

## Allen, Amber

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**From:** noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov on behalf of City of Austin  
<noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022 12:22 PM  
**To:** HPD Preservation  
**Subject:** GF22-047398-2002ScenicDr.

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This message is from Alison Hanks. [REDACTED]

To: AMBER ALLEN  
Attn: Amber Allen  
Re: 2002 Scenic Dr.  
Case GF22-047398-2002ScenicDr.

Greetings. I'm Alison Hanks and I lived at 2002 Scenic from 1996-2004. Debbie Slator Gillan, landlady, grew up there and told me many things about the house. I also conducted oral histories with the owners of the other 'rock houses' in the area. C.H. and Mildred Slator bought the house in 1947. It remained in the Slator family until sold last year.

The house was built by Raymond Maurice Delisle in the 1920s. (Wife-Ammon McGaughey Delisle.) His artistry can be seen in exterior and interior carvings of animals, clowns, shamrocks, elephant, box of matches and cigar, nude woman, and a mural covering all the walls of the upstairs bathroom with a nude woman reclining on a beach. Weigl interior gates in the living room are worthy of a 1920s black and white movie.

Entry was from the lake, the only way to reach the house as 'River Avenue' as Scenic Dr. was then called, was a dirt path. The metal spider web, with spider, sprawling across the exterior of the front entry window is the reward for climbing the zillion steps from the dock to the 'front door'.

Stones used in the building were leftovers from the dam collapse, or from the quarry near what is now Cherry and Rockmoor. The architecture of the house uses many styles. Something that I think gives it a delightfully quirky quality. I don't know of another house in Austin with the same structural enchantment.

On to the surrounding area which contributes to the cultural/historical associations. 2002 Scenic has the house, side building, glasshouse, (where Debbie's mother grew prize roses), pool with dressing cabanas, terraced gardens, stone bridge leading to the gardeners' cottage- 2000 Scenic. An entire estate, relatively untouched for 100 years.

Other rock houses were occupied by UT art professors, (1st UT art classroom was at 2105 Scenic), executive editor of newspaper lived at 2005 Scenic, (built by Raymond Delisle), Commodore Edgar Perry built home at 3810 Kennelwood for Edgar, Jr. and Julie Matthews Perry. Kennelwood Clubhouse, for those of you who may remember Kennelwood Boat Docks, was at the southern end of Scenic where it intersects with Kennelwood.

'Tot' Hart, built the house at 2008 Scenic. His grandson, Robert Redford, spent 13 summers as a boy visiting his grandfather, Mr. Redford kindly sent me a personal letter describing his time in Austin. Later on this home was divided up and rented out to a continual stream of 'frat boys'. I know because several grown men, when guests at a party being held at 2002 Scenic, told me that they 'Really used to have some good parties there.' Frank Erwin was a renter there. The small house within the walls of 2008 Scenic is an original 'fish hut', - one of the many which populated the 'fish camp', then way, way outside of Austin where the fishin' was good and the people scarce. Owner is currently Sandra Smith.

2002 Scenic Dr. is worth saving for another 100 years.

Thank you very much,  
Alison Hanks