

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**MAY 1, 2024**  
**PR-2024-029444; GF-2024-043945**  
**801 WEST 29<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Partially demolish and construct a second-floor addition to a ca. 1927 house.

## **PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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The proposed project adds a second story to an existing one-story house. The proposed addition extends the existing roof ridge at the main elevation to add height to the side-gabled roof and adds new dormers and additional windows.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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The 2020 North Central survey lists the building as a cross-gabled bungalow with Craftsman and Tudor Revival stylistic influences. It is one story in height, with double-hung wood windows and horizontal wood siding.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house at 801 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, originally called 901 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, was constructed around 1927. Its first residents were the Reverend William D. Bills and his wife, Susie. Bills worked as the pastor for the University Church of Christ. They sold the house to James P. and Martha McPherson in the early 1930s. James McPherson, called Jack, owned and operated the Texas Nut Candy Company, later called McPherson's Candy and the Capitol Candy Company. Several of the McPhersons' children also worked at the candy company, though one daughter became a teacher at Metz Elementary School. Mrs. Martha McPherson was a pianist and taught lessons until she left Austin in 1946. In the late 1950s, the home was rented by private detective Virginia L. White.

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The 2020 North Central Austin historic resource survey lists the property as contributing to potential local and National Register historic districts.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

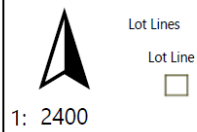
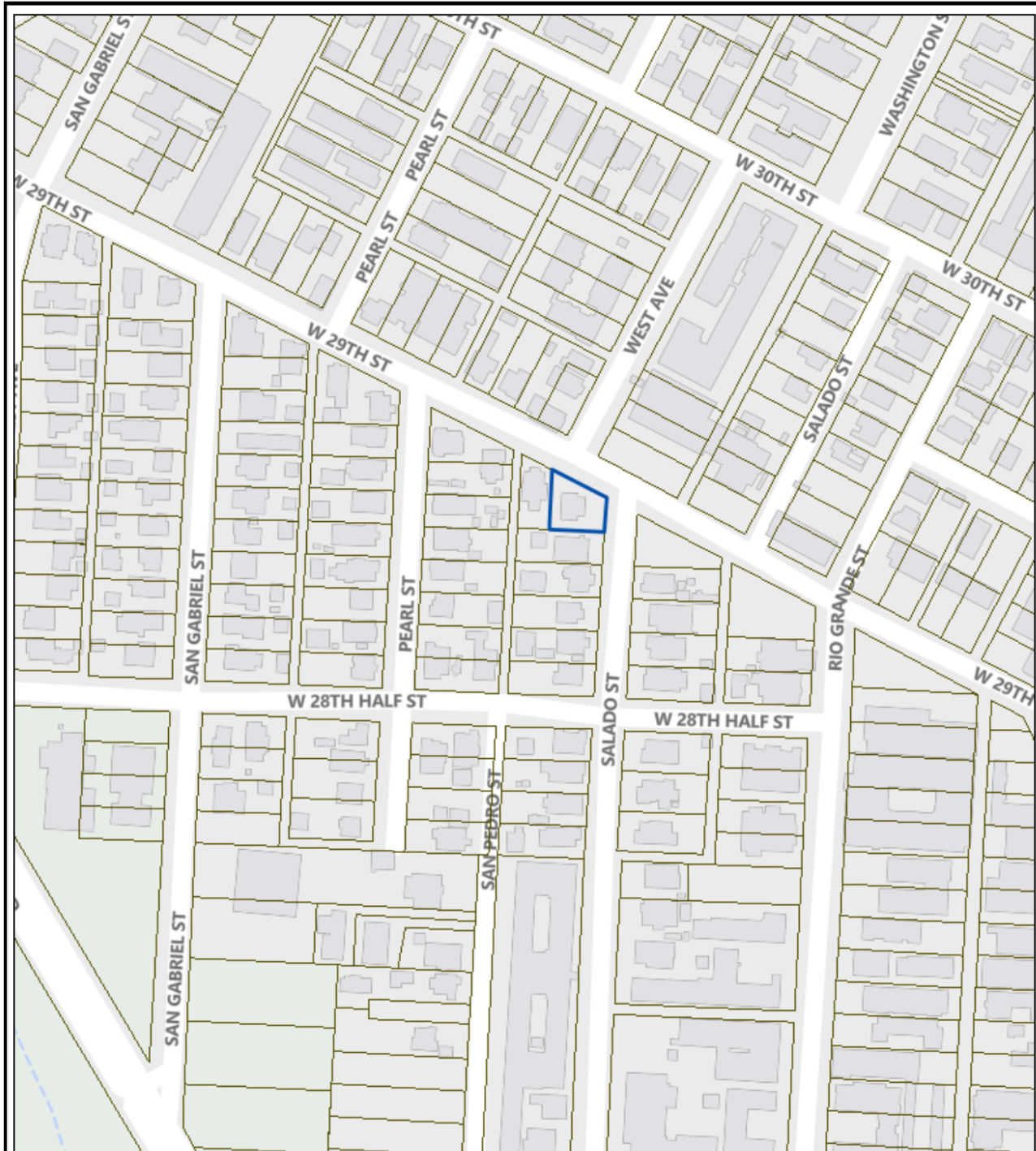
- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it does not meet two criteria for landmark designation:
  - a. Architecture. The building is a good example of a vernacular home with Tudor Revival and Craftsman influences, once common in Austin.
  - 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 convey 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**

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Release the partial demolition permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, encouraging the applicant to retain the existing roof ridgeline.

## LOCATION MAP



4/12/2024

**GF 24-043945**

801 W 29TH STREET



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey. This product has been produced by the City of Austin for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

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*Photos*

*Google Street View, 2023*









*North Central survey, HHM Inc., 2020*

*Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, April 2024

- 1959 Mrs. Virginia L. White, renter
- 1955 Mrs. Virginia L. White, renter
- 1952 Vacant
- 1949 Doyle K. Brook, renter  
Rear: Joe Fontana, renter
- 1944 Mrs. Martha McPherson, owner (widow of J.P. McPherson)
- 1941 James P. and Martha B. McPherson, owners – proprietors, Capitol Candy Company
- 1939 James P. and Martha B. McPherson, owners – proprietors, Texas Nut Candy Company and McPherson's Candy Kitchen, 1007 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St  
Leon J. McPherson, renter – UT student  
D'Aun McPherson, renter – stenographer, state Highway Department
- 1935 *Address listed as 901 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street*  
James P. and Martha McPherson, owners – proprietors, Texas Nut Candy Company  
Martha McPherson, renter - teacher, Metz  
D'Aun McPherson, renter – stenographer, Texas Nut Candy Company  
Willy McPherson, renter – manager, Texas Nut Candy Company
- 1932 James P. and Martha McPherson, owners – proprietors, Texas Nut Candy Company; teacher, Metz  
Vivan D. McPherson, renter – student, UT  
Willy McPherson, renter – candy maker, Texas Nut Candy Company
- 1929 Rev. William D. and Susie Bills, owners – pastor, University Church of Christ  
Ella Caskey, renter – private secretary, Home Furnishing Co.  
Isaac Smith, renter
- 1927 Rev. William D. Bills, owner

## Historical Information

1105 East Eighth.  
 Rev. W. D. Bills from 618 Blanco  
 to 901 West 29th.  
 J. B. Lowery from 1615 West 10th.  
 Ernest Collins from 1611 East

## Society Personals

The Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Bills of  
 901 West 29th street have been in  
 San Antonio visiting relatives and  
 friends.

with Mrs. Driver's mother, Mrs.  
 Ford in Woodville.

Judge and Mrs. R. H. Haml  
 of Amarillo have returned h

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 07 June 1927: 12.*

*The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 06 Jan 1929: A5.*



Home-Made  
**VALENTINE CANDY**  
 Chocolates, Bon Bons, Jordan  
 Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Pecan.  
 In Valentine Boxes  
 50c to \$3.00  
**Olympia Candy**  
**Kitchen**  
 137 East 6th St.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 13 Feb 1935: 10.*

### Metz P.-T.A. Meets

The Metz P.-T.A. will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. at the school. Short talks will be made by the following: W. L. Darnell, "Worthy Use of the Vacation"; Miss Bert Black, "Physical Education"; Miss Mary Louise Stanberry, "Teaching of Science in the Public School"; and Miss Martha McPherson, "Reading."

### PARTY FOR CLASSES

Pupils of Mrs. J. P. McPherson's piano classes will be entertained with a party at Mrs. McPherson's home, 801 West 29th street, Saturday at 2:30 p. m. A musical program will be presented and games played.

*The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 Apr 1936: A5.*

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 14 Dec 1939: 14.*



## State Department Has Regular Monthly Luncheon

**Mrs. Ross Carlton Is Chairman Of Hostess Committee for Occasion**

The wives of members of the attorney general's department met Friday at 12:30 p. m. at the Georgian tea room for their regular monthly luncheon.

The members and their guests were seated at a large U-shaped table which was decorated with chrysanthemums in shades of purple, yellow and white.

The committee in charge of arrangements included Mesdames Ross Carlton, Walter Koch, Morris Hodges, Ardell Williams, Smith McCorkle and George Barcus.

Those present were Mesdames Bruce Bryant, Claude Boothman, Hugh Burks, Edgar Cole, Richard Coker, Alex Coker, Alex Cason,

William Cason, Grady Chandler, Beryl Davis, Jim Hart, Clarence Crow, Morris Hodges, Frederick Isley, Herschie Johnson, Durwood Mahon, Peter Maniscalco, Gerald Mann, W. F. Moore, Cecil Rotsch, Harry Shuford, Zollie Stokley, Ardell Williams and members of the committee.

Dixie tea house. The party was held after choir practice.

A military motif was used on the tables, and yellow chrysanthemums were arranged as decoration.

Attending were the honorees, Messrs. and Mesdames William Jackson, William Kelley, Paul Kennard, Glenn McLaughlin, Robert Mueller, Jr., Thomas Stephens, Wilfred Swanson, Warren Wayne, and J. Campbell Wray and Dr. and Mrs. M. E. Rogers.

Mesdames C. B. Holmes, Tyrone Kelley, Pearl Long, Russell J. Hank, Jane Langford, M. E. Martin, Misses Aina Agurren, Bessie Belle Brown, Wilma Ervin, Kathrynne Francis, Dorothy Ann Hank, Marion McClendon, D'Aun McPherson, Virginia McNeely, Frances Myers, Virginia Maricle, Judie Noe, Mary Ethel Posey, Roberta Rondell, Bel-

tie Lois Rogers, Gloria Rollins, Mary Belle Searight, Laura F. Smith, Messrs. John Collins, W. Luther Estes, J. O. Mills, James Merrill and Runyan Peters.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 08 Nov 1940: 8*

## Old Sam Gone

An Austin detective, Mrs. Virginia L. White, 801 West 29th, investigator for the Phares Detective Agency, has appealed to the public in locating her prized tomcat, Sam.

Sam, a neutered Blue Point Siamese, was carted away in a car Friday night, Mrs. White said he was a "one man" cat and fears he may have leaped from the car and was killed. She wants only information about the cat, no questions asked.

He is four years old and appears white at night, although he has a blue coat. Mrs. White asked anyone knowing about the cat to call her at GR 2-9811 between 8:30 a. m. and 5:30 and GR 7-1476 between 6 p. m. and 8 a. m.

Sam's little mate, Meiling, has refused to eat since he was taken away.

### MRS. MARTHA McPHERSON

Graveside services for Mrs. Martha McPherson will be held at 10 a. m. Tuesday at Austin Memorial Park with Dr. J. M. Dawson officiating and under the direction of the Cook Funeral Home.

The body will arrive in Austin Tuesday morning.

Mrs. McPherson died in Dallas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack P. McPherson, in 1941. He was a well known candy manufacturer. Mrs. McPherson was active in music circles in Austin and taught music until she moved from Austin in 1946. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors are one daughter, Miss D'Aun McPherson; four nieces, Mrs. C. B. Maufrais, Mrs. Angeline Coup, and Mrs. Wallace Speegle of Austin and Mrs. Stanley Seltert of New York; and two nephews, Jack R. Ferguson of Austin and W. B. Ferguson Jr. of Houston.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 02 July 1958: 15.*

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 13 Apr 1959: 15.*

## Permits

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

# PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE

AUSTIN, TEXAS

No. 9948

M.

Address

801 WEST 29th St

Plumber

Size of Tap

Date

1-12-31

## Foreman's Report

Date of Connection 1-12-31

Size of Tap Made 3/4"

Size Service Made 3/4"

Size Main Tapped 6"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 8'

From W Prop. Line to Curb Cock 20'

Location of Meter NOMETER

Type of Box LOCK

Depth of Main in St. 9'

Depth of Service Line 30"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 12'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 2-2-31 JCH

Size.

No. Fittings

Foreman's Signature

Curb Cock

Elbow

St. Elbow

Bushing

Reducer

Pipe

Lead Comp.

Nipples

Union

Plug

Tee

Stop

Box

Lid

Valves

Req. No.