

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
NOVEMBER 2, 2022
HR-2022-152876
OLD WEST AUSTIN
2512 WOOLDRIDGE DRIVE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1937 contributing house and detached garage and construct a new residence.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Construct a two-story masonry house with attached carport. The proposed house's fenestration includes divided-light windows and arched doorways. A one-story mass, connected via carport, extends diagonally from the house's main two-story form.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story asymmetrical Tudor Revival house clad in stucco with faux half-timbering at gable ends and covered entryway.

RESEARCH

The house at 2512 Wooldridge Drive was constructed for Annie Beasley in 1937. Early residents included a rancher and his family and a University of Texas professor. The house's longest-term occupants in the early and mid-twentieth century were Janice and Vernon McGee. Janice McGee, a violinist, was a charter member of the Austin Symphony and served on a screening committee for symphony hopefuls. Vernon McGee began his career as a Capitol reporter but later became the first executive director of the Texas State Employment Commission. McGee was later appointed staff director of the Texas State Legislative Budget Board, where he served until the late 1960s. He then worked as an administrative chief of staff under Governor Preston Smith.

DESIGN STANDARDS

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 new construction

1. Location

The proposed building appears to be appropriately sited and set back.

2. Orientation

The proposed building's orientation is consistent with the design standards.

3. Scale, massing, and height

The proposed building's scale and height appears appropriate. While the diagonal massing of the one-story portion of the house is not in keeping with the surrounding district, it does not appear highly visible from the street.

4. Proportions

The proposed building's proportions, design, and style appear to somewhat reflect those of the surrounding district.

6. Roofs

The proposed cross-gabled roof at the house's main mass is compatible; while the flat-roofed porch and shed dormers are less so, they appear to help break up the monolithic massing at the two-story portion of the house.

7. Exterior walls

The proposed masonry is mostly compatible with the surrounding district, though brick or stucco would be a more appropriate cladding choice.

8. Windows and doors

Proposed fenestration appears compatible, with arched doorways reflecting the previous building's Tudor Revival influences.

9. Porches

See 6.

11. Attached garages and carports

The proposed carport is set back from the front wall of the house in compliance with the standards. Its one-story massing helps to reduce the verticality of the adjacent main house.

Summary

The project mostly meets the applicable standards.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The property contributes to the Old West Austin National Register district.

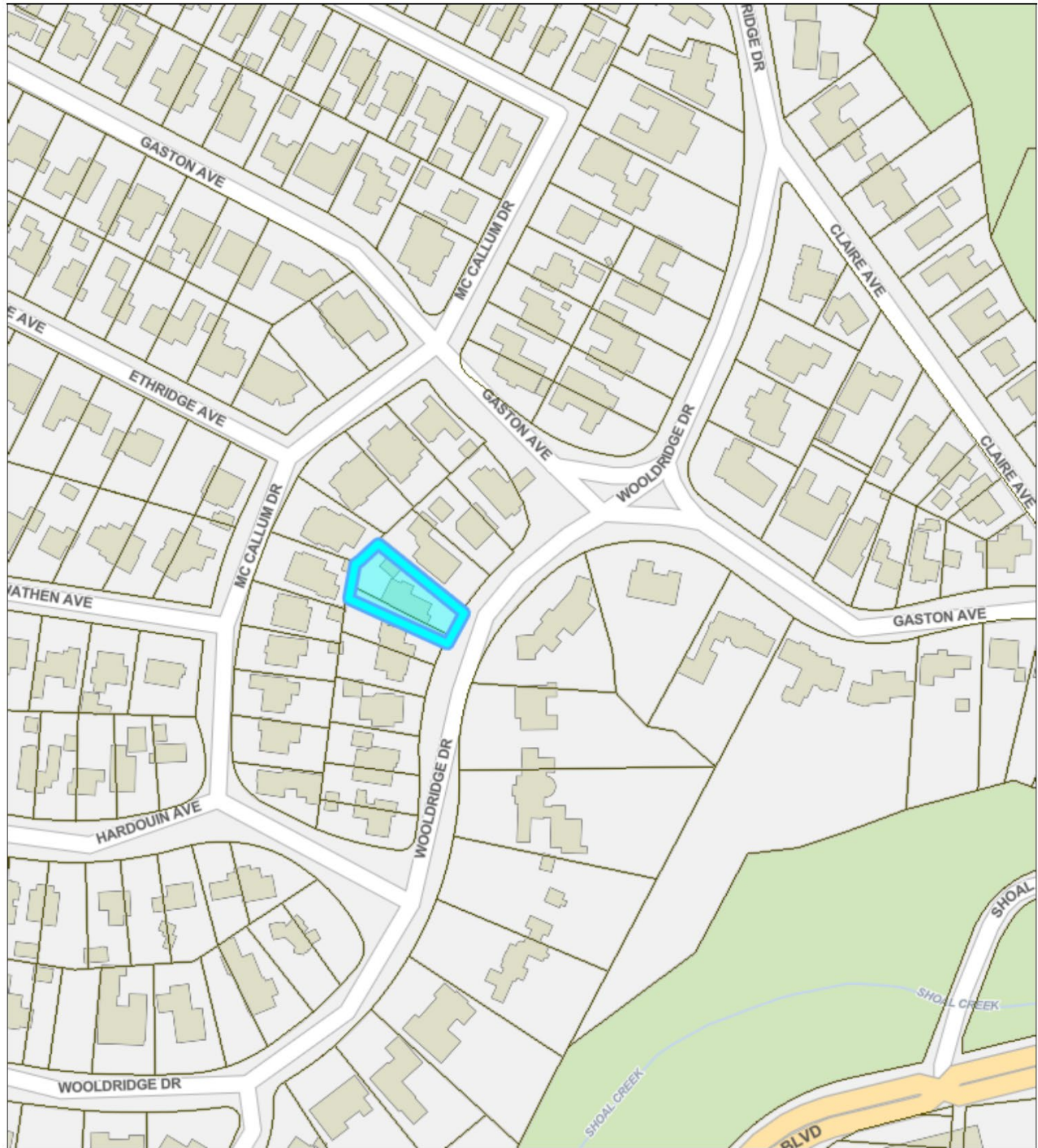
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate to low integrity. Windows have been replaced and a second floor was added in 1983 per city permits.
- 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 may once have been a good example of Tudor Revival architecture, but no longer conveys its significance.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with Vernon and Janice McGee,
 - 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

Release the demolition permit and comment on plans.

LOCATION MAP



Lot Lines

Lot Line



10/19/2022

HR 22-152876

2512 WOOLDRIDGE DRIVE



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PROPERTY INFORMATION*Photos*



Demolition permit application, 2022

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, September 2022

1959 Vernon A. and Janice J. McGee, owners
Director, Legislative Budget Board

- 1955 Vernon A. and Janice J. McGee, owners
Director, Legislative Budget Board
- 1952 Vernon A. and Janice J. McGee, owners
Director, Legislative Budget Board
- 1947 John J. and Mozelle Thomas, owners
Rancher
- 1944 Leo C. and Margaret Haynes, owners
Professor, University of Texas
- 1941 Leo C. and Margaret Haynes, renters
Associate professor at the University of Texas
- 1937 Address not listed

Historical information

**Vernon A. McGee
Heads UP Bureau**

Vernon A. McGee, United Press correspondent at the Texas state house, left Friday afternoon on a new assignment which makes him head of the U.P. bureau at Baton Rouge, La.

He took with him to the Huey Long capital the Texas senate's good wishes for his success in the new job and congratulations on his promotion. The body adopted, on motion of Sen. Will Beck, resolutions in appreciation for his service here.

The young newspaperman, one of the best liked in the capitol press room here, came to Austin from Dallas and Fort Worth, where he worked in United Press bureaus; he had also worked as city editor of the Waco News-Tribune, one of the youngest men in the state to hold such a position. He attended school at Baylor university and Cornell.

McGee, used to covering 120-day sessions of the Texas legislature, joked about a "Louisiana vacation."

"I understand the sessions there just last five days," he told friends.

Mrs. McGee and the couple's son, Gordon, will remain in Austin temporarily and then will visit in Dallas and Wichita Falls before joining Mr. McGee in Baton Rouge.

the roof, oak floors. It was designed by Roy L. Thomas, architect.

Mrs. Annie Beasley has just awarded the contract for a stucco residence at 2512 Wooldridge avenue. This is a one-story, with seven rooms and two tile baths, wall-paper interior, wood shingle roof and hardwood floors.

W. F. Brown is contemplating building a brick veneer house. It

"Vernon A. McGee Heads UP Bureau." *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973); 20 Apr 1935: 6.

"Austin Hears Sound of Hammer and Saw As Construction Moves Steadily Ahead." Hill, M. *The Austin American* (1914-1973); Austin, Tex. [Austin, Tex]. 11 July 1937: 9.

Special Summer Dishes Are Mrs. McGee's Forte

By PAT FOLMAR ROBINSON

One of Austin's best cooks, Mrs. Vernon A. McGee of 2512 Woodridge Drive, has three favorite recipes for summer.

They include a refrigerator dessert she learned to make in Virginia, a petite party sandwich made with ham, chicken and cream cheese, and Chicken Enchiladas with Avocado Sauce which she serves for family or company dinners.

Mrs. McGee is the type of cook who goes to the library to read cookbooks, believes that food is like "any other art and requires patience and great affection" and pays as much attention to how she serves food as to how she prepares it—dinner plates are hot, salad plates are cold and the table cloth, centerpiece and appointments are all carefully chosen to complement the particular meal being served.

While traveling over the country with her husband, a former United Press correspondent, Mrs. McGee collected recipes where ever she went.

She found it interesting that "people everywhere think the food in their particular section is the best in the country."

For the past six years the McGees have lived in Austin, and Mr. McGee is now director of the State Legislative Budget Board.

Besides cooking, Mrs. McGee's interests include music—she plays second violin in the Austin Symphony Orchestra—and her children.

With her children away at school this fall, Mrs. McGee will probably spend even more of her time in the kitchen, dreaming up new dishes to delight friends and family.

CHICKEN ENCHILADAS WITH AVOCADO SAUCE

(Serves 8-10)

3 tablespoons salad oil
2 teaspoons flour
2 cans Spanish red chili sauce
(hot variety)
Salt to season
24 corn tortillas
1 large onion
½ jar green salad olives
1 small can pitted ripe olives
Cooked chicken meat from a
large fryer or small stewing
hen, chopped
2 small zucchini squash, cooked
and diced
Medium sharp grated cheese
1 large ripe avocado
1 teaspoon minced onion
½ teaspoon lemon juice
Salt and pepper
½ pint sour cream
Shredded lettuce
Radishes

Make a hot chili sauce by stirring flour into three tablespoons salad oil in a skillet. Add Spanish red chili sauce, season with salt and cook slowly until thickened, stirring occasionally.

Pour an additional amount of salad oil an inch deep in another skillet and heat. Drop tortillas one at a time into the hot fat to soften. Do not soak too long or they'll be too brittle. With tongs, lift tortillas out of oil, one by one, and drop into pan of hot chili sauce for a brief moment. Lift from chili sauce and place on baking dish. On top of each tortilla sprinkle a little chopped onion, green and ripe olives, chicken, squash and cheese. Fold over once; baste with chili sauce and sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes.

While enchiladas are baking, make sauce by mashing avocado and seasoning with minced onion, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Add sour cream and mix thoroughly.

When ready to serve, spread avocado sauce over enchiladas and garnish with shredded lettuce and radishes.



Austin Statesman-United Press
MRS. MCGEE, MARCIA MAKE PARTY SANDWICHES
"Medallions" are frosted with cheese.

"Special Summer Dishes Are Mrs. McGee's Forte." PAT FOLMAR ROBINSON. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973); 10 Aug 1956: 6.



VERNON A. MCGEE

Vernon McGee Named To United Fund Post

Noble Prentice, United Fund president, Tuesday completed his roster of aides with the appointment of Vernon A. McGee to the chairmanship of the fund's administrative committee.

Previously appointed to committee chairmanships were David E. Irons, budget; Dr. Joe Thorne Gilbert, admission; and Colonel Vance Murphy, promotion and publicity.

McGee brings a vast amount of administrative experience to his United Fund post.

He has degrees from Baylor and Cornell, served as a United Press correspondent at Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin and Baton Rouge, became the first executive head of the Texas State Employment Service, and served with the Navy on industrial relations in shipyards.

McGee later became director of personnel operations for Montgomery Ward and later served as executive editor for the Kiplinger Washington Agency, publishers of Kiplinger's business letters and Changing Times.

As legislative budget director since 1950, he works with the Texas Legislature and its committees in writing appropriations and other finance bills, and works out solutions for management problems in state government.

His United Fund experience has

been with the administrative committee, which he now heads, and as chairman of the state employees section of the public employees division in the 1956 federated fund raising campaign.

McGee also is a member of the board of the Austin Rotary Club.

"Vernon McGee Named To United Fund Post." The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 03 Mar 1959: 5.

Research Job Won By McGee

Capitol Staff

Vernon A. McGee, fired recently as staff director of the Legislative Budget Board, Monday was employed as a "temporary consultant" by the Texas Research League.

Alvin A. Burger, executive director of the league, announced McGee would prepare a summary of the present status of state government services and programs and their cost requirements in the years immediately ahead.

McGee, a 16-year state employee, was removed from the \$20,000 a year position he held when the budget board, composed of five members of the House and five members of the Senate failed to rehire him.

The action came on a split vote and was spearheaded by House Speaker Ben Barnes. Lt. Gov. Preston Smith opposed the ouster as did two of the senators on the board.

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House members said they felt McGee had acquired "too much power" in preparation of the state budget.

The removal came on a split vote and caused considerable controversy.

The league, a private organization financed by subscriptions, did not announce a salary for McGee.

Burger said McGee's work "also will comment on possibilities for modernizing and improving certain state services and functions."

It was not announced if McGee would be on a per diem basis or a straight salary.

"Research Job Won By McGee." Capitol Staff. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 12 Sep 1966: 29.



Kay Powers

THESE THREE TALLY UP NEARLY 90 YEARS IN SYMPHONY
Carl Edward Bock, left, Mrs. Janice McGee and Wolf Jessen

Earners and Learners

Members of Symphony Come From All Walks of Life

By KAY POWERS
Special Writer

In the eight-to-five scramble of daily earning or learning, most of the musicians in the Austin Symphony Orchestra bear little resemblance to the formally attired serious-faced folks you see on stage during a concert.

While they're up there tootling, banging, blowing or fiddling on their various instruments, music is their common denominator. But few of them, but they must two-time income from music alone. Music may be the dearest love of most of them, but they must two-time it by working at other professions to keep the bills paid.

Thus, on the morning after a concert, the people who entertained you the night before may be heading for a conference with an architectural client, conducting scientific research at Balcones Center, managing credit for an Austin lumber company or babysitting with grandchildren!

Those who are full-time musicians are usually to be found teaching university or college classes or directing junior or senior high school bands, orchestras and choruses. Oboist Richard Blair, principal clarinetist Raymond Schroeder, timpanist George Frock and

harpist Gayle Horn teach at the University of Texas. Principal trumpeter Thomas

Parriott is a teaching assistant at UT, as are several of the string players. Others teach in the Junior Strings Project.

Michael Stoune plays flute in the symphony, teaches woodwinds at Southwest Texas State College at San Marcos, where he is also assistant band director. He also serves as librarian for the Austin Symphony.

Dorothy Jordan, principal second violin, clarinetist Suzanne Jenkins, and William Dick and John Montgomery, both of the viola section, teach music in the Austin public schools. Principal French horn player Grover Pitman teaches band, chorus and orchestra in Fredericksburg.

There are ordinarily about 20 University of Texas students playing in the Austin Symphony. They don't have to be majoring in music to be in the orchestra as long as they have the talent, ability and training a professional symphony requires.

So on a campus visit you might find French horn player Allan Schmidt taking graduate courses in engineering, percussionist Dennis Awbrey hitting the toms in pre-law courses and cellist Jackie Pitman boning up for the math

Several of the orchestra's 80 musicians are employed in state

classes which will get her her degree this spring.

Carl Edward Bock, Calcasieu credit manager, was playing viola in the Austin Symphony's first concert Dec. 20, 1938, at Hogg Auditorium. Housewife and grandmother Janice (Mrs. Vernon) McGee played second violin in that concert, and Wolf Jessen then as now was principal of the flute section. He is an architect with Jessen, Jessen, Millhouse, Greeven and Crume. Bock, Mrs. McGee and Jessen have been with the symphony throughout its nearly 30 years of existence.

Some of Austin's prominent businessmen play or have played with the symphony.

Attire for all on concert night is formal — but at other times you might see some of the symphony's youngest members garbed in bright mod outfits or even miniskirts — they're junior and senior high school students! They perform with the orchestra as apprentices in a unique program which encourages exceptionally

talented young musicians by giving them professional experience at an early age.

Rich man, poor man — no beggars or thieves on record — doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief — the Austin Symphony now has or has had all these as personnel during its many years of service to the community. Almost all are active types who could use a 36-hour day to good advantage, yet all find time for hours of practice at home, hours of rehearsal at the old firehall on Blanco Street and still more hours in concert at the auditorium.

Why do they tootle, bang, blow and fiddle in the symphony instead of taking it easy after a busy day of doing other things? For the majority, the answer is simple: They believe the symphony orchestra is a vital part of Austin's culture and this is their way of doing their part.

McGee Gets Post With Smith's Staff

By GLEN CASTLEBURY
Capitol Staff

Vernon A. McGee, 62, the veteran director of the Legislative Budget Board who lost his job two years ago in a political row, Saturday was named to the top position on Gov.-elect Preston Smith's staff.

McGee's title will be assistant for program development, and he will report directly to Smith.

He resigned Saturday as vice president of Management Research International, Inc.,

an Austin management consulting firm, to assume his new duties on Jan. 21 when Smith takes the oath of office.

McGee was the top man on the Legislative Budget Board for 16 years until August, 1966 when Speaker Ben Barnes and the House members on the LBB led a revolt which resulted in McGee losing his job.

At the time, Barnes said McGee had accumulated too

(See McGEE, Page A6)



VERNON MCGEE
Top appointment

much power.

Smith protested the firing bitterly, but was on the short end of a 3 to 6 vote. Two senators joined with the House members in voting against McGee.

Since he left state government, McGee has been vice president of the management firm. He also has done some professional research for the Republican party of Texas.

McGee will have general supervision of that portion of the governor's staff concerned with financial planning, intergovernmental and community relations and evaluation of state programs and achievements. Many of his duties will not have a direct relationship with the Legislature.

In what apparently is a relatively new position on the organizational chart, McGee will be part of the governor's "core group" which includes the executive assistant and the press secretary.

He will report directly to the governor.

The will report directly to the governor.

Smith commented Saturday, "Vernon McGee has really got a world of ability in the field of state government. We are fortunate to have a man of his tremendous ability to help carry out the duties of the governor's office in the most efficient and economical way possible.

"My confidence in the professional ability of Vernon McGee goes back many years. I knew and respected his ability when I was a senator in the early 1950s. Being chairman of the Legislative Budget Board as lieutenant governor, I gained even more respect for his professional abilities.

Symphony charter member dies

Funeral for Mrs. Janice J. McGee of 2512 Wooldridge, who died Monday night at her home after a long illness, will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Cook Walden Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. at Ridge Park Cemetery in Hillsboro.

Mrs. McGee, 69, was a charter member of the Austin Symphony, a violinist and a member of the symphony committee that screens young musicians. She was a member of PEO, attended the First Baptist Church, and taught the Althean Sunday School Class. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church.

She received her degree in music from Texas Wesleyan University and her M.A. and B.A. degrees from Baylor University.

Mrs. McGee's husband is Vernon A. McGee, a long-time newspaper man and former director of the Legislative Budget Board. Other survivors include her son, Dr. W. Gordon McGee of El Paso; a daughter, Mrs. D. M. Dingler of Arlington; and five grandchildren.

McGEE, Mrs. Janice J., 69, 2512 Wooldridge, died Monday. Services 10 a.m. Wednesday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Graveside services 3 p.m. Wednesday at Ridge Park Cemetery in Hillsboro. Survivors: husband, Vernon A. McGee of Austin; daughter, Mrs. D.M. Dingler of Arlington; son, Dr. W. Gordon McGee of El Paso; five grandchildren.

Symphony charter member dies. The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; 20 Apr 1976: B2.

The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; 20 Apr 1976: B2.

Permits

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS N^o 5580

M. iss Anne Beasley Address 2512 Wooldridge

Plumber Spiller - Miller Size of Tap 1/2" Date 6-12-37

Foreman's Report

Date of Connection 6-18-37

Water service permit, 1937

Vernon A. McGee 2512 Wooldridge Driv
 159 7 and North 20' of 5 12
 Pemberton Hieghts #1
 Frame Addition to and Remodel Interior
 79979 5/29/61 2,965.00
 Rawls Lumber Company move 5

ENLARGE KITCHEN

Building permit, 1961

Miss Annie Beasley 2512 Wooldridge Dr
 12 6.7

Pemberton Hts.

stucco Residence & garage

193 - June 16, 1937

Building permit, 1937

Sanborn maps



Sanborn map, 1962