

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**APRIL 26, 2021**  
**GF-2021-046344**  
**507 LELAND STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1930 house.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story gable-roofed house with partial-width porch, asbestos shingle siding, exposed rafter tails, and 1:1 single and paired windows with wood screens.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house at 507 Leland Street was built around 1930 by Elroy L. Kimmons and his wife Helen Riffe Kimmons. Helen's family, the Riffes, lived in the home until at least 1959, sometimes leasing the larger front house and living in the rear house. Members of the Riffe family also owned and occupied the house next door at 505 Leland Street, including George L. and Lille Riffe. George Riffe worked as the chief engineer for the state public safety agency; after his death in 1944, Lillie ran the Midway Beauty Shop.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house was listed as a contributing resource to a potential historic district in the 2015 Bouldin Neighborhood survey.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high to moderate integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it does not meet two criteria:
  - a. *Architecture*. The building displays Craftsman influences.
  - b. *Historical association*. The property does not appear to have significant historical associations.
  - c. *Archaeology*. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
  - d. *Community value*. The property 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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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

# LOCATION MAP



1" = 250'



SUBJECT TRACT  
PENDING CASE  
ZONING BOUNDARY

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 21-046344  
LOCATION: 507 LELAND STREET

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.



## PROPERTY INFORMATION

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### *Photos*







### *Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, March 2021

1959	Samuel F. and Avis Riffe, renter Driver, City Street & Bridge Dept Operator, Midway Beauty Shop
Rear	Vacant
1957	Samuel F. and Avis Riffe, renters
Rear	Lillie Riffe, owner (widow of George L.)
1955	Samuel F. and Avis Riffe, renters
Rear	Lillie Riffe, owner
1952	Samuel F. and Avis Riffe, renters Ice routeman
Rear	Lillie Riffe, owner (widow of George)
1949	Lillie Riffe, owner (widow of George) Joseph B. and Ruth Smith, renters Department head, Steck Co.
1947	Lillie Riffe, owner (widow of George) Odie L. and Jo R. Riffe, renters Attendant, Sixth & Blanco service station
1944	Odis L. and J. Ruth Riffe, renters Chief engineer, SW Ice & Cold Storage Co. Note: George and Lillie Riffe are listed at 505 Leland Street
1941	Roy L. and Ruth Riffe Nehring, renters Fountaineer, Hirsh Drug Mrs. Helen Riffe Kimmons Operator, Dye's Beauty Shop
1939	Stanley and Myrtle A. Pennington, renters Mechanic, State Public Safety

- 1937 Stanley and Myrtle Pennington, renters  
Patrolman, State Highway Patrol
- George L. and Lillie Riffe, renters  
Chief engineer, Texas Public Service Co.
- Note: Odie L. and Samuel F. Leland are listed at 505 Leland.
- 1935 Elroy L. and Helen Riffe Kimmons, owners
- 1932 Address not listed; sewer tap permit lists address as 309 Leland.
- 309 Leland St.: Elroy and Helen Kimmons, owners  
Trainman, Austin St. Railway
- Elmer and Jennie Kimmons  
Carpenter
- 1930 309 Leland St.: Elroy and Helen Kimmons, owners  
Trainman, Austin St. Railway

### Biographical Information

## QUICK, COOL ACTION OF SHOCK VICTIM LIFE SAVERS PRAISED

"Heartfelt thanks" were expressed Saturday to two Austin men whose quick actions and cool-headedness in an emergency brought Willie Wilson, 23, back to life.

The two life savers are George Riffe, chief engineer at the Texas Public Service company's ice plant, and Police Sgt. H. W. Heiling.

Wilson was knocked unconscious Friday by an electric shock at the ice plant. Riffe saw the young

man's plight, yanked the electric plug and set about giving Wilson artificial respiration. Soon Sgt. Heiling arrived to "spell" Riffe, and shortly thereafter city firemen came with a pulmator to take up the resuscitation work.

Saturday Wilson's employer, C. W. Moore, Austin contractor, and A. M. Fitzpatrick, manager of the ice plant, expressed their thanks to Riffe, Heiling and the city firemen who "brought Wilson back from death."

*The Austin Statesman, Apr 2, 1938*

**RIFFE**—George L. Riffe, 62, died Friday at 11 a. m. at his residence, 505 Leland. He was a life-time resident of Austin, and had been employed by the Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage company over 15 years as an engineer.

Besides his widow, he is survived by four sons, George Jr., Houston, Sam, Lewis and Odie, all of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Helen Kimmons, and Mrs. Ruth Nehring, both of Austin; three brothers, Gus, Jim and Frank all of Austin, three sisters, Mrs. Marvin Longino, Engleside, Mrs. Norman Jackson, San Marcos and Mrs. E. J. Powell, Austin.

The body is at the Weed-Corley funeral home pending completion of funeral arrangements.

2. Miller and wife, Aug. 9, 1944, \$1,000.  
4. Lots 6 and 7, block 2, Washington Heights addition.

nd George Riffe Jr. and others to Mrs. Lillie Riffe, nee Moore, July 14, 1944.  
rt (1) 1/4 acre out of Isaac Decker league  
is (2) lot 13, Pleasant View addition.

to Jesse Bernard Woolsey and wife to  
10. Woodie Lowery and wife, Sept. 9, 1944.

*The Austin American, Sep 17, 1944 and The Austin Statesman, Jun 23, 1944*



## Bridal Couple On Honeymoon To Washington

Sgt. and Mrs. Gomes M. Garvey, Jr., will be at home at 507 Leland after Nov. 1 when they return from a wedding trip to Seattle, Wash.

The couple were married Oct. 14 at the Grace Methodist parsonage

with the Rev. O. C. Crow officiating.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Odie Riffe, was attended by Misses Ellen Powell and Jo Ruth Riffe. Leonard Earl De Vall of LaMar, Iowa, and E. J. Powell of Austin served the bridegroom.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's mother, 507 Leland avenue.

Mrs. Garvey is the former Mrs. Ruth Riffe Nehring and the daughter of Mrs. George L. Riffe and the late Mr. Riffe of Austin. Sgt. Gar-

vey is the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. James M. Garvey of Seattle, Wash. He is now stationed at Camp Swift.

Out of town guests present for the wedding were Lt. Jack T. Byron, Chicago, Ill., and Capt. Ted Arder of Pittsburgh, Pa.

## TSCW Ex-Students Meet

The Mary E. Bralley chapter of the TSCW ex-students will meet in the home of Mrs. Philip Overton, 1509 Gaston, Thursday at 7:30 p. m. All ex-students of the college are cordially invited.

*The Austin American, Oct 22, 1944*

BY DON FAIRCHILD

It's just five years short of half a century since Austinite Sam Moore left his native town for greener pastures on the West Coast.

Now after 45 years Moore has come back home to visit his sister, Mrs. George Riffe of 507 Leland. They hadn't seen each other in all the intervening years.

Austin was a dusty little South Central Texas town when Sam Moore learned his trade here—that of projectionist in a movie house. And the movies were brand new then; that was in 1908 and 1909. He's been a pro-

jectionist all his life and almost for all the life of the celluloid film industry.

What's it like to come home after nearly half a century?

"I feel like a stranger," says the spry, alert 75-year-old man. "I didn't know it, I got lost. The city has changed so much I can't believe my eyes."

Moore said the only thing he could recognize was the Capitol and the old Tenth Ward School (now Palm School).

"I'm mighty proud to be back," Moore summed up.

And his sister, Mrs. Riffe, said she was mighty proud to have him back.

Moore left Austin in 1919 and went to San Antonio for a few

years. Then he went west to San Francisco, and has been there ever since.

Learning his trade as a projectionist, Moore worked in the first motion picture theater in Austin, the Acme, which was later changed to the Elk. It was located at 815 Congress Avenue.

Moore said that when he started the movie house showed mostly foreign pictures. Mary Pickford was just getting started as a famous screen beauty, he said.

"The reels would last for eight or nine minutes, and they cost a nickel to see," Moore recalled. He said the picture house of that day was called the "nickelodian."

People didn't know at first whether it was real acting or artificial, something painted, Moore said.

He started in the trade by taking tickets and playing the phonograph. Business got good, he said, and the boss "took him upstairs and taught him to operate the machine." He's been with it ever since.

Moore is married and the father of two daughters, Mrs. Moore, the former Elizabeth Marie Hughes of Grand Rapids, Mich., accompanied Moore back to his native state for the visit. They met in Austin before Moore moved away, and were married in San Antonio.

Moore and Mrs. Riffe, his sister, are equally thrilled to be seeing each other again. "It's wonderful," said Mrs. Riffe. "I wouldn't take anything for this."

The brother and sister didn't recognize each other when they first met again. Time has changed them both a lot.

Out in San Francisco, Moore said he goes salmon trolling and trout fishing a lot. He doesn't plan to be getting out of doors in Austin, though.

"I am very much pleased to be back in my home town again," he said in an understatement, "it's improved so much."

## Lot of Change In 45 Years!



**SAM MOORE AND HIS SISTER, MRS. GEORGE RIFFE**  
Moore, 75, returns home after almost half a century away

American-Statesman/UPH

*The Austin Statesman, Jul 28, 1964*

**RIFFE, Sam F., 2700 S. Second St., died Friday. Services pending at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home. Survivors: mother, Mrs. George Riffe of Austin; sisters, Helen Kimmons, Ruth Smith, both of Austin; brothers, Louis L. Riffe, Odie L. Riffe, both of Austin.**

*The Austin American Statesman, May 31, 1980*

*Permits*

Connecting Charge \$ 1.00

Application for Sewer Connection. No. **9705A**

X Austin, Texas, 9-19-80 1980

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

ir:-

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises  
owned by E. L. Kimmons  
507 (30-9) Leland Street  
20+13 residence  
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, E. L. Kimmons

Location of Public Sewer Across in Street R.P.P.

Sub Out 9-25-30 Permit

Sewer tap permit, 9-19-30

Mrs. Riffe 507 Leland St.  
381 13  
Pleasant View  
Asb. Sdg. to outside of residence.  
76256 5/12/60 350.00  
Texas Lbr. Co.

**Asb. sdg to outside of residence**

*Asbestos siding permit, 5-12-60*

Mrs. Riffe

507-B Leland St.

381 13

Pleasant View

Masonry Addn to front of residence at rear of  
lot.

76413 5/26/60

850.00

Texas Lbr. Co.

9 3

**BATHROOM***Addition to secondary dwelling unit, 5-26-60*OWNER George L. Riffe ADDRESS 507 B Leland St.PLAT 381 LOT 13 BLKSUBDIVISION Pleasant View St.OCCUPANCY Frame Addn to Rear of ResBLD PERMIT #91510 DATE 4-7-64 OWNERS ESTIMATE 2000.00CONTRACTOR Hansen and Farriss NO. OF FIXTURES 3WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #Bedroom , bath and Storage*Rear addition permit, 4-7-64*