

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
DECEMBER 13, 2023
HR-2023-043027
TRAVIS HEIGHTS-FAIRVIEW PARK NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
1409 ALTA VISTA AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Construct a second-floor addition, deck, and patio at a ca. 1926 house.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The proposed addition is two stories in height. It is clad in horizontal siding, which will be installed throughout. Its roofline mirrors that of the original house, with a clipped side gable and central gablet. Windows are 1:1 throughout, and doors are fully-glazed sliders at secondary elevations. The north elevation features a second-floor balcony with a covered patio below.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story Craftsman with horizontal wood siding, screened wood windows, decorative shutters, a hooded entryway with decorative brackets, and a clipped-gable roof.

RESEARCH

The house at 1409 Alta Vista Avenue was built around 1926. Until 1947, its occupants were mostly short-term owners and renters, including an engineer, a state highway inspector, an office manager, and a mechanic. The home was then purchased by Frank and Lura Connolly. Frank Connolly was the editor, owner, and publisher of the Texas Tax Journal, while Lura worked both at the journal and as a Red Cross nurse. The Connollys sold the home in the late 1950s to Anna and William Duncum. William Duncum worked as a public school teacher.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects in National Register districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repair and alterations

1. General standards

The proposed project removes some windows at secondary façades to accommodate the addition. It replaces existing siding with fiber cement siding.

Residential additions

1. Location

The proposed addition is located at the rear and side of the existing house, set approximately 17' back from the front wall.

2. Scale, massing, and height

The proposed addition appears mostly compatible in scale and massing, though a single story would be more compatible.

3. Design and style

The proposed addition's design and style are largely compatible.

4. Roofs

The proposed roof form and materials are compatible.

5. Exterior walls

The proposed siding is compatible; however, variations in siding could be used to differentiate original parts of the building from the new parts.

6. Windows, screens, and doors

Proposed fenestration appears compatible.

7. Porches and decks

Though the porch at the north elevation appears expansive, its significant setback may minimize its visual impact.

Summary

The project mostly meets the applicable standards.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The property contributes to the Travis Heights-Fairview Park National Register district.

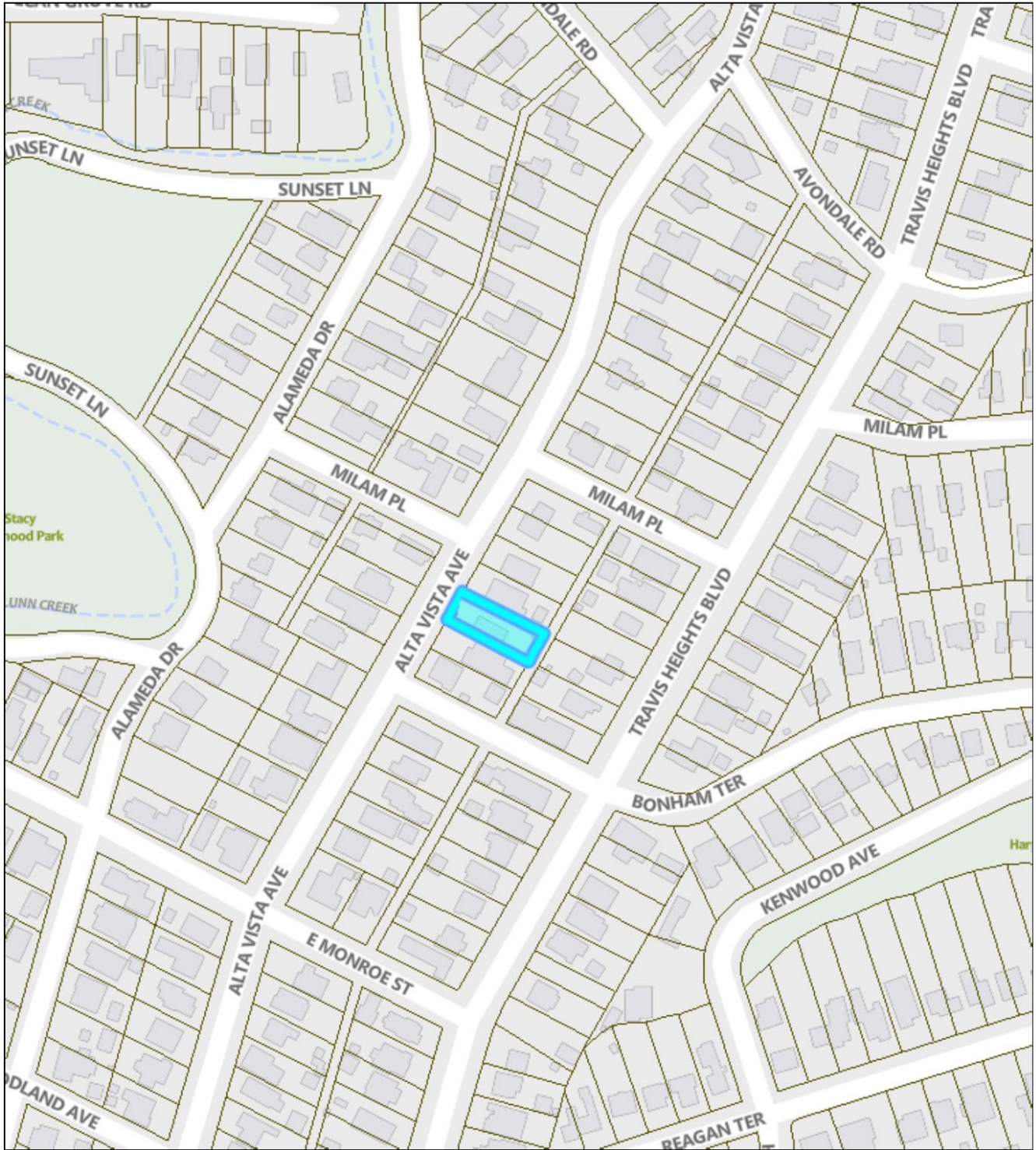
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 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 does not meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building is a good example of modest Craftsman architecture in Travis Heights.
 - 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 does not appear 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

Comment on plans.

LOCATION MAP



1: 2400

Lot Lines
Lot Line

HR 23-043027

1409 ALTA VISTA AVENUE



4/14/2023

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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Application, 2023

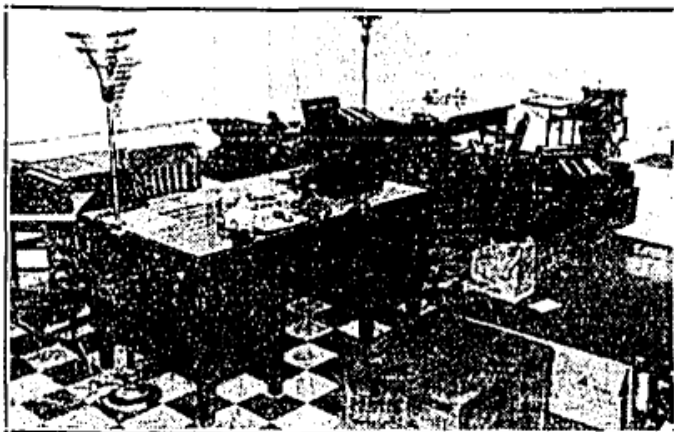
Occupancy History

City Directory Research, April 2023

- 1959 William C. & Anna F. Duncum, owner – Public School Teacher
 1957 William C. & Anna F. Duncum, owner – Public School Teacher
 1955 Frank R. & Lura J. Connolly – Texas Tax Journal Publication Co.
 1954 Frank R. & Lura J. Connolly – Texas Tax Journal Publication Co.
 1953 Frank R. & Lura J. Connolly – Texas Tax Journal Publication Co.
 1952 Frank R. & Lura J. Connolly – Texas Tax Journal Publication Co., Littlefield Bldg.
 1949 Frank R. & Lura J. Connolly – Texas Tax Journal Publication Co.
 1947 Frank R. & Lura J. Connolly – Texas Tax Journal Publication Co.
 1944 Stephen C. & Virginia Sloan
 1942 Benjamin & Blanche Teter – Auto Mechanic
 1941 Marvin W. & Madelaine R. Sykes – Office Manager at Gaston's
 1940 Marvin W. & Madelaine R. Sykes – Office Manager at Gaston's
 1939 Marvin W. & Madelaine R. Sykes – Office Manager at Gaston's
 1937 Hal A. & Evelyn Lindsay
 1935 Aldine M. & Mattie Vaughan
 1932 Robert D. & Reba White
 1930 John W. & Lady Clare Summerville – Civil Engineer
 1929 G. A. Good
 1927 Welmer B. & Helen Smith, owner – Inspector for State Highway Department
 1924 Address not listed.

Historical information

View of Main Office



The latest equipment is used in the main office of the Gaston firm to handle the large volume of business. Here correspondence and visitors are received from the leading style centers of the nation.



Photo by Jensen

FREEMAN SLOCUM
Furnishings




Photo by Jensen

MARVIN SYKES
Office

View of Main Office. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973);. 19 Apr 1938: A5.

THE "STYLE" STORE FOR MEN

Join The Texas Defense Guard



Today ... November 11th

Armistice Day

On this Armistice Day we pause to Salute our fighting men, both living and dead, who have given up their jobs, their homes, their families and even their lives to preserve our nation.

While we can't all get in the fight, we can serve our country by buying War Bonds and Stamps and doing everything in our power to assure our boys the necessary weapons and supplies they need.

And We Salute These Men From Our Store
Who Are Serving In

THE TEXAS DEFENSE GUARD

SGT. MARVIN SYKES
PFC. "ANDY" ANDREWS
PFC. W. A. McGWIER
PFC. "GUS" GUSTAFSON

Gastons

616 CONGRESS



THEY WERE NEEDED—The Red Cross aid station wasn't very busy when this picture was made at City Coliseum where the Capital Area Livestock Show and Junior Rodeo are going on. But later on, the aid technicians treated (a) a boy bitten by a hog, (b) a girl

who injured her leg chasing a greased pig, (c) a boy who got a deep rope burn trying to rope a calf, and (d) a boy with a lacerated ear. Manning the aid station are C. B. Joy of 2015 Goodrich and Mrs. F. R. Connolly of 1409 Alta Vista.—(Neal Douglass Photo.)

Display Ad 30 -- No Title. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973); 11 Nov 1942: A2.

THEY WERE NEEDED. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973); 05 Mar 1953: A15.

Tax Bite Increases 50% in Ten Years

Frank R. Connolly's Texas Tax Journal has quoted the national Tax Foundation's summary showing that state and local taxes per individual have increased an average of over 50 per cent in the past 10-year period, with Texas trailing closely below the

which ended last year, and thus before the actual and estimated increases authorized by legislatures generally this year will have begun to show up in the statistics.

Texas likely will show a relatively larger than average jump this year

Tax Bite Increases 50% in Ten Years. *The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973); 04 Mar 1967: 6.

FRANCIS R. CONNOLLY

Francis R. Connolly, 1400 West 30th Street, died in a local hospital Saturday morning. A resident of Austin for the past 44 years, he was formerly a resident of Norfolk, N.Y.

Connolly was a member of Catholic Church and the Macabees. He attended the Norfolk High School and College and was in the military service for six years serving during World War I.

Connolly was owner and editor of the Texas Tax Journal.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Lura Connolly, Austin, and his sister, Mrs. Grace Pert, Pellam, N.Y.

Funeral will be at Weed-Corley Funeral Home Tuesday at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Walter J. Dalton, C.S.P. officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

MRS. LURA CONNOLLY

Mrs. F. R. (Lura) Connolly of 1400 West 30th, died Sunday in a local hospital. She was a longtime resident of Austin and a member of All Saints Episcopal Church.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Max Marshall, San Angelo, and Mrs. W. D. Montgomery, Dallas; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Austin Memorial Park under direction of Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Rev. Armistead Powell will officiate.

DEATHS and FUNERALS. The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex. [Austin, Tex]. 12 Nov 1967: A4. Deaths and Services. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex. [Austin, Tex]. 12 July 1971: 26.

Permits

OWNER	Gene Brazil		ADDRESS	1409 Alta Vista Ave	
PLAT	133	LOT	12	BLK.	25
SUBDIVISION	Travis Hgts				
OCCUPANCY	Res				
BLDG. PERMIT #	182146	DATE	5-23-79	OWNERS ESTIMATE	3,400.0
CONTRACTOR	C&E Gomes Redisiguen #		NO. OF FIXTURES		
WATER TAP REC#			SEWER TAP REC#		
Siding to res.					

Siding permit - 1979

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE Austin, Texas

M. *A. D. Smith* Address *1409 Alta Vista Ave*

Plumber *Dunkan* Size of Tap *1/2* Date *8/14/79*

Foreman's Report:

Date of Connection	<i>8/14/79</i>
Size of Tap Made	<i>1/2</i>
Size Service Made	<i>2"</i>
Size Main Tapped	<i>15"</i>
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<i>21"</i>
Location of Meter	<i>in road</i>
Type of Box	<i>manhole</i>
Depth of Main in St.	<i>16"</i>
" " Service Line	<i>12"</i>
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<i>25' 6"</i>
Checked by Engr. Dept.	<i>[Signature]</i>

Foreman's Signature *Bonham*

AUG 26 1979

Ref. No. *3041*

Water service permit - 1925