

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
JUNE 1, 2022
PR-2022-062642; GF-2022-066738
1704 NEWTON STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1941 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story side-gabled house with horizontal siding, shallow eaves, 1:1 windows, enclosed garage, and gable-roofed covered entryway.

RESEARCH

The house at 1704 Newton Street was built in 1941 for Leora Medearis Byrd. Byrd's husband Brady worked as a cook at the Longhorn Waffle Shop. By 1949, Leora Medearis had married Herman Hicks, Sr., a baker. The Hickses had two children, Ernestelle and Herman, Jr. Herman Hicks, Jr. was one of the first thirteen Black students to integrate into previously segregated high schools in 1955. Hicks and four other students in the Bouldin area transferred from Anderson High, Austin's Black high school, to William B. Travis High. He remained there until his graduation in 1958 and was a member of the basketball and track teams.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The 2015 Bouldin survey report lists the property as a medium priority and contributing to a potential historic 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 does not appear to convey architectural significance, though it appears to have Minimal Traditional stylistic influences.
 - b. Historical association. The property appears to have significant historical associations with Herman Hicks, Jr., one of the first Black students to attend William B. Travis High School at the start of Austin's school desegregation in 1955.
 - 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 demolition application upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

LOCATION MAP



1" = 250'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 22-066738

LOCATION: 1704 NEWTON 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

Photos



Demolition permit application, 2022

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, May 2022

1959	Herman Hicks, owner
1957	Herman and Leola Hicks, owners Baker
1955	Herman and Leola Hicks, owners
1952	Herman and Leora Hicks, owners Baker, McNamara Bakery Rear – Georgia Taylor, owner
1949	Leora Hicks, owner Rear – Georgia Taylor, renter
1947	Brady and Leora M. Byrd, owners Cook, Longhorn Waffle Shop
1944	Brady and Leora M. Byrd, owners Cook
1941	Address not listed

Permits

WATER SERVICE PERMIT No 16193 A
 Austin, Texas
 Leon Byrd
 Received of Leon Byrd Date 7-21-41
 Address 1704 Newton St.
 Amount Two and 50/100 \$ 2.50
 Plumber Smoot Size 1/2" Tap 1/2"
 Date of Connection 7-21-41

Water service permit, 1941

CONNECTION CHARGE \$3312 No 17862
APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.

Austin, Texas 7-21 1941
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
 City of Austin, Texas
 Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions
 on premises owned by Leon Byrd
 at 1704 Newton St. Street,
 further described as lot 3b, block 3b, outlet
 subdivision Swisher addn division plat 123.

Sewer tap, 1941

Herman Hicks 1704 Newton Street
 122 3 3B

Newnings & Warner

Remodel & Repair Residence.

77013 7/28/60 1780.00

U.S. Bldg. Materials Co. -

Apply insulated siding-repair woodwork where needed
 and new screens.

Building permit, 1960

Brady & Leona Byrd 1704 Newton St
 123 - 3b 3d N.Pt of 4
 Swisher Addn

Frame Res

22180 • 7-21-41

Building permit, 1941

Geo. W. Spear Avenue.
 Jackson Bouldin and wife to Leora
 Byrd, \$10; Lot 3, Block 3-B Swisher
 addition; Lot 4, Block 3-B Swisher addi-
 tion.

"Memorial Park Deed Included in Transfers: New Peak Realized as 69 Documents for \$137,523 are Filed." *The Austin American* (1914-1973), Jun 08, 1941. 6

13 Negroes To Transfer

By BILL JOINES

Thirteen Negro students will enroll in Austin's three white high schools for classes beginning Sept. 7, school officials announced Thursday.

The history-making registration of the 13 students will be conducted Friday morning at the schools of their choice.

Seven of the 13 students have applied for classes at Setphen F. Austin High School. Five have applied for William B. Travis High School; one for McCallum High.

The 13 who Thursday returned application blanks for entrance to the three white schools will "probably be all" who will attend the schools this year, according to Anderson High School Principal W. B. Campbell.

Campbell identified the students who will transfer as:

Eugene Harold, 2108½ Leona Street; Peggy Jean Alexander, 1131 Poquito Street; Doris Howard, 2206 East 20th Street; Betty Lynn Howard, 2206 East 20th; Texanna Davis, 1621 West 12th; Annie Lucile Baker, 1637 West 12th, and Dorothy Mae Shelton, 2933 East 14th; all to Stephen F. Austin High School.

Forrest Faye Williams, 420 West Johanna Street; Rosie Marie Fowler, 609 West Annie; James Curtis Shaw, 309 West Milton; Elmo Williams, Route 5, Box 215 and Herman Hicks, 1704 Newton Street, all to William B. Travis.

Margie N. Hendricks, 901 Wheatley Avenue, to McCallum High School.

The Negro students will be ineligible for Interscholastic League (See NEGROES, Page A-2)

sports for one year, the UIL said Thursday.

This is true because they have a choice of schools, a spokesman for the league told *The Austin Statesman*.

This UIL rule was quoted: "In desegregated school districts, Article 8, Section 14 (of the league constitution and rules) shall not operate to render pupils ineligible in a high school to which they are assigned by the local school board, provided the pupil has no other choice of schools."

In Austin Negro students have a choice of continuing to attend Anderson High School or one of the three white high schools.

This transfer rule applies equally to white students transferring by their own choice.

Campbell said he handed out "several" application blanks during Wednesday's registration of an all time high of 25,000 students for the city's public schools.

Campbell told a reporter he told students who wanted to transfer to have the applications signed by their parents and returned to his office "early Thursday morning."

He said one other student applied for entrance to McCallum, but it was later learned she was qualified only for ninth grade instruction. She will be retained at Anderson High School—the city's Negro school—until she completes the ninth grade.

Of the 13 who will attend the city's first integrated public schools, only two live within the boundaries of the Negro high school.

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The other 11 live within the districts of the schools they will attend and did not choose to enroll at Anderson.

Campbell said there were about "45 or 50" Negro students who now live within the white school district but they chose to transfer back to Anderson.

Registration of the 13 Negro students that will take place Friday was made possible by a recent Austin School Board decision to end racial segregation in the city's high schools.

The decision followed a United States Supreme Court edict that segregation in the nation's public schools is illegal and violates the Constitution.

Joines, Bill. "13 NEGROES ASK TO TRANSFER: 13 NEGROES TO TRANSFER." *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Sep 01, 1955. 2.



First row
Terry Bray, Laurin Currie, Elwood Munson, King Francis, Terry Houghton, Coach Myers,
Herman Hicks, Terry Schriber, Jim Price, Neil Coble, Hilario Garcia.

"U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2012"; School Name: Travis High School; Year: 1956



(First row, l to r) Doug Davis, Geronimo Estrada, Hilario Garcia, Don Starling, Dan Cervenka, Billy Conner, Richard Bothmer, Richard Jones, Mills Eaves, and Renny Crockett.
(Second row l to r) Bob Chandler, Delbert Hawkins, Gerald Jones, Gary Aguren, Roland Rivera, Coach Allison, Weldon Stuart, Gibbs Franki, Herman Hicks, Reynolds Bixler, Elwood Munson, and Don Gartman.

"U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2012"; School Name: Travis High School; Year: 1956

Rebels Fall To St. Ed's

If St. Edward's Tigers can continue to roll as they did Tuesday night against Travis' Rebels, a Southwest Academic League state basketball championship for the Hilltop will be something more than a bare possibility.

The Tigers, parlaying a smart, quick, ballhawking game into a fine team victory, shelled the Rebels, 75-48, at the Travis gym.

Actually, it was 50 seconds deep in the second quarter before Travis scored. The Tigers went on from their 22-0 quarter lead to stand on top, 48-11, at halftime. It was 61-27 after three periods.

It was the third straight defeat for Travis. The Tigers now have a 2-0 mark, having downed St. Stephen's earlier.

In all, 31 players saw action—and that was everybody who was suited out. St. Edward's employed 18 men, Travis 13.

Coach Ed Fleming's quick-reacting, accurate-shooting Tigers were in complete control all the way. So thoroughly did the Edsmen dominate play that Travis was unable to score in any manner during the first quarter, the count standing 22-0 after eight minutes.

The victory could have been a

costly one for St. Ed's though. Early in the first quarter, guard Ray Ramirez—a veteran guard and a high scorer—was forced out with a shoulder injury.

Tiger scoring was well-divided. John Davis, with a great jump shot, led with 23 points. Chelie Marcos had 18, Lee Wiltse 13 more.

Johnny Brown, Travis' two-year letterman, ended up with 22 points on 11 field goals, but seven of those came during the last quarter when St. Ed's was substituting liberally.

An unusually slick combination of steals and fast breaks in the first quarter sent the Tigers off and running. Those factors plus Travis' cold shooting, made it obvious from the very first seconds that the Rebels didn't have a chance.

ST. ED'S (75)				TRAVIS (48)			
	fg	ft	tp		fg	ft	tp
C. Marcos	8	2-2	18	Bixler	1	4-6	0
Wiltse	4	5-8	13	Brown	11	6-2	22
Davis	9	5-6	23	Craig	2	1-4	5
Monroe	2	1-3	5	Irby	0	2-2	2
Ramirez	0	0-0	0	Schreiber	3	0-3	6
Dabestree	1	0-1	2	Munson	1	0-0	2
Robane	0	2-2	2	Hicks	1	1-4	2
McIntire	1	2-4	4	Johnson	1	0-0	0
F. Marcos	1	0-0	2	Bray	0	0-0	0
Hewers	0	1-2	1	Cervantes	0	0-0	0
Williams	2	1-2	5	Sassman	0	0-0	0
Extrada	0	0-0	0				
Shorman	0	0-0	0				
King	0	0-0	0				
Totals	28	19-30	75	Totals	20	8-22	48
St. Edward's					22	18	21-75
Travis					0	11	16-21-48

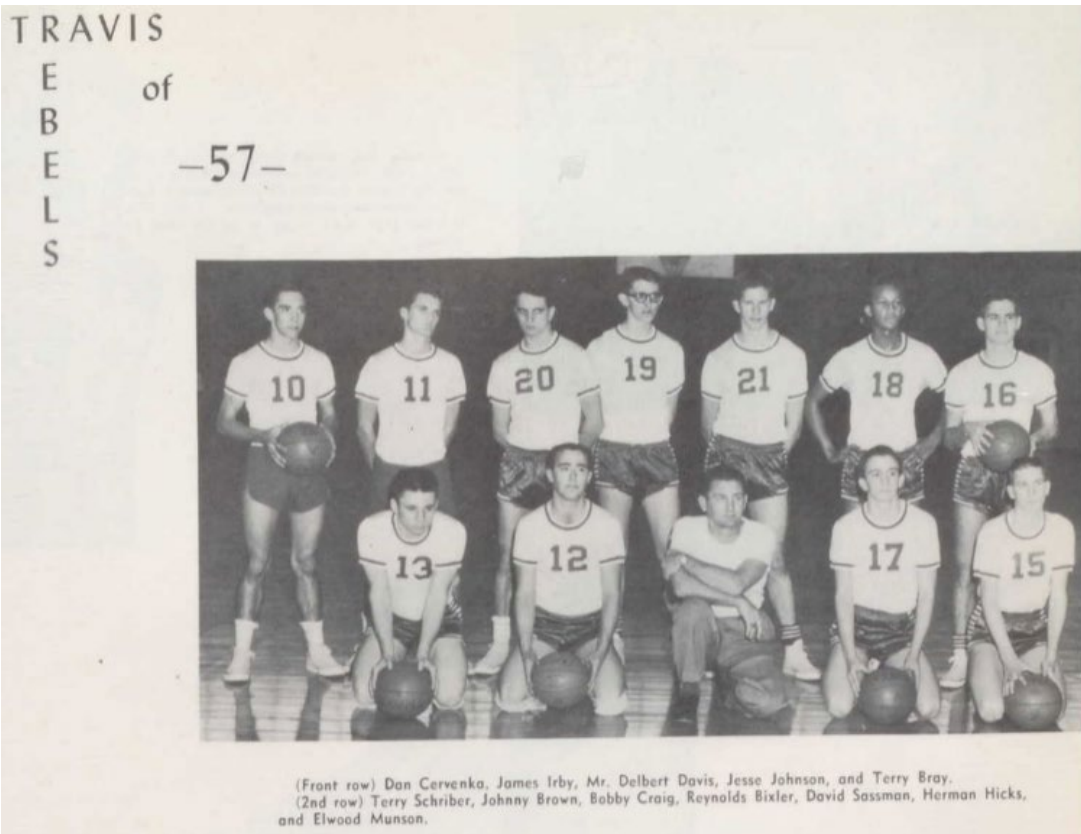


Battling for the ball in Tuesday night's Travis-St. Edward's basketball game are Rebel Herman Hicks (18) and Tiger Vernon King (12). At left is Travis' Reynolds Bixler (19). St. Ed's won, 75-48.

"Rebels Fall to St. Ed's." *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973), Dec 12, 1956. 24.



Herman Hicks—Jr.
Forward



"U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2012"; School Name: Travis High School; Year: 1957



"U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2012"; School Name: Travis High School; Year: 1958



A PAIR OF QUEENS—Ernestelle Hicks was crowned queen at the annual Rosewood bathing revue by Miss Carolyn Larson, last year's winner. Ernestelle's crowning climaxed a busy Juneteenth at Rosewood Park. The new 17-year-old queen, daughter of Mr.

Austin American—Marj Wightman

and Mrs. Leora Hicks, will be a senior at Anderson High School next fall. Other winners were Annie Harris, second place; Carrie Collins, third place; and Ruth Taylor, fourth place. There were 20 entrants in the beauty contest.

"A PAIR OF QUEENS." The Austin American (1914-1973), Jun 21, 1959. 1