

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 22, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0431
1615 S. 2ND STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1925 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a partial-width, shed-roofed independent porch, now enclosed as a front room; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1925 but was vacant until around 1928, when it was rented by Herman and Lucille White. Neither Herman nor Lucille White had an occupation listed in the city directories, and they lived here with Katie White, a widow, who also had no occupation listed. Katie White is listed as the renter of this house from the late 1920s until around 1946. She did not list an occupation in the city directories, but census reports show that she was a washerwoman for private families. Her daughter, Roberta Harris, who lived here with her mother for many years, took over the occupancy of the house from around 1950 to around 1970. Roberta Harris was a teacher at Kealing Junior High School, then worked as a maid in her later years.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a 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. The house, while having associations with the African-American settlement in South Austin, has been greatly modified over the years and no longer retains its integrity of materials or design.

LOCATION MAP



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2016-0431
LOCATION: 1615 S. 2nd Street



1" = 121'

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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1615 S. 2nd Street
ca. 1925



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1615 S. 2nd Street

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

1992	No return
1985-86	George Shugart, owner Retired NOTE: The directory indicates that George Shugart was a new resident at this address.
1981	Willie Cavin, owner No occupation listed NOTE: The directory indicates that Willie Cavin was a new resident at this address.
1977	Roy and Vera Correo, renters Construction worker NOTE: The directory indicates that Roy and Vera Correo were new residents at this address.
1973	Vacant
1968	Roberta Harris, renter Retired

1965	Roberta Harris, renter No occupation listed
1962	Roberta Harris, renter No occupation listed
1959	Roberta Harris, renter Maid
1955	Roberta Harris, renter No occupation listed
1952	Roberta Harris, renter Maid
1949	Fannie L. Scott, renter Teacher NOTE: Roberta Harris is listed as a teacher at Kealing Junior High School but had no address listed in the directory.
1947	Vacant
1944-45	Katie White, renter No occupation listed
1941	Katie White, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2 nd Street.
1939	Katie White, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2 nd Street.
1937	Katie White, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2 nd Street.
1935	Katie White, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2 nd Street.
1932-33	Katie White, renter No occupation listed NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2 nd Street.
1930-31	Katie White (colored), renter No occupation listed. NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2 nd Street.
1929	Herman and Lucille White (colored), renters No occupation listed Also listed is Katie White, no occupation shown.

NOTE: Katie White was the mother of Sadie Battle, who lived next door at 1617 S. 2nd Street.

NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2nd Street.

1927

Vacant

NOTE: Herman, Lucille, and Katie White are not listed in the directory.

NOTE: The house is listed as 1609 S. 2nd Street.

1924

The address is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Katie White (ca. 1928 – ca. 1946)

The 1940 U.S. Census lists Katie White as the renter of this house. She was a 73-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed. With her lived her daughter, Roberta Sorrells, a 56-year old Texas-born widow who worked as a cook for a private family, and two grandchildren: Johnny White, 12, and Thurlow White, 11.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Katie White as the renter of this house. She was a 59-year old Texas-born widow who worked as a laundress for a private family. With her lived her daughter, Roberta Sorrells, 39, a divorced baby nurse for a private family. The household also included two grand-children, Katherine Alexander, 15; and Hubert White, 23, who had been born in Texas and worked odd jobs.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Katie White living with Melvin and Sadie Battle (who later bought the house next door at 1617 S. 2nd Street) on a farm on the Austin-Lockhart Road. Katie White is listed as a washerwoman. She was Sadie Battle's mother.

Katie White was the mother of Roberta Harris, who lived here from around 1950 to around 1970. Katie White's maiden name was Sneed.

Roberta Harris (ca. 1950 – ca. 1970)

According to her 1974 death certificate, Roberta Harris was born in 1895 in Texas, and was living at 1300 Greenwood Avenue at the time of her death. She was a widow who worked as a domestic in private homes. See above for census report information, where she is listed with her mother, Katie White.

HARRIS, Mrs. Roberta,
88, 1300 Greenwood, died
Wednesday. Services at 3 p.m.
Sunday, Goodwill Baptist
Church. (Fuller-Sheffield)

Obituary of Roberta Harris
 Austin American-Statesman, April 11, 1974