

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
JULY 26, 2021
PR-2021-097458
OLD WEST AUSTIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
1602 NORTHUMBERLAND ROAD

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1948 contributing house and construct new building.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) Construct a two-story house. The proposed building has a compound roofline clad in standing-seam metal, with side-gabled form at the main mass and flat, hipped, and shed rooflines at secondary massing. It is clad in stucco with cast-stone trim and decorative accents throughout. Fenestration is regularly placed at the primary elevation and includes French doors with partial glazing at the second floor, full height multi-light windows and double entry doors at the first floor, and a round accent window. Round windows and horizontal multi-light fixed and casement windows appear at secondary elevations. An iron railing encloses the second-floor balcony at the main elevation.
- 2) Construct a detached garage. The proposed garage is located behind the primary building and is clad in stucco with cast stone trim to match. It has a steeply pitched hipped roof of standing seam metal with barrel-roofed dormers at each elevation. Multi-light horizontal pane fixed windows are used to match secondary elevations of the main building.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story Transitional Ranch house clad in brick, with inset partial-width porch, cross-gabled roof with deep eaves, and front-facing garage. Fenestration at the main façade includes screened 2:2 aluminum windows and multilight picture windows with inoperable shutters; the front door is not visible from the street.

RESEARCH

The house at 1602 Northumberland Road was constructed in 1948 for Jennie Covert. Covert was the widow of Clarence Covert, a prominent auto salesman in Austin; after his death, she helped her sons run the family business. Covert was an active member of the Junior League, past president of the Settlement Club, and multi-year PTA president. She lived in the home for at least ten years.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects in National Register districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Residential new construction

1. Location

The proposed new buildings appear to be set back appropriately from the street, with the garage located to the rear of the main building.

2. Orientation

Both proposed buildings maintain an orientation that is consistent with contributing buildings elsewhere in the district.

3. Scale, Massing, and Height

The proposed new house appears compatible in scale, massing, and height, with step-downs between the second and first floors and wall-plane offsets from front to rear. Massing is simple from the front elevation, with the more complex form variation to the rear of the property.

4. Proportions

The proposed main building's proportions are consistent with the proportions of nearby contributing buildings.

5. Design and Style

The proposed new buildings are differentiated from historic structures by their modern window configurations, shapes, and materials, as well as their stucco cladding and metal roofing. The ornate cast-stone trim—particularly the built-in urns—is

less appropriate to the style of the building and to the surrounding district's character-defining details.

6. Roofs

The proposed roof forms at the main building are compatible, though a shingle roofs would be more appropriate to both the surrounding district and the style of the proposed house than standing-seam metal. While the barrel-roofed dormers on the garage are not compatible with surrounding contributing buildings, the garage's visibility from the street may be diminished by its position at the rear of the lot.

7. Exterior Walls

The proposed cladding is compatible with the district's historic character, though the cast-stone accents are less compatible. Omitting the niches, urns, and keystones would lessen the trim's visual weight, increasing compatibility.

8. Windows and Doors

The proposed new building's fenestration is compatible in size, configuration, and profile at the main elevation, except the round window at the leftmost bay.

9. Porches

The proposed balcony is appropriate in scale and material, though there are few examples of similar balconies elsewhere in the district.

10. Chimneys

Both proposed stucco-clad chimneys appear compatible.

The proposed project meets some standards.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The building contributes to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.

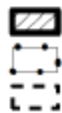
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 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 does not appear to convey architectural significance.
 - 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

Approve the demolition application upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package. Comment on and release new construction plans, encouraging the applicant to simplify trim and consider a more compatible roof material.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT
PENDING CASE
ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 21-103614

LOCATION: 1602 NORTHUMBERLAND RD

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

Photos





Source: Applicant, 2021

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, July 2021

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 1959 | Jennie Covert, owner |
| 1957 | Jenny Covert, owner |
| 1955 | Jenny Covert, owner |
| 1952 | Jenny Covert, owner (widow, Clarence) |
| 1949 | Jenny Covert, owner (widow, Clarence) |
| 1947 | Address not listed |

Biographical Information

Washington Birthday Furnishes Theme For Settlement Club Ball

By ANN NASH

Written for Sunday American-Statesman

Once more the historic Driskill hotel will be transformed into a gorgeous setting when the Girls' Settlement club entertains with its annual charity ball on Monday evening, Feb. 8.

This year being the bi-centennial of George Washington, the ball will be even more sumptuous and lavish in carrying out the idea of our forefather. The costuming of the club members will be reminiscent of the time when beauty and graciousness presided in the settings of yesterday—and from the intense work now being daily carried on by the members the affair promises to be the most brilliant yet achieved by the organization.

A more suitable background could not have been found than the Driskill hotel, whose roof has sheltered many notables in years past. Its ball room has been the scene of many striking and elaborate gatherings and hundreds of prominent guests throughout the state, have waltzed and promenaded within its walls.

The president, Mrs. Clarence Covert, has appointed the following committees and their unceasing efforts combined with the cooperation of every member of the club together with members of the Austin Service league will sponsor the most elaborate function yet attempted by the Settlement club.

Mrs. George Nalle has been appointed assistant chairman to help Mrs. Covert with the general plans of the ball.

\$25,000 Estate Left By Clarence Covert

An estate valued at approximately \$25,000 was left to his widow by Clarence Covert, co-founder of the Covert Automobile company, who died Aug. 23.

The will, executed May 23, named the widow, Mrs. Jennie M. Covert, and a son, Dan M. Covert, as executors. Application for probate was on file in county court today.

The Austin American (1914-1973), Jan 17, 1932; *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Aug 28, 1940

Miss Cook, Mr. Covert To Marry in June Rite

The engagement and approaching marriage of Miss Helen Earle Cook, a teacher in the Austin Public Schools, and George Hugh Covert, son of Mrs. Clarence Covert Sr., 1602 Northumberland, and the late Mr. Covert, has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marlston Joel Cook of Monroe, La.

They will be married June 20.

Miss Cook is a graduate of the University of Texas where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

Mr. Covert attended the University of Texas where he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. He is a partner in the Covert Automobile Co.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Apr 12, 1959



berg, left, and Mrs. Paul
corner neighbor, lay the
via telephone. Each vice
plunteers to assist in raising
a women's division.

Above: Getting together over coffee can inject a pleasure aspect into the serious work that lies ahead for the vice chairman in organizing and directing the work of the women volunteers. Discussing mutual efforts here with their hostess, Mrs. Clarence Covert, left, are Mrs. Jack Steinhauser, and Mrs. Ralph Fuller, standing. These vice chairmen are all members of the Settlement Club.

These Women Will Work

By LOIS HALE GALVIN

On Oct. 9—barely more than a month hence—36 once-a-year campaigns will be appealing to Mr. and Mrs. Austin for aid in financing voluntary health, welfare and youth services in their city and county for the coming year—HOWEVER, these 36 money-raising campaigns will all be combined under one joint effort:

The annual United Fund drive for 1961-62—with a goal of at least \$659,105—the minimum funds needed by these 36 United Fund agencies.

Although the date of the drive is only a short time away, for months, many Austinites, both men and women, have been devoting their time and energy to organizing this city-county-wide drive.

As in past years, a corps of civic-minded women, many of whom have assisted in most previous UF drives, will re-arrange their already busy, busy schedules so they can again join in the united effort. Included will be the "baker's dozen" pictured on this page, whose job it will be to recruit and direct the volunteer work of more than 200 women who will make up the United Fund's Special Gifts division, with Mrs. Arthur Fehr as chairman.

When Chief R. A. (Bob) Miles, UF general chairman, asked the Settlement Club's United Fund committee to undertake the "Special Gifts division project, the women agreed. Mrs. Fehr was named to head this division, with the club's UF committee chairman, Mrs. Walter Seaholm, as her co-chairman. More than 100 members of the Settlement Club, itself a UF agency, will be active workers in the drive, including the club president, Mrs. Ben Lee Chote.

Six of the 11 vice chairmen spearheading the Special Gifts fund-raising efforts are members of the Settlement Club. They are Mrs. Harry Akin, Mrs. Clarence Covert, Mrs. Paul Crusemann, Mrs. James Dolley, Mrs. Ralph Fuller and Mrs. Jack Steinhauser.

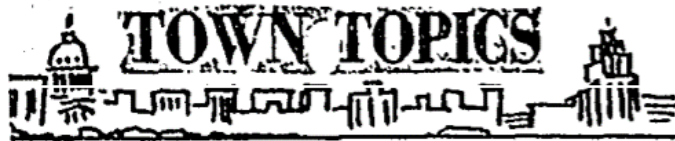
Vice chairmen representing other UF agencies participating in this UF division of all women volunteers are: Mrs. Homer Garrison, American Red Cross; Mrs. Louis N. Goldberg, YWCA; Mrs. Robert Payne, United Fund board of trustees; Mrs. Ras Redwine, Child and Family Service, and Mrs. R. E. Whitlock, Baby Home Guilds.

Working under the supervision of each vice chairman will be 20 volunteer UF solicitors, whom the vice chairmen are now engaged in recruiting. The Special Gifts appeal begins on Monday, Oct. 9, simultaneously with the other United Fund drive divisions: Professional, Public Employees, Schools, Business and Employee divisions; the Pace-Setter division got under way earlier this month.

Just prior to launching the UF drive, an indoctrination meeting will be held for all of the women participating in the Special Gifts project. Each woman will be provided with a working kit, clearly marked with the "UF" initials, in addition to her name, address and telephone number as authentic identification. In addition the kits will include UF stickers, brochures and pledge cards for donors.

This year the United Fund is stressing "Give Where You Work." There will be no door-to-door solicitation in residential areas, so, "your wife will not be

(Continued on Page D-9)



By FRANKIE PETERSON
Woman's Editor

Now that pro football players have hung up their cleats and are pursuing their off-season activities, millions of TV addicts are confused and frustrated to find that, at last, they are free to do anything they want on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons.

At our house we have decided to catch up on a little reading. First book on the list is "Instant Replay," the Green Bay diary. Maybe it will help us taper off and avoid withdrawal symptoms.

★

The only way it might have been better is if they had given away samples, at the grand opening Thursday night of the newly expanded facilities of Covert Buick Company. Searchlights were flashing, champagne was flowing and guests had a fine time visiting with each other and admiring the merchandise.

Jennie Covert was there to help her boys and their wives with the hostess duties, as were their aunts, Katherine Temple, Eleanor Watson and Anne Shipman. Rox was the only representative of the third generation. All of the littler ones stayed home.

An inexhaustible conversation piece was the elegant, one-of-a-kind, mother-of-pearl model with white ermine carpet and a \$15,000 price tag that had been brought in for the occasion.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Feb 9, 1969

Widow of founder of Covert Buick dies

Mrs. Clarence (Jennie Matthews) Covert, widow of the founder of Covert Buick Company and lifetime resident of Austin, died today.

She was past president of the Settlement Club, an Austin Junior League charter member, several times president of PTA, and a member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Her mother was the daughter of Aaron Burleson who originally settled the area from Austin to Webberville.

She is survived by three sons, Don M. Covert, Clarence Covert Jr. and George M. Covert, all of Austin. Survivors also include 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Austin Memorial Park with Hampton Mabry Jr., assistant rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, officiating. Weed-Corley Funeral Home is handling funeral arrangements.

The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980); Sep 20, 1977

Permits

Mrs. Jennie M. Covert 1602 Northumberland Rd
147 33 & East 30' of 32 - - -

Pease Estates

Brick veneer res. with frame gar. attach.

38783 8-13-48

\$17,000.00

Building permit to Jennie Covert, 1948

OWNER Dr. Mrs. Rexford G. Carter ADDRESS 1602 Northumberland Rd.

PLAT 147 LOT 33x E 30' of 32 BLK.

SUBDIVISION Pease Estates

OCCUPANCY X Bedroom and bath

BLDG. PERMIT # 181199 DATE 4-23-79 OWNERS ESTIMATE 37,000.0

CONTRACTOR H.D. Brown Assoc. NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#

Addn to ~~xx~~ exist res. 868 Sq ft

Addition permit to Dr. and Mrs. Rexford Carter, 1979

Address: 1602 NORTHUMBERLAND Permit: 181199 Plat: 147

Lot: Block Subdivision: Outlot Pease Estates

Fire Zone: 3 Use Dist. A-1st Occupancy: Addn to Res

#-24-79	Layout	6-1-7-1	Framing	Final	Commercial
Foundation			2x12	Bldg. Conn.	Parking
Front setback	15		16	Room Vent.	Exits
Total & Min. side yard	16		4x10	Stairs	Exit lights
Side St. Yard	8		16	Rails	Fences
			2x6	Attic Vent.	Corridors
			16	Insulation	
Type Const.			P-13	Hood Vent.	
Spec. Permit #			Sheetrock	Glass	
BOA			Commercial Sheetrock	Deadbolts	
			Occup. Sep.	Fireplaces	
			Thru out		

Owner: Dr. Mrs. Rexford G. Carter Contractor: H.D. Brown Assoc.

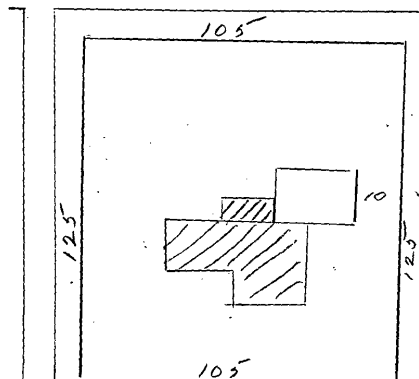
31 X 28 Bedroom

BID 2005 JUNE 77



Clerk: [Signature] Date: 4-23-79

Address: [Blank]



Northumberland

Inspector:

Addition permit to Dr. and Mrs. Rexford Carter, 1979