

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**AUGUST 23, 2021**  
**PR-21-105009**  
**2501 INWOOD PLACE**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca/ 1948 house.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, irregular plan, flat-roofed house with elements of International Style and mid-century Modern design; wood and stone veneer siding; large expanses of glass.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house was built in 1948-49 by Plan Con, a local building construction firm operated by Carl B. Morris, president of Materials Distributing Company (with Maurice W. Cole as vice-president, Russell Horn as secretary, and Ned Cole as treasurer (4601 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street), Maurice W. Cole, the proprietor of Fabricon, which is listed as cabinet makers in the Austin city directories of the late 1940s, but which really manufactured pre-fabricated wall storage units, roof trusses and windows, and was a pioneer in home design and the efficiency of interior storage (4601 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street); Carl Morris' obituary noted that he was a real estate developer and home builder; Russell J. Horn, proprietor of Metal Equipment Company, welders (4607 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street), and Ned A. Cole, a student in the School of Architecture at the University of Texas. Plan Con was listed in the 1949 city directory as building contractors, with offices at 4601 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The firm was a collaboration of several GIs returning from World War II, and planned houses with prefabricated units and increased interior storage. Ned Cole, who presumably served as architect for the Plan Con houses in Austin, was also the architect of seven houses in the later Air Conditioned Village experiment in Austin (1954) and built homes throughout Central Texas. He moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1961, where he continued his long career, including serving as a consultant on the construction of the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

The house was owned and occupied by Hugh and Frances McMath from the time of its construction at least through the late 1950s. Hugh McMath was a renowned professor of architecture at the University of Texas, with a specialization in Mexican architecture. He was instrumental in introducing his students to the principles of Mexican architecture and worked to include Mexican architectural programs into the greater sphere of American architectural studies.

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The property is beyond the bounds of any City survey to date.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity, although the applicant has suggested that the house is in poor condition.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it [does / may / does not] meet two criteria:
  - a. Architecture. The house is a hybrid of International Style and the nascent mid-century Modern design aesthetics. The house has a very blocky exterior that suggests the International Style, but also the use of local, natural materials in the wood and stone siding, the blending of the outside with the inside, deep eaves, and use of large expanses of glass that were hallmarks of the mid-century Modern design.
  - b. Historical association. The property is associated with Hugh McMath, a professor of architecture at the University of Texas, who specialized in the study of Mexican architecture and was prominent in integrating Mexican schools of architecture into a larger sphere of American architectural studies. The house may also be associated with architect Ned Cole, who was in the management of PlanCon, the builders of this house.
  - 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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Postpone to September 27, 2021 to evaluate alternatives to demolition and gather more information about the McMath family and PlanCon, which appears to be a pioneer in developing pre-fabricated wall storage units in residential building construction in the late 1940s. If the Commission does not postpone, then staff recommends encouraging 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 x 10 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 21-105009

LOCATION: 2501 INWOOD PLACE

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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Images from applicant's application for demolition

*Occupancy History*

City Historic Preservation Office

City Directory Research, July 2021

1959	Hugh L. and Frances McMath, owners Hugh – Professor, University of Texas Frances – Clerk, O Henry Jr. High School
1957	Hugh L. and Frances McMath, owners Hugh – Professor, University of Texas Frances – Clerk, Board of Education
1955	Hugh L. and Frances McMath, owners Acting director, School of Architecture, University of Texas
1952	Hugh L. and Frances McMath, owners Professor, University of Texas
1949	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: The house was built in 1948. NOTE: Hugh L. McMath is listed as a professor at the University of Texas; he lived at 386a Deep Eddy Apartments. Frances McMath is not listed in the directory.

*Biographical Information*

Hugh L. and Frances McMath (ca. 1948 - )

Hugh L. McMath married Frances M. Little in Travis County in June, 1937.

# Miss Little Bride Of Hugh L. McMath

The marriage of Miss Frances Marian Little, daughter of Mrs. Henry Morrow Little, to Hugh L. McMath, on Friday morning at St. David's Episcopal church came as a surprise to many friends of the popular university couple.

Before the ceremony began, Lester Brenizer sang the nuptial

solo, with Carl Fehr at the organ.

The Rev. James Allen, pastor of the church, performed the double ring ceremony before members of the two families.

The bride, dressed in a blue tailored crepe with blue accessories and wearing white flowers, was given in marriage by her brother, Dr. Harry M. Little of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Harry M. Little of Pittsburgh attended the bride, and Walter T. Rolfe attended Mr. McMath.

Immediately following the ceremony, the couple left for New York city by motor. On July 24 they will sail on the S. S. Europa for a trip abroad, returning to Austin about Sept. 15.

Mrs. McMath received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Texas, later serving as secretary to the dean of the graduate school. In 1928 she became secretary to the president of the university. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and Mortar Board, honorary organization.

Mr. McMath, of Fargo, N. D., the son of Mrs. Miriam G. McMath, is an assistant professor of architecture at the university. He received his master of science degree in architecture from the university, and later attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which institution he received his master of science degree in 1936. He is an associate member of the American Institute of Architecture and of Sigma Chi fraternity and Tau Sigma Delta.

The 1940 U.S Census shows Hugh and Frances McMath as the renters of the house at 1801 Newfield Lane in Austin. Hugh McMath was 35, had been born in South Dakota, and was an assistant professor at the University of Texas. Frances McMath was also 35, had been born in Texas, and was the chief clerk at the Works Progress Administration office.

His 1942 World War II draft registration card shows that Hugh Lyon McMath was living at 2210-C Nueces Street in Austin; he was employed by the Department of Architecture at the University of Texas and was married to Frances McMath. He was born in 1904 in Watertown, South Dakota. He was 5'-11" tall, weighed 150 pounds, and had a light complexion with brown hair and blue eyes.

## Hugh McMath To Visit Mexico

Hugh L. McMath, acting director of the University of Texas Architecture School, will visit the Instituto Tecnológico in Monterrey, Mexico, Nov. 22-28. Professor McMath will take the Instituto's architecture department an application for membership into the Association of Collegiate Schools of Ar-

chitecture.

The association has a membership of some 70 United States and Canadian schools, but the Monterrey school will be the first in Mexico to hold membership in the association.

Professor McMath, who has been a member of the American Institute of Architects Committees on Education and International Relations, set up an architectural design workshop in the Monterrey school in 1950, and has taught there in summer sessions.

News story on Hugh McMath's visit to extend an invitation to the Instituto Tecnológico in Monterrey, Mexico to join the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture  
Austin Statesman, November 17, 1955



*Hugh McMath*

**Title**      Hugh L. McMath papers  
**Dates:**    1928-1977



**Abstract** The Hugh McMath papers include textual and photographic material primarily documenting his 44-year teaching career in the School of Architecture at The University of Texas at Austin. He held a deep interest in the art and architecture of Mexico and developed courses in pre-Hispanic and Colonial architecture of Mexico and published several monographs on the subject. Record types include photographs, correspondence, student work, writings, and faculty papers.

*From the Alexander Archives, University of Texas*

Hugh Lyon McMath was born in Watertown, South Dakota, May 9, 1904.

McMath studied engineering and architecture at North Dakota Agricultural College (Fargo, North Dakota) in the 1920s, receiving a bachelor's of architecture in 1927. He was an instructor in architecture at North Dakota State College from 1927-1928; and at Bradley Polytechnic Institute in Peoria, Illinois from 1928-1929. He arrived in Austin in 1930 to teach at The University of Texas. Subsequently he received a master's in architecture from The University of Texas in 1934 and from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1936.

In 1942 McMath entered the U.S. Army Air Corps along with a number of other University faculty members. He served as an instructor and later as a director of the ground school at Moore Field Army Corps Base in Mission, Texas. He headed the educational guidance staff of the Austin Air Reserve Group in the 1950s and retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1964.

During his 44 years of teaching in the School of Architecture at The University of Texas, McMath served as chair from 1946-1948, director from 1948-1950, and acting director from 1953-1954. In addition to his private practice, McMath lists professional experience in the offices of Frederic J. Klein (Peoria, Illinois), Walter T. Rolfe (Austin, Texas), Walter C. Harris (Austin, Texas), Golemon and Rolfe (Houston, Texas), and McKee and Kamrath (Houston, Texas).

McMath held a deep interest in the art and architecture of Mexico. He developed courses in the pre-Hispanic and Colonial architecture of Mexico and published several monographs on the subjects. From 1950 until 1960 he organized an architectural workshop at the Instituto Tecnológico of Monterrey, Mexico, attended by students from all over the U.S. His sponsorship aided the admission of the architecture school at the Instituto Tecnológico into the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. He organized "Arctours" to Mexico in 1968, 1969 and 1970 to inspire interest in historic Mexican architecture by touring sites. Funded by a University Research Institute grant, he conducted a photographic survey of architecture in Puebla, Mexico, in 1968.

In 1957, serving as a consultant and coordinating architect for design and construction of the American School in Monterrey, he arranged an association of Monterrey

architects and representatives from the Houston firm of Caudill Rowlett and Scott Architects and Planners.

McMath was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts of Great Britain for his work to develop cultural relations with Mexico. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Texas Society of Architects and served on the AIA National Committee on Education and Foreign Relations.

Hugh McMath retired from The University of Texas in 1974

## **Hugh Lyon McMath, former director of UT School of Architecture, dies at 88**

November 17, 1992 | Austin American-Statesman (TX)

Hugh Lyon **McMath**, former director of the University of Texas School of Architecture and professor emeritus, died Sunday. He was 88.

**McMath** was director of the school for six years when the department of architecture separated from the College of Engineering in 1948.

**McMath**, who earned master's degrees in architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and UT, began teaching at UT in 1930.

In 1950, he and his wife, Frances, began taking students from all over the country to study architecture during the summer at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores in Monterrey, Mexico.

Before teaching at UT, **McMath** taught briefly at North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University) and Bradley Polytechnic Institute in Peoria, Ill.



Receipt No. 11331 Application for Sewer Connection No. 25922  
 Austin, Texas, 1-22-49  
 To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.  
 Sir:—  
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by  
PLANCON INC. at 1400 WAYSIDE DR Street,  
 further described as Lot 9 Block — Outlot — Division —  
 subdivision INWOOD PARK Plat 52 which is to be used as a RES  
 In this place there are to be installed 7 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 31966  
 I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge. 1-24-49  
 Depth at Prop. Line 2-4 at main Respectfully,  
 Stub Out 29' W of curb  
 Connected 5' on curb (Location) PORTER  
 Date 2-10-49  
 By B. Hernandez  
 NOTE: Connection Instructions 1. 1' from curb to main  
2. 2' aug - Rock B-1101

Application for Sewer Connection, 1949

**WATER SERVICE PERMIT** C No. 152 9 3310  
 Austin, Texas  
 Received of PLANCON Date 4-9-49  
 Address 2501 INWOOD PLACE  
 Amount TWENTY & NO/100 20/100  
 Plumber PORTER PLBG SR. Size of Tap 3/4"  
 Date of Connection 4-22-49  
 Size of Tap Made 3/4"  
 Size Service Made —  
 Size Main Tapped —  
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 2.5'  
 From S-Prop. Line to Curb Cock 40'  
 Location of Meter CURB  
 Type of Box LOCU  
 Depth of Main in St. —  
 Depth of Service Line —  
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main —  
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 5-12-56 WJD  
**INDEXED**

No. Fittings	Size	Material
1	Curb Cock	—
1	Elbow	—
1	St. Elbow	—
1	Reducer	—
1	Pipe	—
1	Lead Comp.	—
1	Nipples	—
1	Union	—
1	Plug	—
1	Tee	—
1	Stop	—
1	Box	—
1	Lid	—
1	Valves	—
1	Job No.	W-323-5024
1	Req. No.	11 P. 0. 0. 0.

Water Service Connection, 1949

*2501 Inwood Place*

Hugh L. McMath

~~1400 Wayside Drive~~

152

9

Inwood Park

Frame residence with garage attached.

39174 9-29-48

\$9500.00

Plan Con

7

*Building Permit, 1948*

Hugh L. McMath

2501 Inwood Place

152

9 and east 1/2 of 8

Inwood Sub.

Frame and masonry addition to residence

49715 1-2-52

\$3000.00

Owner

*Building permit to Hugh McMath for an addition, 1952*