

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
 SEPTEMBER 23, 2019
 DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
 HDP-2019-0465
 807 COLUMBUS STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1941 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a central, front-gabled projecting bay containing the principal entry to the house, which contains a broken pediment molding and surround consisting of fluted pilasters; single 8:8 fenestration with non-historic shutters.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1941 by Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, who lived here for over 50 years. Kenneth McWilliams married Naomi Hodge in 1940 and moved into the house at 804 Columbus Street just prior to building this house. Kenneth McWilliams was an optician for Ward and Treadwell (later Treadwell and Treadwell), one of the city's principal opticians and optometrists, with offices downtown at 7th and Congress for many years. They later moved to a larger office and laboratory on 15th Street. He retired from Treadwell and Treadwell around 1980 and lived in this house in retirement until his death in 1998. Naomi McWilliams is over 100 years old now.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was listed as a medium priority for preservation in the inventory prepared for the proposed Bouldin Creek Historic District in 2016; as such, the house would be considered contributing to a potential Bon Air Historic District. The house is not within the bounds of any other City survey to date.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that while the house has some notable architectural features, principally the broken pediment and pilasters at the front door, there is not sufficient other significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark under the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a minimal traditional house with a distinctive Colonial Revival-styled broken pediment at the front entry; this architectural distinction is notable on this house as the other houses of this vintage in this neighborhood do not have the same level of ornate detailing. The house could meet the architectural criterion for landmark designation.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was built and owned for over 50 years by Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams. Kenneth McWilliams worked his entire career as an optician for one of the city's most prominent optical firms, but there do not appear to be sufficient significant historical associations to warrant landmark designation.
- 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

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" = 333'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0465

LOCATION: 807 COLUMBUS 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.



807 Columbus Street
ca. 1941



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 807 Columbus Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
July, 2014

1992	Kenneth and Naomi H. McWilliams, owners Retired
1985-86	Kenneth and Naomi H. McWilliams, owners Retired
1981	Kenneth and Naomi H. McWilliams, owners Retired
1977	Kenneth and Naomi H. McWilliams, owners Lab tech, Treadwell & Treadwell, optometrists, 501 W. 15 th Street.
1973	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Lab tech, Treadwell & Treadwell, optometrists, 501 W. 15 th Street.
1968	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Lab tech, Treadwell & Treadwell, optometrists, 501 W. 15 th Street.
1965	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Lab tech, Treadwell & Treadwell, optometrists,
1962	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Lab tech, Treadwell & Treadwell, optometrists, 622 Colorado Street.
1959	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Lab tech, Treadwell & Treadwell, optometrists, 622 Colorado Street.
1955	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Optician, Ward & Treadwell, optometrists, 7 th and Colorado Streets.
1952	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Optician, Ward & Treadwell, optometrists, 700 Congress Avenue.
1949	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Foreman, Ward & Treadwell, optometrists and opticians, 700 Congress Avenue.
1947	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Foreman, Ward & Treadwell, optometrists and opticians, 700 Congress Avenue.
1944-45	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Optician, Ward & Treadwell, optometrists and opticians, 700 Congress Avenue.
1942	Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams, owners Optician, Ward & Treadwell, optometrists and opticians, 700 Congress Avenue.
1941	The address is not listed in the directory.

NOTE: Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams are listed at 804 Columbus Street; he was an optician with Ward & Treadwell, 700 Congress Avenue.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Kenneth and Naomi McWilliams (ca. 1941 – ca.)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Kenneth McWilliams living in the home of his mother, Media McWilliams, in a rented property at 402 E. 2nd Street in Austin. Kenneth McWilliams was 30, divorced, and had been born in Texas. He was an optician. His mother, Media McWilliams, was a 63-year old Tennessee-born widow with no occupation listed.

Kenneth McWilliams appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the brother of Roy C. McWilliams, who rented the house at 401 Willow Street in Austin. Kenneth McWilliams was 21, had been born in Texas, and was an optician. His brother, Roy C. McWilliams, 28, had been born in Texas and was a meter mechanic. Roy was married to a woman named Lola, also 28; they had a son, Roy, Jr., 2. Also in the household was Kenneth and Roy's mother, Almeda McWilliams, a 53-year old Tennessee-born widow with no occupation listed; the family also had a roomer, Inez Stillman, 20, who had been born in Texas and was a waitress in a cafeteria.

Kenneth McWilliams married Naomi Hodge in Travis County in May, 1940.

His October, 1940 World War II draft card shows that Kenneth McWilliams was born in Sprinkle, Texas in 1908 and was employed by Ward and Treadwell as an optician. He was 5'-10", weighed 163 pounds, and had a dark complexion, black hair, and blue eyes.

Church Sponsors Three-Act Play

"Let's Go Somewhere," a three-act comedy under the direction of Lucian Dyer, will be presented Friday at 8 p. m. at the 7-Up auditorium by the young people of the First Street Christian church. Admission will be 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children.

Those taking part in the play are Doris Arnold, Kenneth McWilliams, Dorothy Grein, Evelyn Balagia, Auvil Loney and Horace Young.

Those assisting with the production are Naomi McWilliams, Chester Howell, Shirley Jo Ray, Mrs. Horace Young and Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Wilt.

Kenneth McWilliams featured in a church play; Naomi McWilliams was an assistant in the production

Austin Statesman, June 12, 1941

Kenneth McWilliams

Kenneth McWilliams, age 89, of Austin, died Monday, March 16, 1998.

Kenneth was an optician for Treadwell and Treadwell for 54 years. He was a Lifetime member of Koeing Lane Christian Church and was an Elder Emeritus.

Kenneth is survived by his wife of 58 years, Naomi Hodges McWilliams; daughter, Kay Armstrong; son, Rodney McWilliams and wife, Barbara; grandchildren, Kelly and Ryan McWilliams, Kim Shirley, and husband, Scott, and Jeff Armstrong; four great-grandchildren; sister, Mrs. Charles Wirth; and many relatives and friends.

Funeral services are 10:00 a.m. Thursday at Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home with Dr. James Lewis officiating. Burial will follow at Capital Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Koenig Lane Christian Church.

Arrangements by Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home, 2620 S. Congress Ave., 442-1446.

Obituary of Kenneth McWilliams
Austin American-Statesman, March 18, 1998

Kenneth Mc Williams

807 Columbus St.

117
178

3

5 & Pt of 6

Linscomb & Linscomb

Frame Res & Box Garage

22426 - 8-26-41

5

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

N^o 16481

Austin, Texas

Received of Kenneth McWilliams

INDEXED

Date Aug 20, 1941

Address 807 Columbus

Amount Two and 50/100 - - - \$ 2.50

Plumber Bacon

Size of Tap

Date of Connection 9-9-41

Size of Tap Made 3/4"

Size Service Made 3/4"

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 26"

From E. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 14'6"

Location of Meter Curb

Type of Box 10" x 10"

Depth of Main in St. 18"

Depth of Service Line 15"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 10'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 10-B-A1 LE

INDEXED

11-8-61 524

No. Fittings	Size	Job No.	Req. No.
1	Curb Cock 3/4"	1814	59307
1	Elbow 3/4"		
1	St. Elbow 3/4"		
1	Bushing 3/4" x 1/2"		
1	Reducer 3/4" x 1/2"		
1	Pipe 3/4" x 26'6"		
1	Lead Comp. 3/4" x 26'6"		
1	Nipples 3/4" x 1/2"		
1	Union 3/4" x 26'6"		
1	Plug 3/4" x 26'6"		
1	Tap 3/4" x 26'6"		
1	Stop 3/4" x 26'6"		
1	Box 10" x 10"		
1	Lid 10" x 10"		
1	Valves 3/4" x 26'6"		

Water service permit to Kenneth McWilliams for this address (1941)

#3563

CONNECTION CHARGE \$ N° 18115

APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.

SW 1/4 Austin, Texas 11-14-19

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

Sir:-

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instru
on premises owned by E. M. Williams
at 807 Columbus Street,
further described as lot (5) 5th St, block B, outlot 118,
subdivision Lincoln & Elgin, division 118, plat 118
which is to be used as a Res
In this place there are to be installed 5

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

2' DEEP Respectfully, Permit
AT-PL 11-14-41
Stub Out

Connected 11-19 19 41 Permit 18
Size of Main 6 inches. 11-14-41
Size of Service 7 inches. OV
4 Feet Deep in ST
34 Feet from Property Line Conn 35'
Feet from Curb Line E of W L

Inspected by Boatright B-106
Connection made by Permit
16026 Sewer in relinquish

Sewer connection application for this address (1941)