

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
FEBRUARY 23, 2015
NRD-2014-0143
2707 Wooldridge Drive
Old West Austin

PROPOSAL

Construct additions, expand the garage, and relocate the driveway.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes the construction of rear one-story additions, and to expand the garage and relocate the driveway. The proposed finishes on the additions will match those on the existing house, and the applicant further proposes to repair all existing finishes on the house, and to relocate the driveway from the front to the side of the house.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The Old West Austin National Register Historic District has no design guidelines for additions; general design principles for additions encourage additions that are compatible with the size, scale, materials, and fenestration patterns of the original house, are located to the rear of the house, and do not visually overwhelm the original house.

STAFF COMMENTS

This ca. 1940 house was built by Margaret M. Reed, the widow of Seldon Reed. She lived here until around 1946, when the house was sold to John W. ("Jack") and Betty Scarbrough, Jr., the son of John W. Scarbrough, the son of Emerson M. Scarbrough, who founded Austin's most prominent department store through the 20th century. Jack Scarbrough worked in the family business, serving as secretary and vice-president of the department store. He and Betty lived here until the mid-1950s. The house was then rented by Jack and Margaret Gray through the late 1950s; he was the president of a building construction company, and founded Grayco Construction Company, a pipeline contractor, in the late 1950s while living in this house. From the early 1960s on through the 1990s, the house was owned and occupied by Fred and Elizabeth Day, Jr. Fred Day, Jr. was an architect, who founded Day & Newman with Sanford L. Newman, and finally, in the early 1970s, founded Jessen and Associates with brothers Harold and Wolf Jessen, Herbert C. Crume, and Charles A. Millhouse. The firm of Jessen and Associates designed Palmer Municipal Auditorium (with Page Southerland Page), the Texas Supreme Court Building, St. Ignatius Catholic Church on Oltorf Street, and the main Austin Public Library.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve as proposed. This is an extraordinarily sensitive addition to the house which will not compromise its historic appearance from the street.

LOCATION MAP

