

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
FEBRUARY 7, 2024
PR-2024-000257; GF-2024-005558
711 WEST MONROE STREET**

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1906 house.

ARCHITECTURE

711 West Monroe Street is a one-story L-plan house with a double hipped roof and a partial-width porch supported by boxed columns. It has 2:2 wood and aluminum windows and horizontal siding.

RESEARCH

The house at 711 West Monroe, addressed alternatively as 705 West Monroe, appears to have been built between 1904 and 1906. Its first occupants were the Wimberly family, who remained in the home until around 1934. Jim Wimberly worked as a carpenter, a saloon operator, and a grocer. He and his wife, Matilda, also owned the Wimberly Filling Station on South First Street for a short time. After building a new house on South First in 1934, the Wimberlys sold the house to Charles Douglas and Mary Benson. Charley Benson worked as a carpenter, a machinist, and superintendent at Wager Memorial Presbyterian Church, where he also served as a deacon. Mary Benson worked as a bookbinder at the Steck Company. They had four children and lived in the home until at least 1959.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The 2016 Bouldin Creek survey lists the property as a medium priority and contributing to a potential historic district.

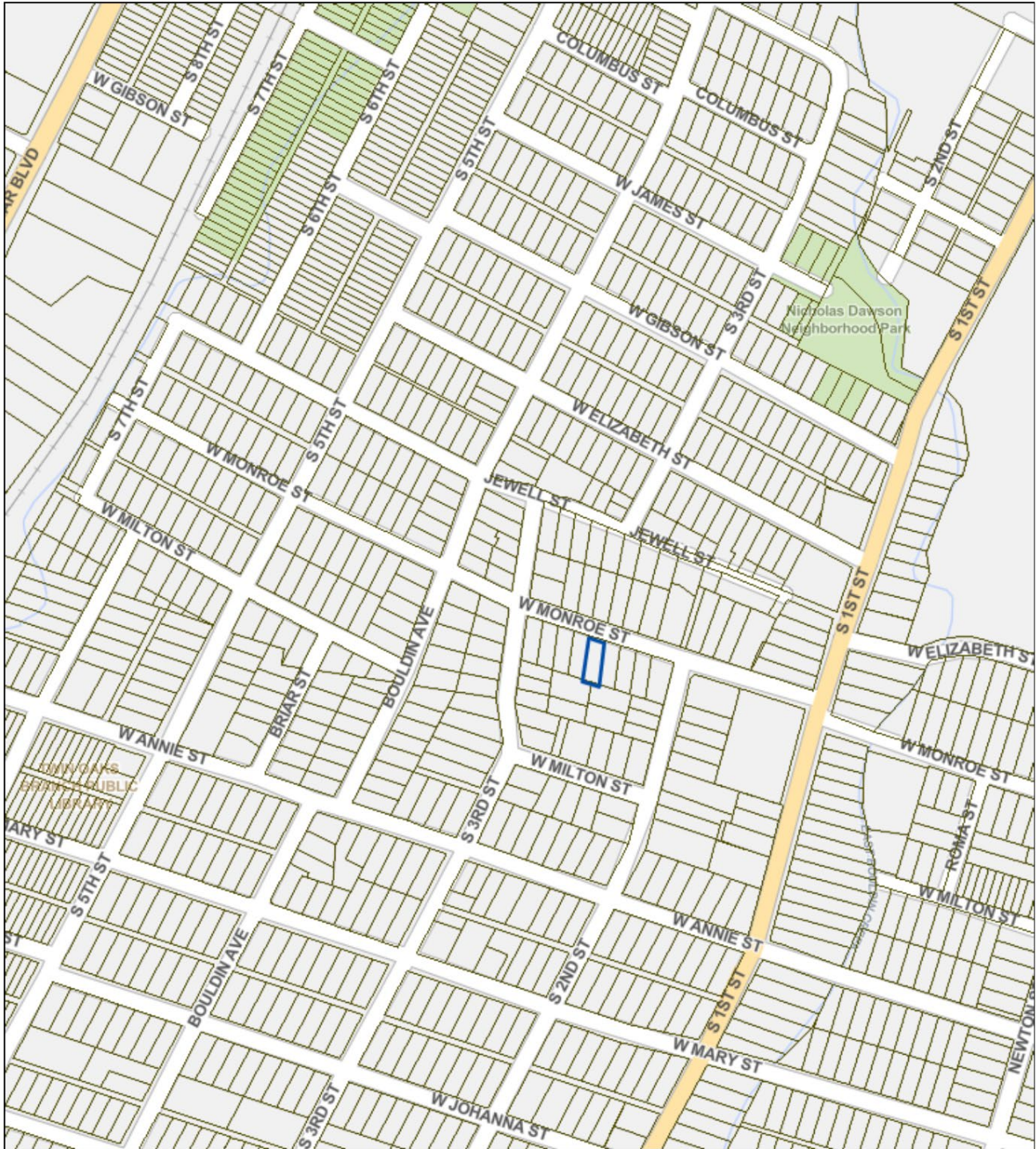
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark


- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity. The building appears to have been added on to and clad with aluminum siding outside the period of significance, though the porch modifications date to the historic period and have gained significance in their own right.
- 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 with National Folk and Classical-style influences.
 - 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 is not 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: 4800

1/19/2024

GF 24-005558

711 W MONROE STREET

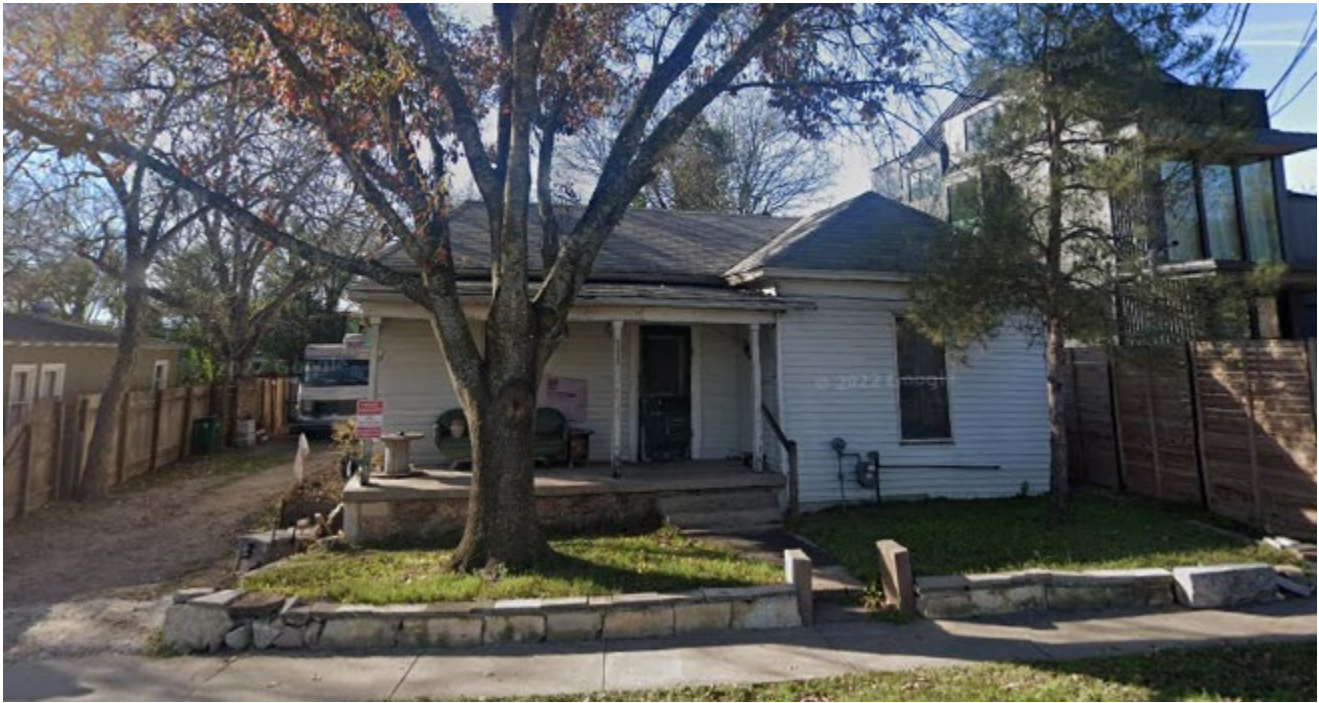


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PROPERTY INFORMATION*Photos*



Demolition application, 2024



Google Street View, 2022

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, January 2024

1959	Charles E. and Lillie Smith, renters – carpenter for C. D. Benson
1955	Charles D. and Mary Benson, owners – carpenter
1952	Charles D. and Mary Benson, owners – carpenter
1949	Charles D. and Mary Benson, owners – machine operator James D. and Peggy Benson, renters – machine operator
1944	Charles D. and Mary Benson, owners – US Navy employee; bookbinder at Steck Co.
1941	Charles D. and Mary Benson, owners – machine operator, City Water Department
1939	C. Douglas and Mary Benson, owners – machine operator
1935	Address listed as 705 W. Monroe C. D. and Mary Benson, renters – employee, City Light, Power, and Water
1932	P. E. Wimberly, owner
1929	Porter E. and Opal Wimberly, renters – City garbage department
1927	James L. and Matilda Wimberly, owners – manager, Wimberly Filling Station at 1710 S. 1 st St.
1924	Albert Finley, renter
1922	J. L. Wimberly, owner
1918	Address listed as 705 (711) James L. and Matilda Wimberly, owners – grocer, 608-610 W Annie St. Porter Wimberly, renter – clerk, J. L. Wimberly
1916	James L. Wimberley, owner – saloon, 1303 S. Congress
1914	James L. Wimberley – carpenter Robert Wimberley
1912	Address listed as 707

James L. Wimberly, owner – carpenter

1910 James L. Wimberly, carpenter, listed at 715 W. Monroe

1909 James L. Wimberly, carpenter, listed at 715 W. Monroe

1906 J. L. Wimberly and 6 household members are listed as residing on W. Monroe St.

1903 J. L. Wimberly listed on W. Mary St.

Historical Information

2 Hurt When Hit By Auto

Jim Wimberly, 507 West Monroe Street, and his son Porter, were thrown from their wagon and slightly hurt when an automobile ran into them from behind in an accident at South Congress and First Street this morning.

The shafts and the coupling pole of the wagon were broken. The automobile escaped with practically no damage. The automobilist said his brakes failed to work.

The automobile is registered to H. L. Daugherty, rural route No. 7.

The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 27 Mar 1918: 8

WILLIAM ROBERT WIMBERLEY.

William Robert Wimberly, 95 years old, died shortly before midnight Thursday at the family residence, 705 West Monroe street. The funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Friday at Boggy Cemetery. Rev. Beverly Allen officiated.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 25 Aug 1922: 3.

COMPANY ORGANIZED TO SINK TEST WELL WITHIN CITY LIMITS

Although it must be admitted that the scheme is of the "wildcat" variety, the residents of South Austin who are interested in the enterprise believe that big pools underlie their very houses. "Three years ago a geologist traced out an oil formation and said that the field ran across South Austin at about the seventeenth block," said Mr. Wimberley. "Just a block from my house there is a small hollow in which the oil oozes to the top each time it rains. I have noted this oil for years and have felt that there were big oil pools beneath this section of the town. A few years ago my father dug a well fifty feet deep, and the water that was brought up was colored dark by the oil."

With Jim Wimberley and W. B. Lovelace, South Austin grocers, who have been in business here for many years, taking the lead, a number of South Austin residents are in the process of forming an oil stock company for the purpose of sinking a test well in South Austin some place near block 17 of South First Street. The oil fever has gripped a large number of South Austin residents, and they are willing to back their belief that there is plenty of oil to be found for the drilling with hard cash. Just now they are seeking to interest experienced oil operators in their proposition. According to Mr. Wimberley, A. J. Ellers of this city, who is interested in oil developments, has promised to come out and look over the field, with the end in view of becoming actively interested in the project. According to Mr. Wimberley and Mr. Lovelace, free leases on 400 acres of land in South Austin could be secured at an hour's notice.

Mr. Lovelace verified Mr. Wimberley's story and told of an incident of twenty years ago which has done much to strengthen his faith in the oil possibilities of South Austin. "Twenty years ago I was running the same grocery store that I am now, and I remember well the ninety-three-foot water well which John Benskin sank on his place on First Street. Benskin came from Blanco county and he was very angry when he found that he had to pay for his water. He decided to sink his own well. When the well reached the depth of ninety feet, there was so much oil in the water that it was not fit to use for anything. I tied a string to the neck of a big pickle bottle and dropped the bottle into the well. When it came up the bottle had more than an inch of thick, heavy oil on the top of the water. At that time we were not interested in oil wells and the finding of the oil attracted but little attention."

little attention."

Mr. Lovelace is very enthusiastic in his belief that oil is to be found for the drilling. "I can go now to a place not more than two miles from here where the oil at the present time is oozing out of the ground," said Mr. Lovelace. "On the old Blum place on the Burleson road, two miles south of Austin, there is a low place in the ground that runs for an acre or so. I have seen the oil literally oozing from the ground, both in wet weather and when it was comparatively dry."

The oil enthusiast advanced the theory, which he said had been substantiated by the geologist three years ago, that the South Austin formation is a continuation of the Luling oil field. "This oil formation comes across Penn Field, then west across South Austin by Boatman's dairy on South First Street, and then swings a bit north so as to take in the section around 1700 Annie Street. It runs west from there across the railroad track, a mile or so to the west."

Mr. Lovelace owns some land near Boatman's dairy and last summer he built a house on this land. "It was in August, and very dry, and yet, after digging down two feet, we brought up soil that was so moist that you could make a mud ball of it. The soil was very dark, and my son, who had worked in the Mexia oil field, said the soil was exactly the same as the soil in which the Mexia field was brought in."

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 13 July 1923: 1.

25 Years Ago

Austin in 1899

FROM STATESMAN FILES

DEC. 19, 1899.

The smallpox scare was of short duration.

The street car gang are working on the West Sixth line at present, leveling up the track.

Drake Bell left the city yesterday for New Mexico having been summoned by telegraph to the bedside of his brother, who is not expected to live.

Justice Johnson was called to the county clerk's office yesterday morning to solemnize the marriage of James L. Wimberly and Miss Matilda Diehl.

The executive committee of the

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 Dec 1924: 4.

ond, \$669.

Jim Wimberly, frame residence and box garage, South First street, \$900.

Sam T. Hill, complete box residence, 1701 South Second, \$550.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 09 Dec 1934: 16.

Young, Unarmed Robber Gets \$60 Off Grocer Here

Jim Wimberly Robbed
As He Steps From
Store's Rear Door

Taking advantage of the dark and the absence of anyone else, a youthful, masked but unarmed robber Saturday night robbed Jim Wimberly, operator of a grocery store at 1718 Congress avenue, of \$60 in cash.

Wimberly, who had just locked the front door of his store preparatory to going home, told police that the youth grabbed him as he stepped out of and started to lock the rear door. The robber held Wimberly, while he jammed his hand into Wimberly's pocket and grabbed the money.

Wimberly told police that the robber wore a white handkerchief over his face for a mask.

He could furnish only a meager description of the thief.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 31 Jan 1937: 1.

Charley Douglas Benson, seaman second class, from South Austin, is in the navy stationed at Coronado Island, Calif., a naval training base.

tended Austin high school and the University of Texas army.



His wife and four children reside at 711 West Monroe, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Benson, and sister live at 702 West Monroe. Before going into the service, he served as superintendent of Wager Memorial Presbyterian church for several years and also held the office of deacon of the church.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 25 July 1944: 7.

WIMBERLY: Jim Wimberly, 70, former resident of Austin, died at his home in Brady Thursday. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Matilda Wimberly; three daughters, Mrs. Frankie Johnson of Sunset, Mrs. Ellen Locklear of Voca and Mrs. Willie Leverett of Austin; one son, Porter Wimberly of Austin; two brothers, John Wimberly of Austin and Robert Wimberly of Chicasha; 17 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held from Cook Funeral Home at 2 p. m. Sunday with the Rev. E. M. Puttman officiating. Pallbearers will be D. D. Spillar, A. A. Boatright, C. C. Miles, Owen Schnell, W. G. Rissman and H. G. Hudson. Burial will be in Masonic Cemetery.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 28 June 1947: 2.

Newlyweds to Make Home Here

Miss Peggy Jean Mueller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Mueller of Austin, became the bride of James Douglas Benson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Benson, in a double-ring ceremony performed July 12 by the Rev. S. C. Crumley in his home.

The bride attended Austin High School and Nixon-Clay Business College. She is now employed at E. M. Scarbrough.

The groom also attended Austin High School and served 16 months in the Navy. He is now with the Carl Waggoner Construction Company here.

White Crepe Suit

Attending the bride was Mrs.

Vernon Hunt, who wore a pale blue dress with black accessories. The bride chose a suit of white crepe with white accessories and a corsage of pink carnations.

Vernon Hunt was best man to the groom.

The mother of the bride wore a grey dress with white accessories, while the groom's mother chose a pink gown with black accessories.

Mr. and Mrs. Benson are at home at 702 West Monroe Street.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 July 1947: A10.

in Live Oak Cemetery.

MRS. MATILDA S. WIMBERLY

Mrs. Matilda S. Wimberly died at her home, 602 West Annie Wednesday morning. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. C. L. Leverett of Voca, Texas, and Mrs. Joe Locklear of Houston, and one

son, Porter Wimberly, of Austin, and three brothers, R. M. Diehl of Austin, Ed Diehl and Sam Diehl both of Richland Springs, and 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The body is at the Cook Funeral Home where funeral arrangements are pending.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 24 Aug 1955: 18.

Permits

Douglas Benson

711 W. Monroe St.

117

(50'x130')

Issac Decker League

Box garage

23947 - 9/2/42

\$50.00

Day labor

Garage permit, 1942

Douglas Benson

711 West Monroe St.

116

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0

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Repair front & rear porches

146r - 5/19/39

-

Porch repair permit, 1939

Connecting Charge \$ 12.00

Application for Sewer Connection.

No. 9598A

Austin, Texas, 8/1/39

193

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:-

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises

owned by

at

which place is to be used as a

In this place there are to be installed

fixtures

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.

Respectfully,

Location of Public Sewer

Sewer tap permit, 1930