

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
NOVEMBER 1, 2023
PR-2023-087312; GF-2023-101917
701 SPARKS AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1925 house and ca. 1937 secondary structure.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story Spanish Colonial Revival house with stucco exterior, flat roof with crenellated parapet and hipped roof with terra cotta tile, a partially glazed entry door flanked by simple sidelights, a curved entry porch supported by Classical columns, and 1:1 wood windows with 6:1 screens. The secondary apartment is two stores, also stucco, with double wood garage doors and 1:1 wood windows.

RESEARCH

The house at 701 Sparks Avenue, originally addressed as 101 Sparks Avenue, was built in 1925 for Knox Thomas and Sallie Rogers Johnson by contractor Marvin Gordon McGaugh. McGaugh built four other Spanish eclectic homes on spec in the Harris Park neighborhood and narrowed his contracting scope to roofing only in the later half of the 1920s. The Johnson house was the only residence built specifically for a client.¹ The rise of Spanish Eclectic and Mission Revival buildings in the area aligns with Harris Park's development as a whole; their popularity arose when Hugo Kuehne designed his own nearby home in the style and followed Kuehne's early involvement in development of Eastwoods Park.²

Knox T. Johnson, son of long-term postmaster and City Clerk John O. Johnson, began his career in Austin as a farmer, but moved into cement and pavement construction. Johnson completed multiple large municipal contracts during the early twentieth century as Austin's booming economy drove infrastructure improvements. Along with partner Wallace R. Miller—father-in-law of Austin Mayor Tom Miller—Johnson formed Johnson and Miller in 1913.³ In an informal survey by Austin concrete historian Kelly Dickens, the surveyor notes that Johnson-stamped curbing is among some of the oldest remaining in town. According to Dickens, only 9 Knox T. Johnson stamps remained in 2014.⁴

Sallie Rogers Johnson was the daughter of Travis County pioneer Ed Rogers⁵ and aunt to St. Louis Cardinals manager and second baseman Rogers Hornsby, a Hall-of-Famer earning the third-best batting average in history and accolades as the best right-hand hitter of all time.⁶ After Sallie Johnson's death in 1942, the family moved away and the house at 701 Sparks spent several years as a rental property. By the 1950s, Virginia Harris, who worked as secretary to the Texas State Board of Insurance Commissioners, had purchased the home. She lived there for at least 10 years.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The 2020 North Loop-Hancock-Boggy Creek survey lists the primary building on the property as a high priority and individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as retaining sufficient integrity to contribute to a potential local historic district. The survey lists the secondary building as a medium priority.

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 Spanish Colonial Revival architecture with eclectic detailing and is one of only five built by contractor Marvin Gordon McGaugh in the Harris Park neighborhood.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with Knox Thomas and Sallie Johnson.
 - c. Archaeology. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.

¹ The Austin American (1914-1973); 29 Mar 1925: 2.

² Interview with historian Terri Myers on her research in the area, 2023.

³ The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 19 June 1951: 1.

⁴ Dickens, Kelly. "Knox T. Johnson." *Curb Appeal: Historical Concrete of Austin, Texas*. 2014. <https://kellyddickens.wordpress.com/2014/07/11/knox-t-johnson/>

⁵ Myers, Terri. Audio interview with Diane Hale, 2020.

⁶ Rogers, C. Paul III. "Rogers Hornsby." *Society for American Baseball Research*. <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/rogers-hornsby/>.

- d.* Community value. The property is directly adjacent to Eastwoods Park and represents a significant grouping of Spanish Eclectic and Mission Revival homes in Central Austin, precipitated by architect and city planner Hugo Kuehne's early residential designs in the area.
- 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

Initiate historic zoning. The building is architecturally unique in style and appears to have significant historical associations.

LOCATION MAP



Lot Lines
Lot Line

GF 23-101917

701 SPARKS AVENUE

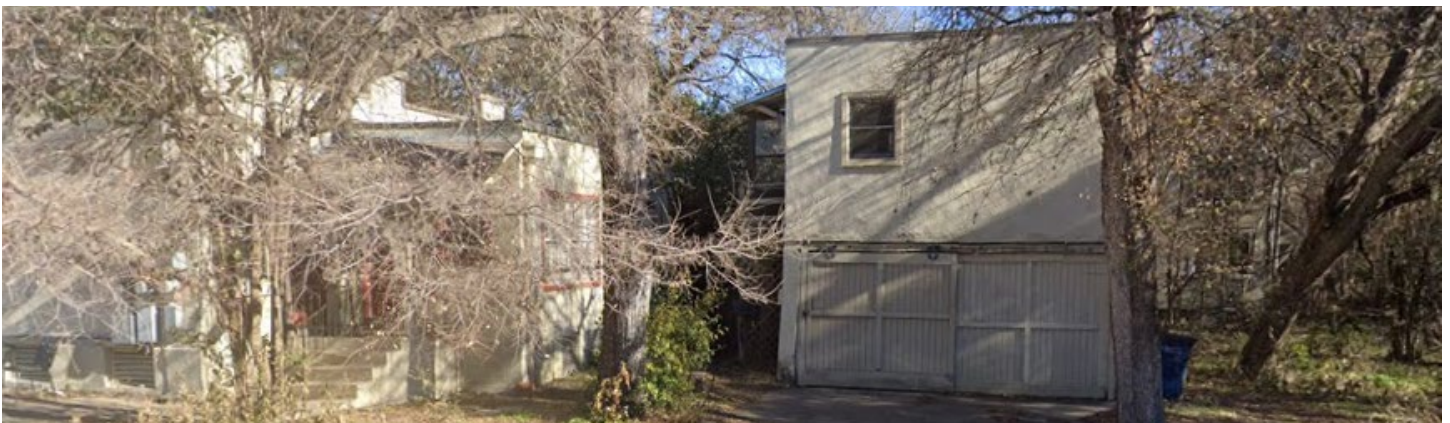


8/21/2023

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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Google Maps— 2023



Demolition permit application, 2023





[Zillow.com](https://www.zillow.com)

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, July 2023

- 1959 Virginia Harris – secretary, State Board of Insurance Commissioners
- 1957 Virginia Harris – secretary, State Board of Insurance Commissioners
- 1955 Virginia Harris – secretary, State Board of Insurance Commissioners
- 1954 Virginia Harris – secretary, State Board of Insurance Commissioners
- 1953 Virginia Harris – secretary, State Board of Insurance Commissioners
- 1952 Irving L. & Dorothy Ravel – Kara-Vel Shoe Stores No. 1
- 1949 J. Neff & Sarah Mainer – Mainer’s Auto Supplies
- 1947 J. Neff & Sarah Mainer – Mainer’s Auto Supplies
- 1944 James M. & Vida Faust – Engineer
- 1942 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1941 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1940 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1939 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1937 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1935 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners – cement finisher
- 1932 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1930 *Addressed as 101 Sparks Avenue*
Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1929 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1927 Knox T. & Sallie Johnson, owners
- 1924 Address not listed.



701 SPARKS AVE

Property Information

Survey ID: 208701_01

Parcel ID: 208701

Neighborhood: Hancock

Preservation Priority

Priority: High

Resource Type

Type: Building (Primary resource)

Year Built

Year built: c.1925

Source: Newspaper article(s)



Use

Current use: Domestic: multiple dwelling

Former use: Domestic: single dwelling

Form and Style

Form: Rectangular

Style influences: Spanish Colonial Revival

Stories

Stories: 1

Alterations

window opening(s) infilled; Sleeping porch enclosed and apartment added at rear of house

Roof

Primary type: ☐ A-frame ☐ Conical ☐ Gable-on-hip ☐ Gambrel ☐ Pyramidal
☐ Barrel ☐ Double-pitch-hip ☐ Gable, crossed ☐ Hipped ☐ Sawtooth
☐ Butterfly ☒ Flat ☐ Gable, front ☐ Mansard ☐ Shed
☐ Complex ☐ Gable ☐ Gable, side ☐ Other ☐ Unknown - not visible

Materials: ☐ Clay tile ☐ Composition tile ☐ Other ☐ Slate tile ☐ Wood shake/shingle
☐ Composition shingle ☐ Metal ☐ Rolled asphalt ☒ Unknown - not visible

Features: ☐ Clipped gable ☐ Exposed purlins ☐ Exposed rafters ☐ None ☐ Other ☒ Parapet ☐ Unknown - not visible



Historic Resources Survey of North Loop, Hancock, and Upper Boggy Creek Planning Areas - Austin, TX
Survey Form for High Preservation Priority Buildings (Survey ID 208701_01)



Exterior Walls

- Materials:
- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass block | <input type="checkbox"/> PermaStone | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass skin | <input type="checkbox"/> Stone | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood siding panels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass, pigmented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stucco | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood vertical board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Glazed brick/tile/block | <input type="checkbox"/> Terra cotta | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood, board and batten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> Hollow tile blocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown - not visible | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood, plywood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete/cinder block | <input type="checkbox"/> Log | <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl siding | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enameled steel | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood horizontal board | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineered siding | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood shingles | |

Porch

- Type: ☐ Full-width ☐ None ☐ Partial-width ☐ Set within ell ☐ Unknown - not visible
☐ Integrated ☒ Other ☒ Projecting ☐ Stoop ☐ Wrap-around

Other: Portico with full-width patio

- Roof: ☒ Flat ☐ Gable ☐ Hipped ☐ Mansard ☐ None ☐ Other ☐ Shed ☐ Unknown - not visible

- Supports: ☐ Arches ☒ Classical column(s) ☐ Other ☐ Tapered box support(s) ☐ Wood post(s) - plain
☐ Box column(s) ☐ Fabricated metal ☐ Suspension cables ☐ Unknown - not visible ☐ Wood post(s) - turned
☐ Brackets ☐ None ☐ Suspension rods ☐ With piers or pedestals

Primary Door

- Type: ☐ Double door ☐ Other ☒ Single door ☐ Unknown - not visible

- Features: ☐ None ☐ Other ☒ Sidelights ☐ Transom ☐ Unknown - not visible

Windows

- Types: ☐ Awning or hopper ☐ Fixed ☐ Other ☐ Porthole ☐ Sliding
☐ Casement ☐ Louver ☐ Pivot ☒ Single-hung/double-hung ☐ Unknown - not visible

- Materials: ☐ Glass block ☐ Metal ☐ Other ☐ Unknown - not visible ☐ Vinyl/fiberglass ☒ Wood

- Features: ☒ Decorative screenwork ☐ Leaded glass ☐ None ☐ Other ☐ Stained glass ☐ Unknown - not visible

Chimneys

Number: 1

- Location: ☒ Exterior ☐ Interior ☐ N/A ☐ Other

- Materials: ☐ Brick ☐ N/A ☐ Other ☐ Stone ☒ Stucco

- Features: ☐ Corbelled caps ☒ N/A ☐ None ☐ Other

Historic Resources Survey of North Loop, Hancock, and Upper Boggy Creek Planning Areas - Austin, TX
Survey Form for High Preservation Priority Buildings (Survey ID 208701_01)



Ancillary Buildings

Garages: None visible

Sheds: None visible

Other: None visible

Landscape Features

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brick wall | <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown - not visible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete wall | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Well/cistern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entry piers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stone wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood fence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Terracing | |

Other: Concrete wall enclosing patio

Architect and Builder

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Source:

Occupant history *Note: An "o" after a name means "owner" and an "r" means "renter."*

History: 1937: Knox T Johnson (o, cement fnshr), Sallie R Johnson, Guy W Ewing (UT Student)

1942: Knox T Johnson (o), Sallie Johnson, Calvin L Clausel Jr (UT Student)

1947: J Neff Mainier (o), Sarah Mainier (Lacks Associate Store)

1952: Irving L Ravel (o), Dorothy Ravel (Kara-Vel Shoe Stores)

1957: Virginia Harris (o, priv sec State Bd of Ins Comrs), Lula Harris

Source: City directories

Notes

General notes: Historically 101 Sparks Ave, built by Knox T. Johnson and Sallie R. Johnson in 1926. Johnson was a cement contractor and may have been involved in the construction of the house.

Surveyor notes:

Legal Description

LOT 1&2 OLT 1 DIV X HARRIS PARK ADDN



Existing Designation

Individual: ☐ Austin Historic Landmark ☐ HTC ☐ NHL ☒ Not currently designated ☐ NRHP ☐ RTHL ☐ SAL

District: ☒ Not currently designated ☐ Within local district ☐ Within NRHP district

District Name: N/A

Individual Recommendations

Recommendation: N/A - has Austin Historic Landmark potential if second criteria is identified

Justification: N/A

Criteria: ☐ Architecture ☐ Archeology ☐ Landscape feature
☐ Historical associations ☐ Community value ☐ N/A - Already an NRHP, RTHL, SAL, or NHL property

Individual NRHP Recommendations

Recommendation: Recommended individually eligible for the NRHP

Justification: Good example of 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival residential architecture in Austin; embodies the characteristics of the style.

Criteria: ☐ A - Event/Trend ☐ B - Person ☒ C - Architecture/Engineering ☐ D - Archeology

Area of sig.: Architecture

Local District Recommendations

Local: N/A

Contributing/Noncontributing: N/A

Note: Retains sufficient integrity to contribute to a local historic district

NRHP District Recommendations

NRHP: N/A

Contributing/Noncontributing: N/A

Note:

Heritage Tourism Potential

Individual: No

Accessibility: N/A

Category: N/A

District: No

Accessibility: N/A

Category: N/A

AUSTIN MEN SECURE TEMPLE PAVING JOB

**KNOX JOHNSON AND R. V. DIXON
ARE THE LOWEST BIDDERS
AND CONTRACT IS AWARDED
TO THEM.**

Knox Johnson telephoned his father, John O. Johnson, yesterday afternoon that he and R. V. Dixon, two of Austin's contractors, were the lowest bidders for the paving of the streets at Temple and the contract was awarded to them. They will begin work within a few days.

The paving contract amounts to approximately \$100,000 and will all be done by the two Austin men.

Knox Johnson, son of City Clerk John O. Johnson, was in town from his farm yesterday, reporting that conditions there were never better.

Sidewalks. The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); July 1904: 5.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 27 June 1909: 2

Historical information

COURT HOUSE CONTRACTS

COMMISSIONERS' COURT WILL
BUILD ADDITION TO VAULTS
AND WILL CONSTRUCT
SIDEWALKS.

The county commissioners' court yesterday let a contract to Halger & Plume to erect a two-story addition to the vault in the county clerk's office and that in the district clerk's office, immediately above. The new walls will inclose a ground space 111-2x30 feet larger than that at present occupied, and will be on the south side of the building toward the rear. The contract price is \$2318, the bid of J. Wattinger being \$2439.35.

The contractor was required to file a bond in the sum of \$1500. Work will begin promptly, and two months' time is allowed for the completion of the work.

A contract was also let for about 348 feet of sidewalk on the north side of Eleventh street in front of the jail and court house, and gutter for about 330 feet of that distance. The sidewalk will remain at its present level but on account of the raising of the street grade the curb line will in places be as much as two feet ten inches above the sidewalk. The contract was let to Knox Johnson at 60 cents per foot for straight sidewalk and 75 cents for

SIGN PAVING CONTRACT

EAST SIXTH STREET, FROM RED
RIVER TO EAST AVENUE TO
BE PAVED WITH VITRI-
FIED BRICK.

Work of paving East Sixth street, from Red River to East Avenue, with vitrified brick is to begin soon. The city council yesterday signed the contract for the improvement with S. Burland and Knox Johnson, the contractors.

Contractor Burland said after the contract was signed that the paving will begin as soon as brick can be secured and when the work starts it will be pushed rapidly to completion.

WORKING ON PAVING MATTER.

City Engineer Is Figuring and Attorney Drawing Contracts.

City Engineer Iredell is engaged in figuring the cost of the projected street paving to the various individual property owners, preliminary to giving legal notice so that they can appear before the City Council and urge any objections that they may have. City Attorney Rector, after conferring with Mr. Pittman, representing the Bitulithic Company, and Knox T. Johnson, the wood block contractor, will draw the contracts between the city and these two contractors, and between them and the various property owners who will foot the bills.

It is expected that these two city officials will complete the work mentioned within the next day or two.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 27 Feb 1910: 4.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Sep 1910: 5.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 28 Apr 1911: 5.

AWARD ANOTHER CONTRACT

Sidewalk Building Campaign Is Gaining Impetus—To Improve Downtown Cross Streets.

Additional impetus was given the sidewalk campaign just launched by the City Council yesterday, when Knox T. Johnson was awarded a contract for constructing walks on both sides of the downtown cross streets now being paved by the Texas Bitulithic Company. The streets affected are Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Tenth, for a distance of three blocks on each side of Congress avenue. The contractor is to be paid 12 cents per square yard for laying the walks and 20 cents per yard for installing curbing. He is to begin work as soon as the paving force has proceeded far enough to warrant free operations of the sidewalk laying gang. The cost is to be borne by the property owners in the district affected.

Good walks are already laid in front of many residences and business places in the district. The aim of the council, however, is to make the walk system co-extensive with the paving district.

Councilman Powell is at work on plans for other sidewalk building and he will probably submit additional propositions from week to week at the council meetings.

Excavation has been begun for the commencement of work on the wood block paving contract let by the city some months ago to Knox T. Johnson. The City Street Department is advised that the wood blocks are now in transit and that on their arrival within the next few days the work of laying the pavement will proceed. The excavation was started in the alley lying between Congress avenue and Brazos street and connecting Sixth and Fifth. That part of this year's paving operations to be done with wood blocks this block of alley and its continuation to Seventh street, besides the corresponding two blocks lying between Congress and Colorado and three blocks of Fourth street. The laying of the pavement has been delayed up to this time largely through inability to get the blocks delivered. Councilman Powell reported in connection with the bitulithic paving that excavations were begun yesterday preliminary to laying the pavement on West Tenth street.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 07 May 1911: 10.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 29 July 1911: 8.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 22 Sep 1911: 8.

CEMENT CONTRACTORS

The best of service is guaranteed by the following contractors:

MAUFRAIS & CO.
Residence, 817 W. 12th.
Old 'phone 2691.

KNOX T. JOHNSON.
Residence, 1205 Nueces.
Office 'phone 163 old. Home 2556.

PAVING ALMOST COMPLETE

Bitulithic Company Finishing Contract on West Sixth—Alleys Being Paved With Blocks.

The Bitulithic Company wound up the paving of West Tenth street yesterday and so is practically through with its Austin contract, with the exception of West Sixth street. On West Sixth the concrete base is laid on the south side of the car tracks and is ready for the bitulithic surface, but since the spreading of concrete on the north side of the street was only begun yesterday it is likely that the finishing work will be held up until both sides have had time to settle.

The bitulithic people will begin today the building of a temporary curb wall on the Tenth street side of the First Baptist church. This will include two sets of steps, one on the Tenth street side and one on the west of Colorado street side.

The first piece of wood block paving was finished yesterday by Knox T. Johnson. This was the alley in the first block east of Congress avenue between Sixth and Fifth streets. Excavating will begin right away. It was announced, in the same alley between Sixth and Seventh—that is, just west of the Driskill hotel. The blocks are now arriving as fast as they can be used by the contractor, who has the contract for four alley blocks and three or four blocks on Fourth street.

It was learned that Contractor Johnson intends to begin work today putting down the brick pavement in Congress avenue adjacent to the property of the Hume Lumber Company.

ARE FILLING UP THE GAP.

Pavement-layers Are at Work on Lower Congress Avenue.

Excavating was begun yesterday in front of the Hume lumber yard and planing mill on Congress avenue between First street and the river, preparatory to laying a brick pavement to fill up the gap that has existed at that point ever since the Avenue was paved, three years ago. The two or three carloads of Thurber brick are on the ground now and will be laid as

soon as the excavation can be made and the concrete base put down. The hole in the pavement covers 100 square yards.

Knox T. Johnson has the contract. Mr. Johnson also has the contract, awarded by the city, to lay the wood block paving on Fourth street and in four blocks of downtown alleys. At last a part of the wood blocks have arrived and a force will soon be at work laying them. Already the work of excavating and putting down the base is under way in the alley just east of Congress avenue and extending from Fifth to Seventh streets.

The spreading of bitulithic on the block between Congress and Brazos on Eighth street was finished yesterday by the bitulithic company. The concrete work was wound up on West Tenth, and excavating was in progress on West Sixth.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 18 Oct 1911: 10.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 10 Oct 1911: 7.

The work of laying a cement walk on the north side of Wooldridge Park began yesterday. A curb will be put in a little later, the contract, including excavations, having been let to Knox T. Johnson for about \$400. This will complete the curb and gutter on all sides of the Park except the west.

The greater part of the amount expended under the head of permanent paving went to the Texas Bitulithic Company, Knox T. Johnson and Ray McDonald, who paved an alley block with what is known as "Dolarway," a concrete paving material.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 16 May 1912: 8.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 16 Aug 1912: 8.

McGAUGH BUILDING FIVE SPANISH HOMES

M. G. McGaugh, local contractor, is specializing in Spanish type houses in the new Harris Place addition, south of the Country Club place. He is completing five of these houses, one of which he is building for Knox Johnson and the other four he will place on the market for \$7500 each. All are of stucco and all are built on different architectural designs. The four houses are of seven rooms, including basement, with built up roof and other features.

KNOX T. JOHNSON
Phone 2506

WALLACE R. MILLER
Phone 2103

Johnson & Miller
CEMENT WALKS AND CURBS

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); 20 Jan 1913: 3.

The Austin American (1914-1973); 29 Mar 1925: 2.

MRS. HORNSBY LOSES VALIANT FIGHT FOR LIFE

Mother of St. Louis Cardinals' Leader Dies at Sister's Home Here.

ILL FOR MANY YEARS

Her Son's Triumph Brought Joy to Her in Last Weeks of Life.

Mrs. M. D. Hornsby, 63, mother of Rogers Hornsby, St. Louis Cardinals manager, closed her eyes in the peaceful sleep of death at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, her last hours made happy that her "baby," the idol of St. Louis baseball fans, had reached the pinnacle of success and led his faithful team to the threshold of a world's series. Her death came after 24 hours of unconsciousness, and after her last message to her son had been to tell him to stand by his post of duty and not to come to her until the world's series was over.

Funeral May Be Delayed.

In compliance with her last wish, tentative plans were being made by her family Wednesday night to delay her funeral until after the world's series, when her youngest son, Rogers, can come to Austin to attend the obsequies.

The Austin American, (1921-1973); 30 Sep 1926. Image courtesy of Preservation Central, Inc. via Newspapers.com.

MRS. HORNSBY'S BODY AWAITS ROGERS

Services for Pioneer Woman at End of Series.

Funeral services for Mrs. M. D. Hornsby, 63, mother of Rogers Hornsby, manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, will not be held until after the close of the world series which opens Saturday between New York Yankees and the St. Louis Cardinals, it was definitely announced by members of the family here at noon Thursday.

The following telegram was sent to the Cardinal manager by members of the family.

"In sympathy with you. Stay. Come as soon as possible. We will keep her."

Walt Series End.
Postponement of the last rites will mean that the body of Mrs. Hornsby will not be entombed before ten days or two weeks since the world series may last longer than one week and it will require several days for Rogers Hornsby to reach Austin from New York where the concluding game of the series is likely to be played.

Meanwhile the body will repose in the parlors of the C. B. Cook undertaking firm.

Services Undecided.
Mrs. Hornsby, before her death, expressed the wish that her son remain at his post during the world series and in obedience to that wish, her son, the Cardinal leader, will remain with his team during the coming series, it was learned last night in an Associated Press dispatch from New York.

Mrs. Hornsby died at the home of her sister, Mrs. Knox T. Johnson, 101 Sparks avenue, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, losing a valiant fight to live until after the world series in which her son is playing a prominent role. She lapsed into unconsciousness 24 hours before the end came and she was denied her last prayer by death.

Pioneer Family.

Mrs. Hornsby, who was Dallas Rogers, was the daughter of the late Ed H. Rogers, pioneer of Travis county, and was born at Rogers Hill in 1863. She was married 45 years ago to A. E. Hornsby, son of William Hornsby and grandson of Reuben Hornsby, first white settler in that part of Austin's colony now known as Travis county. Her husband preceded her in death in 1898.

Mrs. Hornsby is survived by two sons, Everett Hornsby of Tulsa, Okla., and Rogers Hornsby, manager of the St. Louis National league baseball club, and one daughter, Mrs. Maggie Mellow of Fort Worth.

She is also survived by four sisters, Mrs. H. T. Hainey of Lockhart, Mrs. Knox Johnson and Mrs. H. C. Schaefer of Austin and Mrs.

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

Hornsby Services At End of Series

(Continued from Page One.)

Joe Foster of Dallas and four brothers, John D. Rogers and James Rogers of Austin; Prof. Joseph B. Rogers of Jacksonville, Fla., and Ed H. Rogers of Rena, La., Mrs. Judge John W. Hornsby, county attorney of Travis county, is a nephew.

ROGERS TO STAY WITH CARDINALS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—The dying wish of Mrs. M. D. Hornsby that her son Rogers stick to his post as manager and secondbaseman of the St. Louis Cardinals and lead his team against the New York Yankees in the world's series is to be carried out.

The manager had contemplated a race to the bedside of his mother in Austin, Texas, that would have kept him out of the first two games of the classic starting here Saturday. The mother, who had watched from an invalid's bed for the past 11 years the steady march of her son to baseball leadership died yesterday.

The son was informed that her last wish was that he stay with his team. Then he announced he would do as she desired.

The telegram to Mrs. Rogers Hornsby from Austin had much to do with his decision. It was signed "the folks" and said:

"Stay with Rogers. He needs you. All is done here."

The spirits of the Cardinal players, downcast at the news of Mrs. Hornsby's death and the possibility that their leader would be out of the line-up, lightened a little after his decision, to stay was made known.

HORNSBY HERE FOR FUNERAL OF HIS MOTHER

Leader of World's Baseball
Champions Eludes
Crowd

GOES TO AUNT'S HOME

Burial Services to be Held
at 3 o'Clock This
Afternoon

Back Home



Rogers Hornsby, manager of the world's champion St. Louis Cardinals, who reached Austin last night to attend the funeral of his mother, who died here on the eve of his great victory.

They spent the morning and early afternoon in practice at the Yankee stadium while Hornsby remained in his hotel room attempting to decide between conflicting calls to duty. The men learned of Mrs. Hornsby's death when they returned from the field and after a silent evening meal, expressed their sympathy to the manager.

Sorrow over the death of Hornsby's mother was expressed by Miller Huggins, manager of the Yankees; John Heydler, president of the National league, and Commissioner Landis.

"Hornsby," Landis said, "will have one of the hardest fights a man ever had to get hold of himself. A boy feels deeply the loss of his mother, but I think a man feels it even more. I am deeply sorry for him."

Rogers Hornsby, youthful manager of the World Champion St. Louis Cardinal baseball team, arrived in Austin Tuesday night on board the Texas Special. More than 100 people, of whom many were close or distant relatives of the baseball celebrity, awaited the arrival of the baseball hero at the Katy depot in vain, for Hornsby got off the train at the junction just outside the city, in order to avoid the crowd, and was taken by automobile to the home of his aunt, Mrs. Knox Johnson, where his mother died Sept. 29.

POLICE OFFICER IS SHOT DOWN AT HUNTSVILLE

HUNTSVILLE, Oct. 12.—(AP)—C. D. Birmingham, 56, for 30 years a

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 30 Sep 1926: 1. Image courtesy of Preservation Central, Inc. via Newspapers.com.

REALTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OPENS THREE NEW ADDITIONS

Opening and development of three new residence sections in Austin is now under way by the Realty Development company, of which Albert Moore is president and manager. Associated with Mr. Moore in the Realty Development company is Sam Sparks, president of the Texas Bank and Trust company. The additions which are now being added to Austin's home sections include Speedway Heights addition, Harris park addition and University park addition.

Mr. Moore is a man of a long business experience. He was connected with the Texas Bank and Trust company of which Mr. Sparks is president, for several years. It was during his association with the banker that their plan to develop unoccupied land in Austin was formed.

Beautiful Tract.

The Speedway Heights addition is the most recent undertaking. It is a picturesque and exclusively residential district. A \$5,000 single story home and a \$7,500 two-story home are the minimum-priced buildings that the company will permit to be constructed on the addition. There are 20 different kinds of native Texas trees on the land, and bluebonnets grow amid grass and trees and in wild profusion over the whole space. Two different drive-ways curve in and out of the addition, and along their sides are flanged curbs which get the water from the streets, saving them from too much wear. Waller creek runs through the east side of the addition. It will, however, be closed by means of two concrete culverts, says Mr. Moore.

Lots Ready.

Optimistic



The Austin American, Sun, Apr 11, 1926. Page 36. Image courtesy of Preservation Central, Inc. via Newspapers.com.

M'GAUGH ROOFING SPECIALIST IN AUSTIN

M. G. McGaugh, president of the Guaranty Roofing company, says: "We find that roofing is like many other industries. People demand the best and demand that it be applied properly. That is what this company does by having the best roofing materials that can be bought—Bird's Insured—applied by experienced roofers."

The Guaranty Roofing company is the only exclusive roofing company in the city. Mr. McGaugh is a roofing specialist. Consequently, people are turning to this company for advice pertaining to their roofing troubles, and are finding that worries which could never be remedied before, are eradicated by the company's experts.

Roofs Insured.

Bird's roofs are insured—that is the assurance to the builder, both of residences and building establishments. The Brydson Lumber company carries this stock exclusively for the Guaranty Roofing company.

Among recent jobs completed by the company are the Smith office building, on which Bird's Paroid Built-up roofing was used; St. John's orphans' home, Bird's Art-craft roofing; Southland Cotton Oil company's structure, at Temple, Bird's Paroid Built-up roofing; Brazos Valley Cotton Oil company, at Temple, Bird's Paroid Built-up roofing; Lee S. Thrift, residence in Enfield, Bird's Green Hex shingles. Besides these, the company has finished jobs at the University of Texas, and many others.

This mill has a reputation, not only in Austin but throughout the surrounding territory, of being one of the best in this section of the country.

Work such as that turned out at the Brydson mill greatly facilitates the building of homes in Austin, as cabinet jobs which might otherwise have to be ordered from other cities can be supplied with a considerable saving of time.

J. J. and R. W. Brydson are in charge of the contracting and general construction end of the Brydson Lumber company, and William F. Warren takes charge of the retailing of lumber.

The firm has the agency in this territory for the celebrated Edgewood red cedar shingles, 100 per cent edge grain, 104 per cent heart and 100 per cent free from defects. The Brydson company also acts as distributor for Bird & Son's roofs, which the Guaranty Roofing company applies here. A large trade is done in high quality cement; the company handling the widely-known O. K. brand Portland.



M. G. McGaugh, Pres.
His Hobby—To give the best service in roofing.
GUARANTY ROOFING CO.
Scarborough Bldg. Pho 2-3434

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 28 Jan 1928: 5

The Austin American (1914-1973); 01 June 1930: 6.

In the district attorney's office, Jack Sparks was retained from Former Dist. Atty. Edwin Moorhead's administration as an assistant district attorney, while Perry L. Jones replaced Woodrow W. Patterson as the other assistant.

Justice Thurman named Miss Virginia Harris, daughter of Atty. and Mrs. June C. Harris, as secretary in the justice of the peace office to succeed Miss Maybelle Carlson, who retired after a service of 10 years.

HARRIS—Funeral services for June C. Harris, 78, prominent attorney in Austin for the past 17 years, who died at his home, 1208 West Ninth street at 8 a. m. Sunday, were held from the Cook Funeral home at 10 a. m. Monday with Dr. S. G. Posey officiating. Burial was in Oakwood. Pallbearers were H. V. Kiley of Houston, Palmer Bradley of Houston, C. E. Granger of Dallas, all sons-in-law; G. W. Cleveland of Austin, W. T. Hardy of Houston and T. G. Thomas of Austin, all grandsons. Mr. Harris is survived by his widow, Mrs. Maggie Seale Harris; seven daughters, Mrs. E. J. Ezell of Huntsville, Mrs. T. S. Davison of Nacogdoches, Mrs. H. V. Kiley of Houston, Mrs. Palmer Bradley of Houston, Mrs. Charles E. Granger of Dallas, Miss Virginia Harris of Austin and Mrs. Don H. Smith of San Antonio; one son, Audley Harris of Austin; one sister, Miss Lula Harris of Austin; one brother, William Henry Harris of Silsbee; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 02 Jan 1941: 1.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 26 May 1941: 9.

Death Takes Mrs. Johnson

Mrs. Sallie Rogers Johnson, wife of Knox T. Johnson, lifetime resident of Austin, died at the family residence, 701 Sparks avenue at 3 p. m. Friday.

Mrs. Johnson who was a member of the First Southern Presbyterian church, is survived by her husband; three daughters, Mrs. Ernest Jarmon of Austin, Mrs. Otto Schwegman of San Antonio and Mrs. Walter Ragsdale of Austin; a son, John Ed Johnson of Bryan and two sisters, Mrs. H. T. Rainey of Lockhart and Mrs. James Schaffer of Houston; two brothers, J. D. and J. L. Rogers of Austin.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Flynn V. Long, at 4 p. m. Saturday at the family home, 701 Sparks avenue. Burial in Oakwood was under the direction of the Weed-Corley Funeral home.

Pallbearers were Arnold P. Chote, James T. Johnson, Jake Petmecky, Tom Penick, W. T. Rolfe, G. E. Morris, N. L. Gault and H. J. Petmecky.



KNOX T. JOHNSON

Knox Johnson Dies of Attack

Knox Thomas Johnson, 78, prominent cement contractor and lifetime resident of Austin, died Tuesday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ernest E. Jarmon, 701 West 11th Street. His death followed a heart attack.

Johnson, affectionately known as "Uncle Knox," was in the cement contracting business for several decades. His name was imprinted in hundreds of cement sidewalks in the older parts of the city.

For many years he engaged in business under the name of Knox T. Johnson but later became a partner in the contracting firm of Johnson and Miller.

He was born in Austin, Aug. 31, 1872, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Johnson. His father served as city clerk of the City of Austin for more than 25 years.

The body is at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home pending funeral arrangements.

Johnson is survived by one son, John F. Johnson of Bryan; three daughters, Mrs. O. G. Schwegmann of San Antonio and Mrs. W. H. Ragsdill and Mrs. Jarmon, both of Austin; one brother, John O. Johnson of Houston; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 17 Jan 1942: 7
The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 19 June 1951: 1.

MISS ELLA L. HARRIS

Funeral services for Miss Ella L. Harris were held Monday afternoon at the Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Thomas T. Martin officiating.

Miss Harris died at her home, 701 Sparks Avenue, Sunday morning.

She is survived by six nieces, Miss Virginia Harris of Austin, Mrs. H. V. Kiley of San Antonio, Mrs. Palmer Bradley of Houston, Mrs. Donald Smith of Kerrville, Mrs. Tom Davison and Mrs. Ernest Pinkston of Nacogdoches; three nephews, Jack Harris of Nacogdoches, William H. Harris of San Antonio and Lance Harris of San Benito.

Pallbearers were Harry Kiley, Tom Davison Jr., Palmer Bradley, Dr. Glevis Cleveland, John Patrick Cleveland, C. E. Granger, Ted Thomas and William T. Hardy. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

Kara-Vel's 4th Store Carries Shoes for All

Thirty-eight years ago, Irving Ravel and Robert Karotkin, upon finishing the University of Texas, conceived the idea of starting a children's shoe store in Austin, combining the two last names for Kara-Vel, at 717 Congress.

Today Kara-Vel Shoe Stores, Inc. with Irving Ravel as president, consists of four stores located in the Downtown area on Burnet Road, on Cameron Road and now in

WestGate Mall . . . with shoes for all generations.

Having built a reputation of qualified shoe personnel for children, Kara-Vel Shoe Stores expanded into adding exciting new lines for the entire family ten years ago.

Now Kara-Vel offers Pappagallo, Selby, Miss America, Capezio, Joyce, and sandals from Italy, Spain and Brazil for ladies.

Freeman, Alden, John Herbst, Adidas, U.S. Keds are

a few of the lines stocked for the men of the family.

And continuing to serve the young ones, Kara-Vel offers Jumping Jacks, Child Life, Bare Traps, and styles of tennis shoes, and sandals.

Kara-Vel at WestGate has the same experienced staff, under the management of Mrs. Viola Kimmons, who have served South Austin for eight years. They invite you to visit them at their new location in WestGate Mall.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); 27 Apr 1959: 10.
The Austin American Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; 26 Feb 1975: B2.

Curb Appeal

Historical Concrete of Austin, Texas

About

Knox T. Johnson

© July 11, 2014 ■ Uncategorized ● concrete, curb, Knox Johnson, Knox T. Johnson, sidewalk



(Above left: 14th east of Nueces; right: Nueces north of 11th)

In this blog post are displayed photos of all nine instances of the Knox T. Johnson stamp I have observed. The only date on any of them is "7-1910", so this is some of the oldest concrete remaining on Austin streets.



Above left: Nueces south of 14th; right: It appears that Knox made this nifty garden border for his neighbor at 9th and Rio Grande.)



The 1872 Austin city directory lists John O. Johnson as a grocery clerk living at Pecan (6th Street) and Guadalupe. In that same year, his wife, Betty, gave birth to the first of their three children: Knox Thomson Johnson. John went on to distinguish himself as Austin's Postmaster, then City Clerk. The family moved to the corner of Rio Grande and Mesquite (later 11th Street), across the street from the city's first high school, now [Pease Elementary](#). (You can find both rendered in 3-D on [this cool old map](#).) John Orville Johnson, Jr. was born six years after Knox. The 1912 directory has Knox living at 1008 Rio Grande. His younger brother, at 1012 Rio Grande, is identified as Knox's foreman. The brothers would have been about 40 and 34 years of age and living on the same lot as their parents (and probably of their sister, Lenore, as well.) The different addresses suggest that the family compound had several buildings, presumably occupied by different family members.



(Above left: near 11th and Rio Grande; center and right: Washington Square)

In 1911, the city council passed a resolution to pay Knox T. Johnson for sidewalk and curbing by appropriating \$760.14 from prominent businessmen, including E. M. Scarbrough (the man behind the [Scarbrough Building](#)), Monroe Miller (stable owner and undertaker, on 7th east of Congress Avenue), and [Joseph Nalle](#). (May we presume that the sidewalks and curbs abutted those businesses?)

By 1922, Knox had married Sallie R. Johnson and moved to 407 E. 8th Street.



(Above left: Washington Square; right: steps on Lavaca at 15th)

The 1940 census has them at 701 Sparks Avenue near the North University neighborhood. [Travis County Appraisal District records](#) indicate that the house there now was built in 1937, so it's reasonable to assume they lived in it.

Dickens, Kelly. "Knox T. Johnson." *Curb Appeal: Historical Concrete of Austin, Texas*. 2014.
<https://kellyddickens.wordpress.com/2014/07/11/knox-t-johnson/>

Permits

Receipt No. _____ Application for Sewer Connection No. **7105A**
 Austin, Texas, **11-12** 19**21**
 To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, *Same Conn as 3011 Harris*
 City of Austin, Texas. *Park Ave*
 Sir:—
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by
 at **701 Sparks Ave.** Street,
 further described as Lot _____ Block _____ Outlot _____ Division _____
 subdivision *Harris Park* Plat **66**, which is to be used as a _____
 In this place there are to be installed _____ fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. _____
 I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.
 Depth at Prop. Line _____ Respectfully,
 Stub Out } **67' 7 1/2 m H to 7**
 Connected } *(Location) Sparks*
 Date _____ *4" Soil Pipe Located 6-5-64*
 By _____
 NOTE: Connection Instruction *6' Sewer in Easement*
B 218

Water tap permit – 1925