

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
MAY 4, 2022
PR-2022-045223; GF-2022-050228
2905 STRATFORD DRIVE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1955 house and 1965 carport.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story masonry veneer house with single and mulled three-light casement windows, side-gabled roof with deep eaves, and double-width masonry chimney.

RESEARCH

The house at 2905 Stratford Drive was constructed in 1955. Its most notable occupant was Colonel Vance Murphy, director of Bergstrom Air Force Base and the Austin Municipal Airport. Murphy enlisted in 1927 and served in the Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II. He became commander of Bergstrom AFB in 1954.¹ After retiring from the military in 1958,² Murphy took a position as Director of Aviation for the City of Austin, placing him at the helm of the airport's modernization project.³

Murphy served as an officer, chairman, and board member in several civic organizations, including the United Fund, Red Cross, Girl Scouts of America, American Legion, and Armed Forces Club.^{4 5 6 7 8} Cora Murphy, Colonel Murphy's wife, also served as chairman of nursing services with the Red Cross.⁹ Vance Murphy retired in 1973 and died in 1979.¹⁰

PROPERTY EVALUATION

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate to high 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 architecturally significant.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with Colonel Vance Murphy.
 - 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

Approve the application upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

¹ "Lichty Says Goodby, Murphy Takes Over." 1954. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973), Mar 31, 17.

² "Col. Murphy Honored at Bergstrom Review." 1958. The Austin American (1914-1973), Sep 28, 1.

³ "Murphy Takes Control Over Austin's Airport." 1958. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973), Sep 05, 9.

⁴ "Col. Murphy Named to United Fund Post." 1959. The Austin American (1914-1973), Feb 22, 1..

⁵ "Vance Murphy Elected as Girl Scout Official." 1962. The Austin American (1914-1973), Jan 28, 1..

⁶ "Murphy Elected by Club." 1960. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973), Jul 06, 13..

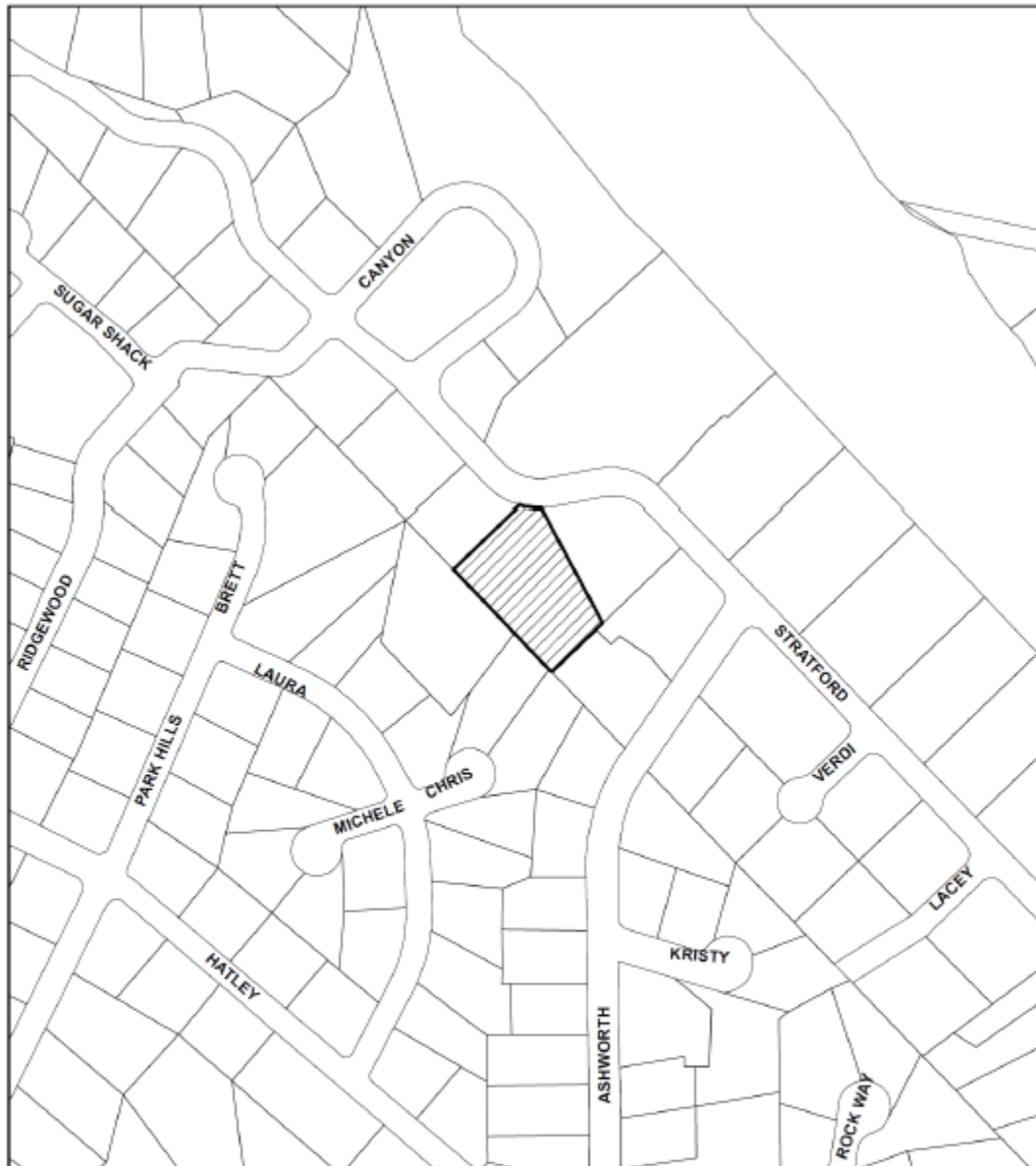
⁷ "Murphy Heads RC Headquarters Drive." 1964. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973), Mar 16, 10..

⁸ "Col. Vance Murphy Aqua Chief Executive." 1965. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973), Aug 05, 8..

⁹ "Murphy Heads RC Headquarters Drive." 1964. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973), Mar 16, 10.

¹⁰ "Funeral Services Set for Col. Vance Murphy." 1979. The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980), Jan 21, 1.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 250'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 22-050228

LOCATION: 2905 STRATFORD DRIVE

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, April 2022

- 1959 Vance E. and Cora Murphy, renters
 1955 Address not listed (16 homes under construction)

Permits

| WATER SERVICE PERMIT | | E N° 3220 |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Austin, Texas | | |
| Received of | MAC WADSWORTH | Date 3-21-55 |
| Address | 2905 STRATFORD | |
| Amount | THIRTY & NO/100 | 30.00 |
| Plumber | WILL WADSWORTH | Size of Tap 1" |
| Date of Connection | 3-25-55 | |

Water service permit, 1955

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

Nº 39758 ✓

Received of VANCE E MURPHY Date 5-2-63
Address 2905 STRATFORD DR
Amount Fifty \$ 270/100 \$ 50.00
Builder or Owner Dark Plumber Qualiter
Lot 21 Block 6 Subdivision Bluffington Plat No. 605
Date of Connection 5-7-63

Sewer service permit, 1963

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

E Nº 51699 ^{SEC} ₆₀₅

Received of CITY OF AUSTIN SEWER LIFT STA. Date 5-19-1967
Address 2905 STRATFORD DR
Amount _____ \$ _____
Plumber Woodrow Townsend Size of Tap 3/4"
Date of Connection 5-19-67

Water service permit, 1967

Col Murphy **2905 Stratford Dr**
605 4 **A**

Bluffington

Carport and Storeroom

64395

8-7-53

800000

W.T. Garner

Building permit, 1956

A B Hatley **2905 Stratford Dr**
605 4 **A**

Bluffington #2

rock ven res & carpt att

58894

12-13-54

18000/

owner

11

Building permit, 1954

Historical information

42ND AIR DIVISION GETS NEW DIRECTOR OF P

A new 42nd Air Division director of personnel, Colonel Vance E. Murphy, took over duties here last

week, replacing Lieutenant Colonel L. L. Kilpatrick who becomes director of personnel for the 808th Air Base Group.

Col. Murphy reported here early this month from his last station at Headquarters, United States Air Force in Europe, where he served as adjutant general for 18 months under General Laurie Norstad.

First entering the Army as an enlisted man in 1927, Colonel Murphy remained in the Infantry until 1940. While serving as a warrant officer with the 5th Armored Division, he received a direct commission to first lieutenant and was assigned to the Adjutant General's department.

During the World War II, Col. Murphy served in the Southwest Pacific Theater of Operations including Australia, New Guinea, Luzon and Leyte.

He has the Southwest Pacific ribbon with three campaign stars, the Bronze Star, American Defense Medal, Occupation Ribbon, Ameri-

can Theater, Philippine Liberation, Philippine Independence and Victory Medals.

Colonel Murphy is originally from Mattoon, Ill. He is married and has a daughter 15 months old.

Col. and Mrs. Murphy are residing at 4807 Westfield Drive in Austin.

"42ND AIR DIVISION GETS NEW DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL." 1953. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Nov 20, 16.

See this Ranch Style Home Today

IN BLUFFINGTON

2905 Stratford Drive

Built by owner, attractive home of native stone on 1½ shady acres is located to insure utmost privacy, yet affords a wonderful view of the Colorado River, Lake and Western Hills. Livable floor plan includes 4 bedroom, 3 baths. Air-conditioned, electric kitchen, large native stone fireplace, central heating. Attractively designed flagstone terrace. In a neighborhood of better designed homes.

We also have a 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with all above features.

Open All Day Sunday

Drive through Zilker Park into Rollingwood, turn right on Vale Street to Stratford Drive and follow Open House Signs.

A. B. Hatley, GR 7-5453
Harve Womack, GR 7-2969
RAYMOND CAMPI, GR 6-9033

"Display Ad 51 -- no Title." 1956. *The Austin American* (1914-1973), Feb 12, 1.

"Ceremony Set for Murphy Retirement." 1958. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Sep 26, 13.

Ceremony Set For Murphy Retirement

A military parade and retirement ceremonies for Colonel Vance E. Murphy of Austin, base commander of Bergstrom Air Force Base since 1954, will be held Saturday at the base where gates will be opened for civilians to attend the affair.

Following his retirement after more than 30 years of military service, Col. Murphy will officially assume the post of director of aviation for the City of Austin to which he was appointed a few weeks ago. In that post he will be in charge of Robert Mueller Municipal Airport. As base commander at Bergstrom, he was in charge of the permanent force of airmen and officers responsible for the support of the aircraft based there.

The new post will see him supporting airlines and private enterprises utilizing the facilities of the municipal airport.

Saturday will be set aside as "Murphy's Day" at Bergstrom. Almost the entire complement at the base will pass in review at the parade beginning at 9 a. m.

Civilians may enter the base at the Main Gate, which is the second gate on the Bastrop Highway after leaving the city. Air policemen will direct traffic to the parking area immediately besides the large parade grounds.

Murphy Takes Control Over Austin's Airport

An "under new management" sign was up Friday at Austin's municipal airport.

Colonel Vance Murphy of Bergstrom Air Force Base, retiring after 30 years of military service, was on the job as the city's new aviation director.

He moved in as the airport headed for the third and final year of a \$3 million modernization program and its most conspicuous phase of development.

Construction of the new \$1 million-plus terminal building is expected to start before the end of the year.

In his 1958-59 budget, City Manager W. T. Williams Jr. proposes that the city sell \$600,000 in airport bonds and use this money, together with a matching amount in federal aid, to build the new terminal.

Work is progressing on the relocation of Manor Road around the southeast end of the airfield, and on the reconstruction of the old portion of its instrument landing system runway. Both projects are expected to be substantially complete by Oct. 1.

The city plans also to call for bids shortly on installation of high-intensity lighting on the ILS runway.

For the time being, the airport

will continue in the city's organizational setup as a division of the Public Works Department. However, Williams said it may be given separate departmental status later in the year.

Murphy's appointment as aviation director was announced last May.

Construction Nearing On Airport Job

Construction of the new \$700,000 Airport administration building will get underway shortly after Jan. 1, Colonel Vance E. Murphy, city aviation director, told the Austin Exchange Club Wednesday.

A method of regulating the flight of the giant B-52 planes over Austin when they start using the big military air base runway is one of the big problems now facing city and Bergstrom Air Force Base officers, Murphy pointed out.

The only runway capable of handling the giant bombers points directly to the Austin Municipal Airport. These big planes cannot be turned in under 10 miles from a landing field and, therefore, must fly directly over the Municipal Airport, creating a problem in traffic control.

Murphy expressed hope that a special zoning ordinance regulating height of buildings adjacent to the airport would be passed before Jan. 1. Unless such an ordinance is passed, the Civil Aeronautics Administration will not pay its part of the proposed airport improvements, he said.

"Murphy Takes Control Over Austin's Airport." 1958. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Sep 05, 9.

"Construction Nearing on Airport Job." 1958. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Oct 30, 1.

Murphy Elected By Club

Colonel Vance E. Murphy, Air Force retired, has been designated as president of the Armed Forces Club of Austin in annual elections just held.

Col. Murphy, former commander of Bergstrom Air Force Base, became director of aviation for Austin upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1958. He succeeds Colonel William A. Kengla, Marine Corps, professor of naval science at the Navy ROTC unit, University of Texas, who served as president during the past year.

The Armed Forces Club was founded in 1953 to promote good will and fellowship among the members of the several armed forces represented in the Austin area.

Luncheon meetings are held the first Friday of every month, except in the summer, at El Toro Restaurant.

Before coming to Austin in October, 1953, as base commander at Bergstrom, Col. Murphy served in Germany. His military service began in 1927 and carried him through the Southwest Pacific in World War II. Col. Murphy is the current chairman of Travis County chapter of the American Red Cross; director of Community Council; director of USO Committee; trustee of the Austin United Fund; director of Downtown Rotary Club; member of the Military Order of World Wars and of the American Legion, member of the aviation committee of the Austin Chamber of Commerce; Director, Austin Symphony Society; and general chairman, All-Veterans Day Committee.

Col. and Mrs. Murphy and daughter Susan, 8, make their home at 2905 Stratford Drive.



ARMED FORCES CLUB ELECTS **VANCE MURPHY**

Colonel W. A. Kengla, left, leaves post

Austin Statesman/UPI

"Murphy Elected by Club." 1960. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Jul 06, 13.



COLONEL VANCE E. MURPHY, AUSTIN'S DIRECTOR OF AVIATION
A Yankee by birth, Murphy is a true Texan by choice

Murphy Directs Airport

Vance E. Murphy, a former base commander at Bergstrom Air Force Base, is the director of aviation for the city's newly expanded Air Terminal.

Colonel Murphy was a charter member of the 1st Armored Division. He also served in the 4th and 5th Armored Divisions. He was assigned to the Adjutant General's staff in 1942. He has been in the Far East Air Force and served in the Southwest Pacific during World War II. After returning to the States in 1946, he has been stationed at Mitchell Field in New York, Orlando, Florida, and Selfridge, Michigan.

Murphy has also served with the US Air Force in Europe, being stationed at Wiesbaden, Germany. In October, 1943, he was made Base Commander of Bergstrom Air Base in Austin. He retired in September, 1958 and was appointed as Director of Aviation for the city of Austin.

Murphy is a member of the American Association of Airport Executives, Director of the Community Council, Director of the USO, Director of the Downtown Rotary, Director of the Austin Symphony, trustee of the United Fund, president of the Armed Club, chairman of the Travis County Red Cross, member of the Central Christian Church, Masonic Lodge, Military Order of World Wars, and American Legion. He lives with his wife, Cora, and eight-year-old daughter, Susan, at 2905 Stratford Drive.

"Murphy Directs Airport." 1961. The Austin American (1914-1973), May 28, 1.



VANCE MURPHY

Murphy Heads RC Headquarters Drive

Vance Murphy, a retired Air Force colonel and Austin's director of aviation, has always had his eyes on the skies in search of more challenges to conquer.

As a member of the executive committee of the local Red Cross chapter and a member of the building fund committee, Murphy has thrown himself into another challenging drive — a campaign for \$50,000 with which to build a new Red Cross headquarters.

Murphy has seen the need developing over the years as the World War II hutment, moved here in 1948 to serve as a temporary headquarters, has slowly deteriorated. A personal-contact type campaign, approved by United Fund, has begun in an effort to construct a building which can meet the needs of those who serve Red Cross and those who daily receive Red Cross help.

Murphy retired from the Air Force in 1958 while serving as base commander of Bergstrom Air Force Base and was named Austin's first and only aviation director. He came to Bergstrom in 1953 after an assignment as air adjutant general for the United States Air Force in Europe, then commanded by General Lauris Norstad.

During World War II Murphy

served with the Far East Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific area.

Many Air Force honors have been paid Murphy, who holds memberships in several service-associated organizations, as well as being active in civic and church organizations.

The retired colonel is now serving his ninth year on the Red Cross board of directors. He was chapter chairman in 1959-60, regional fund chairman in 1960-61-62 and state conference chairman in 1961. His wife, Cora, has served on the board and was secretary two years. She was chairman of nursing services in 1962-63. The Murphys have a daughter, Susan, in Zilker School.

Murphy is a member of the Rotary Club of Austin, a trustee of the United Fund of Austin and Travis County, commodore of the Austin Aqua Festival for 1964, and serves the community in many other ways.

"Murphy Heads RC Headquarters Drive." 1964. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Mar 16, 10.



Colonel Vance Murphy, city aviation director, keeps in close contact with the control tower while waiting in his car near the runways at the Municipal Airport for a disabled plane to make an emergency landing. Reporter Nat Henderson

American-Statesman/UPP of The Austin Statesman follows the proceedings in the seat beside Col. Murphy. The plane carrying newspaper executive Richard F. Brown and his brother Tim made a perfect emergency landing.

Director Of Airport Retires

City Manager Dan Davidson late Wednesday announced the retirement of municipal airport director Vance Murphy.

Davidson said the 15-year city employe will retire in late December or early January, and has done "an exemplary job for the city."

Murphy, a retired colonel, spent 31 years in the U.S. Air

Force and retired from the military as commander of Bergstrom Air Force Base before joining the city.

Murphy, 67, is an Illinois native. He and his wife, Corn, have one daughter.

Davidson said Murphy has "graciously agreed to help recruit his replacement."

Rubber Process Long

It takes about seven years before a rubber tree plant produces the raw material used in making natural rubber. The tree's breeding cycle, from cross-pollination to production, takes 25 years.

"Director of Airport Retires." 1973. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Jul 26, 1.

Texas Veterans' Leaders Against Amnesty Proposal

Representatives of two Texas veterans groups said they were completely opposed to amnesty.

Clyde Hall, state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said "I am strictly opposed to any amnesty for draft dodgers" and so are "all 78,000

members" of the Texas organization.

Col. Vance Murphy, commander-elect of the American Legion Travis Co. Post 76, agreed.

"I am completely opposed to amnesty for draft evaders," he said. "This country has always

been based on everybody putting his shoulder to the wheel. This could set a terrible precedent for any future war we might be in."

Lloyd Lochridge of Austin, president of the State Bar of Texas, was in Honolulu and could not be reached for comment.

"Texas Veterans' Leaders Against Amnesty Proposal." 1974. *The Austin American Statesman* (1973-1980), Aug 12, 1.

Funeral services set for Col. Vance Murphy

Col. Vance E. Murphy, the first director of aviation for the City of Austin, died Saturday at an Austin hospital at the age of 73.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Burial will follow at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

The city's aviation department was established in September 1958, with Murphy as its director. He served as aviation director until his retirement in 1973.

He was born in Mattoon, Ill., and served with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Southwest Pacific during World War II.

Murphy is survived by his wife, Cora, and a daughter, Mrs. Susan Edmonds of Houston; niece, Mrs. T.J. Gibson of Austin; nephew, Sidney Hodges of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

"Funeral Services Set for Col. Vance Murphy." 1979. The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980), Jan 21, 1.