

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 17, 2018
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2018-0648
1200 MONTOPOLIS DRIVE**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1964 recreation center.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled, painted brick and stuccoed institutional building with vertical metal panels covering the second story of the building; bands of aluminum-frame windows with a horizontal configuration. The entrance to the building is perpendicular to the front façade.

RESEARCH

The Montopolis Recreation Center was built in 1964 by the Dolores Catholic Church as a community and recreation center. It was operated by a private non-profit until the City of Austin purchased the property in 1974. The building has had several modifications over the years, primarily for ADA accessibility and to replace deteriorated metal cladding and roofing panels. The adjacent Montopolis Health Center was constructed in 1978.

The Montopolis Recreation Center was one of the very few, if not the only, city recreation centers which offered training in boxing for neighborhood youth. Boxing competitions were held regularly at the Montopolis Recreation Center, as well as other activities, such as senior dances, classes, day-care services, and a playground for children.

According to the Austin Parks and Recreation website, “The Montopolis Recreation + Community Center will jointly replace two aging facilities and be co-operated by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Austin Public Health Department. This building will be rebuilt to provide over 33,000 square feet of new space, including a commercial kitchen, gymnasium, fitness room, computer lab, conference rooms and educational programming areas. The building’s design seeks to support the initiatives of each partnering department by fostering mental and physical well-being through community recreation and the pursuit of healthy lifestyles.” The project was approved in 2012 with a \$15 million bond issue.



Charles A. York
Texas Registration #17821
These documents are incomplete and may not be used
for regulatory approval, permit, or construction.

View of Primary Entrance
Date: 08/25/2016
Scale: As indicated

Proposed Montopolis Recreation and Community Center

STAFF COMMENTS

The building is not listed in any City survey to date.

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

- a. **Architecture.** The building represents 1960s institutional architecture with a low, horizontal appearance, and bands of aluminum-framed multi-light windows. However, this building does not exhibit sufficient architectural distinction to warrant individual designation under the criterion for architectural significance.
- b. **Historical association.** The building was built as a parish community center and taken over by the city of Austin in the early 1970s; the city has operated a recreation center in the building since that time. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The building was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The building may, by virtue of its location in Montopolis Park, have some community value in its identity as the neighborhood recreation center, and provision of facilities to train neighborhood youth in boxing and other activities in this traditionally Hispanic area. However, staff

does not believe that the building warrants landmark designation based upon this criterion, as the criteria for architecture and historical associations do not appear to be met.

- 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

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 building does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark, and is being replaced with a new, larger community and recreation center.

1200 Montopolis Drive
ca. 1964





OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1200 Montopolis Drive

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

- 1992 Montopolis Recreation Center
 City Department of Health and Human Services
- 1985-86 Montopolis Health Department
- 1981 Montopolis Health Department
NOTE: The Health Department building was built in 1978.
- 1977 The address is not listed in the directory.
- 1973 Montopolis Community School
- 1968 Montopolis Community Center and Branch Library
- 1965 Montopolis Community Center
- 1964 The address is not listed in the directory.

Newman's victor in Silver Gloves

<p>Junior Novice champions were crowned in the sixth annual Silver Gloves boxing competition Tuesday night at Montopolis Recreation Center, as Donnie Newman took the heavyweight crown with a unanimous decision over Albert Lindgren before 370 boxing fans.</p> <p>Competition continues tonight with semifinals action that will include 31 bouts beginning at 7:30.</p> <p>Carlos Valdez took the eight- and nine-year-old 45-50 pound champi-</p>	<p>onship, and Frank Flores took the 56-60 crown.</p> <p>In the 10-12 bracket, George Go- ca took the 61-65-pound class crown, Richard Mares of Martin Recreation Center 66-70, Issac Vallejo 71-75, Fermin Tljerina 76-80, Isidro Mendez 81-85, Ricky Chavez 91-95, and Willie Viella 65-70.</p> <p>Randy Mace took the 13-14 year old 91-95-pound class crown, Johnny Flores 101-105, Richard Cantu of Montopolis Center 106-110,</p>	<p>Joe Ortiz 116-120, Raymond Bernal 125 and David Serrano 132.</p> <p>In the Novice class, Joe Garcia took a split decision over Nathan Blaylock in the 125-pound division, while Willard Bell took a unanimous decision over Javier Alvarez in the 132-pound division, and Galen Hawkins took a unanimous decision over Steve Owsley of the South Austin Recreation Center.</p> <p>James Barbosa, of Martin Recreation Center was awarded the</p>
<p>junior sportsmanship award, and Johnny Flores was named the outstanding junior boxer.</p> <p>The Garza Boxing Team of San Antonio was awarded the junior team trophy.</p> <p>Wednesday night will be highlighted by numerous AA and Golden Glove champions competing.</p> <p>Tickets are on sale for \$2.5 ring-side, \$2.00 general admission.</p>		

Story on a boxing competition at the Montopolis Recreation Center
Austin American-Statesman, December 8, 1976

OWNER	City of Austin	PARD	ADDRESS	1200 Montopolis Dr.
PLAT	681	LOT 1 & 2		BLK.
SUBDIVISION	Montopolis Park			
OCCUPANCY	public swimming pool			
BLDG. PERMIT #	169730	DATE	1-11-78	OWNERS ESTIMATE \$286,000.00
CONTRACTOR	Hayden Sales Const. Co.		NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#	E96942	SEWER TAP REC#	83134	
public swimming pool & masonry toilet bldg, 6224 sq. ft.				
10-17-78# 176894- City of Austin, Health Clinic-				
1 xtry mas Health Clinic. 179,967.00				

Building permit to the City of Austin to construct the swimming pool (1978) and to construct the health clinic (1978)

City records indicate a permit to remodel the building to create offices in 1985, a permit to remodel the interior and exterior for ADA accessibility in 1994, and a permit to replace metal roof panels in 2003