

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 27, 2017
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2017-0595
1906 NUECES STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1925 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame cottage with a central, partial-width, front-gabled entry hood with boxed cornices on ornamental metal posts; paired 1:1 fenestration; full-width second-story along the back of the house.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1925; the first owner and occupant was Mrs. Anna L. Ellison, who lived here until her death in 1932. Mrs. Ellison was a widow when she purchased this house. Her husband had worked as a clerk for the State, and her son, Alfred, was the proprietor of a photography studio. Alfred Ellison was also notable for his photographs of downtown Austin in the late 1930s; many of his photographs are at the Austin History Center.

After Mrs. Ellison's death, the house became a rental property, a status it retained until the late 1970s, when it was purchased by the North American Islamic Trust for use as a mosque and Moslem Students' Center for the University of Texas. The tenants in the house between the mid-1930s and the late 1970s included a teacher, an assistant professor at the University of Texas, an assistant probation officer for Travis County, and several widows. By the late 1950s, there was a shift towards student housing and the house was converted to a duplex in 1959. From that point until the sale of the property in 1977, the vast majority of the tenants were students or teaching assistants at the University of Texas.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was listed with no priority for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

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

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a frame 1920s cottage, a common style. The house has no distinction within its architectural style.
- b. **Historical association.** The house has been a rental property for most of its existence; the only known owner/occupant was Mrs. Anna Ellison, a widow, who purchased the house after her husband's death and lived here for about 7 years until her own death. Her son, Alfred Ellison, was a noted photographer in Austin, but he is not listed as resident here in city directories nor in the 1930 U.S. Census with his mother. The house had a series of short-term tenants through much of its rental history, and became student housing in the mid- to late 1950s.
- 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 has served as the Austin Mosque from 1977 until recently, but this identification does not fall within the historic period. 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 in the historic period.

- 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



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS
 CASE#: HDP-2017-0595
 1906 NUECES STREET



1" = 208'

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.

1906 Nueces Street
ca. 1925



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1906 Nueces Street

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

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1992 | Austin Mosque |
| 1985-86 | Austin Mosque |
| 1981 | Austin Mosque and Moslem Students' Association |
| 1977 | Vacant |
| 1973 | Arthur D. Holder, renter
Teaching assistant, University of Texas
NOTE: The directory indicates that Arthur D. Holder was a new resident at this address. |
| | a. Edward R. Stovall, renter
Student
NOTE: The directory indicates that Edward R. Stovall was a new resident at this address. |
| | b. Chang Hyun Jho, renter
Teaching assistant, University of Texas |

NOTE: The directory indicates that Chang Hyun Jho was a new resident at this address.

- c. Vacant
- 1968 James D Walsh, renter
Student
- a. Brian Adkins, renter
Student
 - b. Bruce Moser, renter
Student
 - c. Thomas R. Hauber, renter
Student
- 1965 a. Warren S. and Alice Williams, renters
Student
- b. Richard C. Tannahill, renter
Clerk, State Parks and Wildlife Department
 - c. John A. McMilliam, renter
Student
- 1962 L. Erich Kanter, renter
Student
- a. Robert Foster, renter
Student
 - b. Ralph F. Jackson, Jr., renter
Student
 - c. Donald H. McElhone, renter
Student
- 1959 Vacant
- 1957 David R. and Dorothy Pinson, renters
Student
- 1954 Jennie R. Burton, renter
Widow, Standish B. Burton
No occupation listed
- 1952 Bill J. ,and Kathryn Ballard, renters
Assistant County Probation Officer
- 1949 Eugene T. and Mary L. McGregor, renters
Salesman Covert Auto, Buick cars, 416-20 San Antonio Street.
NOTE: The alphabetical section of the directory shows Eugene T. and Mary L. McGregor living at 2 Mangranita Crescent.
- 1947 Eugene T. and Mary L. McGregor, renters
Proprietor (with Hickman T. Baker), Baker & McGregor, groceries, 1811 San Jacinto Street.
- 1944-45 Susie H. Critz, renter
Widow, I.C. Critz
No occupation listed

Also listed are Carl Critz, U.S. Army; James Critz, U.S. Army; and Mary E. Critz, a student at the University of Texas.

NOTE: Eugene T. and Mary L. McGregor are not listed in the directory.

- 1941 Argin A. and Oma Smith, renters
Traveling salesman
NOTE: John and Katherine L. Griswold are listed at 102 Laurel Lane. He was an assistant professor at the University of Texas.
- 1939 John and Katherine L. Griswold, renters
John: Assistant professor, University of Texas
Katherine: Student, University of Texas
- 1937 John and Katherine L. Griswold, renters
Assistant professor, University of Texas
- 1935 Mrs. Johannah C. Carlson, renter
Widow, John G. Carlson
No occupation listed
NOTE: John and Katherine L. Griswold are not listed in the directory.
- 1932-33 J.F.M. and Alma E. Stephens, renters
Teacher
- 1930-31 Mrs. Annie L. Ellison, owner
Widow, William F.A. Ellison
No occupation listed
- 1929 Anne L. Ellison, owner
Widow, William F. Ellison
No occupation listed
- 1927 Anna L Ellison, owner
Widow, William F. Ellison
No occupation listed
- 1924 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Anna Ellison, the widow of William F.A. Ellison, is listed at 708 W. 19th Street; she had no occupation shown.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Anna L. Ellison (ca. 1925 – ca. 1932)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Anna L. Ellison as the owner of this house which was worth \$7,000. She was a 74-year old Texas-born widow with no occupation listed. Her father had been born in Tennessee, and her mother had been born in Virginia. No other person is listed in the census report for this address.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows W.F.A. and Annie L. Ellison as the renters of the house at 501 E. 11th Street in Austin. W.G. A. Ellison was a 66-year old Alabama-born clerk; Annie L. Ellison was 64, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. No children are listed with them. William F.A. Ellison died in 1922; his death certificate shows that he was a retired clerk at the State Capitol, and was living at 501 E. 11th Street at the time of his death.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows William and Anna Ellison living at 501 E. 11th Street. William Ellison was 56, had been born in Alabama to Georgia-born parents, and was an auditor for the State Comptroller. Anna Ellison was 54, had been born in Texas to a Tennessee-born father and a Virginia-born mother, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 sons: Alfred, 22, who had been born in Texas; and Peyton, 16, who had been born in Texas. Neither of the boys had an occupation listed.

Her 1932 death certificate shows that Annie Lewis Ellison was living in this house at the time of her death. She was born in 1856 in Texas, and was the widow of W.F.A. Ellison.

**ALFRED ELLISON'S
MOTHER DIES**

Funeral services for Mrs. Annie Lewis Ellison, 76, who died at her home, 1906 Nueces street, at 2 a. m. Saturday will be held at 10 a. m. Sunday at Thurlow B. Weed Funeral home with Dr. Thomas W. Currie, president of Austin Presbyterian Theological seminary, officiating. The funeral cortege will leave at 12 o'clock and go overland to Belton where interment will be held.

Mrs. Ellison was the widow of the late W. F. A. Ellison, and the mother of Alfred Ellison of the Ellison Photo company. She is also survived by two other sons, Wilson Ellison of Harlingen and Peyton Ellison of Dallas and a sister, Mrs. C. W. Peyton of Temple.

Mrs. Ellison had been a resident of Austin for 40 years, having moved here from Belton.

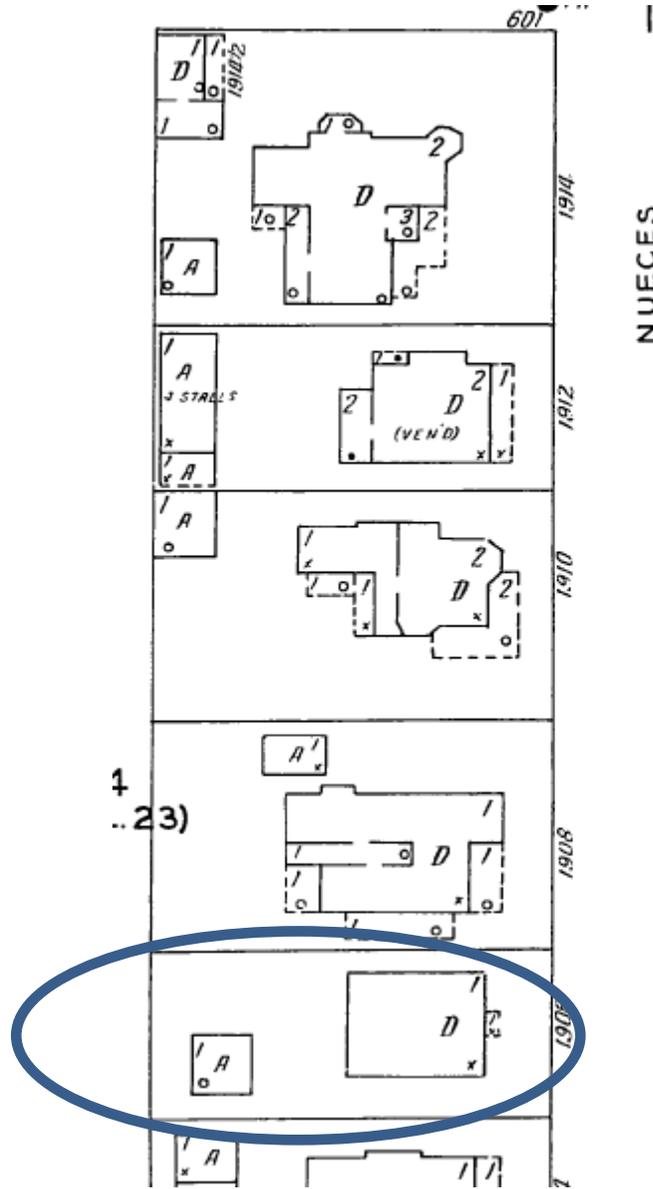
Obituary of Anna Lewis Ellison
Austin American-Statesman, March 13, 1932

John and Katherine Griswold (ca. 1936 – ca. 1939)

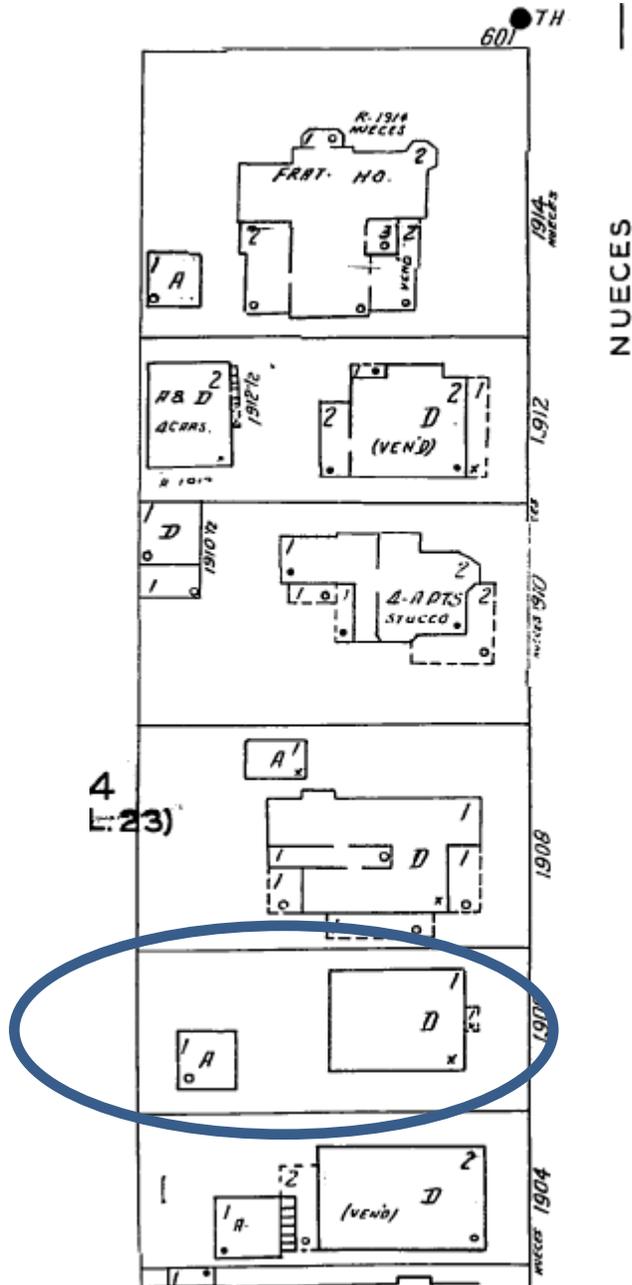
The 1940 U.S. Census shows John and Katherine Griswold as the owners of the house at 102 Laurel Lane in Austin; that house was worth \$6,900. John Griswold was 32, had been born in Illinois, and was a teacher at the University of Texas. Katherine Griswold was 32, had been born in Illinois, and had no occupation listed. They lived in Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1935. John Griswold died in Morristown, New Jersey in 1971.

1940 U.S. Census

The 1940 U.S. Census shows A.A. and Oma Smith as the renters of this house. A.A. Smith was 49, had been born in Texas, and was a salesman for drug sundries. Oma Smith was 47, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. With them lived their daughter, Argie Fa, 18, who had been born in Texas, and was a library assistant at the state university; and their son, Oscar D., 27, a salesman for drug sundries, and his wife, Marie, 20, who had no occupation listed. Both had been born in Texas. Marie Smith lived in Del Rio, Texas in 1935.



The house and a rear auxiliary building are shown on the 1935 Sanborn map.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the same configuration as the 1935 map above.

Pearl G. Bloor

1906 Nueces St.

46

9

23

Louis Horst

Frame accessory building

74882

12/16/59

100.00

owner

non

STORAGE

Building permit to Pearl Bloor for a frame accessory building (1959)

OWNER Pearl Bloor ADDRESS 1906 Nueces St.
 PLAT 46 LOT 9 BLK 23 DIV _____
 SUBDIVISION Louis Horst
 OCCUPANCY Frame Addition to SW Corner of Residence
 BLD PERMIT # 88651 DATE 7-11-63 OWNERS ESTIMATE 500.00
 CONTRACTOR Oscar A. Seward NO. OF FIXTURES 1 (Lavatory)
 WATER TAP REC # _____ SEWER TAP REC # _____
ENLARGE EXISTING BEDROOM

Building permit to Pearl Bloor (corrected) for a frame addition (1963)

OWNER	North American Islamir Trust	ADDRESS	1906 Nueces
PLAT	46.	LOT	9
		BLK.	25
SUBDIVISION	Louis Horst		
OCCUPANCY	1 family and church area		
BLDG. PERMIT #	165537	DATE	6-29-77
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	7000.00
CONTRACTOR	Louis G. Nitsche	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	
remodel exist wood frane residential bldg to incorporate church			

Building permit to the North American Islamic Trust to remodel the house into the mosque (1977)

sign permit

OWNER	N.A.I.T.	ADDRESS	1906 Nueces
PLAT	46	LOT	9
		BLK.	23
SUBDIVISION	Louis Horst		
OCCUPANCY	sign		
BLDG. PERMIT #	165819	DATE	7-12-77
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	\$20.00
CONTRACTOR	owner	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	

Sign permit to the North American Islamic Trust (1977)

OWNER	Austin Mosque	ADDRESS	1906 Nueces St.
PLAT	46	LOT	11
		BLK.	23
SUBDIVISION	Louis Horsts		
OCCUPANCY	Parking		
BLDG. PERMIT #	185534	DATE	9-12-79
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	10,000
CONTRACTOR	Mazim A. Mohammed	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	
1 stry steel frm parking structure & stroage add			
to 2 stry church & res. nd bldg.			

Building permit to the Austin Mosque for a parking structure and storage building (1979)