

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 23, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2015-0071  
1710 E. 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

Demolish a ca. 1904 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a partial-width shed-roofed independent porch on plain, square, wood posts; synthetic siding; solar-screens on the single windows; one-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame addition to the rear with paired 6:6 non-historic windows.

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**RESEARCH**

The house appears to have been built around 1904; the first known occupant of the house was Oscar g. Thompson, a life insurance agent, who lived here until around 1906. Stuart Francis, the county tax assessor and collector, lived here from around 1906 to around 1909; the house was then occupied by Alvin and Annie Thomson, who lived here until around 1919. Alvin Thomson was a blacksmith with a shop at 506 Trinity Street; according to his obituary, he was later associated with the University of Texas as a blacksmith.

Albert E. and Lula Alexander are listed as the owners and occupants of the house from around 1919 to around 1928, and are the first African-Americans to inhabit the house. Albert Alexander grew up on a farm in Travis County; while he and Lula lived in this house, he was a driver for Swift & Company, meat packers. The house was then a rental property until the 1990s. Tenants of the house were African-American, and included a yardman, an elevator operator, a maid, a drapery installer, a cook, and a baker.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

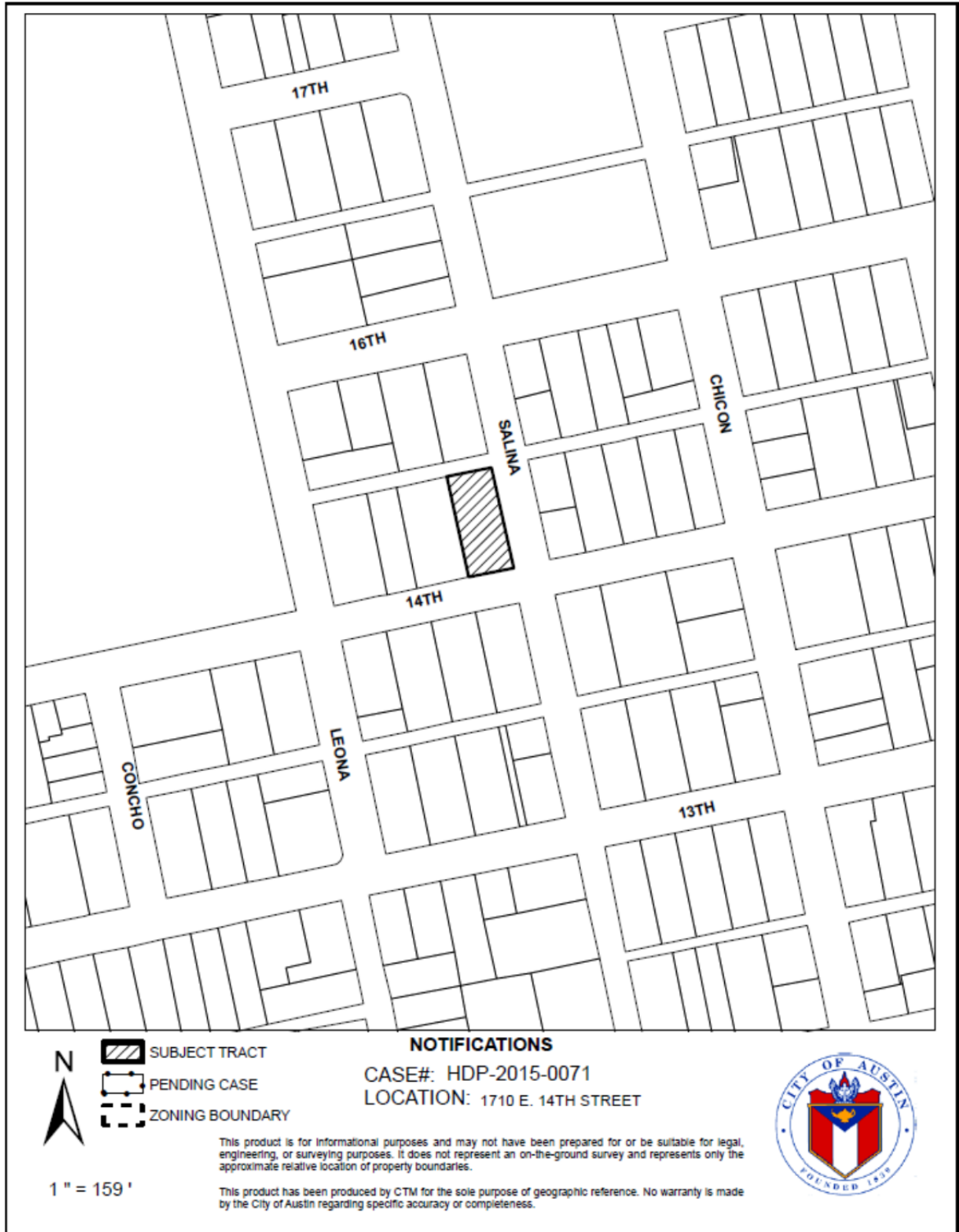
The house does not appear in any City survey.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Encourage rehabilitation and re-use if feasible; while the house does not appear to qualify as a historic landmark, it does represent the history and architecture of the neighborhood, and alternatives to demolition should be carefully considered. If rehabilitation is not feasible, then staff 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



1710 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
ca. 1904



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY

### 1710 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
February, 2015

1992	L.G. and Blanch King, owners Retired
1985-86	Robert L. Sneed, renter Retired
1981	Lillie M. Johnson, renter Retired
1977	Delbert and Lillie M. Johnson, renters Retired
1973	Vacant
1968	Maggie Scott, owner Baker, Gondolier Motor Hotel, 1001 S. Interregional Highway.
1962	Edward and Maggie Scott, renters Edward: Drapery installer, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6 <sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue. Maggie: Assistant baker, Driskill Hotel
1959	Edward and Maggie Scott, renters

Drapery installer, E.M. Scarbrough & Sons, department store, 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.

- 1955 Jimmie T. and Nettie George, renters  
Cook, Walker's Aus-Tex Chili Company, 406 San Antonio Street.
- 1952 Edward and Maggie Scott, renters  
Porter, Francis Drapery Shop, 503 Barton Springs Road.
- 1949 Eliza Richardson, renter  
Maid
- 1947 Carroll and Mena Smith, Jr., renters  
Elevator operator, Scarbrough Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Congress Avenue.
- 1944-45 Carroll and Mena Smith, Jr., renters  
Yardman
- 1941 Vacant
- 1939 George and Marietta M. Williams, renters  
No occupation listed
- 1937 George and Moreta Williams, renters  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1708 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1935 Robert and Lena Van Zandt, renters  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1708 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1932-33 Robert and Lena Van Zandt, renters  
No occupation listed  
Also listed are Fred Van Zandt and James Van Zandt; neither had an occupation shown.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1708 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1930-31 Julie Wicks (colored), renter  
Domestic, Walter R. and Minnie Smith, 1600 Rio Grande Street.  
NOTE: Walter R. Smith was the division freight and passenger agent for the Southern Pacific Lines; also living in the house was Walter R. Smith, Jr., an attorney with offices at 204 Littlefield Building.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1929 George and Bridie Sims, renters  
Cook, Royal Café, 314 Congress Avenue.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1927 Albert and Lula Alexander (colored), renters  
Driver, Swift & Company, packers, 311 Congress Avenue.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1924 Albert E. and Lula Alexander (colored), owners  
Driver, Swift & Company, meat packers, 311 Congress Avenue.

NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

- 1922      Albert E. and Lula Alexander (colored), owners  
Porter, Burroughs Adding Machine Company, 620 Colorado Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1920      Albert E. Alexander (colored), owner  
Driver, Swift & Company, wholesale meats, 311 Congress Avenue.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1918      Alvin and Annie Thomson (not colored), owners  
Blacksmith, 506 Trinity Street.  
NOTE: Albert E. Alexander is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1916      Alvin Thomson  
Blacksmith, 506 Trinity Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1914      Alvin Thomson  
Blacksmith, 506 Trinity Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1912-13    Alvin Thomson  
Blacksmith, 506 Trinity Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1910-11    Alvin Thomson  
Blacksmith and horseshoer, 506 Trinity Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Stuart Francis is listed at 709 Henderson Street; he was a clerk.
- 1909-10    Stuart Francis  
Clerk  
NOTE: Alvin Thomson is listed at 1606 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. He was a blacksmith and  
horseshoer at 506 Trinity Street.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1906-07    Stuart Francis  
County Tax Assessor and Collector  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1905      Oscar G. Thompson  
Life insurance agent  
NOTE: Stuart Francis is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1903-04    Unknown  
NOTE: Oscar G. Thompson is not listed in the directory.

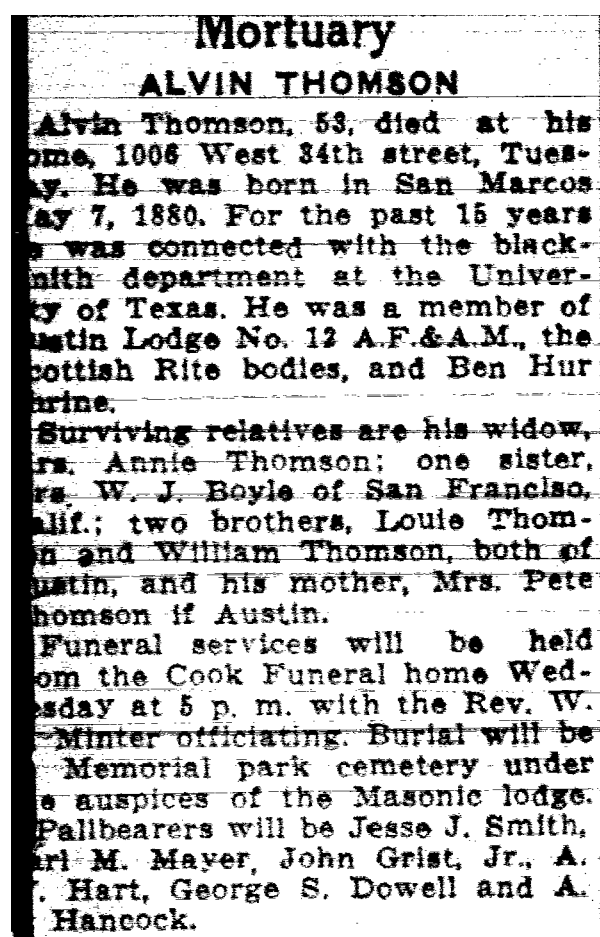
## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

**Stuart and Virgie Francis (ca. 1906 – ca. 1910)**

Stuart and Virgie Francis appear in the 1910 U.S. Census at 709 Henderson Street in Austin. Stuart Francis was 42, was born in Louisiana, and has an indecipherable occupation. Virgie Francis was 34, had been born in Louisiana, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 sons: Judson, 10; and Stuart, Jr., 7, both of whom had been born in Texas. Next door to them lived James and Ruby Francis; James Francis appears to have been Stuart's younger brother; he was a Louisiana-born electrician.

#### **Alvin and Annie Thomson (ca. 1910 – ca. 1919)**

Alvin and Annie Thomson appear in the 1910 U.S. Census at this house (addressed at 1608 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street). Alvin Thomson was 30, had been born in Texas, and was a blacksmith with his own shop. Annie Thomson was 29, had been born in Illinois, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Alvin and Annie Thomson as the owners of the house at 1006 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Alvin Thomson was a blacksmith; Annie had no occupation listed.



Obituary of Alvin Thomson  
Austin American, May 10, 1933

#### **Albert and Lula Alexander (ca. 1919 – ca. 1928)**

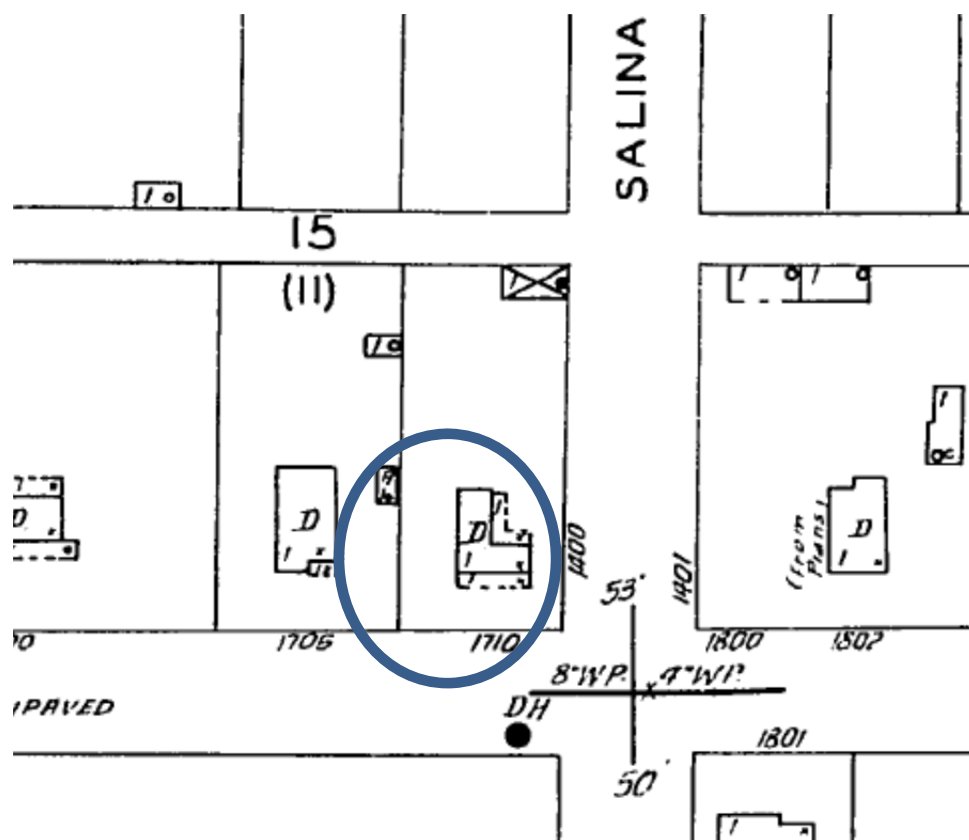
The 1920 U.S. Census shows Albert E. and Lula Alexander as the owners of this house. Both were classified as mulatto in the census report. Albert E. Alexander was 32, had been born in Texas, and was a teamster for a packing company. Lula Alexander was 30, had been born in Texas to South Carolina-born parents, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 daughters: Louise, 5; and Mozelle, 2. Both girls were born in Texas.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Albert Alexander as the brother-in-law of Anthony and Maggie Alexander, who rented a farm in Travis County. Albert Alexander is listed as a farm laborer.

The 1900 U.S. Census shows Albert Alexander as the 12-year old son of Moses and Alice Alexander, who owned a farm in Travis County. Moses Alexander was listed as farmer; Albert was listed as a home farm laborer.

### **Robert and Lena Van Zandt (ca 1930 – ca. 1936)**

Robert and Lena Van Zandt appear in the 1940 U.S. Census in the home of their son, Fred Van Zandt, at 1189 Comal Street in Austin. Robert Van Zandt was 80, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Lena Van Zandt was 60, had been born in Texas, and was a laundress at home. Their son, Fred, was a 42-year old widower with 2 daughters. He was a construction laborer. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Bob and Lena VanZandt as the owners of the house at 1801 Chicon Street, which was worth \$2,000. Bob Van Zandt was 70, and did odd jobs for a private family. Lena Van Zandt, 50, was a maid for a private family. Their son, James, a 33-year old widower, was a laborer in building construction. Their son, Fred, 29, was also a widower, and was a yardman for a private family. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Robert H. and Lena VanZandt on a farm in Travis County, which they rented. Robert Van Zandt was a farmer on a general farm; Lena had no occupation listed. They had children: daughter Jessie, 29; son Ben, 27, a laborer on the home farm; and daughter Telonella, 20.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house with a full-width front porch, a wraparound back porch, and an addition only to the west side of the structure.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the same configuration as the 1935 map above.

	John Alexander	1710 East 14th
39	-	11
	-	4
	-	
	Repair front & rear porch	
	146r - 5/1/39	
	-	

Building permit to John Alexander to repair the front and rear porches (1939)



"C. J. Smith

1710 E. 14th St.

39 4

11

C. R. Johns

Frame addition to residence.

68216

1/9/58

500.00

owner



**BEDROOM**

Building permit for a frame addition (1958)