

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 22, 2016
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2016-0522
2205 TOWNES LANE**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1948 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story (with exposed basement garage) L-plan house with a combination of wood siding and stone veneer; single and paired 6:6 windows in the main portion of the house; single, multi-light casement windows above the 2-bay garage.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1948 by Robert Murry Allen, who with his wife, Rosalee, lived here until around 1957. Robert Murry Allen worked for the Steck Company, a local printing and bookbinding firm, first as the city sales manager then as a department manager.

Around 1957, the house was purchased by Ivan C. Belknap and his wife, Louella, who lived here for the rest of their lives. Ivan C. Belknap was a professor of sociology, and later chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use; this house is one of only a handful of split-level houses in Austin, 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.

LOCATION MAP



2205 Townes Lane
ca. 1948



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2205 Townes Lane

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

1992	Ivan C. Belknap, owner Retired
1985-86	Ivan C. and Louella W. Belknap, owners Retired
1981	Ivan C. and Louella W. Belknap, owners Ivan: Retired Louella: Librarian, AISD
1977	Ivan C. and Louella W. Belknap, owners Ivan: Retired Louella: Librarian, AISD
1973	Ivan C. and Louella W. Belknap, owners Professor, University of Texas
1968	Ivan C. and Louella W. Belknap, owners Professor, University of Texas Also listed are Catherine Belknap and Elizabeth Belknap, both students.

- 1965 Ivan C. and Louella Belknap, owners
 Ivan: Professor, University of Texas
 Louella: Employed by the public schools
- 1962 Ivan C. and Louella Belknap, owners
 Ivan: Associate professor, University of Texas
 Louella: Teacher, Bryker Woods School
- 1959 Ivan C. and Louella Belknap, owners
 Ivan: Associate professor, University of Texas
 Louella: Teacher, Bryker Woods School
- 1955 Robert M. and Rosalee Allen, owners
 Department manager, Steck Company, printers, lithographers, book binding, and office furniture, 205 W. 9th Street.
 NOTE: Ivan and Lou Belknap are listed at 3002 Beverly Road; he was an associate professor at the University of Texas.
- 1952 Robert M. and Rosalee Allen, owners
 Sales manager, Steck Company, printers, lithographers, book vinding, and office furniture, 205 W. 9th Street.
- 1949 Robert M. and Rosalee Allen, renters
 City sales manager, Steck Company, printers, lithographers, book binding, and office furniture, 205 W. 9th Street.
- 1947 The address is not listed in the directory.
 NOTE: Robert M. Allen is listed as a single man living at 2002 Stamford Lane.
 He was a salesman for the Steck Company, printers, lithographers, book binding, and office furniture, 205 W. 9th Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Robert M. and Rosalee Allen (ca. 1948 – ca. 1957)

Robert Murray and Rosalee Allen appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 2906 Oakhurst in Austin; that house was worth \$4,200. Robert Murray Allen was 38, had been born in Texas, and was a traveling salesman for the Steck Company. Rosalee Allen was 37, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Ray, 9, who had been born in Texas. With them lived Robert's mother, Mrs. Jenny Allen, a 74-year old Iowa-born widow with no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Robert M. and Rosa L. Allen living in a house they owned in San Antonio. Robert M. Allen was. Rosa L. Allen was. With them lived Robert's mother, Jennie Allen. Robert M. Allen was the business manager for an engraving company.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Murry R. Allen as the 18-year old son of Jennie Allen, who lived in a rented house at 512 W. 31st Street in Austin. Murry was Jennie's youngest child listed in the census report. All of the older children living in the house were Jennie's daughters. Neither Murry nor his mother had an occupation listed. Two of Murry's older sisters were public school teachers, and another was an assistant auditor for the Department of Education.

R. Murray Allen

R. Murray Allen, age 88, of Austin, died Saturday.

Mr. Allen was a graduate of Austin High School and received a BBA from The University of Texas and was affiliated with the Steck Co. for more than 20 years. A veteran of World War II U.S. Army Air Corps, he served with General Chenalt for two years in China. He was a former member of the Kiwanis Club, former Mayor of West Lake Hills, and one of the founders of West Lake High School.

Survivors include his wife, Rosalee Wesley Allen of Austin; daughter and son-in-law, Robin Allen and Charles Donnell Jennings Sr. of Austin; three grandchildren, Sharon Ann Smith of Round Rock, Charles Donnell Jennings Jr. of Austin, Wesley Allen Jennings of Austin; three great-grandchildren, Kelsey and Kristen Smith and Charles Donnell Jennings III.

Graveside services will be 2:00 PM, Tuesday at Austin Memorial Park with Reverend Frank Ehman Jr. officiating.

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

Obituary of R. Murry Allen
Austin American-Statesman, December 3, 1990

Ivan C. and Louella W. Belknap (ca. 1957 -)

History of the University of Texas at Austin Sociology Department The department was founded in the mid-1920s, being split away from an interdisciplinary department that included Economics, among other disciplines. The founding chair of the department was Warner Gettys, who remained in that position for around 35 years, until he retired in 1958. Throughout his tenure, Gettys served as both chair and graduate advisor. The department offered an M.A .degree, probably from the time of its founding, and a Ph.D. program was started in the late 1940s. During its pre-Ph.D. granting days, the department had several graduate students who received their doctorates at other institutions and became prominent sociologists. These include Kingsley Davis, who was one of the three or four

most prominent American sociologists during the reign of functionalist theory and who later became a prominent demographer; William J. Goode, who for many years was the most prominent family sociologist in this country (and probably in the world); and Logan Wilson, who, in addition to being a prominent sociologist, served several years as the president of the University of Texas. C. Wright Mills took several courses in sociology but received his M.A. degree in Philosophy. In 1957, a year before Warner Gettys' retirement, the department had seven faculty members, including Full Professors Gettys, Harry Moore, and Carl Rosenquist; Associate Professors Ivan Belknap (one of the first Ph.D. graduates of the department), Walter Firey, and Gideon Sjoberg, the latter two being rapidly rising young stars in the discipline. The seventh departmental member was Henry Bowman, who taught huge sections of his functional (practical) marriage and the family course but did not teach other undergraduate courses or participate in the graduate program. The UT sociology department was at that time an obscure department in an obscure regional university. There were around 90 doctoral degree granting sociology departments in the United States and Canada at the time, all of which were ranked periodically by the American Council on Education, one such ranking occurring in 1957. The UT department was not in the top 50. After Gettys retired, Harry Moore served as acting chair for one year, and then a new chair, Leonard Broom, was brought in with a mandate to develop the department into a major sociology department. (Broom had been chair of the sociology department at UCLA, editor of the *American Sociological Review*, and vice-president of the American Sociological Association.) At the same time, there was a major push to make the University of Texas (there was only one UT undergraduate campus at the time) a "university of the first class," a phrase from the founding charter of the university. Sociology was selected as one of the departments to be developed rapidly, probably as the result of the influence of Logan Wilson, who had just recently turned the presidency over to Harry Ransom. Leonard Broom succeeded in doing what he was brought in to do, though his task was made easier by developments that occurred before he arrived. Firey and Sjoberg were gaining national and international stature, and a new faculty member who arrived at the same time as Broom, Jack Gibbs, quickly became one of the most productive sociologists in the country. Also, a recent Ph.D. graduate of the department, Russell Middleton, who was on the faculty at Florida State, became one of the most, if not the most, productive sociologist in the country. For several years, Gibbs and Middleton published more articles in the two leading sociology journals, the *American Sociological Review* and the *American Journal of Sociology*, than anyone else. And, Leonard Broom recruited a few prominent or soon-to-be prominent sociologists to the department. The result was that in the 1965 ACE study, the UT sociology department was ranked 17th. In the early 1960s, Leonard Broom and Jack Gibbs developed a plan for a population research center to be affiliated with the department. Neither was a demographer, though Gibbs had strong demographic interests. Nor was anyone else on campus a real demographer. Therefore, the sociology department recruited Harley Browning, a newly minted Ph.D. demographer from the University of California at Berkeley who had worked with Kingsley Davis, among others. Browning joined the department in 1962, and the Population Research Center came into being a year or so later, with Browning as the founding director. By the late 1960s, the sociology department started recruiting other demographers—such as Dudley Poston, Frank Bean, Parker Frisbie, and Omer Galle—and persons with demographic interests in other departments became affiliated with the PRC, which became an independent research center outside of the sociology department. It is now one of the top four or five demographic research centers in the country. The story of the UT at Austin sociology department since its meteoric rise in stature early in the 1960s is largely one of growth and differentiation. Other departments that have rose to prominence very rapidly have often suffered declines in status a few years later, but the UT-Austin department has sustained and enhanced its status. According to recent reputational studies, the Ph.D. program is now 13th or 14th among the at least 120 or so doctoral degree granting sociology programs in the United States and Canada. It had around 17 or 18 faculty members in the mid-1960s; it now has around 45. In the 1960s, its main specialties, aside from demography, were social stratification, race relations, political sociology, complex organizations, and industrial sociology. It still has considerable strength in some of these specialties but has developed major emphases in the sociology of religion, the sociology of health and illness, gender, family, and aging and the life course, among other specialties. It is one of the most diverse departments in the country in terms of specialties and theoretical and methodological perspectives. It is also one of the largest departments, ranking at least third or fourth in number of faculty members. In view of the fact that the UT at Austin sociology department has been one of the major producers of Ph.D.s in sociology in this country in recent decades, it is not surprising that it has produced several very prominent sociologists. The late 1970s and early 1980s was an especially good period for the production of soon-to-be eminent sociologists, including such persons as Marta Tienda and Sara McLanahan, both now at Princeton, and Scott South, of SUNY-Albany, one of the two or three most prolific family sociologists in the country. Earlier graduates include Ken Land, now a distinguished professor at Duke University, who was to a large extent responsible for the popularization of causal modeling in sociology; Charles Tittle, an eminent criminologist; Larry Long, who has had a distinguished career at the U. S. Census Bureau; and Richard Rockwell, who has headed both the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan and the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Connecticut. Later graduates are on the faculties of such universities as the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Illinois, Pennsylvania State University, Ohio State University, the University of Florida, and the University of California at Irvine, as well as a dozen or so of the leading universities in Latin America. Unlike many

departments in major research universities, the UT at Austin sociology department has retained a major emphasis on undergraduate teaching—an emphasis that dates back at least to the early 1960s.

Ivan C. Belknap

Ivan C. Belknap, age 69, of Austin died Saturday.

He retired in 1975 after 32 years as a professor of Sociology at the University of Texas and was Chairman of the Department of Sociology at the University for eight years during the 60s. He received his BA and MA degrees from the University of Texas and his PhD from the University of Chicago. He was the author of two books and several articles. He was a Captain in the Army in World War II and was in counterintelligence for four years.

Survivors include his wife, Louella Walraven Belknap, Austin; two daughters, Mrs. James Chailstrom of Austin, and Mrs. Kenneth Cumpton of Montgomery, Alabama; four grandchildren.

Memorial services, 3:00 PM Tuesday, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd with Reverend Canon Samuel N. Baxter officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Travis County Audubon Society or a favorite charity. Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

Obituary of Ivan C. Belknap
Austin American-Statesman, February 19, 1984

Louella W. Belknap

Today, I had to say goodbye to my mother, my best friend.

She was born on September 11, 1919 in Dallas to Margaret and Robert Walraven. She graduated from Adamson High School in 1936, then attended Texas Tech and, during her mother's teaching summers at The University of Texas in Austin, she met my dad, who was teaching there and who, having met her, refused to allow her to return to Tech and married her instead. She graduated from UT and taught 5th grade at Brykerwoods Elementary. During mother's summers, she got her Masters in Library Science and, still at Brykerwoods, set up the library where she stayed for the next 29 years until she retired. Many children benefited from knowing her. They loved to tell her jokes because she had a wonderful sense of humor.

After retirement, mother stayed very busy with collecting her cats, reading, travel, RIF (Reading is Fundamental), Retired Teachers Association, and the Cereus Garden Club.

In 1984 my dad left us and in 1990, my sister left us. Now, mother has gone to join them.

She is survived by me, Kitty Challstrom, my husband Jim, our daughters: Christy Askew, her husband Jeff and their children, Sean, Shelby, and Parker; Ginny Druart, her husband Ned and their children James, Haley, and Delaney; Betty's children: Greg Cumpton, his wife Cheryl and their children Autumn and Denali and Cathy Naillon and her husband Russel. We will all miss her!

We really want to thank the lovely people* at Barton Hills Assisted Living who never gave up taking care of mother to the very end.

In lieu of flowers mother would have appreciated that donations be made to Reading Is Fundamental, P.O. Box 684794, Austin, TX 78768-4794.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 28 at 2:00 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 209 West 27th.

Obituary of Louella Belknap
Austin American-Statesman, July 28, 2006

R. M. Allen 2205 Townes Lane
 108 and west 1/2 of
 156 109 - - -

Tarrytown #6

Stone ven. & frame res. with garage
 37736 integral (under)
 5-18-48 \$14,000.00

Engineering Contractors

10

Building permit to Robert M. Allen for the construction of this house (1948). The permit reflects Engineering Contractors as the builders.

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		C N° 1038
Austin, Texas		
Received of	ENG. CONTRACTORS INC.	Date 6-2-48
Address	2205 TOWNES LANE	
Amount	TWENTY AND 00/100	\$20.00
Plumber	PORTER PLBG. CO.	Size of Tap 3/4"
Date of Connection	6-10-48	
Size of Tap Made	3/4"	
Size Service Made	3/4"	
Size Main Tapped	6"	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	25'	
From E - Prop. Line to Curb Cock	40'	
Location of Meter	CURB	
Type of Box	LOCK	
Depth of Main in St.	3'	
Depth of Service Line	2'	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	main	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	7/9/48 RB	
No. Fittings	1 Curb Cock 1 Elbow 1 Stub Elbow 1 Bushing 1 Reducer 1 Pipe 1 Lead Comp. 1 Nipples 1 Union 1 Plug 1 Tee 1 Stop 1 Box 1 Lid 1 Valves	Job No. W-223502 Req. No.
108 INDEXED		1515

Water service permit to Engineering Contractors for this address (1948)

Receipt No. 10660 Application for Sewer Connection No. 25200

Austin, Texas, 7-16 1948

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 Engineering Contrs at 2205 Louisa Lane Street,

further described as Lot 102 Block 109 Outlot 1 Division 1

subdivision 102 Plat 156, which is to be used as a residence

In this place there are to be installed 8 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 30188

I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge. 9-15-48

Depth at Prop. Line 3' 3' at street Respectfully,

Stub Out } 12' W of ELL STUB OUT ELL Parter Piller Co
 Connected } (Location)

Date 9-21-48

By Alving

NOTE: Connection Instruction 1/2" Dia. for 4' dia. 4' dia.

Man 12.5 ft 30 N.R. Stubb at ELL. B-1388
Sta. 7+90 - Sta. 8+65

Sewer connection application by Engineering Contractors for this address (1948)