

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**JULY 26, 2021**  
**PR-21-093159**  
**1173 SAN BERNARD STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1929 house.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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Two-story, irregular-plan, hipped-roof, frame house with a partial-width, front-gabled, infilled front porch with a Craftsman-style glass transom in the tympanum; hopper windows have infilled the front porch; other fenestration has been replaced; exterior wall materials have been replaced..

## **RESEARCH**

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The house is related to the Olivet Baptist Church, and was apparently built as the parsonage for the church, which was established around the corner in 1928 by Mrs. Beulah Murphy, who, with her husband Andrew, lived just to the south of this house. The first full-time pastor of Olivet was Rev. Joseph H. Harrington, who with his wife, Lela, lived in this house from the time of its construction in 1929 until around 1950. Very little information is available on Rev. Harrington, and he apparently left Austin around 1950. Olivet Baptist Church remains in the neighborhood, but the original church building has been replaced. Olivet apparently hosted classes and conferences in the 1960s, but does not appear to have been a major force in social change in Austin during the historic period.

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The property would be contributing to a potential San Bernard Street historic district.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity in that the form of the house remains, but the front porch has been enclosed, windows replaced, exterior wall materials have been replaced, and the house has a standing-seam metal roof.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria:
  - a. Architecture. The building is a Prairie style two-story house that is unusual or this neighborhood. That it was likely built as a parsonage for the adjacent Olivet Baptist Church figures into the evaluation of the house as a center for church activities which dictated the size and scale of the house.
  - b. Historical association. The house appears to have been built in 1929 as the parsonage for the newly-established Olivet Baptist Church. From the time of construction until around 1950, the house was occupied by the first pastor of Olivet, Rev. Joseph Harrington. Not much is known of Rev. Harrington at this time, and he apparently left Austin around 1950.
  - 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 house was built adjacent to the site of Olivet Baptist Church and is closely related to the early history of the church.
  - 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 reuse, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of 8.5 x 11 photographs of all elevations, printed on photographic paper, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history for archiving at the Austin History Center.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: PR 21-093159

LOCATION: 1173 SAN BERNARD 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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1173 San Bernard Street  
ca. 1929



**OCCUPANCY HISTORY**  
1173 San Bernard Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
June, 2021

1959	Virginia C. Brown, owner No occupation listed
1957	Virginia C. Brown, owner No occupation listed
1955	Virginia C. Brown, owner Widow, A.G. Brown No occupation listed
1952	Virginia C. Brown, owner No occupation listed NOTE: Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington are not listed in the directory.
1949	Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington, owners No occupation listed

- Rear: Elza L. Dukes, renter  
No occupation listed
- 1947 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela Harrington, owners  
No occupation listed
- Ezelena Dukes, renter  
Cook, Dunbar Grill
- 1944-45 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela Harrington, owners  
U.S. Army
- Ezelena Dukes, renter  
Maid
- 1941 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington, owners  
No occupation listed
- Ethel R. Sewell, renter  
Manager, Austin Negro Emergency Nursery School, 1192 Angelina Street.
- 1939 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington, owners  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Olivet Baptist Church is listed at 1303 Cotton Street, but no pastor was listed.
- 1937 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington, owners  
Pastor, Olivet Baptist Church, 1303 Cotton Street.
- 1935 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington, owners  
Pastor, Olivet Baptist Church, 1303 Cotton Street.
- 1932-33 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington, owners  
Pastor, Olivette Baptist Church, 1303 Cotton Street.  
NOTE: The house is listed with its old address of 1171 San Bernard Street.
- 1930-31 Reverend Joseph H. and Lela H. Harrington, colored, owners  
Pastor, Olivette Baptist Church, 1303 Cotton Street.  
NOTE: The house is listed with its old address of 1171 San Bernard Street.
- 1929 The address of 1171 (later 1173) San Bernard Street is not listed in the directory.  
NOTE: Reverend Joseph H. and Lola Harrington (colored) are listed at 1710 Maple Avenue; he was the pastor at Olivette Baptist Church and the vice-president of the Universal Relief Insurance Company of Texas.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **J.H. and Lela H. Harrington (ca. 1929 – ca. 1950)**

The 1930 U.S. Census shows J.H. and Lela H. Harrington as the owners of this house, which was worth \$8,000. The census report shows the old address of 1171 San Bernard, confirmed on the 1935 Sanborn map. J.H. Harrington was 34, had been born in Texas, and was a minister. Lela H. Harrington was 33, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

His 1942 World War II draft registration card shows that Joseph Henry Harrington was living at this address at the time of his registration. He was born in Magnolia, Arkansas in 1894 and was employed by the Benefit Board of the National Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. He was 5' – 7" tall, weighed 170 pounds, and had a dark brown complexion with black hair and brown eyes.

## OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

1179 San Bernard St.

The Olivet Baptist Church was organized, May 4, 1928, in the Mosby-Lott Building, 607 San Jacinto Street. The Reverend M. M. Haynes was chosen temporary chairman, Mrs. B. J. Murphy was chosen temporary secretary.

The charter members consisted of about seventy-five in number. John W. Whitley offered as a name, The Olivet Baptist Church. This name was accepted by the body.

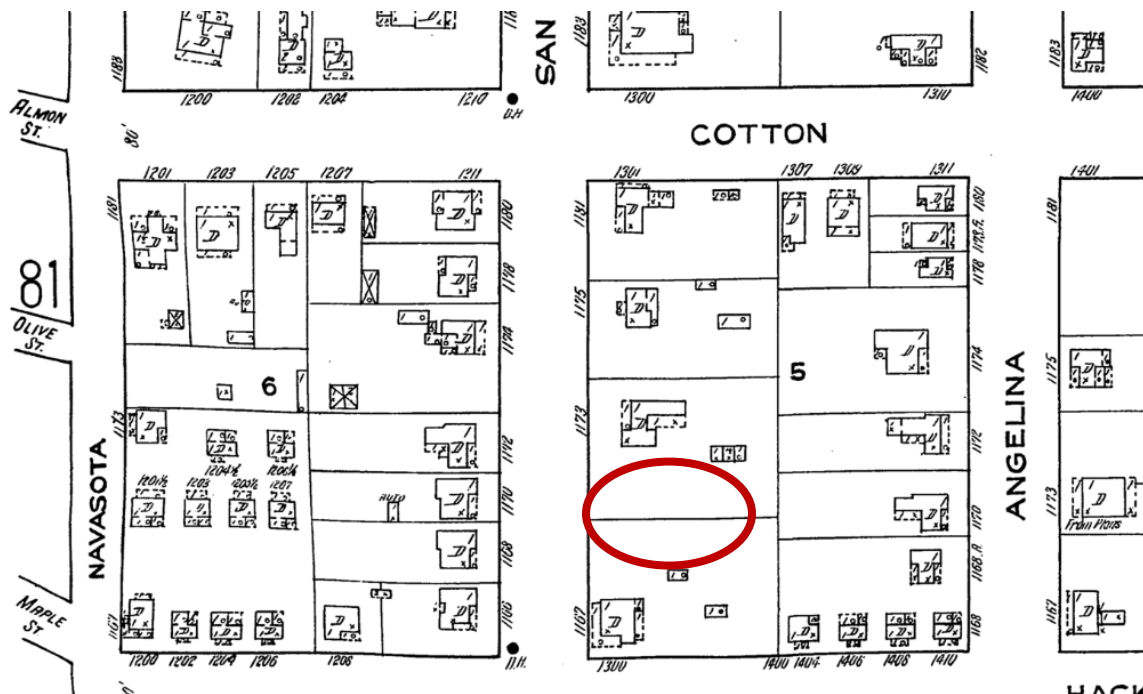
The Reverend Joseph H. Harrington accepted the call to pastor this newly organized church. The first Sunday services were held in the Mosby-Lott Building. A week later, an old house located on the corner of San Bernard and Cotton Streets was purchased. The walls of the house were taken out, and services were held here until a tabernacle was built.

The membership continued to grow; and in September of 1942 a new edifice was erected on the same site. This new building was constructed under the leadership of the Reverend Frederick D. Davis.

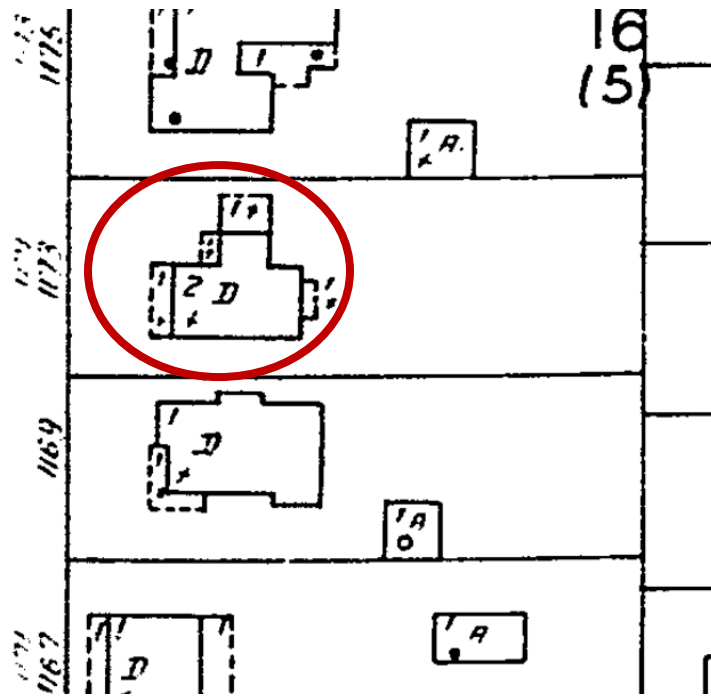
Time marches on, so does God's church. With each new era, new deeds and new responsibilities are to be faced. Under the consecrated leadership of the late Reverend James M. McChristian, this present plant was designed and constructed. Ground-breaking services were held April 23, 1961, and on Sunday, February 18, 1962, God's people at Olivet dedicated the present church building to the glory of God.

In March, 1965, Olivet extended a call to the Reverend Lawrence V. Wicks to become pastor of this thirty-eight year old congregation. A few days later, Reverend Wicks accepted this call.

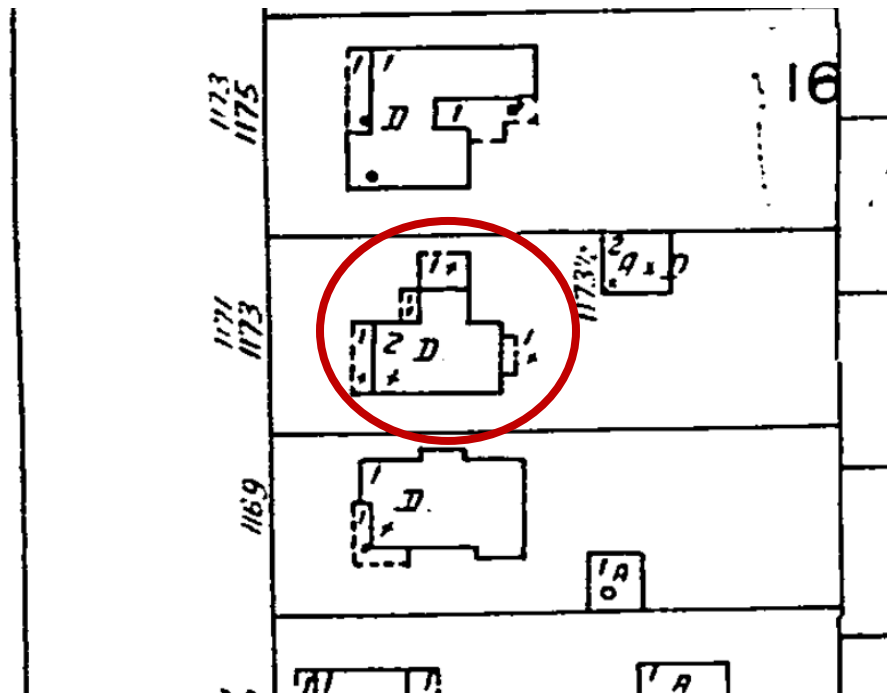
History of Olivet Baptist Church  
Austin American-Statesman, January 13, 1968







The 1935 Sanborn map is the first to show this house, and notes its former address of 1171 San Bernard Street.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the house as well as the rear unit. The former house address of 1171 San Bernard is still shown on the map.

Onita Mae Brown 1173 San Bernard St.  
 33 2 F 5

Robertson

Frame add'n to rear of residence.

78287 12-28-60 900.00

L.W. Gunn 3

BEDROOM & BATH New add'n to create bath & extend  
 existing bedroom. Relocate present bath.

Building permit to

Onita Mae Brown for a rear frame addition (1960)

OWNER Mrs. Brown ADDRESS <sup>1173</sup>~~1177~~ San Bernard St.  
 PLAT 33 LOT F BLK  
 SUBDIVISION Geo. L. Robertson  
 OCCUPANCY carport  
 BLD PERMIT # 113766 DATE 7-22-69 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$380.00  
 CONTRACTOR Vernest Johnson NO. OF FIXTURES  
 WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #  
 frm. addn. to res. 60 sq.ft.  
 2-12-71- 122149- remodel existing residence

Building permit to Mrs. Brown to construct a carport (1969) and to remodel the house (1971)