

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
OCTOBER 4, 2023
PR-2023-112741; GF-2023-118722
3900 BECKER AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1931 house and outbuilding.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story Craftsman house with clipped cross-gabled roof, 1:1 windows with decorative screens, a partial-width inset porch, asbestos siding, and decorative jigsaw brackets at gable ends. The outbuilding is a simple frame structure with board-and-batten siding.

RESEARCH

The house at 3900 Becker Avenue was built around 1931. Its earliest occupants, the Wolf family, lived there for over forty years. Hilmer F. Wolf was working as a press operator for the Von Boeckmann-Jones publishing company in the early- and mid-1930s, but by 1939 he was working as a painter. The next year, he began working as a carpenter and maintenance engineer for Brackenridge Hospital. Hilmer Wolf lived in the home with his wife, Eleanora Wolf, and their two daughters.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The 2021 North Loop-Hancock-Boggy Creek survey lists the property as a medium priority for preservation.

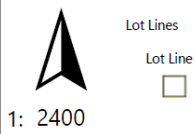
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high to moderate integrity. While it appears to have been subject to significant deferred maintenance, most character-defining features remain. Exterior siding was replaced during the period of significance.
- 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 is constructed in the Craftsman style.
 - 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

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

LOCATION MAP



Lot Lines
Lot Line

GF 23-118722

3900 BECKER AVENUE



9/20/2023

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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos





Occupancy History

City Directory Research, September 2023

- 1959 Hilmer F. Wolf, owner
- 1955 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – painter, Public Works Department
- 1952 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – carpenter, Brackenridge Hospital
- 1949 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – carpenter, Brackenridge Hospital
- 1944-45 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – maintenance
- 1941 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – maintenance engineer, Brackenridge Hospital
- 1939 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – painter
- 1935 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – press feeder, Von Boeckmann-Jones
- 1932 Hilmer F. and Eleanora Wolf, owners – Von Boeckmann-Jones Co.
- 1929 Address not listed.

Historical Information

WOLF, Mrs. Eleanora, 72, of 3900 Becker, died Saturday. Services were Monday, Colonial Chapel, Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Survivors: husband, Hilmer Wolf, Austin; daughters, Mrs. Thomas Breen, Mrs. James Hecht, Austin; brother Wallace J. Leser, Austin.

Deaths and Services. The Austin American - Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed. 15 Apr 1974: 22.

Permits

NE **WATER SERVICE PERMIT** E No 21566
 Austin, Texas **INDEXED**

Received of NOR RECORD OF SERVICE, RENEW IF NOT COPPER Date 8-3-51

Address 3900 BECKER AVE LOT 17

Amount \$ Pd Tap

Plumber _____ Size of Tap 7/8

Water tap, 1951

Helmer Wolf 3900 Becker Ave.
 81 17 1

Country Club Heights**Remodel & Repair Residence**

85338 9-17-62 250.00

Johnson & Ward -

RESIDENCE
Apply Asb. Sdg.

Remodel permit, 1962