

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2015-0010

HLC DATE:

July 27, 2015

August 10, 2015

PC DATE:

September 22, 2015

Council District No. 1

APPLICANTS: Harold B. Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi, owners

HISTORIC NAME: Yerwood-Simond House

WATERSHED: Boggy Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 2005 Hamilton Avenue

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) combining district to single family residence – Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

Architecture, historical associations, and community value.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP. Vote: 6-0 (Panju, McKenzie, and Tollett absent).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP. Vote: 11-0 (Seeger absent).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is beyond the bounds of the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE: October 8, 2015

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

One-story, roughly rectangular-plan hipped-and-gabled brick veneered frame house with single and paired 1:1 windows; round-arched entry and arcade along the west elevation of the house; exterior stepped brick chimney on the front façade with randomly-placed stones and caps. The house has Tudor Revival influences in its prominent front gable, but is also reminiscent of colonial French architecture in southern Louisiana with its round-arched brick arcade, gable-on-hip roof style, and massing.

The design of the house is unique in Austin, and it is the largest house in this neighborhood, which is associated with and adjacent to Huston-Tillotson University.

Historical Associations:

The house was built in 1939 by Dr. Charles Yerwood, and his third wife, Ada DeBlanc Askey Yerwood, who later married Luther Charles Simond after Charles Yerwood died in 1940.

Dr. Charles Yerwood was a very prominent African-American physician and surgeon in Austin at a time when there were very few African-American trained doctors, most African-Americans relying on home remedies and druggists for their illnesses. Yerwood was born in Austin in 1882, studied at Samuel Huston College in Austin and at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, then practiced in Oklahoma and later Gonzales, Texas before returning to Austin in 1925. He purchased the house at 1115 E. 12th Street (now known as the Connelly-Yerwood House, a city historic landmark) in 1926, where he raised his two daughters, both of whom achieved great successes in the field of medicine: Joyce Yerwood, who went to the East Coast, and Connie Yerwood, who returned to Austin and was a pioneer in public health. Charles Yerwood had his office at 421 E. 6th Street in Austin and continued to maintain his rural practice in Gonzales. He was a strong advocate for improvements in the treatment of tuberculosis, which afflicted a huge number of African-Americans in the early part of the century. He served as the secretary and treasurer of the Lone Star Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association, an organization of African-American health professionals, for over 20 years.

In 1929, Charles Yerwood married Ada DeBlanc Askey, who had been born into a large Creole family in Iberia Parish, Louisiana. Her family had a small farm near New Iberia, Louisiana, but moved to Austin in 1914 for better economic opportunities. In Austin, young Ada had little formal schooling, but was mentored by a neighbor and family friend, Professor Laurine C. Anderson (for whom L.C. Anderson High School was named). Ada achieved her high school equivalency from Samuel Huston College, then married a fellow student, Aubrey Askey, with whom she had 3 children, including Gilbert, who later became a nationally-known arranger and composer for Motown Records. Gilbert Askey is credited with discovering the Jackson 5, and was nominated for an Academy Award for his work on the Billie Holiday bio-pic, *Lady Sings the Blues*, starring Diana Ross.

Ada and Aubrey Askey divorced in 1927; she married Charles Yerwood in 1929. They lived in the old Yerwood house on E. 12th Street before building this house in 1939. Charles Yerwood continued his medical practice downtown, while Ada returned to school at Tillotson College. She taught at the Belton Colored School in Belton, Texas, then went on to Iowa State University to earn her master's in home economics and child development. In 1936, she returned to Tillotson College to become the head of the home economics department. The Yerwoods built this house for themselves in 1939. Charles' daughter, Connie, eventually moved into the old family home on E. 12th Street.

After her husband's death in 1940, Ada Yerwood began her career in public health, especially in the area of improving facilities for tuberculosis, which her late husband had championed for many years. She traveled across Texas, educating families about nutrition, sanitation, disease prevention, and safety, and recruited volunteers to form community health organizations. She also continued her studies at several prestigious graduate schools throughout the country.

In 1949, she married Luther Simond, a prominent teacher and school administrator. They lived in this house until their deaths.

After her official retirement, Ada Yerwood Simond did not stop in her relentless drive to improve the conditions, education, and awareness of African-American citizens in Austin and elsewhere. She volunteered for the Travis County Health Department, among other organizations, and in the late 1970s, she devoted herself to promoting public awareness of African-American history in Austin. She wrote a series of children's books with stories of

African-American family life in the early 1900s, contributed articles to scholarly journals as well as the Austin American-Statesman, and co-founded the W.H. Passon Society and the George Washington Carver Museum, both dedicated to the preservation of African-American culture and heritage in Austin.

PARCEL NO.: 0206100604

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 11-12 BLK E OLT 8 OLT 62 DIV B COLLEGE HEIGHTS ADDN

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$5,883 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$1,750 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$480,416

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS:

Harold B. Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi
2005 Hamilton Avenue
Austin, Texas 78702

DATE BUILT: ca. 1939

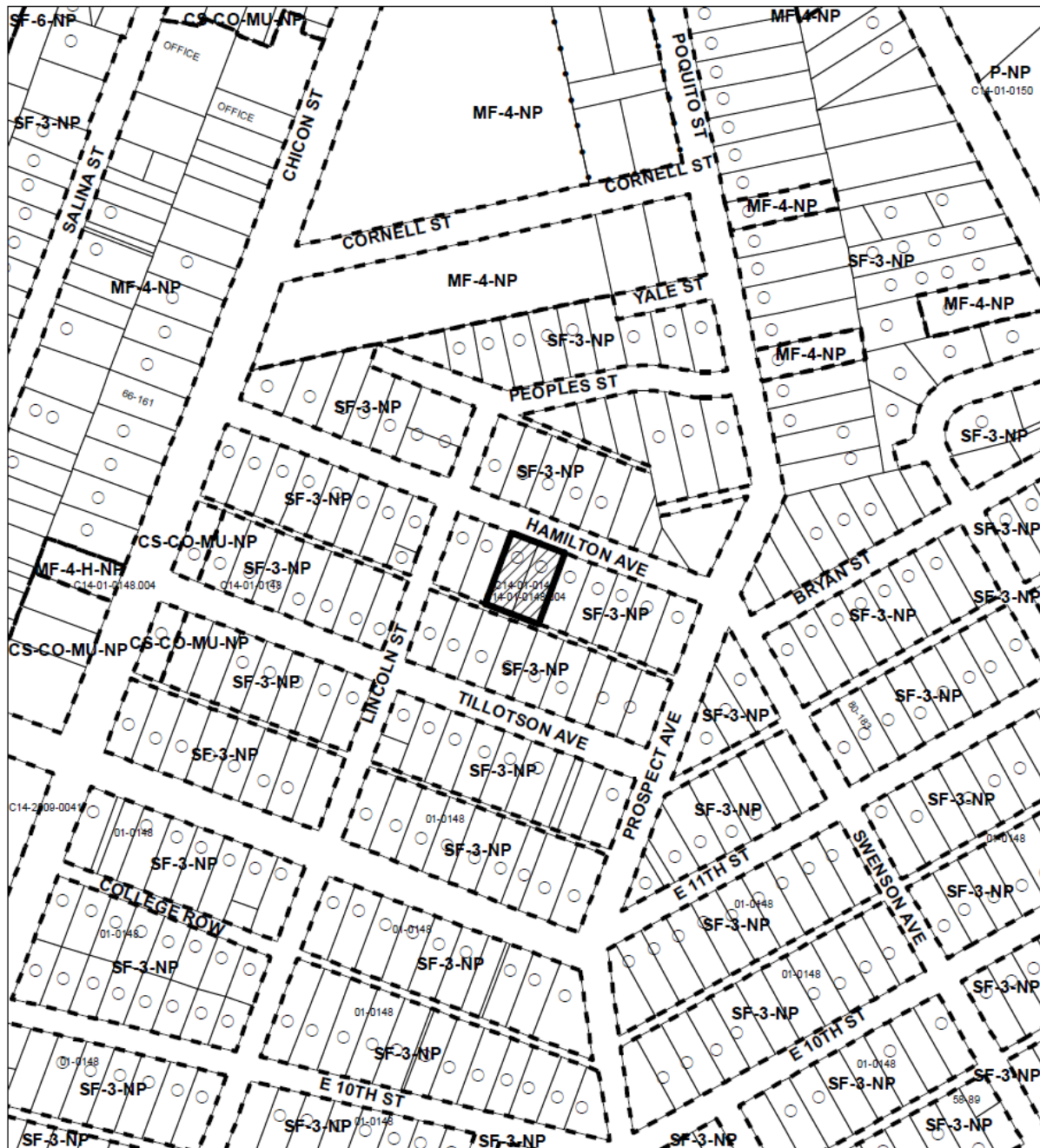
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Windows replaced (2014). The replacement windows are in the same 1:1 configuration as the original windows.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Dr. Charles and Ada Yerwood (1939)




OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.



LOCATION MAP



1" = 200'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

HISTORIC ZONING
CASE#: C14H-2015-0010

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



F.5: Color Digital Prints



Ada Marie DeBlanc Yerwood Simond



Gilbert Askey

IN MEMORY OF ADA SIMOND -- (BY MEREDITH MCKITTRICK) (Extension of Remarks - October 31, 1989)

[Page: E3613]

HON. J.J. PICKLE
in the House of Representatives
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1989

- Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Texas and the Nation recently lost a valued friend and a irreplaceable role model and teacher with the passing of

85-year-old Ada LeBlanc Simond, of Austin, TX. She leaves behind a rich and impressive legacy, including numerous books and articles. She was a founder of the George Washington Carver Museum and the W.H. Passon Historical Society, and she was involved in many social, cultural, and civic organizations.

- Ada Simonds was recognized for her contributions to the community by groups including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Texas Association for the Study of Afro-American Life. Her achievements earned her induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.
- And yet, Mr. Speaker, all these accolades and honors fail to capture what Ada Simond meant to her community. She was a role model, an instructor, and an inspiration for all ages and ethnic backgrounds. As a longtime friend, Robyn Turner, said, 'She's someone who can say something to you and change your life.'
- Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Austin American-Statesman article in memory of Ada Simond be reprinted immediately following my remarks. The comments of her friends are eloquent tribute to a woman who will be sorely missed, but whose rich contributions to her community will never be forgotten.

(BY MEREDITH MCKITTRICK)

Local Black historian, writer and educator Ada Simond, 85, died Sunday of a heart attack.

Simond suffered the attack Sunday evening at her home and was taken to Brackenridge Hospital, where she died, said her daughter, Grace King. Simond was hospitalized in September after a mild stroke.

Funeral arrangements with Phillip-Upshaw & Richard Funeral Home were incomplete Sunday.

Simond was the author of several books on Black heritage, and wrote a column on Black heritage that appeared in the Austin American-Statesman from 1983-84.

Robyn Turner, a longtime friend, said, 'She was certainly a role model for everyone--for all of the ethnic groups, all ages, and both genders.'

Turner is a former free-lance writer who wrote about Simond in a book, Austin Originals, and interviewed here for numerous magazine articles.

Simond chronicled life in East Austin in books such as the 'Mae Dee' series and Looking Back: A Black Focus on Austin's Heritage. She wove into the fabric of her stories not only civic leaders but also everyday people--the midwives, porters and custodians.

'I have a feeling that everybody is important, every individual is valuable,' Simond said.

She was one of the founders of the W.H. Passon Historical Society. She was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1986, and was recognized for her written contributions to Black society by groups such as the Texas House Black Caucus, the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Association for the Study of Afro-American Life. She also was honored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for her commitment to human rights.

`She had so many careers in her lifetime and created each one for herself . . . and then had such success at each one of them,' Turner said. But at the same time, `she was always there for everyone else.

`She's been a real friend. She's someone who can say something to you and change your life,' Turner said.

One of eight children, Simond was born, Nov. 16, 1903, near New Iberia, La., to parents who lacked schooling but, were determined to give their children an education. She moved to Austin when she was 11.

After she married and had three children in School, Simond returned to school and received a bachelor's degree in home and family life education from Huston-Tillotson College and a master's degree in science at Iowa State University. She taught at Huston-Tillotson, then accepted a job at the Texas Tuberculosis Association, where she worked for 25 years before moving to the Texas Department of Health.

Survivors include her husband Luther C. Simond; daughters, Grace King of Gardina, Calif., Jo Hoosy of Oakland, Calif., and Gilbert Askee of Melbourne, Australia; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Ada DeBlanc Simond Scholarship Fund at Huston-Tillotson College.



Luther Charles Simond

Born on May 2, 1921
Departed on Sep. 29, 2012 and resided in
Austin, TX.

Visitation: Friday, Oct. 5, 2012
12 pm

Service: Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012
12 pm

Cemetery: Assumption Cemetery

Luther Charles Simond was born May 2, 1921 in Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana to Horace Simond and Lelia Simons.

He was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church.

Mr. Simond was a graduate of Dunbar High School in Lufkin, Texas, received his B.A. degree in 1947 from Texas

College and M.A. in 1949 from Columbia University. His educational career included elementary school teacher in Gary, Indiana and Beaumont, Texas; Assistant Principal at Norton High School in Gary, Indiana; Principal at L. L. Campbell Elementary and Ridgetop Elementary in Austin, Texas.

He married Ada Marie DeBlanc in 1949 and became stepfather to Gilbert Askey, Verna Jo Hooey, and Grace King.

Mr. Simond was preceded in death by his parents Horace and Lelia; wife Ada Simond; brothers David and Horace, Jr.; sisters Billie Grace and Velma Lee; daughter Grace; granddaughter Marie Franklin.

He is survived by his children, Gilbert Askey and Verna Jo Hooey; grandchildren, Gregory Askey, Deidra Askey, Emile Askey, Francis Moore, Michael Moore, Charlotte Franklin; eleven great grandchildren; ten great great grandchildren; and a vast number of extended relatives and friends.





Texas Women's Hall of Fame

Simond, Ada

Ada Simond



Ada Simond

Civic Leadership

Inducted 1986

Ada Simond, an Austin writer, historian and educator, helped the black community in Travis and 27 other Texas counties for more than four decades through her work in health education, and her writings have preserved their heritage.

Ms. Simond's six-book series, *Let's Pretend*, traces the life of a young black girl and her East Austin family in the first half of the 20th century. She published a collection of her newspaper columns titled *Looking Back*.

After retiring Ms. Simond developed oral history projects that teach young people in Central Texas how to preserve their heritage.

From 1942-1966 she was a field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association and helped to establish model public health programs and tuberculosis prevention programs implemented throughout the state. For 65 years Ms. Simond spoke to many young audiences across the State of Texas on the need to stay in school to finish their education. In the 1950s and 1960s she directed summer health education workshops for teachers in the seven black colleges of Texas.

Between 1936 and 1942 she taught at Tillotson College. Ms. Simond holds a master's degree in vocational home economics from Iowa State University. In 1982, she was conferred a doctor of humane letters degree from Huston-Tillotson College. Some of the numerous awards she received are The Black Heritage Award from the Austin Independent School District, the Texas Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Award, the Public Citizen of 1986 Award from the National Association of Social Workers and the Human Relations Award from the Texas State Teachers Association.

She is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Council of Negro Women.

Ada Simond died in 1989.

Copyright 2014 Texas Women's Hall of Fame. All rights reserved.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

August 5, 2015

Harold Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi
2005 Hamilton Ave.
Austin, Texas 78702

RE: National Register eligibility, Ada LeBlanc Simond House, 2005 Hamilton Avenue, Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Groendyke and Ms. Lucchesi:

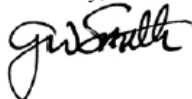
Thank you for submitting documentation regarding the historic and architectural significance of the Ada LeBlanc Simond House, on 2005 Hamilton Avenue in Austin. The house was built in 1939 for Dr. Charles Yerwood and his wife Ada Marie DeBlanc Simond. Dr. Yerwood died in 1940, and in 1949, Ada married Luther Charles Simonds. Ada lived in the house until her death in 1989, after which Luther occupied the house until his death in 2012. The house is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black for its association with Ada LeBlanc Simond and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance.

Ada LeBlanc Simond was an acclaimed African-American teacher, writer, historian, and public health activist. After the death of Dr. Yerwood, she worked as a field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association and continued her studies in the field of public health. After her retirement in 1967, she worked for the Texas State Department of Health and from 1974 to 1977, as the bailiff for Travis County Judge Herman Jones. She remained very active as a volunteer in numerous community organizations, and beginning in 1977 became a well-known historical fiction author, whose "Let's Pretend" children's series told the story of an African-American family in Austin during the early 20th Century.

The Simond House is also architecturally significant, especially when examined within the context of its east Austin neighborhood. Although the identity of its designer is unknown, the house's scale, Tudor-inspired design, and brick facade set it apart from the surrounding Craftsman bungalows. These distinctions reflect the success of its original owner, Dr. Yerwood, who was one of a few African-American doctors in Austin. The house retains a high degree of integrity.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-463-6013 or gregs@thc.state.tx.us. Thank you for your interest in the preservation of Texas' rich heritage.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Smith
National Register Coordinator





OFFICERS
Shelly Hemingson
President
Alyson McGee
President-Elect
Bratten Thomason
First Vice President
Lin Team
Second Vice President

Kim McKnight
Secretary
Vanessa McElwath
Treasurer
Tere O'Connell
Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS AT LARGE
Paula Aaronson
Sabrina Brown
Lisa Byrd
Clay Cary
Danette Chimenti
Sam Davidson
John Donisi

Lauren Smith Ford
Ann S. Graham
Jerry Harris
Chris Hendel
Ken Johnson
Saundra Kirk
Richard Kooris

Tim League
Jennifer Marsh
Scott Mason
Dennis McDaniel
Andrea McWilliams
Stephen Webb

VOTING REPRESENTATIVES
Michael Holleran, UT School of Arch
John Rosato, Landmark Commission
Michelle Slattery, Inherit Austin
Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms

STAFF
Kate Singleton
Executive Director

July 20, 2015

Historic Landmarks Commission
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767
Via Email

Re: Ada and Luther Simond House

Dear Historic Landmark Commission members,

The Board of Directors of Preservation Austin is thrilled to have the opportunity to express our support for the landmark designation (H zoning) of the Ada and Luther Simond House. Not only is this home a unique example in Austin of 20th Century Norman-Tudor Revival style architecture, it was the home of Ada Deblanc Yerwood Simond for 50 years. Ada Simond was an important figure in public health at the state level, working as a field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association. After retiring she continued to have an impact on the Austin community as an activist, writer and educator on African-American history. She wrote series of children's books based on her own experiences as a child and a column for the Austin American Statesman titled "Looking Back", highlighting Austin's lesser known black residents. She was one of the founders of the George Washington Carver Museum and the W.H. Passon Historical Society and the recipient of numerous awards from local and state level entities. Her beloved husband Luther Simond was a well-respected elementary school principal, and her son Gerald Askey was an Academy Award winning music arranger, composer and producer.

The current owners of the home are seeking landmark designation to provide long-term protection of the home and to honor the memory of Ada and Luther Simond for future generations.

We respectfully request the Historic Landmark Commission recommend landmark designation recommend H zoning for the Ada and Luther Simond House.

Very sincerely,

Shelly Hemingson

Adopted December 2012

OTHER PROVISIONS:

11. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT/OVERLAY ZONE? Yes

TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP etc.): NP – Central East Austin

12. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? No

14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. COMMUNITY PROPERTY: Yes

If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION:

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION

SIGNATURE

DocuSigned by:



NAME: Harold B. Groendyke
and Catherine Lucchesi

FIRM NAME: N/A

TELEPHONE:

STREET ADDRESS: 2005 Hamilton Avenue

CITY: Austin

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78702

EMAIL ADDRESS: catherine@ilivehereigivehere.org

AGENT INFORMATION:

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

SIGNATURE

DocuSigned by:



NAME: Alyson McGee

FIRM NAME:

TELEPHONE: 512-900-2460

STREET ADDRESS: 2301 Sully Creek Drive

CITY: Austin

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78748

EMAIL ADDRESS: alysonmcgee@hotmail.com

TAX CERTIFICATE
Bruce Elfant
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9473

NO 2247696

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 02-0610-0604-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

GROENDYKE HAROLD B &
CATHERINE LUCCHESI
2005 HAMILTON AVE
AUSTIN, TX 78702-2821

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

LOT 11-12 BLK E OLT 8 OLT 62 DIV B
COLLEGE HEIGHTS ADDN

ACRES .2476 MIN% .000000000000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 2005 HAMILTON AVE

This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interests are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s):

YEAR	ENTITY	TOTAL
2014	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS CENTRAL HEALTH	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*

TOTAL SEQUENCE 0 *ALL PAID*

TOTAL TAX:	*ALL PAID*
UNPAID FEES:	* NONE *
INTEREST ON FEES:	* NONE *
COMMISSION:	* NONE *
TOTAL DUE ==>	*ALL PAID*

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2014 \$9,936.02

ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2014 EXCEPT FOR UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.

The above described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional rollback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code). Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of \$10.00 for all Tax Certificates.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF 04/20/2015

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Bruce Elfant
Tax Assessor-Collector

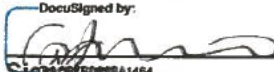

By: 

D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

<small>DocuSigned by:</small> 	6/28/2015
Signature <small>DN: cn=H. Groendyke, o=...</small>	Date
<small>DocuSigned by:</small> 	6/28/2015
Signature <small>DN: cn=C. Lucchesi, o=...</small>	Date

Harold B. Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

<small>DocuSigned by:</small> 	6/28/2015
Signature <small>DN: cn=H. Groendyke, o=...</small>	Date
<small>DocuSigned by:</small> 	6/28/2015
Signature <small>DN: cn=C. Lucchesi, o=...</small>	Date


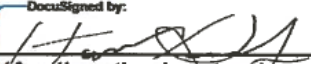
Harold B. Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM
concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, Harold B. Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at 2005 Hamilton Avenue, Austin, TX 78702 - LOT 11-12 BLK E OLT 8 OLT 62 DIV B COLLEGE HEIGHTS ADDN.

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays. I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

DocuSigned by:  (Applicant's signature)	6/28/2015 _____ (Date)
DocuSigned by:  (Applicant's signature)	6/28/2015 _____ (Date)

F.9: Historical Narrative

Brief chronology and overview of the property's history and development, including dates for all new construction and alterations.:

The house was built in 1939 by Dr. Charles Yerwood and his wife, Ada Marie DeBlanc Simond. The earliest site plan that can be found is the 1965 Sanborn Maps showing the one story, brick veneered house with a detached 1 story accessory building at the rear of the lot. The accessory building was replaced by an unenclosed carport sometime after 1965.

The property appears to remain mostly unchanged since its construction. The current owners, Harold B. Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi, purchased the property in November 2013. After purchasing the home, Mr. Groendyke and Ms. Lucchesi hired Avenue B Development to rehabilitate the interior, remove the non-original decorative grillwork and windows from the front porch, remove the security bars from the windows, replace the window frames sashes throughout, reroof the house, and remove the dilapidated carport structure with plans to build a new enclosed garage in its place.

The replacement of the windows does not significantly impact the integrity of the property. The windows at the time of the 2014 rehabilitation project were double-hung, and were replaced with similar double-hung windows, except for two glass block windows located in either side of the chimney on the façade. The glass block infill may not have been original to the house. These openings were replaced with single, fixed pane windows.

Summary of the primary uses and occupants of property over time, and any important persons associated with the site (include full names, birth, marriage and death dates);

The property was the home of **Ada Marie DeBlanc Askey Yerwood Simond** and her two husbands, **Dr. Charles Yerwood**, who died in 1940 shortly after the house was built, and **Luther Charles Simond**, whom Mrs. Simond married in 1949. Mrs. Simond's three children from her first marriage to Aubrey Askey - Grace, **Gilbert Askey**, and Verna Joe initially resided in the home as well. Mrs. Simond lived at 2005 Hamilton Avenue until her death in 1989. Her husband Luther Simond remained in the home until his death in 2012.

Ada Marie DeBlanc was born in November 14, 1903 in Iberia Parish, Louisiana to her parents, Gilbert and Mathilde (nee Hebert) DeBlanc. The DeBlancs were farmers and illiterate Catholic Creoles who spoke a French patois, which was Ada's first language. As a small child in Louisiana Ada was sent for a short time to the St. Peter Claver Boarding School in Lake Charles, received Catholic instruction from a local "spinster", and learned English through reading the catechism and having access to used books. After the family moved to Austin in 1914,

She was only able to attend one semester of high school but supplemented this by borrowing books from Professor Laurine C. Anderson, a neighbor and family friend for whom Austin's L. C. Anderson High School was named. In 1920 her close friend and mentor Charlie Lewis, who worked at Austin's Samuel Huston College, allowed her to audit his classes, and by 1922 she took the equivalency tests necessary to earn diplomas from the college preparatory and business departments. Afterwards she worked for a short time as a secretary at Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College (now Prairie View A&M University) and

married Aubrey Askey, an honors student she met while at Samuel Huston College.

Ada DeBlanc Askey had three children with Aubrey Askey, Grace, Gilbert and Verna Jo, before their divorce in 1927. In 1929 she married Dr. Charles Yerwood, a prominent African-American doctor.

Besides maintaining a medical office on E. 6th Street, **Dr. Charles Yerwood** also maintained a rural practice in Gonzales County for many years. In 1927 he was one of only 3 black physicians in the Austin City Directory. As secretary and treasurer of the Lone Star Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association for 25 years, an organization of African American health professionals organized in 1886, Dr. Yerwood worked to motivate and mobilize health agencies to deal with the problem of tuberculosis. Dr. Yerwood, as a long-time public advocate for the improved treatment of tuberculosis in the black population, influenced Ada Simond to enter into her public health care career after his death in 1940.

Dr. Yerwood's two daughters, Connie and Joyce both followed their father's footsteps and became physicians. Dr. Ursula Joyce Yerwood Carwin was the first black female physician to practice in Fairfield County, Connecticut, and Dr. Connie Ralstine Yerwood Connor was the first black physician, male or female, to work for the Texas Public Health Service (now the Texas Department of Health). Dr. Connie Connor eventually became the State Director of Health Services for the State of Texas.

The home at 1115 E. 12th Street where Dr. Charles Yerwood lived with his first wife, Nan Yerwood, from 1925 until their divorce in 1927, and where his daughters grew up – known as the Connelly-Yerwood House – is a City of Austin Landmark as well as being listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

After marrying Dr. Yerwood Ada Simond returned to school at Tillotson College working as a secretary in exchange for tuition. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in family life education in 1934 and began teaching at the Belton Colored School in Bell County. In 1936 she earned her Masters of Science degree in home economics and child development from Iowa State University and returned to Tillotson College to teach and ultimately serve as the head of the Home Economics Department until 1942.

Dr. Charles Yerwood died in 1940. His work in public health, particularly in the treatment of tuberculosis, influenced Ada to pursue a career in public health. Starting in 1942 Ada served as a public health field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association - an entity that, among other things promoted health-related programs among African and Mexican Americans and eventually became the Texas Public Health Association. In her position with the Tuberculosis Association she helped to establish public health and tuberculosis prevention programs that were implemented across the state of Texas. She spent the next 25 years traveling the state to educating impoverished families about sanitation, nutrition, disease prevention, safety, and available medical services. She worked to form community health organizations utilizing local volunteers in towns and cities across Texas. She also spent several summers studying public health, human development, community organization, and conflict resolution at a number of prestigious graduate schools, including the University of Michigan, University of Chicago, and New York School of Social Work, and directed summer health education workshops for teachers in the seven black colleges in Texas.

In 1949, Ada married her third husband, **Luther C. Simond**, to whom she was married until her death in 1989. *Luther Charles Simond*, was born May 2, 1921 in Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana to Horace Simond and Lelia Simons. Luther Simond graduated from Dunbar High School in Lufkin, Texas, and received his Bachelors of Arts degree from Texas College in 1947, and a Master of Arts degree in 1949 from Columbia University. He worked as an elementary school teacher in Gary, Indiana and Beaumont, Texas, was the Assistant Principal at Norton High School in Gary, Indiana and was the Principal at L. L. Campbell Elementary and Ridgetop Elementary schools in Austin, Texas. Luther Simond lived at 2005 Hamilton Avenue until his death in 2012.

Mrs. Simond was forced to retire in 1967 at the age of 64. Not wanting to be idle, she began working for the Texas State Department of Health. When she was again forced to retire from that position in 1973 she started volunteering for such organizations as the Travis County Health Department, Model Cities Clinic project (a federal program started in the late 1960's to remedy health care access issues for low income residents), Holy Cross Catholic Church, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the United Action for the Elderly (which later became Meals on Wheels and More). She was also one of the founders of the George Washington Carver Museum and the W.H. Passon Historical Society.

In 1974 Travis County Judge Herman Jones asked her to work as his bailiff, which she did until 1977. It was at this time through her involvement with the Black Heritage Exhibit, a project of the Austin chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, that she began her career as a writer and historian.

From 1977 to 1981 she wrote six books depicting the life of a young black girl named May Dee growing up in turn of the century Austin. Although fictionalized, the stories were based upon historical evidence and Ada Simond's own experiences as a child. The "Let's Pretend" series was named "Outstanding Publication on a History Subject" by the Texas Historical Commission in 1979. She also wrote a column for the Austin American Statesman from 1983-1984 titled "Looking Back" highlighting Austin's lesser known black residents, for which she was honored by the Texas House of Representatives Black Caucus. In 1982, she was conferred a doctor of humane letters degree from Huston-Tillotson College.

Other honors bestowed on Ada Simond during her lifetime include:

- The Black Heritage Award from Austin Independent School District.
 - The NAACP Arthur B. DeWitty Award for "outstanding effort and achievement in human rights in Central Texas".
 - Recognition from the National Council of Negro Women.
 - Recognition from the Texas Association for the Study of Afro-American Life.
 - An endowed scholarship in her name at Huston-Tillotson College.
 - The first recipient of the Banner Brunch Award in 1973 by the local chapter of Women in Communication, Inc.
 - A City of Austin Distinguished Service Award in 1980 for "unselfish service to the city of Austin".
 - The first recipient of the Mattie B. White Award in 1982 by the Black Arts Alliance and Women & Their Work.
 - November 16, 1983 was declared Ada Simond Day by Austin City Council with Congress Avenue temporarily named "Ada Simond Avenue".
 - Public Citizen of 1986 Award from the National Association of Social Workers
 - Human Relations Award from the Texas State Teachers Association.
-

- Inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.
- Simond Avenue named in the Mueller neighborhood development.

Ada Simond passed away on October 22, 1989 less than a month before her 86th birthday.

Ada Simond's son, **Gilbert Askey**, also became a notable figure. Born March 9, 1925 to Ada and Aubrey Askey, Gilbert Askey (referred to as "Brother" by family members) was 14 years old when he began living at 2005 Hamilton with his mother and stepfather, Dr. Charles Yerwood. Gilbert Askey graduated from Anderson High School, where he we played trumpet in the school band. After high school, Gilbert attended Huston-Tillotson College for two years then joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 at the age of 17. While in the Air Corps he was stationed in Boston and was sent to the Schillinger School of Music. Gilbert,

became a nationally-renowned arranger, composer, and producer for Motown Records and worked with many world famous artists, including the Four Tops, the Temptations, Gladys Knight, and Curtis Mayfield. He also earned an Academy Award nomination [in 1973] for his work with Diana Ross in *Lady Sings the Blues* (1972) and received co-credit for the discovery of the Jackson 5.

Gilbert Askey also wrote music for Ann Margaret, Liza Minelli and Lornel Luft.

The City of Austin and Austin Independent School District declared December 11, 1974 "Gilbert Alexander Askey" Day to honor Gilbert for his achievements in music and his contributions in encouraging students to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Gilbert Askey lived in Australia with his wife, Helen, the last 30 years of his life. He died in Melbourne on April 9, 2014.

Justification as to which specific city historic landmark criteria the property meets and why.

The property meets the following historic landmark criteria:

- (i) **Architectural Significance** - Built in 1939, the house is constructed of wood framing with light colored brick veneer. The main structure is one story with a front gable and rear gable-on-hip roof with no eaves and asphalt shingles, which were installed in 2014. The attic, which is a story tall, gives the roof a steep pitch and large massing. The façade has a pair of double-hung windows on the first level, a pair of double-hung windows in the gable, and a single pane, fixed window on either side of the attached chimney. The chimney, constructed of brick to match the walls, has a few randomly set, irregularly shaped stones.

There is a side porch with a gable-on-hip roof. The porch has a brick arched opening facing the street, a wing wall with an arched opening also facing the street, and three arched openings on the side elevation. The porch floor is poured concrete and is one step up from the driveway. The front door is located under the porch roof on the side elevation, and is three steps up from the porch floor. There are simple wrought iron curved railings on either side of the steps up to the front door. These railings are mimicked at the back door of the house on the rear elevation.

The side and rear elevations of the house have single, paired and triple sets of *double-hung windows with 1:1 sashes. All the windows were replaced in 2014. The previous windows were double-hung, 1:1 and had decorative security bars, except for the windows on either side of the front chimney, which were glass block. The glass block openings were replaced with single-pane, fixed windows.*

The house sits on a concrete stem wall foundation. Above the foundation there is a row of brick set in soldier courses with cast concrete vent blocks set every 10 feet or so. The veneer brick walls are laid in a running bond, with a final rowlock course at the top.

The style of the house is simple, with few embellishments besides the arched front porch. It exhibits elements of Tudor and Normal revival architecture in the building materials, forms and massing. Built on two lots it is by far the largest and most prominent house on the block, with other historic-era homes being wood sided, and of a much smaller scale with lower roof heights. The lack of one clear architectural style may indicate the house was builder-designed vs. architect-designed, however, it clearly was constructed with a high degree of care and craftsmanship and is unique in this part of town, and possibly throughout Austin.

- (ii) Historical Associations - The property has long-standing significant associations with Ada Marie DeBlanc Simond, as well as Luther Charles Simond and Gilbert Askey.

Ada Marie DeBlanc Simond contributed significantly to the history of Austin and the State of Texas through her work in public health care, as a community activist, and as a writer and educator on African-American history, especially as that history relates to Austin, TX. She was instrumental in helping found institutions such as the George Washington Carver Museum and the W.H. Passon Historical Society that continue to educate the community about Austin's rich African-American heritage.

Ada Simond defied societal norms and expectations of women and people of color in the early to mid-20th century by earning advanced college degrees and working professionally in the field of public health at a state-wide level. Further, she was an influential community activist and, after the age when most people retire started a second career as a historian and writer. Throughout her adult life Ada Simond set an example of how through hard work, determination, and a desire to help better the lives of others, an individual can have a remarkable and lasting impact on a community.

Mrs. Simond lived in the house at 2005 Hamilton from 1939 until her death in 1989.

The house is also associated with Ada Simond's third husband, **Luther Charles Simond**, a well-respected elementary school principal in Austin who lived in the house during his marriage to Ada Simond and until his death (1949-2012). It is also associated with Ada Simond's son, **Gerald Askey**, a celebrated musician, arranger and composer who lived in the house from 1939 until he joined the Army Air Corps in 1942.

Bibliography

R. Matt Abigail, "SIMOND, ADA MARIE DEBLANC ," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fsi63>), accessed June 08, 2015. Uploaded on April 25, 2013. Modified on May 21, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Robert Bernstein, "PUBLIC HEALTH," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/smp01>), accessed June 08, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

David Chao, "Living Austin's History: Author, Columnist and Historian Ada Simond keeps the March 7, 1986, Page 10.

Dottie Fish, "Austinite to Win an Oscar?" *Austin American Statesman*, March 23, 1973.

J. Brent Garrett, "For Oscar Nominee 'Music a Part of Everything'." *The Tribune*, August, 29, 1974, Volume 5, Number 3.

Marc Hampton, "Author's Honor Rises," *Article found in Simond, Ada DeBlanc Askey 1905-1989 biography file at Austin History Center with no source citation.*

Ada Simond, "New Year's Holidays of Past Time for Family Togetherness," *Austin American Statesman*, Dec. 30, 1984, Page B10.

Chris Petrison, "Author Nourishes Black Culture," *Austin American Statesman*, Feb. 15, 1982.

Ernestine Wheelock, "A Project that Made a Difference," *Austin American Statesman*, Dec. 20, 1970.

"Ada Simond," *Texas Women's Hall of Fame* (<http://www.twu.edu/twhf/tw-simond.asp>), accessed June 8, 2015. Published by Texas Women's University.

"Austin Loses a Friend: Black Writer, Educator Ada Simond Leaves a Legacy," *Austin American Statesman*, Oct. 24, 1989.

"Black Author Earns Award," *Austin American Statesman/Neighbor*, Feb. 21, 1980.

"Outstanding to be 'Bannered' For Achievements on Saturday," *Article found in Simond, Ada DeBlanc Askey 1905-1989 biography file at Austin History Center with no source citation.*

National Register of Historic Places, Connelly-Yerwood House, Austin Travis County, Texas, National Register #3000279.

F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology

Deed Research for (fill in address) 2005 Hamilton Avenue

Transaction

Doc. Reference

F.W. Stemenbert to C.R. Yerwood and
Ada M. Yerwood
Block E, Lots 11 & 12, College Heights Addn.
July 13, 1938

Vol. 594, pp. 82

Ada M. Simond & L.C. Simond to Simond L.C.
October 22, 1989
(Document type – Will to surviving spouse only)

PC #56189

L.C. Simond to Verna Jo Askey Hooey
September 30, 2012
(Document type – Will to other than surviving spouse)

C-1-PB-13-001572TR

Gilbert A. Askey, original co-trustee and Gregory Askey,
surviving co-trustee of the trust created by the will/estate
of Ada DeBlanc Simond (aka Ada M. Yerwood) to
Harold B. Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi
Lots 11 and 12, Block E, College Heights, A Subdivision
of Outlots 8, 9 and 62, Division B, According to the Map
Plat Thereof Recorded in Volume 3, Page 4, Plat Records,
Travis County Texas.
(Document type – Warranty Deed)

Doc # 2013207047TR

F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

Occupancy Research for (fill in address) 2005 Hamilton Avenue

Using City Directories available at the Austin History Center or other information available, please provide a chronology of all occupants of the property from its construction to 193

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1940	Charles R. Yerwood, General Medicine Office Ada M. Yerwood, Professor at Huston Tillotson College	City Directories
1949	Mrs. Ada Yerwood, Field Worker (Widow of Charles)	City Directories
1952	Ada Y. Simond, Health Worker for Texas T.B. Assn. (Note: Luther Simond not listed)	City Directories
1988-89	L.C. and Ada M. Simond, both retired	City Directories
1990	L.C. Simond, retired	City Directories
2000	L.C. Simond	City Directories
2005	Ada M. and L.C. Simond (Note: Ada M. Simond died in 1989)	City Directories
2007	Luther C. Simond	City Directories

Notes:

1. In the 1939 City Directory Charles and Ada Yerwood are listed as living at 1014 Olive St.
 2. City Directories are not available after 2007, however Luther C. Simond remained living at 2005 Hamilton Avenue until his death in 2012.
-

F.3: Biographical Data On Occupants

Ada Marie DeBlanc Yerwood Simond

Born: November 14, 1903 in Iberia Parish, Louisiana

Married Aubrey Askey (date unknown)

Children with Aubrey Askey: Grace, Gilbert, and Verna Jo

Divorced Aubrey Askey in 1927

Married Dr. Charles R. Yerwood in 1929

Married Luther C. Simond in 1949

Died: October 22, 1989 in Austin, Texas

Dr. Charles Ralston Yerwood

Born: March 7, 1890

Died: December 19, 1940

Luther C. Simond

Born: May 2, 1921 in Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana

Died: September 29, 2012 in Austin, Texas

Gilbert Askey

Born: March 9, 1925 in Austin, TX

Died: morning April 9, 2014 in Melbourne Australia

F.4: Historically Significant Events

There are no specific events of historical significance associated with the property, rather its significance is garnered from its architecture and the home's association with significant owners and residents, Ada Simond, Luther Simond, and to a lesser extent, Gerald Askey and Dr. Charles Yearwood.

F.6: Information on Architect, Builder, Contractor or Craftsperson

No information was found about the architect, building, or contractor for the home.



Front elevation looking south



Front elevation looking southeast



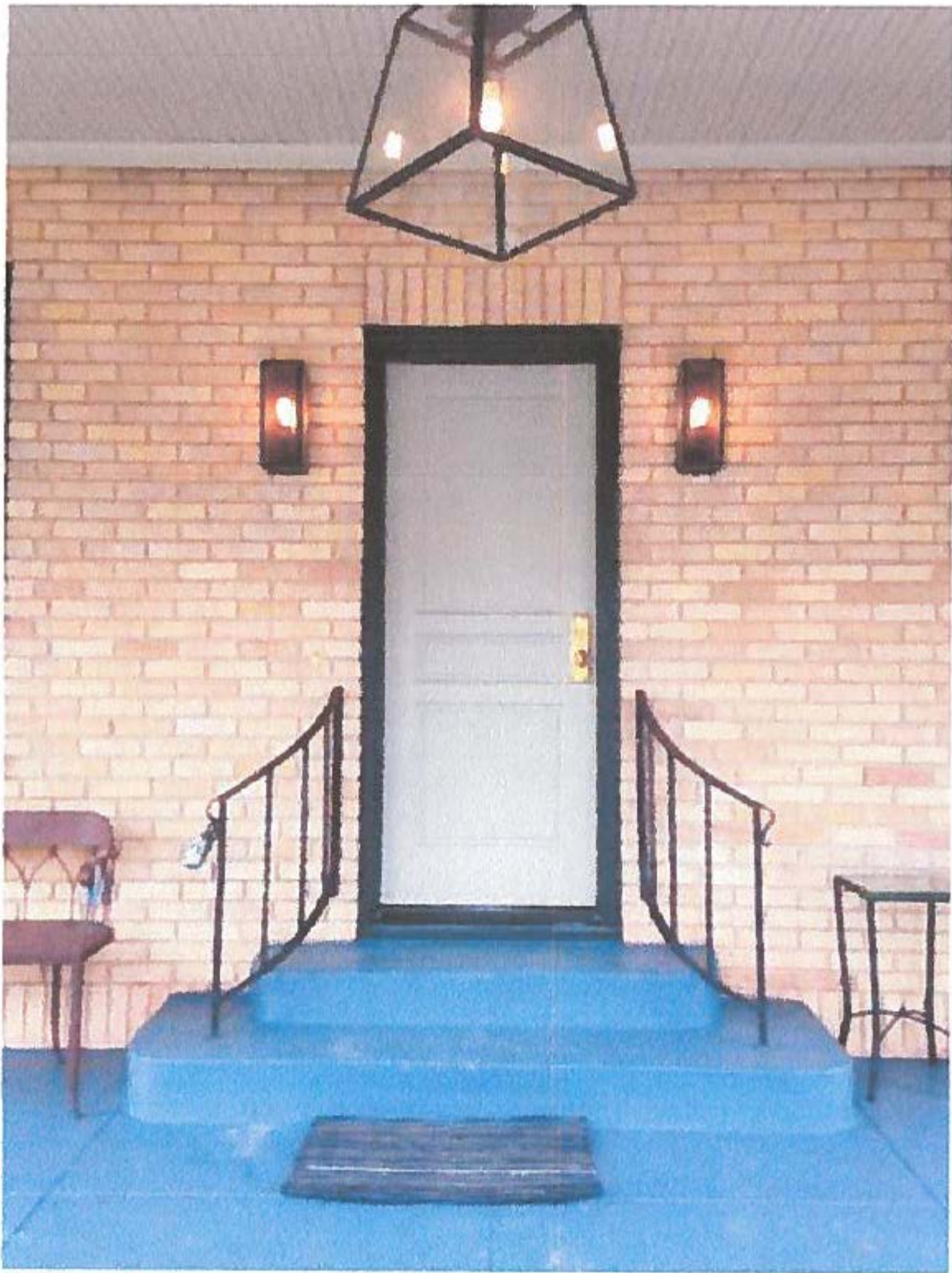
Side/rear elevation looking northeast



Rear elevation looking northeast



Rear/side elevation looking north



Detail – front door under side porch

F.7: Historical Photographs

No historical photographs were found.

Pre-Rehabilitation Photos c. 2013:



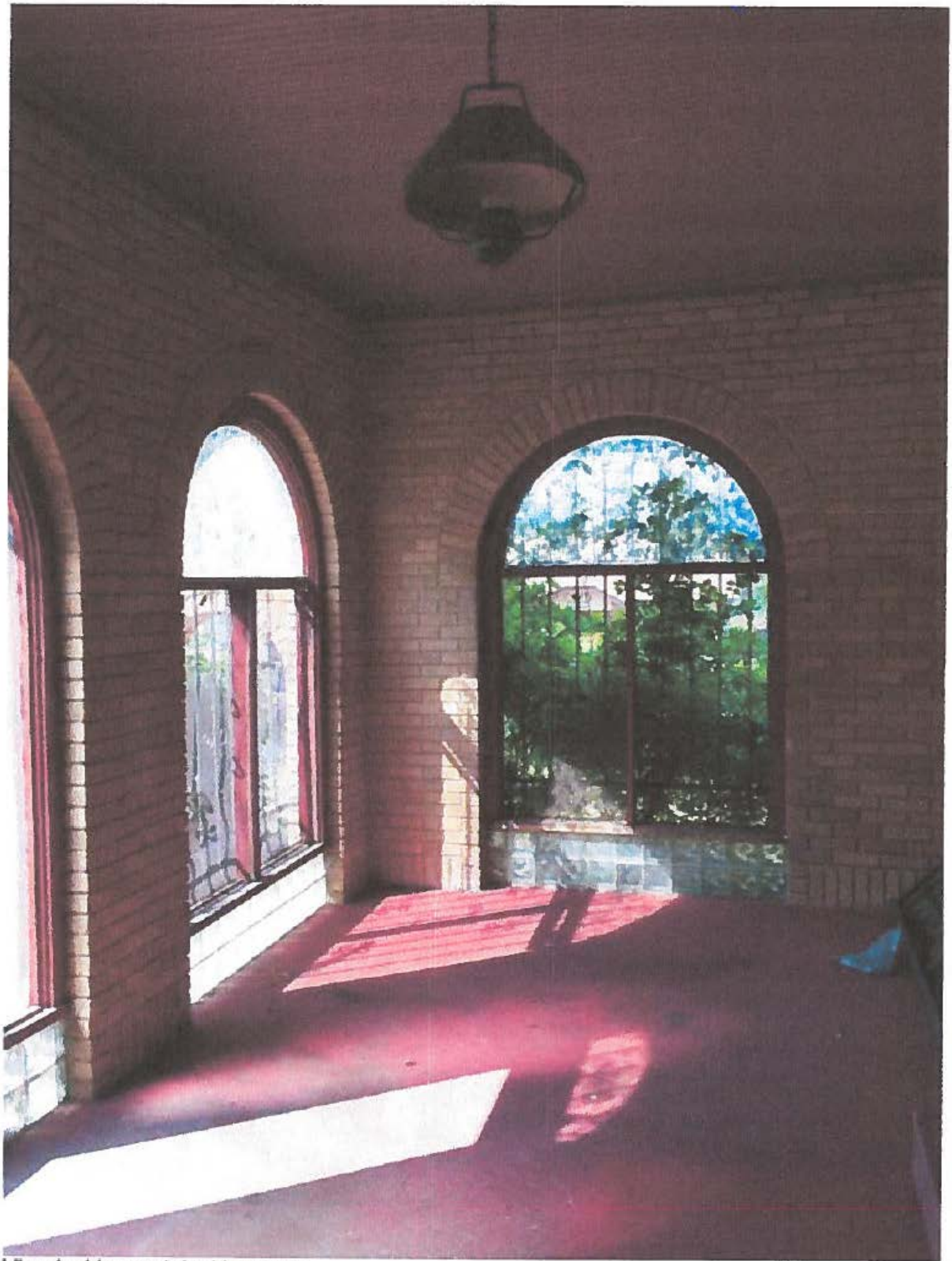
Front elevation.



Front elevation looking southeast



Porch elevation looking east



View inside porch looking north

F.8: Site Plan

