

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 22, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0489
1913 RIO GRANDE STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1923 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, hipped- and gabled-roofed frame house with an exterior brick chimney piercing the front-facing gable to the left of the principal entry; multi-light casement windows.

RESEARCH

The house was built in the winter of 1922-1923. Rebecca Schofield, a widow, lived here from around 1923 to around 1930, when she married Thomas Nelson, a prominent Williamson County banker, and moved there. Rebecca Schofield had a dramatic arts school here in the house.

Arno and La Verne Nowotny rented the house in the early 1930s while he was a student at the University of Texas. LaVerne Nowotny was a dramatic supervisor for the City Recreation Department. Prominent educator Henry F. Alves, and his wife Ruby, rented the house in the mid-1930s; at the time that Alves lived here, he was the director of the Research Division of the State Department of Education.

A widow, Mattie C. Pleasant, is listed as the owner and occupant of the house in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The house was vacant after Mattie Pleasant's death in 1944; then purchased by Hubert and Helen C. Fewell around 1948. The Fewells lived here until the late 1950s, when Helen passed away. Hubert Fewell was an engineer at IBM; Helen Fewell was an accountant and book-keeper.

In the early 1960s, the house was the home of the Brick Row Book Shop, operated by Franklin Gilliam, who also lived here. He operated the book shop until the late 1960s.; The house then became a rental property, with students as tenants. An exception was in the late 1970s, when Yosef Loschak and his wife Devorah, are listed as the owners of the house. He was the rabbi at Chabad House, the Jewish campus cultural center, on Nueces Street.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This has always been one of the more architecturally colorful houses in West Campus, and staff is loathe to recommend its demolition, but it does not appear to meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark. Staff recommends rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release of 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



1913 Rio Grande Street
ca. 1923





OCCUPANCY HISTORY

A. 1913 Rio Grande Street

From City Directories
 Austin History Center
 Prepared by City Historic Preservation Office
 July, 2016

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1992 | <p>A: Pat Robertson, renter
 No occupation listed
 NOTE: The directory indicates that Pat Robertson was a new resident at this address.</p> <p>B: Amanda M. Adams, renter
 Student
 NOTE: The directory indicates that Amanda M. Adams was a new resident at this address.</p> |
| 1985-86 | <p>A: Ann M. Small, owner
 No occupation listed</p> <p>B: John Branch, renter
 Student
 NOTE: The directory indicates that John Branch was a new resident at this address.</p> |
| 1981 | <p>A: Lora C. Lynch, owner
 Student</p> <p>B: Vacant</p> |

1977 Rev. Yosef and Devorah Loschak, owners
 Pastor, Chabad House, 2101 Nueces Street.
 NOTE: The directory indicates that Yosef and Devorah Loschak were new residents at this address.

1973 Karl and Susan Conard, renters
 Student

1970 Karl and Susan Conard, renters
 Student

1968 Brick Row Book Shop
 Franklin Gilliam, proprietor
 NOTE: Franklin Gilliam also resided on the premises.

1965 Brick Row Book Shop
 Franklin Gilliam, proprietor
 NOTE: Franklin Gilliam also resided on the premises.

1962 Brick Row Book Shop
 Franklin Gilliam, proprietor
 NOTE: Franklin Gilliam also resided on the premises.

1960 W.O. and Z. Vivian Warren, owners
 No occupation listed
 NOTE: Franklin Gilliam is listed at 1705 Enfield Road; his Brick Row Book Shop was located at 2330 Guadalupe Street.

1959 Vacant

1957 Hubert L. and Helen C. Fewell, owners
 Hubert: Salesman, IBM
 Helen: Book-keeper

1955 Hubert L. and Helen Fewell, owners
 Hubert: Engineer, IBM
 Helen: Accountant, Western Republic Life Insurance Company,
 1410 Rio Grande Street.

1952 Hubert L. and Helen Fewell, owners
 Hubert: Engineer, IBM
 Helen: Book-keeper, Seton Hospital

1949 Hubert L. and Helen Fewell, owners
 Hubert: Mechanic, IBM
 Helen: Stenographer, University of Texas

1947 Samuel G. and Eula B. Cook, owners
 No occupation listed

NOTE: Hubert and Helen Fewell are listed at 2406 Sharon Lane; he was a customer engineer at IBM; she had no occupation shown.

1944-45	Vacant
1941	Mattie C. Pleasant, owner Widow, Buford Pleasant No occupation listed
1940	Mrs. Mattie C. Pleasant, owner Widow, Buford Pleasant No occupation listed
1937	Herbert T. and Ione Brewster, renters No occupation listed
1935	Henry F. and Ruby Alves, renters Director, Research Division, State Department of Education
1932-33	Arno and La Verne Nowotny, renters Arno: Student, University of Texas La Verne: Dramatic supervisor, City Recreation Department
1930-31	Thomas E. and Rebecca Nelson, owners Secretary-Treasurer, Wilcox-Nelson Company, coffee roasters, 410 E. 3 rd Street
1929	Mrs. Rebecca Y. Schofield, owner Widow, John M. Schofield Director, Speech Arts Institute (at the house) NOTE: Thomas E. Nelson is listed as the secretary-treasurer of Wilcox-Nelson Company. He lived at Round Rock, Texas.
1927	Mrs. Rebecca Y. Schofield, owner Widow, John Schofield Dramatic arts teacher (at the house)
1924	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Mrs. Schofield is listed as living at 1004 Lavaca Street. She had no occupation shown.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Rebecca Schofield (ca. 1925 – ca. 1930)

Thomas E. and Rebecca Schofield Nelson (ca. 1929 – ca. 1930)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Thomas E. and Rebecca Y. Nelson living in Round Rock, Texas, in a house they owned which was worth \$20,000. Thomas E. Nelson was 42, had been born in Texas to Swedish-born parents, and was the president of a bank. Rebecca Y. Nelson was 33, had been born in Texas, and was a teacher of expression. With them lived Thomas' brother, Carl A. Nelson, 54, who had been born in Texas, and

was a capitalist in loans and investments; and a cousin, Nora Anderson, 53, who had been born in Texas, and was a housekeeper for a private family.

Rebecca Y. Nelson appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the wife of Thomas E. Nelson of Round Rock, Texas. They Nelsons owned their home, which was worth \$15,000. Thomas E. Nelson was 52, had been born in Texas, and was the president of a commercial bank. Rebecca Nelson was 43, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed,. They had a son, Thomas E. Nelson, 4, who had been born in Texas. With them lived Rebecca's mother Loula Young, a 78-year old Texas born widow with no occupation listed. The household also included a nurse, Pauline Gustafson, 28, who had been born in Texas; and a maid, Rosalie Klingsporn, 23, who had been born in Texas, and had lived in Carmine, Texas in 1935.

Rebecca Nelson

**Mrs. T.E. (Rebecca)
Nelson, Sr., age 86, died
Monday.**

Mrs. Nelson was the widow of Thomas Edward Nelson, a member of a pioneer Texas family and founder of the Farmers State Bank in Round Rock. She was founder and a charter member of the Altrusa Club, a member of the Settlement Club, member of Austin Symphony Society Board; advisory board of Austin Heritage Society and Austin Salvation Army.

She is survived by her son, Tom E. Nelson, Jr. of Austin and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 4:00 PM Wednesday.

Palm Valley Lutheran Church, Round Rock, with Pastor Oliver Berglund and Reverend Samuel N. Baxter officiating. Burial in Palm Valley Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Settlement Club or the Salvation Army.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

Obituary of Rebecca Scholfield Nelson
Austin American-Statesman, May 25, 1983

Arno and La Verne Nowotny (ca. 1931 – ca. 1934)

His 1918 World War I draft registration card shows that Arno Nowotny was born in 1899 and was living in Bartlett, Texas. He was a student at the University of Texas. He was of short height, medium build, and had brown hair and eyes.

Arno and La Verne Nowotny appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renters of the house at 707 W. 24th Street in Austin. Arno Nowotny was 30, had been born in Texas, and was faculty at the university. La Verne Nowotny was 25, had been born in Kansas, and worked for the city recreation department. They had no children listed with them.

His 1982 death certificate shows that Arno Nowotny was born in Texas in 1899 and was living at Westminster Manor at the time of his death. He was the dean of student life at the University of Texas.

NOWOTNY, Arno, 82, 4100 Jackson Ave., died Friday. Services 3 p.m. Sunday at University Presbyterian Church. Burial, Austin Memorial Park. Memorial contributions requested. Survivors: wife, La Verne Stugard Nowotny of Austin; daughter, Mrs. C. Robert Richardson of Alpine; brother, Monroe Nowotny of San Antonio; sister, Mrs. A.R. Reeves of San Antonio; four grandchildren. (Weed-Corley)

Obituary of Arno Nowotny
Austin American-Statesman, April 10, 1982

Henry and Ruby Alves (ca. 1934 – ca. 1936)

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows Henry Fred Alves was living in San Antonio where he was a school teacher in Alamo Heights for the Bexar County Public Schools. He had been born in New Braunfels and was single. He was of medium height and build, had brown eyes and dark hair.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Henry and Ruby Alves living on the campus of the West Texas Military Academy in Bexar County, Texas. Henry Alves was 25. Ruby Alves was 25. Both had been born in Texas, and both were listed as teachers at the military academy.

Henry and Ruby Alves were listed in the 1930 U.S. Census for New York City, where they lived in an apartment on W. 122nd Street in Manhattan. Henry Alves was 36, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Ruby Alves was 37, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Virginia, 5, who had been born in Texas.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Henry F. and Ruby I. Alves living in a rented house in Washington, D.C. Henry F. Alves was 45, had been born in Texas, and was doing research for the Federal Security Agency of Education. Ruby I. Alves was 46, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 daughters: Mary V., 15; and Anne Beth, 8. Both girls had been born in Texas. The family had lived in Austin in 1935. They had a roomer, Alice W. Skidmore, a 23-year old D.C-born divorcee who had lived in Hyattsville, Maryland in 1935, and who worked as a telephone solicitor for the business census.

His 1969 death certificate shows that Henry Fred Alves was living at 3411 Bonnie Road in Austin at the time of his death. He was born in 1894 in new Braunfels, Texas, and was an educator.



HENRY F. ALVES
Former educator dies

H. F. Alves

Succumbs

In Austin

Henry Fred Alves, former chief of division of state school of the US Office of Education, who devoted his life to education, died Wednesday in a local hospital.

Alves, 74, of 3411 Bonnie Road, held the post with the Office of Education, now known as the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, for 15 years.

A resident of Austin since 1926, he was on the College Board of Examiners. He was with the Texas State Department of Education for nine years as state director of finance and research; the Kellogg Foundation for five years as director of their five-state project; and the Southwestern Cooperative Administration.

Alves had been professor of educational administration at the University of Texas and was teacher and principal at various elementary and high schools. For several years he was superintendent of the Alamo Heights Schools.

After service as a field artillery lieutenant in World War I, Alves served as a military academy headmaster for one year.

He was a 1927 graduate of Southwest Texas State Teachers College and received his Master of Arts degree from UT in 1928.

Funeral is pending at Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Ruby Alves of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Horace Busby of Washington, D.C. and Mrs. Wallace Douglas Friese of Colorado Springs, Colo.; one sister, Mrs. Paul Bogalecki of San Antonio; one nephew, Howard Alves of Evanston, Ill.; and seven grandchildren.

Obituary of Henry F. Alves
Austin American, July 10, 1969

HENRY F. ALVES

Funeral for Henry F. Alves, 75, of 3411 Bonnie Road, will be at Weed-Corley Funeral Home Friday at 4 p.m. Dr. Bill Glover will officiate and burial will be in Memorial Hill Mausoleum under auspices of Hill City Lodge No. 456 AF & AM.

A dedicated educator, he died Wednesday in an Austin hospital.

Pallbearers will be Dr. William Barron, Dr. Willand Bessent, Dr. Bascom Hayes, Dr. Kenneth McIntyre, Dr. John Rodgers and Dr. Mike Thomas.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. Howard Dawson, Dr. Glenn Featherston, Dr. Fred Beach, Washington, D.C., Dr. J. W. Edgar, Dr. Irby Carruth, Dr. L. D. Haskew, Dr. Ben F. Pittenger and Dr. C. C. Colvert.

Funeral notice for Henry F. Alves
Austin American, July 11, 1969

Mattie Pleasant (ca. 1938 – ca. 1944)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Mattie Pleasant as the owner of this house, which was worth \$6,000. She was a 73-year old Alabama-born widow with no occupation listed. She lived alone.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Mattie Pleasant as the renter of an apartment at 1914 Nueces Street in Austin. She was a 62-year old Alabama-born widow who was the proprietor of a rooming house. With her lived her brother, Talmer J. Collins, 60, a widower who had been born in Mississippi and was a watchman at a state institution.

Her 1944 death certificate shows that Mattie Catherine Pleasant was living in this house at the time of her death. She was born in Mississippi, and was a widow. Her occupation was listed as retired.

MRS. M. C. PLEASANT

Mrs. Mattie Catherine Pleasant, 72, died in a local hospital Monday. She had been a resident of Austin for the past 22 years and a member of the Methodist church.

Survivors are one daughter, Mrs. Raymond Beteta of Mexico City; two sisters, Mrs. W. F. Gibbs of Three Rivers, and Mrs. John L. Wrenn of Maybank; and one brother, O. H. Collins of Austin.

Funeral services will be held at the Cook Funeral home at 2 p. m. Tuesday with Dr. Edmund Hainsohn officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood cemetery. Pallbearers will be Dr. C. W. Hackett, Wiley E. Glaze, Richard W. Gibb, Oscar Wrenn, Sterling Tadlock and H. M. Hewatt.

Obituary of Mattie Pleasant
Austin American, February 29, 1944

Hubert and Helen C. Fewell (ca. 1948 – ca. 1958)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Hubert and Helen Fewell as the renters of the house at 2820 Salado Street in Austin. Hubert Fewell was 38, had been born in Texas, and was a stationary engineer at a local hospital. Helen Fewell was 39, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 4 daughters: Nell, 11; Mary M., 8; Rosalie, 6; and Jo Ann, 3. All the girls had been born in Texas. The family had lived in Deming, New Mexico in 1935.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Hubert L. and Helen C. Fewell living on the campus of the Holy Cross Sanitarium in Deming, New Mexico, with their daughter Nell, 1. All had been born in Texas. Hubert Fewell is listed as an engineer. Helen had no occupation listed.

Her 1958 death certificate shows that Helen Cecelia Fewell was living in this house at the time of her death. She was born in 1900 in Texas, and was a housewife.

MRS. HELEN FEWELL

Mrs. Helen Cecelia Kavanagh Fewell, 1913 Rio Grande, died in a local hospital Thursday morning. She had been a longtime resident of Austin and was a member of St. Austin's Catholic Church.

Survivors are her husband, Hubert Lee Fewell, four daughters, Mrs. R. G. Strake, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Roland Harrison, Bartlesville, Okla.; Mrs. D. S. Tramonte, Austin, and Miss Jo Ann Fewell, Austin; nine sisters, Miss Ann Kavanagh, Miss Agnes Kavanagh, Miss Margaret Kavanagh, Austin; Mrs. O. S. Victory, Mrs. Edgar Holden, Austin; Sister Patrick O. P., Sister Amata, O.P., Sister Gabriel Dolores, C.S.C and Sister Rosalina, C.S.C.

A rosary service will be held at 7:30 p. m. Friday at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Mass will be said at 9 a. m. Saturday at St. Austin's Catholic Church. Father John J. Stanley, C.S.C. will officiate and burial will be in Assumption Cemetery.

Obituary of Helen Fewell
Austin American, June 13, 1958

Hubert L. Fewell

Hubert L. Fewell, 83, of Austin died Thursday.

He is survived by his wife, Lucy Fewell of Austin; daughters Mrs. Nell Strake of Manchester, Missouri, Mrs. Mary Margaret Harrison of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Mrs. Rosalee Tramonete of Galveston; sister, Mrs. Oleta Dahbour of Washington, D.C.; 21 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 3:00 PM, Saturday at the Assumption Mausoleum Chapel with Father Louis Wazniack officiating. Interment in Assumption Cemetery.

Arrangments by hyltin-Manor Funeral Chapel, 3000 N. Interregional at 30th., 476-5387.

Obituary of Hubert L. Fewell
Austin American-Statesman, November 16, 1985

5956

Receipt No. Application for Sewer Connection No. 37993

Austin, Texas, 11-4 1922

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by _____ at 1911 Rio Grande Street, further described as Lot 50' of 2 Block _____ Outlot _____ Division _____ subdivision _____ Plat _____, which is to be used as a _____

In this place there are to be installed _____ fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. _____

I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.

Depth at Prop. Line _____ Respectfully,

Stub Out } _____ W. S. Dinkham
Connected } (Location)

Date _____

By _____

NOTE: Connection Instruction 8" Lines in Alley, A 654

Sewer connection application for this address (1922)