

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DECEMBER 16, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0668
2513 GREAT OAKS PARKWAY

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1953 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled ranch house with a stone-veneered wainscot and asbestos shingle siding; flared eaves at the wide and at an ornamental gable at the front of the house; partial-width, shed-roofed, independent entry porch with decorative screen panels; modern replacement windows in a combination of 1:1 and horizontal slider configurations; prominent stone-clad rectangular exterior chimney on the front of the house, piercing the roofline.

RESEARCH

The house was built by Andrew S. Patton, a local contractor, in the fall of 1953. The first owners and occupants were Robert E. and Minnie Faye Byers, who lived here at least through the 1990s. Robert E. Byers was a native of Coleman, Texas and attended the University of Texas. He was a civil engineer for the State Highway Department, and a frequent contributing to the Letters to the Editor column of the local newspaper, writing on various topics, including film advertisements he found disturbing, and supporting prayer in schools. He passed away in the early 1980s and Minnie Faye stayed in this house for at least a decade longer. Both are both buried in the Rule Cemetery near Haskell, Texas.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey to date.

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 ranch-style house with a stone veneer and a prominent exterior rectangular chimney; the house also has a set of four decorative screens at the front entry and the flared eaves that hint at mid-century Modern design in a ranch-style configuration. However, there does not appear to be anything that qualifies this house for landmark designation as a distinguished example of architecture; it also appears that the windows have been replaced, eroding the integrity of this building.
 - b. **Historical association.** The house was the home of a highway design engineer and his family for over 40 years, but 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.
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, 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

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0668
 LOCATION: 2513 GREAT OAKS PARKWAY



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'

2513 Great Oaks Parkway
ca. 1953



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2513 Great Oaks Parkway

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

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1992 | Robert E. and Faye M. Byers, owners Design engineer, State Highway Department |
| 1985-86 | Robert E. and Faye M. Byers, owners Design engineer, State Highway Department |
| 1981 | Robert E. and Faye M. Byers, owners Design engineer, State Highway Department |
| 1977 | Robert E. and Faye M. Byers, owners Design engineer, State Highway Department |
| 1973 | Robert E. and Faye M. Byers, owners Design engineering supervisor, State Highway Department |
| 1968 | Robert E. and Faye M. Byers, owners Design engineering supervisor, State Highway Department |
| 1965 | Robert E. and Minnie Faye Byers, owners Robert: Engineer, State Highway Department Minnie Faye: Employed by the Austin public schools |
| 1962 | Robert E. and Minnie Byers, owners Design engineering supervisor, State Highway Department |
| 1959 | Robert E. and Minnie Byers, owners Design engineering supervisor, State Highway Department |
| 1955 | Robert E. and Minnie Fae Byers, owners Designing engineer, State Highway Department |
| 1954 | Robert E. and Minnie F. Byers, owners Designing engineer, State Highway Department |
| 1953 | The street is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Robert E. and Minnie F. Byers are listed at 2407 Lawnmont Avenue; he was a designing engineer for the State Highway Department. |

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Robert E. and Minnie Faye Byers (ca. 1953 -)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Robert E. Byers as the 13-year old son of Meek and Irene Byers, who owned their home worth \$15,000 near Coleman, Texas. Robert E. Byers was born in Texas and had no occupation. He had an older sister, Sarah, 16. His father, Meek Byers, 50, was a Texas-born farmer. His mother, Irene Byers, 42, had been born in Tennessee and had no occupation listed.

His 1940 World War II draft card shows that Robert Edgar Byers was born in Coleman, Texas in 1917, and was living in Austin at the time of his registration; he was a student at the University of Texas. He was 5'-9" tall, weighed 140 pounds, and had a sallow complexion with black hair and gray eyes.

His 1982 death certificate shows that Robert Edgar Byers was born in Texas in 1917 and was living in this house at the time of his death. He was a civil engineer for the Highway Department. His surviving spouse was Minnie Faye Yarbrough. He is buried in the Rule Cemetery, Rule, Haskell County, Texas. Minnie Faye Byers passed away in December, 2018; there was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.



Robert E. Byers

Robert E. Byers, age 65, of 2513 Great Oaks Parkway, died Tuesday.

During his 35 year career with the Texas Highway Department he also served in various capacities, the Texas Public Employees Credit Union since January, 1961.

Survivors include his wife, Minnie Faye Byers, Au-

stin; son, Robert L. Byers, Austin; daughter, Mrs. Sandra Browning, Amarillo; sisters, Mrs. Jana Greenway, Irving, Mrs. Sarah Brinkley, Coleman; one grandchild.

Services 3:30 PM Thursday, Weed-Corley Funeral Home, with Reverend Wofford Hierholzer officiating. Graveside services 4:00 PM Friday, Rule Cemetery, Rule, Texas.

Pallbearers will be Orville Miller, Travis Brown, Walter Looney, Bill Spivey, Carl Klein and George West. Honorary pallbearers Board of Directors and Credit Committee of the Public Employees Credit Union and employees of Texas Department of Highway and Public Transportation.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kidney Foundation or American Heart Association.

Obituary of Robert E. Byers
Austin American-Statesman, September 22, 1982

Andrew S. Patton

2513 Great Oaks Park
way

182

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Great Oaks #2

Brick veneer and frame residence with
garage attached.

55096 10-5-53

\$20,000.00

Owner

9

Building permit for the construction of this house (1953)