

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 14, 2015
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2015-1111
1906 DAVID STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1948 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, mid-century Modern-style brick and frame house with ribbon sets of multi-light metal-framed casement windows across the front of the house. Mid-century modern architecture has as its defining features a long, horizontal layout with abundant glass and the use of new technology to allow for modern construction methods. One of the philosophies behind mid-century Modern design was to blend the outside and the inside environments, so these houses generally had large expanses of glass to achieve that goal. This house, while a very modest example of mid-century Modern design, represents the style with the ribbons of windows and horizontal configuration.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1948 for Dr. E. Bagby Atwood of the University of Texas, who lived here for the rest of his life. Dr. Atwood was born in Yoakum, but raised in El Paso and New Mexico, where his father was a Baptist minister. He studied at Hardin-Simmons College, and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He post-doctoral work in Europe, then after an adventure as a gold miner, returned to teaching. He taught at Stanford, Texas Western, and became a faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin in 1937. In 1953, he became a full professor. His interests included linguistics, medieval literature, and dialectology, and he distinguished himself as the leading dialectologist of the Southwest.

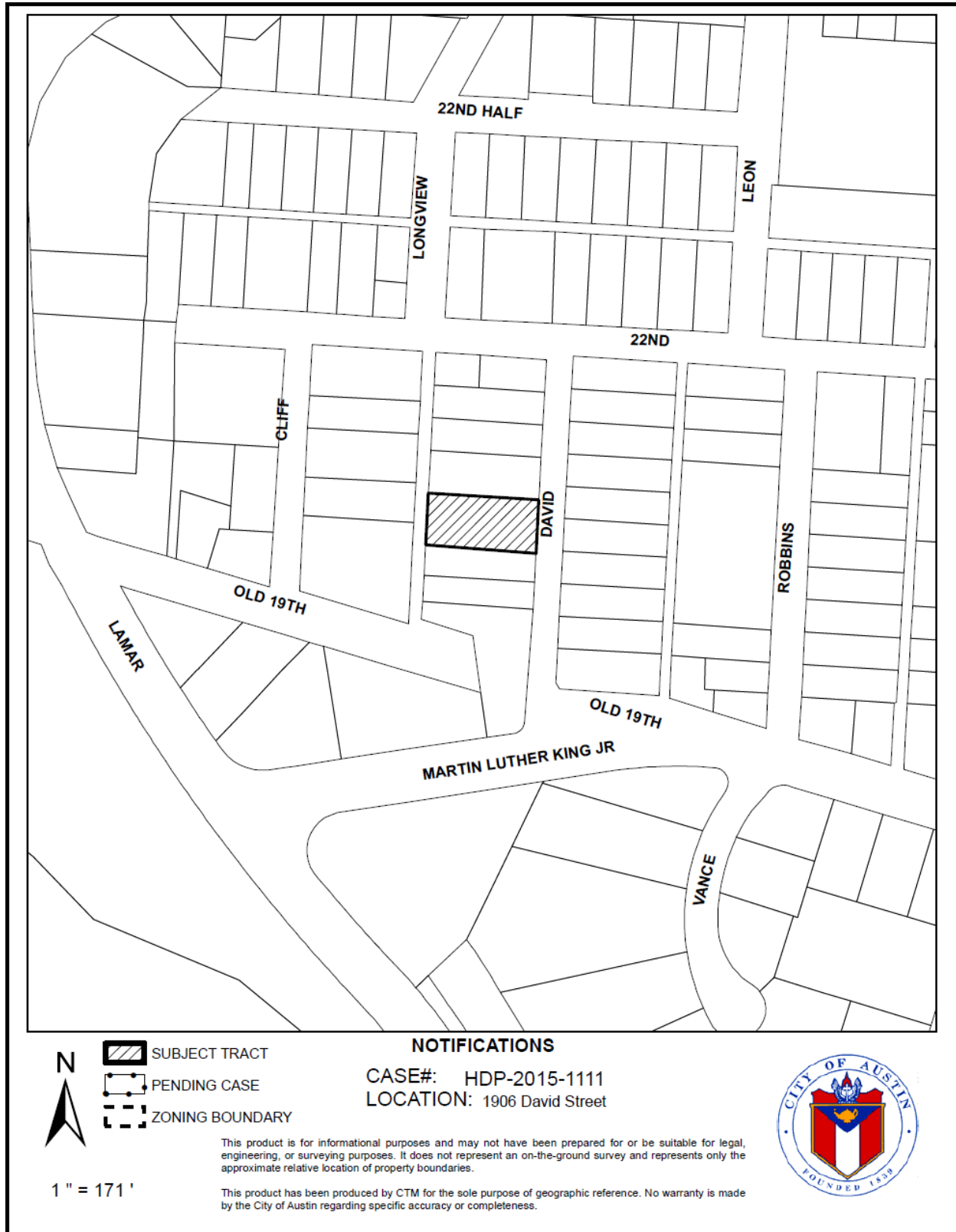
STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage the applicant to restore and adaptively re-use the existing house, which is an excellent example of International style housing on a relatively modest scale, and also has significant associations with Dr. E. Bagby Atwood, a renowned linguistics professor and scholar at the University of Texas. The house could qualify as a historic landmark for its architecture and its historical associations, and every effort to preserve and restore it should be considered before demolishing the house. If the Commission votes to release the demolition permit, then staff recommends that the applicant complete 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



1906 David Street
ca. 1948





OCCUPANCY HISTORY

1906 David Street

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

1992	John and Mitzi Reistroffer, renters Geologist
1985-86	Thomas A. and Jennifer Dietar, renters Rental manager, Gallagher Equipment, 11011 Research Boulevard.
1981	Mary B. Atwood, owner Retired
1977	Mary B. Atwood, owner Widow, E. Bagby Atwood Retired
1973	Mary B. Atwood, owner Widow, E. Bagby Atwood No occupation listed
1968	Mary B. Atwood, owner Widow, E. Bagby Atwood No occupation listed
1962	E. Bagby and Mary Atwood, owners

- Professor, University of Texas
- 1959 E. Bagby and Mary Atwood, owners
Professor, University of Texas
- 1955 E. Bagby and Mary B. Atwood, owners
Professor, University of Texas
- 1952 Elmer B. and Mary B. Atwood, owners
Associate professor, University of Texas
- 1949 Elmer B. and Mary B. Atwood, owners
Associate professor, University of Texas
- 1947 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: E. Bagby and Mary Atwood are listed at 3208½ Grandview Street; he
was a teacher at the University of Texas.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

E. Bagby and Mary B. Atwood (ca. 1948 – ca. 1983)

E. Bagby and Mary B. Atwood appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 307 E. 31 Street in Austin. E. Bagby Atwood was 39, had been born in Texas, and was an instructor at the state university. Mary B. Atwood was 41, had been born in Virginia, and was a substitute teacher in the public schools. They had a daughter, Alison Lee, 4, who had been born in California. The family had lived in Palo Alto, California in 1935.

Dr. Atwood Funeral Is Wednesday

Funeral services for Dr. E. Bagby Atwood, 57, professor of English at The University of Texas and renowned scholar of medieval literature and modern linguistics, will be held Wednesday at 3 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church.

The widely known professor and author died Sunday night of cancer at M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston. The body will remain at Weed-Corley Funeral Home until shortly before the church services.

Rev. Wayne W. Mahan will officiate. The body then will be taken to Abilene for graveside services Thursday at 10 a.m. at Elmwood Cemetery.

Dr. Atwood, who resided at 1906 David Street, is survived by his widow, daughter, Mrs. Alison Lee Dieter; brother, Lee Atwood, president and chairman of the board of North American Aviation; and two grandchildren.

Dr. Atwood, born in Yoakum, was reared in West Texas and New Mexico. He was educated at Wayland College in London, Philip University in Marburg, Germany, and the University of Virginia. In 1954-55, he was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Louvain in Belgium.

His career included gold mining in California, working as an American Red Cross field director with an infant division during World War II and teaching in Hawaii, British Columbia, California, Michigan and Texas.

His classes, favorites at the University since 1937, included phonetics, history of the English language, Old English, American English and dialectology.

Dr. Atwood's latest book, "The Regional Vocabulary of Texas," has been selected by the Austin chapter of Theta Sigma Phi as one of the best books written by a Texan this year. The book will be honored Oct. 19 at the annual Writers Roundup in Austin.

Obituary of E. Bagby Atwood
Austin American, October 8, 1963

IN MEMORIAMELMER BAGBY ATWOOD

In the death of Elmer Bagby Atwood on October 6, 1963, the University and the community experienced the kind of loss which is felt not only locally among family and friends, colleagues and students, but also among scholars throughout America and the world. During the career cut short last fall, Professor Atwood had distinguished himself first as a Mediaevalist, the discoverer of a neglected Latin account of the Trojan War, and then as the leading dialectologist of the Southwest. His interest in Texas speech did not, however, prevent him from contributing significantly to the dialectology of other regions such as Virginia, Belgium, and though his death prevented completion of the studies he had begun, Hawaii.

Professor Atwood was born in Yoakum, Texas, in 1906. While he was still quite young, his parents moved to El Paso, where he spent his boyhood. He never lost his feeling of intimate connection with the West Texas countryside. His father, Dr. E. B. Atwood, Sr., to whom he was deeply devoted, was a distinguished clergyman who founded the Baptist church of New Mexico and served for a time as president of Wayland College. The son received his B.A. from Hardin-Simmons at the age of twenty. He was married in 1933 to Mary Hamill Bell of Roanoke, Virginia, who survives him, together with a daughter, Mrs. John Dieter, of Houston, and two grandchildren.

Professor Atwood's graduate study was carried out primarily at the University of Virginia, where he held a DuPont Fellowship, and received his Ph.D. His dissertation on the Troy Story eventually reached publication as "The Rawlinson Excidium Troiae," edited jointly with Virgil Whitaker of Stanford. His study at Virginia was supplemented by study at the University of London and, after the Ph.D., Phillips-Universität in Marburg. It was at these universities that his interest in dialectology was awakened. He was highly skilled at languages, not only as a student and scholar but as a writer and speaker. He read far beyond the range of his special interests and had a copious and exceptionally accurate memory of what he read. His career outside the several institutions at which he studied and taught was varied and personally gratifying to him. At one time during the depression he lived for some months in the high Sierras of California and worked at gold mining--an experience he was fond of recalling, partly at least for a love of nature that those who did not know him well were not always aware of. After he and his family acquired their own home on David Street he became highly skilled at gardening, producing a variety of flowers, including prize specimens of hemerocallis. During World War II he volunteered for overseas service with the American Red Cross and spent considerable time in the European theatre as Field Director, seeing action and no little hardship during the "Battle of the Bulge" in the Ardennes section.

His teaching career began in Texas, continued in Hawaii, and after his doctorate included Stanford, The University of British Columbia, Texas Western, and The University of Texas, where he began as an instructor in 1937 and became a full professor in 1953. Among his noteworthy honors were a Fulbright Fellowship in Belgium in 1954-55, and an honorary degree

of Doctor of Letters from Hardin-Simmons. His published works included two books besides the Excidium Troiae already mentioned, A Survey of Verb Forms in the Eastern United States (1952) and The Regional Vocabulary of Texas (1962). Among his articles are the following:

- "Two Alterations of Virgil in Chaucer's Dido," Speculum XIII, 454-57.
- "Robert Mannyng's Version of the Troy Story," (Texas) Studies in English, 1938, 5-13.
- "The Youth of Paris in the Seige of Troye," (Texas) Studies in English, 1951, 7-23.
- "The Judgment of Paris in the Seige of Troye," PAMLA, LVII, 1942, 343-53.
- "The Pronunciation of 'Mrs.'," American Speech, 25, 1950.
- "Grease and Greasy, a Study of Geographical Variation," Studies in English, 1950, 29.
- "Some Eastern Virginia Pronunciation Features," English Studies in Honor of James Southall Wilson, Charlottesville, Va., 1951.
- "A Survey of English Since 1900," American Speech, 27, 1952.
- "A Preliminary Report on Texas Word Geography," Orbis, II, 1953, 61-66.
- "The Phonological Divisions of Belgo-Romance," Orbis, IV, 1955.
- "Le Problème Dialectal aux Etats-Unis," Bulletin de la Faculté des Lettres de Strasbourg, 1956.
- "Linguistic Geography in the United States," Proceedings and Transactions of the Fifth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, I, 1958.

"Lexical Usage in Southern Louisiana," (with Mima Babington), PADS,
36, 1961.

"The Methods of American Dialectology," (University of Marburg)
Journal of Dialectology, Wiesbaden, 30, 1963.

In preparing his studies of dialectology he developed a very successful machine-technique for the assembling, sorting, and printing of linguistic data, thus demonstrating his remarkable ability at keeping abreast of the most recent tendency in his chosen science, linguistics. In fact, the active and growing program in linguistics at Texas is, in large measure, a monument to his pioneering efforts in teaching and scholarship in this field.

His fellow members of the English budget council universally respected his hard sense and good judgment, displayed on numerous occasions; he was never reluctant to say, forcefully, what he felt was needed. He had a sharp wit that merged into the epigrammatic, and he deeply appreciated the humor others, especially his prime favorite James Thurber. His conversation was stimulating in its breadth and rewarding in its depth. With students he was unfailingly kind and courteous; graduate students worked especially hard for him not only through interest in what he taught but through a realization that he was working much harder than they. No one who served with him on a dissertation committee will forget the standard of excellence he set by his careful corrections and suggestions. Long after graduation his doctoral candidates continued to concern him and he undoubtedly had a decisive influence upon the careers of several.

As the concluding sentence to "The Methods of American Dialectology," published a few weeks after his death, Professor Atwood wrote: "The history of scholarship is to a considerable degree a history of patience, and of this quality the dialect scholar has need of more than his share." More than his share of patience, as a very distinguished dialect scholar, he had; but also a more than generous share of much else that will continue to be remembered and cherished by all who knew him.

Norman Hackerman
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Eugene W. Nelson
Secretary of the General Faculty

The resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors A. A. Hill, Chairman, Joseph J. Jones, Winfred P. Lehmann, and Joe West Neal.

Masonry residence and garage.

\$11,700.00

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Building permit to E. Bagby Atwood for the construction of this house (1948)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

No. 1565

INDEXED

Received of PLANCON INC.

Address 1906 DAVID ST.

Amount TWENTY AND 00/100 \$ 20.00

Plumber PORTER PLBG. CO.

Date 8-4-48

Size of Tap 3/4"

Description	Size	Fittings
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	4.5'	1 Curb Cock
From S- Prop. Line to Curb Cock	34'	1 Elbow
Location of Meter	CURB	1 St. Elbow
Type of Box	LOCK	1 Bushing
Depth of Main in St.	30"	1 Reducer
Depth of Service Line	2.5'	1 1/2" Pipe
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	13'	Lead Comp.
Checked by Engr. Dept.	9-3-48 RB	Nipples
		Union
		Plug
		Tee
		Stop
		Box
		Lid
		Valves
		Job No. 62-323
		Req. No. 502

1/2" Cop.

3/4" Reducer

1/2" Tee

1/2" Elbow

1/2" St. Elbow

1/2" Bushing

1/2" Reducer

1/2" Pipe

1/2" Tee

1/2" Elbow

1/2" St. Elbow

1/2" Bushing

1/2" Reducer

1/2" Pipe

1/2" Tee

1/2" Elbow

1/2" St. Elbow

1/2" Bushing

1/2" Reducer

1/2" Pipe

Water service permit to Plancon, Inc., the builder of this house (1948)