

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2017
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2017-0319
1407 COLETO STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1939 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with synthetic siding; front-gabled entry hood over the front door; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1939 by Truman Montandon, a local insurance man and developer. The house was rented for a few years by Solomon and Ernestine Harding, but neither had an occupation listed in the city directories. From around 1942 until his death in 1983, the house was owned and occupied by Elmo Sorrells, who operated a garage on the site as well from the mid-1950s through the mid-1960s. Elmo Sorrells grew up in rural Travis County, where his family eventually owned their own farm. His older brother worked as a mechanic in a garage, and Elmo was working as a serviceman for B.F. Goodrich, a tire and car care business on Lavaca Street, when he and his wife, Fannie, moved into this house.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was recommended as contributing to a potential historic district by the East Austin Historical Survey (2016), but noted that many of the original materials on the house have been replaced.

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

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a frame late 1930s cottage, a common style. The house has no architectural distinction.
- b. **Historical association.** The house is most significantly associated with Elmo Sorrells, who grew up on a farm in rural Travis County, and had a garage here at the house where he did auto repair work. There do not appear to be 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, the neighborhood, 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

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2017-0319
1407 COLETO ST.



1" = 250'

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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1407 Coletto Street
ca. 1939



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1407 Coletto Street

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

1992	Robert Sneed, renter Retired
1985-86	The address is not listed in the directory.
1981	The address is not listed in the directory.
1977	Elmo Sorrells, renter No occupation listed
1973	Elmo Sorrells, renter Mechanic
1968	Vacant
1965	Elmo Sorrells, owner Proprietor, Elmo's Garage (at the house)
1961	Elmo and Fannie sorrells, owners Proprietor, Elmo's Garage, auto repair (at the house).

- 1957 Elmo and Fannie Sorrells, owners
Proprietor, Elmo's Garage, auto repair (at the house).
- 1953 Elmo and Fannie Sorrells, owners
Proprietor, Elmo's Garage, auto repair (at the house)
- 1949 Elmo and Fannie Sorrells, owners
Porter
- 1947 Elmo and Fannie Sorrells, owners
Mechanic, Hancock Garage, 1816-18 E. 12th Street.
- 1944-45 Elmo and Fannie Sorrells, owners
Serviceman, B.F. Goodrich, 910 Lavaca Street.
- 1941 Solomon and Ernestine Harding, renters
No occupation listed
NOTE: Elmo and Fannie Sorrells are not listed in the directory.
- 1940 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Solomon and Ernestine Harding are not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Elmo and Fannie Sorrells (ca. 1943 – ca. 1983)

Elmo Sorrells appears in the 1920 U.S. Census as the 9-year old son of Jacob and Ellen Sorrells, who lived in a rented house on an un-named road in rural Travis County. Elmo Sorrells is listed as a mulatto, and was the 4th oldest of the couple's 9 children. Elmo's father, Jacob Sorrells, was born in Texas to Virginia-born parents, and was a farmer. His mother, Ellen Sorrells was a farm laborer, as was the oldest child, Tenola, their 19-year old daughter. Jacob Sorrells, Jr., 14, was a section hand for the International and Great Northern Railroad.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows the Sorrells family living on the Manchaca – San Antonio Road in rural Travis County. Jake Sorrells owned his farm. Elmo's older brother, Theodore, was a mechanic in a garage. Elmo Sorrells, then 18, was a laborer for the railroad.

SORRELLS, Elmo, 72, 1407 Coieto St., died Thursday. Services 2 p.m. Tuesday at Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church. Burial, Capital Memorial Park Cemetery. (King-Tears Mortuary)

Obituary of Elmo Sorrells
Austin American, September 11, 1983

	Trueman Montandon	1407 Coieto St.
37	34	12 10 -

Glenwood Addition

frame-residence

292 - 10-27-39

2

Top on lot

Building permit to Truman Montandon for the construction of this house (1939)

