

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**JULY 26, 2021**  
**PR-2021-084005**  
**3009 BOWMAN AVENUE**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1941 house, a ca. 2018 addition, and pool.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story Colonial Revival-styled wood frame house with a front-gabled entry and a partial-width independent porch on round columns; single and paired fenestration. The original house has a large, two-story, front-gabled frame addition to the south, which replaced a what appears to be an original detached garage, and then a later detached garage. The original house retains its articulation despite the additions to the south.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1941 for John Barclay, the pastor of the Central Christian Church in downtown Austin. There is a water service permit to Burt Dyke, who owned the large estate at what was the end of Bowman Avenue, and whose home is now known as the Tarry House; there does not appear to be a building permit for this house; but the water service permit does reference this address. John and Mattie Barclay were married in 1941, and he began his pastorship at Central Christian that year. Barclay was an influential leader in Austin's religious community, organizing the Austin Council of Churches. He presided at Central Christian over its period of greatest growth, and offered the Protestant prayer at the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy in 1961. While serving as U.S. Senator, Lyndon B. Johnson was a member of this church.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

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### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The original building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The original building is still discernible, but has a large non-historic addition.
- 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 a good example of Colonial Revival architecture, and reflects a variant of Colonial Revival that was more common in the Carolinas; John Barclay, the first owner of this house, was from North Carolina. While Barclay would definitely recognize the original part of the house, the new addition to the south dwarfs it so there is a question of integrity here that the Commission needs to decide as to whether the house meets the architectural significance criterion at this point.
  - b. *Historical association*. The house is associated with John Barclay, who lived here from 1941 until his retirement. Barclay was the pastor of Austin's Central Christian Church from the 1940s through the 1960s, and was very influential in Austin's religious life. He organized the Austin Council of Churches, and offered the Protestant prayer at President Kennedy's inauguration in 1961. While serving as U.S. Senator, Lyndon B. Johnson was a member of Reverent Barclay's congregation. However, it is unlikely that Rev. Barclay would recognize the current building as the home he and his wife occupied for over 20 years.
  - 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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Consider initiation of historic zoning for the original portion of this building and allow for the demolition of the addition and pool. The house has significant historical associations with Rev. John Barclay, but the additions are overwhelming. If there is a way to preserve the original Colonial Revival section of the house and have the Commission review any new

additions to the property that would preserve this house and allow it to be a historic landmark then that would be the best solution here in staff's opinion. This house clearly has significant historical associations with an important religious figure in the city, and the applicant should consider an alternative to demolition that commemorates that history.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 181'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: PR 21-084005  
 LOCATION: 3009 BOWMAN AVE

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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3009 Bowman Avenue  
ca. 1941



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 3009 Bowman Avenue

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

1957	Rev. John and Mattie B. Barclay, owners Pastor Central Christian Church
1954	Rev. John and Bea Barclay, owners Pastor, Central Christian Church
1949	Rev. John and Mattie Barkley, owners Pastor, Central Christian Church
1947	Rev. John and Mattie B. Barkley, owners No occupation listed
1944-45	Unknown. The address of 3009 Bowman is not listed in the directory; there is a house address of 3007, which would correspond to the existing house, and it is listed as vacant. NOTE: Rev. John and Mattie Barkley are not listed in the directory.

1942

Unknown

There is a listing for 3007 Bowman, which was vacant; nothing listed as 3009.

NOTE: Earlier directories show a 3025 Bowman Avenue, which corresponds to the home of the Dyke family, now known as the Tarry House, across the street from this house. The Dyke family may have donated the land (or house) for this property to the Central Christian Church; further research would be necessary to document this.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Rev. John Barclay served as the pastor of the Central Christian Church from 1941 to 1969, and presided over its peak membership. He gave the prayer at John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961; while serving as U.S. Senator, Lyndon B. Johnson was a member of this congregation. John and Mattie Bell Barclay were married in 1941. John Barclay died in 1989; Mattie Barclay died in 2002.

# John Barclay: 20 Busy Years

By MARILYN PRUD'HOMME

"Being a minister in Austin is like preaching to a parade," says Dr. John Barclay who is concluding 20 years as pastor of Central Christian Church this Sunday.

"There's a constant turnover at The University of Texas, in state government and at Bergstrom Air Force Base."

In spite of the transient nature of the town, Austin brags of 203 churches — about 68 more than the city needs. Dr. Barclay, who helped found the Austin Council of Churches 20 years ago, explains that the National Council of Churches standards recommend one church for every 1,600 people.

"The remarkable thing about Austin churches is that not one independently supported church here has failed in the last 122 years," he says. "Few businesses have been here even 80 years."

Dr. Barclay has seen over 100 churches organized here since he packed his bags in Wilson, N. C., and brought his bride "B" to Austin.

"After just a few months we agreed that this was the place

where we wanted to live, die and be buried."

Evidently his congregation has approved of his stay. The silver-haired preacher and community leader has never preached the same sermon twice since he arrived. "I may speak on the same subject, but I always write a new sermon. Each time I find the Scriptures so alive that I keep finding something new."

His enthusiasm spills over into travels and community affairs. In October he'll make his fifth trip to Europe when he preaches and counsels at Air Force installations in Spain. From Spain he hopes to visit behind the Iron Curtain.

His other trips include an Army assignment during World War I in France, a seminar in Russia in 1939, a mission to Amsterdam in 1948 at the organizational meeting of the World Council of Churches, and a study of the Holy Land and the Mediterranean countries in 1955.

This year, his "20th anniversary year," he led a two-week evangelism program in Jamaica.

Dr. Barclay says he's never experienced a year filled with such variety.

In January he gave the Protestant prayer at President Kennedy's inauguration. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson is a member of Central Christian. He also opened the first session of the Senate with a prayer.

His "20th" includes selection as National chaplain for Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity with which he's been affiliated for 47 years. Dr. Barclay also serves as president of the Texas Convention of Christian Churches and is chairman of the Board of Trustees of Brackenridge Hospital.

"It's also a first time for me to be the father of a son in college." Dr. Barclay's son is a freshman at Texas Christian University. His daughter is in the ninth grade at O. Henry Junior High School.

Sunday at 11 a.m. Dr. Barclay will speak on "God's Call — Man's Response." Wednesday the junior high school age children and younger children will honor him at a party from 7 to 8 p.m. at the church. A formal reception for him will be held at the Westwood Country Club following the church party.



DR. JOHN BARCLAY

A year of variety

Story on 20 years of service of Rev. John Barclay  
Austin American-Statesman, September 17, 1961

Dr. John Barclay

# 50 Years In Pulpit

By ANITA BREWER

Sunday will be the 50th anniversary of Dr. John Barclay's ministry in the Disciples of Christ.

On a warm September Sunday a half century ago a young John Barclay began his long career in the church by preaching in the Millville Christian Church in Millville, Ky.

Two Sundays ago he returned to that Kentucky pulpit and delivered a Golden Anniversary sermon. He has gone back there every five years since 1914 to gain strength and inspiration from the land where he came from.

But Austin is his home, and Sunday along with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of

his preaching ministry, his congregation at the Central Christian Church will join him in celebrating the beginning of his 24th year in Austin.

From that first sermon in 1914, Dr. Barclay's ministry has taken many forms — from preaching to the condemned in the Travis County jail to standing by the side of President John F. Kennedy on that cold January day in 1961 and praying an inaugural prayer.

It was on this day that the President spoke the historic words, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

Dr. Barclay has said more than once that human beings accept more from this world than they put in to it, that is, man leaves the world poorer, rather than richer, than he finds it.

His associate at Central Christian Church, Rev. Eugene Dye, says this certainly is not true of John Barclay.

"The thousands of lives that he has touched and strengthened through the years will rise up and call him blessed among men," says Rev. Dye.

The public is invited Sunday to participate in a special service honoring Dr. Barclay at the Central Christian Church, 1110 Guadalupe. It will begin at 10:55 a.m. with a worship service dedicated to public recognition of the achievements of Dr. Barclay. Immediately following the service, a reception will be held in the church community room, next to the sanctuary, where friends will meet and greet Dr. Barclay and his family.



DR. JOHN BARCLAY

... A golden anniversary

Story on 50 years of preaching by Rev. John Barclay  
Austin Statesman, September 17, 1964

# Dr. John Barclay Honored at Dinner

By JIM DOUGHERTY  
Staff Writer

Saying he felt as though he had "arrived," Dr. John Barclay accepted the 1971 title of Austin's Most Worthy Citizen Thursday night.

Dr. Barclay, named last month for the honor, was formally recognized before an estimated crowd of 562 persons at the Austin Board of Realtors banquet at the Villa Capri.

Describing Dr. Barclay as "a man's man," State Supreme Court Justice Tom Reavley gave the principal address and lauded the minister's years of service to others.

"He even teaches a Sunday school class every Sunday," Reavley said. "Dr. Barclay says it gives him a place to 'warm up' for the sermon."

Dr. Barclay retired in 1969 from his ministry at Central Christian Church after serving in that pulpit for 28 years. Since that time, he has been commuting to Burnet to serve as interim minister at Burnet Christian Church. It was his

former congregation which nominated him for the Worthy Citizen title.

Mayor Roy Butler, declaring Thursday as "John Barclay Day" in Austin, said, "The only problem with the proclamation was that the council could not get all of Dr. Barclay's achievements on one document."

Last year's Worthy Citizen recipient W. E. "Rooster" Andrews, introduced Dr. Barclay and presented him a plaque from the realtors.

Asserting in his acceptance address that Austin is a city of volunteers, Dr. Barclay praised members of the city council as being in the forefront of participation in projects for the good of the community.

He also cited University of Texas student volunteers for their aid in tutoring city school students.

In his speech, Judge Reavley said of Dr. Barclay that "his life is substantial evidence of his faith."

Quoting Dr. Barclay's

admonition to youth, he said, "See life whole. Live life effectively. There's something to become."

With Dr. Barclay at the head table was his wife, Bee, and several past recipients of the award.

Blood cannot be used as a factor in determining racial origin.





Photo by John D. Gresham

**ADVICE FROM ONE "MOST WORTHY CITIZEN" TO ANOTHER**  
Dr. John Barclay right, and Mrs. Barclay with 1970 winner "Rocker" Andresen

News story on a dinner honoring Dr. John Barclay  
Austin Statesman, March 24, 1972