

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
PR-2023-089804; GF-2023-101931
4601 CHIAPPERO TRAIL

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1960 house.

ARCHITECTURE

The house at 4601 Chiappero Trail is of mid-century Modern design and was constructed as a family home by architect Warren A. Willhoite in 1960.¹

RESEARCH

4601 Chiappero Trail, built by architect Warren A. Willhoite, was completed in 1960. Willhoite lived in the home until his death in 1995, and his wife, Julia, remained in the home until she passed in 2021. Warren August Willhoite was employed with C. H. Page during the 1950s. Willhoite built his family home on the edge of a significant grouping of similar homes designed in the previous decade by Herbert Crume. Crume and Willhoite both worked with Arthur Fehr, and both Mrs. Crume and Mrs. Willhoite served with the Women’s Architectural League.

Julia Elizabeth Oliphant Willhoite was an early childhood education specialist who worked as director of All Saints’ Episcopal School and served two terms on Texas’ Advisory Council for Early Childhood Education.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

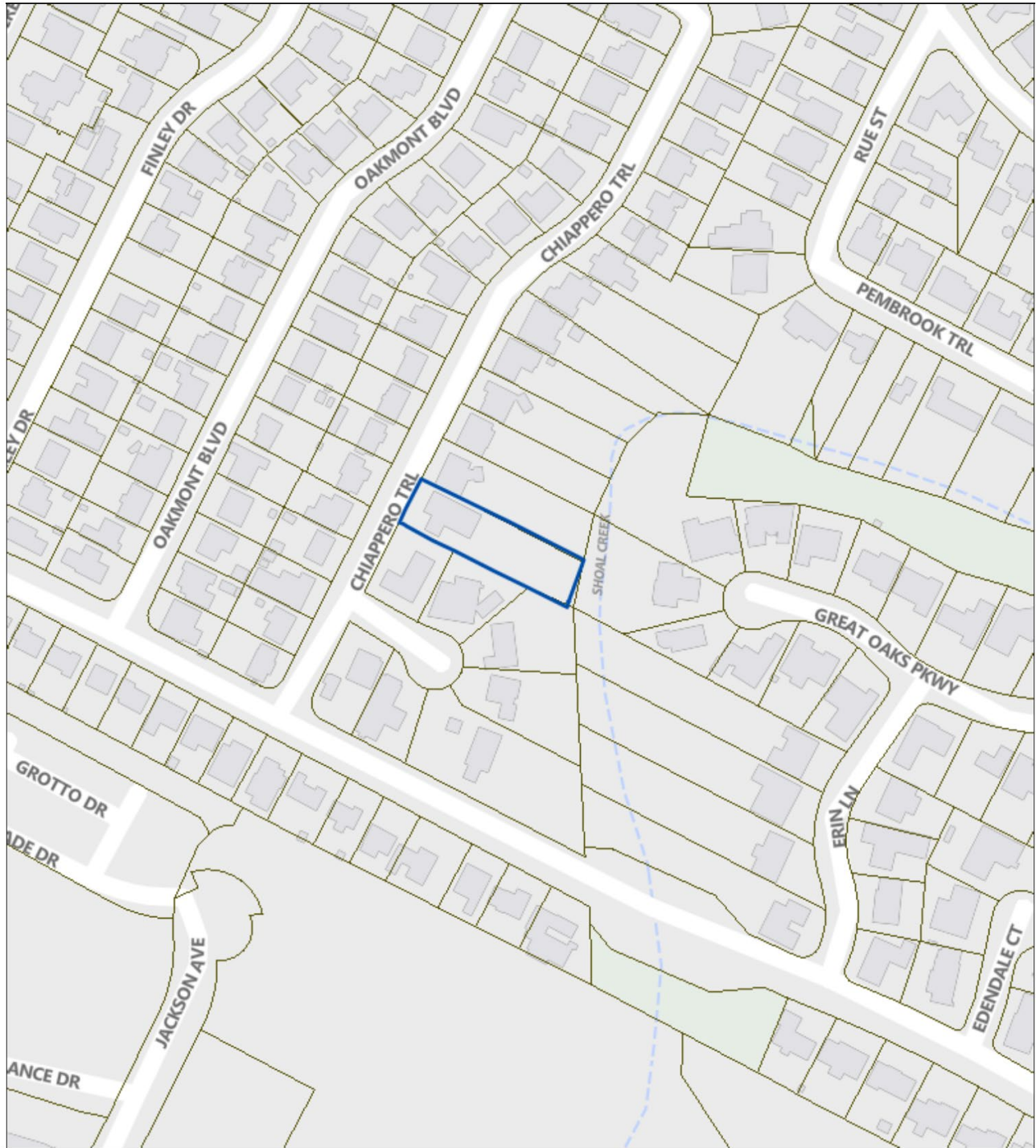
- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building is a good example of mid-century Modern design.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with architect Warren A. and educator Julia O. Willhoite.
 - 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 may 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, as it lies on the edge of a significant grouping of similar homes on Chiappero Trail and La Ronde, likely eligible as a local historic district.
 - 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

Consider whether the home’s historical associations are sufficient for landmark designation; if so, initiate historic zoning. Should the Commission decide against initiation, release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

¹ “Crume New Partner in Architect’s Firm.” The Austin American (1914-1973); 29 Jan 1961: C10.

LOCATION MAP






1" = 2400'

8/23/2023

GF 23-101931

4601 CHAPPERO TRAIL



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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos

Demolition permit application, 2023

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, August 2023

1962 Warren and Julia Willhoite, owners

AHS to Open Nursery School

Child Development Study in High School Coordinated With Home, Arts Courses

A miniature school with tiny chairs, tables and pupils is being started at Austin High School.

The new nursery school will provide a laboratory for home economics students as well as a scientifically run play school for the 25 two, three and four-year-olds who will attend it.

The school, sponsored by the high school, will be incorporated in the study program of other students. Band members will play for the children, choir singers guide elementary music activities, and English students study speech development.

"So many students do not go on to college, where opportunities for child development study are more numerous, that high school is a good place for such study," Mrs. Warren Willhoite, a supervisor, said. "All students will benefit from the school."

The new school is one of only a few on the high school level in the state, Mrs. Willhoite said.

All children between the ages of two and four are eligible to attend the school, although only 25 can be enrolled.

Outdoor play and indoor play with art materials, simple music, stories and blocks will be provided under the supervision of Mrs. Willhoite, Mrs. George Sutherland and home economics students. The staff members will guide, rather than teach, Mrs. Willhoite explained. The school is under the direction of Mrs. Florence E. Richey, head of the high school home economics department. Mrs. Richey is accepting applications from mothers interested in enrolling their children.

HMS to Open Nursery School. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 18 Sep 1946: 7.

Women's Architectural League Hosts Coffee

Outstanding Austin women and wives of prominent city, county and state officials were among the guests who were also honorees at a coffee Wednesday morning given by the Women's Architectural League of Austin at the Austin Country Club.

Invited as guest-honorees were representatives of related organizations, women holding top offices and wives of officials.

New Group

As the women's Architectural League is one of the newest auxiliaries in town, the coffee was given as a good will gesture to get better acquainted with other groups in town.

Refreshments were served from a table decoration with an arrangement of bird of paradise flanked by Italian pottery pheasants.

Mrs. Bertram Giesecke and Mrs. C. H. Page Sr. poured the first hour, and Mrs. Charles Granger Jr. and Mrs. Ralph Stirman, the second.

Assisting with serving were Mesdames W. O. Gustafson, Jon Bowman, L. H. Lungren and William Milburn.

Among Guests

Attending were such prominent Austin women as Mrs. Emma Long, the only woman on the city council, and Mrs. C. A. McAden, wife of Mayor McAden. Wives of high state officials including Mrs. Allan Shivers, Mrs. John Ben Shepperd and Mrs. Al Muldrow.

Guests were greeted at the door by Mesdames Barton D. Riley, Madison Mills, Whit Phillips and Jarred Torrance.

League officers who composed the receiving line were Mrs. Hugo A. Kuehne, president; Mrs. Hugh L. McBlath, vice president; Mrs. Kelly McAdams, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Hans Turley, treasurer.

Assisting as hostesses were Mesdames R. Max Brooks, Fred

Willhoite Couple Blessed With Son

Mr. and Mrs. Warren A. Willhoite, 4802 Duval, are the proud parents of a son, Steven William, their second, born Friday at Seton Hospital.

The father is an architect employed by C. H. Page and Sons. The mother is a former teacher at Austin High School Nursery School. Both are University of Texas graduates.

Willhoite Couple Blessed With Son. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 24 July 1954: 14.

Women's Architectural League Hosts Coffee. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 16 Mar 1955: 9.

Report Upcoming

Austin architects Arthur Fehr, Barton D. Riley, Warren Willhoite and Herbert Crume will make a report of their studies of the school building and grounds at a meeting of the Highland Park Parent - Teachers Association Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

P-TA To Hear Four Architects

Plans for improvements to the building and grounds of Highland Park School and adjoining park facilities will be presented Thursday at 7:30 p. m. at the school's monthly P-TA meeting.

Four Austin architects — Arthur Fehr, Warren Willhoite, Pat Riley and Herbert Crume — will present the plans.

Report Upcoming. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 11 Jan 1962: A2

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 25 Jan 1962: A13.

All Saints' To Start 16th Year Sept. 10

All Saints' Episcopal School at Gregg House, 209 West 27th Street will begin its 16th year when the fall term begins Sept. 10.

Religious in character, the school aims to develop the whole child—mental, physical and spiritual qualities—into a Christian personality, according to Martin Secker, board of trustees chairman.

Mrs. Warren Willhoite will continue as director and teacher of the four - year - old group. Mrs. Thomas H. Nance Jr. will teach the three-year-olds and Mrs. David Stratton and Mrs. Herbert Hector the five-year-old groups. Members of the All Saints' Church of St. Margaret's Guild started the school for pre-school children in 1946.

MRS. W. A. WILLHOITE

Funeral services for Mrs. W. A. (Laura Beulah) Willhoite, 89, 4601 Chiappero Trail, were held at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home Sunday. Otis Lorton officiated and burial was in Austin Memorial Park.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Church of Christ.

Active pallbearers were Warren A. Willhoite, Ross R. Willhoite, Donald E. Willhoite, Robert L. Willhoite, Ernie Dean Willhoite and Larry Willhoite, grandsons of Mrs. Willhoite.

All Saints' To Start 16th Year Sept. 10. The Austin American (1914-1973); 26 Aug 1962: D1.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 04 Dec 1961: 19.

WARREN A. WILLHOITE

Warren Allen Willhoite, 22, of 4601 Chiappero Trail, died in Denton Friday. A lifetime resident of Austin, he attended McCallum High School, was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and was doing graduate work in computer science. He was a teaching fellow at North Texas State University in Denton at the time of his death. He had been in Denton since September.

Willhoite was a member of the University Avenue Church of Christ in Austin and an Eagle Scout with God and Country award.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Warren A. Willhoite; three brothers, Steven, Kevin, and Robin Willhoite; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Willhoite, all of Austin.

Funeral will be Monday at 10:30 a.m. at Weed-Corley Funeral Home, Minister Lanny Henninger officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Capitol Area Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Education advisors keep jobs

Capitol Staff

Gov. Dolph Briscoe has reappointed of 23 members to the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education.

Briscoe announced the appointment of one new member, Dr. George A. Constant of Victoria to replace Dr. Jaime Quintanilla of Amarillo who resigned.

The two-year terms expire June 16, 1977.

Reappointed from the Austin area were Dr. Glen French, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Dr. Alberta Castenada, Stuart Fisher, Mrs. Mabel Pitts, Mrs. Karen Quebe, Mrs. Julia Willhoite.

The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; 25 Nov 1973: B2.

Education advisors keep jobs. Capitol Staff. The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; 10 Apr 1976: A5

Julia Elizabeth Oliphint Willhoite was born on February 12, 1923 and died peacefully on January 9, 2021 at age 97. Born in Huntsville, Texas, she was the daughter of Clifford Blanton Oliphint and Caroline Salley Prentice Oliphint. She graduated from Huntsville High School in 1940 and attended Sam Houston College (Huntsville) from 1940-1942. Julia married Warren Augustus Willhoite on November 28, 1942 at First Methodist Church in Huntsville, after he charmingly proposed to her by "telling" her they would be married on his birthday. Warren and Julia lived in Houston for two years until 1944, when they moved to Austin. Julia graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and Child Development.

Julia worked for three years at Austin High School Child Development Laboratory Nursery School. After taking time off to raise four sons, in 1963 she was asked to become the Director of All Saints' Episcopal School, where she worked until 1977.

Julia was an avid genealogist, traveling the US and abroad searching dusty courthouse documents and long-forgotten graveyards to locate old family records. Her interest in genealogy and research led to memberships and leadership positions in many organizations, including Daughters of the Republic of Texas, The National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, Daughters of the American Revolution, Ladies of the Thistle, and Magna Carta Dames, to name but a few.

She and her family were involved with the Boy Scouts, enjoying summers at Philmont Scout Ranch. Julia and Warren spent 25 years square dancing and loved dancing at Kirkwood Lodge in Missouri. More recent summers were spent with her dear cousins at the Frio River. She loved to travel, and some of her favorite places were Mexico, Brazil, England, Scotland, Wales, France, and Switzerland. Until the end of her life, she proudly lived in the Austin home Warren designed and built in 1960.

Julia joined University Avenue Church of Christ in 1945, where she was the longest-standing member.

Julia was preceded in death by her husband Warren (November 28, 1920 - February 10, 1995), son Warren Allen (January 4, 1951 - November 21, 1973), sister (Salley) Carol Oliphint Reed, sister Emma Dean Oliphint Adams, and brother Dryden Lawton Prentice. Julia is survived by devoted sons Steven and wife Amber, Kevin and wife Nini, and Robin and wife Karina; grandchildren Christopher, Laura, William, Happy, and Cara; and great-grandchildren Hannah and Ira. Huntsville family include nieces Ruth Lynn Parker and Julie Woods. Other extended family from Huntsville are Casey Spencer, Cheryl Spencer, Nancy Hyde, and Joy Jechow.

Family and community were of the utmost importance to Julia. Our matriarch was strong-willed, opinionated, open-minded, and always forgiving, generous, and loving. She will be profoundly missed.

Source: <https://obituaries.itemonline.com/obituary/julia-oliphint-willhoite-1081435996> +

La Ronde Court | SAH ARCHIPEDIA

SAH ARCHIPEDIA sah-archipedia.org/buildings/TX-01-AU85

Gerald Moorhead et al., "La Ronde Court", [Austin, Texas], SAH Archipedia, eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: UVaP, 2012—, <http://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/TX-01-AU85>.

1950–1955, Herbert C. Crume. La Ronde St. at Chiappero Trail



(Photograph by Gerald Moorhead)

Just off W. 45th Street is one of the city's most intact enclaves of post-World War II modern houses. Designed by local architect Crume, the houses use flat and low-pitched roofs over brick veneer and glass walls to reflect popular residential design of the era. The houses at 4601 and 4603 Chiappero Trail and 2600–2607 La Ronde Street make up nine single-family houses that are remarkable in their one-story, elongated modernist forms and remain largely unaltered.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/TX-01-AU85>

Permits

Mr. & Mrs. Warren A. Willhoite 4601 Chiappero Trail
 182 47+ So. 15' of 46 C

Shoalwood #1

Stone Veneer Residence att. C. P.

73908 8-28-59 \$10,000.00

Don Willhoite 10

20710 32530

RESIDENCE