

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
MARCH 23, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2014-1131  
4807 AND 4809 HARMON AVENUE**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a two ca. 1950 houses.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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The house at 4807 Harmon Avenue is a one-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a central, shed-roofed entry hood on ornamental metal posts; metal-framed casement windows.

The house at 4809 Harmon Avenue is a one-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a full-width, shed-roofed, independent porch; single and paired 6:6 fenestration.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house at 4807 Harmon Avenue was built in 1950; the first owner and occupant of the house was Helen C. Smith, a widow, who worked as a receptionist and clerk at the General Land Office. There is little information about Helen Smith – unfortunately, there was another Helen C. Smith in Austin at the same time, also a widow, and the available information referencing Helen C. Smith concerns the one that was not married to a man named John. Helen Smith retired from her job at the General Land Office in the mid-1960s, and lived in this house until around 1990.

The house at 4809 Harmon Avenue was also built in 1950; it was owned and occupied by Herman and Leta Morisey through the early 1990s. Herman Morisey was a repairman for the City Electric Department for many years; he retired in the early 1970s. Leta Morisey worked as a telephone operator and clerk for the State Railroad Commission through the 1960s. They had several children; all had clerking jobs.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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Neither house appears in any City survey.

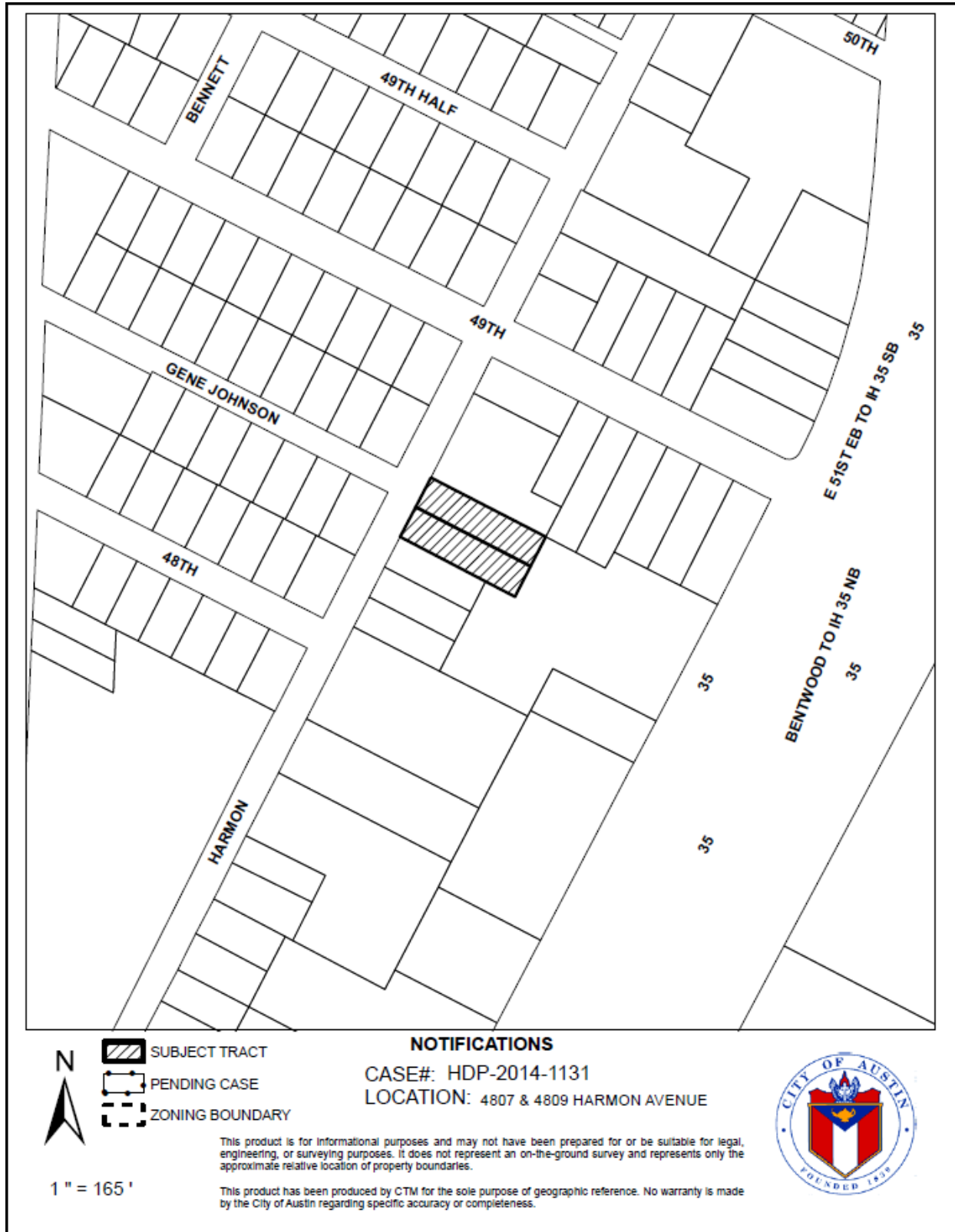
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage retention of the houses and the construction of additions if feasible; neither house qualifies as a historic landmark, and although this section of Harmon Avenue has several new 2-story houses and apartment complexes, the numbered streets running between Harmon Avenue and Airport Boulevard are relatively untouched and comprise a neighborhood of post-World War II single-story frame houses much like these. These houses represent the typical residential construction in the neighborhood, and as such, contribute to the character of this 1940s-1950s neighborhood. Careful consideration should be given to whether removal is necessary, or if they can be incorporated into the applicant's proposed development scheme. If rehabilitation and re-use of these houses is not feasible, then staff recommends relocation over demolition, but 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



4807 Harmon Avenue

ca. 1950



### OCCUPANCY HISTORY 4807 Harmon Avenue

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

1992	Billy Ferren, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Billy Ferren was a new resident at this address.
1985-86	H.C. Smith, renter Retired
1981	H.C. Smith, renter Retired
1977	H.C. Smith, renter No occupation listed
1973	Helen C. Smith, owner Widow, John D. Smith Retired
1968	Helen C. Smith, owner Widow, John D. Smith Retired
1962	Helen C. Smith, owner

Widow, John D. Smith  
Clerk, General Land Office

1959 Helen C. Smith, owner  
Widow, John D. Smith  
Clerk, General Land Office

1955 Helen C. Smith, owner  
Widow, John D. Smith  
Receptionist, General Land Office

1952 Helen Smith, owner  
Receptionist, General Land Office

1949 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Helen C. Smith is listed at 1501 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street; she was a receptionist at  
the General Land Office.

**Frank Clements** **4807 Harmon Avenue**

**207 6 13 - -**

**I. A. Williams**

**Frame residence and garage.**

**43446 2-4-50 \$6400.00**

**E. Wenzel**

**5**

Building permit to Frank Clements for the construction of this house (1950)

## WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

C No 5612

Received of E WENZEL Date 3-20-50Address 4807 HARMON AVE.Amount TWENTY + NO 1100 \$ 20.00Plumber FREY Size of Tap 3/4"Date of Connection 3-24-50Size of Tap Made 3/4"Size Service Made 3/4"Size Main Tapped 6"From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 2.5'From 50' Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7.7'Location of Meter CURBType of Box 4000Depth of Main in St. 3'Depth of Service Line 2.5'From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 3.4'Checked by Engr. Dept. AL 4-10-50

INDEXED

No.	Fittings	Size
1	Curb Cock	5/8"
1	Elbow	5/4" COPPER
1	Str. Elbow	3/4" SUCUR
1	Bushing	3/4" COPPER
3/4	Reducer	3/4" 3/4" COPPER
1	Pipe	1/2"
	Lead Comp.	
	Nipples	
	Union	
1	Plug	TILE
1	Tee	
1	Stop	4000
1	Box	4000
1	Lid	
	Valves	
	Job No.	W 323502
	P. No.	W 0000

Water service permit for this address (1950)

4809 Harmon Avenue  
ca. 1950



### OCCUPANCY HISTORY 4809 Harmon Avenue

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

1992	Herman and Leta H. Morrissey, owners Retired
1985-86	Harmon and Leta H. Morrissey, owners Retired
1981	Herman and Leta Morrissey, owners Retired
1977	Herman and Leta Morisey, owners Retired
1973	Herman and Leta Morisey, owners Retired
1968	Herman and Leta Morisey, owners Herman: Electrical inspector, City Water and Light Department Leta: Clerk, State Railroad Commission
1962	Herman and Leta Morisey, owners Herman: Serviceman, City Water and Light Department Leta: Telephone operator, State Railroad Commission Also listed is Carolyn Morisey, a typist in the City Tax Assessor and Collector's Office.



- 1959 Herman and Leta Morisey, owners  
Serviceman, City Water and Light Department  
Also listed are Carolyn Morisey, no occupation stated; and Freddie Morisey, a clerk at 7-11 Dairy Stores (multiple locations)
- 1955 Herman and Leta Morisey, owners  
Employed by the City Electrical Department  
Also listed are Dorothy Morisey, a cashier for the Telephone Company; and Freddie J. Morisey, a student.
- 1952 Herman and Leta Morisey, owners  
Repairman, City Electric Department  
Also listed is JoAnn Morisey, an office secretary.
- 1949 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Herman and Leta Morisey are listed at 704 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a rural serviceman for the City Light Department.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

#### Herman and Leta Morisey (ca. 1950 – ca. 1993)

Herman Morisey appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as a roomer in the home of G.M. and Della Taylor at 206 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. He was 25, single, had been born in Arkansas, and was a lineman for the telephone company. The 1940 U.S. Census shows Herman and Leta Morisey renting a house in Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas. Herman Morisey was a 35-year old lineman for the LCRA; Leta Morisey was 30, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Joann, 7; Dorothy, 5; and Freddie, 3. The family had lived in rural Blanco County in 1935.

### **Leta Bell Morisey**

**Leta Bell Morisey, 76, of Austin died Wednesday.**

**A member of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church since 1928, she was employed by the State Railroad Commission until her retirement in 1970.**

**Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM, Friday in the Colonial Chapel of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home, with Reverend Charles Hughes, Pastor, First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, officiating. Interment will be in Capital Memorial Gardens.**

**Mrs. Morisey was the wife of Herman Morisey of Austin; mother of**

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**Dorothy Garcia of Monroe Falls, Ohio, Fred Morisey of Austin, Carolyn Clements of Austin; grandmother of 11; and great-grandmother of two. Mrs. Morisey is also is survived by four sisters; one brother; and many friends.**

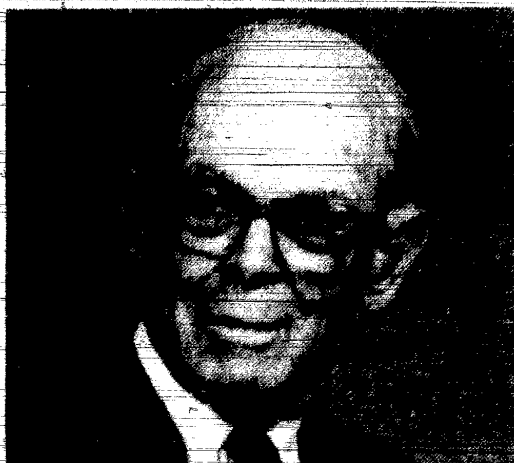
**Pallbearers for the service will be Elders of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.**

**Expressions of sympathy may be made in memorials to the First Cumberland Prebyterian Church.**

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

Obituary of Leta Morisey  
Austin American-Statesman, May 8, 1986





### **Herman Morisey**

Herman Morisey, 89, of Austin passed away Sunday, December 5, 1993.

Herman was born December 5, 1904, in Fisher, Texas, son of Polk and Teckla Morisey.

Herman had lived in Austin for many years and was employed by the City of Austin Electric Company as an electrical inspector. He was a founding board member of the city credit union, he retired in 1965.

Herman was a member of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church and served as an elder on the building and finance committee. The last five years of his life, he lived at the Renaissance Retirement Center where he made many wonderful friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Leta Griffith Morisey, daughter JoAnn Morisey Wilkins and son; Fred J. Morisey.

He is survived by his daughter, Dorothy Garcia and son-in-law, Emil Garcia of Munroe Falls, Ohio; daughter, Carolyn Clements and son-in-law, Gene Clements of Austin; daughter-in-law, Carol Morisey of Schwertner; and son-in-law, Gary Wilkins of Georgetown; also eleven grandchildren, Mary Cavett of Round Rock, Steven Wilkins of Canyon, Texas, Scott Wilkins of Georgetown, Julie Mott of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Tom Garcia of Cleveland, Ohio, Greg Morisey of Austin, Jill Henry of Round Rock, Janna Morisey of Round Rock, David Clements of Austin, Gina Clements of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Blake Clements of Austin; also six great-grandchildren.

PaPaw, we will miss you, you were a wonderful father, grandfather and friend to many. God blessed your life.

The family will receive friends at the Funeral Home from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Tuesday, December 7, 1993.

Funeral services will be held at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Reverend Murdoch McK. Calhoun officiating, Wednesday, December 8, 1993, at 11:00 AM.

Grandsons will be pallbearers, Steven Wilkins, Scott Wilkins, Greg Morisey, David Clements, Blake Clements and Kenneth Cavett. Honorary pallbearer will be Tom Garcia. Interment will be in Cook-Walden/Capital Parks.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name to First Cumberland Church.

Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home, 6100 North Lamar.

Obituary of Herman Morisey  
Austin American-Statesman, December 7, 1993

Richard Avent

4809 Harmon Avenue

207

5

13

I. A. Williams

Frame residence and garage.

43448 2-4-50

\$7000.00

E. Wenzel

5

Building permit to Richard Avent for the construction of this house (1950)

50' West Lot 9  
I. A. Williams, Inc.

## WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

C No. 5293

Received of E. WENZEL Date 2-10-50

Address 4809 HARMON AVENUE

Amount TWENTY TWO/100 20

Plumber FREY PLUMBING CO. Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection 2-17-50

Size of Tap Made 3/4"

Size Service Made 3/4"

Size Main Tapped 6"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7.5'

From 1/6 Prop. Line to Curb Cock 1.5'

Location of Meter CURB

Type of Box LOCU

Depth of Main in St. 3'

Depth of Service Line 9.5'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 3.4'

Checked by Engr. Dept. MAR 24 1950 RB

No. Fittings	Size
1 Curb Cock	3/4"
1 Elbow	3/4"
1 Stub Elbow	3/4"
1 Bushing	3/4"
1 Reducer	3/4"
3/6 Pipe	3/4"
Lead Comp.	
Nipples	
Union	
Plug	
1 Stop	1.5.10.
1 Box	LOCU
1 Lid	
Valves	
Job No.	44323-502
P. & T. No.	W. Beck

**INDEXED**

Water service permit for this address (1950)

Herman Morisey 4809 Harmon Ave.  
207 5 -

I. D. Williams Sub.

Frame Addition to rear of Residence

82913 2-21-62 2800.00

Texas Lumber Co. 1

**KITCHEN & FAMILY ROOM**  
**Old kitchen to be removed.**

Building permit to Herman Morisey for the removal of the existing kitchen and the construction of a kitchen and family room addition to the rear (1962)