

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
OCTOBER 27, 2014
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2014-0885
1823 W. 39TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1935 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, pyramidal hipped-roof, frame house with a central, partial-width, front-gabled independent porch with scalloped fascia and on plain, square wood posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration with 3:1 wood screens.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1935 by Mrs. Noyes D. Smith, the wife of a prominent Austin businessman, who was in the coal and fuel business, as an investment property. The first occupants of the house were Ronald and Mae DeVies, who are not listed as the owners of the house until the directory of 1937. Ronald DeVies had grown up in Cement City, a poor suburb on the west side of Dallas, and worked as a tester for the Texas Portland Cement Company in Cement City. He then worked as a tester for another company, moved to Houston in the late 1920s, and moved into this house when he moved to Austin in the early 1930s. He worked as a laboratory assistant for the State Highway Department, and continued in that occupation even after moving back to Houston after World War II. Ronald and Mae DeVies lived here until around 1943. The house was then rented in the mid-1940s, the owned by Coleman and Margie Hammons in the late 1940s. Howard and Ethel B. Morrison owned and occupied the house in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Coleman Hammons was a linotype operator for the American Statesman. From the mid-1950s onward, the house had a succession of owners and renters, including an Air Force couple, a city firefighter, and an urban planner for the state.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is not listed in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and re-use if possible; then relocation over demolition, but in any case of removal, 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.

LOCATION MAP



-   SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0885
LOCATION: 1823 W 39th St.



1" = 162'

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.

1823 W. 39th Street
ca. 1935



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1823 W. 39th Street

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

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1992 | Robert A. Freytag, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that Robert A. Freytag was a new resident at this address. |
| 1985-86 | Karl and Carolyn Shefelman, owners
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that Karl and Carolyn Shefelman were new residents at this address. |
| 1981 | Ken King, owner
No occupation listed |
| 1977 | Ken King, owner
No occupation listed |
| 1973 | Steven and Darvey James, owners
Employed in Urban Planning, State of Texas |
| 1968 | Clarence W. and Lora York, renters |

- City firefighter
- 1962 Max D. and Margaret Tully, renters
Max: Attendant, State Hospital
Margaret: Attendant, State Hospital
- 1959 Orell and Della J. Simpson, renters
U.S. Air Force
- 1955 James C. and Catherine Sanders, renters
James: Student, Nixon-Clay Business College, 119-A W. 8th Street.
Catherine: Office secretary, James H. Aldridge Company, insurance, 503 E. 15th Street.
- 1952 Howard T. Morrison, owner
Printer, Austin American-Statesman newspaper
- 1949 Howard T. and Ethel B. Morrison, owners
Linotype operator, Austin American-Statesman newspaper
- 1947 Coleman N. and Margie Hammons, owners
No occupation listed
- 1944-45 Fred J. and Freida Otto, renters
Foreman
- 1941 Ronald L. and Mae DeVies, owners
Laboratory assistant, State Highway Department
- 1939 Ronald L. and Mae DeVies, owners
Laboratory assistant, State Highway Department
- 1937 Ronald L. DeVies, owner
Student, University of Texas
- 1935 Ronald L. and Mae DeVies (not listed as owners)
Laboratory assistant, State Highway Department
- 1932-33 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Ronald L. and Mae DeVies are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Ronald L. and Mae DeVies (ca. 1935 – ca. 1943)

Ronald L. and Mae DeVies appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$3,500. Ronald DeVies was 39, had been born in Texas, and was a tester for the State Highway Department. Mae DeVies was 33, had been born in Arkansas, and had no occupation listed. They had a 3-year old son, Ronald DeVies, Jr. The 1910 U.S. Census shows Ronald DeVies as the 9-year old son of Allie DeVies, a 29-year old dressmaker in Cement City, a poor suburb in West Dallas, Texas. Ronald's father was not listed with the rest of the family, but the census report indicates that he had been born in Scotland. City directories indicate that he had lived in Cement City, West Dallas in the early 1920s, where he was a tester for the Texas Portland Cement Company and a chemist for the Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory; then in Houston in the late 1920s, where he was a tester for the Pittsburgh Testing laboratory of Texas, before moving to Austin. He moved back to Houston after World War II, where he

worked as an inspector for the State Highway Department there. Ronald DeVies died in Harris County, Texas in 1994; there was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.

Coleman and Margie Hammons (ca. 1946 – ca. 1948)

Coleman N. Hammons appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the 15-year old son of Walter M. and Nellie May Hammons, who owned their home in Dallas. Walter M. Hammons was a foreman for a bridge construction company; no other family member had an occupation listed.

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

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 2468 / 150
INDEXED

M. *Mrs. Noyes D. Smith* Address *1823 W. 39th*

Plumber *Misall* Size of Tap $\frac{1}{2}$ Date *1-18-35*

CHANGED TO $\frac{6}{34}$ MAIN AND RENEWED SERVICE WITH $\frac{3}{4}$ COPPER ON *B-9873* Foreman's Report

Date of Connection *2/5/35*

No. Fittings	1 Curb Cock	1 Elbow	1 St. Elbow	1 Busting	1 Lead	1 Pipe	1 Lead Comp.	1 Nipples	1 Union	1 Plug	1 Tee	1 Stop	1 Box	1 Lid	1 Valves	Reg. No.
Size	5" X			3/4" X 1/2"	3/4"	3/4"			3/4"							580 W

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock *9'6"*

From *S.* Prop. Line to Curb Cock *6'8"*

Location of Meter *at curb*

Type of Box *1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2"*

Depth of Main in St. *15"*

Depth of Service Line *18"*

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main *2'6"*

Checked by Engr. Dept. *H. H. H. - 2520-35*

Foreman's Signature *Benson*

Water service permit to Mrs. Noyes D. Smith for this address (1935)

Howard T. Morrison 1823 West 39th St.
 160 6 11 - -
Oakmont Heights Annex #2
 Enclose rear porch.
 47624 2-26-51 \$1600.00
 Owner

Building permit to Howard T. Morrison to enclose the rear porch (1951)

Howard T. Morrison	1823 West 39th St.			
160	6	11	-	-
Oakmont Heights Annex #2				
Erect open carport.				
49049 9-12-51			\$365.00	
Day labor				

Building permit to Howard T. Morrison to erect an open carport (1951)