

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
 JANUARY 28, 2019  
 DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
 HDP-2018-0665  
 1411 HASKELL STREET

## PROPOSAL

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Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

## ARCHITECTURE

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One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame cottage with a partial-width, front-gabled independent entry porch on plain, square wood posts; single 6:6 fenestration, with modern replacement windows.

## RESEARCH

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The house was constructed around 1936; the first owners and occupants were Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt who lived here until around 1954. Christopher Pruitt was a dairy farmer and livestock dealer; Beulah Pruitt worked at Yaring's. Christopher Pruitt was awarded a posthumous Carnegie medal for trying to save the life of a man who drowned after his boat capsized in the Colorado River east of Austin. Christopher Pruitt himself drowned in his rescue attempt.

From around 1954 until 2000 the house was owned and occupied by Charles C. and Martha Harper. Charles C. Harper was a house painter; after his death in 1962, Martha Harper continued to live in this house; she passed away in 2000.

## STAFF COMMENTS

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The house was not recommended for individual designation nor as contributing to a potential historic district in the East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016).

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

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a frame mid-1930s cottage with little architectural distinction and replacement windows. While the house retains its form and character, it falls short of the criterion for architectural merit.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was owned by a dairy farmer and his family from the time of its construction until around 1954. From around 1954 to around 2000, the house was owned by a house painter. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- 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.

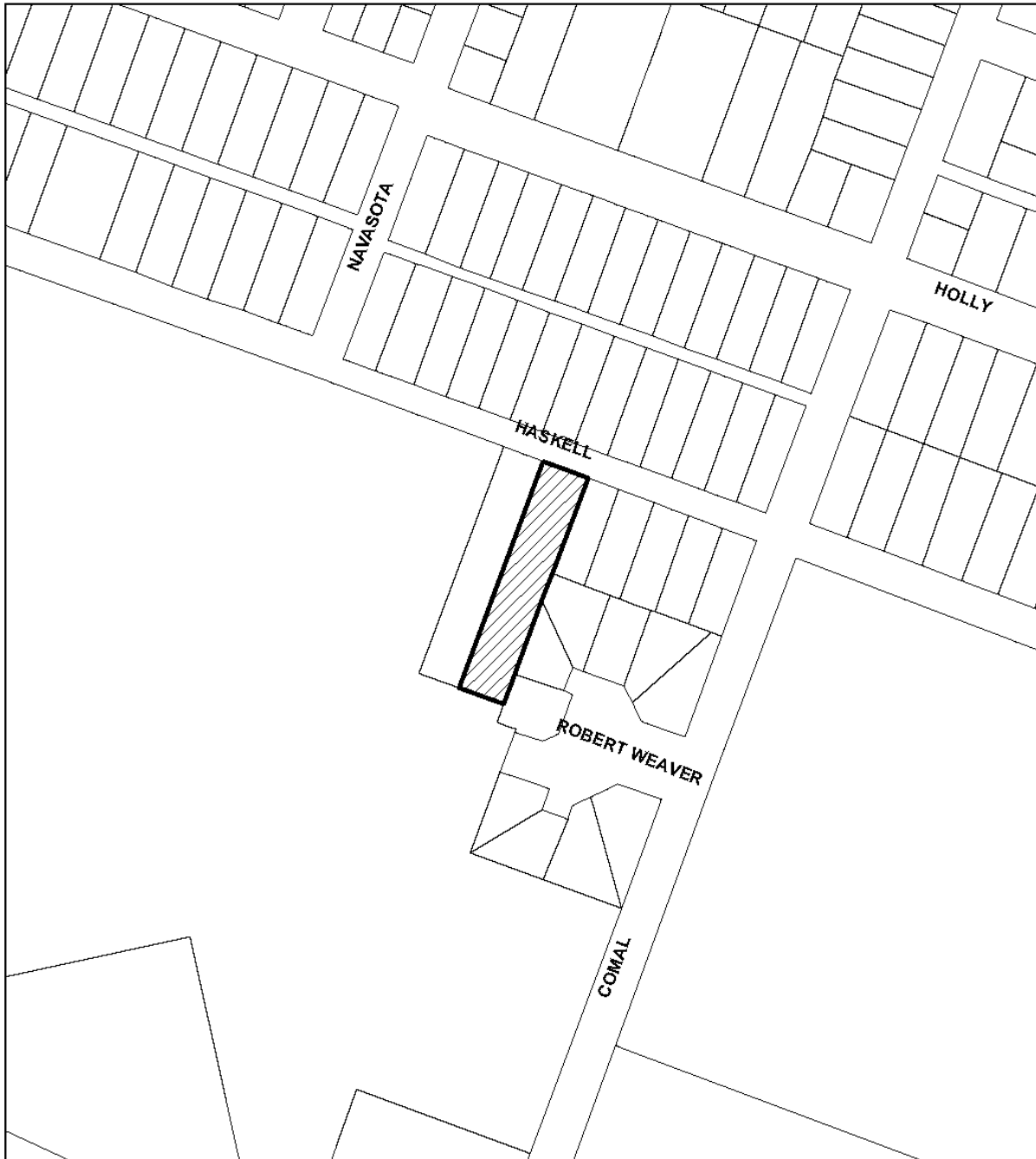
## STAFF RECOMMENDATION




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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but 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 house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

## LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT  
 PENDING CASE  
 ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 167'

## NOTIFICATIONS

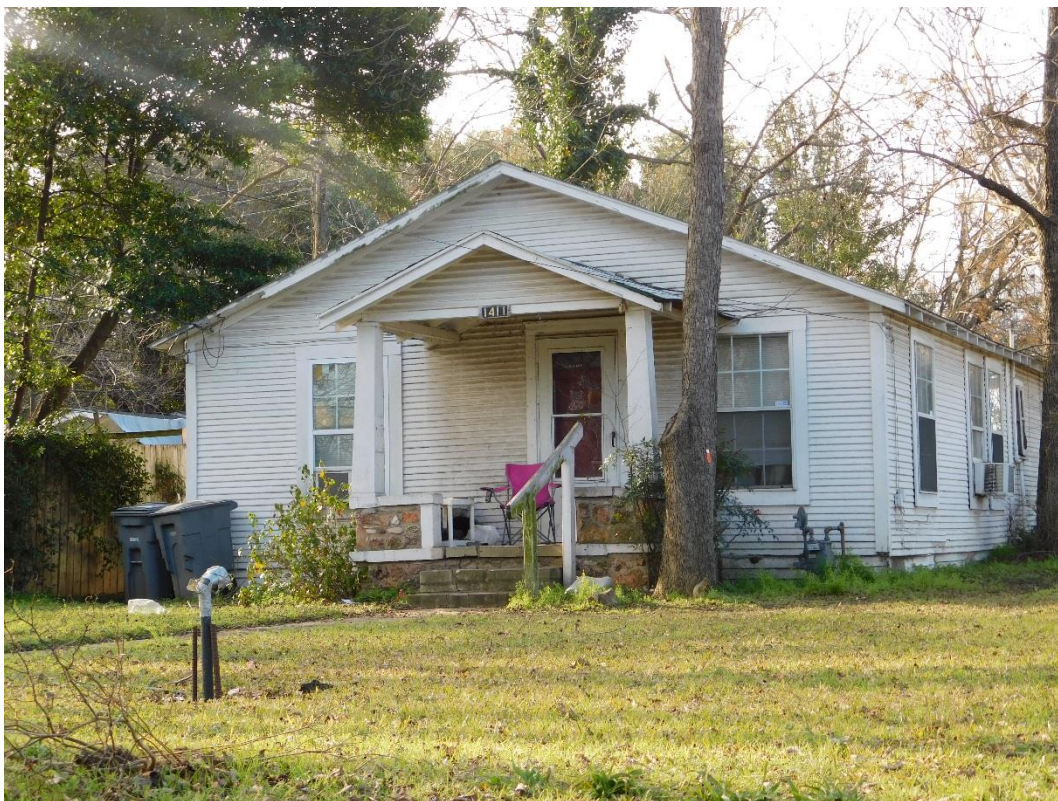
CASE#: HDP-2018-0665  
1411 HASKELL STREET

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.



1411 Haskell Street  
ca. 1936



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1411 Haskell Street

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

1992	Martha Harper, owner Retired
1985-86	Martha Harper, owner Retired
1981	Martha Harper, owner Employed by Seton Medical Center
1977	Martha Harper, owner Widow, Charles C. Harper No occupation listed
1973	Martha Harper, owner Widow, Charles C. Harper No occupation listed
1968	Martha Harper, owner Widow, Charles C. Harper

	No occupation listed
1965	Martha Harper, owner Widow, Charles C. Harper No occupation listed
1961	Charles C. and Martha Harper, owners Painter
1957	Charles C. and Martha Harper, owners Painter
1955	Charles C. and Martha Harper, owners Painter NOTE: Christopher J. Pruitt is not listed in the directory; Beulah Pruitt is listed without an address; she was employed by Yaring's, ladies' department store, 506 Congress Avenue.
1952	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Farmer NOTE: Charles C. (the directory shows him as Cecil C.) and Martha Harper are listed at 65 Anthony Street. Charles C. Harper was a painter. With them lived Betty J. Harper, a student.
1949	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Carpenter
1947	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Livestock dealer
1944-45	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Livestock dealer
1942	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Trader
1941	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Dairyman
1940	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Dairyman
1939	Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Dairyman
1937	Chris J. and Beulah Pruitt, owners Poultry (at the house) NOTE: The address is not listed in the cross-reference section of the directory.
1935	Christ J. and Beulah E. Pruitt, owners Poultry (at the house) NOTE: The address is not listed in the cross-reference section of the directory.

1932-33 The address is not listed in the directory.

NOTE: Christopher J. and Beulah E. Pruitt are not listed in the directory.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

##### Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt (ca. 1933 – ca. 1954)

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that Christopher John Pruitt was living at O'Donnell, Texas, where he was a self-employed farmer. He was born in 1894 in Blanco, Texas. He was married. He was tall and slender and had blue eyes and light hair.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows John C. and Beulah Pruitt renting the house at 1102 Blanco Street in Austin. John C. Pruitt was 34, had been born in Texas, and was a mechanic for the street railway company. Beulah Pruitt was 31, had been born in Texas, and was a saleslady for a retail dry goods store. They married when John C. was 19, and Beulah was 16. They had two children: Christine H., 8; and Claud V., 6. Both children had been born in Texas.

Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of this house, which was worth \$2,500. Christopher J. Pruitt was 44, had been born in Texas, and had a retail milk route. Beulah Pruitt was 42, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 4 children: Christine, 19, a cashier in a cafe; Claude, 16; Kenneth R., 7; and Jo Ann, 3. All the children had been born in Texas. With them lived Christopher Pruitt's brother, David F. Pruitt, a 43-year old divorcee who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

His 1942 World War II draft registration card shows Christopher John Pruitt living at this address. He was born in Blanco County, Texas in 1894 and was a self-employed dairyman.

## East of City

# Two Drown in River

By GLEN CASTLEBURY .  
Staff Writer

Two men drowned but two boys managed to swim to safety Tuesday evening when their small motor boat overturned in the Colorado River east of the city.

The victims were Chris J. Pruitt, 70, of Route 1, and Arvin Traugott, 28, of 2326 Webberville Road.

Escaping death in the river about three miles downstream from the Montopolis bridge were Pruitt's two grandsons, Jeff Pruitt, 6, and Gary Pruitt, 5.

The boys are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pruitt.

The party's 12-foot flatbottom

boat capsized about 10 minutes after the foursome set out to check trotlines near the elder Pruitt's home on Shelton Lane.

The young boys swam the 12-foot deep waters to come through the mishap unscathed.

A rescue boat from the Austin Fire Department dragged the Colorado for more than three hours before bringing up the bodies of the two men.

Pruitt's body was recovered just after 10 p.m. about 20 feet from where the boat sank. Traugott's body was found 45 minutes later in the same vicinity.

The bodies were apparently carried downstream by a swift current running in that portion

of the river.

Young Jeff said the boat was near the middle of the river when the engine was cut off too fast and the front end of the craft dipped into the water.

As the front end filled with water, the four persons aboard got to the back of the boat. The boat then heaved backward and the engine went underwater.

"We all tried to get in the middle of the boat," Jeff said. "But it was filling up with water so we all jumped. Everybody went in a different direction."

Jeff said he was swimming toward the bank and only at one point did he see his brother and grandfather in front of him.

"I saw Gary almost at the bank and I just saw about that much of granddaddy's head," Jeff recalled. "Then I got into a whirlpool and I thought I couldn't get out."

"When I finally did, I saw Gary already on the bank, but I didn't see granddaddy again."

Jeff said he never saw Traugott swim away from the boat.

Gary told his folks that his grandfather gave him a push toward the bank when they first abandoned the boat.

Indicated by the spot where Pruitt's body was found, the elderly man must have swum with Gary about half the distance to the bank.

Gary was the only member of the foursome wearing a life jacket. Like Jeff, he came out

on the opposite bank from where their boat had been launched.

The bank at the point where the boys came out is very steep, going almost straight up five or more feet. The steep shoreline is covered with heavy brush.

As soon as the boys got out of the water they ran to their grandmother's house for help.

Jeff showed rescue workers where the boat went down by pointing out a gas can that had been on board. The boat was found a few feet from the spot.

Justice of the Peace Jerry Dellana was called to the scene by the Travis County sheriff's office. Judge Dellana said he probably would rule on the deaths Wednesday.

Scuba divers were standing by, but the darkness and the muddiness of the water kept them from going into the river.

Traugott's body was taken to Hyltin - Manor Funeral Home where arrangements are pending. Traugott, a carpenter, was a member of the Baptist church and a lifelong resident of Austin.

Traugott is survived by his widow, Trina; son, Arvin Traugott Jr., who was Austin's New Year's Baby this year; daughter, Alivia Traugott; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Traugott, Austin; three brothers, Travis Traugott, Frank Traugott, and Ernes Traugott, Austin; sister, Miss Mary Rose Traugott, Austin; and two half sisters.



Funeral for Pruitt is pending at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home. Pruitt had only recently retired as an independent building contractor. He was a member of South Austin Christian Church.

He is survived by his widow, Buleah Edith; two daughters, Mrs. James Weller, Houston, and Mrs. Charles Koehn, Milwaukee, Wis.; two sons, Lt. Col. Victor C. Pruitt, US Air Force, Germany, and Kenneth R. Pruitt, Austin, who is the father of the two boys; three sisters, Mrs. Rebecca Hicks, Mrs. Nancy Steddum, and Mrs. Clarice Seller, San Antonio; and six grandchildren.

Story on the drowning death of Chris Pruitt  
Austin American, April 21, 1965

### **C. J. (CHRIS) PRUITT**

Funeral services for C. J. (Chris) Pruitt, 70, of Route 1, Box 441-A, will be held Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Wilke-Clay Funeral Home with the Rev. B. L. Brown of South Austin Christian Church officiating.

Pallbearers will be Oliver P. Stipp, Vernon O. Stipp Jr., J. G. (Jack) Hicks, Ralph Lancaster, Bill Johnson and Robert I. Freeman Jr.

Burial will be in Forest Oaks Cemetery.

Funeral notice for Chris Pruitt  
Austin Statesman, April 22, 1965

# Austin Man, Llano Youth Receive Carnegie Medals

A 15-year-old Llano schoolboy and the late Christopher John Pruitt, 70, Austin building contractor, were among six Texans rewarded for acts of heroism by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Sunday in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Daniel Lynn Merkel of Llano was cited for rescuing Gary C. Stewart, 12, from drowning near the Llano River Dam at Llano on May 15, 1965.

Pruitt died April 20, 1965, attempting to save Arvin R. Traugott, 26, from drowning when Traugott's motorboat overturned in the Colorado River at Austin.

Merkel received a \$750 award from the commission. Pruitt's widow was granted an \$80 per month death benefit, not to extend beyond five years or the date of her remarriage.

The Associated Press reported other Texans honored by the commission were Thurman W. Tullis, 46, Houston carpenter; O. Dale Brewer, 24, Houston salesman; Merechildo L. Yberra, 42, carpenter at the Big Bend National Park, and Clifford J. Manuel, 60, Beaumont farmer.

Chris Pruitt gets a posthumous Carnegie medal  
Austin Statesman, June 6, 1966

## Beulah Edith McMillan Pruitt

**Beulah Edith McMillan Pruitt, age 93, a long time resident of Austin, passed away Tuesday, January 15, 1991.**

**Mrs. Pruitt was born in Lockhart. She was a member of the Pecan Springs Christian Church, member of Eastern Star, and an employee of Yarings for many years.**

**Preceded in death by her husband Christopher John Pruitt, in 1965.**

**Survivors include sons, Victor C. Pruitt and Kenneth R. Pruitt, both of Austin; daughters, Christine Weller of Houston and Joanne Koehn of Milwaukee; one granddaughter; and six grandsons.**

**Funeral services are pending.**

**Arrangements by Harrell Funeral Home in Austin. 512-443-1366.**

Obituary of Beulah Pruitt  
Austin American-Statesman, January 16, 1991

## **Beulah Edith McMillan Pruitt**

**Beulah Edith McMillan Pruitt, 93, a longtime resident of Austin, passed away Tuesday, January 15, 1991.**

**Mrs. Pruitt was born in Lockhart. She was a member of the Pecan Springs Christian Church, member of Eastern Star, and an employee of Yarings for many years.**

**She was preceded in death by her husband, Christopher John Pruitt, in 1965.**

**Survivors include her sons, Victor C. Pruitt and Kenneth R. Pruitt, both of Austin; daughters, Christine Weiler of Houston, and Joanne Koehn of Milwaukee; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.**

**Funeral services 2:00 PM, Thursday, Harrell Funeral Home Chapel in Austin, with Reverend Greg Nichols officiating. Interment in Forest Oaks Memorial Park.**

**Those desiring to do so may make memorial contributions to Allan Shivers Radiation Therapy Center, 2600 East MLK Blvd, Austin, Texas 78702-9985.**

**Arrangements by Harrell Funeral Home in Austin. 443-1366.**

Obituary and funeral notice for Beulah Pruitt  
Austin American-Statesman, January 17, 1991

## **Charles C. and Martha Harper (ca. 1954 – ca. 2000)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Charles C. and Martha Harper living in a rented house in Justice Precinct 3 of Travis County. Charles C. Harper was 30, had been born in Texas, and was a foreman for a WPA street construction project. Martha Harper was 25, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Betty, 5; Robert, 3; and Charles C., Jr., 5 months. All the children had been born in Texas. The family lived in rural Colorado County, Texas in 1935. The family also had a lodger, Bonna F. Dickerson, a 55-year old Texas-born widower who worked as a foreman for a WPA brush-cutting program.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Charles Harper as the 20-year old son of Pearl Harper, a 37-year old widow who rented her home in rural Navarro County, Texas. Charles Harper was born in Texas and was a farm laborer. He was the oldest of Pearl Harper's three sons listed in the census report.

Charles C. Harper died at the UTMB hospital in Galveston in 1962. He was born in Brownwood, Texas in 1910 and was a painter. He was living at this address at the time of his death.

### **CHARLES CUSTIS HARPER**

Charles C. Harper of 1411 Haskell died in Galveston Wednesday.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Martha Harper of Austin; three daughters, Betty Jean Harper, Patsy Harper and Sharon Harper of Austin; two sons, Charles Harper Jr. and Robert Harper of Austin; his mother, Mrs. Pearl Harper of Austin and three grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Cook Funeral Home.

Obituary of Charles C. Harper  
Austin American, September 19, 1962

### **CHARLES C. HARPER**

Charles Curtis Harper, 52, of 1411 Haskell, died in a Galveston Hospital Wednesday. He was a member of Hill City Lodge 456 AF&AM, and member of Painters Local Union No. 221.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 3:30 p.m. at Cook Funeral Home. Burial will be held in Memorial Hill Cemetery, with Masonic graveside services.

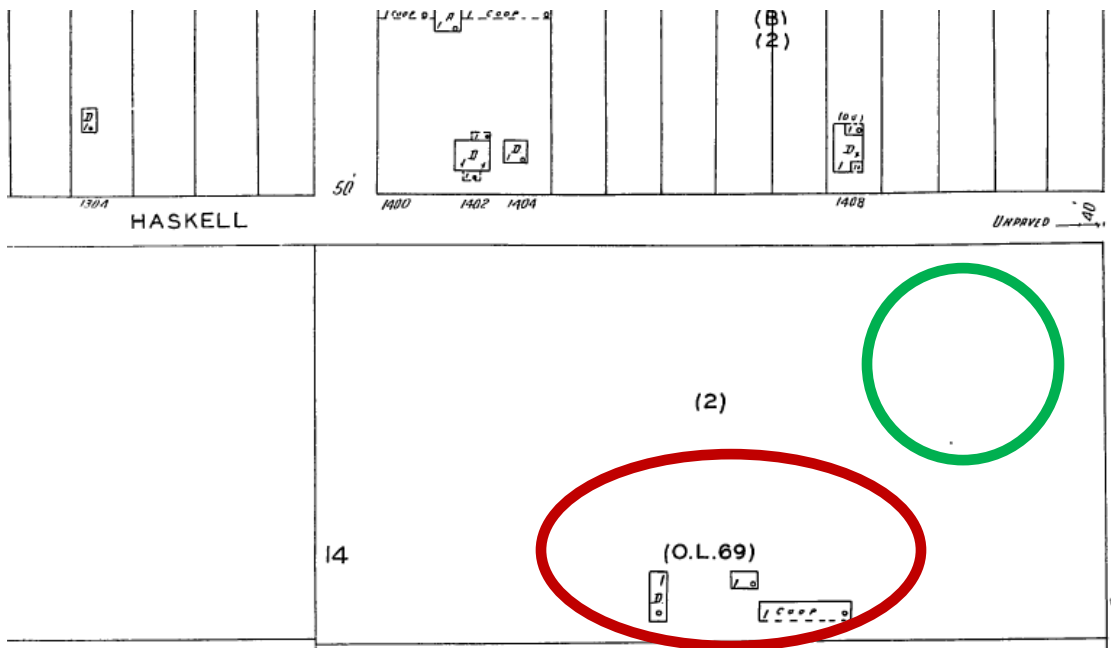
Pallbearers will be Sam B. Hill, Lee Nelson, Walter Stark, Bob Harrell, Joe Bailey Moore and Loyd Simpson.

Obituary and funeral notice for Charles C. Harper  
Austin American, September 20, 1962

**HARPER, Martha Barcak, 85, of Austin died Monday. Services 9 a.m. Wednesday, Cook-Walden/Memorial Hill Cemetery. Arrangements by Cook-Walden/Capital Parks.**

Death notice for Martha Harper  
Austin American-Statesman, September 5, 2000

There is an entry in city records for a water service permit for this address dating from August of 1936, but the permit is no longer extant.



The existing house is not shown on the 1935 Sanborn map (green), but there is a very small dwelling on the south side of Haskell Street with an adjacent chicken coop (red) that may have been the previous home of Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt, as city directories evidence a listing for Christopher J. and Beulah Pruitt at 1411 Haskell Street as early as 1935.