

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 23, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0262
1922 E. 7TH STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1921 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, pyramidal-hipped roof frame cottage with a partial-width inset porch on ornamental metal supports; all window and door openings have been boarded up; synthetic siding.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1921. The first known occupants were John and Mattie Crenshaw, an African-American couple who lived here until around 1929. John Crenshaw worked at the Farmers and Ginners' Cotton Oil Mill on E. 6th Street. Mary (or Mattie) was a laundress for a private family. The Crenshaw family lived here until around 1929, when they moved to a house out on Decker Road in eastern Travis County, where John farmed. By 1940, John Crenshaw was living with his son, Tom, on the Travis-Bastrop County line. John Crenshaw was a 75-year old widower at that time; his son, Tom, was a farmer.

From around 1930 to around 1938, the house was owned and occupied by Robert and Annette Brooks, who had moved here from Corpus Christi. Robert Brooks was a truck driver. Annette Brooks died in 1935; she was working as a domestic at the time of her death. Robert Brooks moved to a house on Pennsylvania Avenue in Austin; he is listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as a farmer. He died at the age of 95 in 1973. His death certificate noted that he was a retired school crossing guard.

Joe and Lucy Messerole owned and occupied this house from the late 1930s until recently. Joe Messerole was raised by his mother in East Austin; she was half Italian and half Mexican. She worked at a confectionery. Joe Messerole was a mechanic and also a driver for the Railway Express Agency. After his death in 1961, Lucy Messerole continued to live in this house. She worked in a school cafeteria and as a cook and housekeeper at St. Patrick's and Cristo Rey Catholic churches. She passed away at the age of 102 in Austin in 2011.

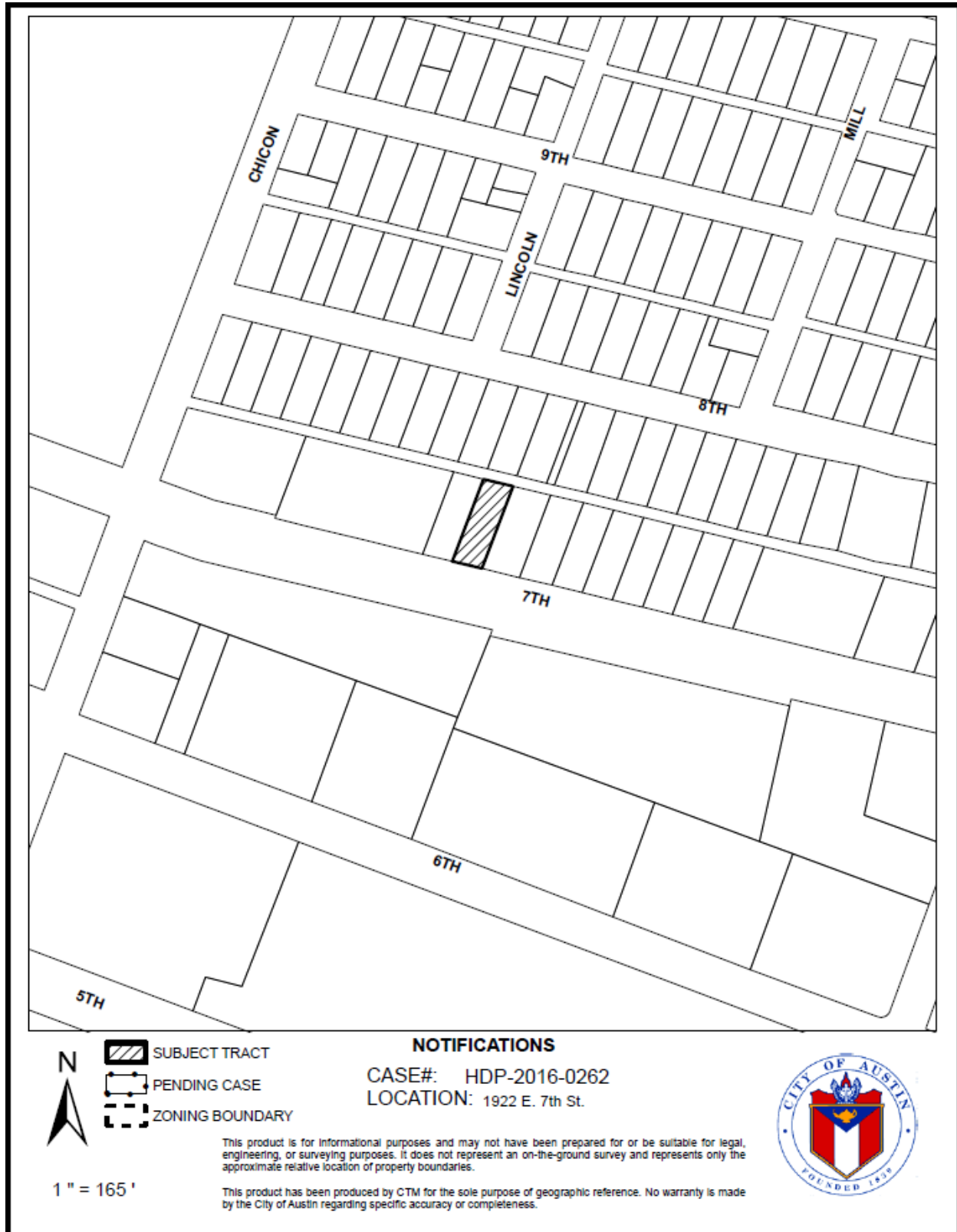
STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but with no priority for preservation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, but 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



1922 E. 7th Street
ca. 1921



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1922 E. 7th Street

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

1985-86	Lucy Meserole, renter Retired Also listed is Robert Meserole, a ceramic tile helper.
1981	Lucy Meserole, owner Retired Also listed is Robert J. Meserole, no occupation shown.
1977	Lucy Messerole, owner Widow, Joe Messerole Babysitter Also listed is Robert J. Messerole, no occupation shown.
1973	Lucy Messerole, owner Widow, Joe Messerole Babysitter Also listed is Robert J. Messerole, no occupation shown.
1968	Lucy Messerole, owner Widow, Joe Messerole

Retired

Also listed is Robert J. Messerole, a construction worker.

- 1962 Lucy Messerole, owner
NOTE: There is no listing for Lucy Messerole in the alphabetical section of the directory.
Also listed is Robert J. Messerole, no occupation shown.
- 1959 Joe and Lucy Messerole, owners
Driver, Railway Express Agency, 207 Colorado Street.
Also listed are Jimmie Messerole, no occupation shown; and Robert J. Messerole, no occupation shown.
- 1955 Joe and Lucy Messerole, owners
Clerk, Railway Express Agency, 111 E. 9th Street and 123 W. 3rd Street.
Also listed are Jimmy Messerole, no occupation shown; Robert Messerole, no occupation shown; and Virginia Messerole, a waitress at Wukasch Bros., 2002 Guadalupe Street.
- 1952 Joe and Lucille Messerole, owners
Foreman, Railway Express Agency, 111 E. 9th Street and 123 W. 3rd Street.
Also listed is Helen Messerole, no occupation shown.
- 1949 Joe and Lucy Messerole, owners
Mechanic
- 1947 Joe and Lucille Messerole, owners
Foreman, Railway Express Agency, 111 E. 9th Street and 123 W. 3rd Street.
Also listed is Robert J. Messerole, no occupation shown.
- 1944-45 Joe and Lucy Messerole, owners
Driver, Railway Express Agency, 111 E. 9th Street and 123 W. 3rd Street.
- 1941 Joe and Lucy Messerole, owners
Mechanic, Covert Auto Company, Buick automobiles and GMC trucks, 416-20 San Antonio Street.
- 1939 Joe and Lucy Messerole, owners
Mechanic, Covert Auto Company, Buick automobiles and GMC trucks, 416-20 San Antonio Street.
- 1937 Robert H. Brooks, owner
Truck driver
NOTE: Joe and Lucy Messerole are listed at 806 E. 8th Street. He was a mechanic for the Covert Auto Company, Buick automobiles and GMC trucks, 416-20 San Antonio Street.
- 1935 Robert and Annette Brooks, owners
No occupation listed
- 1932-33 Robert and Annette Brooks, owners
No occupation listed

- 1930-31 Robert and Annette Brooks (colored), owners
No occupation listed
- 1929 John Crenshaw (colored), renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: Robert and Annette Brooks are not listed in the directory.
- 1927 John and Mattie Crenshaw (colored), renters
No occupation listed
- 1924 John Crenshaw (colored), renter
No occupation listed
- 1922 John Crenshaw (colored), renter
Employed at the Farmers and Ginners Oil Mill, 2010 E. 6th Street.
- 1920 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: John and Mary Crenshaw are listed at 2102 E. 7th Street; he was a laborer.
- 1918 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: The house at 2102 E. 7th Street is listed as vacant; John Crenshaw is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

John Crenshaw (ca. 1921 – ca. 1929)

The 1920 U.S. Census shows John and Mary Crenshaw at 2102 E. 7th Street. John Crenshaw was 57. Had been born in the United States, and was a general laborer. Mary Crenshaw was 52, had been born in Arkansas, and was a laundress for a family. Also in the household were Mary Crenshaw's daughters, Harriet Sanders, 40, who had been born in Texas, and was a laundress for a family; Alma Moore, 13, who had been born in Texas; Blumie Moore, 17, who had been born in Texas; and Velma Moore, 16, who had been born in Texas. None of Mary Crenshaw's younger daughters had an occupation listed. Mary Crenshaw's mother, Amina Marshall, also lived in the house. She was a 72-year old Mississippi-born widow with no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows John Crenshaw living in a house he owned on Decker Road in Travis County. He was a 60-year old widower who had been born in Texas and was a farmer. With him lived his son, Tom Crenshaw, 27, who had been born in Texas and was a farm laborer, and Tom's wife, Blumie, 28, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. There was also a grandson listed in the census report: John T. Walker, 5, who had been born in Texas.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows John Crenshaw living with his son, Tom, and Tom's wife Blumie in a rented house on the Travis and Bastrop County line. John Crenshaw was a 75-year old Texas-born widower with no occupation listed. Tom Crenshaw was 35, had been born in Texas, and was a farmer. Blumie Crenshaw was 30, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had lived in rural Travis County in 1935.

Robert and Annette Brooks (ca. 1930 – ca. 1938)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Robert and Annette Brooks living in rented house in Corpus Christi, Texas. Robert Brooks was 49, had been born in Texas, and was a truck driver. Annette Brooks was 46, had been born in Texas, and was a housewife. They had no children listed with them.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Robert and Annette Brooks living in a rented house on the Bishop and Ringo Ranch Road in Nueces County, Texas. Robert Brooks was a 42-year old Texas-born mulatto, who worked as a farmer on a general farm.. Annette Brooks was a 40-year old Texas-born mulatto with no occupation listed. They had 5 children: Goldie, 20; Robert, 19; Davis, 18; Alfreda, 12; and C.J., 8. All the children had been born in Texas. With them also lived a son-in-law, Sherman Overton, 23; and his daughter, Gladys M. Overton, 1. Sherman Overton had been born in Texas and was a farm laborer.

Her 1935 death certificate shows that Annette Brooks was living in this house at the time of her death. She was born December 7, 1880 in Cedar Creek, Texas, and worked as a domestic. Her husband was Robert Brooks.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Robert Brooks as a 62-year old widower living in a rented house at 2007 Pennsylvania Avenue in Austin. He was born in Texas and was a farmer. With him lived Shelley Davis, 48, a Texas-born African-American construction laborer.

Robert Brooks died in August, 1973 in Austin. He was living at 3005 E. 17th Street but died at the Four Seasons Nursing Home on Real Street. He was born in Cedar Creek, Texas, and was a retired school crossing guard. He was 95. There does not appear to be an obituary in the Austin newspapers.

Joe and Lucy Meserole (ca. 1938 - 2011)

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Joe Meserole as the 11-year old son of Clotida Meserole, who rented her house at 903 E. 6th Street in Austin. She was a 30-year old divorcee who had been born in Texas to an Italian-born father and a Mexican-born mother. She worked as a saleslady in a confectionery. Joe was the oldest of Clotida's 3 children, and all the children had been born in Texas. The Meseroles also had 2 roomers: Edd Strifas, 38, who had been born in Greece, who was a waiter in a cafe; and Frank Rabaglio, 45, who had been born in Italy, and was a boilermaker for the railroad.

Joe Messerole's 1961 death certificate shows that he was living in this house at the time of his death. He was a clerk-driver for Railway Express. He was born in Austin.

JOE MESSEROLE

Joe Messerole of 1922 East Seventh Street died in a local hospital Tuesday. He was a member of Cristo Rey Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lucy Messerole- four daughters, Mrs. Helen Childress, Mrs. Virginia Lewis and Miss Mary Theresa Messerole, all of Austin, and Mrs. Ann Serna of Albuquerque, N.M.; two sons, Robert Messerole of Austin and Jimmy Messerole of San Antonio; his father, Arthur Messerole Sr., of Austin; a sister, Mrs. Mary Delrio of Austin; a brother, Arthur Messerole Sr., of Austin and 10 grandchildren.

Rosary was said Tuesday evening at the Cook Funeral Home. Requiem mass will be offered Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the Cristo Rey Catholic Church with the Rev. Frank Briganti officiating.

Pallbearers will be Harold E. Carlson, J. Warren Nolen, Ernest Joseph, Dave Buratti, Charles Avent and Paul Lewis.

Obituary of Joe Messerole
Austin American, September 20, 1961

Lucy Rossi Meserole

Lucy Rossi Meserole, of Austin passed away on July 11, 2011 at the age of 102.

Born on July 23, 1908 in Austin, Texas to Aplo Zito and Virginia Rossi, Lucy had been a resident of Austin her entire life.

She married Joe Meserole on March 17, 1928 and they had eight children. When Joe died of cancer in September 1961, she got a job working in a public school cafeteria and at St. Patrick's and Christ the King Catholic Churches as cook and housekeeper.

Lucy was active in the Salvation Army Home League and the Altar and Rosary Society at church.

She is preceded in death by her husband of thirty-three years, Joe Meserole; infant son, Jimmy Louis; infant daughter, Mary Teresa; daughter, Virginia Lucille Lewis of San Angelo, Texas.

She is survived by her sons, Robert Joe of Austin, Texas, Jimmy Arthur of Lago Vista, Texas; her daughters, Helen Marie Helm of Elgin, Texas, Josephine Ann Serna of Battle Mountain, Nevada, and Mary Theresa Gray of Austin, Texas. She is also survived by thirteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; and eighteen great-great-grandchildren.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home at 2620 South Congress Avenue, Austin. Graveside Services will be held at Mt. Calvary Cemetery on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Contributions to the Salvation Army in remembrance of Lucy would be appreciated.

Memorials and guestbook online at www.wcfish.com

Obituary of Lucy Messerole
Austin American-Statesman, July 13, 2011

OWNER	Lucy Meserole	ADDRESS	1922 E. 7th St
PLAT	29	LOT	2
			BLK.
SUBDIVISION	XXXXXXXX Oil Mill Addn		
OCCUPANCY			
BLDG. PERMIT #	180062	DATE	3-12-79
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	3,000.00
CONTRACTOR	M R	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	
Remodel and repair exist. res.			

Building permit to Lucy Messerole for remodeling and repairs (1979)