

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JANUARY 25, 2021
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
PR-20-170732
707 WEST MARY STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1923 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame bungalow with a partial-width semi-projecting inset porch on plain square wood posts; single !! fenestration; decorative vertical boards in the tympanum of the main and porch gables.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1923; the first owners and occupants were Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, who lived here at least through 1960. Eugene Overton had a number of occupations, including car mechanic and general laborer, but his most consistent occupation was as a carpenter. Mattie Overton worked as a cook and maid for private families. They had two sons, both of whom worked as delivery boys during their teenage years while still living in this house.

STAFF COMMENTS

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

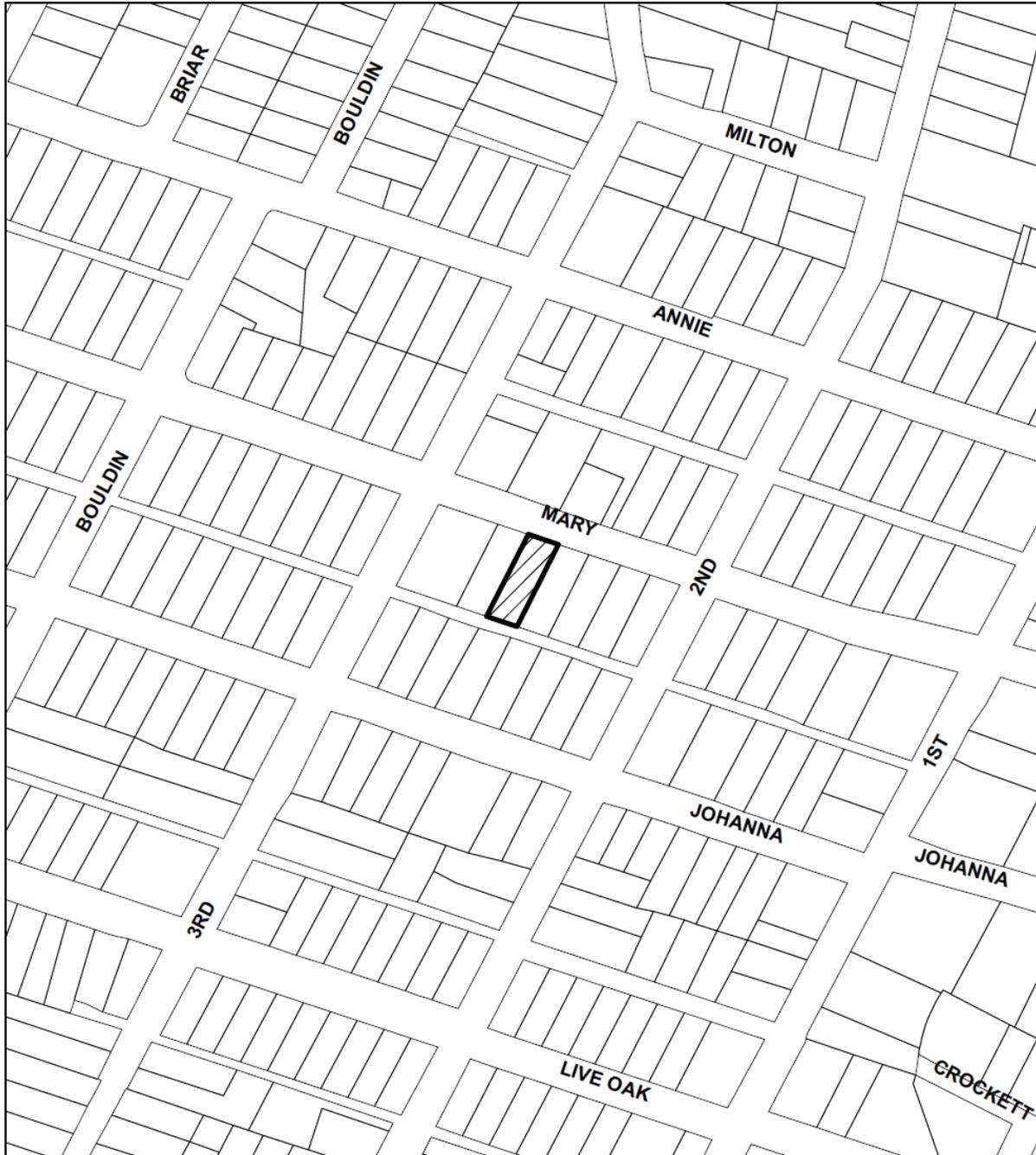
Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a very intact vernacular bungalow with artistic flourishes exhibited in the vertical members in the tympanum of both the principal and the porch gable. The house is a relatively common type in Austin, but rarely has this level of ornamentation, particularly in this neighborhood. However, the house does not reflect sufficient architectural significance to warrant designation under this criterion.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was the home to an African-American family for close to 40 years. Eugene Overton worked at jobs typical for African-American men at the time, including a laborer for a private family, a mechanic at a car company, and as a carpenter. Further, this house is located in what was once a thriving African-American neighborhood in South Austin, and is significantly larger than the majority of the historic-age homes there. While there are likely not significant enough associations with the Overton family, the house does reflect one of the last vestiges of the old African-American community in this part of South Austin.
- 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 reflect the history of the old African-American community in South Austin that was located along West Mary and West Annie Streets from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, and therefore may have community value as representing the history of the this African-American neighborhood.
- 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 squarely meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: PR 20-170732
LOCATION: 707 W MARY STREET



1" = 208'

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.

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707 W. Mary Street
ca. 1923



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 707 W. Mary Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
December, 2020

1959	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners No occupation listed
1955	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners Porter, Koer Studio
1952	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners Carpenter
1949	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners Carpenter
1947	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners Carpenter
1944-45	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners Carpenter

1941	James A. and Hazel Overton, owners Laborer
1939	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners Laborer
1937	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners No occupation listed
1935	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners No occupation listed
1932-33	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners No occupation listed
1930-31	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners No occupation listed
1929	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners Porter, Thomson Motor Company; Dodge Brothers Motor Vehicles, 201-03 W. 5 th Street.
1927	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners No occupation listed
1924	Eugene J. and Mattie Overton, owners No occupation listed
1922	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Eugene Overton is listed without Mattie and without an occupation at 510 W. Elizabeth Street.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Eugene J. and Mattie Overton (ca. 1923 – ca. 1960)

Eugene and Mattie Overton appear in the 1920 U.S. Census as the renters of a home at 703 Newning Avenue in Austin. Eugene Overton was 27, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer. Mattie Overton was 29, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Their son, Vivian, 9 is erroneously labeled as their daughter.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Eugene and Mattie Overton as the owners of this house. Eugene Overton was 38, had been born in Texas, and repaired cars in a garage. Mattie Overton was 39, had been born in Texas, and was a cook for a private family. They had 2 sons: Vivian, 19, a delivery boy for a grocery store; and James, 8. Both boys had been born in Texas.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Eugene and Mattie Overton as the owners of this house, which was worth \$1,800. Eugene Overton was 48, had been born in Texas, and was a laborer for a private family. Mattie Overton was 47, had been born in Texas, and was a maid for a private family. Their two sons were listed: James E. was 19, had been born in Texas, and was a porter in a retail men's clothing shop; and son Vivian, 29, a delivery man for a retail men's shop is listed with his wife, Ura Lee, 28, who was born in Texas and had no occupation listed, and their son, Vivian, Jr., 8. Also in the household was a nephew, Sammie Books, 20, who had been born in Texas, and was a porter in a rooming house..

His 1959 death certificate shows that Eugene Overton was born in Travis County in March, 1896, and was living at this address at the time of his death. He was a common laborer in carpentry and was married.

Mattie Overton died in 1971; her last address was 2102 E. 19th Street in Austin. She was a widowed housewife who had been born in 1889 in Texas.

OVERTON CHARGED IN ASSAULT, GETS BOND

Eugene Overton, indicted by the May term of the Travis county grand jury and charged with assault to murder, was arrested Thursday by deputy sheriffs but released on \$500 bond. Overton, the indictment alleges on Feb. 26 assaulted Ed Medearis with intent to murder.

Eugene Overton charged with assault to murder
Austin Statesman, June 20, 1930

EUGENE OVERTON

Eugene Overton of 707 West Mary Street died in a local hospital Thursday night following a brief illness.

He has been a resident of Austin 68 years and was a member of the Goodwill Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mattie Overton; two sons, Vivian Dock Overton and James Everett Overton; two grandchildren, Vivian Overton Jr., and Mrs. Barbara Banks; three great-grandchildren, Kenneth Overton, Karen Overton and Sherric Banks; four sisters, Mrs. Mollie Bradshaw of Oakland, Calif.; Mrs. Evaline Reed of Los Angeles; Miss Myrtle Overton and Mrs. Anna Glover of Austin; and two brothers, Smith and Jim Overton both of Austin.

Funeral services will be held at the Goodwill Baptist Church Sunday at 2:30 p.m. with the Rev. E. B. Brown officiating. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of King-Tears Mortuary.

Obituary of Eugene Overton
Austin American-Statesman, October 25, 1959

MRS. MATTIE OVERTON

Mrs. Mattie Overton, 82, of 2102 East 19th St. died at a local nursing home Friday.

Funeral will be held Monday at 4 p.m. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church with Rev. Marvin C. Griffin officiating. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.

The body will lie in state at the church from 2 p.m. until funeral time. Palm Beach Court 261 of the Heroine of Jericho will conduct graveside ceremony.

Survivors include two sons, Vlyian "Doc" Overton and James Everett Overton; two brothers, Venty Davis and McKinley Davis all of Austin; one grandson, Vivian Overton; one granddaughter, Mrs. Barbara Overton Mayo of El Paso; five great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Obituary of Mattie Overton
Austin American-Statesman, October 17, 1971

Connecting Charge \$ 17.00

Application for Sewer Connection. N^o ● 9895

Austin, Texas, 1930

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 Eugene Overton Street 707 West Mary at 2075 BIK-H which place is to be used as a residence

In this place there are to be installed 3 fixtures.

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

Respectfully,
Eugene Overton

200 cash down with water bill
200 cash 1100 month

Location of Public Sewer Sewer in Street RHP

Stub Out 12-12-30 located 4" WC HC
17. WYELL 2 1/2"

Connected 1930 OK July 1970

Size of Main 6 inches 178700 HAP

Size of Service 4 inches

4 Feet Deep.

35 Feet from Property Line in at A-199

Feet from Curb Line

Inspected by Chas. Postright

Connection made by Ferman Snygos

Started 12-10-30 Chas

Sewer connection application by Eugene Overton for this address (1930)

7-31-80 Repair Min 500

OWNER S. A. Hill ADDRESS 707 West Mary Street
 PLAT 116 LOT 5 BLK H
 SUBDIVISION James E. Boulding
 OCCUPANCY Resodence
 BLD PERMIT # 103857 DATE 6-6-67 OWNERS ESTIMATE 400.
 CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES 1
 WATER TAP REC # 72899 SEWER TAP REC # 9895

Repair Frame Residence

Building permit to repair the house (1967)

OWNER Maria Teresa Aquallo ADDRESS 707 W. Mary Street
 PLAT 116 LOT 5 BLK H
 SUBDIVISION James E. Boulden Sub
 OCCUPANCY repair and remodel to min standard res
 BLDG. PERMIT # 200513 DATE 8-7-80 OWNERS ESTIMATE 550.
 CONTRACTOR Elizdando Center NO. OF FIXTURES
 WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#

Building permit to repair and remodel the house (1980)