

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2021**  
**HR-2021-180207**  
**SWEDISH HILL NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**906 E 14TH STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Partially demolish rear and side of one-story house to construct a second-floor addition with roof deck.

## **PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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- 1) Partially demolish rear and west elevations.
- 2) Remove and replace windows and doors at east elevation.
- 3) Construct a second story addition. The proposed addition is located at the west-facing portion of the house, directly above the existing building. It is set back beyond the ridgeline of the original house, and features a gabled standing-seam metal roof. A roof deck is situated immediately behind the ridgeline. The proposed addition is clad in vertical standing-seam metal and insulated prefabricated panels and features fixed and casement single-pane windows placed irregularly throughout.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story Folk Victorian house with board-and-batten siding and a full-width porch. Scalloped siding adorns the front-facing gable end. According to the Swedish Hill National Register Historic District nomination, the front door's location has been altered.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house at 906 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street was built around 1887. Its first occupant was widow Susan Gaines. The home's early years were fraught with resident turnover; occupants included a wood dealer, a horse trader, carpenters and laborers, a teamster, and a saleswoman.

By the early 1920s, Oscar E. and Ethel M. Free purchased the house; it remained in the family until at least 1959. Oscar E. Free was a printer and linotype operator who worked for the Texas Poster Publishing Company, the Knappe Printing Company, the Von Boeckmann-Jones Company, the Austin Daily Tribune, the American Publishing Company, and the Statesman.

## **DESIGN STANDARDS**

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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 additions*

#### 1. Location

The proposed addition is located behind the existing ridgeline of the house.

#### 2. Scale, massing, and height

The proposed addition is two stories, while the existing house is one story in height.

#### 3. Design and style

The proposed addition is appropriately differentiated from the existing house by its irregular fenestration pattern, undivided windows, window-to-wall ratio, and metal siding; however, these design elements are minimally compatible with the existing house.

#### 4. Roofs

The proposed gabled roof appears mostly compatible with the existing house. Though the other roof forms are less compatible, they do not appear to be visible from the street.

#### 5. Exterior walls

The proposed addition's vertical standing-seam metal and prefabricated panel sheathing are not compatible with the district

or with the existing house.

#### 6. Windows, screens, and doors

The proposed addition's undivided windows are mostly incompatible with the existing Folk Victorian house.

#### 7. Porches and decks

The proposed roof deck does not appear visible from the street.

#### Summary

The project meets few applicable standards.

### **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The property contributes to the Swedish Hill National Register district.

#### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain 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 has been modified, but still retains character-defining Folk Victorian stylistic influences.
  - 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.

### **COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

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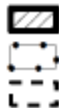
Reduce plate height, consider rotating addition, reconsider cladding material, reconsider window configuration.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Comment on and release the plans.

# LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HR 21-180207

LOCATION: 906 E 14TH 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

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### *Photos*







*Applicant, 2021*

### *Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, November 2021

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1959 | Oscar E. Free, owner   |
| 1957 | Oscar E. Free, owner<br>Linotype operator, American Statesman              |
| 1955 | Oscar E. Free, owner<br>Printer, American Statesman                        |
| 1952 | Oscar E. Free, owner<br>Printer, American Statesman                        |
| 1949 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Linotype operator, American Statesman |
| 1947 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners  |

|      |  |
|------|--|
|      | Linotype operator, American Statesman  |
| 1944 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Linotype operator, American Publishing Co.                                |
| 1941 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Printer, Austin Daily Tribune   |
| 1939 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Linotype operator, Von Boeckmann-Jones Co.                                |
| 1937 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Printer, Knape Printing Co.   |
| 1935 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners  |
| 1932 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Printer, Knape Printing Co.   |
| 1929 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Foreman, Texas Poster Publishing Co.                                      |
| 1927 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Linotype operator, Texas Poster Publishing Co.                            |
| 1924 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Foreman, Texas Poster Publishing Co.                                      |
| 1922 | Oscar E. and Ethel M Free, owners<br>Linotype operator, Poster Publishing Co.                                  |
| 1918 | Pearl Cramer, owner (widow of Charles F.)<br>Saleswoman, E. M. Scarbrough & Sons                               |
| 1914 | Pearl Cramer, owner (widow of Charles F.)<br>Saleswoman, E. M. Scarbrough & Sons                               |
| 1910 | Address not listed   |
| 1909 | Charles E. Peterson<br>Engineer, Austin City Water, Light, and Power plant<br>William M. Peterson<br>Carpenter |
| 1906 | Thomas J. Hickman, owner<br>Pressman, Austin Daily Statesman<br>Sophrona Hickman, renter                       |
| 1905 | Katherine Finkle, owner (wid. J. E.)   |
| 1903 | Katie Finkle (wid. J. E.)<br>John Teague<br>Teamster   |
| 1895 | James A. Mobley, owner<br>Horse trader<br>Frank Mobley, renter<br>Laborer                                      |
| 1893 | John M. Teague, owner<br>Wood dealer   |
| 1889 | Susan C. Gaines (wid. S. M.)   |
| 1887 | Sue C. Gaines (wid. S. M.)   |

## Biographical information

**Charles F. Cramer.**

Charles F. Cramer, aged 49 years, died at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning at the residence of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theo Cramer, 708 Red River street. He had been ill for quite a while, and for the past two months had been confined to his bed.

Mr. Cramer was born and raised in Austin and had a great many friends. He was one of the best known shoe salesmen in the city, having been employed by one firm for twenty-four years.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Pearl Cramer, and one daughter, his parents and two sisters, Mrs. H. W. Stroder, Sr., and Mrs. Jake Zimpler, man of Manor.

The funeral will be conducted from the residence at 5 o'clock this afternoon, Rev. N. O. Ray officiating. Interment at Oakwood.

**G. A. MILLS DEAD**—G. A. Mills, aged 64 years, died Saturday at 906 East Fourteenth street and was buried yesterday.

*Austin Daily Statesman (1891-1902); Mar 4, 1901 and The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Jul 28, 1909*

**Professional and Business Women.**

The Professional and Business Women's Club will hold the next meeting at the club house at Deep Eddy on Tuesday, May 13.

After the usual picnic supper, a discussion will be held by the following saleswomen on "Customers We Like to Serve." Taking part in the discussion will be Miss May Davis of T. H. Williams, Mrs. Pearl Cramer and Mrs. Paschal Buford of E. M. Scarbrough's ready-to-wear department, and Miss Alma Gould of T. H. Williams' representing the notion department.

*The Statesman (1916-1921); May 7, 1919*

pg. 200

**Popular Girl Weds Wednesday.**

Mrs. Pearl Cramer announces the approaching marriage of her daughter, Miss Gladys Cramer, to Noble Lurtin of San Francisco. The ceremony will be quietly solemnized Wednesday afternoon, November 19, at 3 o'clock,

at the Cramer home, with only a few relatives and intimate friends present. A small reception will follow the ceremony, after which the bride and groom will leave at once for San Francisco to reside.

Miss Cramer was born and reared in Austin. She is very attractive, a fine musician, and at present is holding a responsible position in the auditor's office at the University.

During the war Mr. Lurtin was a lieutenant in the aviation corps. After receiving his discharge in San Antonio several months ago, he came to Austin and accepted a position as optometrist with the Griffith Drug Company.

**Lurtin-Cramer Wedding.**

Among the interesting events of Wednesday will be the marriage on Wednesday afternoon of Miss Gladys Cramer to Noble Lurtin, which will take place at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Pearl Cramer, 906 East Fourteenth. The Rev. G. H. P. Showalter will officiate. After the ceremony the bride and bridegroom will leave at once for their home in San Francisco, Cal.

*The Statesman (1916-1921); Nov 16, 1919 and Nov 18, 1919*



**BARRON—Mrs. Pearl Cramer**

Barron died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Noble Lurton, in San Leandro, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 27 at 11:20 p. m. The body will arrive in Austin at noon Thursday. Funeral services will be held from the Thurlow Weed funeral home Thursday at 5 p. m. The Rev. G. H. P. Showalter, assisted by Rev. T. H. Etheridge, will officiate and interment will be in Oakwood cemetery. Pallbearers will be: H. F. Nitschke, L. E. Nitschke, R. E. Nitschke, Jr., W. G. Clarkson, J. R. Rhodes and L. M. Wallin.

Mrs. Barron is survived by her mother, Mrs. N. Nitschke, Austin; a daughter, Mrs. Noble Lurton of San Leandro, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. Agnes Vaughan, Austin, and Mrs. A. S. Mowinkle of San Antonio, and two brothers, Max and Homer Nitschke, both of Austin.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Mar 2, 1932*

**The Sage of the Sage Hills, TOM MARTIN, Says**

We want you to look at these names 'cause they air the names uv the finest assortment uv fellers in the country. They never



git to carry the ball, they never git to score a touch down, they make no public appearances, they make no after dinner speeches and they never git their pitchers in the papers. They air the forgotten men uv a newspaper. They are as unfamiliar to the public as the "Unknown Soldier." Nobody knows who they air, 'cause they ain't never had a chance to meet 'em. But my fellow countrymen and Romans, if it wuzn't fer this aggregation uv men there wouldn't be any newspaper. They air composers but they don't compose songs. In fact they put stuff together that would run an' ordinary man nuts in 24 hours. They take our copy that sometimes looks like the hieroglyphics on a Babylonian monument and try to put it together so it makes sense. Of course this they cain't allus do, 'cause most of times the stuff they have submitted to 'em ain't got too much brains in it.

They are W. F. Thompson, W. M. Hunt, Ed F. Davenport, Willard Dyer, L. B. Burr, Morris Williams, R. Pearson, A. L. Purcell, J. D. Welborn, B. C. Hardin, Willie Eggeling, R. E. Crain, Mrs. Louise Ing, C. E. Soderberg, Silas Black, Hugo

Rauber, A. O. Coers, Henry Spillman, Jasper Jones, D. D. Kullenberg, W. R. Bieberstein, Grady Johnson, H. Bradberry, C. F. Chastain, D. H. Andrews, Howard T. Morrison, O. Birdwell, Joe P. Davis, F. W. Buerger, Oscar Free, Frank Davenport, E. H. Halden, James W. Bowen, M. R. Brown, James B. Hunter, Clyde R. Robbins and Charles E. Collins, Jr., air the fellers that "compose" the composin' room uv the American Statesman. Shore, you didn't realize that it took this many boys to git the job done. But they air just as necessary to a newspaper as milk is to a calf. Your newspaper is just as good as your composin' boys.

The other day they got out a bulletin called "Etaoin Shrdlu." It wuz Greek to us. We ast Tommie Thompson whut it meant and he took us to a linotype machine and it is the two fust rows uv letters on the keyboard: a-runnin' north and south. It wuz published fer their members in the armed forces and wuz edited by C. E. Soderberg and Willie Eggeling, associate. The Christmas tree on the front uv it saluted the names uv Soder, C. Mayer, Carter, Barnhouse, Sr., Barker, Brydson, Barnhouse, Jr., Childress, Davis, Poole, Bates, L. Mayer, Giles and Farrow. The boys in A. J.'s Johnson City barber shop air proud to work with these fellers. No other group uv "composers" could stand us fer goin' into the fifth year. We all air proud uv our newspapers and the men and women who contribute their necessary and respective parts.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Dec 23, 1943*



# FIGHTERS for FREEDOM☆☆☆

His brother, Pfc. James Cundiell, has been stationed in England for the past month attached to the ground crew of the air corps. He entered the air corps in March, 1943, after attending Austin high school.

Oscar Morris Free, 20, radio technician third class, was home recently to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar E. Free of 906 East 14th street. Based in the Canal Zone for over a year, he is now assigned to a naval air station in Virginia. A graduate of Austin high school, he enlisted in the navy in July, 1942, and received his boot training at San Diego, Calif. He took a four-months radio course in Indiana before going to Panama.

## MRS. OSCAR E. FREE

Mrs. Oscar E. Free, 61, of 906 East 14th Street, died in a local hospital Wednesday night. She was a lifelong resident of Austin and a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

Survivors include her husband, Oscar E. Free of Austin; her mother, Mrs. Hugo Olson of Round Rock; two sons, Lester Free and Morris Free, both of Austin; two brothers, Buford Olson and Fred Olson, both of Round Rock; three sisters, Mrs. A. G. Almquist of Hutto, Mrs. G. D. Jackson of Celina, and Mrs. Oscar Samuelson of Centerville, S. D., and one grandson.

The body is at the Hyllin-Manor Funeral Home pending the completion of funeral arrangements.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Apr 28, 1944 and Mar 24, 1955

Permits

### WATER SERVICE PERMIT Austin, Texas

Nº 13074

|                                    |                   |        |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Received of                        | Date              | 5-5-39 |
| Address                            | 906-EAST-14TH ST. |        |
| Amount                             | \$12.20           |        |
| Plumber                            | BROWN-ROOT-ROB.   |        |
| Date of Connection                 |                   |        |
| Size of Tap Made                   | 2 1/2"            |        |
| Size Service Made                  | 2 1/2"            |        |
| Size Main Tapped                   | 6"                |        |
| From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock | 6'                |        |
| From W Prop. Line to Curb Cock     | 6'                |        |
| Location of Meter                  | CURB              |        |
| Type of Box                        | LOCK              |        |
| Depth of Main in St.               |                   |        |
| Depth of Service Line              |                   |        |
| From Curb Cock to Tap on Main      | 23'               |        |
| Checked by Engr. Dept.             | 6-16-39           |        |

| No. Fittings | Size | No. Fittings | Size |
|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| Curb Cock    |      | St. Elbow    |      |
| Elbow        |      | Bushing      |      |
| Reducer      |      | Pipe         |      |
| Lead Comp.   |      | Nipples      |      |
| Union        |      | Plug         |      |
| Tee          |      | Stop         |      |
| Box          |      | Lid          |      |
| Valves       |      | Job No.      |      |
| Req. No.     |      |              |      |

Water service permit, 1939

Oscar E.A. Free 906 E. 14th.St.

41

42

2

3

Frame add'n. to res.

138r - 11/16/38

Building permit, 1938