

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 16, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2015-0946  
1603 SINGLETON AVENUE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1910 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, wing-and-gable plan frame house with a partial-width, shed-roofed, independent porch on ornamental metal supports; single 1:1 fenestration with a tri-partite window in the projecting front gable containing a 4:4 window on each side of the center window; synthetic siding.

**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1910 for Barney and Fannie Hall, who lived here for the rest of their lives. They moved into this house from a house at 1615 Washington (now S.L. Davis) Avenue. Barney Hall had been born in Texas to Mississippi-born parents. He spent his entire working life as a laborer and boiler maker for the railroad, first for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, and later for the Southern Pacific. Fannie Hall engaged in typical occupations for African-American women at the time – she was a laundress and a maid. Her two older daughters were also house-cleaners. After Barney Hall passed away in 1941, Fannie Hall continued to live in this house, working as a maid. After her death in 1962, her daughter, Mildred (Hall) Fisher, lived here until her death in 1990. Mildred Fisher was a public school teacher, who later became a teacher at the TEA Special School.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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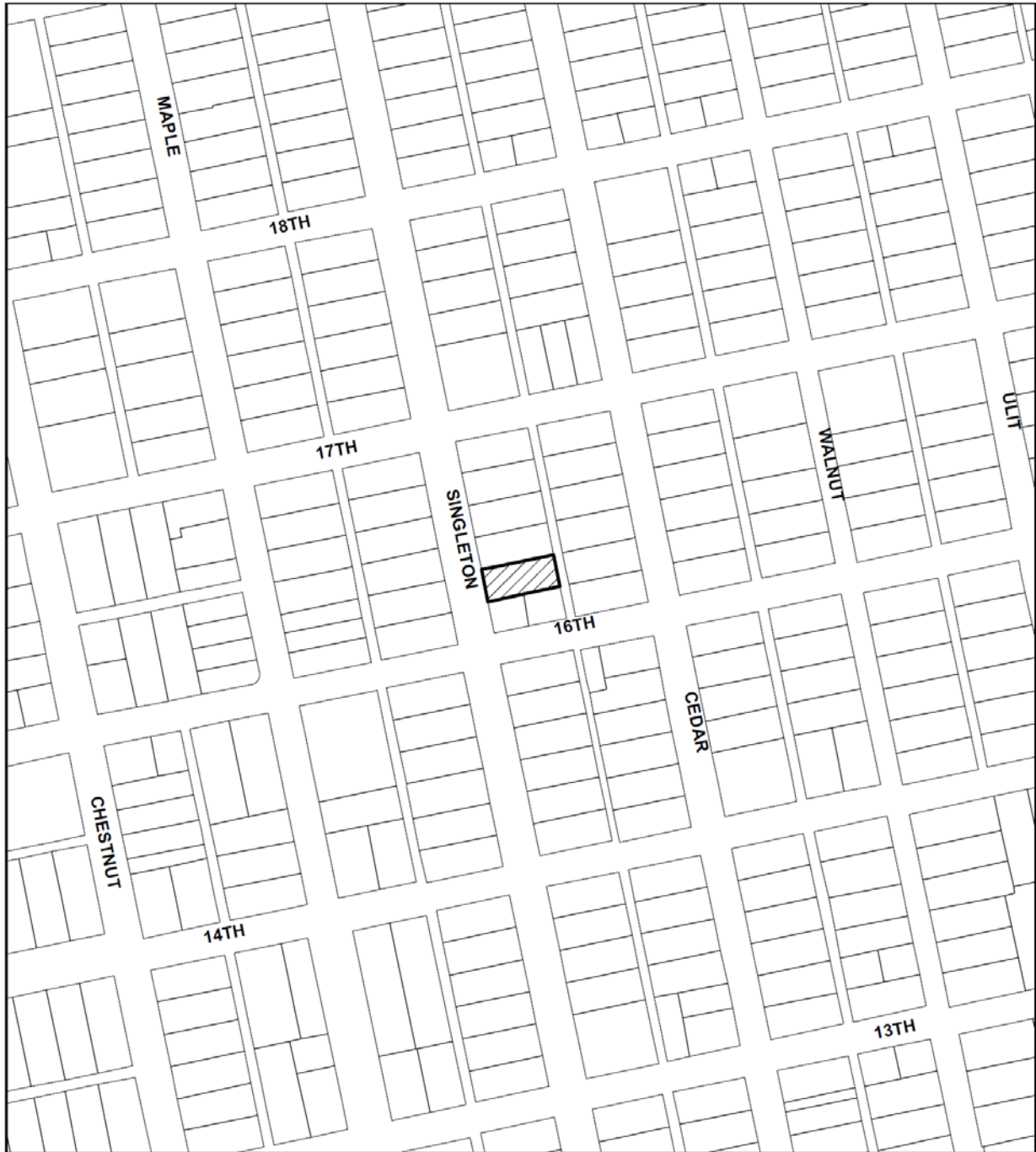
The house is listed as a low priority for preservation in the Chestnut Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey (2001) due to the synthetic siding.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of the house, if feasible, but otherwise 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



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2015-0946  
Address: 1603 SINGLETON AVENUE



1" = 200'

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.

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1603 Singleton Avenue  
ca. 1910



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
1603 Singleton Avenue

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

1992	B. Hall, owner No occupation listed
1985-86	Mildred D. Fisher, owner Retired Also listed is Alicia Moore, no occupation shown.
1981	Mildred D. Fisher, owner Retired
1977	Mildred D. Fisher, owner Widow, Millard Fisher Retired
1973	Mildred D. Fisher, owner Teacher, TEA Special School
1968	Mildred D. Fisher, owner Teacher, TEA Special School

1962	Fannie Hall, owner Widow, Barney Hall No occupation listed Also listed is H. Mildred Fisher, a public school teacher.
1959	Fannie Hall, owner Widow, Barney Hall No occupation listed NOTE: Mildred D. Fisher is not listed in the directory.
1955	Fannie Hall, owner Widow, B.B. Hall Maid
1952	Fannie Hall, owner Maid
1949	Fannie Hall, owner NOTE: There is no listing for a Fannie Hall in the alphabetical section of the directory.
1947	Fannie Hall, owner Widow, B.B. Hall No occupation listed
1944-45	Fannie Hall, owner No occupation listed
1941	Barney B. and Fannie Hall, owners Boilermaker
1939	Barney B. and Fannie Hall, owners Boilermaker
1937	Barney B. and Fannie Hall, owners No occupation listed
1935	Barney B. and Fannie Hall, owners Laborer, Southern Pacific Lines
1932-33	Barney B. and Fannie Hall, owners No occupation listed
1930-31	Barney B. and Fannie Hall (colored), owners Boilermaker helper, Southern Pacific Lines
1929	Barney B. and Fannie Hall (colored), owners Employed by Southern Pacific Lines
1927	Barney B. and Fannie Hall (colored), owners Boilermaker helper, Southern Pacific Railroad shops
1924	Barney B. Hall (colored), owner Laborer, Southern Pacific Railroad shops

NOTE: Fannie Hall is not listed in the directory.

- 1922            Barney B. and Fannie Hall (colored), owners  
Helper, Houston and Texas Central Railroad shops
- 1920            Barney and Julia Hall (colored), owners  
Laborer, Houston and Texas Central Railroad shops
- 1918            Barney and Fannie Hall (colored), owners  
Laborer, City Street Department
- 1916            Barney Hall (colored)  
Laborer  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1605 Singleton Avenue.
- 1914            Barney Hall (colored)  
Laborer  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1605 Singleton Avenue.
- 1912-13        Barney Hall (colored)  
Laborer, Houston and Texas Central Railroad roundhouse  
NOTE: The address is listed as 1605 Singleton Avenue.
- 1910-11        No houses are listed on Singleton Avenue.  
NOTE: Bonney [sic] Hall is listed at 1615 Washington Avenue; he was a laborer.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

### **Barney and Fannie Hall (ca. 1910 – ca. 1962)**

#### **Mildred (Hall) Fisher (ca. 1962 – ca. 1990)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Barney and Fannie Hall as the owners of this house, which was worth \$600. Barney Hall was 54, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer in a railroad roundhouse. Fannie Hall was 52, had been born in Texas, and was a housecleaner. They had two daughters: Lucille, 32, a cook in a drug store; and Mildred, 29, a public school teacher. Both had been born in Texas.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Barney and Fannie Hall as the owners of this house, which was worth \$500. Barney Hall was 40, had been born in Texas to Mississippi-born parents, and was a boilermaker in the railroad roundhouse. Fannie Hall was 34, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 4 children: Lucille, 19, a housecleaner; Mildred, 14, a housecleaner; Arthur, 16, a yard boy; and Nadine, 9. With them lived an aunt, Josephine Bradley, a 70-year old Mississippi-born widow with no occupation listed.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Bennie [sic] and Fannie Hall as the owners of this house; they had 4 children. Barney Hall was a boilermaker in the railroad roundhouse. Fannie Hall was a washerwoman.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Barney and Fannie Hall at 1615 Washington Avenue in Austin. Barney Hall was a laborer in the building trade. Fannie Hall had no occupation listed.

Barney Beuford Hall died in Austin July 25, 1941. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers. Fannie Hall died January 25, 1962 at Austin State Hospital. She was a resident of Brownwood, Texas at the time of her death. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers. Mildred D. Fisher died in Austin January 11, 1990. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.