

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**MAY 23, 2016**  
**PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**  
**NRD-2016-0045**  
**1101 LORRAIN STREET**  
**WEST LINE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Construct a second-story addition on top of the existing one-story house; construct a one-story rear addition.

**PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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The applicant proposes the construction of a second-story addition to the existing ca. 1939 cottage and the construction of a one-story rear addition to the house. The appearance of the house will change dramatically with the conversion of the one-story street façade to a two-story house. The proposed new construction will have board-and-batten siding, a metal roof, and a full-width front porch with a gable above the front door. Nothing referring to the existing architecture of the house will be retained in this project. The ca. 1951 garage apartment will be re-faced with board-and-batten siding, but will retain its appearance otherwise.

**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1939 by W.H. Ragsdale as a rental property, which it was until around 1948. The early tenants were a policy auditor for the State Board of Insurance Commissioners, a serviceman in the U.S. Army, and a UT student. Lee and Golden Anderson are listed as the owners of the house in the 1949 city directory; he was the manager of an HEB grocery store. The house was again a rental property in the early to mid-1950s, and was then purchased by Mary E. Ownsby, a public school teacher at Travis High School. Mary Ownsby did not marry, and leased out the ca. 1951 garage apartment. Her tenants included teachers, students, a musician, a serviceman in the Air Force, and an accountant for the State Insurance Board. Mary Ownsby lived here until she moved into a nursing facility in the late 1990s.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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Both the house and the garage apartment are contributing to the West Line National Register Historic District.

**STANDARDS FOR REVIEW**

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The West Line National Register Historic District has no design guidelines for additions to contributing buildings. General design principles for additions to contributing buildings address the size, scale, materials, and fenestration pattern on the addition being compatible with the house and other contributing houses within the district, and discourage converting a one-story house into a two-story house, or modifying the front façade of a contributing house.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage the applicant to seriously re-consider the design for this “addition” so that the existing house remains articulated to a much higher extent. Staff wonders why this is not an application for total demolition of the existing house, as this proposal will render it unrecognizable, and remove a contributing house from the district. Retaining the front of the house and constructing the addition to the rear would have a much less serious effect on the identification of this house as contributing to the historic district – this proposal will even change the siding on the house from horizontal to vertical board-and-batten. Staff

recommends the completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package prior to release of the permit.

LOCATION MAP



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

**NOTIFICATIONS**  
 CASE#: NRD-2016-0045  
 1101 LORRAIN STREET



1" = 333'

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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1101 Lorrain Street  
ca. 1939



Garage apartment, ca. 1951

## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1101 Lorrain Street

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

1992	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Retired
1985-86	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Retired B: Susan B. Farrar, renter Teaching assistant, University of Texas
1981	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Teacher, public schools B: Mary L. Pendergrass, renter Student
1977	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Teacher, public schools B: William R. and Dianne Nadeau, renters Musician
1973	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Teacher, public schools Rear: Mrs. B.A. Overbeck, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Mrs. B.A. Overbeck was a new resident at this address.
1968	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Teacher, public schools Rear: Larry W. and Dianne Skeen, renters U.S. Air Force
1965	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Teacher, public schools Rear: Grace Lewis, renter Teacher, public schools
1962	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Teacher, William B. Travis High School Rear: Lillian D. Barr, renter Accountant, State Insurance Board
1959	Mary E. Ownsby, owner Teacher, Travis High School Rear: Harry and Zantha B. Bush, renters U.S. Air Force
1955	Howard and Nancy Bell, renters Howard: Student

Nancy: Student

NOTE: Mary E. Ownsby is listed at 701-A Oakland Avenue; she was a public school teacher.

NOTE: There is no listing for a rear apartment.

- 1952      Cyrus N. Griffin, renter  
Executive secretary, Texas Council of Carpenters
- 1949      Lee H. and Golden Anderson, owners  
Manager, H-E-B Food Store (multiple locations)
- 1947      William A. and Tommie Bryans, owners  
Student, University of Texas
- 1944-45   Frank L. and Gloria Brown, renters  
U.S. Army
- 1941      Herman and Margaret Kuhlmann, renters  
Policy auditor, State Board of Insurance Commissioners  
NOTE: The house is listed as 1101 Nathan Street.
- 1940      Vacant  
NOTE: Herman and Margaret Kuhlmann are not listed in the directory.
- 1939      The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Herman and Margaret Kuhlmann are not listed in the directory.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

#### **Mary E. Ownsby (ca. 1958 – ca. 2000)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Mary E. Ownsby as the renter of an apartment at 408-C W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. She was 26, had been born in Texas, and was a public school teacher. She had a female partner, Nealie Bob Hampton, 25, who had been born in Texas and was a stenographer for a printing establishment.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Mary E. Ownsby as the 16-year old daughter of W. Stone and Sadie L. Ownsby of Cleburne, Texas. Mary's father was as public school teacher.



### **Mary Elizabeth Ownsby**

Mary Elizabeth Ownsby, age 86, of Austin, died Friday, February 11, 2000.

Mary E. Ownsby was born June 11, 1913, and grew up in Cleburne, Texas. She moved to Austin in 1930 to attend the University of Texas. There she received her M.S. and went directly to work for the Austin Independent School District, serving first at University Junior High School, then Allen Junior High School and finally at Travis High School. Mary was at Travis from the day it opened in 1963 until she retired in 1983. She continued to volunteer at Travis for several more years after she retired. Mary was the consummate educator; you could take Mary out of the school, but you could never take the love of teaching out of Mary. Her 50 years of service to the young people of Austin have left her with an endearing and enduring legacy. She was loved by her students and her students meant the world to her.

Austin services for Mary Ownsby will be held at the Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 15, 2000. A graveside service will be held later that day at 3:30 p.m. in Cleburne, Texas, at the Rose Hill Cemetery.

It is regrettable that in the last years of her life our memory of Mary far outlived her memory of all those who cared about her and whom she loved so much. Such was the nature of the cruel illness that took her from us.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider a contribution to the Alzheimer Research Foundation of America.

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

Obituary of Mary E. Ownsby  
Austin American-Statesman, February 13, 2000

