 W 22ND ST



1" = 200'

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.

915 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
ca. 1915



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY

### 915 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

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

- 1992            Bernardo Estrada, renter  
                   No occupation listed
- John M. Cochran, renter  
                   No occupation listed  
                   NOTE: The directory indicates that John M. Cochran was a new resident at this address.
- 1985-86        Dennis Drake, renter  
                   No occupation listed  
                   NOTE: The directory indicates that Dennis Drake was a new resident at this address.
- 1981            Brad Miller, renter  
                   No occupation listed  
                   NOTE: The directory indicates that Brad Miller was a new resident at this address.
- 1977            Peggy F. Wright, renter  
                   Translator
- 1973            Mallory B. and Janice W. Randle, renters  
                   Mallory:        Artist  
                   Janice:        Teaching assistant, University of Texas
- 1968            Mallory B. and Janice W. Randle, renters  
                   Student
- 1962            Joseph E. and Audrey Slate, renters  
                   Joseph:        Instructor, University of Texas  
                   Audrey:        Editor, University of Texas
- Rear: Vacant
- 1959            L. Hamilton and Ivy L. Lowe, renters  
                   Lawyer, 206 Littlefield Building
- 1955            Harwell H. and Jean B. Harris, renters  
                   Architect, 2410 San Antonio Street.
- 1952            Gene and Ruth Schulze, owners  
                   Physician
- 1949            Gene Schulze, owner  
                   Student, University of Texas

- 1947 Myrtle L. Candler, owner  
Widow, I.L. Candler  
No occupation listed
- 1944-45 Myrtle L. Candler, owner  
No occupation listed
- 1941 Myrtle Candler, owner  
Widow, Ignatius Candler  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The house is listed as 811 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1939 Myrtle Candler, owner  
Widow, Ignatius Candler  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The house is listed as 811 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1937 Myrtle Candler, owner  
Widow, Ignatius Candler  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The house is listed as 811 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1935 Myrtle Candler, owner  
Widow, Ignatius Candler  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The house is listed as 811 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1932-33 Myrtle Candler, owner  
Widow, Ignatius Candler  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The house is listed as 811 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 1930-31 Thomas C. Green, renter  
Superintendent and chemist, City Filtration Plant  
NOTE: Myrtle Candler is not listed in the directory.
- 1929 Eugene and Katherine Z. Digges, renters  
Clerk, Von Boeckmann-Jones, printers, 811 Congress Avenue.
- 1927 Eugene and Katherine Z. Digges, renters  
Clerk, Von Boeckmann-Jones, printers, 811 Congress Avenue.  
Also listed is Eugene Digges, Jr., a student at St. Edward's College.
- 1924 Bruner H. and Rebecca Peacock, renters  
Student  
Also listed is J.B. Peacock, no occupation stated.
- 1922 Claud A. and Vena K. Matthews, renters  
Physician, 419-22 Littlefield Building
- 1920 Claud A. and Vena K. Matthews, renters  
Physician, 419-21 Littlefield Building

- 1918 Claud A. and Vena K. Matthews, renters  
Physician, 419-20 Littlefield Building
- 1916 Ami S. Rife  
General merchandise  
NOTE: Claud A. Matthews is listed as a physician with offices at 5-6 First National Bank Building, 100 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; he lived at 901 Neches Street.
- 1914 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Ami S. Rife is not listed in the directory.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

#### **Amy S. and Ruth Rife (ca. 1915 - ca. 1917)**

Amy S. Ruth Rife appear in the 1910 U.S. Census of Caldwell County, Texas. Amy S. Rife was 37, had been born in Texas, and was a dry goods and grocery merchant. Ruth Rife was 28, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Felton, 8; Lois, 6; and Helen, 5 months. All the children had been born in Texas. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Amie S. and Ruth Rife as the owners of a house on San Antonio Street in Lockhart, Texas. Amie S. Rife was a retail merchant selling general merchandise.

#### **Claud A. and Vena K. Mathews (ca. 1917 – ca. 1923)**

Claude A. Mathews appears in the 1900 U.S. Census as the 13-year old son of William G. and Florence c. Mathews, who lived at 506 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin. Claude A. Mathews had been born in Texas, and was listed “at school.” His father, William G. Mathews, was 51, had been born in Ireland, and was a physician and surgeon. His mother, Florence, was 38, and had been born in Wisconsin to Scottish-born parents. She had no occupation listed. Claude had an older brother and a younger sister. The household also included a Swedish-born servant and an English-born “hired man.”

Claud Armstrong Mathews’ 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that he was living at this address (listed as 811 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street). He had been born in Austin and was a physician and surgeon in private practice. He had a wife with a child expected, and had served in the Texas National Guard.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Dr. C.A. and Vena Matthews as the owners of this house, which is listed as 811 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Dr. C.A. Matthews was a medical doctor. Vena Matthews had no occupation listed. Their daughter, Margaret, was 2.

Vena K. Mathews appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owner of the house at 803 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin. She was 41, had been born in Kansas, and was a music teacher. With her lived her 2 children: Margaret, 12, and Clinton, 9. Both children had been born in Texas and both were public school students. The 1940 U.S. Census shows Vena K. Mathews as the owner of the house at 803 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, which was worth \$5,000. She was listed as divorced. She was a music teacher in a private studio. Her daughter Margaret, 22, had no occupation listed. Son Clinton, 19, was a music teacher at the University of Texas. With them lived Vena’s father, J.C. Kemmerlin, a 76-year old Illinois-born widower who had no occupation listed. He had lived in Galveston in 1935.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Claud A. and Annie Jane Mathews as the owners of the house at 709 Carolyn Avenue in Austin. Claud A. Mathews was 53, and was a physician and surgeon in private practice. Annie Jane Mathews was 37, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation

listed. They had a daughter, Betty J., 15, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

## Dr. C. A. Mathews, Longtime Doctor Here, Succumbs

Dr. Claude A. Mathews, 57, died at a local hospital Tuesday. He had been a practicing physician in Austin many years. Surviving are his widow, two daughters, Mrs. Charles F. Murray, and Miss Margaret Mathews, both of Austin; one son, Clinton A. Mathews in the US army and one sister, Mrs. Florence Haan of Decatur, Ill.

Funeral services will be held at the Cook Funeral home Thursday at 4 p. m. with Dr. Frederick E. Brooks officiating. Active pallbearers will be A. D. Gaston, E. T. Morris, Aubrey Reilly, Farren McNamara, Dr. Henry Paine and Dr. G. W. Cleveland. Honorary pallbearers will be all members of the Travis County Medical association, Dr. J. I. Cherico, Judge Ireland Graves, Judge C. A. Wheeler, J. S. Koenig, H. R. Levine, Al Koelzer, David Roche, Ted Whitlock, Dr. Fred Pease, Grady DeGlandon, John Mowinkle, Charles F. Murray, Sr., Eldridge Moore, A. P. Cleveland, J. J. Brown, A. J. Zilker, Jr., A. P. Loney, John Robinson, Col George Hurt and Dr. N. D. Buie of Marlin. Burial will be in Memorial park.

Obituary of D. Claude A. Matthews  
Austin American, April 11, 1945

**MRS. VENA K. MATHEWS**

Mrs. Vena K. Mathews died Tuesday at the family residence, 2506 Pegram Avenue. She had lived in Austin since 1912 and was a member of Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. A private music teacher in her home she was organist for St. Davids Episcopal Church for 12 years.

Survivors include a son, C.A. Mathews; daughter Miss Margaret Mathews; and two granddaughters, Donna Mathews and Diane Mathews, all of Austin.

Funeral services will be held at Weed-Corley Funeral Home Wednesday at 2 p.m. Rev. Joseph A. DiRaddo will officiate with burial in Capital Memorial Park.

Obituary of Vena Mathews  
Austin American, February 5, 1964

**Eugene and Katherine Digges (ca. 1925 – ca. 1930)**

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Eugene and Katherine Digges as the owners of this house, which is listed as 809 W 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Eugene Digges was 51, had been born in Maryland, and worked in a print shop. Katherine Digges was 48, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Eugene Digges, 23, who had been born in Texas, and was a secretary to a senator.

**Myrtle Candler (ca. 1931 – ca. 1947)**

Myrtle Candler appears as the owner of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census. She was an 83-year old Georgia born widow with no occupation listed. With her lived her daughter, Martha C. Cass, a 45-year old Texas-born divorcee with no occupation listed; and Martha's son, Henry Candler Cass, 9, who had been born in Texas.

**MRS. MYRTLE CHANDLER**

Mrs. Myrtle Long Chandler, 90, resident of Austin for 15 years, died at her home, 915 West 22nd Street, Thursday afternoon. She was a native of Georgia and is the widow of Ignatius L. Candler. Mrs. Candler graduated from Salem Female Academy at Winston-Salem, N. C., and received her masters degree from College Temple at Newman, Ga. Mrs. Candler was a member of the Presbyterian Church and was a talented musician. She was a sister-in-law of the late Gov. Allen D. Candler, former governor of Georgia.

Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. Will A. Branan of New Orleans and Mrs. Martha Candler Cass of Austin.

Funeral services were conducted at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home Friday by the Rev. Harry M. Moffett, after which the body was sent to New Orleans for burial.

Obituary of Myrtle Candler  
Austin American, January 25, 1947