

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 22, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0484
2011 CHESTNUT AVENUE**

PROPOSAL

Relocate a ca. 1938 house to Taylor, Texas.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled, stone-veneered house with an integral one-car garage and a partial-width shed-roofed entry hood on plain metal posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

There is a building permit and utility records for a frame house at this address built by Robert Johnson in the fall of 1938; he and his wife, Margaret are listed as the owners of this house in the 1940 city directory, where he is listed as a contractor. In 1940, the house was being rented by Lottie Womack, who appears in both city directories and the census report of that year. She had no occupation listed in the city directories but the census report shows her as a widow who worked as a cook in a boarding house. Another widow, Lillie Morrison, rented the house in the mid-1940s, and then it was purchased by Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden, who are listed as the owners and occupants in the 1947 city directory. Adolphus D. Holden was the district superintendent of the Austin Methodist Church, and had previously lived on San Bernard Street. Prior to that, they had lived in El Paso, Texas. They rented the house out in the late 1940s, and after Adolphus' death in 1951, Bernice Holden moved back into this house, staying until around 1960. She is listed variously as a matron at Samuel Huston College, a teacher at a business college, and an office secretary at Huston-Tillotson College. After she moved out of this house, it was rented by the Rev. Carlos T. and Zora V. Ollison, who lived here until around 1963. Rev. Ollison was the pastor at Friendly Will Baptist Church in South Austin. Around 1963, the Rev. Owen S. Davis and his wife, Cecilia, moved to Austin to take over the pastorship of the Ulit Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, a position he held until his retirement 40 years later in 2003.

According to Pastor Wright, the current pastor of the Greater Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, Rev. Davis was a missionary who brought several families from Africa to Austin and adopted a baby girl from Africa as his own. Like other African-American pastors in the city, Rev. Davis likely held prayer meetings and other social functions at this house.

STAFF COMMENTS

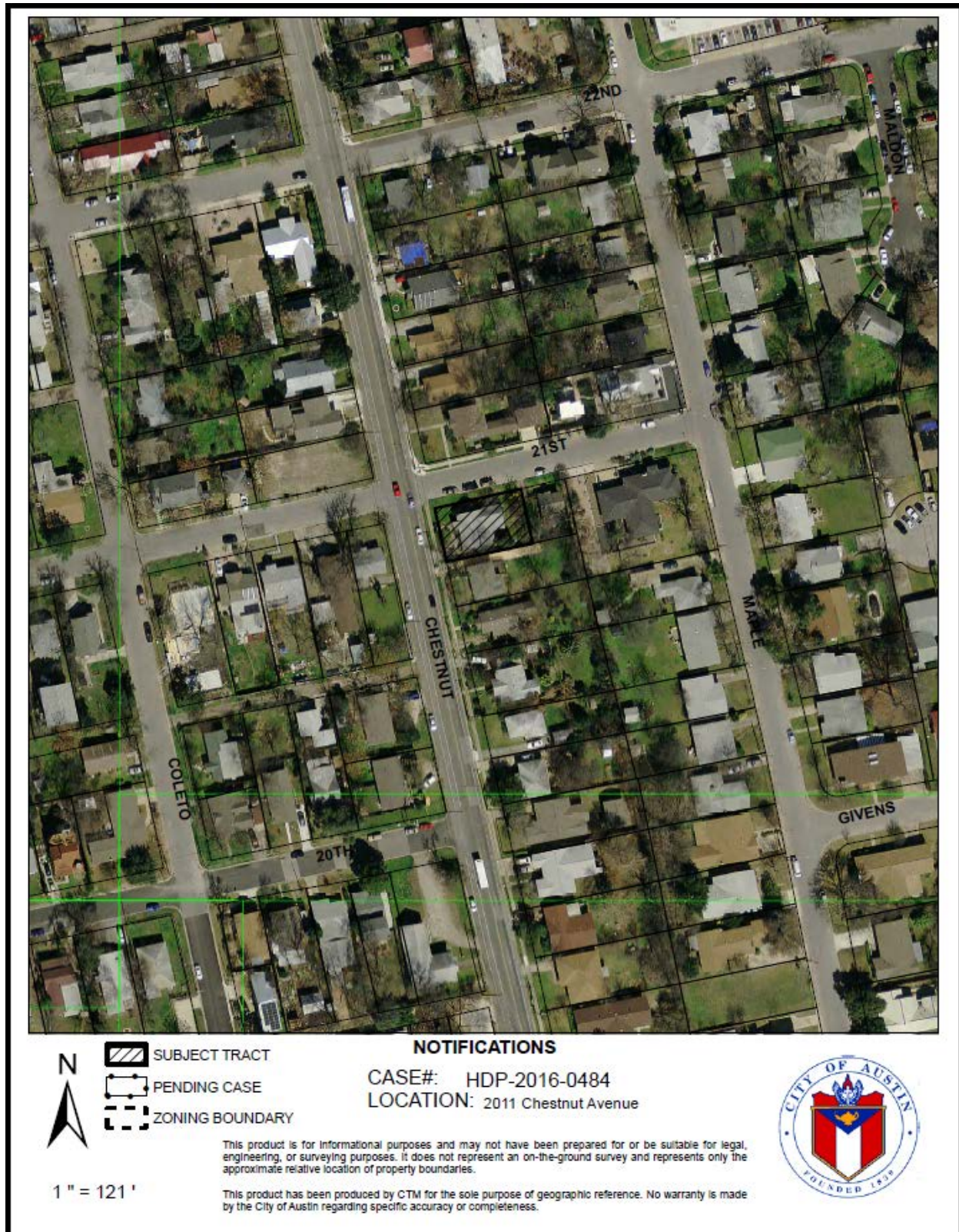
The house is not listed in any City survey to date.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Initiate historic zoning, or postpone to allow more time to evaluate information concerning the Holdens and Rev. Davis' role as the leader of an African-American church in Austin in the mid-1960s. This may be too important a building to consider removal without all available information concerning the occupants. If the Commission votes to release the permit, then staff recommends the 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



2011 Chestnut Avenue
ca. 1938



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
2011 Chestnut Avenue

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

| | |
|---------|---|
| 1992 | Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue. |
| 1985-86 | Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue. |
| 1981 | Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue. |
| 1977 | Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue. |
| 1973 | Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue. |
| 1968 | Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue. |

- 1965 Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis, owners
Pastor, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.
- 1962 Rev. Carlos T. and Zora V. Ollison, renters
Pastor, Friendly Will Baptist Church, 414 W. Johanna Street.
Also listed is Carlos T. Ollison, Jr., a delivery man for L. East Produce, wholesale Poultry, 706 E. 8th Street.
NOTE: Rev. Owen S. and Cecelia Davis are not listed in the directory.
- 1959 Bernice S. Holden, owner
Office secretary, Huston-Tillotson College
NOTE: Rev. Carlos T. and Zora V. Ollison are listed at 604 W. Annie Street; he was the pastor of Friendly Will Baptist Church, 414 W. Johanna Street.
- 1955 Bernice S. Holden, owner
Teacher, Business College (no listing in the alphabetical section of the directory).
- 1952 Bernice S. Holden, owner
Widow, Adolphus D. Holden
Matron, Samuel Huston College
- 1949 James W. and Florine Earls, renters
Presser, Brown's Cleaners, 1710 E. 12th Street.
NOTE: Bernice Holden is not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory.
- 1947 Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden, owners
District superintendent, Austin Methodist Church
- 1944-45 Lillie Morrison, renter
Widow, T.A. Morrison
No occupation listed
NOTE: Rev. Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden are listed at 1152 San Bernard Street; neither had an occupation shown.
- 1941 Lottie Womack, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The 1942 El Paso city directory shows A.D. and Bernice Holden living in that city. Neither had an occupation listed.
- 1940 Robert S. and Margaret Johnson, owners
Contractor
NOTE: Lottie Womack is not listed in the alphabetical section of the directory.
- 1939 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: There is a listing for a Lottie M. Womack in the directory. She was a maid at the Aljo Beauty School and lived at 1615 E. 5th Street.
NOTE: There does not seem to be a listing for Robert S. and Margaret Johnson in the directory. None of the listings are for a Robert S. Johnson, none have a wife named Margaret, and none are listed as a contractor.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**Lottie Womack (c. 1940 – ca. 1942)**

Lottie Womack appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the renter of this house. She was a 33-year old Texas-born widow who worked as a cook in a boarding house. She had no children listed with her. She was white.

Adolphus D. and Bernice Holden (ca. 1946 – ca. 1960)

Adolphus Holden appears in the 1910 U.S. Census as the 19-year old son of Joseph H. and Jannetia Holden, who owned their own farm in Medina County, Texas. Adolphus Holden was born in Texas and is listed as being at school. His father, Joseph H. Holden was 61, had been born in Louisiana, and is listed as a farmer. His mother, Jannetia Holden, was 51, had been born in Texas to Mississippi-born parents, and had no occupation listed. Adolphus had 2 older brothers: Thomas S., 21, who is listed as being at school; and Aaron C. Holden, 20, who was an odd job laborer. The Holdens also had 6 younger children: Emmitt, 16, a farm worker; Art, 15, a farm worker; Frank S., 13; Robert H., 11; Leola, 8; and Lee Ella, 5. In addition, Joseph Holden's half brother, Thomas Brown, 65, lived in the household. He was born in Louisiana, and was a farm laborer.

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that Adolphus Holden was living on E. 12th Street (no house number given) in Austin. He was born in Alton, Texas, and was a laborer at Sam Huston College. He was single.

The 1932 Fort Worth city directory shows Rev. Adolphus Holden as the pastor of Cowan's Chapel M.E. Church in that city. He did not have a wife listed in the directory.

Adolphus Holden died February 23, 1951 at the VA Center in Temple Texas. He was born in 1891 in Texas, and was a minister. He was buried in Hondo, Texas. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.

Rev. Owen and Cecilia Davis (ca. 1964 – ca. 2004)

DAVIS, Cecelia, 84, of Austin died Sunday. Services 11 a.m. Saturday, Ulit Avenue Baptist Church. Burial Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville. Arrangements by King-Tears.

Death notice for Cecelia Davis
Austin American-Statesman, March 6, 2002



Cecelia Davis

Cecelia Davis, 84, was born April 27, 1917, and died March 3, 2002.

There will be a viewing at King-Tears Mortuary, 1300 E. 12th Street on Friday, March 8, 2002, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 9, 2002, at Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue, in Austin.

She leaves to mourn her husband of 62 years, the Reverend O. S. Davis; two sisters, three children, seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Obituary of Cecelia Davis
Austin American-Statesman, March 8, 2002

DAVIS, O.S., 89, of Austin died Wednesday. Services 11 a.m. Thursday, St. John Tabernacle. Burial Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville. Arrangements by King-Tears.

Death notice for Rev. Owen S. Davis
Austin American-Statesman, March 21, 2004



Rev. O. S. Davis

On the 14th day of February 1915, in the Pleasant Spring Community of Centerville, Texas, Hayward and Mary Hannah Davis were blessed with twin boys, Oven and Erven Steen.

Oven Steen accepted his calling to the ministry at age 16. From the time of his calling into the ministry until 1963, Rev. Davis was the Pastor of several churches throughout the state of Texas. In 1949, under the National Baptist General Convention Rev. Davis accepted the call to go to Africa as a Missionary. On February 3, 1963, he became the pastor of Ulit Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. His tenure as the Pastor lasted 40 years. As his health began to fail, Rev. Davis entered into retirement on February 2, 2003.

He leaves to cherish memory two sons, O.S. Jr. and wife, Polly of Farmington, New Mexico, and Jessie Davis of Austin; one daughter, Julia Henderson of Austin; other relatives and friends.

Wake service, Wednesday, March 24, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at Ulit Avenue Baptist Church, 1804 Ulit Avenue.

Funeral service will be held Thursday, March 25th 11:00 a.m. at St. John Regular Baptist Association, 7501 Blessing Avenue, Austin, TX. Interment Cook Walden Capital Parks.

King Tears Mortuary, Inc.

Obituary of Rev. Owen S. Davis
Austin American-Statesman, March 24, 2004

Robt. Johnson

2011 Chestnut Ave.

247

-

1

3

-

- Sunrise

Frame residence.

245n - 10/18/33

3

Building permit to Robert Johnson for this house (1938)

Connection Charge \$ #544 14896A
 Application for Sewer Connection. 3722
 NW/II Austin, Texas, 10/12 1938
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
 City of Austin, Texas
 Sir:—
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions
 on premises owned by Robert Johnson
 at 2303 E 21st Street,
 further described as lot 6, block 6, outlet 46,
 subdivision C.R. Johns, division B, plat 42,
 which is to be used as a Res
 In this place there are to be installed Coc fixtures.
 —I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance
 charge.
 5th DEEP Respectfully, R.W. Lippell
AT - P L for B. Lippell
 Stub Out
 Connected 10-18 193 d Permit Pl
 Size of Main 8 inches.
 Size of Service 4 inches. OK, 10-14-38
13 Feet Deep in ST LB
34 Feet from Property Line
 Feet from Curb Line Con 35' 8"
 Inspected by B. Lippell of 21 PL
 Connection made by Hurry PA 1121
10375 1150

Sewer connection application by Robert Johnson for this address (1938)

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| OWNER | O.S. Davis | ADDRESS | 2011 Chestnut Ave. |
| PLAT | 247 | LOT | 3 |
| | | BLK. | 1 |
| SUBDIVISION | C.R. Johns | | |
| OCCUPANCY | Addn to den | | |
| BLDG. PERMIT # | 185131 | DATE | 8-27-79 |
| | | OWNERS ESTIMATE | 3,000.00 |
| CONTRACTOR | Same | NO. OF FIXTURES | |
| WATER TAP REC# | | SEWER TAP REC# | |
| Remodel & addn to exist res. | | | |

Building permit to Rev. Owen S. Davis to construct an addition (1979)



The old Ulit Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, where Rev. Owen S. Davis preached while living in this house.