

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JUNE 26, 2017  
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS – DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION  
NRD-2017-0033  
4208 WILSHIRE PARKWAY  
WILSHIRE WOODS HISTORIC DISTRICT

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1947 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled stone-veneered frame house with horizontal wood siding in the tympanum of the side gables; metal-framed casement window systems with horizontal wood siding below.

The applicant has also submitted plans for a proposed new house on this site if the Commission approves the application for demolition of the existing house. The proposed new house is one-story, with a rectangular plan, a stone veneer, and metal roof. It appears to be compatible with the character of the historic district in terms of size, scale, materials, and fenestration patterns.

**RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1947 by Brush and Bradfield, local real estate investors and developers. The first owners and occupants were William E. and Thelma Ruehlmann, who lived here until around 1950. William E. Ruehlmann was in the U.S. Air Force. From around 1951 to around 1979, the house was owned and occupied by Henry F. and Irene Sturgis. Henry Sturgis was a chemical engineer for the Jefferson Chemical Corporation.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is contributing to the Wilshire Woods Historic District, but is beyond the scope of any City survey to date, and retains a high degree of integrity.

The house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a stone-veneered post-World War II house with minimal elements of the International style; it does not appear to have architectural significance.
- b. **Historical association.** The house is most significantly associated with a chemical engineer at Jefferson Chemical Corporation; he and his wife lived in this house for almost 30 years, but it does not appear that they had significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, Wilshire Woods, or a particular demographic group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**




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Strongly encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, considering the invocation of the demolition delay for contributing houses within historic districts. This house is a classic example of Wilshire Woods development on a relatively modest scale and appears to be in

excellent condition. Removal of this house will have a detrimental effect on the character of the historic district, as this house is remarkably intact, and conveys the principles of its post-World War II design to a very high degree. The applicant's plans for a new house on this site is compatible with the character of the historic district; if the Commission releases the demolition permit, then the Commission should also approve the plans for the new construction.

## LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 333'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: NRD-2017-0033  
LOCATION: 4208 Wilshire Pkwy

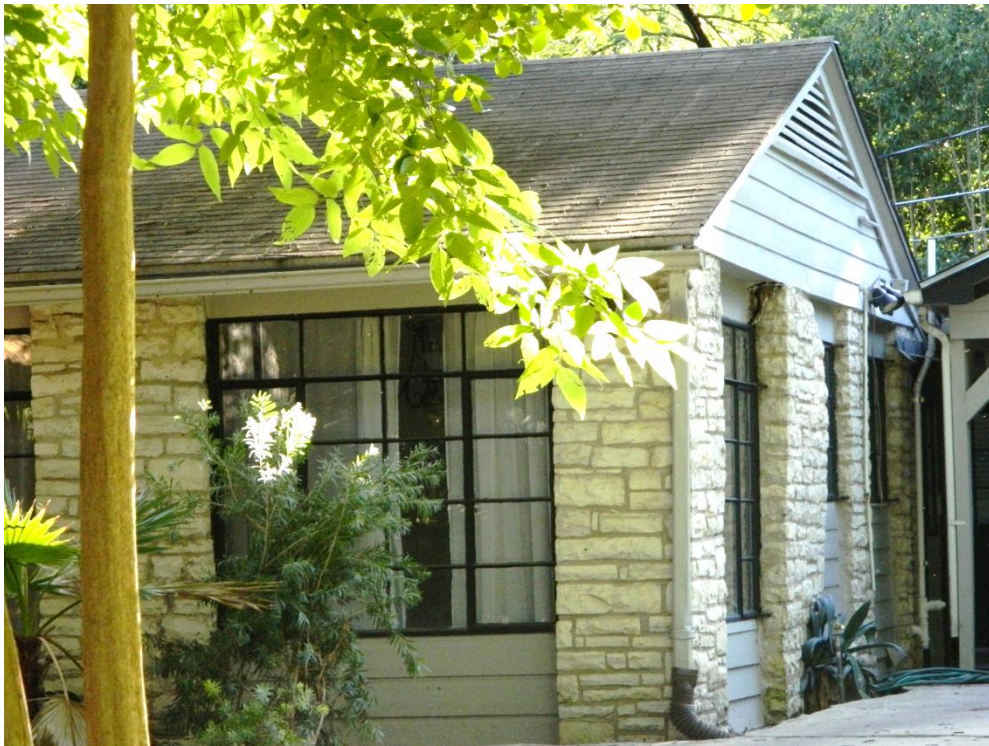
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4208 Wilshire Parkway  
ca. 1947



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 4208 Wilshire Parkway

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
May, 2017

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1992    | Ana M. Pozo, owner<br>Employed by the State Department of Human Services  |
| 1985-86 | Ana M. Pozo, owner<br>Employed by the State Department of Human Resources<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Ana M. Pozo was a new resident at this address.   |
| 1981    | Jerry F. and Maria P. Jones, owners<br>Lawyer   |
| 1977    | Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis, owners<br>Supervisor, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.   |
| 1973    | Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis, owners<br>Plant engineer, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.   |
| 1968    | Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis, owners<br>Supervisor, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.   |
| 1965    | Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis, owners<br>Supervisor, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.   |
| 1961    | Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis, owners<br>Engineer, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.   |
| 1957    | Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis, owners<br>Supervisor, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.   |
| 1953    | Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis, owners<br>Chemical engineer, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.  |
| 1952    | Henry F. and Irene Sturgis, owners<br>Engineer, Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.<br>NOTE: Henry and Irene Sturgis are listed in the 1951 city directory for Port Arthur, Texas, where Henry F. Sturgis was an engineer. |
| 1949    | William E. and Thelma Ruehlmann, owners<br>U.S. Air Force<br>NOTE: Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis are listed at 1703 E. 38 ½ Street; he was a chemical engineer for Jefferson Chemical Corporation, 7114 N. Lamar Boulevard.                     |
| 1947    | The address is not listed in the directory.<br>NOTE: William E. and Thelma Ruehlmann are not listed in the directory.   |

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

Henry F. and Irene K. Sturgis (ca. 1951 – ca. 1979)

**STURGIS, Henry Frank, 81, of Wimberley died Tuesday. Visitation 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Senior Citizens Center, Wimberley. (Thomason, Wimberley)**

Obituary of Henry F. Sturgis  
Austin American-Statesman, March 9, 1995

Irene Sturgis died December 6, 1997 in Weslaco, Texas. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.

**Carlton Brush and  
Tom Bradfield**

**4208 Wilshire Parkwa**

**233**

**8**

**Wilshire Park**

**Masonry residence with car port attached**

**33937 5-20-47**

**\$4500.00**

**Owner**

**5**

Building permit to Brush and Bradfield for the construction of this house (1947)

## WATER SERVICE PERMIT

No. B 3692

Austin, Texas

Received of CARLTON BRUSH + TOM BRADFIELD Date 7-15-47Address 4208 WILSHIRE PARKWAYAmount TWENTY + NO. 100 \$ 20.00Plumber BARR Size of Tap 3/4"Date of Connection 8-12-47Size of Tap Made 3/4"Size Service Made 3/4"Size Main Tapped 6"From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 2.5'From  $\frac{1}{2}$  Prop. Line to Curb Cock 5'Location of Meter CURBType of Box LOCKDepth of Main in St. 3'Depth of Service Line 24From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 3'Checked by Engr. Dept. 9-11-47 R.N.H.**INDEXED**

Water service permit to Brush and Bradfield for this address (1947)

OWNER S. F. Sturgis ADDRESS 4208 Wilshire Pkway

PLAT 233 LOT 8 BLK D

SUBDIVISION Wilshire Parkway

OCCUPANCY bedroom and bath

BLD PERMIT # 115373 DATE 12-9-69 OWNERS 2,500

CONTRACTOR Owner NO. OF FIXTURES several

WATER TAP REC # -- SEWER TAP REC # --

Frame addn to res.

Building permit to Henry F. Sturgis (S.F. Sturgis on the permit) for the construction of a frame addition (1969)