

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JANUARY 28, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2018-0678
1909 WILLOW STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1917 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, hip-roofed building with jerkinhead dormer; wood siding; 1:1 wood-sash windows.

RESEARCH

George and Bertha McClain lived at 1909 Willow Street from about 1918 until about 1927; Audie worked as a truck driver for the City of Austin, while Bertha worked as a seamstress for Charles Rosner, a ladies' clothing store. Longino and Lucy Monreal lived in the house from about 1955 until at least 1992. Longino worked as a presser and tailor for the Reynolds-Penland men's clothing company.

STAFF COMMENTS

The building does not appear to be eligible for designation as a historic landmark.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark




- 1) The building is more than 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 does not appear to demonstrate significance according to any criteria.
 - a. **Architecture.** The house is a good example of a National Folk house. It does not appear to possess architectural distinction.
 - b. **Historical association.** George and Bertha McClain and Longino and Lucy Monreal lived in the house for approximately 10 years and 45 years, respectively. 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 property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the building. If the Commission votes to approve the application, 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.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 333'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0678
LOCATION: 1909 WILLOW 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.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (west) façade and east elevation of 1909 Willow Street.

Occupancy History

Completed by Historic Preservation Office staff
August 2014

- 1916 Address not listed. George V. McClain is listed as an unmarried teamster living at 2015 Willow Street.
- 1918-27 George V. and Bertha McClain, owners
George worked as a teamster (truck driver) for the City Street Department (1920-27). Bertha worked as a seamstress for Charles Rosner (wholesale and retail dry goods, notions, millinery, and ladies' ready-to-wear, 504 Congress Avenue; 1920-27).
- 1929 Gaston and Grace McPhaul, renters
Salesman
- 1930-31 J.B. McCord, renter
No occupation listed

Prentice McCord
No occupation listed

Quintus W. and Morin McCord, renters
Clothes cleaner, 800 Manor Road, and manager, Grayburg Oil Company Station No. 6

- 1932-33 Miles C. and Ruby Sartin, renters
Driver, Gulf Refining Company, 5th and Chicon Streets.
- 1935 DeWitt C. and Mary Maulding, renters
Tile setter
- 1937 George A. and Nancy R. Strawn, renters
Farmer
Charles C. Strawn
Salesman, Gulf Coil Corporation, 5th and Chicon Streets.
- 1939 Hugh L. and Irene Sansom, renters
Repairman, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
- 1941 Gordon and Martha Steck, renters
No occupation listed
- 1944-45 Irby and Lila B. Comer, renters
No occupation listed
- 1947-52 Herman L. and Irene Watson, owners
Laborer, State Highway Department (1947); no occupation listed (1949); laborer,
no employer listed (1952)
- 1955-92 Longino and Lucy Monreal, owners
Driver, Renfro Drug Company (1955); presser, Reynolds-Penland men's clothing
(1959-62); retired (1968-73, 1992); tailor, Reynolds-Penland, men's clothing (1981-
86).

Rosalinda Monreal was listed in 1962, 1968, and 1973.
Student (1962), public school teacher (1968-73)

Vivian Monreal was listed in 1968.
Clerk, U.S. Selective Service

Background Research

Long-term tenants of 1909 Willow Street included George and Bertha McClain (ca. 1918-27) and Longino and Lucy Monreal (ca. 1955 to at least 1992).

George V. McClain was born in 1870 in Texas. He worked at a saloon in 1903, as a car repairman in 1909, and as a laborer in 1910. By 1912 he was working as a truck driver, a profession that he remained in until at least 1929. A 1935 city directory lists him as a farmer. The same year, the McClains were listed as living at 1914 Willow Street, where they lived with two grown sons and two grandchildren. George McClain died in 1950 in Austin.

Bertha Emelia Muhle McClain was born in 1869 in Paige, Texas, to German-born parents. She married George McClain in 1899 in Travis County, and the couple moved to Austin by 1901. They had two sons. Bertha worked as a seamstress for Charles Rosner, a ladies' clothing store located on Congress Avenue, from at least 1920 until 1927. She also was involved with the Order of the Eastern Star. Bertha McClain died in 1961 in Austin.

GEORGE V. McCLAIN

Funeral services for George V. McClain were held Sunday afternoon at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Harry Pesnell officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jay Barnes, Wilton Neans, L. D. McClain, Walter Eckhart, Clyde A. Wilson, T. B. Hill.

Death announcement for George V. McClain, Austin Statesman, 3/27/1950.

MRS. BERTHA E. McCLAIN

Mrs. Bertha E. McClain of 1914 Willow died in a local hospital this morning.

She is survived by one son, Frank B. McClain; two sisters, Mrs. Emma Craven of Austin and Mrs. Selma Budschick, of Paige; three grandchildren, Charlotte Droppleman, of Austin, Mike McClain of Dallas; John Patrick McClain of Austin; three great-grandchildren, Debra Green of Austin and Mike McClain Jr. of Dallas.

Mrs. McClain, the widow of the late George V. McClain, held a lifetime membership in Austin Chapter No. 303, of the Order of the Eastern Star, and has been a resident of Austin for the past 60 years.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Lester Lockett, officiating.

Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Wilton Neans, Milton Neans, Patrick McClain, Edward Oyervides, Emmett Smith and Carl Shooter.

Obituary for Bertha E. McClain, Austin Statesman, 1/9/1961.

Longino "Lonnie" Cardenas (or Castillo) Monreal Jr. was born in 1923 to a Mexican immigrant family in Austin. He served in the Navy from 1944 until 1946. He worked for the Reynolds-Penland men's clothing company as a presser and tailor off and on from the late 1950s until the 1980s. In 1969 he was involved with the Central Coordinating Committee (CCC) of the Model Neighborhoods Program as a representative of Reynolds-Penland; the committee made recommendations for programs to the City Council. Longino Monreal died in 2000 in Austin.

Lucy (or Luz) Val Martinez Monreal was born in 1921 in Austin, also to a Mexican immigrant family. She married Longino Monreal in 1941, and the couple had at least three children. City directories do not list an occupation for Lucy, but the local newspaper reported in 1953 that she worked as a waitress at El Rancho and competed for the "Queen of Trays" waitress title for a benefit for the American Legion. She was vice president of the Monreal Foundation; no further information was located about the foundation. Lucy Monreal died in 1997 in Austin.

LUCY MARTINEZ MONREAL

Lucy Martinez Monreal, age 76, of Austin, died Wednesday, July 9, 1997.

Lucy enjoyed her children and friends. She was vice president of the Monreal Foundation and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Lucy was a loving inspiration.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Longino C. Monreal Jr.; daughters, Rosalinda Monreal, Vivian M. Alvarez and husband, Paul, Sylvia M. Monreal and Belinda R. Monreal, all of Austin; sons, Michael Monreal and wife, Allison, Mark Monreal, both of Austin and Lonnie Monreal and wife, Brenda, of San Angelo; 15 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brothers, Matt Martinez, Mack Martinez and Pete Martinez, all of Austin; and sister, Lena Verastique of Austin.

Viewing will be from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday evening at Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home, 2620 S. Congress. Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2111 Parker Lane, with Bishop Bill J. Cannaday officiating. Burial services at Capital Memorial Park. Reception will follow.

Pallbearers are **Longino Monreal** IV, Tony Torres Jr., Vincent Torres, Samuel Monreal, Monte Monreal and Mike Arredondo.

We love you and we will miss you greatly.

Obituary for Lucy Monreal, Austin American-Statesman, 7/11/1997.

Building Permit

WATER SERVICE PERMIT		E N° 36725	
Austin, Texas			
Received of	Date		
Address 1909 Willow St. - Lot 4 - Bldg - "Driving Park Addition"			
Amount \$100.00 - Renew if not copper	Plumber	Size of Tap	
Date of Connection	Size of Tap Made		
Size Service Made 3/4" Cop.	Size Main Tapped 2" x 1"		
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 10'	From Prop. Line to Curb Cock 20'		
Location of Meter CURB	Type of Box LOCK		
Depth of Main in St. 5'	Depth of Service Line 3'		
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 10'	Checked by Engr. Dept.		
No. Fittings	1/2" Pipe 3/4" C.O.P.		
1 Corp. Cock 3/4"	Cop. to Iron ell		
Cop. to Cop. ell	Cop. to Iron Coupling		
Cop. to Cop. Coupling	Cop. to Cop. Stop		
Angle Stop 3/4"	Stop		
Bushing	Nipples		
Service Clamp 3/4"	Valve		
Meter Box	Lock Lid		
Drain Tile	Drain Tile Lid		
Stop & Drain	Job No. 723-502		
Foreman	Foreman		

Water service permit, not dated.