

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 27, 2018
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2018-0401
1705 E. 6TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1899 house and later outbuilding.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a partial-width shed-roofed, independent porch on turned wood posts with ornamental brackets; transom over the front door; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; stone foundation skirting. The rear outbuilding is a one-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame building with corrugated metal siding and a corrugated metal roof; single 1:1 fenestration.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1899; the first owners and occupants were Gus and Ida Anderson, who lived here until 1950. Gus Anderson was born in Sweden, and was a farm laborer before going to work as a fireman for the Austin and Northwestern Railroad, later the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, and later the Southern Pacific Railroad. He retired around 1936, and passed away in 1943. His widow, Ida, also born in Sweden, lived in this house until her death in 1952. One of their daughters, Edith, a public school teacher, lived here until the mid-1960s. The house was then purchased by Felix Benites and his wife, Louise, who lived here in their retirement.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was recommended as eligible for local landmark designation and as contributing to a historic district in the East Austin Historical Survey (2016).

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house may meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:




- a. **Architecture.** The house is a frame wing-and-gable house dating from the turn of the 20th century, with intact architectural features typical of its date of construction, principally the transom over the door and heavy bracketing at the eaves and porch posts. This architectural style with this level of ornamentation has become increasingly rare in Austin.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was owned by the same family for over 60 years – Gus and Ida Anderson were both immigrants from Sweden; he was a railroad fireman for his entire working life. The case for historical associations is less strong than the architectural significance of the house.
- 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

Postpone to September 24, 2018 to fully evaluate alternatives to demolition of the house, as this house displays rare architectural features and was recommended as individually eligible for landmark designation in the city's East Austin survey. 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. Staff recommends release of the permit for the demolition of the outbuilding, as it clearly does not meet the criteria for designation or necessarily contributing to the context of this property if the house were to be designated as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 250'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0401

LOCATION: 1705 E 6TH 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.



1705 E. 6th Street
ca.1899



2008 photograph



2018 photographs



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1705 E. 6th Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
May, 2008

1987	Felix Benites, owner Retired
1977	Felix and Louise R. Benites, owners No occupation listed
1967	The address is not listed. Felix and Louise Benites are listed as living at 1204 Short Hackberry Street; he was employed as a mechanic for Ellis & Salazar.
1957	Edith M. Anderson, owner Teacher, public schools
1947	Mrs. Ida Anderson, owner Widow, Gus S. Anderson No occupation listed Also listed is Edith Anderson, a teacher at Austin High School.
1940	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners No occupation listed
1937	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners No occupation listed
1935	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners Fireman, Southern Pacific Railroad NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6 th Street.
1932-33	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners Fireman, Southern Pacific Railroad NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6 th Street.
1930-31	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners Fireman, Southern Pacific Railroad NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6 th Street.
1929	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners Fireman, Southern Pacific Railroad NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6 th Street.
1927	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners Fireman, Southern Pacific Railroad NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6 th Street.
1924	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners Fireman, Southern Pacific Railroad NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6 th Street.
1922	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners Fireman, Southern Pacific Railroad NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6 th Street.
1920	Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners

- Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1918 Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners
Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1916 Gus S. and Ida H. Anderson, owners
Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1914 Gus S. Anderson
Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1912-13 Gus S. Anderson
Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1910-11 Gus S. Anderson
Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1906-07 Gus S. Anderson
Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1905 Gus S. Anderson
Fireman, Houston and Texas Central Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1900-01 Gus S. Anderson
Fireman, Austin and Northwestern Railroad
NOTE: The house is listed as 1803 E. 6th Street.
- 1898-99 Gus S. Anderson is listed as a fireman for the Austin and Northwestern Railroad, residing at 1013 E. 8th Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Gus and Ida Anderson (ca. 1899 – ca. 1952)

The 1880 U.S. Census lists Gus Anderson as a 17-year old farm laborer who had been born in Sweden, and living in Austin.

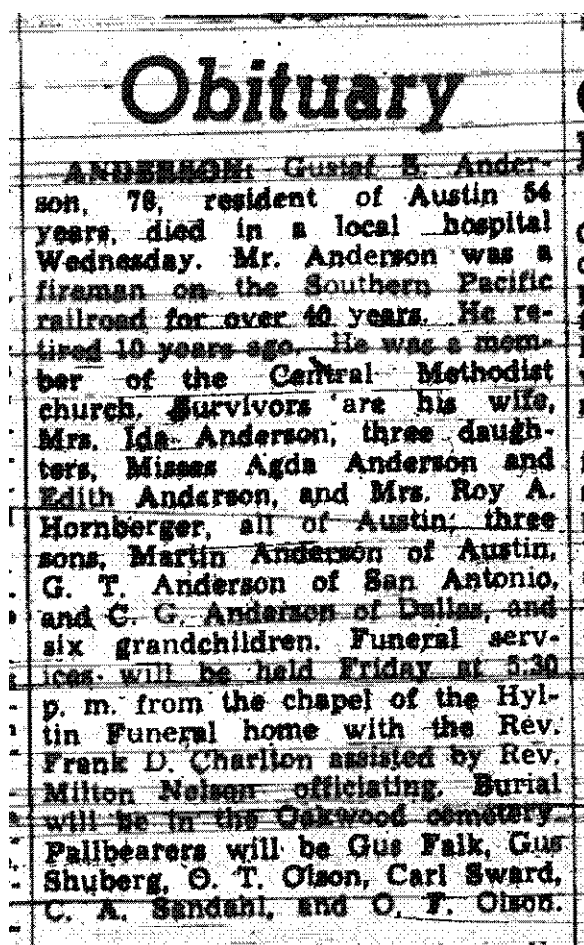
The 1900 U.S. Census lists Gus and Ida Anderson residing at 1803 E. 6th Street, the former address for this house, with two daughters, Adga, 6 and Edith, 1. Gus was 35; Ida was 32. Both had been born in Sweden, but their daughters had both been born in Texas. Gus immigrated to the United States in 1887; Ida immigrated in 1885. Gus worked as a locomotive fireman.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Gus and Ida Anderson at 1803 E. 6th Street, the former address for this house. They had six children as well as Louise Johnson, Ida's 69-year old mother living with them. All of the adults had been born in Sweden; the children had all been born in Texas. Gus is listed as a locomotive fireman.

The 1930 U.S. Census still finds Gus and Ida Anderson at 1803 E. 6th Street with two unmarried daughters. Gus worked as a train fireman; the youngest daughter worked as a stenographer.

Gus S. and Ida Anderson appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$3,000. Gus S. Anderson was 75, had been born in Sweden, and had no occupation listed. Ida Anderson was 72, had been born in Sweden, and had no occupation listed. With them lived two daughters: Agda, 47, who had no occupation listed; and Ida Louise, 32, a stenographer at the State Capitol. Both daughters had been born in Texas.

Gustaf S. Anderson died September 1, 1943 while living in this house. He was born in Sweden in 1864, and was a retired railroad fireman. Ida Helen Anderson died in May, 1952, while living at this address. She was a widowed housewife who had been born in Sweden in 1867.



Obituary of Gus S. Anderson
Austin Statesman, September 2, 1943

MRS. IDA HELEN ANDERSON

Mrs. Ida Helen Anderson, widow of the late Gus. S. Anderson, died at her home, 1705 East Sixth, Tuesday.

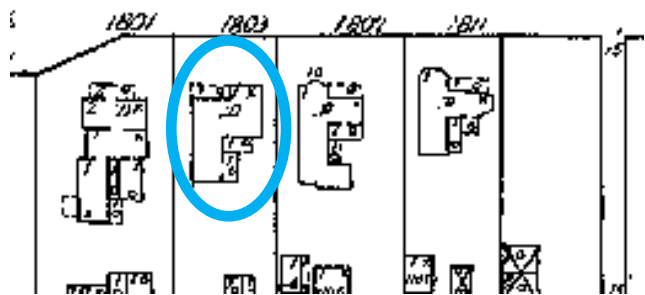
She had been a resident of Austin for 64 years and was a member of the Central Methodist Church.

She is survived by three daughters, Miss Ogda R. Anderson and Miss Edith M. Anderson, both of Austin, and Mrs. Lorraine Hornberger of Corpus Christi; three sons, Theodore Anderson of San Antonio, Clarence Anderson of Dallas, and Martin Anderson of Austin; two brothers, August A. Johnson of Austin and Alfred Johnson of Fort Worth; five grandsons and one granddaughter.

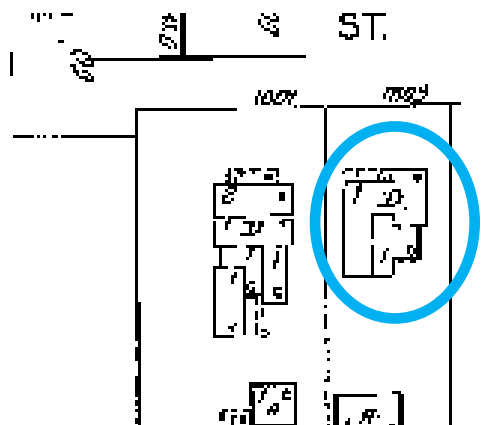
Funeral services will be held at 4:30 p. m. Wednesday from the Cook Funeral Home, with the Rev. Will-Matthis Dunn officiating, assisted by the Rev. O. E. Lindstrom of La Grange.

Burial will be in the 'Oakwood Cemetery.

Obituary of Ida Helen Anderson
Austin Statesman, May 6, 1952



The 1922 Sanborn map shows the house with its former address of 1803 E. 6th Street.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows greater infill at the back of the house and the existing outbuilding at the rear of the lot. The same configuration is shown on the 1962 map.

OWNER	Felix Benites	ADDRESS	1705 East 6th Street
PLAT	23	LOT	S 1/2 of L. #6
SUBDIVISION	Gustaf S. Anderson	BLK	
OCCUPANCY	Bedroom		
BLD PERMIT #	110370	DATE	11-4-68
CONTRACTOR	Owner	OWNERS ESTIMATE	\$200.00
WATER TAP REC #	Exist	NO. OF FIXTURES	--
SEWER TAP REC #	Exist		
Frame addn to side of residence and remodel			
96 Sq. Ft.			
10-24-72-132502-Felix Benites-frn acc bldg. 160 sq.ft.			

Building permit to Felix Benites for a frame addition (1968) and for a frame accessory building (1972)