

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
APRIL 13, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2015-0198  
1901 EXPOSITION BOULEVARD**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1939 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, irregular-plan, flat-roofed stuccoed frame house with minimal International Style detailing; combination of multi-light casement windows and double-hung multi-light fenestration; flat-roofed entry hood on ornamental metal supports.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1939 by Alex Ferris, who was the manager of Marie Antoinette, a women's clothing store on Congress Avenue. Alex Ferris was the son of Saidi Ferris, who ran a successful dry goods store on 6<sup>th</sup> Street for many years, and was an immigrant from Lebanon. The Ferris family lived here until 1941, when they moved to 2700 Wooldridge Drive. The house was then purchased by Jack and Frances Hudspeth, who lived here until 1952. Jack Hudspeth was an editor for the Steck Company, which published school textbooks at that time. Frances Hudspeth was a former public school teacher who went on to work at the University of Texas Humanities Research Center. She had also been the executive assistant to Harry Ransom at the University of Texas. When she died in 1972, among her honorary pallbearers were Lyndon Johnson, Frank Erwin, Harry Ransom, Wolf Jessen, and Thomas Cranfill.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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The house is in an extremely deteriorated condition, and has had several major modifications. Staff recognizes that this house has historical significance for its association with Frances Hudspeth, as well as interest as having a modicum of International style design, but the condition of this house is such that preservation is unlikely and imprudent. Staff must reluctantly recommend release 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



1901 Exposition Boulevard  
ca. 1939



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1901 Exposition Boulevard

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

- 1992            D.W. Garcia, owner  
                 No occupation listed  
                 NOTE: The directory indicates that D.W. Garcia was a new resident at this address.
- 1985-86        E. Culwell, renter  
                 No occupation listed  
                 NOTE: The directory indicates that E. Culwell was a new resident at this address.
- 1981            Thomas and Wanda Bumgarten, owners  
                 Thomas:        Employed by the Texas Education Agency  
                 Wanda:            Office secretary, Tom Bentsen (not listed in the directory).
- 1977            Georgine H. Babel, owners  
                 Widow, Walter E. Babel  
                 Retired
- 1973            Walter E. and Georgine H. Babel, owners  
                 Retired  
                 NOTE: The directory indicates that Walter E. and Georgine Babel were new residents at this address.
- 1968:           Vacant
- 1962            Julian B. and Frances E. Thomas, owners  
                 Salesman, Capital Printing, 213 E. Alpine Road.
- 1959            Margaret Murchison, owner  
                 Proprietor of a book-keeping service at the house.
- 1955            Margaret Murchison, owner  
                 No occupation listed
- 1953            Margaret Murchison, owner  
                 Saleswoman  
                 NOTE: Jack C. and Frances Hudspeth are listed at 2419 Hartford Road; he was a proofreader for the Steck Company; she was an administrative clerk at the University of Texas.
- 1952            Jack C. and Frances Hudspeth, owners  
                 Production assistant, Steck Company, office furniture, printers, bookbinders, and lithographers, 205 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1949            Jack C. and Frances Hudspeth, owners  
                 Jack:              Proofreader, Steck Company, office furniture, printers, bookbinders, and lithographers, 205 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street.  
                 Frances:        Clerk, University of Texas



- 1947 Jack C. and Frances Hudspeth, owners  
 Jack: Production manager, publications, Steck Company, office furniture, printers, bookbinders, and lithographers, 205 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 Frances: Clerk, University of Texas
- 1944-45 Jack C. and Frances Hudspeth, owners  
 Jack: U.S. Army  
 Frances: Clerk, University of Texas
- 1942 Jack C. and Frances Hudspeth, owners  
 Jack: Editor, Steck Company, office furniture, stationery, loose leaf devices, blank books, printers, lithographers and bookbinders, State Contractor, school book publishers, mimeographs, 217-21 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 Frances: Clerk, University of Texas  
 NOTE: Alex A. Ferris (no wife listed) was the manager of Marie Antoinette, women's clothing, 504 Congress Avenue. He lived at 2700 Wooldridge Drive.
- 1941 Alex A. and Sytha Ferris, owners  
 Manager, Marie Antoinette, women's clothing, 504 Congress Avenue.  
 NOTE: Jack C. and Frances Hudspeth are listed at 408 W. 38½ Street; he was a coordinator with the public schools. The 1940 city directory also shows them at the 38½ Street address; both were teachers in the public schools.
- 1940 Alex and Litha Ferris, owners  
 No occupation listed
- 1939 The address is not listed in the directory.  
 NOTE: Alex Ferris is listed at 206 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street; he had no wife listed and no occupation shown.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Jack and Frances Hudspeth (ca. 1944 – ca. 1953)**

Jack and Frances Hudspeth appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 408 W. 38½ Street. Jack Hudspeth was 29, had been born in Iowa, and was the science supervisor at the public schools. Frances Hudspeth was 32, had been born in Texas, and was a substitute teacher in the public schools. With them lived Frances' mother, B.M. Hellums, a 57-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed. Frances Hudspeth's 1972 death certificate indicates that she was an executive assistant at the Humanities Research Center. Jack Hudspeth's 1972 death certificate indicates that he was a textbook writer.

**FRANCES HUDSPETH**

Frances Hellums Hudspeth, 64, of 2419 Hartford Rd. died in a local hospital Saturday night. Mrs. Hudspeth was a lifetime resident of Austin and a member of the Central Christian Church. She was a graduate of the University of Texas and executive assistant to Chancellor Emeritus Harry Ransom of the University of Texas. Mrs. Hudspeth also held the position of office manager-executive assistant, Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas. /

Survivors include her husband, Jack Hudspeth, Austin; a sister, Mrs. Evans Hyneman, Chicago; three nieces, Mrs. Robert Bryant, Mrs. Sarah Burns, Mrs. Hayes Pitts, all of Austin; a nephew, William E. Hellums III, Austin; an aunt, Mrs. Lois Liveley, Lubbock; and a number of great nephews and great nieces.

Funeral will be Monday at 2 p.m. at the Central Christian Church under direction of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Dr. James L. Stoner and Dr. John Barclay will officiate. Cremation will follow.

Honorary pallbearers will be former President Lyndon B. Johnson, Frank C. Erwin, Jr., Harry Ransom, Charles A. LeMaistre, Graves W. Landrum, E.D. Walker, Wolf Jessen, Fred Folmer, F.W. Roberts, Carl Eckhardt, ~~Thomas M. Cranfill, Clarence Cline, Donald Goodall, Byron Shipp, Rex Jackson, H.M. Macdonald, Chester Kielman, W.D. Blunk, James Colvin, J.B. Frantz, Richard Fleming, Van Holloman, Lyn Harris, Horace Cromer M.D., Billy Amstead, Burnel Waldrop, William S. Moursund, Allen R. Hamilton.~~ Memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Assn.

Obituary of Frances Hudspeth  
Austin American, January 31, 1972

#### **JACK HUDSPETH**

Jack C. Hudspeth, 60, of 2419 Hartford Rd., died after a long illness at a local hospital Tuesday. A 40-year resident of Austin, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a graduate of the University of Texas. He was a former teacher of Austin Public Schools and he served in WW II. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Frances Hellums Hudspeth.

Survivors are his mother, Harriette Hudspeth of Austin; a brother, Robert J. Hudspeth of Austin; four nieces, Mrs. Carole

Bryant, Mrs. Sarah Burns, Miss Ellen Hudspeth and Miss Martha Hudspeth, all of Austin; three nephews, Robert J. Hudspeth Jr., Mark Hudspeth and William E. Hellums, all of Austin.

Funeral will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Dr. John Barclay officiating. Cremation will follow under the direction of Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

Those who wish may make contributions to the Multiple Sclerosis Association.

Obituary of Jack Hudspeth  
Austin American, November 29, 1972

#### **Walter E. and Georgine Babel (ca. 1972 – ca. 1978)**

Walter E. and Georgine Babel appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 103 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. Walter E. Babel was 49, had been born in Texas, and was the general agent for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Georgine Babel was 42, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 children: Walter E. Babel, Jr., 20; and Mary Lou Babel, 10. Both children had been born in Texas, and neither had an occupation listed.

**BABEL, Walter E., 85, 1901 Exposition, died Wednesday. Services pending at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Survivors: wife, Georgine Babel of Austin; son, Walter E. Babel Jr. of Houston; daughter, Mary Lou Barrow of Austin; 7 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a number of nieces.**

Death notice for Walter E. Babel  
Austin American-Statesman, November 26, 1976

**BABEL, Walter E., 85, 1901 Exposition, died Wednesday. Graveside services 10 a.m. Saturday at Comal City Cemetery in New Braunfels. (Weed-Corley)**

Funeral notice for Walter E. Babel  
Austin American-Statesman, November 27, 1976

**BABEL, Mrs. Walter, 82, 1901 Exposition, died Friday. Services 2 p.m. today at Weed-Corley Funeral Home.**

Death notice for Georgine Babel  
Austin American-Statesman, February 25, 1978



Mr. & Mrs. A. Ferris 1901 Exposition  
 163 - 18 So. 70' of 11 -

Westfield A

Brick veneer residence - garage integral

264n - 5/20/39

4

Building permit to Mr. and Mrs. A. Ferris for the construction of this house (1939)

Connection Charge \$ #95-4 NO 15433 A

**Application for Sewer Connection.**

Austin, Texas, 3/20 1939

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
 City of Austin, Texas

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions  
 on premises owned by Alex Ferris  
 at 1901 Exposition Blvd Street,  
 further described as lots 5, 7, 11 block 18, outlot \_\_\_\_\_,  
 subdivision Westfield A division \_\_\_\_\_, plat 123,  
 which is to be used as a Res

In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance  
 charge.

Respectfully, W.B. Harper  
Eng. S. C.

Stub Out \_\_\_\_\_

Connected 5-3.0 1939 Permit 1308

Size of Main 4 inches. 4-29-3.9

Size of Service 4 inches. changed to 4"

8 Feet Deep in ST main stub 5'

25 Feet from Property Line for 1903 Con 1308  
1-5-69 S. M. N.

Feet from Curb Line \_\_\_\_\_

Inspected by Johnson

Connection made by W. L. Osborn L. L.

11769 13-1308

Sewer connection application by Alex Ferris for this house (1939)

OWNER	Donald Scott Thomas	ADDRESS	1901 Exposition Blvd.
PLAT	183	LOT	So. 70' of 11
		BLK	18
SUBDIVISION	Westfield A		
OCCUPANCY	dining room & bath		
BLD PERMIT #	107460	DATE	4-2-68
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	\$1,000.00
CONTRACTOR	Geo. C. Joseph	NO. OF FIXTURES	yes
WATER TAP REC #	--	SEWER TAP REC #	--
remodel exist res (close garage)			
11-21-73-139458-Walter E. Babel- frm & metal addn			
to res. (carport) 258sq.ft. \$1,500			

Building permit to Donald Scott Thomas for an addition that enclosed the original garage (1968) and to Walter E. Babel for a carport (1973)

Thanks, Steve. I spent an hour at the AHC this morning ... FYI:

1. I'm guessing Alex Ferris may have been associated with A.G. Saidi & John A. Ferris Department Store...perhaps his father? Alexander A. Ferris is listed as a student at UT in 1930.

Charles Granger built a house for Jack Hudspeth on Churchill Drive in 1940. Hudspeth is listed in the "USA" in 1945. Hudspeth is at 1901 Expo by 1942, so perhaps the war years got in the way of his new house and he settled for the one on Expo.

ARCH FILES: Fehr & Granger built the 1941 E.C. Bartholomew house across the street at 1900 Expo. And they built the 1941 Charles J. Schneider House at 1711 Expo. No photo or text file or architectural file on 1901 Expo.

Paul A. Murchison and wife are listed at 1901 Expo in the 1949 CD, with the Paul Murchison Company.

Phoebe Allen  
Austin History Detective  
Historical Research for City, State & National Landmarks