

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 17, 2014  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2014-0988  
1008 MERIDEN LANE**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1948 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-and-a-half-story, split-level frame house with brick veneer at the principal entry and at the garage, which is under the upper level of the split-level house; partial-width shed-roofed, independent porch on round metal posts; single 1:1 fenestration.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1948 by Andrew L. and Clara Martin, who lived here until around 1951. Andrew L. Martin was a Michigan-born plumber who opened his own plumbing and heating contracting firm on Congress Avenue. The next owners of the house were John J. and Alma Pettus. John J. Pettus was a native of Taylor County near Abilene, Texas, and lived in San Angelo before moving to Austin. He was an auditor for a life insurance company in San Angelo, and became the vice-president and actuary of the Western Reserve Life Insurance Company here in Austin while living in this house. He later became an independent actuary with offices in the Perry-Brooks Building, and then became a rancher.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house does not appear in any City survey.

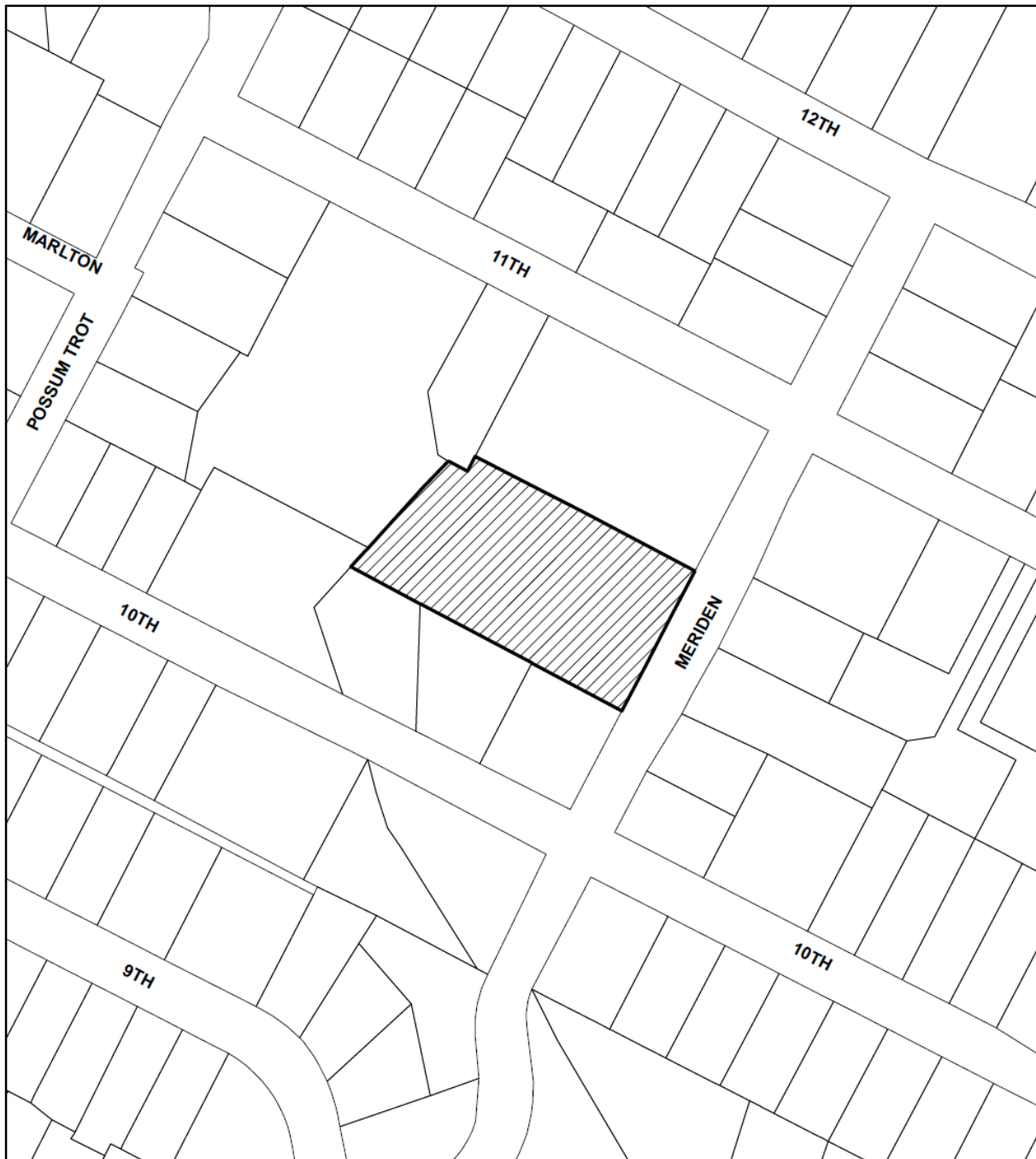
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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The house is a rare and early example in Austin of a split-level house, a style which is much more common in northern states, and possibly the desired design for its first owner, a plumbing and heating contractor who had been born in Michigan. However, staff does not believe that the house has sufficient historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark, so recommends release of 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.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2014-0988  
 LOCATION: 1008 Meriden Lane



1" = 125'

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.

1008 Meriden Lane  
ca. 1948



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
1008 Meriden Lane

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

1992	John J. and Trixie Pettus, owners Retired
1985-86	John J. Pettus, owner Retired
1981	John J. Pettus, owner Retired
1977	No return
1973	John J. and Alma Pettus, owners Rancher
1968	John J. and Alma Pettus, owners Rancher
1962	John J. and Alma Pettus, owners Actuary, 331 Perry-Brooks Building, 121 E. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street.

- 1959 John J. and Alma Pettus, owners  
Actuary, 331 Perry-Brooks Building, 121 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1955 John J. and Alma Pettus, owners  
Actuary, 333 Perry-Brooks Building, 121 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1952 John J. and Alma Pettus, owners  
Vice-president and actuary, Western Reserve Life Insurance Company, 1108 Lavaca Street.
- 1949 Andrew L. and Clara Martin, renters  
Proprietor, A.L. Martin Plumbing and Heating, 116 Congress Avenue.  
NOTE: John J. and Alma Pettus are listed at 2102 San Gabriel Street; he was the vice-president and actuary for Western Reserve Life Insurance Company.
- 1947 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Andrew L. and Clara Martin are listed at 1707 Colorado Street; he was the proprietor of A.L. Martin Plumbing and Heating, 116 Congress Avenue.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

#### **Andrew L. and Clara Martin (ca. 1948 – ca. 1951)**

Andrew L. and Clara Martin appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 1709 Alta Vista in Travis Heights. Andrew L. Martin was 40, had been born in Michigan, and was a plumber. Clara Martin was 35, had been born in Oklahoma, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 sons: Lawrence, 10, and David, 6. Both boys had been born in Texas.

**ANDREW LOUIS MARTIN**

Andrew Louis Martin, 73, of 7018 Circle S. Road, died in a local hospital Wednesday.

Prior to his retirement he was a plumbing and heating contractor for thirty years. He was a member of the Catholic Church. Martin had been a resident of Austin and Travis County for the past 37 years.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Clara Stegall Martin of Austin; two sons, Dr. Lawrence Martin of Dallas and David Martin of Amarillo; two sisters, Mrs. Frances Boaz of Kerrville and Miss Leona Martine of San Antonio; a brother John Martine of Franklin and 3 grandchildren.

Rosary will be recited Friday at 7:30 p.m. from the Chapel of Wilke-Clay Funeral Home, with the Reverend John T. Payne, C.S.C. of St. Ignatius Catholic Church, officiating.

Graveside services will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in Franklin Cemetery, Franklin, Texas.

Obituary of Andrew L. Martin  
Austin American, June 2, 1972

**John J. and Alma Pettus (ca 1951 - )**

John J. Pettus, Jr. appears in the 1900 U.S. Census as the 3-year old son of John J. and Rose Pettus, who lived in a rented house in Taylor County, Texas. John J. Pettus, Jr. had been born in Texas. His father was a machinist.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows John J. and Alma M. Pettus renting the house at 1605 Wethersfield Road in Austin. John J. Pettus was then 42 and was the actuary secretary for the Western Reserve Life Insurance Company. Alma Pettus was 44, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a 15-year daughter, Margaret. The family had lived in San Angelo, Texas in 1935. The 1930 U.S. Census confirms that the Pettus family was living in San Angelo, where John Pettus was an auditor for a life insurance company.

Alma Pettus died in 1976.

## **J.J. (Jake) Pettus**

**J.J. (Jake) Pettus, 95, a resident of Austin for 52 years and a member of University Christian Church died Wednesday, December 23, 1992.**

**Mr. Pettus was a veteran of the United States Marines serving during World War I. He was a Actuary for Western Reserve Insurance Company and worked independently after retirement, and he also attended the University of Texas.**

**He ranched in Thrall and Liberty Hill areas, and he was also an avid tennis player most of his life and won the National Seniors Tennis Championship at the age of 80.**

**Funeral services will be held 3:00 PM Monday at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Mausoleum Chapel. Interment will be in Cook-Walden/Capital Parks.**

**Mr. Pettus is survived by his wife, Cleo B. Pettus of Austin; daughter,**

**Margaret Myers of Lakewood, Colorado; grandsons, David, John, Allen Myers; three great-grandchildren; and one nephew, Jack Pettus.**

**Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar location.**

Obituary of John J. Pettus, Jr.  
Austin American-Statesman, December 24, 1992

A. L. Martin

1008 Meriden Lane

151 37 and No.5 of 36

Marlton Place #2

1-1/2 story brick ven. & frame res. with  
gar. under.  
38375 7-21-48 \$10,000.00

B. L. McTee

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Building permit to A.L. Martin for the construction of the house (1948)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		C No	1113
Austin, Texas			
Received of	A. L. MARTIN	Date	6-7-48
Address	1008 MERIDEN		
Amount	THIRTY AND 11/100		30.00
Plumber	SAME	Size of Tap	1"
Date of Connection	6-25-48		
Size of Tap Made	1"		
Size Service Made	4"		
Size Main Tapped	6"		
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	2.5'		
From Prop. Line to Curb Cock			
Location of Meter	CURB		
Type of Box	LOCK		
Depth of Main in St.	3'		
Depth of Service Line	2.5'		
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	10'		
Checked by Engr. Dept.	7/9/48 RS		
INDEXED			

No. Fittings	Size
1 Curb Cock	1"
1 Elbow	1"
1 St. Elbow	1"
1 Bushing	1"
1 Reducer	1"
12' Pipe	1"
Lead Comp.	
Nipples	
Union	
Plug	
1 Tee	1"
1 Stop	1"
1 Box	1"
1 Lid	1"
Valves	
Job No.	22-323-50
Req. No.	

V. Polk

Water service permit to A.L. Martin for this address (1948)

Receipt No. 10256

Application for Sewer Connection

No. 24764Austin, Texas, July 21 19 48

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by A. L. MARTIN at 1008 Meriden Lane Street, further described as Lot 37 + N. 5' of 36 Block          Outlot          Division          subdivision MARTIN Place #2 Plat 57, which is to be used as a         . In this place there are to be installed 8 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 31047. I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge. 9-3-48

Depth at Prop. Line 3'

Respectfully,

~~Sewer Out~~  
Connected

69' S of NLL  
(Location)

Date 9-20-48By S. SwisherNOTE: Connection Instruction 6" main in St about 5' deep

main 14 1/2' West of East Rock Jee

Sewer connection application by A.L. Martin for this address (1948)