

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
JANUARY 23, 2022
PR-2022-175256; GF-2022-179474
4705 BALCONES DRIVE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1951 house.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story house with Ranch and Mid-century Modern influences, clad in stucco, stone, and horizontal siding. Steel casement windows and sliders are present throughout. The house has a low-slung, shallow-pitched roof with deep eaves, an asymmetrical front façade, and an integral garage.

RESEARCH

4705 Balcones Drive was constructed by A. C. Piland and designed by and for architect Glynn L. Harris. Harris was a decorated World War II Army Air Corp veteran who designed several prominent Austin buildings, including the VFW Headquarters, original Night Hawk Restaurant in Austin, Texas, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, and KFDM Channel Six. Harris was born in San Angelo in 1915. He received his B.A. in Architecture at Texas A&M before working as a draftsman at Page & Southerland in Austin from 1936 to 1939. From 1939 to 1941, he operated his own firm in Corpus Christi before moving back to Austin and serving in the military.^{1, 2} He sold his Austin home in 1952 to move to Wichita Falls, where he continued his career and served as a chapter representative for the Texas Society of Architects and on the publication board for *Texas Architect*,³ before relocating to Beaumont.⁴

Harris sold the property to the Pojman family after he and his wife had lived there for only a year. Joseph L. Pojman was owner and president of Rockford Furniture Associates.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building is a good example of mid-century Modern architecture with Ranch influences.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with architect Glynn L. Harris; however, Harris lived in the home he designed for just one year.
 - 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 was once a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city because of the design's response to topographical changes and existing trees on the site; however, much of the original landscaping and focal trees have been lost.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consider whether the property meets designation criteria. If the Commission decides against initiation of historic zoning, release the demolition permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package. If the Commission determines that the property meets the required criteria for historic zoning, initiate historic zoning.

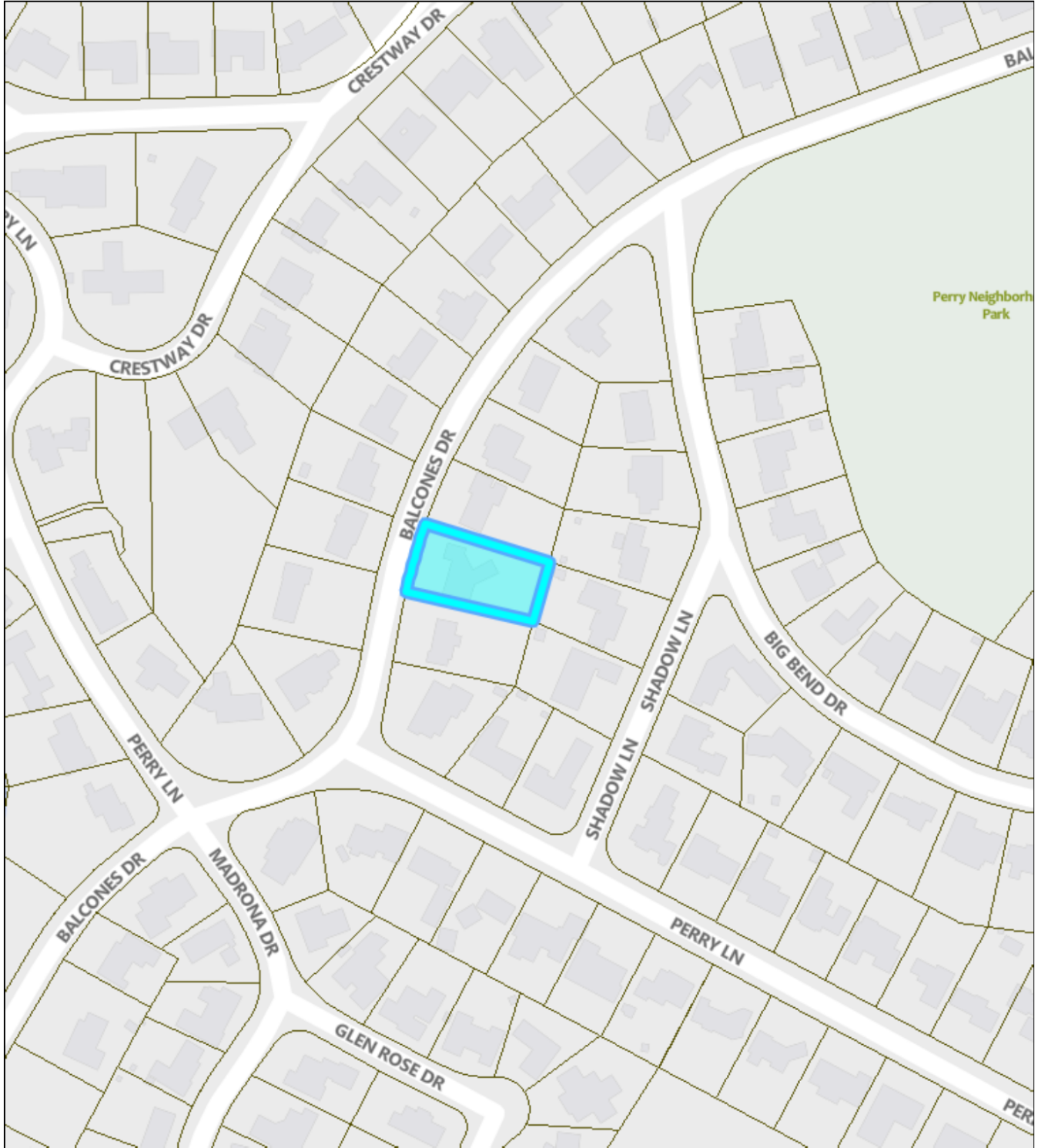
¹ AMERICAN ARCHITECTS DIRECTORY, 1956. <https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/2abada76-3c50-4aa3-abe8-5104493767dd/CHC-2019-4766.pdf>

² AMERICAN ARCHITECTS DIRECTORY, 1962. https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/Bowker_1962_H.pdf

³ <https://usmodernist.org/TA/TA-1957-02.pdf>

⁴ <https://magazine.texasarchitects.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/July-1967.pdf>

LOCATION MAP



Lot Lines

Lot Line



1: 2400

GF 22-179474

4705 BALCONES DRIVE



12/20/2022

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. This product has been produced by the City of Austin 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, December 2022

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1959 | Address listed as 4705 Parkcrest Drive
Joseph L. and Elizabeth Pojman, owners
President, Rockford Furniture Associates |
| 1955 | Joseph L. and Elizabeth Pojman, owners
Facility representative, Rockford Furniture |
| 1952 | Glynn L. and Marty M. Harris, owners
Architect |

Historical information

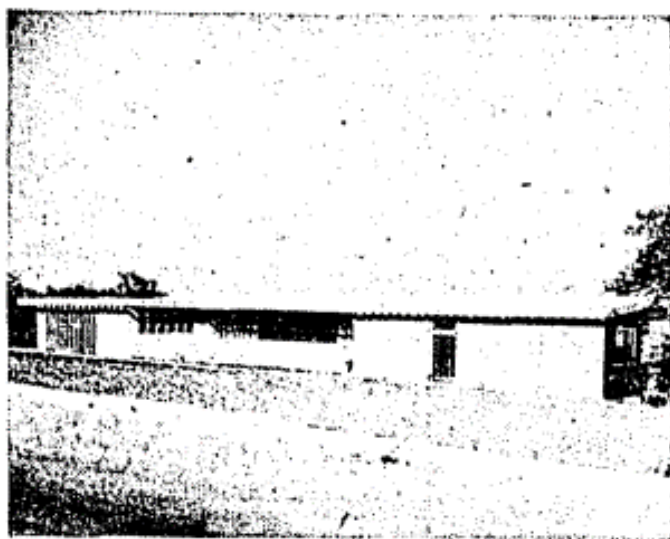


**NEWS OF OUR
MEN *and* WOMEN
IN UNIFORM**

Receives Air Medal
Lieut. **Glynn** L. Harris, a grandson of Mrs. W. D. Kight of this city, chief pilot of a Flying Fortress, has been awarded the Air Medal in Italy. Lieutenant Harris stayed here with his grandmother and went to High school for a time. He was an architect before he entered the service and had attended Texas A. and M. College. His wife lives in Austin.

Here on Leave

Huston, Cleburne. *Stamford American* (Stamford, Tex.), Vol. 21, No. 24, Ed. 1 Friday, September 1, 1944, newspaper, September 1, 1944; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph972343/m1/1/?q=glynn>: accessed December 20, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Stamford Carnegie Library.



THE CLEAN SWEEP—The low broad lines of the ultramodern theme set the decorative pace for the Glynn L. Harris hilltop home at 4705 Parkcrest Drive.

Tile floors and interior walls of rock carry out the clean swept feeling of the modern. A distinctive note of the structure is the angular oak tree forms

the partition between the living and dining areas. Green plants and ivy blend with a color scheme of brown, beige, chartreuse and salmon.—(Neal Douglass Photographs.)

Old Lace or Nylon - - - Which?

BY PEGGY HARDING LEE
Austin's got everything, even trees in houses.

Through the ages, housing has been modified by necessity. There weren't enough good, dry

caves to go around back in the primitive days so some bright soul duplicated a cave right out in the middle of the flats. Those tree-dwellers improved on nature, too, and poked a few poles in the

ground, weaving and thatching around the pole joints and found their stilt houses real slick. And it would be reasonable to think that the stilt houses best answered the needs in wetter areas while

the modified caves abounded in the more arid regions.

Austin's got everything, even wet and dry seasons.

WHEN PRIMITIVE woman was turned loose in that first house of

WHEN PRIMITIVE woman was turned loose in that first house of hers, she started gathering up the shells and bones and rocks and pieces of trees to make things pretty. When she graduated to the next stage of housing, she took such bones and stuff as she had found useful and ornamental along with her. But maybe she needed a bit more for the new house, so she shopped around a little and greeted the bacon-toting husband with the great news that that big level rock around the bend was exactly what she needed for a table. It would only take a day's labor, she assured him, to add much comfort and beauty to their house.

Austin's got table-totin' husbands, too, and wives with an eye for comfort and beauty in their homes.

Some couples have found that the traditions of house furnishings in the past, the good things that have survived many changes in decoration, make their homes more tasteful to them while others, men and women, have ventured into the new, the latest modes of housing and furnishing.

Austin's got everything.

The Joe Thorne Gilbert house nestled in the trees at 1513 Forest Trail is the tradition, the best of the good things that have been cherished since the early days of the French provinces. High on a hill at 4705 Parkcrest Drive, overlooking the city, is the Glynn L. Harris home in the newest of ultra-modern structures.

THE HARRIS HOME is a tree house; it houses a tree in addition to the Harrises and their five-year-old son, Kim. Between the living and dining quarters, serving as a partition, is a large oak tree, polished in its natural grey-white grain which blends admirably with the color scheme of the two rooms, brown, beige, chartreuse and salmon. Green plants and ivy grow around the tree in a low garden box.

The sunken living room is on a level with the backyard terrace on the east of the house.

In the dining room-kitchen partition of this house of distinction is an open window, partially covered by a modified grill. All the kitchen appliances are arranged in a semi-rectangle for most efficient use and a peninsula-like extension of the work counter separates the kitchen into a breakfast area and a food-preparation area.

The white stone exterior of the house is oared inside to form the fireplace wall as well as the other walls in the living room and entrance hall. Tiled floors and growing plants are used extensively through the house which has the two bedrooms placed to catch the southeast breeze; the southeast breeze in Kim's room is tempered by the West with decorations in true cowboy style.

Old Lace Or Nylon - - - Which? Peggy Harping Lee. The Austin American (1914-1973); 09 Sep 1951: D1.

VFW To Build New 5-Story Headquarters

The Veterans of Foreign Wars plan to build a five-story headquarters building here this year costing an estimated \$350,000 to \$400,000.

Plans for a modern structure on the southeast corner of East 11th Street and San Jacinto Boulevard were announced Monday by Bruce Francis, state VFW adjutant.

Francis said construction should get under way this summer.

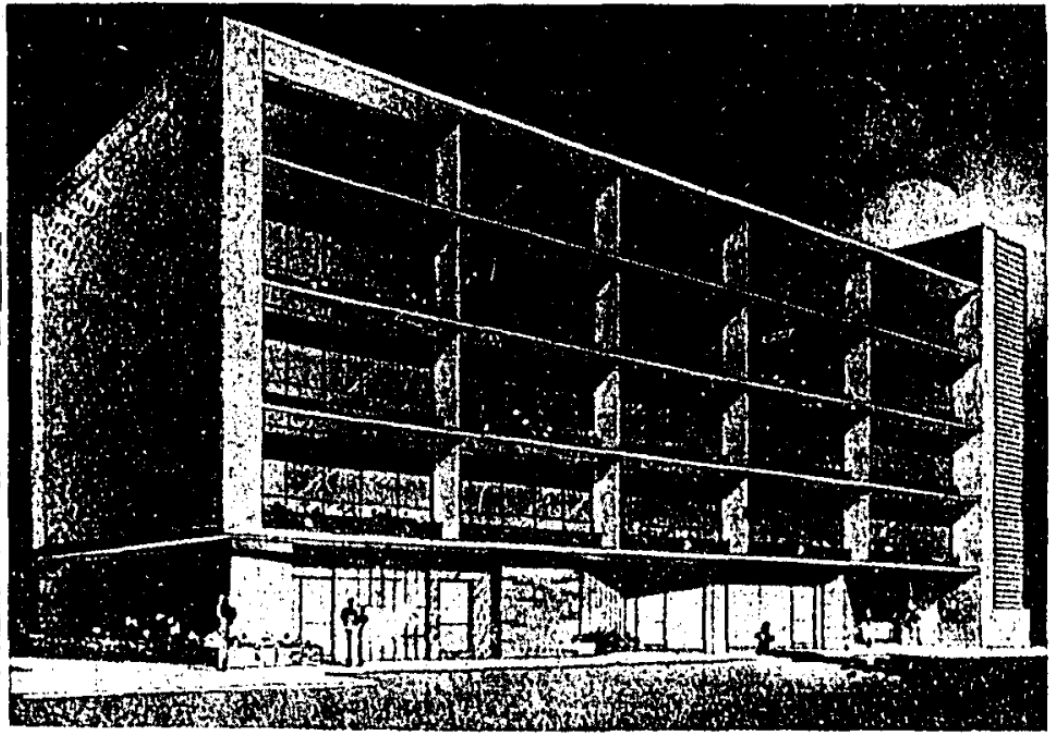
The state VFW headquarters is now located in a residence at 801 Rio Grande Street. The proposed new site, already bought by the veterans organization, faces 128 feet on San Jacinto and 48 feet on East 11th.

Francis said it probably would be 60 days before plans are far enough along to call for construction bids.

The plans are being drawn by Austin architects Doyle M. Baldrige and Glynn L. Harris.

The VFW intends to occupy only a part of the building. It plans to retire the construction debt through leasing of office space.

Francis said he had been told by contractors that a steel allocation probably could be had in time to start construction during the summer.



VFW HOME—This modernistic building, costing an estimated \$415,000, is the proposed new home here of the Veterans of Foreign Wars state headquarters. The building site is the southeast corner of East 11th Street and San Jacinto Boulevard. The VFW, which plans to occupy only a part of the building and lease out the rest, hopes to get construction

underway this summer. The plans, being drawn by Austin architects Doyle M. Baldrige and Glynn L. Harris, call for the building to face on San Jacinto. The VFW hopes to get a materials priority beginning in the second quarter of the year and extending into the second quarter of 1953.

VFW To Build New 5-Story Headquarters. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 14 Jan 1952: 1.

Rotary To Install Pojman

Joseph L. Pojman will be installed as president of the Rotary Club of West Austin for 1963-1964 at its regular weekly luncheon, Thursday, at Westwood Country Club.

Retiring President J. Clarke Blankenship will install Pojman.

Pojman is the owner of Rockford Furniture Associates. He has served as first vice-president the past year.

Other officers to be installed are: Joe D. Hooten, first vice-president; J. Thomas Rice Jr., second vice-president; Dr. Alvin S. Golding, secretary; and R. A. Lewis, treasurer.



JOSEPH L. POJMAN

rev. stamps.

Glynn L. Harris et ux to Joseph L. Pojman et ux, N. 8 ft. Lot 4 and all Lot 5. Blk. N, Highland Park West Addn. \$12.10 rev. stamps.

Velma Engelhardt Knutson et

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 30 Dec 1952: 2.

Rotary To Install Pojman. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 10 July 1963: 2.



Published in The Beaumont Enterprise on October 1, 2011

Glynn L. Harris

Glynn L. Harris, 96, of Beaumont, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. Born to James and Edith on September 5, 1915, in Waco, Texas, he was married to Marti McCaslin, until her passing in 1995. He was a highly decorated World War II Army Air Corp veteran and a Texas A&M graduate, receiving his bachelor's degree in Architecture.

As an incredible craftsman and artist, his days were filled with creating, inspired by his worldwide travels. His architectural contributions span the nation and include the original Night Hawk Restaurant in Austin, Texas, Beaumont Country Club, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, and KFDM Channel Six.

Survivors include his daughter, Jana Nichols and her husband, Reed, of Beaumont; son, Kim Robert Harris of Sunnyvale, California; and grandson, Jeffrey Wheeler and his wife, Emily, of Beaumont.

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/news/130290/roll-call-tribute/>

GLYNN HARRIS OBITUARY

Glynn L. Harris, 96, of Beaumont, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. Born to James and Edith on September 5, 1915, in Waco, Texas, he was married to Marti McCaslin, until her passing in 1995. He was a highly decorated World War II Army Air Corp veteran and a Texas A&M graduate, receiving his bachelor's degree in Architecture. As an incredible craftsman and artist, his days were filled with creating, inspired by his worldwide travels. His architectural contributions span the nation and include the original Night Hawk Restaurant in Austin, Texas, Beaumont Country Club, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, and KFDM Channel Six. Survivors include his daughter, Jana Nichols and her husband, Reed, of Beaumont; son, Kim Robert Harris of Sunnyvale, California; and grandson, Jeffrey Wheeler and his wife, Emily, of Beaumont. His committal service will be 1:00 p.m., Monday, October 3, 2011, at St. Mark's Columbarium, 680 Calder Avenue, Beaumont, with cremation arrangements under the direction of Broussard's, 2000 McFaddin Avenue, Beaumont. Memorial contributions may be made to the Julie Rogers Gift of Life Program, PMB #46, 148 South Dowlen Road, Beaumont, Texas 77707. Complete and updated information may be found at: [broussards1889.com](https://www.broussards1889.com).

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/beaumontenterprise/name/glynn-harris-obituary?id=21971129>

Sewer service permit, 1951

Water service permit, 1953

A. C. Filand

Building permit, 1950



221 San Jacinto, designed by Glynn Harris in 1951. Google maps, 2022