

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 17, 2018
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2018-0654
7 Green Lanes**

PROPOSAL

Change window and door openings and remove portions of rear exterior walls, two balconies, and masonry landscaping elements in a ca. 1964 house.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story, irregular-plan, side-gabled building; wood and brick masonry siding; fixed, sliding, and awning aluminum-sash windows. Features include flat awnings over windows, wood balconies, and brick site walls and stairs.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The project includes the removal of the following elements: brick retaining/site walls around the building, brick steps to the primary entrance, a balcony on the rear part of the west wall, and a balcony on the east wall. The doors in the primary entrance are proposed to be replaced with fully glazed sliding doors and accessed with a new L-shaped staircase. A window opening on the south (primary) façade is proposed to be replaced with a door, and another window opening on the stepped-back portion of the south façade is proposed to be altered for a secondary entrance with new brick steps. All windows are proposed to be replaced with new windows with the same sash patterns.

RESEARCH

The building was designed by R. Gommel Roessner, an architecture professor at UT and well-known local architect. It won awards from the Texas Society of Architects and the American Institute of Architects in 1965-66 and was featured in *Architectural Digest* in 1968. Roessner collected numerous state and national awards for his designs, which were also recognized in international publications. He was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1968.

Glenn H. and Marcia M. Foster were the first residents; they lived in the house until at least 1977. Glenn was a lawyer who later served as vice president of Medifacts.

STAFF COMMENTS

The property may be eligible for designation as a historic landmark.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is at least 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain a high degree of integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (City of Austin Land Development Code, Section 25-2-352). The property may demonstrate significance according to two criteria.
 - a. **Architecture.** The house was designed in the Mid-century Modern style by R. Gommel Roessner and appears to possess architectural distinction. It is a striking example of mid-century architecture, with a mix of materials, bold massing, and clean lines, with landscaping that is integrated with the design

and materials of the house. An *Austin Statesman* article from 1968 noted that the house was “designed to blend into its setting on wooded, hilly property... Large areas of glass allow rooms to join the outdoors.” Roessner was a well-known Austin architect who also taught at UT.

- b. **Historical association.** Glenn and Marcia Foster lived in the house for at least ten years. However, there do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The property does not appear to have a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, a neighborhood, or a particular group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The brick site walls may constitute a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city. With the house’s large windows, the site walls create an indoor-outdoor aesthetic lauded in Roessner’s other designs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Postpone the case to January 28, 2019 and encourage the applicant to consider design alternatives that retain the character-defining features of the brick staircase, brick site walls adjacent to and around the staircase, historic entry doors, and original window on the south façade. Staff believes that retention of these features would allow the property to be designated as a historic landmark in the future, should the owners desire.

If the Commission decides to approve the plans, release them 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.

LOCATION MAP



1" = 165'



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: NRD-2018-0083
LOCATION: 7 Green Lanes

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.



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (south) façade and west elevation of 7 Green Lanes.



West elevation.

Occupancy History

Completed by Historic Preservation Office staff
November 2018

1962 Address not listed

1968-77 Glenn H. and Marcia M. Foster, owners
Lawyer (office at 205 Capital National Bank Building in 1968); vice president,
Medifacts Inc. (1973-77)

1986-92 William J. and Patricia A. (or Pat M.) Deaton, owners
Physician, Pulmonary Disease Associates (1986); physician (office at 1305 W. 34th
Street in 1992)

Background Research

The house was designed by R. Gommel Roessner, a prominent local architect. An Ohio native who moved to Texas around 1947, Roessner taught at the UT School of Architecture and accumulated a host of awards for his private practice. He won the Texas Society of Architects Award of Merit in 1964 for the Millard Ruud house. The following year, *Architectural Record* named the Clifford G. Thorne house (3802 Balcones Dr.) the best house in the South Central states and one of the six best homes in the nation; and Minneapolis-Honeywell Corporation named it the year's best house.

7 Green Lane was recognized by the Texas Society of Architects and the AIA with an honor award and citation for excellence, and a Merit Award, respectively. Shortly thereafter, Roessner won the 1965 AIA Award of Honor ("the Oscar of architecture," crowed the *Austin American* at the time) for the Oaks Apartments, which provided for privacy and common life alongside the natural environment. Roessner's house designs were also featured in international publications.

Roessner was named a Fellow of the AIA in 1968—UT's first professor to achieve that distinction in the design category. Roessner and Philip Creer, director of the UT School of Architecture, formed the firm Creer and Roessner, which was active at least in the early 1960s.

Glenn Howland Foster was born in 1930 in Dallas, Texas, and raised in Abilene. He attended Hardin-Simmons University and North Texas State College. After serving in the Air Force, he attended UT Law School, passing the Texas State Bar examination in 1962. In the late 1960s, he chaired the grounds committee of the Laguna Gloria art museum when it was expanding. Glenn Foster died in 2013.

Little biographical information was located about Marcia M. Foster. She was active in St. David's Church, and may have sold real estate in the late 1970s. She married Glenn Foster in 1954. The couple divorced in 1990, and Glenn married Jacqueline Lewis in 1992.

City Building Permits Start a Fast January

Austin's construction industry jumped off to a healthy 1964, with \$7.6 million in building permits issued in January, the first month of the new year.

Private construction — the pace setter in Austin building — took more than the lion's share in January — all but \$61,000 of the overall total.

The giant January saw \$4.4 million in permits issued for residences, apartments and additions and \$3 million for commercial buildings and additions.

Residential alterations and repairs accounted for \$87,000 of the total and commercial alterations and repairs, valued at \$54,000.

A total of 306 new dwelling units were started in January,

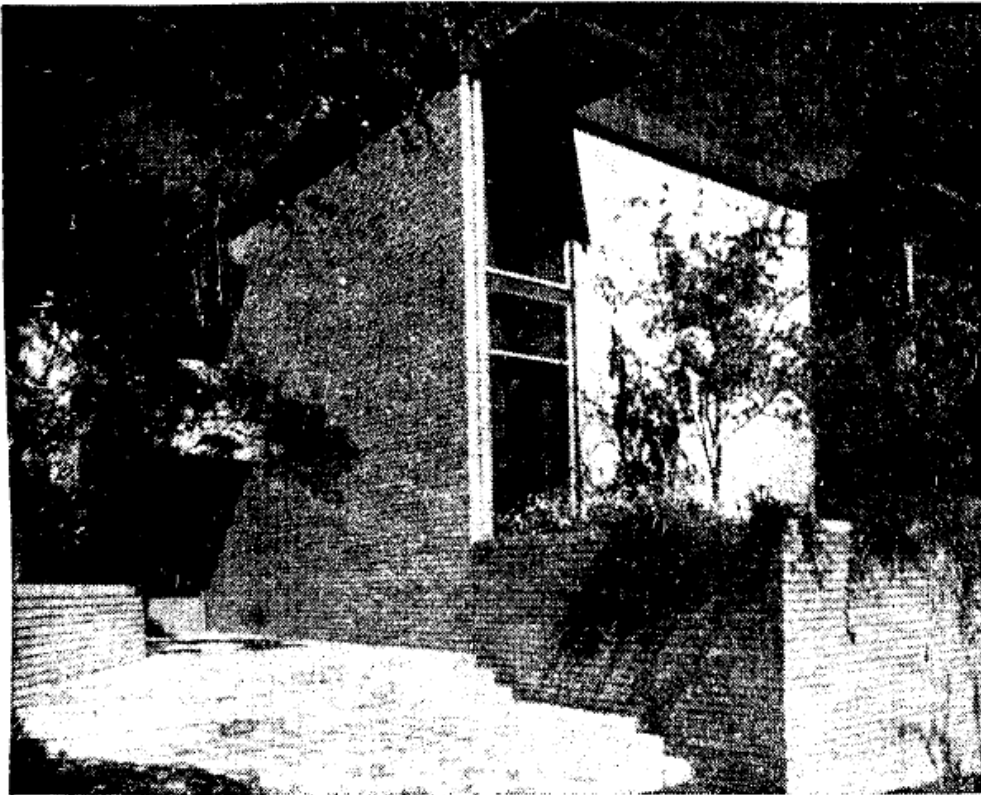
counting single family residences, apartments and duplexes.

Seven permits worth over \$100,000 were issued by the City of Austin in January, with the largest single permit coming for the \$3.3 million motel and apartment complex in Northeast Austin.

Two retirement homes brought in a valuation total of \$475,000; St. Edward's began a \$383,000 dormitory and the Phi Alpha Tau fraternity initiated construction on a \$110,000 fraternity house.

A \$100,000 restaurant was begun on the shore of Town Lake and attorney Glenn Foster took out a \$102,000 permit for a new home at 7 Green Lanes.

"City Building Permits Start a Fast January," The Austin Statesman 2/3/1964.



AWARD WINNER — R. Gommel Roessner, professor of architecture at the University of Texas, will receive a citation for excellence at the annual convention of the Texas Society of Architects in Fort Worth, Nov. 3, 4, and 5, for the design of this Austin residence. The home at 7 Green Lane was designed by

Roessner for Mr. and Mrs. Glenn H. Foster and constructed by C. T. Schneider, Austin contractor. Roessner received an honor award from the Texas Society of Architects last year and also a Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects.

"Award Winner," The Austin American 10/30/1966.



R. G. ROESSNER

Roessner Honored By AIA

Austin architect R. Gommel Roessner has been selected for an award from the American Institute of Architects for excellence in design.

Roessner was chosen for the honor by a panel of judges as a result of his "excellence in residential design."

The Austin home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Foster, a residence designed by Roessner, is featured in the spring issue of the magazine *Architectural Digest*.

An eight-page article depicts the Foster home, a contemporary-styled residence designed to blend into its setting on wooded, hilly property. To achieve this, Mexican adobe brick in a soft color was used for walls, woods are finished in mellow tones and the floors are of Mexican handmade tiles.

Large areas of glass allow rooms to join the outdoors. The sloping lot necessitated a multi-level arrangement of rooms, which offered the possibility of several rooms two stories in height.

Roessner's design of the Foster residence brought him an award from the Texas Society of Architects in 1968. His work has received numerous other honors from architecture publications and professional societies.

Roessner has been a member of the University of Texas architecture faculty for more than 20 years. He is a graduate of Miami University and the University of Cincinnati.

"Roessner Honored by AIA," The Austin Statesman 5/12/1968.

Architect

Due Honors As 'Fellow'

Austin architect R. Gommel Roessner will be made a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects during the institute's 1968 convention in Portland, Ore., on June 23-27.

The honor is based on Roessner's contributions to architectural design over the last 20 years.

Aside from a gold medal, which may be presented to an architect from any land, the designation as a Fellow is the highest honor the institute can confer on its members.

A member of the University of Texas School of Architecture faculty for more than 20 years, Roessner is the school's first professor to become an AIA Fellow for achievement in the design category.

Roessner has received numerous citations from the architectural profession during his career. His work has been featured in architectural journals published in the United States, Japan, England, Germany and South America.

"Architect Due Honors as 'Fellow,'"The Austin Statesman 5/18/1968.

Glenn Howland Foster

October 28, 1930 – January 25, 2013



Glenn Howland Foster passed away January 25th, 2013. He was born to Homer and Thelma Foster in Dallas Texas on October 28th, 1930. Raised in Abilene, Texas, he attended Abilene HS, Hardin-Simmons University and North Texas State College. He graduated from The University of Texas Law School in 1963, having previously completed service in the United States Air Force as a pilot, flying the legendary F86 in the 388th Bomber Wing in France and Germany.

Mr. Foster was a member of the vestry at St. Matthew's and St. David's Episcopal churches. He was on the Board of Directors at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, the Laguna Art Museum, and the Child Guidance Clinic of MHMR. A long-time resident of Austin, Mr. Foster practiced law and founded Glenn Foster Properties and Investments.

He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Foster, daughter Glenna Foster of Dallas, TX, and his brother, Robert Foster of Phoenix, AZ. He is also survived by three step-children, Lynne Ann Mallouf, Scott Biesaart, and Lori Bonugli, and three grand children, Alexandria Bonugli, Parker Mallouf, and Lyndsey Bonugli.

He is predeceased by his son, Robert Foster and step-daughter Stacey Joyce.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org.

Obituary, dignitymemorial.com.

Building Permits

SECT. 158
T.P.S.

Lot #7 Sub #15 WATER SERVICE PERMIT E No 34895
 Remberton Hgts Sec 2 Austin, Texas

Received of GLEN FOSTER
 Address # 7 GREEN LANE
 Amount Ninety \$ 90.00
 Plumber _____ Size of Tap 1 1/2

Date of Connection 4-7-64
 Size of Tap Made 1 1/2"
 Size Service Made 1 1/2"
 Size Main Tapped 6" C.I.
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 2'
 From No. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 50'
 Location of Meter FRONT
 Type of Box ONEWAY
 Depth of Main in St. INDEXED
 Depth of Service Line INDEXED
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 15'
 Checked by Engr. Dept. AS 5-7-64

No. Fittings	Size
16' Pipe	1 1/2" Cop
1 Corp. Cock	1 1/2"
1 Cop. to Iron ell	1 1/2"
Cop. to Cop. ell	
Cop. to Iron Coupling	
Cop. to Cop. Coupling	
Angle Stop	
Stop	
Bushing	
1 Nipples	5" X 1 1/2" BRASS
1 Service Clamp	5" X 1 1/2"
1 Valve	1 1/2"
1 Meter Box	ONEWAY
1 Lock Lid	
1 Drain Tile	
1 Drain Tile Lid	
Stop & Drain	
Job No.	91323-502
Foreman	A. Powell

Water tap permit issued to Glen Foster, 1964 (month and day illegible).