

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
MAY 23, 2016  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2016-0222  
1602 GARDEN STREET**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1925 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular—plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width inset porch on ornamental metal supports; single and paired 1:1 and 2:2 fenestration.

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**RESEARCH**

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There is a water service permit listed in city records for this address dating from 1925, but the permit itself no longer exists. City directories begin to list this address in 1927, indicating a 1925 construction date. The first owners and occupants were Howard R. and Lee Nora Bible, who lived here until around 1930. Howard Bible was a cement finisher.

The house was rented in the 1930s; Walter and Gladys Grumbles rented the house in 1930-31; he was a driver at the Norwood Motoramp, the parking garage for the Norwood Building at 7<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets. Beginning around 1932, the house was rented to Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen, who lived here until around 1942. Rennie Allen was an ice cream maker for Meyer's Creamery.

From around 1946 until around 1961, the house was rented by Lonnie and Edith Light. Lonnie Light grew up in the home of his grandparents in rural Travis County. For the time that he and Edith lived in this house, Lonnie Light was a truck driver and a construction worker; his later employment was with concrete companies. He and Edith eventually moved to Dallas, where they divorced in 1974. Lonnie Light remarried in 1995 at the age of 70 and lived out his later years in Mabank, Texas. Edith Light died in Austin in 1993.

From the early 1960s through the late 1980s, the house was owned and occupied by members of the Vera family. Celestino and Antonia Vera are listed as the owners of the house in the 1962 city directory; he was a cook at Seton Hospital. Their son, Paul, and his wife, Mary, are listed as the owners of the house from the mid-1960s through the mid-1980s. Paul Vera was an auto mechanic.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is not listed in any City survey.

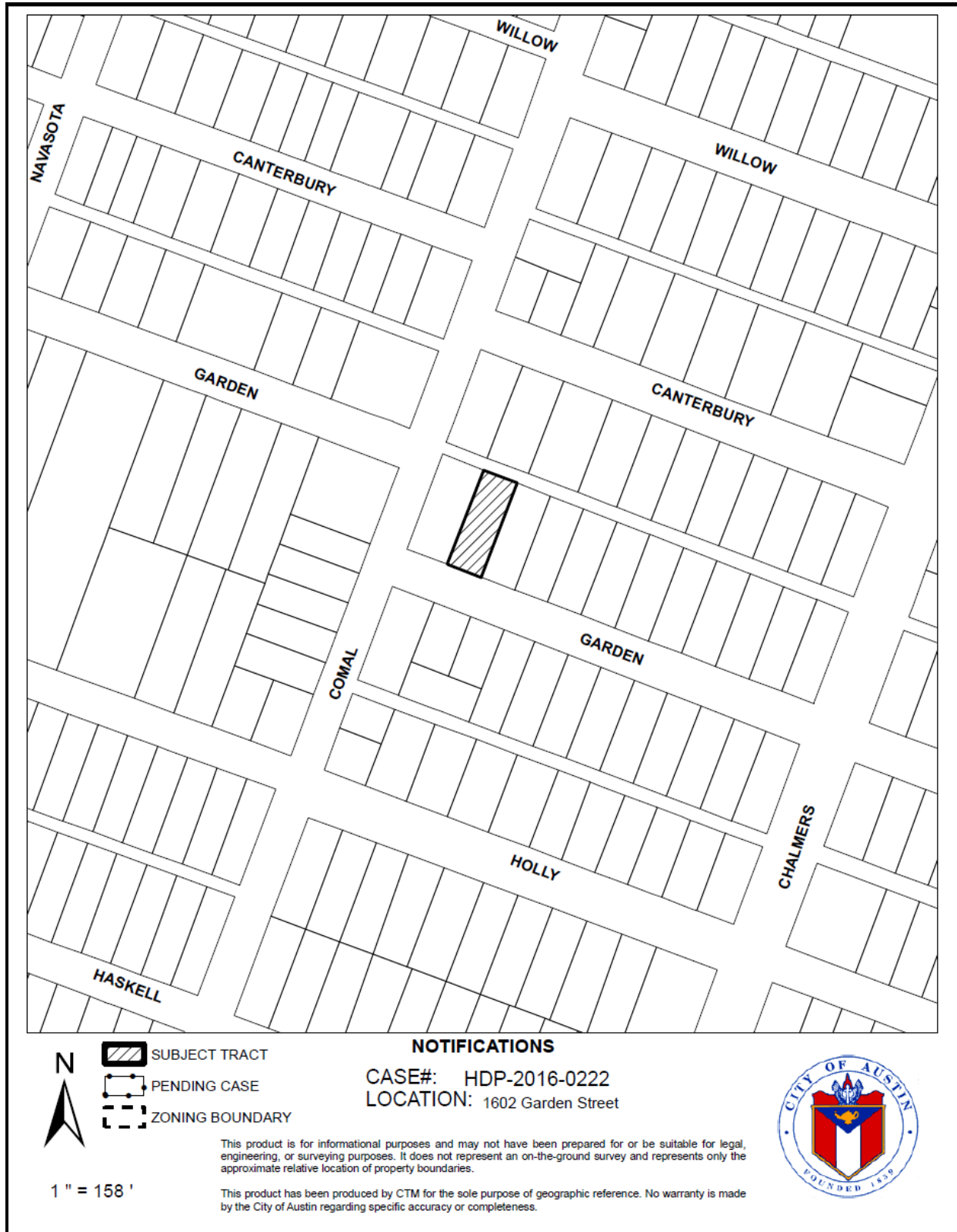
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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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. The house has neither the architectural nor the historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

## LOCATION MAP



1602 Garden Street  
ca. 1925



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1602 Garden Street

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

1992	Refugio Garza, owner No occupation listed
1985-86	Paul Vera, owner No occupation listed
1981	Paul and Mary Vera, owners Mechanic, Southside Motors, used cars, 2617 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street.
1977	Paul and Mary Vera, owners Mechanic, Southside Motors, used cars, 2617 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street.
1973	Paul and Mary Vera (not listed as owners) Mechanic, Southside Motors, used cars, 2617 S. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street.
1968	Paul and Mary Vera, renters Mechanic, Bob Miller Volkswagen, 6111 E. U.S. Highway 290.
1962	Celestino and Vera Vera, owners Cook, Seton Hospital

NOTE: Paul and Mary Vera are listed at 2410 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; he was a cutter for Wesley Pearson, seat covers, 313 S. Congress Avenue and 3800 S. Congress Avenue.

- 1959 Lonnie and Edith Light, owners  
Driver, Trans Mix Concrete, 816 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Celestino and Antonia Vera are listed at 710 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a cook at Seton Hospital.
- 1955 Lonnie B. and Eddie Light, owners  
Construction worker, Capital Ready Mix Concrete (not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory).
- 1952 Lonnie B. and Edith E. Light, owners  
Lonnie: Driver, Central Freight Lines, 1002 Springdale Road.  
Edith: Waitress, Shanty BBQ, 510 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
- 1949 Robert and Edith Cloud, owners  
Painter  
NOTE: Lonnie B. Light is not listed in the directory.
- 1947 Lonnie B. and Eddie Light, owners  
Driver, City of Austin
- 1944-45 Vacant
- 1941 Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen, renters  
Ice cream maker, Meyer's Creamery, 308-10 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1939 Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen, renters  
Operator, Meyer's Creamery, 308-10 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1937 Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen, renters  
Ice cream maker, Meyer's Creamery, 308-10 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1935 Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen, renters  
Employed by Meyer's Creamery, 308-10 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1932-33 Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen, renters  
Employed by Meyer's Creamery, 308-10 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1930-31 Walter E. and Gladys Grumbles, renters  
Driver, Norwood Motoramp, 7<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets.  
NOTE: Rennie L. and Edith Allen are listed at 304 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a freezerman at Meyer's Creamery, 308-10 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Howard and Lenora Bible are listed at 215 W. Houston Street; he was a carpenter.
- 1929 Howard R. and Lenora Bible, owners  
Cement finisher
- 1927 Howard R. and Lenora Bible, owners  
Cement finisher

1924

The address is not listed in the directory.

NOTE: Howard R. and Lenora Bible are listed at 1607 Canterbury Street; he was a cement finisher. 1607 Canterbury Street was the home of his parents.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Howard R. and Lee Nora Bible (ca. 1925 – ca. 1930)**

Howard and Lee Nora Bible appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$2,500. Howard Bible was 28, had been born in Texas to Tennessee-born parents, and was a cement finisher for a contractor. Lee Nora Bible was 26, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 daughters: Mary F. Bible, 3; and Mildred A. Bible, 1. Both girls had been born in Texas.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Howard Bible as the 18-year old son of Isaac R. and Lou Bible, who lived at 1005 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin. Howard Bible is listed as a cement laborer; his father was a carpenter.

**BIBLE, Howard, 78, 7525 Grover Ave., died Monday. Services 1 p.m. today at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Burial, Capital Memorial Park.**

Death notice for Howard R. Bible  
Austin American-Statesman, June 25, 1980

### **Lee Nora Bible**

**Lee Nora Bible, age 88, of Austin, died Wednesday, August 12, 1992.**

**She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Mary and Jack Alexander and Mildred and Rip Fulkes; seven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.**

**Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM Saturday, in the Weed-Corley Chapel with Reverend G. Wayne Schwitz officiating. Burial will be in Capital Memorial Gardens.**

**Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar. 452-8811.**

Obituary of Lee Nora Bible  
Austin American-Statesman, August 14, 1992

**Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen (ca. 1932 – ca. 1942)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Rennie L. and Edythe M. Allen as the renters of this house. Rennie L. Allen was 36, had been born in Texas, and worked in the freezer of a creamery. Edythe M. Allen was 34, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Rennie L. and Edith M. Allen living in a rented house on Route 8 in Travis County. Rennie L. Allen was a 26-year old laborer at a creamery. Edith M. Allen had no occupation listed.

**Rennie Lee Allen**

**Rennie Lee Allen, age 85, of Austin, passed away Saturday.**

**He lived all his life in Austin.**

**Preceded in death by his wife of more than 50 years, Boaty Allen in 1984.**

**Survivors include sisters, Mildred Gunn of Austin, Marion Elizabeth Hibbs of Bastrop; eight nieces and nephews.**

**Funeral services will be 10:00 AM, Tuesday at Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home, with Reverend Charles Stewart officiating. Burial, Haynie Chapel Cemetery.**

**Services under the direction of Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home.**

Obituary of Rennie L. Allen  
Austin American-Statesman, August 30, 1988

**Lonnie and Edith Light (ca. 1946 – ca. 1961)**

Lonnie Light is listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as an inmate at the Waco State Home for Boys. He was 15, had been born in Texas, and was living in rural Travis County in 1935.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows L.B. Light as the 5-year old grandson of Anthony B. and Luda J. Brooks, who lived in a rented house in rural Travis County. Anthony B. Brooks was a farm laborer.

Lonnie B. Light and Edith E. Light were married January 5, 1945 and divorced March 6, 1974 in Dallas, Texas. At the time of their divorce, Lonnie B. Light was 49; Edith E. Light was 63. Lonnie B. Light was Edith's 4<sup>th</sup> husband. She had previously been married to his brother, Leland Light, an ironworker who was killed in an accident in Houston in 1944. Lonnie Light's father, a retired stove repairman also named Lonnie Light, passed away in 1972. His obituary referenced Lonnie B. Light as his only surviving son who lived in Dallas.

Lonnie B. Light re-married in 1995 at the age of 70. He lived out his later years in Mabank, Texas.

**LIGHT, Edith, 83, of Austin died  
Wednesday. Services 4 p.m. Saturday,  
Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar loca-  
tion. Burial Austin Memorial Park.**

Death notice for Edith Light  
Austin American-Statesman, September 3, 1993

**Celestino and Antonia Vera; Paul and Mary Vera (ca. 1961 – ca. 1990)**

Paul M. and Mary E. Vera were married in January, 1962 and divorced in April, 1981 in Travis County.



**Paul M. Vera, Sr.**

Mr. Paul M. Vera, Sr., beloved father, grandfather, husband and brother, was called home to his eternal rest Friday, July 23, 1999.

He was born to Celestino Vera and Juanita Torres on September 24, 1944, in Austin, Texas.

He is survived by Mary Gonzales, mother of his children, sons, Paul M. Vera, Jr., John A. Vera and wife Rosanne, David A. Vera and wife Bertha; daughter, Deborah A. Vera, twelve grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; father, Celestino Vera; sisters, Rosa Lee Torres, Mary Lee Torres, Dolores Veliz, Irene Danenhower; brothers, Willie Torres, Frank Torres, Henry Torres, Michael Ramos, Joe Ramos; one brother, and numerous sisters in Avenal, California. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and cousins.

Serving as pallbearers will be his ~~brothers and friend, Lomas Sinalatan~~.

Special thanks to Garden Terrace and Hospice of Austin.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, at the funeral home. Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday at the funeral home. A prayer service will be held after the rosary. Funeral service will be at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, at the Angel Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Assumption Cemetery.

May he rest in peace, and he will be greatly missed.

Arrangements by Angel Funeral Home, 1600 S. First St., Austin, TX (512) 441-9738

Obituary of Paul Vera  
Austin American-Statesman, July 26, 1999



Mrs.        "Light"        -1602 Garden Street  
 20        47        5        19        0

Riverside

Box addition to residence

26963 - 4/13/45        \$577.00

L. E. Watts

None

4-26-73 135760 Celestino Vera Remodel existing res.  
 and frame acc. bldg. (garage) 352 sq.ft.

Building permit to Mrs. Lonnie Light for an addition (1945) and to Celestino Vera to remodel the house (1973)

NOTE: City records indicate the issuance of a water service permit for this address in 1925, but the permit itself no longer exists.