

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
NOVEMBER 15, 2021
DA-2021-074501 & DA-2021-147611; GF-2021-168875
SKYVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH
211 WEST KOENIG LANE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a church sanctuary and fellowship hall built between 1952 and 1960.

ARCHITECTURE

The sanctuary is a ca. 1960 one-story, front-gabled, stuccoed church building with blank walls and a principal entry facing north consisting of two sets of recessed double-leaf metal doors under a stuccoed canopy; there is a stylized metal steeple and a stuccoed parapet with the words “Skyview Baptist Church” in the façade of the parapet. The ca. 1952 fellowship hall was modified in 1955 with the addition of a second story and consists now of a two-story U-plan ashlar-patterned limestone building with front-facing gable ends. The fellowship hall contains a combination of single double-leaf metal casements with fixed transoms on the ground floor and single, 2:2 fenestration on the second floor; all windows are set on stone lintels. The principal entry to the fellowship hall is recessed in the western projecting gable; there is a secondary entry opening on to the courtyard created by the configuration of the building.

RESEARCH

The original church was located at the corner of 56th Street and Chesterfield Avenue and was demolished for the construction of this complex. Members of Skyview Baptist Church undertook the construction of the new buildings in the 1950s through 1960; many of the congregants lived in this neighborhood. The Skyview Baptist Church sponsored many revivals from this complex; its biggest period of growth occurred in the early 1960s under pastor Bob Clements; this was also a golden era for the church’s softball team. Pastor Clements was also very active in pushing for a halfway house for ex-convicts in the old East Avenue Baptist Church in the 1960s. Many of the speakers who gave presentations at the church were former addicts and criminals, serving up inspiration for the congregation.

This site has now been purchased by a private owner; Skyview Baptist Church sold the property in 2007 to the Austin Baptist Association; the current owner purchased the property from the Austin Baptist Association in 2020, so the Commission may review the application for the demolition of these structures in accordance with state law.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The property was surveyed in 2019 as part of the survey of the North Loop neighborhood, but has no priority for preservation. The survey does not recommend the inclusion of the church within a proposed historic district, and it may be too distant from other potentially historic buildings within the neighborhood to constitute a cohesive district but the buildings do remain a high degree of integrity of their pre-1960 construction and were built by members of the congregation.

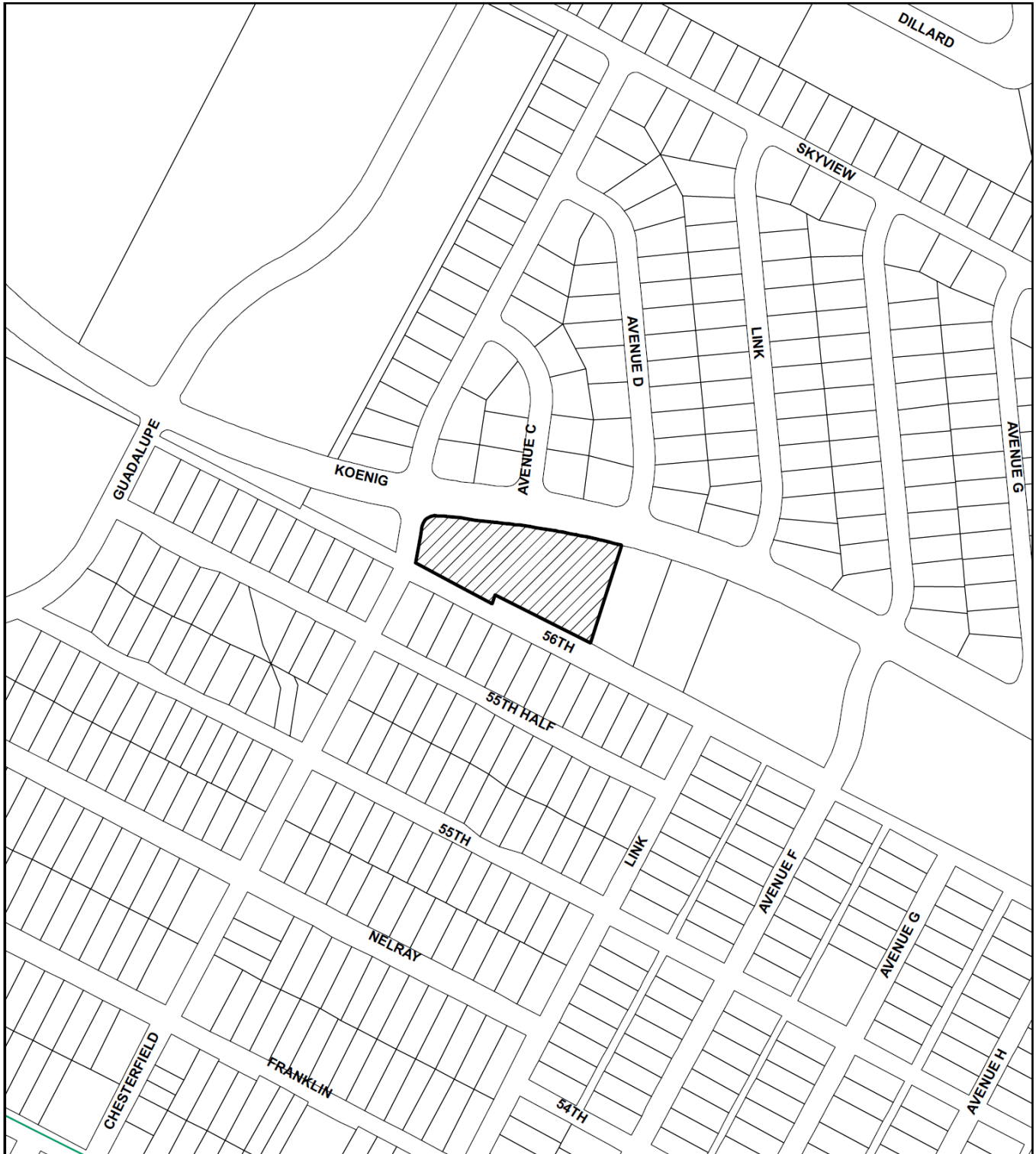
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark




- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain a high degree of 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 for individual designation:
 - a. Architecture. The complex represents mid-century church design but with a very utilitarian vernacular language. The church does not convey any architectural significance.
 - b. Historical association. The church was a neighborhood Baptist congregation; while active in advocating for the establishment of halfway houses and lectures on drug addiction, as well as sponsoring a winning softball team, there do not appear to be any 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 8.5 x 11 photographs of all elevations, printed on photographic paper, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history for archiving at the Austin History Center.



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 21-168875
LOCATION: 211 W KOENIG LANE



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

**CHRIST
IS COMING**

**Where Will
YOU Spend
ETERNITY?**

REVIVAL SERVICES 7:30 P.M.

SKYVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH
211 WEST KOENIG LANE

Ad for Skyview Baptist Church
Austin American-Statesman, January 31, 1960



REV. BOB CLEMENTS
will be honored

**Honor Scheduled
For Rev. Clements**

Rev. Bob G. Clements will be honored Sunday night by his congregation on his fifth anniversary as pastor of the Skyview Baptist Church in a special fellowship gathering after the evening service in honor of the Clements family.

Rev. Clements and his wife the former Miss Faye Jourdar of Snyder, reside with their five

children in the Skyview Church parsonage at 102 East Skyview.

Rev. Clements came to the Skyview Church at 211 East Koenig Lane on Oct. 25, 1959, from Kingsville, where he was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church.

His Austin church has seen much growth in five years. It has had 879 new members, 366 of whom have been baptized. The budget has increased from \$26,000 to \$57,000 and the church's physical properties have taken on a completely "new face."

A new sanctuary was built in 1960, and a complete remodeling program in 1963 added a second floor to the educational building which doubled the Sunday School capacity. Most of the work was done by Clements and his congregation, who rolled up their sleeves and, under spotlights after regular working hours, drove nails, mixed concrete, cut lumber and framed the present buildings. Through this and other physical growth, property valuation for Skyview Baptist Church has increased from \$90,000 to \$280,000 since 1959.

"Busy" is the best word for describing the Skyview pastor. He preaches three times on Sunday, including an early morning radio broadcast, and teaches a men's Bible class. He has found time to be chaplain of the 36th Division, Texas National Guard, conduct a Sunday afternoon Bible Class in a city fire hall, serve on the board of directors for the Highland Lakes Baptist Encampment, work to establish a downtown Rescue Mission, and be nominated by Austin Jaycees for the award of Outstanding Young Man of 1963.

Story on Pastor Bob Clements of Skyview Baptist Church

Austin American-Statesman, October 25, 1964

Revival
Missions
Director
To Preach

Dr. W. H. Colson, city mission superintendent of the Corpus Christi Baptist Association, will be the evangelist at a revival at the Skyview Baptist Church, 211 W. Koenig, Sept. 17 through 24.

Dr. Colson, a graduate of Howard Payne College and the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth, preaches widely throughout Texas.

He is widely known for his work in improving relations among the races in the Corpus Christi area.

Colson was city mission superintendent in San Antonio before moving to Corpus Christi.

Evangelistic singer during the revival will be Austinite Harold Davis, a graduate of Baylor University and Texas Technological College.

Skyview Baptist Church minister, Rev. H. D. Christian, said the revival will begin each night at 7:30 o'clock.

Revival at Skyview Baptist Church
 Austin American-Statesman, September 2, 1967



EX-USER TO SPEAK —
 Evangelist Larry Taylor of San Antonio will conduct revival services at the Skyview Baptist Church, 211 W. Koenig, Sept. 20-27 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. The former juvenile delinquent and narcotics user is scheduled to speak on television and at several school programs during the week set aside by the school system for drug education. The public is invited to the services at the Skyview Baptist Church.

Evangelist to speak at Skyview Baptist Church on drug addiction
 Austin American-Statesman, September 12, 1970



Ad for Skyview Baptist Church
 Austin American-Statesman, July 10, 1976