

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2018-00084

HLC DATE:

May 21, 2018

June 25, 2018

ZAP DATE:

August 21, 2018

APPLICANT: Historic Landmark Commission

HISTORIC NAME: Bryson-Krueger-Critz House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 1602 West Lynn Street

ZONING FROM: SF-3 to SF-3-H

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence (SF-3) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

Architecture and historical associations.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: May 21, 2018: Initiated historic zoning,. Vote: 7-0-1 (Reed and Brown absent; Papavasiliou abstained).

ZONING AND PLATTING COMMISSION ACTION: Pending.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research. NOTE: None of the grand houses on West Lynn Street have a priority for research in the survey.

CITY COUNCIL DATE: August 30, 2018

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Old Enfield Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

Two-story, rectangular-plan, brick-veneered house in the Italian Renaissance Revival style; hipped roof, prominent brackets at the eaves; semi-circular portico centrally located on the façade, supported by four fluted columns, and with a metal railing above; triple, paired, and single 3:1 fenestration.

The Italian Renaissance Revival was one of several period styles popular from the late 19th century through the 1920s, and was almost exclusively a style for architect-designed grand houses. The style harkens back to the buildings of the Italian renaissance in the 16th century, and is defined by an imposing scale, masonry construction, a hipped or flat roof, a formal, symmetrical composition, use of Classical elements, such as columns, porticos, and balustrades, and heavily bracketed eaves, all of which are found on this house, designed by

Giesecke and Harris, prominent Austin architects. Many Italian Renaissance Revival houses had clay tile roofs; the original roof on this house has been replaced by a metal roof.

Historical Associations:

The house was built in 1923, and was designed by the noted local architectural firm of Giesecke and Harris. The house has been the home of several prominent families in Austin, including two judges, one an associate justice on the Texas Supreme Court. George E. and Belle Sydnor Bryson built this house in 1923; its construction was featured in the building section of the American-Statesman. George Bryson was a partner of Malcolm Reed in the city's largest cotton-buying business. Bryson and his wife lived here until the late 1920s, when they moved to Houston. The Brysons were among the most socially important Austin families. Stories in the newspapers detail various parties and other social events peppered with the names of some of the wealthiest families in Austin, including the Reeds, the Rathers, and others.

After George Bryson and his family moved to Houston, the house was owned and occupied by Joe B. and Addie Knight, who lived here until the mid-1930s. Joe B. Knight was a rancher; the house was again the site of many social gatherings that were noted in the society pages of the newspaper. Charles G. Krueger and his wife, Nora, purchased the house from the Knights, when the Knights moved to Corpus Christi. Charles Krueger was a commissioner on the State Court of Criminal Appeals. He and his family lived here until around 1938. They then moved to the McClendon-Price House (a city landmark) on Pearl Street, before moving back to Bellville, Texas, where Charles Krueger became the Austin County judge.

Richard and Nora L. Critz bought the house around 1937, and lived here until Richard passed away in 1959. A native of Starkville, Mississippi, Richard Critz was an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court in the 1930s and 1940s. As a young man, he moved with his family from Mississippi to Williamson County, where he attended school and studied law. He practiced law in Granger, Texas until 1910, when he became the Williamson County judge, serving until 1918, when he opened a law office in Taylor, Texas. After practicing law in Taylor for 10 years, he was appointed by Governor Dan Moody to serve on the Commission of Appeals to the Texas Supreme Court. In 1935, he was appointed by Governor James V. Allred to the Texas Supreme Court to fill a vacancy. He served as an associate justice on the Texas Supreme Court until 1944, when he retired to return to private practice in Austin. He formed a law firm that had offices in the Littlefield Building, and later had his own solo practice in the Perry-Brooks Building at 8th and Brazos Streets. While on the Supreme Court, he was known for the clarity and logic of his legal opinions, and delivered several opinions and decisions that regulated the state's oil industry. After his death in 1959, the house was owned and occupied by later generations of attorneys.

PARCEL NO.: 0112020403

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 27 ENFIELD C

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$8,500 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,500 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,674,647

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS:

Alan Huntress Minter
1602 West Lynn Street
Austin, Texas 78703

DATE BUILT: ca. 1923

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Some possible alterations from the original plans; no permit history reflects modifications.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): George E. and Belle Sydnor Bryson (1923)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: Contributing to the Old West Austin Historic District.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 333'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: NRD-2018-0038

LOCATION: 1602 WEST LYNN ST

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.



1602 West Lynn Street
ca. 1923



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
1602 West Lynn Street

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

1992	Alan H. Minter, owner Partner, Minter, Joseph & Thornhill, lawyers, 811 Barton Springs Road.
1985-86	Alan H. and Patsy Minter, owners Partner, Minter, Joseph & Thornhill, lawyers, 400 W. 15 th Street.
1977	No return
1973	No return
1968	Alan H. and Patricia Minter, owners Employed by the State Attorney General's Office
1964	Bill F. and Nell Irwin, owners Manager, Southwestern Supplies and Materials Also listed is Raymond Ridgeway, a student.

1959	Richard and Nora E. Critz, owners No occupation listed
1957	Richard and Nora E. Critz, owners Attorney, 1108 Perry-Brooks Building, 121 E. 8 th Street.
1954	Richard and Nora Critz, owners Lawyer, 1102 Perry-Brooks Building, 121 E. 8 th Street.
1952	Richard and Nora Critz, owners Partner, Critz, Kuykendall, Bauknight & Stevenson ,lawyers, 1102 Perry-Brooks Building, 121 E. 8 th Street.
1949	Richard and Nora Critz, owners Partner, Critz, Kuykendall, Bauknight & Stevenson, lawyers, 813-15 Littlefield Building.
1947	Richard and Nora Critz, owners Partner, Critz, Kuykendall, Bauknight, Mann & Stevenson, lawyers, 813-15 Littlefield Building. Also listed are John C. and N. Josephine Shaw, renters; he was a bus operator for Austin Transit Company
1944-45	Richard and Nora D. Critz, owners Associate justice, Texas Supreme Court Also listed are Chauncey E. and Margaret Critz; he was in the U.S. Army. Rear: Robert L. and Beatrice Sturgis, renters U.S. Army
1941	Richard and Nora L. Critz, owners Associate justice, State Supreme Court. Also listed is Ella N. Critz, a stenographer for the National Youth Administration.
1939	Richard and Nora L. Critz, owners Associate justice, Supreme Court of Texas Also listed is Ella N. Critz, a student at the University of Texas. NOTE: The house is listed as 1314 West Lynn Street. NOTE: Charles G. and Nora L. Krueger are listed at 1606 Pearl Street. He was a commissioner for the State Court of Criminal Appeals. With them was Charles L. Krueger, a student.
1937	Charles G. and Nora L. Krueger, owners Commissioner, State Court of Criminal Appeals Also listed is Charles L. Krueger, a student at the University of Texas. Rear: Roy C. Smith, renter Student, University of Texas NOTE: Richard and Nora L. Critz are listed at 1225 Marshall Lane. He was an associate justice for the Supreme Court of Texas. Listed with them was Ella N. Critz, a student at the University of Texas.
1935	Charles G. and Nora L. Krueger, owners Commissioner, State Court of Criminal Appeals Also listed is Charles L. Krueger, a student at the University of Texas. Rear: James Oliver Gooch, renter Student, University of Texas NOTE: J.B. and Addie Knight are not listed in the directory.

- 1932-33 J.B. and Addie Knight, owners
Farmer
Rear: Vacant
NOTE: Charles G. and Nora L. Krueger are not listed in the directory. Their son, Charles L. Krueger, is listed as a student at the University of Texas living at 2309 Nueces Street.
- 1930-31 Joseph B. and Addie Knight, owners
Farmer
Also listed is Ollie Knight, no occupation shown.
- 1929 J.B. and Addie Knight, owners
No occupation listed
Rear: Eliza Jones (colored), renter
Cook (for the Knight family).
- 1927 J.B. and Addie Knight, owners
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ollie Knight, a student at the University of Texas.
NOTE: There is no rear dwelling unit listed in the directory.
NOTE: George E. and Belle Bryson are listed at 28 Enfield Road. He was the proprietor (with Malcom H. Reed and E.G. Bischoff, of the G.E. Bryson & Company, cotton, 923-29 Littlefield Building.
- 1924 George E. and Belle Bryson, owners
Proprietor, G.E. Bryson & Company (George E. Bryson, E.G. Bischoff, and Malcolm H. Reed, proprietors), cotton, 723-25 Littlefield Building, and partner, M.H. Reed & Company, cotton, 723-29 Littlefield Building.
NOTE: J.B. and Addie Knight are not listed in the directory.
- 1922 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: George E. and Belle Bryson are listed at 1010 San Antonio Street. He was the proprietor of the G.E. Bryson and Company, (George E. Bryson, Malcolm H. Reed, and E.G. Bischoff, proprietors), cotton buyers, 723-29 Littlefield Building.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

George E. and Belle Bryson (ca. 1923 – ca. 1925)

George E. and Belle S. Bryson appear in the 1930 U.S. Census for Houston, Texas, where they rented an apartment. George E. Bryson was 50, had been born in Texas, and was a cotton merchant. Belle S. Bryson was 44, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 daughters: Georgia B., 21; and Louise, 17. Both girls had been born in Texas, and neither had an occupation shown.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows George and Belle S. Bryson as the renters of a duplex at 1716 Enfield Road. George Bryson was 60, had been born in Texas, and was a cotton buyer. Belle Bryson was 54, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. With them lived Belle's mother, Irene Sydnor, an 86-year old Kentucky-born widow with no occupation listed.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rather, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Mayne and Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Reed left this morning for Houston, where they will be members of a house party entertained by Mr. and Mrs. George Bryson, who were formerly of Austin. They expect to return home Sunday.

Personals column item about a house party thrown by George and Belle Bryson in Houston. The attendees mentioned were some of the most prominent members of Austin society. Austin Statesman, January 31, 1930

George Bryson's 1948 death certificate shows that he was living at 601 E. 15th Street at the time of his death. He was born in 1879 in Grimes County, Texas, and worked for W.T. Caswell Company, a cotton broker. Belle Sydnor Bryson died in Corpus Christi in February, 1960. She had lived in Corpus for about a year prior to her death. Her death certificate shows that she was a housewife who had been born in Navasota, Texas in 1885, and was a widow.

J.B. and Addie Knight (ca. 1925 – ca. 1934)

Joe B. and Addie F. Knight appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$20,000, and addressed as 1314 West Lynn Street. Joe B. Knight was 45, had been born in Texas, and was a planter. Addie F. Knight was 43, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Ollie, 23, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed, and a servant, Eliza Jones, 26, who had been born in Texas.

Joseph B. Knight, Jr. was born in Williamson County, Texas in 1885 and died in Corpus Christi in 1942, where he and Addie had been living for the 8 years prior to his death. He was a rancher. Addie Knight died in 1984. Both are buried in Bartlett, Texas.

Mrs. Knight Hostess For Attractive Tea

Among the attractive social affairs which have been held during which 90 guests were received during the afternoon, and a green and the week was the formal tea given by Mrs. J. B. Knight Wednesday afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30 at her home, 1314 West Lynn street. Spring flowers in all shades were used throughout the rooms, in

white color scheme was effectively carried out in the dining room. The tea table was centered with a large wreath of rosebuds, snapdragons, and ferns, in the center of which rested a large punch bowl. The table was further adorned with green tapers in silver ornaments. Presiding at the table were Mrs. Clyde Parrish, Sr., Mrs. T. H. Bowman and Mrs. Thurman Mayne. Girls assisting in the dining room were Misses Lucille Camp, Ollie Knight, Mary Caldwell and Bess Tobin.

Included in the house party were Mesdames George Bryson, Lynn Hunter, Clyde Parrish, Sr., Dave Reed, T. H. Bowman, Greenwood Wooten, Thurman Mayne, E. T. Cravens, Lee Joseph, V. I. Moore, John C. Ross, John L. Martin and Albert Taylor.

Social news story
Austin Statesman, May 17, 1928

Charles G. and Nora Krueger (ca. 1934 – ca. 1937)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Charles G. and Nora L. Krueger as the renters of the house at 1606 Pearl Street in Austin (the McClendon-Price House, an Austin landmark). Charles G. Krueger was 68, had been born in Texas, and was a commissioner on the State Court of Criminal Appeals. Nora L. Krueger was 60, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Charles L. Krueger, 26, who had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. He is listed as absent from the house at the time of the census report.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Charles G. and Nora Krueger as the owners of a house in Bellville, Texas. Charles Krueger was 57, had been born in Texas to German-born parents, and was an attorney. Nora Krueger was 50, had been born in Texas to an Alabama-born father and a Texas-born mother, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Charles Lewis Krueger, 16, who had been born in Texas. Also in the household was Nora Krueger's sister, Edna Lewis, 47, who had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed.

Judge Charles G. Krueger was born in 1871 in Carmine, Fayette County, Texas, and died in 1958 in Austin. Nora Krueger was born in 1880 and died in 1976. Both are buried in Bellville, Texas. Krueger served as a commissioner of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals from 1933 to 1950, then as the attorney for the Sealy Mattress Company for 20 years. He was the county judge of Austin County, Texas.

Richard and Nora Critz (ca. 1938 – ca. 1959)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Richard and Nora Critz as the owners of this house, which was worth \$25,000. The house is addressed as 1314 West Lynn Street. Richard Critz was 62, had been born in Mississippi, and was a judge on the Texas Supreme Court. Nora Critz was 55, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had two daughters living with them: Ella N., 21, a stenographer for the National Youth Administration; and J.I. Atkins, 31, who was a legal secretary. J.I. Atkins had a son, Dickey, 7.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Richard and Nora E. Critz renting the house at 2504 Wichita Street in Austin. Richard Critz was 52, had been born in Mississippi, and was a judge on the Commission of Appeals. Nora E. Critz was 45, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation

listed. They had 4 children: James R., 23, a salesman in a men's ready-to-wear clothing store; Genevieve, 21; Chauncey E., 17; and Elenora, 12. All the children had been born in Texas.

His 1959 death certificate shows that Richard Critz was born in Starkville, Mississippi in 1877, and was living at this house at the time of his death. He was a lawyer.

Calhoun, Critz And McClendon Urged for Posts

Nominations in Order 40 Days After Amendment Election

Names of at least three Austin jurists are before Gov. Dan Moody for appointment on the new nine-member supreme court authorized by the adoption of the court constitutional amendment last week, it has become known.

These are Dist. Judge George Calhoun, regarded as among the most eminent trial judges in Texas; Presiding Justice James W. McClendon of third court of civil appeals, and Judge Richard Critz of Georgetown, now in Austin as a member of the commission of appeals of supreme court.

Critz's Job Abolished

An attorney here in the interest of another appointment Saturday pointed out that the constitutional amendment is "self-enacting," and that the appointments will be in order just as soon as the result of the election has been certified.

He said the amendment also abolishes the six-member commission of appeals, of which Judge Critz is a judge, effective when the six additional supreme court members are appointed.

Judge Calhoun once was tendered appointment on the commission of appeals of supreme court. He declined the post. His court has tried many big cases of statewide interest, Travis county being made the seat of trials in which the state is a party in a civil proceeding.

Judge Critz was active in the Williamson county movement which became statewide, to draft Gov. Moody for the governorship. Judge Critz has served for more than two years on the commission of appeals.

News story on the appointment of Richard Critz to the Texas Supreme Court
Austin American, July 21, 1929

CRITZ FAMILIAR WITH COURT JOB

By United Press

Judge Richard Critz, who as a small boy walked from Starkville, Miss., to Williamson county, Texas, half a century ago, today became an associate justice of the Texas supreme court.

He was appointed late yesterday to succeed the late Justice William Pierson. At a night session the senate confirmed the appointment.

Judge Critz was expected to take the oath of office today and sit as a member of the court at its regular session tomorrow.

One of the senators who voted to confirm the appointment last night was Sen. Jim Neal. Critz was Neal's assistant as county attorney of Williamson county, where the Laredo senator resided formerly. Later Critz became county judge and served for eight years.

He aided Dan Moody and Harry N. Graves, a present state representative, in prosecuting the Taylor flogging cases that resulted in Moody being elected attorney general and then governor.

As governor, Moody appointed Judge Critz to the commission that aids the supreme court. He leaves that place now to go upon the bench itself. A change of statute now requires the court to name the commissioners, so Judge Critz will have a voice in naming his successor.

Judge Critz already is familiar with much of the litigation pending before the court as a result of his service on its commission. Before removing to Austin to accept the commission assignment, Judge Critz lived at Taylor and Granger. Hunting, fishing and golf keep him unusually fit for a man of 58 years.

His appointment is effective until the general election Nov. 3, 1936. Two supreme court judges will be voted upon then. The term of Chief Justice C. M. Cureton expires also.

News story on the appointment of Richard Critz to the Supreme Court
Austin Statesman, April 30, 1935

Miss Ella Nora Critz, Ensign J. J. Pickle To Be Married at First Methodist Church

In a ceremony in the First Methodist church, Miss Ella Nora Critz, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Richard Critz, will become the bride of Ensign James Jarrell Pickle, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pickle of Big Spring, Tuesday at 8 p. m.

The Rev. Edmund Heinsohn will officiate at the ceremony and the wedding music will be played by Henry Wunderlich at the church organ. Mrs. Gibson Randle will sing the solo.

Miss Critz will be attended by her sister, Mrs. J. T. Atkin of

Georgetown, as matron of honor. Bridesmaids will be Misses Marjorie Ransom, Len Mewhinney of San Antonio and Judith Pickle of Big Springs, sister of the bridegroom.

Ensign Pickle will be attended by his brother, Joe Pickle of Big Springs, as best man. Groomsmen will be Ensign Edward Syers, Lieut. Tom Beasle, Mack Degeurin, W. S. Birdwell and Ensign John B. Connally.

Following the ceremony a reception will be held at the home of the bride's parents, 1602 West Lynn.

Ensign Pickle is flying down from Chicago where he has just completed training at midshipman's training school at Northwestern university. He is expected to arrive in Austin Sunday morning.

Mrs. J. T. Atkin will entertain the wedding party and the immediate family at a rehearsal supper Monday night at the Country club.

The wedding party, family and a few friends from out of town will be entertained at a luncheon Tuesday at 1 p. m. by Mrs. John H. Sharp at the Sharp home, 1108 Colorado.

News story on the impending marriage of Ella Nora Critz to J.J. Pickle
Austin American, September 27, 1942

Judge Critz Funeral Set For Friday

Funeral services will be held Friday at 10:30 a. m. at the Cook Funeral Home for Judge Richard Critz, 81, famed Texas jurist and a resident of Central Texas for 57 years.

He died Wednesday afternoon at his home, 1602 West Lynn Street, after being in failing health for the past year. He was a former associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Dr. Edmund Helmsohn will officiate. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Survivors include his widow; a daughter, Mrs. J. T. Atkin of Georgetown; two sons, James Critz of Fort Worth and C. E. Critz of Andrews, Texas; and a sister, Mrs. George Kolb of Sherman. Another daughter, Mrs. J. J. Pickle of Austin, preceded him in death in 1952.

After a quarter of a century in judicial posts in Georgetown and Austin, Judge Critz retired from the Supreme Court in 1945 and entered the private practice of law in Austin in partnership with the late Lloyd Mann, and Emmett L. Bauknight, F. L. Kuykendall and Pierce Stevenson.

Judge Critz was born in Starkville, Miss., Oct. 16, 1877, the son of George Edward and Ella Critz. He came to Texas with his parents when he was 14 years of age and for several years he worked on farms in Hill, McLennan and Williamson counties.

Before coming to Texas, he attended public schools in Mississippi and later attended Southwestern University in Georgetown. Afterward, while teaching school in Williamson County, he studied law at night and in law offices, passed the bar examination and received his license to practice law in 1902.

He began the practice of law at Granger and continued in private practice there until 1910 and served as city attorney of Granger from 1906 to 1910. He began his judicial career in 1910 when he became county judge of Williamson County and served until 1918, when he re-entered the private practice of law in Taylor and continued until 1927.

He came to Austin in 1927 following his appointment by Governor Dan Moody as a member of the Commission of Appeals to the Texas Supreme Court and served as a commissioner until 1935. In that year he was named by Governor James V. Allred as associate justice of the Supreme Court to succeed Judge William Peltson, deceased and served in that post until his retirement in 1945 to enter private practice in Austin.

Judge Critz was a member of the Masonic Lodge and of the Methodist Church.

Honorary pallbearers will be former Governors Dan Moody and Coke Stevenson, Federal Judge James V. Allred and all present and former members of the Texas Supreme Court.

Active pallbearers will be Judge Meade Griffin, Bailey Jones, Clint Small Sr., F. L. Kuykendall, Emmett L. Bauknight, Sam Stone of Georgetown, James Shaw, and Judge M. B. Blair.

Obituary and funeral notice for Richard Critz
Austin Statesman, April 2, 1959

Critz Memorial Service Tomorrow Morning at 10

A memorial service for Judge Richard Critz will be held in the Supreme Court at 10 a.m. Monday.

Prominent jurists and attorneys will attend the ceremony at which Chief Justice J. E. Hickman will preside.

Judge Critz died in Austin last April 1. He was 81 years of age. He served on the Supreme Court from the time he was appointed by Governor James Allred until 1945.

Former Governor Dan Moody will make the principal talk at the memorial service. A. J. Foley, former justice of the Supreme Court and president of the State Bar, will represent the bar. He served on the Supreme Court with Judge Critz.

Associate Justice Meade Griffin will respond for the court.

Judge Critz was a native of Mississippi and came to Texas in 1892 with his family. Part of his boyhood was in Hill and McLennan Counties. After his family settled in Williamson County, Judge Critz earned money as a farm hand to pay his way through two sessions at Southwestern University. He studied law at night while teaching school, and was licensed to practice in 1902. He held city and county legal posts in Williamson County.

He was appointed to the state commission of appeals in 1927 by Gov. Moody. Gov. Allred appointed him associate justice of the Supreme Court. After retiring from the bench he continued to practice law in Austin.

News story on the funeral of Richard Critz
Austin American, September 20, 1959

Richard Critz (1877-1959)



Associate Justice, Texas Supreme Court, 1935-1944

Richard Critz was born October 16, 1877 in Starkville, Mississippi, and moved with his parents to Central Texas when he was fourteen years old. His family settled in Williamson County, where Critz attended local schools before enrolling at Southwestern University in Georgetown. He studied law

privately while teaching school in Georgetown, received his law license in 1902, and began practicing law in Granger that year. In 1906 he was married; the couple had four children.

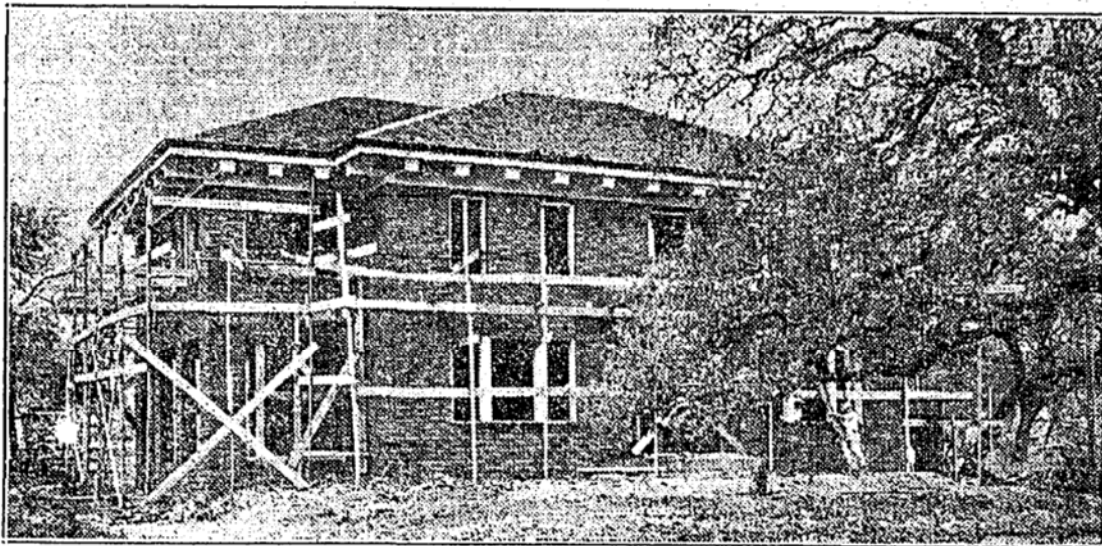
Critz served as Granger city attorney from 1906 to 1910 and as Williamson County judge from 1910 to 1918. He practiced law in Taylor from 1918 to 1927, when Gov. Dan Moody appointed him to the commission of appeals of the Texas Supreme Court. He served in that position until 1935 when Gov. James Allred appointed him an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Critz served on the court until 1944. His opinions on the state's high court helped establish a judicial pattern for regulating the oil industry, and he was influential in the development of the substantial-evidence rule.

Following his supreme court service, Critz returned to the commission of appeals for a year before retiring in 1945. At that time he returned to practicing law in Austin. Richard Critz died April 1, 1959 in Austin at the age of eighty-one. He was buried in Capital Memorial Gardens.

From Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas, Justices of Texas, 1836 - 1986

CRITZ, RICHARD (1877–1959). Richard Critz, lawyer and judge, was born in Starkville, Mississippi, on October 16, 1877, the son of George Edward and Ella (Richards) Critz. When he was fourteen the family moved to Williamson County, Texas, where Critz went to school. He attended Southwestern University for a short time, then studied law in a Georgetown law office while teaching in the local public schools. He was admitted to the bar in 1902 and practiced until 1910 at Granger, where he also served for some years as city attorney. He returned in 1910 to Georgetown to become county judge, a post he held until 1918, after which he continued to practice there until 1927. Around 1920 Critz assisted the young Georgetown district attorney, [Daniel James Moody, Jr.](#), in his prosecution of sundry local members of the [Ku Klux Klan](#). When Moody became governor in 1927 he appointed Critz to the Commission of Appeals to the state Supreme Court, on which Critz remained until elevated in 1935 to associate justice of the Supreme Court by appointment of Governor [James Allred](#). Critz's judicial opinions are noteworthy for unusual conciseness and clarity, as well as for their logic and numerical abundance. He helped establish a judicial pattern for regulating the oil industry and was influential in the development of the substantial-evidence rule. He was defeated for renomination in the Democratic primary of 1944 and left the bench at the end of the year to practice law as a member of an Austin firm. On January 18, 1906, Critz married Nora Lamb of Granger; they had two sons and two daughters. Justice Critz was a Democrat and a Methodist. He died on April 1, 1959, and was buried in Capital Memorial Gardens, Austin.

From the [Handbook of Texas](#), Texas State Historical Association



GEORGE BRYSON HOME—West Lynn Street

The George Bryson home, now under construction in Enfield, will upon completion be one of the most attractive residences in Austin. It is a red brick and tile structure, and is to be two stories in height. Equipped with the latest of modern appointments, this home will be one of the most complete in Austin.

Photo of the house under construction
 Austin Statesman, April 15, 1923

TWO STORY
1602 WEST LYNN

This is a very stately, well built two story brick home. This is located in a very nice section of Enfield and complemented by other two story homes with lots of charm. The lower floor consists of a very attractive entrance, beautifully decorated living room, formal dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and pantry. The second story is very comfortably arranged with four bedrooms, two baths and sitting room, here is also a nice apartment above the garage. There are many very large oak trees and a beautiful lawn watered by automatic sprinkler system. This home is priced in the mid forties. To see, please call Leo Herzog at GR 6-7414 or Sunday and evenings at GR 8-3642.



**LEO
HERZOG**
and company

GR 6-7414 REALTOR 710 Brazos

Ad for the sale of this house
 Austin American, September 24, 1967



Detail of portico



Portico and original cornice