HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
Applications for Demolition and Relocation Permits
December 2, 2026
PR-2026-079349; GF-2026-090393
Travis Heights-Fairview Park Historic District
706 East Monroe Street

Proposal

Demolish a ca. 1927 house.

Architecture

This property is a single-story Craftsman bungalow featuring an ample, projecting front porch that is supported by two square wood posts. These posts, along with the porch railing and brackets above, decorate the front of the house, which retains strong integrity. The front gabled roof features prominent overhangs and rafter tails still present under a later gutter addition. Windows all appear to be original and are in good condition. The walls are clad in narrow horizontal siding, and the elevated foundation is covered by a concrete or stucco skirting.

Behind the house is a porch structure that has been confirmed by a previous owner to have been designed by former University of Texas architecture professor Bob Mather. The design of this structure, made from portions of the original garage, matches the roof pitch to create a sheltered space at the rear, and was likely designed while Mather lived, along with his wife Jean Mather, nearby at 1611 Alameda Drive.

Research

After its construction, this property was shortly owned by Walter & Larah Bergfield, the former of whom was employed as a barber. After a series of short term owners and residents, including a taxi driver and a telephone repairman, the property was bought by Edmund & Dorothy Morris around 1944. Edmund Morris worked at the Mutual Benefit Health Association as a manager, before starting his own insurance agency by 1949. Doris is listed as assisting in this operation, and the couple raised several children at the property. By 1957, the property was purchased by Clyde & Georgia Priddy, a chef at the Commodore Perry Hotel.

Department Comments

Per city code § 25-11-213 (G)(4), the Historic Landmark Commission has 180 days to review demolition permits in National Register historic districts starting from the date the application was submitted. This period is set to time out on January 18, 2027.

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 for landmark designation:
    a. Architecture. The building is a good example of Craftsman bungalow architecture.
    b. Historical association. The property may have historical associations with former University of Texas architecture professor Bob Mather. However, the connection is minimal, with Mr. Mather's only connection being with the design and construction of the rear porch structure.
    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 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.

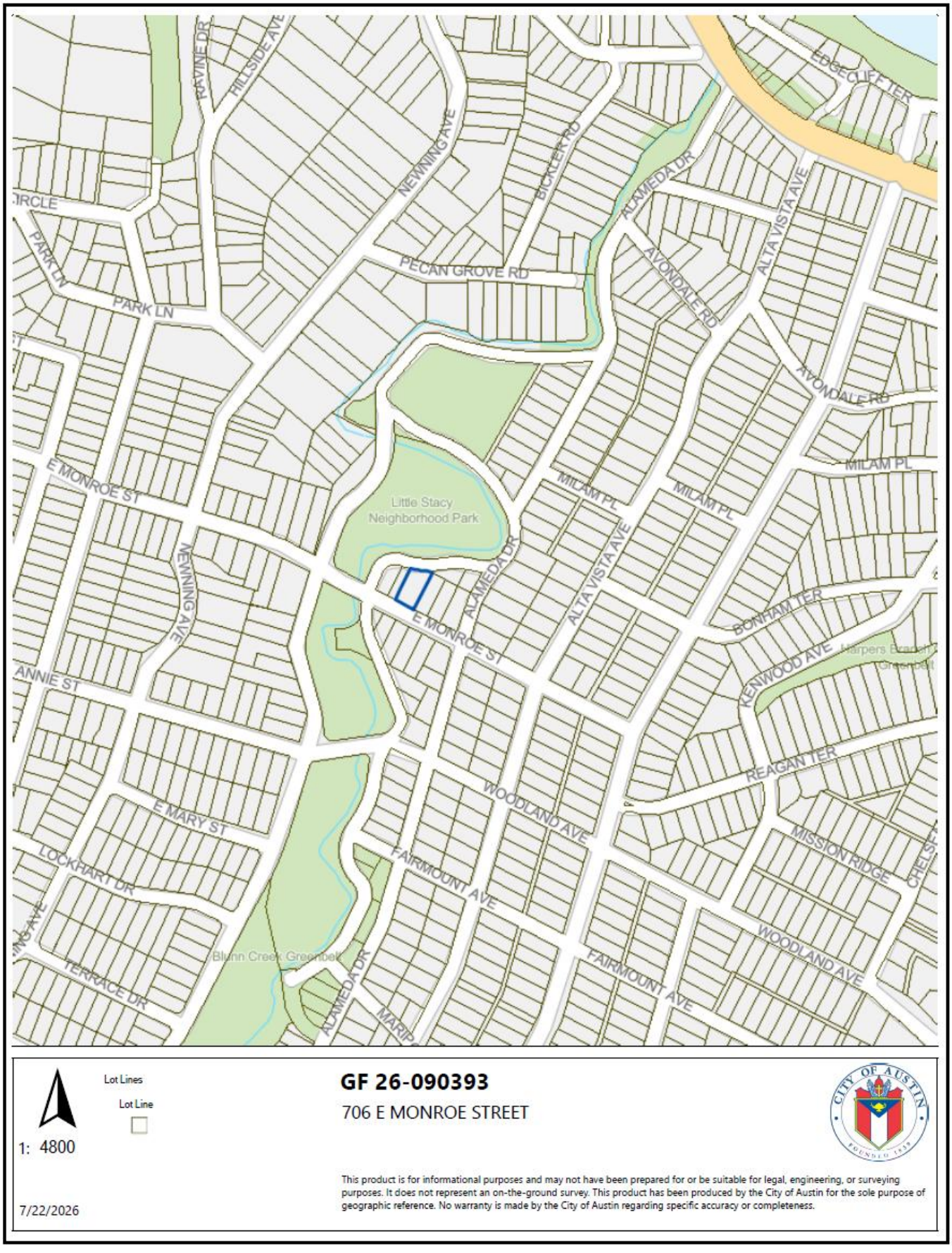
Architectural Review Committee Feedback

August 12, 2026: Pursue options to retain the house in its existing site and incorporate it into the proposed design, making use of the backyard where possible.

Staff Recommendation

Consider postponing to the January 6, 2027 Historic Landmark Commission meeting for further discussion with the neighborhood. Otherwise, encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, relocation, or deconstruction and salvage over demolition, but approve the demolition permit application upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package. The Historic Landmark Commission must review new construction drawings prior to permit release in National Register Historic Districts.

Location Map



Property Information

Photos





Site visit, July 2026



Google Streetview, January 2025

Occupancy History
City Directory Research, July 2026

1959	William K. Gray
1957	Clyde & Georgia Priddy; Chef at Commodore Perry Hotel
1955	Vacant
1952	Edmund & Dorothy Morris, owners, with Edmund Morris Jr.; E. T. Morris Insurance Agency, USA Army
1949	Edmund & Dorothy Morris, owners; E. T. Morris Insurance Agency
1947	Same as above
1944	Same as above
1941	Duard & Beatrice Chapman, owners; repairman at Southwest Bell Telephone Company
1939	Same as above
1937	Chester “Patt” & Orpha Ross; attendant at G. L. Cunningham
1935	Howard & Viola Work; taxi driver
1932	Vacant
1927	Walter & Larah Bergfield, owners; barber at Office Barber Shop
1924	Address not listed

Historical Information



NOTICE!

We are now located at

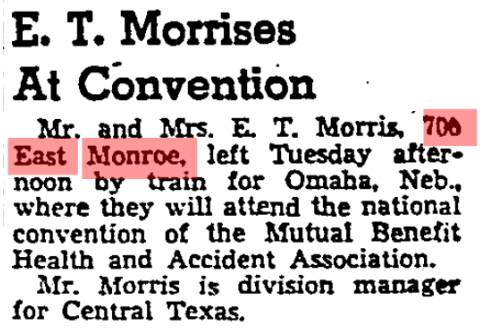
Reasonover's
Barber Shop

We invite our friends and customers to come and see us.

This Is a Union Shop

Ed. Bergfield
Walter Bergfield

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 09 July 1928: 8.



E. T. Morrises At Convention

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Morris, 706 East Monroe, left Tuesday afternoon by train for Omaha, Neb., where they will attend the national convention of the Mutual Benefit Health and Accident Association.

Mr. Morris is division manager for Central Texas.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 07 Oct 1948: 9.



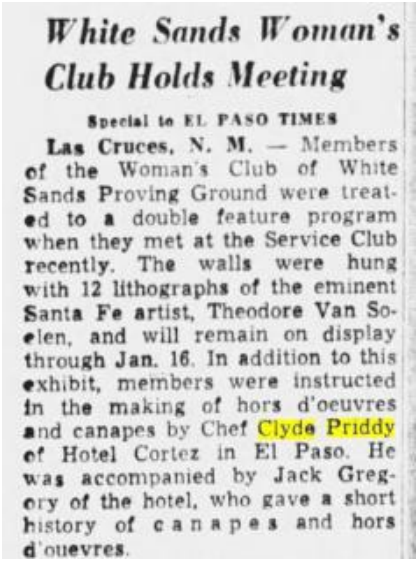
Insurance Party Held on Lawn

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Morris were hosts to 25 Insurance Women of Austin at a buffet supper on the lawn of their home at 706 East Monroe Street Monday night.

At the nusiness session, Mrs. Alyce Schwab explained the work of the Federation of Insurance Women of Texas to the organization's new member, Mrs. Evelyn Wilmon. Mrs. Schwab also urged membesr to attend the state convention in Houston Oct. 16 and 17.

Miss Hazel Hartman was appointed chairman of a committee to complete arrangements for the entertainment of field men in insurance companies and recording agents who will attend the annual Fire Rate hearing scheduled for September.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 05 Aug 1953: 7.



White Sands Woman's Club Holds Meeting

Special to EL PASO TIMES

Las Cruces, N. M. — Members of the Woman's Club of White Sands Proving Ground were treated to a double feature program when they met at the Service Club recently. The walls were hung with 12 lithographs of the eminent Santa Fe artist, Theodore Van Soelen, and will remain on display through Jan. 16. In addition to this exhibit, members were instructed in the making of hors d'oeuvres and canapes by Chef Clyde Priddy of Hotel Cortez in El Paso. He was accompanied by Jack Gregory of the hotel, who gave a short history of canapes and hors d'ouevres.

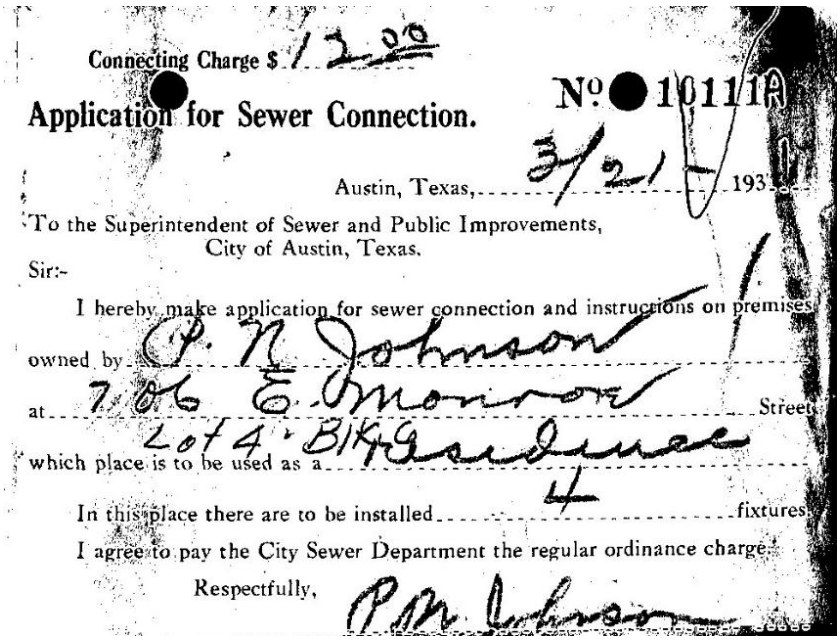
El Paso Times (1921-); El Paso, Texas. 10 Jan 1954: 29.

FB&PW Committee To Meet Thursday

A meeting of the public affairs committee of the Federated Business and Professional Women's Club has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday with Mrs. E. T. Morris, 706 East Monroe Street. Mrs. J. F. McWilliams will be co-hostess.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 02 Sep 1953: 8.

Permits



Connecting Charge $ 12.00

Application for Sewer Connection. No. 10111A

Austin, Texas, 3/21 1931

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 P. M. Johnson at 706 E. Monroe Street, which place is to be used as a residence

In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.

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

Respectfully, P M Johnson

Sewer Tap Permit, March 1931