

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MARCH 23, 2015
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2015-0119
3600 MEREDITH STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1948 house.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story, wing-and-gable stone-veneered frame house with a partial-width inset porch on both the ground and second stories; single and double 1:1 fenestration; metal roof.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1948 by Engineering Contractors, Inc. for Carrie Blackshear, the widow of Robert K. Blackshear, an oil and refinery executive in Corsicana, Texas. Mrs. Blackshear rented the house out until around 1957, when she moved in. Her first tenants were Sol and Esther Norman, a Jewish couple. Sol Norman owned Lone Star Auto Parts in Austin; the Normans lived here from around 1948 until around 1950. Sol Norman was later tragically killed when his truck, carrying auto supplies, blew a tire and crushed him on a road near Temple, Texas.

Walter Bremond, III and his wife, Zenobia, rented the house in the early 1950s; he was an assistant vice-president of Capital National Bank, one of the family businesses, when he lived here. The house was listed as vacant in the 1955 city directory; from around 1957 to around 1965, Carrie Blackshear moved back in. She had no occupation listed in the city directories while she lived here, but census records show that she had been a housemother at a boarding house on 19th Street (now MLK Boulevard) in 1940, and in 1930, a dressmaker in Corsicana, where one of her daughters was a public school teacher; she also had 6 lodgers in her home in Corsicana, all public school teachers. Mrs. Blackshear lived here until around 1965. A supervisor for the Texas Employment Commission and a retired couple are shown as the owners and occupants through the mid-1970s; the house was later rented by Geoffrey W. Torrence, a computer science engineer at the University of Texas.

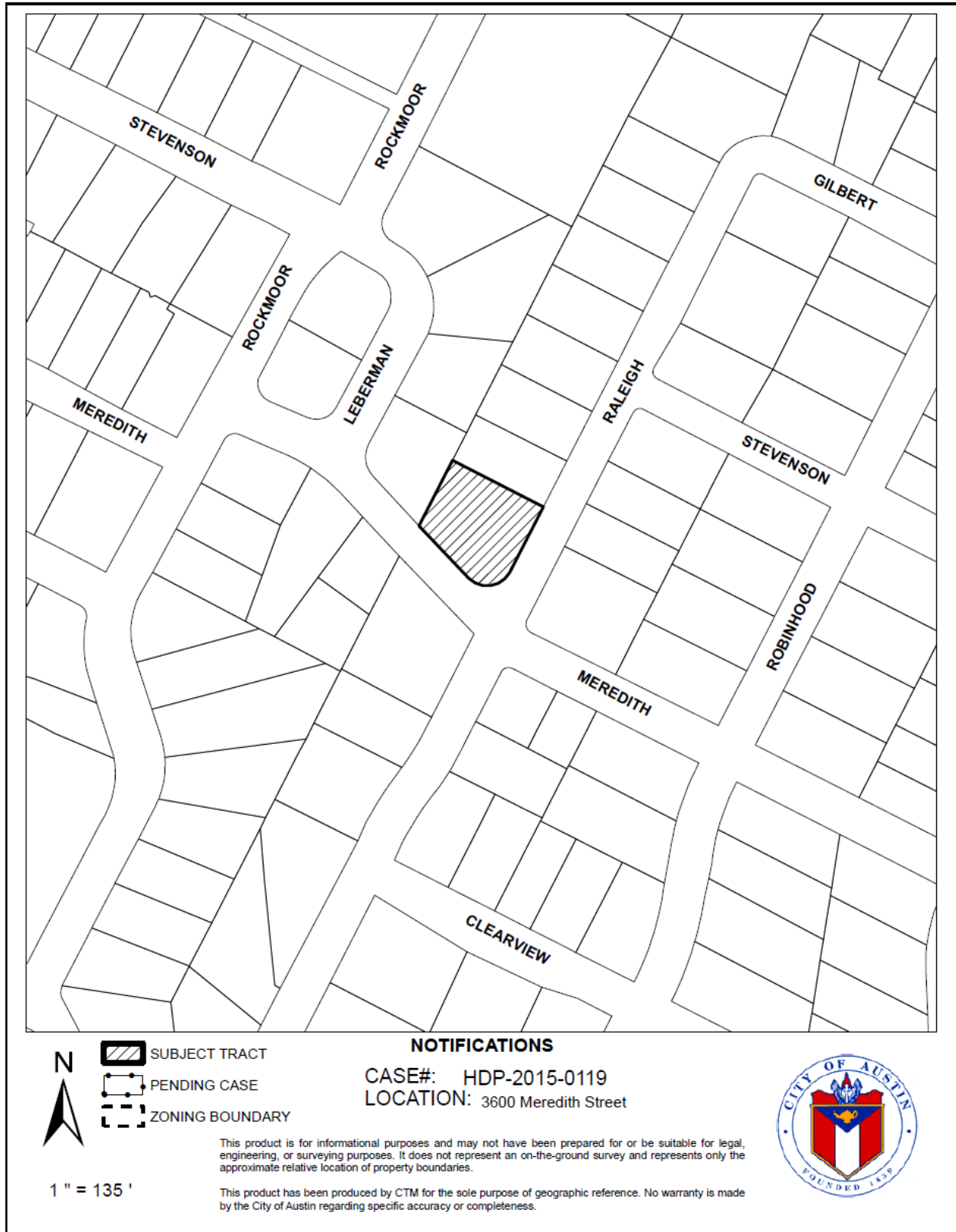
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage adaptive re-use of the house if feasible; while not a good candidate for landmark designation, the house has a classic Texas style and represents the original vision for Tarrytown. If re-use of the house 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



3600 Meredith Street
ca. 1948



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 3600 Meredith Street

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

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Geoffrey W. and Mary Torrence, renters Associate, University of Texas
1981	Geoffrey W. Torrence, renter Resident engineer, University of Texas NOTE: The directory indicates that Geoffrey W. Torrence was a new resident at this address.
1977	G.W. Torrence, renter No occupation listed
1973	Tom B. and Margaret S. Bagley, owners Retired
1968	Curtis O. and Mattie Lee Smith, owners Supervisor, Texas Employment Commission (District office)
1962	Carrie Blackshear, owner

- Widow, R.K. Blackshear
No occupation listed
- 1959 Carrie Blackshear, owner
Widow, R.K. Blackshear
No occupation listed
- 1955 Vacant
NOTE: Neither Carrie nor R.K. Blackshear are listed in the directory.
- 1952 Walter and Zenobia Bremond, III, renters
Assistant vice-president, Capital National Bank, 118-20 W. 7th Street.
- 1949 Sol and Esther Norman, renters
Proprietor, Lone Star Auto Parts, 311 East Avenue.
- 1947 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Sol and Esther Norman are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Sol and Esther Norman (ca. 1948 – ca. 1950)

According to his 1955 death certificate, Sol Norman was born in 1904 in Conneaut, Ohio and died July 14, 1955 in an automobile accident at Academy, Bell County, Texas. He was living at 711 W. 21st Street in Austin at the time of his death. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Sol Norman as the 25-year old son of Hyman and Fannie Norman, who rented a house in Louisville, Kentucky. Sol Norman had been born in Ohio and was in the family business of auto wrecking. His father had been born in Romania; his mother had been born in Poland and spoke Hebrew.

Truck Crash Kills Driver, Sol Norman

Sol Norman, 51, of 711 West 21st Street, was instantly killed early Thursday when a truck he was driving overturned and crushed him beneath a load of automobile batteries and copper.

Norman was driving his pickup about seven miles south of Temple of Highway 95 about 4:40 a. m. Thursday when the left rear tire blew out, causing the truck to overturn, Highway Patrolman Wayne Autrey said.

Funeral services are scheduled Friday at 4:30 p. m. at the Cook Funeral Home.

Patrolman Autrey said Norman, owner of the Lone Star Auto Parts Company and Lone Star Iron and Metal Company here, apparently hit the overturning truck for 237 feet from the point of the blowout until the truck overturned.

Patrolman said tire marks showed the truck travelled that far before capsizing.

Three men from the Academy community had to unload the truck before Norman's body could be taken from it.

They were L. A. Friedrich, W. C. McMillan and T. L. Moore.

Norman's body was completely crushed through the stomach, the Highway Patrol said.

The body was first taken to a Temple funeral home, then to the Cook Funeral Home here.

Rabbi Harold Krantzler will officiate at the Friday services for Norman.

Burial will be in Beth Israel in Oakwood Cemetery.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Esther Glassman Norman; two daughters, Mrs. Shirley B. Farkas and Mrs. Anita Reiner, both of Houston; mother, Mrs. Fannie Norman; a sister, Mrs. Nathan Taichert, both of Jasper, Ind.; and five brothers, Ben Norman of Dayton, Ohio, and Ed, Harry, Al and Joe Norman, all of Louisville, Ky.

Norman was a member of Moose Lodge, Hill City Lodge 455 AF&AM and B'Nai B'Rith.

News story on the death of Sol Norman
Austin Statesman, July 14, 1955

Carrie Blackshear (ca. 1957 – ca. 1965)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Carrie Blackshear as the renter of an apartment at 304 W. 19th Street in Austin. She was a 53-year old Texas-born widow who was a housemother at a boarding house. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Carrie Blackshear as the renter of a house in

Corsicana, Texas, with her daughters Elizabeth, 20; and Mary, 14. Carrie Blackshear was a dressmaker. Her daughter Elizabeth was a public school teacher. They had 6 lodgers, all public school teachers. Corsicana city directories for the late 1910s and early 1920s show that Robert K. Blackshear was the vice-president of the Corsicana Oil and Refining Company.

R. K. Blackshear

3600 Meredith St.

165 12 D

Lakeshore Village
stone

Two-story/ven. & frame duplex with gar.

35949

attached

12-4-47

\$15,000.00

Engineering Contractors, Inc.

16

Building permit to R.K. Blackshear (but most likely Carrie (Mrs. R.K. Blackshear) for the construction of the house (1947)

165

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

No. **34897**

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Received of ENG. CONTRACTORS INC. Date 1-13-48

Address 3600 MEREDITH ST.

Amount TWENTY + NO/100 \$ 20.00

Plumber LANIER Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection 6-24-48

Size of Tap Made 3/4"

Size Service Made 3/4" Copper

Size Main Tapped 6"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 6'

From No. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 61'

Location of Meter

Type of Box L.O.C.H.

Depth of Main in St. 3'

Depth of Service Line 3'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 7' 1/2

Checked by Engr. Dept. 10/17/48

No. Fittings	Size	Material
1	Curb Cock	3/4" Copper
1	Elbow	3/4" Copper
1	St. Elbow	3/4" Steel
1	Reducer	3/4" Steel
3	Pipe	Copper
	Lead Comp.	
	Nipples	
	Union	
	Plug	
	Tee	
1	Stop	Copper
1	Box	Lead
1	Lid	Lead
2	Valves	6"
	Job No.	1152
	Req. No.	

INDEXED

J. Turner

Water service permit to Engineering Contractors, the builders of the house (1948)

OWNER Curtiss Smith ADDRESS 3600 Meredith St.
 PLAT 1650 LOT 12 BLK D
 SUBDIVISION Lake Shore Village
 OCCUPANCY Remodel Res
 BLD PERMIT # 92387 DATE 6-18-64 OWNERS ESTIMATE 150.00
 CONTRACTOR Sam. Gone NO. OF FIXTURES
 WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #
 RESIENCE - Remodel kitchen new cabinets sheetrock &
paper on two walls
1-21-76-154331-Jeffery Torrence - owner -
remodel existing res - den - \$2,000.00

Building permit to Curtis Smith for the remodel of the house (1964) and to Jeffery Torrence for a
 remodel (1976)