

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**MARCH 28, 2016**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2016-0086**  
**107 E. 31<sup>ST</sup> STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1923 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width front-gabled partially inset porch on plain, square wood posts and a non-historic railing; single and paired 1:1 fenestration.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1923, although there is a notation in the City utility records that the water service permit for this address was issued in 1925. The house has been a rental property for most of its existence. The first renters were Earl B. and Mabel Norwood, who moved into the house from their farm in Del Valle, Texas. Neither Earl nor Mabel Norwood had an occupation listed in the city directories while they lived in this house, but earlier records show that Earl was a farmer in Del Valle, and later went on to operate a chicken hatchery after moving from this house. The Norwoods lived here until around 1928, and moved back into the house in the early 1930s for a short period of time.

Oscar E. and Gladys Finlay rented the house around 1930; he was an electrical engineer for the State Board of Insurance Commissioners. The house was rented by a painter, George M. Carpenter, and his wife Henrietta, in the mid-1930s; then from around 1936 to around 1943, the house was rented by Irma Alves, the widow of a San Antonio bus driver, who moved to Austin around that time. She had no occupation listed in the city directories nor in the 1940 U.S. Census which shows her as the renter of this house. Her son, Howard, was a tutor at the University of Texas. She had a lodger, Lossie Berrey, who was a dressmaker. Irma Alves moved out of the house around 1943, and back to San Antonio.

The house had a series of renters from the 1940s through the 1960s, including a cashier at a school supply store on the drag, and a mechanic. After around the mid-1960s, students rented the house.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage adaptive re-use and preservation of the house if possible; while the front porch railing has been changed, the house appears to be remarkably intact and represents a classic, if not fancy, example of a working-class bungalow. If rehabilitation and adaptive re-use are not feasible, then staff must recommend 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. The house does not have the required historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

**NOTIFICATIONS**

CASE#: HDP-2016-0086  
107 E 31ST STREET



1" = 250'

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.

107 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
ca. 1923



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
107 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
March, 2016

1992	Vacant
1985-86	David S. Freeman, renter Student NOTE: The directory indicates that David S. Freeman was a new resident at this address.
1981	David S. Freeman, renter Student NOTE: The directory indicates that David S. Freeman was a new resident at this address.
1977	Scott Teachout, renter Student NOTE: The directory indicates that Scott Teachout was a new resident at this address.
1973	James P. and Shirley Weiler, renters President, Aardvark (not listed in the directory).

- 1968 James P. Weiler, renter  
Student
- 1962 James M. Hamilton, renter  
Mechanic, Texas National Guard
- 1959 James M. Hamilton, renter  
Mechanic, State Adjutant General's Office
- 1955 Barbara Miller, renter  
Analyst, Arthur Murray Studios, dance studio, 2116 Guadalupe Street.
- 1952 Arthur F. .and Marjorie Bayless, renters  
Cashier, Berkman's College Store, school supplies, 2234 Guadalupe Street.
- 1949 Jacob Bleymaier, owner  
Foreman, University of Texas  
Also listed is Katherine Bleymaier, a deputy in the County Clerk's office.
- 1947 Noble C. and Jean Forrester, renters  
Area superintendent, Group Hospital Service, Inc., 514 Capital National Bank Building, 114 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1944-45 Noble C. and Jean Forrester, renters  
Area manager, Group Hospital Service, Inc., 514 Capital National Bank Building, 114 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1941 Irma Alves, renter  
Widow, Emil Alves  
No occupation listed
- Lossie Berrey, renter  
Dressmaker (at the house)
- 1939 Irma Alves, renter  
Widow, Emil H. Alves  
No occupation listed  
Also listed is Howard A. Alves, a tutor at the University of Texas.
- 1937 Irma Alves, renter  
No occupation listed  
] Also listed is Howard Alves, a student at the University of Texas
- 1935 George M. and Henrietta Carpenter, renters  
Painter  
Also listed is George M. Carpenter, Jr., no occupation shown.
- 1932-33 E. Brooks and Mabel Norwood, renters  
No occupation listed  
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- 1930-31 Oscar E. and Gladys Finlay, renters  
Engineer, State Board of Insurance Commissioners

- 1929            Otto H. and Ruby Ridgeway, renters  
Rate inspector, State Fire Insurance Department
- 1927            Earl B. and Mabel Norwood, renters  
No occupation listed
- 1924            Earl B. and Mabel Norwood, renters  
No occupation listed
- 1922            The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Earl B. and Mabel Norwood are not listed in the directory.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

#### **Earl B. and Mabel Norwood (ca. 1923 – ca. 1928; ca. 1932 – ca. 1934))**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Earl B. and Mabel Norwood as the owners of the house at 931 E. 46<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin; the house was worth \$3,000. Earl B. Norwood was 54, had been born in Texas, and was the owner and manager of a chicken hatchery. Mabel Norwood was 54, had been born in Texas, and was the assistant at the chicken hatchery. They had a son, Earl B. Norwood, Jr., 21, who had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Brooks E. and Mabel Norwood as the renters of a house in El Paso County, Texas. Brooks E. Norwood was 44, and was a ginner at a cotton gin. Mabel Norwood was 44, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: David, 19; Eugenia P., 17; and Earl B., 11. All of the children had been born in Texas and none had an occupation listed.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows E.B. and Mable Norwood as the owners of the house at 4013 Avenue H in Austin. E.B. Norwood is listed as a farmer. Mable Norwood had no occupation listed. They had 4 children: Alice, 12; David, 9; Eugenia, 7; and E.B., Jr., 1.

His 1918 World War I draft registration card shows that Earl Brooks Norwood was living in Del Valle, Texas. He was born in 1885, and was a self-employed farmer. He was married to Mabel. He was 5' – 7" tall, had a medium build, blue eyes, and brown hair.

**MRS. MABEL HILL NORWOOD**

Mrs. Mabel Hill Norwood, 77, 5610 North Lamar Boulevard, died Saturday in Pascack Valley Hospital in Westwood, N. J. She was a lifetime resident of Austin and a longtime member of Shettles Memorial Methodist Church, Order of Eastern Star Loyalty Chapter No. 1036, Daughters of the Nile and the Katy Cabel Muse Chapter of United Daughters of Confederacy. Mrs. Norwood was one of the founders of the Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association.

Survivors include her husband, Earl B. Norwood Sr., of Austin; two sons, David D. Norwood of Austin and Earl B. Norwood Jr., of Westwood, N. J.; two daughters, Miss Alice Norwood of Austin and Mrs. Louis W. Lee of Waco; two sisters, Mrs. M. P. Halden of Austin and Mrs. Louise Sattler of Volente; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home Friday at 2 p.m. Rev. John Deschner will officiate with burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Obituary of Mabel Norwood  
Austin American, January 9, 1963

**MRS. MABEL HILL NORWOOD**

Funeral services for Mrs. Mabel Hill Norwood, 77, of 5610 North Lamar Boulevard, will be held at Weed-Corley Funeral Home Friday at 2 p.m. Rev. John Deschner will officiate with burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Leland Barclay, E. T. Hamilton, Sam Bennett, M. D. Stussey, Walter Cartwright and H. E. Eubank.

Funeral notice for Mabel Norwood  
Austin American, January 11, 1963

**EARL B. NORWOOD SR.**

Earl Brooks Norwood Sr., 87, of 5610 North Lamar Blvd., died in a local hospital Thursday evening. He had been a resident of Austin all his life and a charter member of the Shettles Memorial Methodist Church. Norwood was a member and oldest Past Master of Onion Creek Masonic Lodge No. 220 A.F. & A.M., a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Ben Hur Temple, Pioneer Dance Club and Early American Dance Club. He was one of the founders of the Texas Bird Breeders and Fanciers Association and Capital City Bird Club and numerous other civic and fraternal organizations. Norwood was preceded in death by his wife, the former Mabel Hill, and their son, David D. Norwood, both of Austin.

Survivors include two daughters, Miss Alice Norwood and Mrs. Eugenia Norwood Lee, both of Austin; a son, Earl Brooks Norwood Jr., of Westwood, N.J.; a sister, Mrs. Pearl Oatman of Austin; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. from the Weed-Corley Funeral Home with the Rev. William A. Triggs officiating. Burial under the auspices of Onion Creek Lodge No. 220 will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Chapel pallbearers will be grandsons, Earl B. Norwood III, Robert W. Lee, Charles F. Lee, David D. Norwood, Ronald B. Norwood and Gregory P. Norwood.

Masonic pallbearers will be Past Masters, E. D. Liesman, Emil Spillman, Raymond Tumey, Ted Myatt, Veris Smith and Gilbert Gallatin.

Obituary of Earl B. Norwood  
Austin American-Statesman, January 13, 1973

**Oscar E. and Gladys A. Finlay (ca. 1930 – ca. 1932)**

Oscar E. and Gladys A. Finlay appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renters of this house. Oscar E. Finlay was 37, had been born in Texas, and was an electrical engineer for the State Fire Insurance Board. Gladys A. Finlay was 36, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 sons: Oscar E., Jr., 3; and George B. 1.

**Irma Alves (ca. 1936 – ca. 1943)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Irma Alves as the renter of this house. She was a 49-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed. She had a lodger, Lossie Berrey, a 48-year old Texas-born divorcee who was a dressmaker at home. Lossie had lived in Hillsboro, Texas in 1935.

In 1930, according to the census report of that year, Emil H. and Irma E. Alves were the owners of a house in San Antonio. Both were 39 years old. Emil had been born in Texas and was a chauffeur for a bus company. Irma had no occupation listed. They had a son, Howard A. Alves, 13, who had been born in Texas; and a boarder, Walter Ebert, 24, who had been born in Texas and was a book-keeper at the Army Post Exchange.

Irma Alves died in San Antonio October 12, 1988, and is buried there.