

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021
PR-2021-117734
2103 E. 8TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a house that may have been moved ca. 1939.

ARCHITECTURE

This one-story Modified L-plan house appears on Sanborn maps between 1935 and 1961, with a sewer connection permit from 1939. Although the City has no record of a relocation permit, the house has Folk Victorian elements suggesting an earlier date of construction and may have been moved onto the lot. These elements include 2:2 wood windows, sawn brackets at the eaves, and a chamfered wood pilaster at the porch. The house has horizontal wood siding, covered with asbestos shingles under the porch.

RESEARCH

The house at 2103 E. 8th Street was occupied from 1944–1955 by the family of James L. and Grace Finnin, working-class African Americans. James Finnin (ca. 1889–1982) worked as a farm laborer before moving into Austin and subsequently was a laborer at the City of Austin Water & Light Department. Grace Underwood Finnin (1897–1993) raised the couple's many children and was involved with the Mary Church Terrell District Association of Federated Women's Clubs, serving as reporter for the organization in 1961. Some of their children continued to live in the house on E. 8th upon reaching adulthood; city directory listings include multiple of their names: Ella, Everett, Horace (Billie), Harvey, and Inez, who held working-class jobs including laborer, porter, cook, and maid.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The [East Austin Historic Resources Survey](#) (Hardy Heck Moore, Inc., 2016) does not indicate the property is eligible for historic designation.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark




- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building retains a moderate degree of integrity. Some porch columns and parts of the porch roof have been replaced, and asbestos shingles cover part of the siding. The house appears to be in poor condition.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (Land Development Code [§25-2-352](#)). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it does not meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building appears to be a Folk Victorian house that may have been moved to the site.
 - b. Historical association. The house was associated with the Finnin family. Readily accessible archival material on African Americans in Austin is limited, and sufficient grounds are lacking to make a case for 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

Release 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 2021-117734
LOCATION: 2103 E 8TH 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

Photos



HHM, Inc., East Austin Historic Resources Survey, 2016





Applicant, 2021

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, Historic Preservation Office, 2021

1959	Vacant
1957	No return
1955	Jas L. and Grace V. Finnin, owners Laborer, City Water & Light Department Everett Finnin, renter Laborer Inez Finnin, renter Laborer
1952	James L. and Grace Finnin, renters Laborer, City Water Department Everett J. Finnin, renter Porter Harvey Finnin, renter Student
1949	James and Grace Finnin, renters Laborer Freddie B. and Boris Smith, renters Student
1947	Vacant Rear – Virginia Adams, owner Occupation not listed
1944	Jas L. and Grace Finnin, renters Laborer Horace Finnin, renter Helper, Greyhound Coffee Shop Harvey Finnin, renter Deliveryman Everett J. Finnin, renter Cook Ella M. Finnin, renter Maid
1941	Fred and Ophelia Adams, renters Fred – Trucker Ophelia – Grocer
1939	Address not listed

Historical Information

Form 15-4
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State Texas Incorporated place _____ Ward of city _____ Block No. _____
County Travis Unincorporated place _____
Towship or other division of county Preinct 1 Institution _____

Enumeration District No. 227-2 Sheet No. 7A
Supervisor's District No. 24 Enumerated by me on April 9, 1930, Wood H. Banks

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN BORN	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN	REMARKS
1	William Grace	Wife	1	W 40 32 M 27 10 0	1	Texas	Texas	1	None	None	None	1
2	Lucille	Daughter	2	W 15 5 S 10 0 0	2	Texas	Texas	2	None	None	None	2
3	Margaret	Daughter	3	W 13 5 S 10 0 0	3	Texas	Texas	3	None	None	None	3
4	Edna M.	Daughter	4	W 6 5 S 10 0 0	4	Texas	Texas	4	None	None	None	4
5	Evelyn	Daughter	5	W 6 5 S 10 0 0	5	Texas	Texas	5	None	None	None	5
6	Bernice	Daughter	6	W 5 5 S 10 0 0	6	Texas	Texas	6	None	None	None	6
7	Bernice	Daughter	7	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	7	Texas	Texas	7	None	None	None	7
8	Billie	Daughter	8	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	8	Texas	Texas	8	None	None	None	8
9	Marjorie	Daughter	9	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	9	Texas	Texas	9	None	None	None	9
10	Wendy	Daughter	10	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	10	Texas	Texas	10	None	None	None	10

1930 Census

Form 16-4
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State Texas Incorporated place _____ Ward of city _____ Block No. _____
County Travis Unincorporated place _____
Towship or other division of county Preinct 1 Institution _____

Enumeration District No. 10 Sheet No. 9A
Supervisor's District No. 24 Enumerated by me on April 15, 1940, Wood H. Banks

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN BORN	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT	VETERAN	REMARKS
1	1	Wife	1	W 40 32 M 27 10 0	1	Texas	Texas	1	None	None	None	1
2	2	Daughter	2	W 15 5 S 10 0 0	2	Texas	Texas	2	None	None	None	2
3	3	Daughter	3	W 13 5 S 10 0 0	3	Texas	Texas	3	None	None	None	3
4	4	Daughter	4	W 6 5 S 10 0 0	4	Texas	Texas	4	None	None	None	4
5	5	Daughter	5	W 6 5 S 10 0 0	5	Texas	Texas	5	None	None	None	5
6	6	Daughter	6	W 5 5 S 10 0 0	6	Texas	Texas	6	None	None	None	6
7	7	Daughter	7	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	7	Texas	Texas	7	None	None	None	7
8	8	Daughter	8	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	8	Texas	Texas	8	None	None	None	8
9	9	Daughter	9	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	9	Texas	Texas	9	None	None	None	9
10	10	Daughter	10	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	10	Texas	Texas	10	None	None	None	10
11	11	Daughter	11	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	11	Texas	Texas	11	None	None	None	11
12	12	Daughter	12	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	12	Texas	Texas	12	None	None	None	12
13	13	Daughter	13	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	13	Texas	Texas	13	None	None	None	13
14	14	Daughter	14	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	14	Texas	Texas	14	None	None	None	14
15	15	Daughter	15	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	15	Texas	Texas	15	None	None	None	15
16	16	Daughter	16	W 3 1/2 5 S 10 0 0	16	Texas	Texas	16	None	None	None	16

1940 Census

Form 1 **690** **REGISTRATION CARD** No. **21**

1	Name in full <u>James Finnin</u> (Given name) (Family name)	Age in yrs <u>24</u>
2	Home address <u>RR# 5 Manor Texas</u> (No) (Street) (City) (State)	
3	Date of birth <u>May 2 1893</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <u>natural-born</u>	
5	Where were you born? <u>Travis Co Tex</u> (Town) (State) (Nation)	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>Farmer laborer 30</u>	
8	By whom employed? <u>Himself his father</u> Where employed? <u>Travis Co Tex</u>	
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <u>no</u>	
10	Married or single (which)? <u>single</u> Race (specify which)? <u>Negro</u>	
11	What military service have you had? Rank <u>none</u> ; branch <u>x</u> years <u>x</u> ; Nation or State <u>x</u>	
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <u>Farmer</u>	

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

James Finnin
(Signature or mark)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **69-A**

1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <u>medium</u> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <u>medium</u>
2	Color of eyes? <u>black</u> Color of hair? <u>black</u> Bald? <u>no</u>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <u>no</u>

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

W. H. Noton
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct 2
City or County Travis Tex
State Texas

June 5th 1917
(Date of registration)

Local Board for the County of Travis
State of Texas, Austin, Texas.

World War I draft card for James Finnin

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 3671	1. NAME (Print) <u>James Lankin Finnin</u> (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) <u>2101 E. 8th St. Austin Travis, Texas</u> (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS <u>2101 E. 8th St Austin, Texas</u> (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE <u>no</u>	5. AGE IN YEARS <u>50</u> DATE OF BIRTH <u>May 2, 1891</u> (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH <u>Travis, Co Texas</u> (Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS <u>Mrs. Lelia Gilbert, 2203 E 9th St.</u>		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS <u>Mr Forest Clwek, Georgetown, Texas</u>		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS <u>12th and Shoal Austin Travis, Texas</u> (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(over)	16-21630-2 <u>James Lankin Finnin</u> (Registrant's signature)

World War II draft card for James Finnin

Women's Clubs Plan Meeting

Mary Church Terrell District, Texas Association of Women's Clubs, has announced its 23rd annual meeting for April 28 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 1010 East 10th Street.

Officers are Mrs. M. E. Owen, president; Mrs. E. L. Collins, vice president; Mrs. Bessie Cain, second vice president; Mrs. W. B. Madkins, secretary; Mrs. E. L. Bolton, treasurer; and Mrs. Grace Finnin, reporter.

The meeting will be open to the public.

Four Attended Club Meeting

A delegation of four Austin women have returned from the 37th annual convention of the Texas Association of Women's Clubs, held in Port Arthur.

The group included Mrs. E. L. Collins, president of the Bunche Progressive Club of Austin, winner of the silver cup for best yearly report.

Dr. Connie Y. Conner, a member of the local group, was a panelist in a discussion on "The Club Woman's Image In the Sixties." She was also named to several convention committees, along with Mrs. U. V. Christian and Mrs. Grace Finnin, the other two Austin delegates.

Grace Finnin's involvement with the Mary Church Terrell District Association of Federated Women's Clubs, The Austin American, 4/2/1961 and The Austin Statesman, 7/18/1962

STATE OF TEXAS 227-9-2 227-9-1 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 5762 STATE FILE NO. 22390

1 NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) James L. Finnin			2 SEX male	3 DATE OF DEATH 3/7/82		
4 RACE Negro	5a WAS THE DECEDENT OF SPANISH ORIGIN? No	5b IF YES, SPECIFY MEXICAN, CUBAN, PUERTO RICAN, ETC.	6 DATE OF BIRTH 5/2/89	7 AGE (In years last birthday) 92	8 IF UNDER 1 YEAR Months Days Hours Minutes	
9a PLACE OF DEATH - COUNTY Travis		9b CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.) Austin	9c NAME OF (If not in hospital, give street address) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Brackenridge Hosp		9d INSIDE CITY LIMITS? yes	
10 MARRIED NEVER MARRIED WIDOWED DIVORCED (Specify) Married		11 BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Texas	12 CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.	13 WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? no	14 SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name) Gracie Underwood	
15a USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) unknown		15b KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Laborer		16 CITY OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY City of Austin		
17a RESIDENCE - STATE Texas		17b COUNTY Travis	17c CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, show rural) Austin	17d STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 2903 E. 13th St.		17e INSIDE CITY LIMITS? yes
18 FATHER'S NAME Dan Finnin		19 MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Mary Ann Ellison		20 SIGNATURE OF INFORMANT Mrs. Grace Finnin		
21 PART I IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Enter only one cause per line for (a) (b) (c)) (a) Conditions, if any, which gave rise to immediate cause stating the underlying cause last (b) DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF (c) DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF Circulatory collapse Pneumonia 2% obstruction lung artery Security general disability		22a ACC. SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, OR PENDING INVEST. (Specify) 22b DATE OF INJURY (Mo., Day, Yr.) 22c HOUR OF INJURY 22d PLACE OF INJURY - At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc. (Specify) 22e INJURY AT WORK (Specify yes or no) 22f PLACE OF INJURY - At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc. (Specify)		23a To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date, and place and due to the causes stated (Signature and Title) 23b DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.) 23c HOUR OF DEATH 23d NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN (Type or print)		24a On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time, date, and place and due to the causes stated (Signature and Title) 24b DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.) 24c HOUR OF DEATH 24d PRONOUNCED DEAD (Hour) (Mo., Day, Yr.)

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
REC'D APR 6 1982
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Death certificate for James L. Finnin, 3/7/1982

Permits

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No. 15988A

Austin, Texas

Received of owner Date Aug. 3, 1939
 Address 2103 E. 8th.
 Amount \$
 Builder or Owner Fred Adams Plumber
 Lot 8 Block Subdivision Morse Plat No. 27

Date of Connection	10/12/1939	No. Fittings 12 1/2" pipe 4" 1.25 Pipe Wyes 2 Bends .80 Reducers Plugs Sand Gravel Remix Stoppers Castings 1 Other 4" tap .15 Labor: 1/2 day 1.50 total 3.70
By City	9' E/WLL	
By Plumber		
Checked By	Boatright	
Size Main	6" Depth 4'	
Main Assign.	in alley 7' from PL	
Stub Depth	Prop. Line 1'	
Stub Location		
Book No.	B-1325	
Paving Cut	No.	

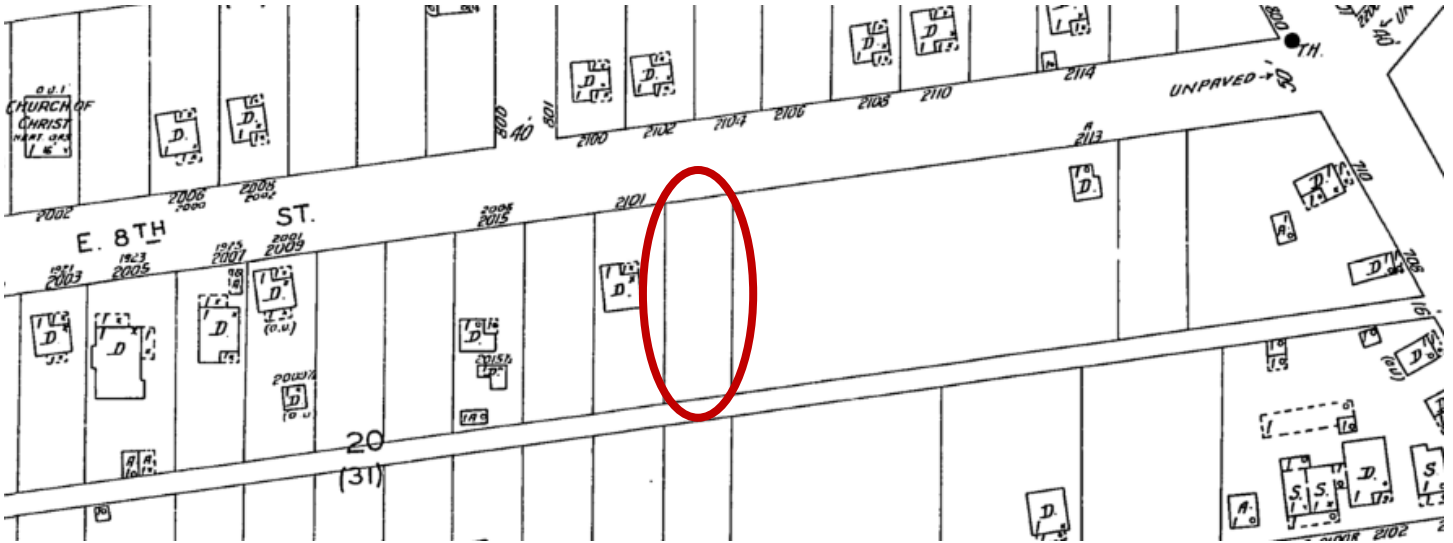
Sewer connection permit, 1939

OWNER = Lucy Mae Arnold ADDRESS 2103 East 8th Street
 PLAT 28 -LOT- BLK 22
 SUBDIVISION Grandview Place
 OCCUPANCY Front porch
 BLD PERMIT # 96863 DATE Aug 19, 1965 OWNERS ESTIMATE 208.00
 CONTRACTOR A. C. Cluck NO. OF FIXTURES
 WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #

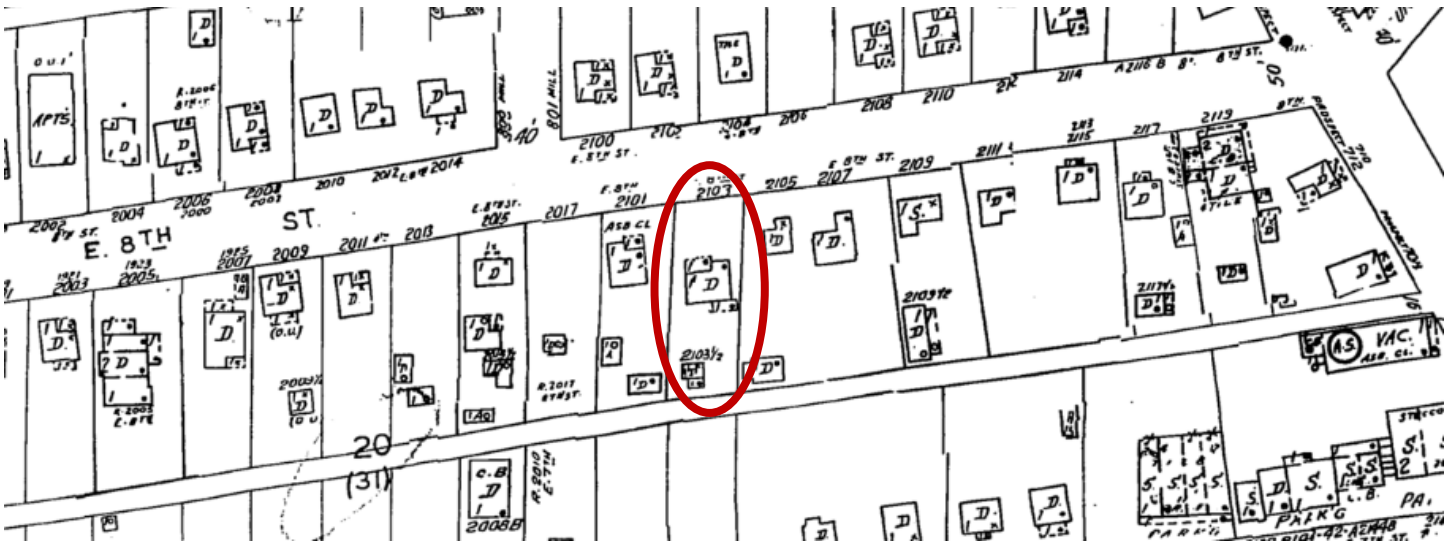
Remodel & Repair Residence

#146787 12-16-74 L. M. Arnold Remodel Exist.
 Res. - Siding & Mas. on Outside Walls 1,600.00
 Coastal Supply

Building permit, 1965



2103 E. 8th St. does not appear on the 1935 Sanborn map (Sheet 209).



The house and a rear apartment at 2103 E. 8th St. appear on the 1961 Sanborn map (Sheet 209).