

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JUNE 25, 2018
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2018-0232
1915 W. 39TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1935 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled wood-frame house built in the Craftsman style. The house is clad in wood lap siding and has a projecting entry porch and paired wood-sash windows.

RESEARCH

The house at 1915 W. 39th Street was built ca. 1935 by Mrs. Noyes D. Smith. Gault and Willie Johnson were the first residents; they owned and occupied the house from 1935 until about 1941, then again between about 1948 and 1952. Gault worked at the State Highway Department in a variety of positions, including tester and administrative aide; Willie worked as a saleswoman at the E. M. Scarbrough & Sons department store. Clyde and Susie Rudasill moved into the house in the mid-1950s and remained there until the mid-1970s. Clyde worked for many years at the State Game, Fish & Oyster Division and rose to the Assistant Executive Secretary at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Robert Q. Phillips, Jr. was the next long-term resident; he occupied the house from 1977 until at least 1992.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear to meet the criteria for designation as a historic landmark.

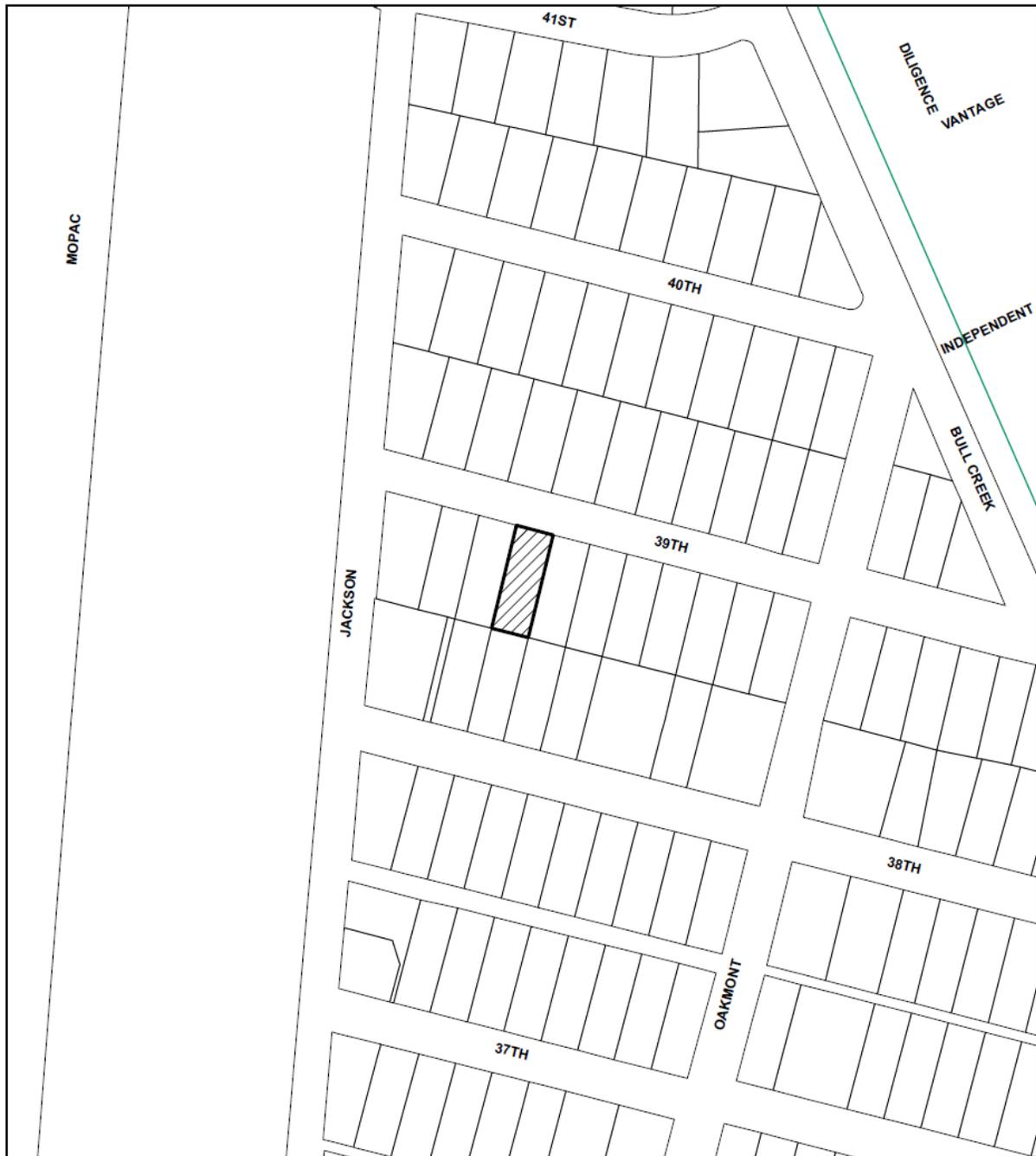
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The house is more than 50 years old, having been constructed ca. 1935.
- 2) The house retains a high degree of integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation. The property does not appear to demonstrate significance according to any of the criteria (City of Austin Land Development Code, Section 25-2-352).
 - a. **Architecture.** The house is built in the Craftsman style and does not appear to possess architectural distinction within this style.
 - b. **Historical association.** Gault and Willie Johnson lived in the property for approximately ten years, while Clyde and Susie Rudasill lived there for approximately twenty years. There do not appear to be historically significant associations.
 - c. **Archaeology.** The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
 - d. **Community value.** The property does not appear to possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the community, Austin, or Texas.
 - 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 reuse of the building. If the Commission votes to release the permit, then staff recommends relocation over demolition, and 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



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 166'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0232
LOCATION: 1915 W 39th 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.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (north) façade and east elevation of 1915 W. 39th Street.



Detail view of primary façade.

Occupancy History

City directory research, Austin History Center
 By Historic Preservation Office staff
 June 2018

- 1932-33 Address not listed
- 1935-41 Gault and Willie E. Johnson, owners [Johnson Gault]
 Gault worked as a tester (1935) and laboratory assistant (1937-41), both at the State Highway Department. Willie worked as a saleswoman at E. M. Scarbrough & Sons.
- 1944-45 Owen and Joyce E. Crenshaw and child
 Owen served in the Army; Joyce worked as a stenographer at the State Department of Public Safety.
- 1949-52 G. Gault and Etta W. Johnson, owners [Johnson Gault]
 Chief clerk (1949) and administrative aide (1952), both at the State Highway Department
- 1955-68 Clyde R. and Susie E. Rudasill, owners
 Salesman, Henderson's Refrigerator (1955). No occupation listed in 1959 or 1962; retired in 1968.
- 1977-92 Robert Q. Phillips, Jr., owner
 Serviceman, IBM (1977); retired (1985-92)

Biographical Research

Johnson Gullette Gault was born in 1911 in Austin. His father Benjamin "Maney" Gault was a Texas Ranger who played a role in capturing Bonnie and Clyde. Except for one leave to serve in the Army Corps of Engineers and the Air Force during World War II, Johnson worked in the Texas Highway Department for 45 years, serving variously as a tester, laboratory assistant, chief clerk, and administrative aide. He was active in the Masonic order and the Boy Scouts. Johnson Gault died in 1997 in Austin.

TOWN TALK

By CHARLES E. GREEN

THE FIRST job Johnson Gault ever had was with the highway department. He liked it so well that he continued there, for 14 years, and was situated at the testing laboratory at Camp Mabry when the emergency came. Then he went away on a leave of absence to join the US engineers at Fort Sam Houston.

The US was mightily interested in building runways for fighter and bomber planes to land on, and even more interested in finding out how to put them down quick, and lastingly.

That was his second job.

Then like a lot of people working for the defense of his country, but not in more active participation, he joined the army. He experienced about four months basic training when he was alerted to go overseas.

The B29s were coming in, although a lot of us didn't know about it at the time. He went to India via Naples, and was with the 58th wing in India when the Japs yelled 'uncle.'

Then the B29s were moved to Tinian, which is just off Guam. About three weeks ago S-Sgt. Johnson Gault came home, through with his third important job in his career, getting ready to return to his first love.

HIS FATHER, Capt. Manny Gault of the state rangers, stationed at Lubbock, couldn't resist breezing down for a few days to check with his son on his shooting ability. They went deer hunting near Llano.

Unless the captain let down a little bit, son Johnson still can draw an excellent bead. Johnson's bag was two deer, Manny Gault's was one. Johnson's wife, Willie Etta, was a Llano girl. They have a son, John Allan, aged three.

Johnson's mother, Mrs. B. M. Gault, reports it was a merry Christmas.

"Town Talk" short about Johnson and Manny Gault, The Austin Statesman, 12/26/1945.

JOHNSON GULLETTE GAULT

Johnson Gulette Gault, born February 16, 1911, in Travis County, Texas, son of the former Texas Ranger, Captain B.M. (Maney) Gault and Rebecca **Johnson Gault**.

He graduated from Austin High School, also attended St. Edward's University and the University of Texas.

He was employed by the Texas Highway Department in Austin and retired in 1976 after 45 years of service.

He was also a 50 year member of Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220, and a member of Marble Falls Baptist Church.

During World War II he took leave from the highway job to serve in the Corps of Engineers, San Antonio. Joined the U.S. Aviation Corps of Engineers, trained at March Field, California and Desert Warfare Training Center, Thermal, California. Later, he was assigned to the 20th Air Force, B-29, 40th Bomb group and served overseas in CBI and POA Theaters. He returned to his old job with the Texas Highway Department after separation from service in 1945.

He was active in Boy Scouts of America, serving as scoutmaster, committeeman, and leadership activities helping organize Cub Packs, Troops, and Explorer Posts in the Austin community where he lived.

Mr. Gault is survived by his son, John Allen Gault and wife, Ruby; grandson, Michael Allen Gault and wife, Angie; granddaughter, Kathy Ann Gault and great-granddaughter, Megan Kimberly Gault.

A private graveside service will be held in the Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Memorial Park.

Honorary pallbearers will be John Gault, Michael Gault, Don Crowe, Tommy Crowe, Bill Foulds, Bob Brock, and Gerald Schroeder.

In place of usual remembrances the family suggests contributions be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 149100, Austin, Texas 78714 or the Shivers Cancer Center, 2600 East MLK Blvd., Austin, Texas 78702.

Obituary for Johnson Gault, Austin American-Statesman, 4/9/1997.

Willie Etta Gault (nee Allen) was born in 1914 in Texas to a farming family and grew up in Caldwell County. She married Johnson Gault between 1930 and 1933; they had one child. At least between 1935 and 1941, Willie worked as a saleswoman at the E. M. Scarbrough & Sons department store. She died in 1995 in Travis County.

Clyde Robert Rudasill was born in 1888 in Bartlett, Texas (Williamson County). The 1910 and 1920 censuses record his occupation as dry goods salesman and merchant, respectively. He moved to Austin in the late 1920s and worked as the director of the State Game, Fish & Oyster Division's (later the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission) sand, shell, and gravel operations. He was promoted to Assistant Executive Secretary of the Commission before retiring in 1943. In 1955, he was working as a refrigerator salesman. He died in 1971 in Austin.

Rudasill Services Pending

Funeral services for Clyde Robert Rudasill, 83, of 1915 W. 39th St., a retired assistant executive secretary for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, were pending Tuesday at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

Rudasill died Monday in a local hospital.

He had lived in Austin and Travis County for more than 50 years. He was a Presbyterian. He moved from Granger to Austin soon after the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission was created in 1929 and was made director of the Game, Fish and Oyster Division's sand, shell and gravel operations, a position he held many years before being named assistant executive secretary. He retired from the commission in 1943, retired executive director Howard Dodgen of Austin said.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Susie Chapman Rudasill of Austin; a sister, Mrs. Pearl Holding of Lampasas; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Obituary for Clyde Rudasill, The Austin Statesman, 12/21/1971.

Susie Elizabeth Rudasill (nee Chapman) was born in 1883 in Tennessee to a farming family. She moved to Texas between 1900 and 1910 and married Clyde Rudasill in 1912 in Williamson County. The Rudasills gained some measure of local fame for their hydrangeas, as noted in a 1946 *Austin American* article on plant care. Susie Rudasill died in 1977 in San Antonio.

Robert Q. Phillips, Jr. occupied the property for at least 15 years. However, since his tenure began after the historic period ended (50 years ago, in 1968), no biographical research was completed.

Building Permits

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

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 2465
 SEC 178

M. Mrs. Noyes D. Smith Address 1915 W. 39th
 Plumber Gissell Size of Tap 2 Date 1-18-35

INDEXED

Foreman's Report

Date of Connection.....
 Size of Tap Made.....
 Size Service Made.....
 Size Main Tapped.....
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock.....
 From Prop. Line to Curb Cock.....
 Location of Meter.....
 Type of Box.....
 Depth of Main in St.....
 Depth of Service Line.....
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main.....
 Checked by Engr. W. H. 2-1-35

No. Fittings	1
Curb Cock	578
Elbow	
St. Elbow	
Bushing	
Reducer	
Pipe	
Lead Comp.	
Nipples	
Union	
Plug	
Tee	
Stop	
Box	
Lid	
Valves	
Req. No.	7270

Foreman's Signature Rich

Water tap permit issued to Mrs. Noyes D. Smith, 1/18/1935.

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT No. 11698 A
 Austin, Texas

Received of Gissell Date Jan. 5, 1935
 Address 1915 W. 39th.
 Amount twelve dollars \$ 12.00
 Builder or Owner Mrs. Noyes D. Smith Plumber _____
 Lot 8 Block 10 Subdivision _____ Plat No. _____

Date of Connection	<u>2/9/1935</u>
By City	_____
By Plumber	_____
Checked By	_____
Size Main	<u>6"</u> Depth <u>2 1/2'</u>
Main Assign.	<u>in St.</u>
Stub Depth	_____ Prop. Line _____
Stub Location	_____
Book No.	_____
Paving Cut	_____ No. _____

No. Fittings	Price
2 1/2" Pipe	4" tile 2.20
Pipe	
Wyes	
Bends	4" 45 .44
Reducers	
Plugs	
Sand	
Gravel	
Remix	
Stoppers	
Castings	
Other	
Labor:	6 3/4 days 18.24

Sewer permit issued to Mrs. Noyes D. Smith, 1/5/1935.

Johnson Gault		1915 West 39th Street	
178	7 and 8	10	- -
Oakmont Heights Annex			
Repair residence.			
39145 9-27-48		\$1384.00	
R. J. Pekar			
<i>existing walk & Sewer - verified</i> <i>2-13-75</i> Robert J. Quitman-147754 frm add to res 80 sq ft. \$163.00			

Building permit issued to Johnson Gault to repair residence, 9/27/1948. Also includes note regarding permit issued to Robert J. Quitman to construct a frame addition to residence, 2/13/1975 (see following image).

ADDRESS: 1915 W 39th				PER-MIT 147754		PLAT 178	
LOT: 8			BLOCK 10		SUB. Oakmont Heights av		
FIRE ZONE 3			USE DIST: A-1st		OCCUPANCY: Farm add to existing ma		
2-14-75		LAYOUT		FRAMING 10-28-75		FINAL	
PRINC. BLDG.		ACC. BLDG.		PRINC. BLDG.		ACC. BLDG.	
FOUNDATION		FLOOR JOIST SIZE & O.C.		NECESSARY BLDG. CONN.		ACC. BLDG.	
FR. SETBACK		CEILING JOIST SIZE & O.C.		ROOM VENTILATION		PAVED PARKING	
TOTAL & MIN. SIDE YD.		STUD SIZE & O.C.		STAIRS REQ. & NO.			
SIDE STREET YARD		MASONRY WALL		ATTIC FIRE STOPS REQ.			
OWNER: Robert J. Quitman				CONTRACTOR: same			
5 x 16							
				2-14-75			
INSPECTOR				WTS			

Building permit issued to Robert J. Quitman for frame addition, 2/14/1975.