

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
MARCH 25, 2019  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2019-0085  
607 TEXAS AVENUE

## PROPOSAL

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Partial demolition of a ca. 1930 house to construct a two- and two-and-a-half story addition.

## ARCHITECTURE

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled, brick veneered house with a partial-width inset porch on square brick posts; single and paired 6:6 fenestration.

## RESEARCH

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The house appears to have been built in 1930 by Henry and Jewel Beck, who lived here for the rest of their lives. Henry Beck was a native of Fort Worth and worked as a court reporter, first for the Texas Railroad Commission, and later for the Travis County district courts. He was active in the Texas Shorthand Reporters' Association and the Austin Lions Club, working to get a granite monument detailing the six flags over Texas on the State Capitol grounds in 1940. He passed away in 1972; Jewel Beck died in 1977. The house then had a series of owners and renters through the 1990s.

## PROPOSAL FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

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The applicant proposes an addition to the first floor and the addition of a second floor to the house. The proposed addition will add 296 square feet to the first floor, 1,175 square feet to the second story, and 240 square feet of habitable attic space to the 1,218 square foot existing house. The proposed second story addition will be offset to the left of the house, and will contain a front-facing gable with paired 6:6 fenestration and a shed-dormer to the east (left). The area of the second story addition with the habitable space in the attic will be set further back and will be front-have a front-facing gable.

The materials proposed for the addition are brick, hardi-plank, and stucco. Some of the windows removed from the existing house will be re-used in the addition, particularly in the front-facing sections with brick veneer. Additional fenestration will be Marvin Integrity fiberglass windows divided lite casement and picture windows. The roof will have dimensional asphalt shingles.

## STAFF COMMENTS

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The house was listed with no priority for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

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 nice example of a brick-veneered cottage of the early 1930s with some nod to bungalow scale and Tudor Revival detailing, but is otherwise not noteworthy for its architecture.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was owned and occupied by a court reporter and his wife for over 40 years; 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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The proposed addition is large and has the potential to overwhelm the original house. Staff recognizes that the house does not qualify as a historic landmark, but is completely intact now, and would definitely be contributing to a potential historic district in the neighborhood. Staff recommends scaling back the addition from the front, so that the existing house retains a much higher degree of articulation in the proposed configuration, but release of 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.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 166'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0085

LOCATION: 607 Texas Avenue

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.





607 Texas Avenue  
ca. 1930



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY

### 607 Texas Avenue

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
July, 2015

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1992    | Dennis M. Wallace, owner<br>Production analyst, Motorola, communications equipment, 1950 Rutland Drive.<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Dennis M. Wallace was a new resident at this address.                                |
| 1985-86 | Jeff and Molly Joseph, renters<br>Jeff: Employed by the Hyatt Regency, hotel, 208 Barton Springs Road.<br>Molly: Interior designer<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that Jeff and Molly Joseph were new residents at this address. |
| 1981    | N.K. McMillan, owner<br>Nurse, Seton Medical Center<br>NOTE: The directory indicates that N.K. McMillan was a new resident at this address.  |
| 1977    | Patricia Horn, renter<br>No occupation listed<br>NOTE: Jewell Beck died May 10, 1977; her last address was this house.   |
| 1973    | Jewell A. Beck, owner<br>Widow, Henry Beck<br>No occupation listed   |
| 1968    | Henry and Jewell A. Beck, owners<br>Court reporter, 406 Travis County Court House  |
| 1962    | Henry and Jewell Beck, owners<br>Court reporter, 406 Travis County Court House   |
| 1959    | Henry and Jewell A. Beck, owners<br>Court reporter, 98 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District   |
| 1955    | Henry and Jewell Beck, owners<br>Court reporter, 98 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District  |
| 1952    | Henry and Jewel Beck, owners<br>Court reporter, 98 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District   |
| 1949    | Henry and Jewell A. Beck, owners<br>Court reporter   |
| 1947    | Henry and Jewell Beck, owners<br>Court reporter, 126 <sup>th</sup> District Court  |
| 1944-45 | Henry and Jewell Beck, owners<br>Court reporter, Travis County District Court  |

1941	Henry and Jewell Beck, owners Court reporter
1939	Henry and Jewell Beck, owners Court reporter
1937	Henry and Jewel Beck, owners Chief reporter, Railroad Commission of Texas
1935	Henry and Jewell Beck, owners Reporter, Railroad Commission of Texas
1932-33	Henry and Jewell Beck, owners Chief reporter, Railroad Commission of Texas
1930-31	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Henry and Jewell Beck are listed at 2904 Rio Grande Street. He was the court reporter for the Railroad Commission of Texas.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:****Henry and Jewell Beck (ca. 1930 – ca. 1977)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Henry and Jewell Beck as the owners of this house, which was worth \$5,000. Henry Beck was 36, had been born in Texas, and was a court reporter for the state Railroad Commission. Jewell Beck was 34, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 2 daughters: Patricia, 8; and Barbara, 2. Both girls had been born in Texas.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Henry and Jewel Beck as the renters of the house at 2904 Rio Grande Street. Henry Beck was 26, had been born in Texas, and as a court reporter for the Railroad Commission. Jewel Beck was 24, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

His 1972 death certificate shows that Henry Beck was living in this house at the time of his death. He was born in 1903 in Fort Worth and was a court reporter. He was married. Emma Jewell Beck was living in this house at the time of her death in 1977. She was born in Buffalo Gap, Texas in 1905, and was a widowed homemaker.



# SOLONS TO GET SHORTHAND BILL

Two measures affecting shorthand reporters will be sponsored in the next legislature by the Texas Shorthand Reporters association, Henry Beck of Austin, new president of the organization announced Wednesday.

One bill whose passage the shorthand association will actively insist upon is known as the certified shorthand reporters bill, and would result in creation of a state examining board, to serve without pay, to give examinations and pass upon the qualifications of shorthand reporters.

## ♦ ♦ ♦ 'Paupers Oath'

The other measure would remedy a condition now caused by the Texas "paupers' oath" law,—the statute which provides that a court litigant may file his papers and transact other court business without cost by signing an affidavit of inability to pay the court costs, Beck said.

"The law as it now reads has been abused by certain persons who are able to pay court costs, but who sign the affidavits in order to dodge the costs, thus depriving the courts and the court reporters of fees they are entitled to receive," Mr. Beck explained.

"Court reporters in cities the size of Austin or larger are not affected materially by this condition but the reporters in smaller communities are."

News story on Henry Beck's leadership in the Texas Shorthand Reporters Association and sponsorship of the creation of a state examining board for shorthand reporters and counter-act misuse of the Texas Paupers' Oath law which deprived court reporters of fees upon the signing of an affidavit that a litigant could not afford the costs.

Austin Statesman, August 4, 1937

## **Lions Ask Monument To Six Flags**

Construction of a six-sided monument in the Texas capitol grounds showing the six flags which have flown over Texas and an outline of the history under each flag was recommended as a major objective of the Austin Lions club by Henry Beck, court reporter, and projects committee chairman of the Lions club.

Beck said that Texas has the granite available for the monument and that the stone could be secured free together with its transportation to Austin. He suggested that the project be headed by the Austin Lions club but that other civic clubs and agencies in the state be asked to cooperate in the monument movement.

The club indorsed the project and selected Beck as chairman of a committee to ascertain costs and other data pertinent to the project.

J. E. McClain, member of Travis Post No. 76, American Legion, asked the Lions to join the Americanism committee of Travis county to combat subversive movements, some of which have been happening in Austin, he charged, and announced that a meeting of the committee will be held Sunday at 2:30 p. m. at the Driskill hotel to select officers and committeemen to carry on an educational campaign to expose these subversive movements as they occur.

The club also adopted a motion by Sidney P. Smith opposing the posting of political placards on posts, trees and other public property within the city of Austin and pledging their aid with enforcement officers against this practice.

Story on Henry Beck's leadership in a drive by the Austin Lions Club to erect a six-flags over Texas monument on the State Capitol grounds  
Austin Statesman, March 7, 1940



**HENRY BECK**

Henry Beck, 68, of 607 Texas Ave., died in a local hospital Sunday night. Beck was born in Fort Worth. From 1951 until his retirement in 1970 he was court reporter in 98th District Court here.

Survivors are his wife, of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. William P. Simms of Austin and Mrs. James L. Mitchell of Dallas; a sister, Mrs. Willard R. Yeahel of Seattle, Wash. and four grandchildren.

Funeral will be Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Weed-Corley Funeral Home, Rev. Charles Sumners officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be Judge Charles O. Betts, Ben G. Riske, Dr. Tom Runge, Les Proctor, Harry Wear, and Willard Houser.

Obituary of Henry Beck  
Austin American, March 21, 1972

**BECK, Mrs. Jewel A.**, 74, 607 Texas Ave., died Tuesday. Services 4 p.m. Friday at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Survivors: daughters, Mrs. William P. (Patricia) Simms of Austin, Mrs. James L. (Barbara) Mitchel of Dallas; sisters, Dalma Rister of Tye, Alleta Race of San Angelo; brother, Maurice Askins of Tye; four grandchildren.

Obituary of Jewel Beck  
Austin American-Statesman, May 11, 1977

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

**PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE** Austin, Texas

No. A 3592 70  
Sec. 64 70

M. Henry Beck Address 607 Texas Ave

Plumber H. Owell Size of Tap 1/2 Date 11-1-30

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection	<u>11/4/30</u>
Size of Tap Made	<u>3/4</u>
Size Service Made	<u>3/4</u>
Size Main Tapped	<u>2"</u>
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>2'</u>
" " " " "	<u>27"</u>
Location of Meter	<u>in alley</u>
Type of Box	<u>lock</u>
Depth of Main in <u>St. alley</u>	<u>2'</u>
" " Service Line	<u>18"</u>
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<u>17'</u>
Checked by Engr. Dept. <u>304 12-3-30</u>	

**INDEXED**

No. Fittings	Size.
1 Curb Cock	<u>3/4</u>
1 Elbow	<u>3/4</u>
1 St. Elbow	<u>3/4</u>
1 Bushing	<u>3/4 x 1/2</u>
1 Reducer	<u>3/4 x 1/2</u>
1 Pipe	<u>3/4</u>
1 Lead Comp.	<u>3/4 x 1/2</u>
Nipples	
Unions	
Plugs	
Tees	
Stop Box	
Lid	
Valves	
Req. No.	<u>4386</u>

Foreman's Signature

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

Water service permit to Henry Beck for this house (1930)

Connecting Charge \$ 1.200

Application for Sewer Connection. No. 9954

Austin, Texas, 1157 193

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:-

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by Henry Beck

at 607 Texas Ave Street  
Lot 7 - Blk 5

which place is to be used as a \_\_\_\_\_

In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.

Respectfully, Henry Beck

Location of Public Sewer Sewer in Alley RHP

Stub Out \_\_\_\_\_

Connected 1-8- 1931 OK

Size of Main 6" inches 1/7/31 RHP

Size of Service 4" inches B-3/1

7' Feet Deep

14' Feet from Property Line in alley

Feet from Curb Line \_\_\_\_\_

Inspected by Alex Baatright

Connection made by W. C. R. Jones

1-8-31 OK

WRIGHTS-AUSTIN

Sewer connection application by Henry Beck for this house (1931)