

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2018**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**HDP-2018-0583**  
**911 E. 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1900 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, wing-and-gable plan frame house with board-and-batten siding, a partial-width independent porch; single original 4:4 fenestration, and replacement 1:1 fenestration, some of which appear to be of historic age.

**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1900; the first occupant was Thomas M. Lee, a fireman for the Austin Street Railway, who lived here until around 1906. Lee was the watchman on the bridge (presumably the Congress Avenue bridge) during construction of the new bridge, according to his 1910 obituary, which lists his address as 900 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

From around 1908 until the mid-1920s, the house was a rental property with a variety of Anglo and Hispanic tenants, including a yardman for Calcasieu Lumber Company, a carpenter, and a Hispanic laborer. Around 1925, the house was rented by Rudolph Ledesma, a barber on E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. He lived here until around 1930, when he moved to 603 Medina Street. Dovie Scott, a Tennessee-born widow, rented the house from around 1930 until her death in 1948. She had previously lived around the corner on San Marcos Street in a house that is no longer standing. She did not have an occupation listed in the city directories, but she had 2 sons living with her, both employed. One of her sons, Thomas Alexander, who worked as a mailer for the Austin American Statesman, rented the house after Dovie's death and was the longest-term tenant, living here in the late 1940s, and then again from the 1960s through the 1980s.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house was not recommended for individual designation nor as a contributing building within a local or National Register historic district, but staff believes that it would be contributing to a potential historic district along E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from the freeway east a couple of blocks and perhaps incorporating a portion of E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and may also meet the criteria for individual designation.

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 ca. 1900 wing-and-gable frame house with board-and-batten siding. Although the windows have been replaced, there is one original 4:4 window remaining in the house, which could serve as a model for a restoration and rehabilitation project on this house. Early wing-and-gable houses are becoming increasingly rare in Austin, and every consideration should be given to preserving and restoring this house, especially where the form is so intact.
- b. **Historical association.** The house does not have a significant history, as it appears that it was a rental property for almost all of its existence; however, the house could have significance as an example of working-class rental properties in East Austin.

- 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**

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Initiate historic zoning. If the Commission decides to release the demolition 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.



911 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
ca. 1900





## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 911 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
December, 2013

1992	Raymond and Connie Avila, renters Roofer
1985-86	Thomas and Dora Alexander, renters No occupation listed
1981	No return
1977	Thomas Alexander, renter Mailer, Austin American-Statesman
1973	Thomas Alexander, renter Mailer, Austin American-Statesman
1968	Thomas Alexander, owner Mailer, Austin American-Statesman
1962	Vacant
1957	The address is not listed in the directory.
1953	Vacant
1949	Joseph and Nannie Montgomery, renters No occupation listed
1947	Thomas Alexander, renter News salesman, Austin American-Statesman NOTE: Thomas Alexander was the son of Dovie Scott.
1944-45	Mrs. Dovie Scott, renter No occupation listed
1941	Mrs. Dovie Scott, renter Widow, Walter Scott No occupation listed
1939	Mrs. Dovie Scott, renter Widow, Walter Scott No occupation listed
1937	J. Edward and Lovenia Strong, renters No occupation listed  Dovie Scott, renter Widow, Walter Scott No occupation listed

1935 Dovie Scott, renter  
Widow, W.A. Scott  
No occupation listed

1932-33 Dovie Scott, renter  
Widow, W.A. Scott  
No occupation listed

1930-31 Dovie Scott, renter  
Widow, W.A. Scott  
No occupation listed

1929 Rudolph Ledesma, renter  
Barber, Jose Arizola, 502 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Dovie Scott is not listed in the directory.

1927 Rudolph Ledesma, renter  
Barber, Louis Cazares, 317 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

1924 C. Edward and Adelle Basey, renters  
No occupation listed  
Also listed is Rosa Basey, the widow of Samuel Basey; no occupation stated.

1922 Rudolph Ornevedo, renter  
Not listed in the main directory.

1920 Acosto Zenobeta, renter  
Not listed in the main directory.

1918 William F. and Nora Goettel, renters  
No occupation listed  
Also listed are John P. Goettel, a toolman for A.L. Gooch, granite and limestone contractor, 1400 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street; and William Goettel, U.S. Navy.

1916 Joseph H. Richey  
Carpenter

1914 Jesus Reyna  
Laborer

1912-13 George W. Barr  
Yardman, Calcasieu Lumber Company, 311 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.  
Also listed are Elmer D. Barr, no occupation stated; and Jesse C. Barr, a packer for Quality Mills, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nueces Streets.

1910-11 Annie M. White  
Widow, Bertie White  
Presser, William L. Parsley, hatter, dyer and cleaner, 310 Congress Avenue;  
clothes cleaner and shoe shine, 3113 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

1909-10 Charles Spencer  
City laborer

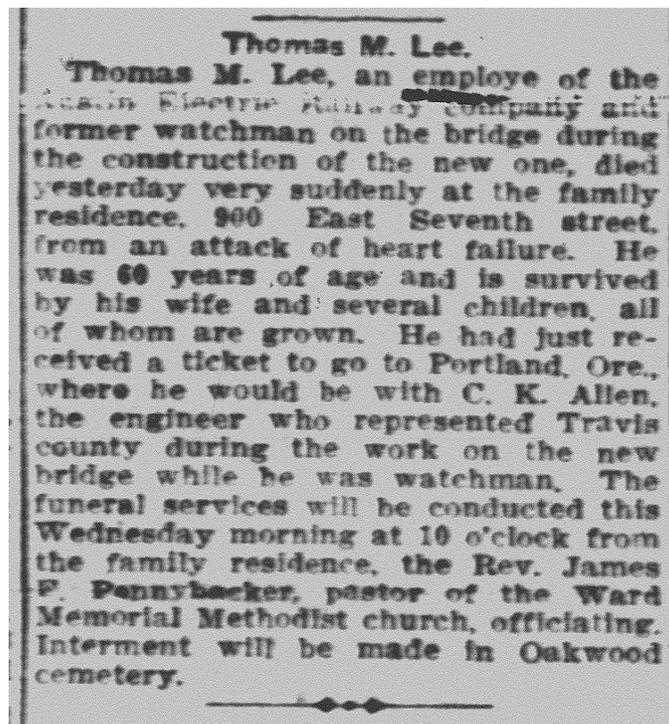
- 1906-07 Bert Spencer  
Trainman, Austin Street Railway  
Also listed is Charles Spencer, Street repair force.
- 1905 T.M. Lee  
Night watchman, Compress.
- 1903-04 T.M. Lee  
Fireman, Austin Street Railway
- 1900-01 Unknown  
NOTE: T.M. Lee is not listed in the directory.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

##### Thomas M. and Mary Lee (ca. 1900 – ca. 1906)

Tom Lee appears in the 1900 U.S. Census for Bastrop County, Texas. He was 48 years old and was a farm and day laborer. His wife's name was Mary; she too had been born in Texas, but had no occupation listed. They had 5 children, ranging in age from 4 to 17.

His 1910 death certificate shows that Thomas M. Lee was living at 900 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street at the time of his death. He was born in 1850 in Texas, and was a railway employee. He is buried in Smithville, Texas.



Obituary of Thomas M. Lee  
Austin Daily Statesman, August 31, 1910

##### Rudolph Ledesma (ca. 1925 – ca. 1930)

Rudolph Ledesma appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the renter of the house at 603 Medina Street (which was later rented by members of the Sing family, owners of a Chinese laundry and whose descendants' home on Willow Street is a city historic landmark). Rudolph Ledesma was 30, had been born in Texas, and was a barber. With him lived his sister, Conseula, 28, a beautician, brother Alfred, 21, a delivery boy for a meat market, brother Click, 19, who had no

occupation listed, and sister, Carrie, 26, a dressmaker for a clothing store. All the siblings had been born in Texas.

By 1940, according to the census report of that year, Rudolph Ledesma was living with his sister Carrie in a rented house at 1011 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. He was a 36-year old barber. Carrie Ledesma did alterations in a department store. Other siblings also lived in the house.

### **RUDOLPH G. LEDESMA**

Rudolph G. (Boef) Ledesma, 74, of 1603 Newton, died Friday in a local hospital.

Ledesma had been a life-long resident of Austin and was a retired barber. He was a member of San Jose Catholic Church.

Hosary will be recited Saturday at 8 p.m. from the Chapel of the Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

Funeral Mass will be Sunday at 2 p.m. from the San Jose Catholic Church, with Rev. John J. Haley, C.S.C., pastor of San Jose Catholic Church, officiating. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery.

Survivors include his sister, Mrs. Consuela Lopez of Austin; one brother, Alfred C. Ledesma Sr. of Austin; three nieces, Mrs. Victor M. Torres, Mrs. Crosby Contreras, and Miss Linda Ledesma; three nephews, Alfred C. Ledesma Jr., John A. Ledesma and Ralph Oyerivetes, and one aunt, Mrs. Elena Velasquez.

Obituary of Rudolph Ledesma  
Austin American-Statesman, November 4, 1972

### **Dovie Scott (ca. 1930 – ca. 1948)**

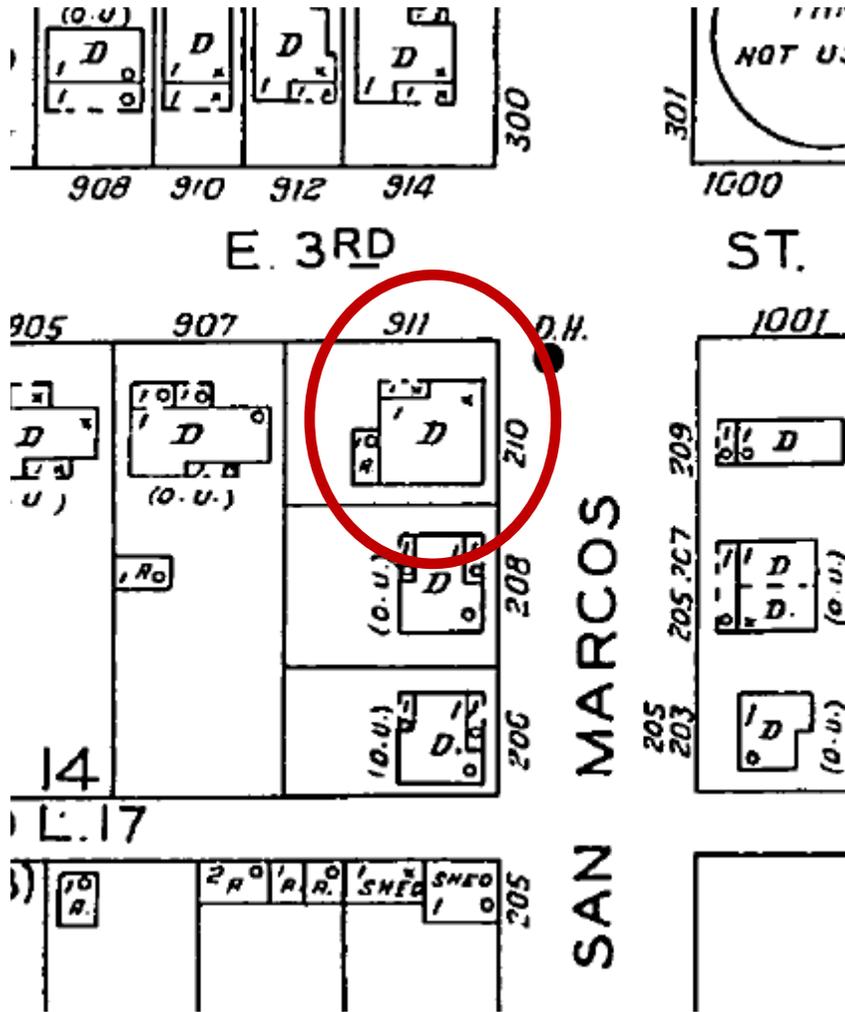
The 1930 U.S. Census shows Dovie Scott as the renter of the house around the corner at 208 San Marcos Street. She was a 50-year old divorcee who had been born in Tennessee and had no occupation listed. With her lived her sons: Tommie Alexander, 19, who had no occupation

listed; and Bethel H. Alexander, 28, a printer for the newspaper. Both boys had been born in Texas.

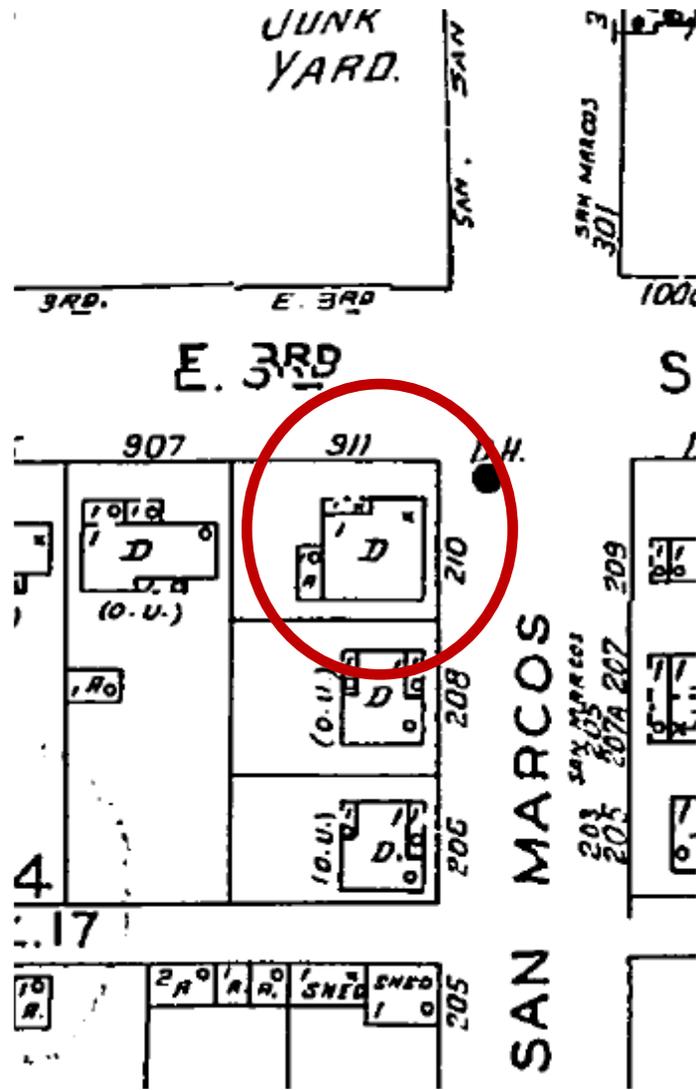
Dovie Scott appears as the renter of this house in the 1940 U.S. Census along with her son, Thomas Alexander. She was a widow who had been born in Tennessee and had no occupation. Thomas Alexander was born in Texas and was a paper salesman for the newspaper. Dovie's other son, Bethel Alexander, died tragically in 1938 in a flare accident that burned the lower half of his body.

**MRS. DOVIE SCOTT**  
Mrs. Dovie Scott died at her residence Thursday. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Hazel Collier of Galveston, a son, Thomas Alexander of Austin; a sister, Mrs. Lelia Wright of Bastrop and a brother, George Alexander of Austin. The body is at the residence, 911 East Third.

Obituary of Dovie Scott  
Austin American, February 20, 1948



The 1935 Sanborn map is the first to show this section of the city. The house is shown with its current configuration.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the same configuration for the house as shown on the 1935 map above. Note that the area across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, which had houses shown on the 1935 map, is now shown as a junkyard.