

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**OCTOBER 23, 2017**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2017-0497**  
**501 E. MARY STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1929 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, clipped side-gabled, frame house with a partial-width, front-gabled independent porch on ornamental metal posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration. The house has synthetic siding and an artificial stone wainscot, but appears to have its original windows.

**RESEARCH**

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The ca. 1929 house was first occupied by Clyde and Thelma Milstead, who lived here until around 1932. Clyde Milstead was the manager of Merchants Transfer and Storage Company. The house was then rented by a traveling salesman, Joseph W. Day, and his wife, Ruby, then by an electrician, followed by a contractor. Albert F. and Marian Byars then lived here from around 1938 until around 1946. Albert F. Byars was a cook and chef; from the late 1940s until his death in 1970, he operated Flossie's Café, his nickname namesake, at 2801 S. Lamar Boulevard (now the Thundercloud Subs at S. Lamar and Manchaca Road). Robert T. Williams, a printer for the Steck Company, and his wife, Marie, purchased the house in 1947, and lived there the rest of their lives. Marie Williams passed away in 2017.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house was listed with no priority for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984). The house was listed as contributing in the 2009 inventory for the application for a local historic district in Bluebonnet Hills.

Staff has evaluated the house under the criteria for designation set forth in the City Code and has determined that this house does not meet the threshold for individual landmark designation:

- **Architecture.** The house is a frame house dating from 1930 with no architectural distinction.
- **Historical association.** The house was a rental property for the first 17 years of its existence, with short-term renters until around 1938. It was the only rental property of all the houses in the 500 blocks listed in the 1930 U.S. Census report. The most prominent of the renters were Albert F. "Flossie" and Marion Byars, who lived here between 1938 and 1946. He was a chef who went on to establish his own restaurant after moving from this house. The longest-term owner of the property, Robert T. Williams, was a printer for the Steck Company. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- **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.

- **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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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark, although it would likely be contributing to a historic district incorporating the 500 block of E. Mary Street.

E-mail from the applicant:

Hi Steve,

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> We met with the neighborhood representatives and the buyers of 501 W. Mary, and honestly I don't think there's a lot of common ground here. We're going to review the proposed design standards with the buyer, but one of the neighbors threatened to "fight them if they don't like the design standards" being proposed, so it set a bad tone.

E-mail from James Bilodeau, of the E. Mary Street Historic District Team:

Separately, we did meet with the potential buyers of 501 E. Mary St. and the Joseph Brothers. Unfortunately, not much progress was made. Our hope was to offer any help, resources to encourage the buyers to rehabilitate the house. We had reached out to Kate Singleton at Preservation Austin and she had offered to line up an architect free of charge that could show the potential to incorporate the existing structure into a new design. We also came prepared to discuss the tax advantages of rehabilitation within an LHD that would make rehabilitation of the existing structure more cost effective than a full demolition and rebuild. Unfortunately they were not willing to even discuss either of these options.

We sent them the proposed Design Guidelines for the LHD and are now hoping to explore ways in which any new construction could achieve some degree of compatibility with the LHD. We're hoping that they'll be willing to explore this, even if it's just on the level of massing and setbacks. As we have with other homes in the neighborhood, we're of course happy to work with them should they need any variances to accomplish this.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 165'

**NOTIFICATIONS**

CASE#: HDP-2017-0497  
LOCATION: 501 E. Mary Street

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.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



501 E. Mary Street  
ca. 1929







## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 501 E. Mary Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
August, 2012

1990	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Retired
1985-86	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Linotype operator, Hart Graphics, 8000 Shoal Creek Boulevard.
1981	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Linotype operator, Hart Graphics, 8000 Shoal Creek Boulevard.
1977	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Linotype operator, Hart Graphics, 8000 Shoal Creek Boulevard.
1973	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Linotype operator, Steck-Warlick, 8000 Shoal Creek Boulevard.
1966	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Linotype operator, Steck-Vaughn Publishing Company, 807 Brazos Street.
1962	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Linotype operator, Steck Company, 205 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1958	Robert T. and Marie Williams, owners Printer, Steck Company, 205 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1954	Robert T. and Marie Williams, owners Printer, Steck Company, 205 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1952	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Linotype operator, Steck Company, 205 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1949	Robert T. and Marie R. Williams, owners Stock clerk, Steck Company, 205 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1947	Marvin E. and Doris Smith, owners Special delivery messenger, Post Office
1944-45	Albert F. and Marion Byars, renters No occupation listed
1941	Albert F. and Marion Byars, renters Chef
1940	Albert F. and Marian Byars, renters Chef
1939	Albert F. and Marian Byars, renters Cook

- 1937 James C. and Louise Ruby, renters  
Contractor (office at the house)  
NOTE: Albert F. and Marian Byars are listed next door, at 503 E. Mary Street; he had no occupation shown.
- 1935 Menter J. and Grace E. Myers, renters  
Electrician
- 1932-33 Joseph W. and Ruby M. Day, renters  
Traveling salesman  
NOTE: Clyde E. and Thelma Milstead are listed at 1810 Travis Heights Boulevard; he was the assistant manager of Merchants Transfer and Storage Company.
- 1930-31 Clyde E. and Thelma Milstead, renters  
Manager, Merchants Transfer and Storage Company, 410 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- 1929 The address is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Clyde E. and Thelma Milstead are listed at 809 Riverside Drive. He was a book-keeper for Merchants Transfer and Storage, 410 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Clyde E. and Thelma Milstead (ca. 1929 – ca. 1932)**

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Clyde E. and Thelma D. Milstead as the renters of this house. Clyde Milstead was 27, had been born in Texas to Mississippi-born parents, and was the manager of a transfer and storage company. Thelma Milstead was 28, and had been born in Texas. She had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them. The Milsteads are the only renters listed in the 500 block of E. Mary Street in the 1930 census report.

By 1940, according to the census report of that year, Clyde E. and Thelma Milstead were renting the house at 1905 Travis Heights Boulevard. Clyde Milstead was the owner/manager of a storage and transfer company. He and Thelma had a son, Clyde, Jr., 8.

Clyde Milstead died at Kerrville State Hospital in 1961. He was listed as a widowed seasonal laborer whose permanent address was 704 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Austin. He was born in Austin in 1902.

#### **MILSTEAD-ANDERSON**

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Milstead have returned from their honeymoon and will be at home with their mother, Mrs. O. E. Milstead, 507 West avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Milstead were married February 2 at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. Anderson, in Hillsboro. Mrs. Milstead is a former university student, having received her degree in June, 1926. She will be remembered as Miss Thelma Anderson, a popular member of the Chi Omega sorority.

Society page note on the return of Clyde and Thelma Milstead from their honeymoon.  
Austin American-Statesman, February 13, 1927

# COMPANY MAKES SPECIALTY OF HAULING

When household goods are to be hauled or stored, the Merchants Transfer and Storage company, located at 410 East Third street, is in position to handle all orders, large or small, according to Clyde Milstead, manager.

The company recently received a large new moving van with 1000 cubic feet storage capacity to offer better service to the patrons, both for hauls within the city or to distant points.

With its slogan "We Move Anything," the Merchants Transfer and Storage company moves any type of load to any point that the customer desires, and frequent trips are made to other points in transporting household goods and other loads.

Through its long service here the Merchants Transfer and Storage company has gained a high reputation for its storage facilities, many of the leading business houses storing commercial cargoes in the company's fireproof warehouse. The company maintains a bonded warehouse with a storage space of 32,000 square feet, and charges the lowest insurance rate in the city for storage.

The company also maintains an excellent packing and shipping department with experienced employees in charge. Estimates are made at any time on packing and shipping by freight and prices are also quoted on truck hauls overland to cities and towns outside of Austin.

The Merchants Transfer and Storage company specializes in hauling household goods, commercial cargoes, machinery and other heavy hauling, but is prepared to haul any type of load, large or small.

Story on Merchants Transfer and Storage Company, managed by Clyde Milstead  
Austin Statesman, September 19, 1931

**MRS. THELMA MILSTEAD**

Mrs. Thelma Milstead 53, of 704 South First Street died at her home Wednesday. She had been a resident of Austin for 32 years, having come to Austin from Hill County to attend the University of Texas. She was a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her husband, Clyde E. Milstead Sr. and one son, Clyde Milstead Jr. of Paynesville, Ohio.

Funeral services will be held at Wilke-Thurman-Clay Funeral Home Saturday at 10 a.m. with the Rev. E. M. Jennings officiating.

Graveside services will be held in Hillsboro Saturday afternoon.

Obituary of Thelma Milstead  
Austin American, February 11, 1955

**CLYDE E. MILSTEAD SR.**

Clyde E. Milstead Sr., formerly of Austin, died in a Kerrville Hospital Tuesday night following an extended illness.

He is survived by a son, Clyde E. Milstead Jr. of San Diego, Calif., a brother, Earl L. Milstead of Austin; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services have been tentatively set for 10 a.m. Thursday at the Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

Burial will be in the Ridgepark Cemetery in Hillsboro.

Obituary of Clyde Milstead  
Austin Statesman, February 1, 1961

**CLYDE E. MILSTEAD SR.**

Funeral services for Clyde E. Milstead Sr., 55, of 701 South First Street, were held Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Wilke-Clay Funeral Home, with the Rev. L. S. Estes, pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, officiating. Graveside services were held at 2:20 p.m. at the Ridge Park Cemetery in Hillsboro, with the Rev. Charles Wallace, officiating.

Burial was in the Ridge Park Cemetery under the direction of the Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

Note on the funeral of Clyde E. Milstead  
Austin Statesman, February 2, 1961

**Albert F. and Marian Byars (ca. 1938 – ca. 1946)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Floyd [Albert F.] and Marian Byars as the renters of this house. Floyd Byars was 36, had been born in Texas, and was the chef in a cafe. Marian Byars was 35, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. With them lived a step-daughter, Nancy Marian Davis, 17, and a step-son, Dewey Davis, 15. Both had been born in Texas.

In 1930, Floyd Byars was living in Los Angeles, California, where he was living as a lodger. The 1930 census report does not show his occupation. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Floyd Byars as the 17-year old son of John and Mary Byars, who lived on the State Epileptic Colony near Abilene in Taylor County, Texas. Floyd is shown as a farm laborer. His father, a native of Louisiana, was a dairyman and his mother, who had been born in Missouri, was a cook. He had an older sister, Clem, who was a nurse.

Albert Floyd Byars' 1970 death certificate shows that he was born in Rosebud, Texas in 1904, and was living at 2708 Del Curto Road in Austin at the time of his death. He was the owner of a restaurant, and is buried in Blanco, Texas.

**ALBERT F. BYARS**

Albert F. Byars, 66, of 2708 Del Curto, died Wednesday in an Austin hospital.

Byars was a long time resident of Austin. He was owner of Flossie's Cafe for the past 22 years, and was a member of the Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Eula Marian Byars of Austin; one daughter, Mrs. Nancy Baumgardner of Tulsa, Okla.; one son, Douglas Byars of Mattoon, Ill.; one step-son, George Davis of Flint, Mich.; two sisters, Pearl Byars and Ruby Poenisch, both of Blanco; four brothers, W. L. Byars, Roy Byars and W. A. Byars, all of Blanco, and George Byars of Johnson City; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

Obituary of Albert F. Byars  
Austin Statesman, July 15, 1970

**A. FLOYD (FLOSSIE) BYARS**

Funeral for A. Floyd (Flossie) Byars, 66, of 2708 Del Curto, was Friday at 11 a.m. at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Clarence Walton, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, officiating.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. in Blanco Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Lem Rathbone, Morley Bartholomew, Alvin Menn, Sam Allred, Jack O'Bannon and Oscar T. Doell.

Note on the funeral of Alfred Floyd (Flossie) Byars  
Austin Statesman, July 17, 1970



**Marian S. Byars**

Marian S. Byars, 84, of Austin, passed away Friday.

Mrs. Byars was a member of the Kinney Avenue Baptist Church. She and her husband owned and operated Flossie's Restaurant on South Lamar.

Preceded in death by her husband, Albert Floyd (Flossie) Byars.

Survivors include sons, George D. Davis, Flint, Michigan, Douglas D. Byars, San Antonio; daughter, Nancy Baumgardner, Tulsa, Oklahoma; sister, Alice Velma James, Austin; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of friends she loved very much.

Funeral service 1:30 PM, Sunday at Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home. Reverend Gordon Bergstrom, officiating. Graveside service 3:30 PM, Sunday in Blanco Cemetery, Blanco.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions to: Kinney Avenue Baptist Church or a favorite charity of choice.

Services under the direction of Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home.

Obituary of Marian Byars  
Austin American-Statesman, February 25, 1989

Robert T. and Marie Williams (ca. 1947 - )

Robert Thomas Williams, 87, of Austin, passed away on Monday, December 26, 2011. He was born on June 18, 1924 in Austin to Thomas B. Williams and Alla Stephens Williams. Robert proudly served his country with the U. S. Army during [World War II](#) and was a printer with Hart Graphics for 43 years. He was an avid golfer, enjoying many years of retirement on the golf course. Robert was always willing to lend a hand and help out in any

way he could. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Marie Williams; two daughters, Sandra Frithiof and husband, Ronald and Tricia Tipton and husband, Steve; four grandchildren, Jennifer Frithiof, Stacy Landry, Kevin Tipton, and Allison Tipton; four great-grandchildren; numerous other relatives; and a host of friends. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 28, 2011 in the Chapel of Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home with Reverend Rob Shelton officiating. Interment will follow at Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Memorial Park. Robert will be remembered by his family as a warm and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He had a smile for everyone and will be greatly missed.

Obituary of Robert T. Williams  
Austin American-Statesman, December 30, 2011



WILLIAMS, Marie

Marie Reid Williams, 89, of Austin, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 31, 2017. She was born on June 6, 1927, in Austin, to Charlie and Dovie Reid. She was one of seven children and was very close to her brothers and sisters. Marie married her husband, Robert Williams, in 1946. They were married for 65 years. She worked until the birth of her first daughter, then was a homemaker for the rest of her life.

Marie was very family oriented. She loved to spend Friday nights with family visiting and playing games. Holidays were very special to her. She loved to host Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. She provided a home full of love and happiness as a caring and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Marie was always there for her family and would do whatever she could for them.

Marie is survived by two daughters, Sandra Frithiof and husband Ronald, and Tricia Tipton and husband Steve; four grandchildren, Jennifer Frithiof, Stacy Landry, Kevin Tipton, and Allison Tipton; and four great-grandchildren; as well as numerous relatives and friends.

Marie will be remembered by her family as a wonderful mother and grandmother. She had a big heart and she will be greatly missed.

A private funeral service will be held at Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home.

Obituary of Marie Williams

Austin American-Statesman, April 3, 2017

PERMITS:

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

No. A 2298 124

## PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE Austin, Texas

M. Albert Moore Address 501 E. Mary St.  
 Plumber W. C. Darnshaw Size of Tap 1/2 Date 3/28/29

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection	<u>3/28/29</u>																		
Size of Tap Made	<u>1/2</u>																		
Size Service Made	<u>3/4</u>																		
Size Main Tapped	<u>2"</u>																		
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>6'</u>																		
" " " " "	<u>19'</u>																		
Location of Meter	<u>at curb</u>																		
Type of Box	<u>1</u>																		
Depth of Main in	<u>at curb 6"</u>																		
" " Service Line	<u>4"</u>																		
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<u>2' 11"</u>																		
Checked by Engr. Dept.	<u>5-20-29</u>																		

No. Fittings: 1 Curb Cock 5/16" Elbow: 1 St. Elbow 3/4" Bushing 3/4" Reducer 3/4" Pipe 200' 1/2" 3/4" Nipples: 1 Union: 1 Plug: 1 Tee: 1 Stop: 1 Box: 1 Lid: 1 Valves: 1 2" X 3/4" Tap on Main

Foreman's Signature: Burnham

Req. No. 3200

**INDEXED**

Water service permit for this address (1929)

on See map - above  
 Connecting Charge \$ 200  
**Application for Sewer Connection.** No **9358**  
 Austin, Texas, 4/18/30 192  
 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 Bill Day  
 at 1501 East Mary Street  
 which place is to be used as a residence  
 In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.  
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.  
 Respectfully, Bill Day  
 Location of Public Sewer: Under Cross Street in front of lot  
 Connected 4-18-1930 Stub out  
 Size of Main 6" inches  
 Size of Service 4" inches  
4 1/2 Feet Deep in house  
2 1/2 Feet from Property Line  
4 1/2 Feet from Curb Line  
dupl. of H. F. Bates  
 Connection made by C. Hall  
 RICHYERS-AUSTIN  
 10/4/30

Sewer connection application for this address (1930)

<b>Robert T. Williams</b>	<b>501 East Mary St.</b>
<b>124</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1</b>	
<b>Blue Bonnet Hills</b>	
<b>Frame Addition to Residence</b>	
<b>84601</b>	<b>400.00</b>
<b>7-11-62</b>	
<b>Owner</b>	<b>re-locate 1</b>
<b>ENLARGE KITCHEN</b>	

Building permit to Robert T. Williams for a frame kitchen addition (1962)