

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 23, 2018
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2018-0285
3110 GOVALLE AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1927 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, irregular-plan, stone-veneered house; what appears to be the original portion of the house is front-gabled with a shed-roofed carport to the right; single 1:1 fenestration. To the left of what appears to be the original part of the house is a stone-veneered one-story, side-gabled addition with a different pattern of stonework and modern, aluminum-framed windows.

RESEARCH

It is difficult to positively determine the age of the house as it was outside of the city limits at the time of its construction. City directory research and census records show members of the Erzkus family living in rural Travis County as early as 1910, but they also had a house in Austin on E. 6th Street. Fred Erzkus is the person most closely and significantly associated with this house. The 1927 city directory shows him living on E. 6th Street; the 1929 directory shows Fred, his father Max, and his brother Edward, living in Govalle. Judging from the architectural style of what appears to be the original part of the house, an estimated construction date of ca. 1927 seems appropriate, and is borne out by city directory listings, although there is less information than necessary to absolutely justify this construction date.

Fred Erzkus is listed as the owner and occupant of this house off-and-on from around 1927 until his death in 1954. He worked as a woodworker for Woodward Manufacturing Company, an auto body manufacturer (when auto bodies were still crafted out of wood), and later a furniture manufacturer. His last occupation appears to be as a service station attendant. Since his death, the house has been used as a rental property, and a large addition constructed.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey to date.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a stone-veneered late 1920s cottage with little architectural distinction, and a large stone-veneered addition that appears to have been constructed in the 1960s. The house does not reflect any significant architectural distinction.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was the home of members of the Erzkus family, who moved into Austin from Fayette County around the turn of the century. Max Erzkus was a truck gardener; his son Fred, who has the longest period of occupancy of this house, was a woodworker. 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, preserving the original stone section of the house over the newer addition, but release the permit upon 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. The house does not appear to meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 167'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0285
3110 GOVALLE AVENUE

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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3110 Govalle Avenue
ca. 1927



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 3110 Govalle Avenue

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
July, 2018

1992	Maria Quintanilla, renter Housekeeper, Foley's, department store, Highland Mall.
1985-86	Roman and Maria Quintanilla, renters Employed by the Longhorn Company.
1977	Listed only as "apartments"
1968	Tony and Mary Mendoza, renters No occupation listed
1962	George D. and Vida M. Tullis, renters Laborer
1959	Otto and Lillie Erzkus, renters No occupation listed
1955	Vacant
1954	Fred Erzkus, owner Station attendant (no place of employment listed)
1952	The address is not listed in the directory NOTE: Fred Erzkus is not listed in the directory.
1949	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Fred Erzkus is not listed in the directory.
1947	Fred Erzkus, owner No occupation listed
1944-45	Fred Erzkus is not listed in the directory. No other members of the Erzkus family are listed at Govalle.
1941	Fred Erzkus No occupation listed
1939	Fred Erzkus, owner No occupation listed Also listed is Edward Erzkus, no occupation shown,
1937	Unknown NOTE: Fred Erzkus is not listed in the directory.
1935	Unknown NOTE: Fred Erzkus is not listed in the directory.

- 1932-33 Unknown, but Frederick Erzkus is listed as a mill hand at Woodward Manufacturing; his residential address was not listed.
- 1929 Members of the Erzkus family are listed as living in Govalle. Fred Erzkus was a woodworker for Woodward Manufacturing Company; both Edward and Max Erzkus are listed as gardeners.
- 1927 Unknown
Fred Erzkus is listed at 1313 E. 6th Street and was employed by Woodward Body Works. No other members of the Erzkus family are listed at Govalle.

The 1924 city directory shows Fred Erzkus as an employee of Woodward Body Works. He lived at 311 E. 15th Street, the home of his uncle and aunt, Hugo and Bettie Erzkus.

The 1922 directory shows Fred Erzkus living at 1313 E. 6th Street; he was a mechanic for Woodward Manufacturing Company. Hugo E., and Bettie Erzkus are still listed at 311 E. 15th Street; neither had an occupation shown.,

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Fred Erzkus (ca. 1927 – ca. 1954)

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Fred Erzkus living in the home of his parents in Justice Precinct 3 in Travis County. Fred had no occupation listed. Max Erzkus was a truck farmer.

His 1918 World War I draft registration card shows Fred Erzkus as living on Route 1 in Travis County. He was a gardener. His father was his nearest relative, and lived at 1313 E. 6th Street in Austin. Fred Erzkus was of medium height with a stout build. He had gray eyes and brown hair.

Fred Erzkus appears at as the 21-year old son of Max and Lena Erzkus in the 1920 U.S. Census for Justice Precinct 3 of Travis County. Fred had a younger brother, Eddie, 17. Max Erzkus was a trucker and farmer. Fred Erzkus was a laborer in an oil field. Eddie Erzkus had no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Fred Erzkus as the 31-year old son of Max Erzkus, who owned a house worth \$2,000 on RFD Route 1 in Travis County. Fred was born in Texas and was a millworker. His father, Max Erzkus, 60, had been born in Texas to Prussian-born parents, and was a gardener. Fred had a younger brother, Edward, 27, who was also a gardener.

Fred Erzkus is listed in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owner of a house worth \$450 in Govalle. He was 41, had been born in Texas, and was a mill operator. He was single.

His 1954 death certificate shows that Fred Erzkus was born in 1895 in Flatonia, Texas, and was a widower. He was a service station attendant and was living at 1011 Tillery Street at the time of his death.

THE DEAD

ERZKUS—Funeral services for Max Erzkus, 82, were to be held Monday at 3 p. m. from the Meeks-Hylin Funeral home with the Rev. Fred W. Kern, pastor of the First English Lutheran church, officiating. Pallbearers will be Rudy Henninger, Ben Pounds, Robert Delzell, Marshall Crow, W. T. Sanders and W. G. Ross. Burial was to be in the Oakwood cemetery.

Surviving Mr. Erzkus are two sons, Fred Erzkus and Edwin Erzkus, both of Austin; two sisters, Mrs. Dora Hildebrandt of Westhoff and Mrs. Lena Creutzfeldt of Austin, and one brother, Hugo Erzkus of Austin.

Obituary of Max Erzkus, the father of Fred Erzkus, and resident of this house in the late 1920s.
Austin Statesman, December 14, 1936

Mystery Death Under Scutiny

Investigation of the death of Ed Erzkus, whose body was found alongside the Southern Pacific railroad tracks near Airport Boulevard Tuesday, was being continued Wednesday.

Justice of the Peace Tom Johnson said special agents of the railroad and Deputy Robert Sjoberg would be given plenty of time for a full investigation of the death before he rendered his verdict.

Erzkus, middle-aged resident of the Rogers Hill community, was found dead alongside the tracks 238 feet west of the overpass on Airport Boulevard Tuesday morning. He apparently had not been hit by a train.

His body was discovered by the engineer of the Southern Pacific passenger train coming in from Houston at 5:10 a. m.

Johnson said when he examined the body around 8 a. m., it appeared that Erzkus had been dead only a short time.

Erzkus is survived by one son, Ed Erzkus Jr., and a brother, Fred Erzkus, both of Austin.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete Wednesday since an administrator was to be appointed since Erzkus' only son is a minor.

Story on the death of Eddie Erzkus, the brother of Fred Erzkus; Eddie Erzkus is listed as a resident of this house for several years.

Austin Statesman, May 26, 1948

FRED ERZKUS

Fred Erzkus, 53, a resident of Austin for 53 years, died in a local hospital Friday. He was a resident of 1011 Tillery.

Survivors include one sister, Mrs. Minnie Reis of San Antonio. The body is at the Hyttin-Manor Funeral Home pending completion of funeral arrangements.

Obituary of Fred Erzkus
Austin American-Statesman, July 4, 1954