

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022  
PR-2022-015243; GF-2022-016744  
1908 E. 17<sup>TH</sup> ST.**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a circa 1929 single-family dwelling.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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This residence is a single family, one-story, wood construction, pier and beam bungalow with front-facing low pitched nested gable design with flattened peaks and wide unenclosed eave overhangs. This eclectic residence has what appears to be horizontal vinyl siding with a masonry stone veneer façade. The façade is composed of a single entry door and 1 window assembly, composed of 2, vertical, 1:1, single hung, windows, and one, solo, single hung, vertical, 1:1 window for a total fenestration façade count of three windows. This residence seems to take a variety of style cues mostly from Craftsman and Minimal Traditional designs and is categorized as a bungalow.

## **RESEARCH**

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Water service permit dates the residence to May of 1927. The first owners listed in the City Directories are Arnold and Fannie Wells, who owned the property from 1932 to 1939. Arnold was employed as a butler, yardman & chauffeur for 900 W 17<sup>th</sup> St. Fannie was 27 years old when she was charged with the murder of her 32-year husband after shooting him in self-defense during a domestic dispute at this residence in 1938. Arnold died at Brackenridge hospital. The property was rented by several tenants from 1941 to 1944 and then purchased by Arthur B. and Josephine Sneed. Mr. Sneed is listed as a Foreman for the City's Public Works Department and the couple lived at this address from at least 1947 till Ms. Sneed's death in 1977.

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The Chestnut Neighborhood Survey (2000) and East Austin Survey (2016) list the property as a low priority and contributing to a potential Chestnut historic district, respectively.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain low 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 does not appear to convey architectural significance.
  - 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.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 22-016744

LOCATION: 1908 E 17TH STREET



1" = 333'

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*



*Demolition permit application, 2022*

### *Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, February 2022

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1959 | Arthur B. and Josephine Sneed, owners<br>Foreman City Public Works Department   |
| 1957 | Arthur B. and Josephine Sneed, owners<br>Foreman City Public Works Department   |
| 1955 | Arthur B. and Alberta Sneed, owners<br>Employee City Street & Bridge Department |
| 1952 | Arthur B. and Josephine Sneed, owners<br>Laborer City Street & Bridge Division  |
| 1949 | Arthur B. and Josephine Sneed, owners<br>Laborer                                |
| 1947 | Arthur B. and Josephine Sneed, owners   |
| 1944 | Virge and Alice Harrison, renters<br>Laborer                                    |
| 1941 | Gussie Corwin, renter   |
| 1939 | Fannie Wells, owner   |
| 1937 | Arnold and Fannie Wells, owner<br>Chauffer                                      |

- 1935 Arnold and Fannie Wells, owner  
Butler 900 W 17<sup>th</sup> Street
- 1932 Arnold and Fannie Wells, owner  
Yardman 900 W 17<sup>th</sup> Street
- 1929 Address not listed

## NEGRESS FREED ON KILLING BOND

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jan 17, 1938;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman  
pg. 1*

## NEGRESS FREED ON KILLING BOND

Free on \$500 bond Monday was Fannie Wells, 27-year-old negress charged with the murder of her husband, Arnold Wells, 32, at their home, 1908 East 17th.

Police said they were told Wells was fatally injured as he and his wife scuffled for possession of a gun in the presence of their three small children, Arnold Jr., 8, Dorris Ethel, 7, and Raymond, 5.

### Automatic In Custody

Wells died at Brackenridge hospital from a wound made by a bullet which entered his right side under the last rib and came out under his left arm. In police custody was a .380 automatic which the Wells woman said she tried to take away from her husband. In the dead man's pockets, officers said, was a .38 revolver, the frame and cylinder in separate pockets. A bullet from the .380 automatic was picked up in the kitchen next to the bedroom where the scuffle took place.

The charge against Fannie Wells was filed in Justice Paul T. Holt's court.



**ADVANCED**

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Jan 5, 1967;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman  
pg. A17*



**ADVANCED** — Theodore M. L. Sneed, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Arthur B. Sneed of 1908 E. 17th St., Austin, has been promoted to technical sergeant in the US Air Force. Sgt. Sneed is a fuel systems technician at Upper Heyford RAF Station, England. The sergeant, a graduate of Anderson High School, is a veteran of the Korean War. He is married to the former Patricia Martin.

**ROBBERY SUSPECT CAUGHT**

The manager of Tex-Mart, 1901 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., opened his store's door for a friend late Wednesday and quickly discovered friendship is no guarantee against robbery.

The 43-year-old friend, who already had visited store manager Tommy Karnes earlier in the evening, pulled a pistol and taped Karnes' mouth and wrists, the attendant told police. Also bound and gagged was store employee Enid Schaffer, 20, police said.

But as the potential bandit loaded cash from the store's safe into a paper bag, a man across the street glanced in to the store and suspected a robbery was in progress.

Police arrived just in time to take the robbery suspect into custody before he could walk out the door with the cash.

Sgt. Jerry Slatton praised the citizen, James Sneed, of 1908 E. 17th St., for notifying officers.

Robbery Lt. Bolton Gregory said police have counted 40 robberies in May, twice more than for the same time last year.

Charges against the suspect were pending Thursday.

**deaths and services**

*The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980); Jan 4, 1977;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman  
pg. B2*

**SNEED, Josephine Elizabeth, 67, 1908 E. 17th St., died Sunday. Services noon Saturday at Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church. (Fuller-Sheffield)**

## Permits

**WATER SERVICE PERMIT**  
 Austin, Texas

Nº 12870 39

Received of \_\_\_\_\_ Date 5-8-79  
 Address 1908 - EAST - 17TH ST.  
 Amount \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Pl Tap  
 Plumber BROWN-ROOT-JOB Size of Tap \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Connection \_\_\_\_\_

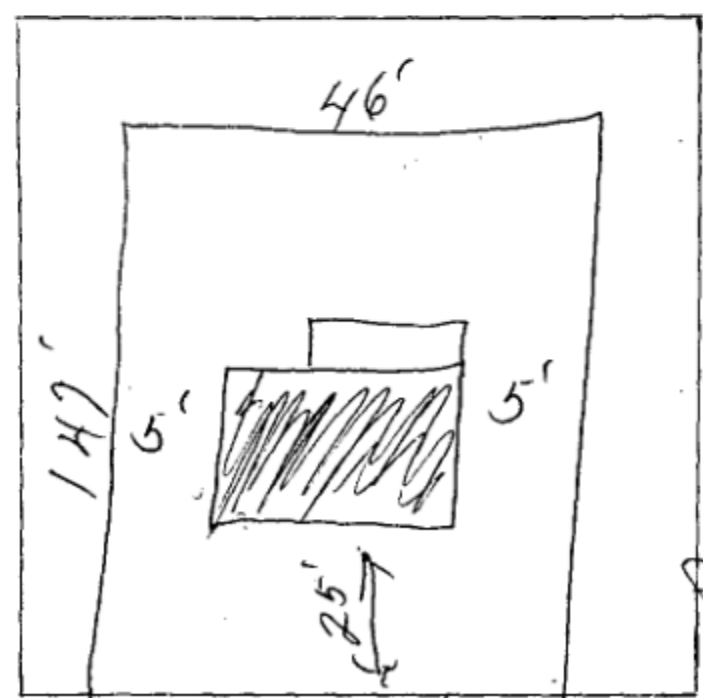
Water service permit, 1939

OWNER James Snead ADDRESS 1908 East 17th St.  
PLAT 39 LOT 4 BLK 2  
SUBDIVISION Walter Bremond Jr.  
OCCUPANCY bedrm  
BLD PERMIT # 152365 DATE 10-6-75 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$5,000.00  
CONTRACTOR Coastal Supply NO. OF FIXTURES yes  
WATER TAP REC # \_\_\_\_\_ SEWER TAP REC # \_\_\_\_\_  
frm addn to res 336 sq ft. bedrm

Building permit, 1975

Address: 1908 EAST 17<sup>th</sup> ST. Permit: 152365 Plat: 39  
 Lot: 44 Block 2 Subdivision:  
 Outlot WALTER BREMOND JR.  
 Fire Zone: 3 Use Dist. A-15 Occupancy: FAM. ADDN. TO RES.  
 10-7-75 Layout 11-6-75 Framing 12-12-75 Final Commercial  
 Foundation P Floor joist 2x6 Bldg. Conn. 24" Parking  
 Front setback 24" size & o.c. 24" Room Vent. 24" Exits  
 Total & Min. ceiling joist 2x6 Stairs 24" Exit lights  
 side yard size & o.c. 24" Rails 24" Fences  
 Side St. Yard stud size 2x4 Attic Vent. 24" Corridors  
 & o.c. 24" Insulation  
 Type Const. W. Insulation ✓ Hood Vent.  
 Spec. Permit # Sheetrock ✓ Glass  
 BOA Commercial Sheetrock Deadbolts  
 Occup. Sep. Fireplaces  
 Thru out  
 Owner: JAMES SNEAD Contractor: COASTAL SUPPLY

12'x28' BEDROOM-BATH

Clerk da Date 10-6-75  
 Address:  
  
 EAST 17<sup>th</sup> ST.  
 Inspector: W.A.S.