

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 20, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0124
1201 AZIE MORTON ROAD

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1952 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One- and two-story, irregular-plan, flat-roofed brick-veneered house with International style influences; metal-framed multi-lite casement windows; stone front deck with a wrought-iron railing; several frame additions to the rear.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1952 by Joe Lewis Joseph, a plumbing supply business owner. He and his wife, Katherine, moved here from a house on Northwood Road and lived here for the rest of their lives. After Joe Lewis' death in 1960, Katherine Joseph continued to live in this house; she worked as a realtor.

Joe Lewis Joseph was a member of Austin's large Joseph family, Joe Lewis was the first generation of the Josephs born in Austin after the family moved here from what is now Lebanon. The Josephs had typical occupations for Lebanese immigrants – they ran fruit stands, confectionaries, and groceries. Their descendants, such as Joe Lewis, diversified their business interests.

This house sits on almost an acre of land and has views out over Barton Creek and Zilker Park to the hills west of the city.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond any city survey to date.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house may meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a good local example of a vernacular adaptation of the International style in its boxy configuration and fenestration systems. Austin has very few examples of the International style in residential architecture.
 - b. **Historical association.** The house was the long-time home of Joe and Katherine Joseph, members of a prominent Austin Lebanese-American family; more information will be necessary to assess whether the house qualifies for landmark designation based upon its associations with Joe Lewis and Katherine Joseph.
 - 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 is located close to the summit of the hill overlooking Zilker Park, and has magnificent views to the west, but is somewhat hidden from the road and therefore may not have the requisite presence in the neighborhood to qualify for community value.
 - e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Initiate historic zoning or postpone again to June 24, 2019 to fully evaluate options other than demolition of this house. The house appears to meet the criterion for designation for its architectural merit, with a not-as-strong case for historical associations outside of the associations with a prominent Lebanese-American family in Austin.

LOCATION MAP



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0124
 LOCATION: 1201 AZIE MORTON ROAD



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.

1" = 333'

1201 Azie Morton Road
ca. 1952



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1201 Azie Morton Road

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
April, 2019

- 1952 The address is not listed in the directory.
The house was built in 1952 by J.L. Joseph.
- 1953 Joe L. and Katherine Joseph, owners
Proprietor, Joseph Plumbing and Supply Company, 1210-12 E. 6th Street.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1520 Robert E. Lee Road.
- 1954 Joe L. and Katherine M. Joseph, owners
Proprietor, Aus-Tex Plumbing Company and Joseph Plumbing and
Supply Company, 1208-12 E. 6th Street.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1411 Robert E. Lee Road.
- 1955 Joe L. and Katherine Joseph, owners
Proprietor, Aus-Tex Plumbing Company and Joseph Plumbing and
Supply Company, 1208-12 E. 6th Street.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1411 Robert E. Lee Road.
- 1959 Joe L. Joseph, owner
Proprietor, Joseph Plumbing Company, 1208 E. 6th Street; and Joseph
Plumbing Supply Company, 1212 E. 6th Street.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1201 Robert E. Lee Road.
- 1962 Mrs. Katherine Joseph, owner
No occupation listed
- 1965 Mrs. J.L. Joseph, owner
No occupation listed
- 1968 Mrs. Katherine Joseph, owner
Widow, J.L. Joseph
Retired
- 1973 Mrs. Katherine Joseph, owner
Widow, J.L. Joseph
Retired
- 1977 Joe L. and Hazel Joseph, owners
Manager, Walgreen's, drug store, multiple locations.
- 1981 Joe L. and Hazel Joseph, owners
No occupation listed
- 1985-86 Joe L. and Hazel V. Joseph, owners
Pharmacist, Walgreen's Drug Store (multiple locations)

1992 Joe L. and Hazel V. Joseph, owners
Pharmacist, Walgreen's Drug Store (multiple locations)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Joe L. and Katherine Joseph (ca. 1952 – ca. 1973)

His World War I draft registration card shows that Joe L. Joseph was living at 106 E. 1st Street in Austin. He was born in Austin in 1897, and was not employed. He was of medium height and had a stout build, brown eyes and black hair.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Joe L. and Katherine Joseph as the owners of the house at 1600 Northwood Road; that house was worth \$5,000. Joe L. Joseph was 41, had been born in Texas, and was an instructor at the College of Beauty Culture. Katherine Joseph was 36, had been born in Texas, and was also an instructor at the College of Beauty Culture. They had 6 children: Norraine, 18; Marjorie, 13; Theresa, 12; Rose Marie, 10; Joan, 7; and Joe L., Jr., 2. ad no occupation listed. All of the children had been born in Texas, and none had an occupation listed.

His 1960 death certificate shows that Joe Lewis Joseph was living in this house (then addressed as 1201 Robert E. Lee Road) at the time of his death. He was born in 1897 in Austin, and was in the plumbing business.

JOE JOSEPH SR.

Joe Joseph Sr., 1201 Robert E. Lee Road, died in a local hospital Friday afternoon. He was a life-long resident of Austin, owner of a plumbing concern, veteran of World War I, member of St. Ignatius Church, and member of Knights of Columbus.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Katherine Joseph; five daughters, Mrs. M. A. Saad, Beirut, Lebanon; Mrs. Ben Paykin, New York; Mrs. Thomas Kelley, San Francisco, Calif.; Mrs. John McNaw, San Antonio; Miss Theresa Joseph, Austin; two sons, Joe L. Joseph Jr., and Daniel Joseph, Austin; two sisters, Mrs. Carl Norton, Tulsa, Okla.; Mrs. Sam Emmett, Dallas; seven brothers, Harry Joseph, Sammie Joseph, Phillip Joseph, Ernest Joseph, Edward Joseph, Cecil Joseph, all of Austin; and Johnnie Joseph, San Antonio.

Rosary services were held at Cook Funeral Home Saturday night and rosary will be held at the residence Sunday at 8 p.m. Rev. Eugene Dore officiated Saturday and Rev. Joseph R. McAlister will officiate Sunday.

Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. Monday at St. Mary's Cathedral with Rev. Dore, Rev. McAlister and Rev. Francis W. Sullivan officiating.

The body will be at Cook Funeral Home until 9:30 a.m. Sunday at which time it will be taken to the residence. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery. Pallbearers will be James Joseph, Phillip Bashara, Joe Daywood, M. J. Kouri, Charles K. Hage, Steve Selleh, George Joseph and Paul Joseph.

Obituary of Joe Joseph
Austin American-Statesman, November 13, 1960

Katherine Margaret Joseph was living in this house at the time of her death in 1973. She was born in Elgin, Texas in 1902 and was a widowed real estate property manager.

MRS. KATHERINE JOSEPH

Mrs. Katherine Joseph, 70, of 1201 Robert E. Lee Rd. died in a local hospital Friday. She was a member of the Catholic Church, Ladies of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Austin Garden Club and Irish and Rose Group.

Survivors include two sons, Daniel Joseph of Austin and Joe L. Joseph Jr. of El Paso; five daughters, Mrs. Norain McNew of San Antonio, Mrs. Margorie Saad of Beirut, Lebanon, Mrs. Rose Marie Paykin of Garden City, N.J., Mrs. Katherine Kelley of Salem, N.H. and Theresa Joseph of Austin; two brothers, Sam Sellen of Oak Ridge, Tenn. and Steve Sellen of Thompson; one sister, Mrs. Josephine Joseph of Richman, 25 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Rosary will be said Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Mass will be Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, Rev. George Helmich, CSP officiating. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery under the direction of Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Irish and Rose Group of the Austin Garden Club in care of Mrs. Ebie Rice, 511 E. 39th St., Austin.

Obituary of Katherine Joseph
Austin American-Statesman, June 16, 1973

J. L. Joseph

1201 Robert E. Lee Rd

74 Unplatted

J. L. Davis Tract

Stone veneer residence and garage.

49964 (2-18-52
Filed under
date)

\$7500.00

H. B. Tanner

5

Building permit to Joe L. Joseph for this house (1952)

857-78 meter on 20 1/2" pipe and use next 12 ft at
 WATER SERVICE PERMIT D. No. 6552
 Austin, Texas INDEXED

Received of J. L. JOSEPH Date 10-10-52
 Address 1201 ~~147~~ 1201 ROBERT E. LEE RD.
 Amount TWENTY AMOUNT \$20.00
 Plumber JOSEPH PLERCO Size of Tap 3/4"

Date of Connection 9-3-52
 Size of Tap Made 3/4"
 Size Service Made 3/4"
 Size Main Tapped 2" C.F.
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7.5'
 From W- Prop. Line to Curb Cock 3'
 Location of Meter CORB
 Type of Box LOCW
 Depth of Main in St. 3'
 Depth of Service Line 2'
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 4.5'

INDEXED by Engr. Dept. 10-13-53-SC

No. Fittings	Size
1	Curb Cock 3/8"
1	Elbow 3/4" COP
1	St-Elbow 3/4" SC COP
1	Bushing 3/4" COP
1	Reducer 3/4" COP
4	Pipe 3/4" COP
	Lead Comp.
	Nipples
	Union
	Plug TICE
1	Tree
1	Stop 4" LOCW
1	Box LOCW
1	Lid
	Valves
	Job No. W-323-502
	Req. No. W-700k1

changed to 12" main on 20" pipe

Water service permit to Joe L. Joseph for this house (1952)

J. Garcia-Track

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

MM 74
E No 32562

INDEXED

Received of *Mrs. J. L. Joseph* Date *1-29-63*
Address *1201 Robert E. Lee Road*
Amount *Sixty-five + no/100* \$ *65.00*
Plumber _____ Size of Tap *1"*

CHANGED TO "MAIN AND RENEWED
SERVICE WITH 1" COPPER ON
REPLACED E-37692

Date of Connection *1-29-63*
Size of Tap Made *1"*
Size Service Made *1"*
Size Main Tapped *8" C.I.*
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock *1'*
From *So.* Prop. Line to Curb Cock *7'*
Location of Meter *FRONT*
Type of Box *Round*
Depth of Main in St. *3'*
Depth of Service Line *3'*
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main *38'*
Checked by Engr. Dept. *2-11-63 MM*

No. Fittings	Size
<i>43</i> Pipe <i>1" Cop.</i>	
<i>1</i> Corp. Cock	
<i>1</i> Cop. to Iron ell.	
<i>1</i> Cop. to Cop. ell.	
<i>1</i> Cop. to Iron Coupling	
<i>1</i> Cop. to Cop. Coupling	
<i>1</i> Angle Stop	
<i>1</i> Stop	
<i>1</i> Bushing	
<i>1</i> Nipples <i>2" XI" BRASS</i>	
<i>1</i> Service Clamp	
<i>1</i> Valve	
<i>1</i> Meter Box <i>Round</i>	
<i>1</i> Lock Lid	
<i>1</i> Drain Tile	
<i>1</i> Drain Tile Lid	
<i>1</i> Stop & Drain	
Job No. <i>323-502</i>	
Foreman <i>A. Howard</i>	

Additional water service permit to Katherine Joseph for this house (1963)

City records indicate a permit to install a partially in-ground water collection cistern in 2012.