

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
JULY 26, 2021
PR-21-095546
3004 LAFAYETTE AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1939 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame cottage with synthetic siding; single 1:1 fenestration; partial-width inset porch on ornamental metal supports.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1939 by Walter Staehely, a local insurance broker and real estate developer. The first owners and occupants were Clarence and Doris Johnson, who lived here until around 1943. Clarence Johnson was an accountant for the State Highway Department. From 1943 until 1952, the house was owned and occupied by Curtis and Gladys Johnson. Curtis Johnson is believed to have been the brother of Clarence Johnson. Curtis Johnson was an assistant auditor for Travis County for many years, starting with the office when there were only two employees. Curtis and Gladys Johnson then sold the house to a long-time widow, Thelma Weidlein, who had previously worked as a private secretary, but who had no occupation listed in the city directories; she lived here until her death in 1976.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building has had synthetic siding applied at an unknown date, which has compromised its integrity of materials.
- 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, but would likely be contributing to a potential local historic district:
 - a. Architecture. The building is a traditional type of house, fairly common for its late 1930s construction date; it does not appear to be architecturally significant.
 - b. Historical association. The property was the home of a state accountant, an assistant county auditor, and a widow, none of whom appear to have had historical significance.
 - 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

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, then relocation over demolition, but release of the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of 8.5 x 11 photographs on photographic paper, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history for archiving at the Austin History Center. This house would likely be contributing to a local historic district in this neighborhood, and every consideration should be made for rehabilitation before demolishing the structure.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: PR 21-095546

LOCATION: 3004 LAFAYETTE AVENUE

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

3004 Lafayette Avenue
ca. 1939



Photo by Google Streetview, March 2019

OCCUPANCY HISTORY 3004 Lafayette Avenue

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

1959	Thelma Weidlein, owner No occupation listed
1957	Thelma Weidlein, owner No occupation listed
1955	Thelma Weidlein, owner No occupation listed
1953	Thelma Weidlein, owner Widow, W.W. Weidlein No occupation listed. NOTE: Curtis R. and Gladys Johnson are listed at 3305 Cherrywood Road; he was an assistant county auditor.
1952	Curtis R. and Gladys Johnson, owners Assistant county auditor NOTE: Thelma Weidlein is not listed in the directory.
1949	Curtis R. and Gladys Johnson, owners Assistant county auditor

- 1947 Curtis R. and Gladys Johnson, owners
Assistant county auditor
- 1944-45 Curtis R. and Gladys E. Johnson, owners
Clerk, Travis County
NOTE: Clarence B. and Doris Johnson are listed at 3103 East Avenue; he was an auditor at the State Highway Department.
- 1941 Clarence B. and Doris M. Johnson, owners
Accountant, State Highway Department
NOTE: Curtis Johnson is listed at 2800 French Place; he was an assistant in the County Auditor's Office; Gladys E. Johnson is not listed in the directory.
- 1940 Vacant
NOTE: Clarence B. and Doris M. Johnson are listed at 2800 Enfield Road; he was an accountant for the State Highway Department.
- 1939 The address is not listed in the directory.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Clarence B. and Doris M. Johnson (ca. 1939 – ca. 1943)

Clarence B. Johnson married Mona Doris Cank [sp?] in Bastrop County, Texas in July, 1932.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Clarence and Doris Johnson s the renters of this house. Curiously, the census report also shows people named Johnson living at 3002 and 3003 Lafayette Avenue; the house at 3002 was owned by Harry E. Johnson, but he was not old enough to be the patriarch of a possible Johnson clan here, although he is the only one listed as an owner. Clarence Johnson was 31, had been born in Texas, and was an accountant for the State Highway Department. Doris Johnson was 28, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a daughter, Donna Gail, 5, who had been born in Texas.

His October, 1940 World War II draft registration card shows Clarence Behrendt Johnson living at this address. He was 6 feet tall, weighed 165 pounds, and a light complexion with brown hair and blue eyes. He was born in Manor, Texas in 1909 and worked for the State Highway Department.

His 1973 death certificate shows that Clarence Berhandt Johnson was living at 3304 Hemlock in Austin at the time of his death in 1973. He was a men's clothing salesman who had been born in Texas in 1909; his widow was Doris M. Johnson.

CLARENCE B. JOHNSON

Clarence B. Johnson, 64, of 3501 Memlock, died Saturday at a local hospital.

He had been a lifetime resident of Travis County and had lived in Austin for 50 years. He was a member of the Decker United Methodist Church and was a salesman for Merrill Schaefer and Brown.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Doris M. (Cook) Johnson of Austin; daughter, Mrs. Harry E. Johnson Jr. of Austin; two grandsons, Gary Johnson and Stephen Johnson, both of Austin; brother, Carl Johnson of Austin; five sisters, Mrs. James Sellstrom, Mrs. Earl Lind, Mrs. Clifford Stohl, Mrs. John L. Sandberg, and Mrs. Rufus Lee, all of Austin; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral will be Monday at 3:50 p.m. at the Cook-Walden Chapel. Rev. John Smith of the First Baptist Church will officiate and burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Obituary of Clarence Johnson
Austin American-Statesman, May 20, 1973

Doris M. "Mona Doris" Cook Johnson was born in Travis County in 1911 and died in Austin in 1996.

Curtis R. and Gladys Johnson (ca. 1943 – ca. 1952)

His 1940 World War II draft registration card shows that Curtis Raymond Johnson was living at 2800 French Place, his father's home. He was born in Travis County, Texas and worked for the Travis County auditor. He was 5'-10.5" tall, weighed 150 pounds and had a light complexion with blond hair and blue eyes. He wore glasses.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Curtis Johnson as the son of C.B. and Ellen Johnson, who owned their home worth \$6,000 at 2800 French Place. Curtis Johnson was 22, had been born in Texas and was a book-keeper for the county auditor's office. His father, C.B. Johnson, 61, had been born in Sweden and was the owner of a farm. His mother, Ellen, 56, had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. Curtis had a younger sister, La Verne 17, who had been born in Texas. The family lived in rural Travis County in 1935.

His 1972 death certificate shows that Curtis Raymond Johnson was living at 1803 E. 39th Street at the time of his death. He was born in Texas in 1917 and was an assistant auditor for Travis County. His widow, Gladys Johnson, was born in 1918 and died in June, 1995.

Auditor Johnson Dies Here

A longtime assistant Travis County auditor, Curtis Johnson, 53, of 1803 E. 39th St., died in a local hospital Monday.

Johnson, a native of Austin, was with the auditor's office for 34 years.

"This was the only place of employment he ever had," County Auditor Bill Rust said Monday. Rust said the auditor's office will close Wednesday, the day of Johnson's funeral.

Johnson was "a very dedicated person," Rust said. "He did just about every job in the office. He and the county grew up together."

When Johnson began his employment with the county he was one of the only two employees.

Johnson was a member of Decker United Methodist Church.

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Rev. Wesley Schulze and Rev. Bernie Sanberg will officiate, and burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys Johnson of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Charlotte Klingman, East Lansing, Mich.; Miss Karen Johnson, Austin; five sisters, Mrs. James Sellstrom, Mrs. Pauline Lind, Mrs. John L. Sandeberg, Mrs. Clifford Stohl, Mrs. Rufus Lee Jr., all of Austin; two brothers, Carl A. Johnson and Clarence D. Johnson, both of Austin; and a grandson.

Memorial contributions may be made to Capital Kidney Foundation, Box 1781, Austin, Texas 78767.

Story on the death of Curtis Johnson
Austin Statesman, January 4, 1972

Note that his surviving brother is listed as Clarence D. Johnson, but was probably Clarence B. Johnson, the first owner of this house, and the person immediately preceding the occupancy of Curtis and Gladys Johnson. Clarence B. Johnson died a year later, in 1973.

Thelma Weidlein (ca. 1952 - ca. 1976)

Thelma Weidline appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the wife of W.W. Weidline; they rented an apartment in Houston, Texas. W.W. Weidline was a 37-year old Kansas-born electrical supplies salesman; Thelma Weidline was 32, had been born in Texas to an Arkansas-born father and a Texas-born mother, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Thelma Weidlein living in the home of her brother, Thurber M. McCarty at 1607 E. 1st Street, a house he owned, and which was worth \$3,000. Thelma Weidlein was a 42-year old Texas-born widow who worked as a private secretary to Charles E. Marsh. Her brother, Thurber M. McCarty, was a 45-year old Texas-born widower who was a conductor on the steam railroad. Also in the household was Betty G. McCarty, who is listed as a daughter, and is probably 13 years old, but the entry looks like she is 63; at any rate, she was born in Texas and had no occupation listed. Thurber and Thelma's mother, Nettie A. McCarty is also in the household. She was a 68-year old widow who was born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

Her 1976 death certificate shows that Thelma Dewey Weidlein was living at this address at the time of her death. She was born in 1898 in McDade, Texas, and was a widowed secretary for Charles E. Marsh, the proprietors of Newspapers, Inc.

WEIDLEIN, Mrs. Thelma,
77, 3004 Lafayette, died Sunday.
Services 1 p.m. Wednesday at
Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

Death notice for Thelma Weidlein
Austin American-Statesman, January 13, 1976

**3004 LAFAYETTE. NEW 6 room, tile
bath, 2 car garage. Lot 53 by 156. nice
trees only \$3,700. F.H.A. terms. Henry
Wendlandt, 612 Colorado St., Ph. 4358.**

Classified ad for the sale of this house
Austin Statesman, November 1, 1939

Walter Staehely

3004 Lafayette Ave.

68

-

4

9

-

Lafayette Heights

Frame residence & box garage

272n - 5/22/39

4

Building permit to Walter Staehely, local insurance man and developer, for the construction of this house
(1939)

Connection Charge # 946 Duplicate
 Application for Sewer Connection. No 15490A
 Austin, Texas, 3/31 1939
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
 City of Austin, Texas 5th Crockett
 Sir:—
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions
 on premises owned by W. Staehely
 at 3004 LaFayette Ave Street,
 further described as lot 9, block 4, outlot,
 subdivision LaFayette Hts, division, plat,
 which is to be used as a Res
 In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance
 charge.
 2 DEEP Respectfully, W. Wendlandt
 AT-PL
 Stub Out
 Connected 6-24 1939 Permit Pd.
 Size of Main 4 inches. 6-22-39
 Size of Service 4 inches. 9V
 8 Feet Deep in ST
 3 Feet from Property Line
 Feet from Curb Line
 Inspected by Bontingh Com 16'
 Connection made by Morris 7 of S
 11636 B-1307 LL

Sewer service permit to Walter Staehely for this address (1939)

Thelma Weidlein

3004 LaFayette Ave.

53

9

4

LaFayette Heights

Frame addition to rear of residence.

50231 3-1-52

\$1375.00

R. F. Wilson

Building permit to Thelma Weidlein, owner from ca. 1952 until her death in 1976, for the construction of a rear frame addition (1952)