

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
PR-2023-048490; GF-2023-087257
908 JOSEPHINE STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1941 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story rock veneer house with a multilight casement beneath a fanlight, paired with an arched front door; cross-gabled roofline with “catslide” roof at front gable leading to an arched gateway; arched vents at gable ends; and 1:1 wood windows.

RESEARCH

The house at 908 Josephine Street was built in 1941 for Ben and Jimmie Garza. Ben Garza, who served in the Army during World War II, later worked as an insurance agent and then a supervisor for Kocurek Service Station and Auto Supply. 908 Josephine was also home to Jimmie Garza’s sister, Grace, and her brother-in-law, Patrick, while Ben and Patrick were both serving in the Army. Jimmie Garza’s mother also lived there during the 1960s. The Garzas owned 908 Josephine until at least the mid-1970s.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

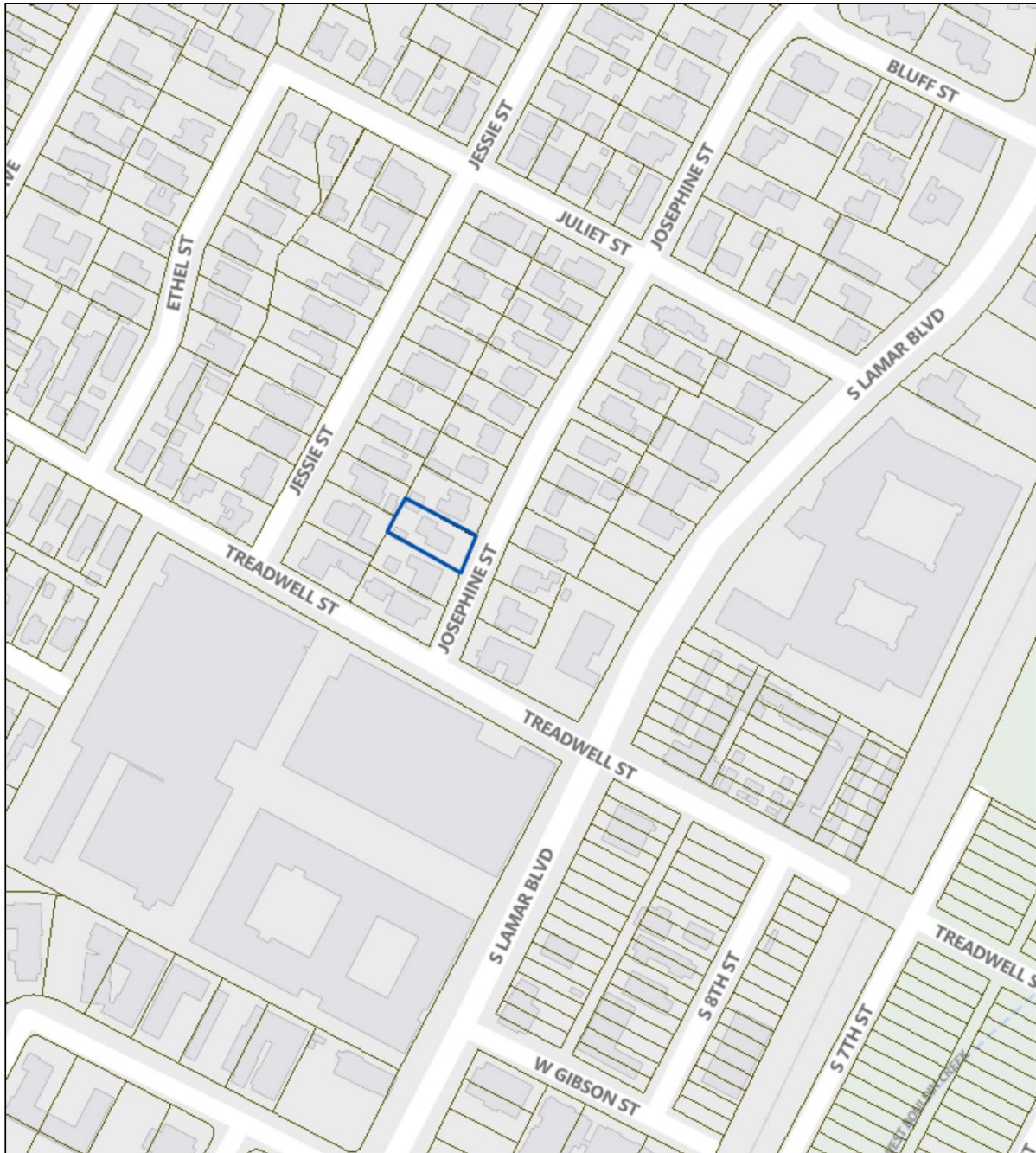
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark


- 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 does not meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building is a good example of a styled Minimal Traditional house with “storybook” Tudor Revival details. Its archways, whimsical catslide roof with arched garden gate, and rock veneer are emblematic of a once-popular stylistic variation in Austin, rapidly disappearing.
 - b. Historical association. The property does not appear to have significant historical associations.
 - 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 was not evaluated for its ability to 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 does not appear to be a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Strongly encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

LOCATION MAP






1: 2400

8/18/2023

GF 23-087257

908 JOSEPHINE STREET

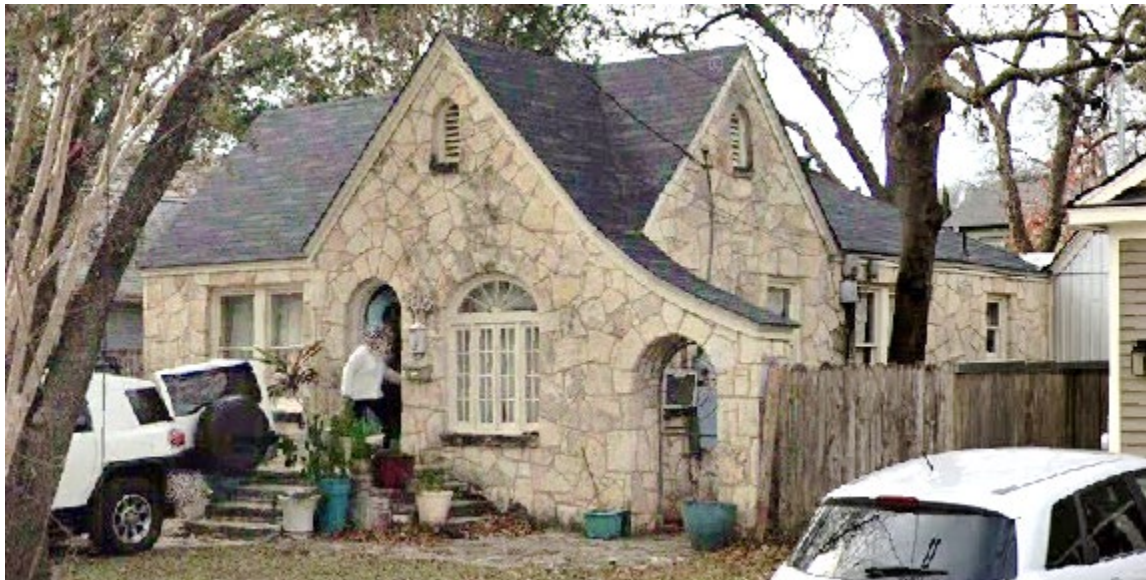


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PROPERTY INFORMATION*Photos*



Demolition permit application, 2023



Google Street View, 2022

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, August 2023

1959	Benjamin N. Garza, owner
1955	Benjamin N. and Jimmie L. Garza, owners – department manager, Kocurek Co.
1952	Benjamin N. and Jimmie L. Garza, owners
1949	Benjamin N. and Jimmie L. Garza, owners – supervisor, Kocurek Service Station and Auto Supply Mrs. Cathryn G. Adkins, renter – receptionist, Backus Memorial Co.
1947	Benjamin N. and Jimmie L. Garza, owners – agent, National Life and Accident
1944	Benjamin N. and Jimmie L. Garza, owners – U. S. Army Patrick and Grace Latouf, renters – U. S. Army
1941	Address not listed.

Historical Information

Six Austin men have been admitted to Brooke hospital center for treatment or observation.

The men are the following:

Pvt. David R. Ramirez, son of Manuel Ramirez, 1508 Willow street; **Pfc. Chester L. Davis**, son of Mrs. Martha Davis, route 1; **T-4 Ralph R. Borneman**, husband of Mrs. Edna Borneman, 1700 Dwyer avenue; **Pfc. Harry Thompson**, nephew of Eugene Thompson, 2412 Morales street; **Pfc. C. C. Taylor**, husband of Mrs. Irene Taylor, 3101 Guadalupe street; and **Pfc. Ben N. Garza**, husband of Mrs. Jimmie Garza, 908 Josephine street.

ZOMBOLA — The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. George Warren Zombola, 908 Josephine Street, died in a local hospital early Monday morning. Besides his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Warren Zombola he is survived by his grandparents; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Zombola of Austin and Mr. and Mrs. O. Haynes of Ben Wheeler, Tex. Funeral services were held in the chapel of Wilke Funeral home at 4 p. m. Monday with the Rev. O. C. Crow of the Grace Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in the Oakwood Cemetery.

FIGHTERS for FREEDOM. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 30 Nov 1945: 28

Obituary. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 05 May 1947: 11.

MRS. ELLA BELLE ABNEY

Mrs. Ella Belle Abney, 81, of 908 Josephine, died in a local hospital Monday following an extended illness. She had been a resident of Austin and Travis County 37 years and was a member of Kinney Avenue Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, J. B. Abney of Austin; eight daughters, Mrs. Ben M. Garza, Mrs. Pat LaTouf, Mrs. C. O. Smith, Mrs. Aubrey Shelby, all of Austin, Mrs. Joseph M. Brooks of Lowell, Mass., Mrs. Ralph Cundiff of Dallas, Mrs. Earl Wade of Brownsville and Mrs. Buford Scott of Victoria; a son, Davis L. Abney of Austin; 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

• Funeral arrangements are pending completion at Wilke-Clay Funeral Home.

• Burial will be in Forest Oaks Memorial Park.

DEATHS AND FUNERALS. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 10 July 1967: 19.

Permits

Ben N. Garza 908 Josephine ST
 110 - - C

Okie Hts

Brick Venr Res & Box Gragae

21770 - 5-14-41

5

7-30-73 137458 Metal addn. to acc. bldg.
 (carport)

OWNER	Ben Garza	ADDRESS	908 Josephine St.
PLAT	110	LOT	C
			BLK
SUBDIVISION	Okie Hts.		
OCCUPANCY	Game Room		
BLD PERMIT #	138503	DATE	9-26-73
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	\$4,000.00
CONTRACTOR	Owner	NO. OF FIXTURES	1
WATER TAP REC #	exist	SEWER TAP REC #	exist
Frame addn. to rear of res. 480 sq.ft.			