

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
JUNE 28, 2021
PR-2021-080409
811 E. 16TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Partial demolition of stucco walls to reinforce framing, re-stucco over areas of selective demolition; installation of new windows to replace windows that have deteriorated beyond repair. The house is the Stasswender House, a potential historic landmark associated with Anton Stasswender, who was responsible for many of the headstones in the adjacent Oakwood Cemetery, State Cemetery, and other cemeteries and stonework sites in Austin. The applicant is aware of the importance of the house and is seeking Historic Landmark Commission review and approval of this project.

The applicant proposes replacement of all wood-sash single-hung windows with a new product that reproduces the appearance of the existing wood sash single-hung windows. This product further satisfies modern energy and maintenance goals without sacrificing the historic appearance of the house. The applicant further proposes the removal of some windows from the back of the house that will not affect his historic appearance of the house.



ARCHITECTURE AND RESEARCH

The Stasswender House is an eclectic house at the edge of the freeway and Oakwood Cemetery to the east. It was the longtime home of Anton Stasswender, a German immigrant who brought his stone-carving skills to Austin around the turn of the 20th century and made his name, along with fellow immigrants Peter Mansbendel and Fortunat Weigl, within the craftsperson community of Austin, bringing Old World craftsmanship to residential, religious, and commercial building in the city. This house is a stuccoed one-and-a half story frame house on a raised cut stone foundation with single and paired 1:1 wood fenestration; it was the home of the Stasswender family from around 1930 until the late 1970s and may qualify as a historic landmark for its architecture and associations with Anton Stasswender.

This house was surveyed as part of an IH-35 historic resources survey performed by TxDOT. The house was determined eligible to a potential historic district that included several houses in the neighborhood, but not singled out as a potential city historic landmark or individual property eligible for designation under the National Register of Historic Places.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house has long been identified as a potential historic landmark due to its distinctive architecture and historical associations.

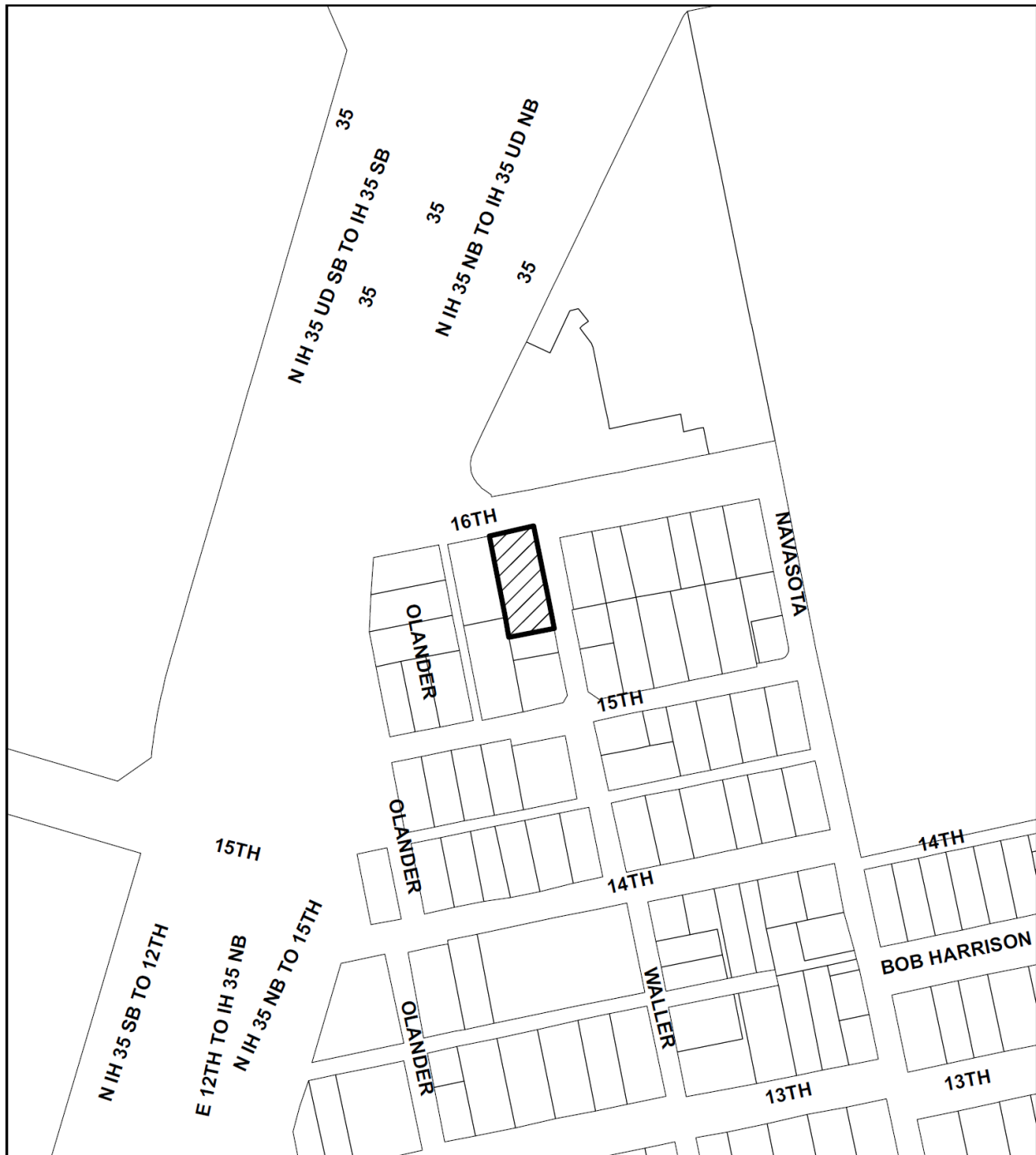
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark




- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined it may meet two criteria:
 - a. *Architecture.* The house is an eclectic house with a raised stone foundation and basement level and the primary living areas above. The Stasswender family lived at other locations in the city before moving into this house, and Anton Stasswender had his stoneyard near this house for his work for many years, possibly using the basement level of the house as his stonecarving studio. Staff believes that the house may meet the criterion for architectural significance for its distinctive design and use of the house.
 - b. *Historical association.* The house is associated with Anton and Anna Stasswender, who owned and occupied the property from around 1930 until the time of their deaths. Anton Stasswender was a renowned stone mason in Austin and was responsible for some of the finest stonecarving in Austin's Oakwood Cemetery and other major commissions. He is believed to have moved to this house around 1930 to be closer to Oakwood Cemetery and set up his stoneyard nearby. After his death, his son, Tony, continued the family business from this location.
 - 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 may qualify for designation under community value due to its location adjacent to Oakwood Cemetery, a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood adjacent to the cemetery.
 - 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

Approve the application as proposed but recommend that the applicant also consider wood-frame, wood-sash replacement windows as a more accurate restoration of the house that would certainly not foreclose landmark designation of this important house.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
 PENDING CASE
 ZONING BOUNDARY

$$1'' = 208'$$

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 21-080409
LOCATION: 811 E 16TH 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

811 E. 16th Street
ca. 1930



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
811 E. 16th Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
October, 2007

- 1987 Kelly Brown, renter
Employed by Texas Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association, a non-profit association, 400 W. 15th Street.
½: Arturo and Maria Borrego, renters
Employed by Contessa Food Service, Contessa dormitory, 2706 Nueces Street.
NOTE: The directory indicates that Arturo and Maria Borrego were new residents at this address.
- 1981 No return
½: Ida M. Manor, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that Ida M. Manor was a new resident at this address.
- 1975 A: Ann Stasswender, owner
Widow, Anton Stasswender
Retired
B: Thomas Bertschler, renter
Student

- 1969 Ann Stasswender, owner
Widow, Anton Stasswender
Retired
- 1963 Anna Stasswender, owner
Widow, Anton Stasswender
No occupation listed
- 1957 Anna Stasswender, owner
Widow, Anton Stasswender
No occupation listed
Also listed is Anton Stasswender, the proprietor (with Grogan L. Howell), Howell-Stasswender Memorials, 2715 Hancock Drive; and Katherine Stasswender, no occupation given.
- 1954 Anna Stasswender, owner
Widow, Anton Stasswender
Proprietor, A. Stasswendder Granite Works (Tony Stasswender, manager), marble and granite monumental works, concrete burial vaults, 1400 E. 4th Street.
Also listed is Katherine Stasswender, no occupation given.
NOTE: Tony Stasswender lived at 1506 Waller Street.
- 1952 Anton and Annie Stasswender, owners
Proprietor, A. Stasswender Granite Works, marble and granite monumental works, concrete burial vaults (Tony Stasswender, manager), 1400 E. 4th Street.
- 1949 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Proprietor, A. Stasswender Granite Works, marble and granite monumental works, concrete burial vaults (Tony Stasswender, manager), 1400 E. 4th Street.
Also listed is Catherine Stasswender, no occupation given.
- 1947 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Proprietor, Texas Concrete Vault Company and Stasswender Granite Works, marble and cut stone monumental works, concrete burial vaults, 1400 E. 4th Street.
- 1944-45 Anton and Annie Stasswender, owners
Proprietor, Texas Concrete Vault Company, monumental work, 1400 E. 4th Street.
Also listed are Anne A. Stasswender, a teacher in the public schools; and Katherine M. Stasswender, no occupation given.
- 1942 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Proprietor, Texas Concrete Vault Company, monumental work, 1400 E. 4th Street.
Also listed are Anne A. Stasswender, a student at the University of Texas; Anton H. Stasswender, a draftsman; and Katherine Stasswender, no occupation given.
- 1940 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Designer and manufacturer of granite and marble monuments, all kinds of stone work, 1400 E. 4th Street; show yard, 811 E. 16th Street.
Also listed are Anne A. Stasswender, a student at the University of Texas; Anton H. Stasswender, no occupation given; and Katherine Stasswender, the secretary to Anton Stasswender.
- 1937 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Designer and manufacturer of granite and marble monuments, all kinds of stone work, 1400 E. 4th Street; show yard, 811 E. 16th Street.
Also listed are Anne A. Stasswender, a student at the University of Texas; Anton Stasswender,

Jr., no occupation given; and Katherine Stasswender, no occupation given.

- 1935 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Designer and manufacturer of granite and marble monuments, all kinds of stone work, 1400 E. 4th Street; show yard, 811 E. 16th Street.
Also listed are Anne A. Stasswender, a student at the University of Texas; Anton Stasswender, Jr., no occupation given; and Katherine Stasswender, no occupation given.
- 1932-33 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Designer and manufacturer of granite and marble monuments, all kinds of stone work, 1400 E. 4th Street; show yard, 811 E. 16th Street.
Also listed is Katherine Stasswender, a stenographer for Anton Stasswender.
- 1930-31 Anton and Anna Stasswender, owners
Designer and manufacturer of granite and marble monuments, all kinds of stone work, 1400 E. 4th Street; show yard, 811 E. 16th Street.
Also listed is Katherine Stasswender, an assistant book-keeper for Jacob Schmidt & Company, dry goods, 143-45 E. 6th Street.
- 1929 Vacant
NOTE: Anton and Anna Stasswender are listed as living at 901 E. 16th Street, which is east of Waller Street; this house is on the west side of Waller Street. Stasswender is listed as a designer and manufacturer of granite and marble monuments, and did all kinds of stone work; his show yard was at 901 E. 16th Street. Katherine Stasswender is listed as residing in the household; her occupation is not listed.

STASSWENDER HISTORY

1927 Anton and Anna Stasswender are shown as renting the house at 901 E. 16th Street; his occupation was the same as listed in 1929 with the show yard for his work at 901 E. 16th Street.

1924 Anton and Anna Stasswender are shown as renting the house at 901 E. 16th Street with his show yard at the same location. Stasswender was a partner with John Schmidly of Stasswender and Schmidly, marble and granite works, 1400 E. 4th Street.

1922 Anton and Anna Stasswender are shown as renting the house at 901 E. 16th Street; he was a partner with John Schmidly in Stasswender and Schmidly at 1400 E. 4th Street.

1920 Anton and Anna Stasswender are shown as renting the house at 901 E. 16th Street; he listed monuments, tombstones and all kinds of architectural marble work, with his place of business at 1400 E. 4th Street; Schmidly is not listed as his partner.

1918 Anton and Anna Stasswender are shown as living at 1208 E. 12th Street. He listed his occupation as a granite cutter for Aubry L. Gooch, a granite and limestone contractor, 1400 E. 4th Street.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Anton and Anna Stasswender as the owners of this house, which was worth \$7,000. Anton Stasswender was 54, had been born in Germany, and was the proprietor of a monument works. Anna Stasswender was 51, had been born in Germany, and had no occupation listed. With them lived their daughter, Anne, 22; and their son, Anton H., (Tony), 21. Both children had been born in Texas. Tony was a salesman for the monument works.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Anton and Anna Stasswender at 811 E. 16th Street; they owned the house. Anton Stasswender was a monument maker. Their daughter Katherine, then 20, is listed with them. She had been born in Germany.

Anton Stasswender's 1954 death certificate shows that he was living at this address at the time of his death. He was the owner of a monument works who had been born in Germany in 1886. There does not appear to be an obituary in the Austin newspapers.

FINE MONUMENTS MADE HERE BY STASSWENDER

One of Austin's better known industries is the monument manufacturing plant of A. Stasswender, designer and manufacturer of high grade markers, monuments and mausoleums, located at 1400 East Fourth street.

This concern was established in 1904 by A. L. Gooch and ten years later Mr. Stasswender, after finishing his apprenticeship in Munich, Germany, in 1903, became associated with him as a designer and draftsman. One Year later, in 1915, Mr. Stasswender purchased the plant from Mr. Gooch, and during the intervening years it has been expanded until today it is one of the largest concerns of its kind in the South.

Every step in the manufacture of a monument, marker or mausoleum from the first finishing of the granite to the finished product is handled in the Stasswender plant, which is splendidly equipped for this work. Mr. Stasswender personally designs the monument or mausoleum, then executes the pattern, and a corps of highly trained workmen turn out the finished stone product.

Among the orders that have been executed by Mr. Stasswender are the beautiful James R. Hamilton mausoleum in Oakwood cemetery and the large monuments for the Richardson, Reed, Wroe and Bachman families of Austin.

Mr. Stasswender is also a stone carver for the building trades and among contracts of this type handled by him are the ornamental granite fronts of the postoffices at Brownsville, Texas City and Georgetown; and a large part of the granite work in the Littlefield Memorial gateway, Waggener hall, Garrison hall, Brackenridge hall, the new architecture, geology and chemistry buildings at the University of Texas.

Those contemplating the erection of a fine monument or desire a fine granite ornamental stone are invited by Mr. Stasswender to consult him.

Business story for Anton Stasswender's monument works
Austin Statesman, July 7, 1934

CHISELED IN GRANITE

So After 18 Long Years Everybody Gets Ahead

By BILL BRAMMER

This is the story of an elaborate family monument designed, cut and lettered in 1927 by a Bavarian immigrant which brought happiness and a bit of wealth to a Travis County family some 18 years later.

Tony Stasswender tells the story. He operates the Stasswender Granite Works at 1400 East Fourth Street. He has succeeded his father, a native of Bavaria, in this line of precision work.

It was 26 years ago when Tony's father, Anton Stasswender, was requested to turn out a king-sized monument for a nearby farm family. It was a big assignment, requiring large, handcut, round raised letters.

The base of the stone was six feet in length, two feet thick and a foot and a half in height. The upper part was four feet long, a foot in thickness and three feet high.

Anton, who had studied sculpture in Bavaria and Italy, finally finished the project—but then learned that the family would not be able to pay for it. The family, in fact, had lost the farm.

The elder Stasswender kept the stone, planning, perhaps, to remove the name and keep the chunk of granite in stock. He never got around to it, however, and the stone was still sitting in his establishment 18 years later, in 1945.

That was when another Travis County farm couple arrived. They were looking for a family stone—a big one, in fact—something like

that giant chunk of granite sitting in the corner.

Then they noticed that the old monument bore the same family name as their's. Would Stasswender sell it?

He certainly would sell it. Anton, in fact, was so happy to find a family with the same name as that on the monument that he would sell it for what it cost him in 1927—\$325.

So Anton had the big monument delivered to the farm. There, the lady of the house began digging around in a coffee can to pay for the stone. This family didn't believe in banks, and she started pulling out a handful of old fashioned money—big bills, rare coins and such.

Anton didn't pay any attention until he went to the bank to deposit the cash. The teller called his attention to the coins and estimated that some of them were worth as much as \$60 more.

Stasswender took the money back to the family and relayed the information. The lady then began digging in the coffee can again and came up with a whole sockful of the old currency.

This was again taken to the bank where it was learned that the money was worth almost \$1,000 more than its face value.

As it turned out, the farm family got its monument and made a neat profit on the exchange—and Stasswender got rid of the big monument after 18 years. Something of a long-term investment, says Tony.

Story on Stasswender's business
Austin Statesman, October 22, 1953

**MRS. ANTON (ANNA)
STASSWENDER**

Mrs. Anton (Anna) Stasswender, 87, 811 East 16 Street, died Friday. Mrs. Stasswender was born in Bavaria, Germany, coming to the United States in 1913. She was a member of St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society, the Saengerrunde Damenchor, and the Ladies Auxillary of Saengerrunde. Rosary services will be held at 7:30 P.M. Sunday in the Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Mass, 10 A.M. Monday at St. Mary's Cathedral, with Rev. John E. Driscoll officiating. Burial will follow in the Mr. Calvary Cemetery. Survivors include one son, Tony Stasswender, Austin; one daughter, Katherine Stasswender, Austin; one brother, Eugene Schrobenauser, Austin; two sisters, Frau Loni Scheidle and Emma Luszinzer, both of Germany; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren. Active Pallbearers will be the Austin Saengerrunde Menenchor and Honorary pallbearers will be the Austin Saengerrunde Damenchor of which she was their oldest member.

Obituary of Anna Stasswender, who lived in this house until her death
Austin American-Statesman, May 10, 1976