HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
Applications for Demolition and Relocation Permits
December 2, 2026
PR-2026-142333; GF-2026-148013
804 Columbus Street

Proposal

Demolish a ca. 1935 house.

Architecture

This Craftsman bungalow is modest in size and form, standing a single story on sloping elevation. The centered front door is covered with a small bracketed gable that fits into the house's overall side gabled roof structure. There are three windows on the front façade, all of which have been replaced with vinyl units. The narrow teardrop siding is still present, and the foundation has been enclosed with concrete skirting. Besides the windows, there is little sign of substantial alteration and the house retains good integrity.

Research

This property went through several changes in ownership over its first few decades. These owners were often employed as blue-collar or service workers, including plumbers and carpenters. The longest owners, who appear to have lived at the address on two separate occasions, were John & Laura Potts. John Potts was employed for at least 35 years as an intercity bus driver, and the two raised at least one child at the address.

Department Comments

This application will time out on February 15, 2027.

Property Evaluation

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

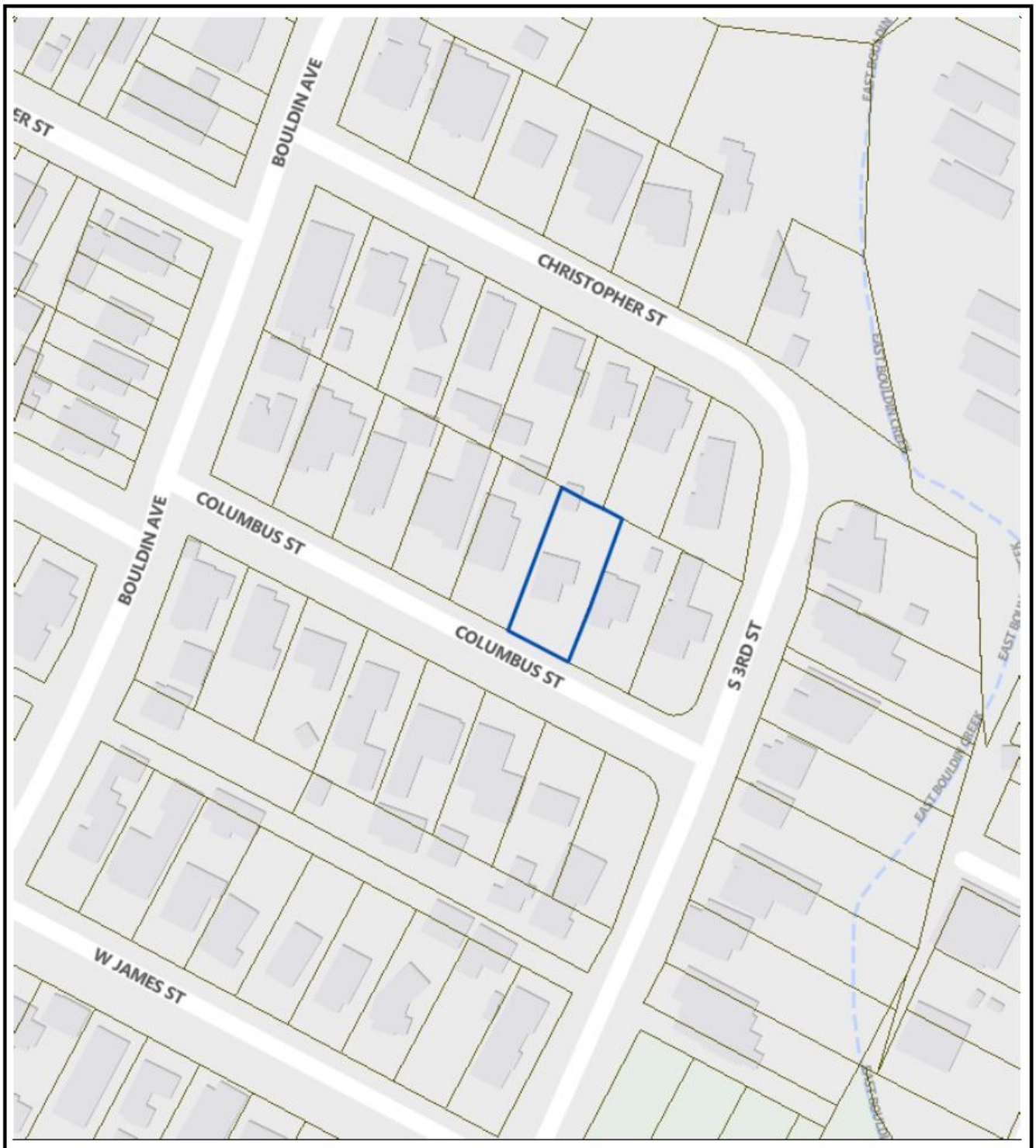
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

1) The building is more than 50 years old.
2) The building appears to retain integrity.
3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff have evaluated the property and determined that it [does / may / does not] meet two criteria for landmark designation:
    a. Architecture. The building is a good example of Craftsman bungalow architecture in the neighborhood.
    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 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 was not evaluated for its ability to convey a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

Staff Recommendation

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.

Location Map



Property Information

Photos



Site visit, 2026

Occupancy History
City Directory Research, November 2026

1960	John & Laura Potts, owners; driver at Greyhound Bus Lines
1957	Jack & Betty Burris, owners; department manager at Buttrey's
1955	Same as above
1952	Ella Hodges (widow of Erie), owner
1949	John & Laura Potts, owners; operator at Continental Trailways
1947	Same as above
1944	Same as above, now working as a bus operator at Continental Trailways
1941	Kenneth & Naomi McWilliams, owners; optician at Ward & Treadwell, with Meda McWilliams, renter
1939	J. Pitts, owner
1937	William & Bertha Flynn, plumber at Harper & Lipscomb
1935	Fred & Olene Feuerbacher, carpenter
1932	Address not listed

Historical Information



Staff photo by Darl Hyatt

TWO-MILLION-MILER BUS DRIVER JOHN POTTS QUITS WHEEL
No More "Watch Your Step, Please," to Passengers

Retiring Bus Driver Logged More Than 2 Million Miles

By LUCINDA PARDO
Staff Writer

"Watch your step, please."

For 35 years John Hershell Potts, of 804 Columbus, has been saying this to persons who board his bus—but after this week he will no longer be a driver for Continental Trailways.

Potts, who began driving in 1936 for the Bowen Motor Coaches, predecessor of the present Continental Trailway Company, retired this week from active service.

Cited by his company as a unique operator, Potts had driven more than two million miles without a chargeable accident.

His most memorable experience as a driver occurred during World War II. As Potts was assisting a woman up the steps of his bus, she collapsed in his arms. The woman had a miscarriage and Potts had to give first aid until the ambulance could arrive.

For the last year Potts, has driven Continental Trailways elite Five Star Golden Eagle bus. This bus, which makes runs between Dallas and San Antonio, has a hostess who serves drinks and dinners.

Potts and his wife, Laura Lee, plan to retire in Austin, with future plans including only fishing trips to surrounding lakes. Potts' daughter, Cheryl Joan Potts, lives in Austin.

Pott's advice to people driving today is to use the proper turn signal.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 29 Aug 1971: A12.

Home Rites Solemnized For Couple

Betty Lou Burton Becomes Bride Of C. R. Hunter

The wedding vows were solemnized Monday evening for Miss Betty Lou Burton and Charles Webster Hunter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McWilliams, 804 Columbus.

The Rev. Harold Sheets read the ceremony before an improvised altar of potted plants and greenery.

Mrs. Sheets played the traditional wedding marches and "I Love You Truly" during the ceremony.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 10 Mar 1943: 5.

Statesman Congratulates

The need of the hour with CORP. and MRS. CHESTER M. DRAKE, JR., Route 3, Box 478, is to quick, quick find a nickname for their son, Chester Mike III, born Sunday at Seton hospital, or have him face the anonymity of being called "baby" indefinitely. Corp. Drake and his father have always divided their double name, he being known as "Mike," while Chester Mike I, 1305 Marshall lane, is known as "Chester." There comes a time when you run out of variations on one theme. Corp. Drake is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., but got home Saturday night, just in the nick of time. He had to return Sunday night, but will be home next Saturday for a two-week furlough.

MR. and MRS. ANTHONY BAYWOOD, Route 2, Box 436, a boy, Thursday at Seton hospital.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM J. BOLIN, 912 East Second street, a girl, Thursday at Seton.

LT. and MRS. MARTIN LUCAS, 911 East 39th street, a boy, Thursday at Seton.

MR. and MRS. JOHNNY CHANDLER, Route 3, Leander, a boy, Thursday at Seton.

PFC. and MRS. CLAUDE MOORE, Box 84, Manor, a boy, Friday at Seton.

T-5 and MRS. CHESTER JAMISON, 4504 Speedway, a boy, Friday at Seton.

MR. and MRS. MARVIN HAMMACK, Cedar Park, a boy, Friday at Seton.

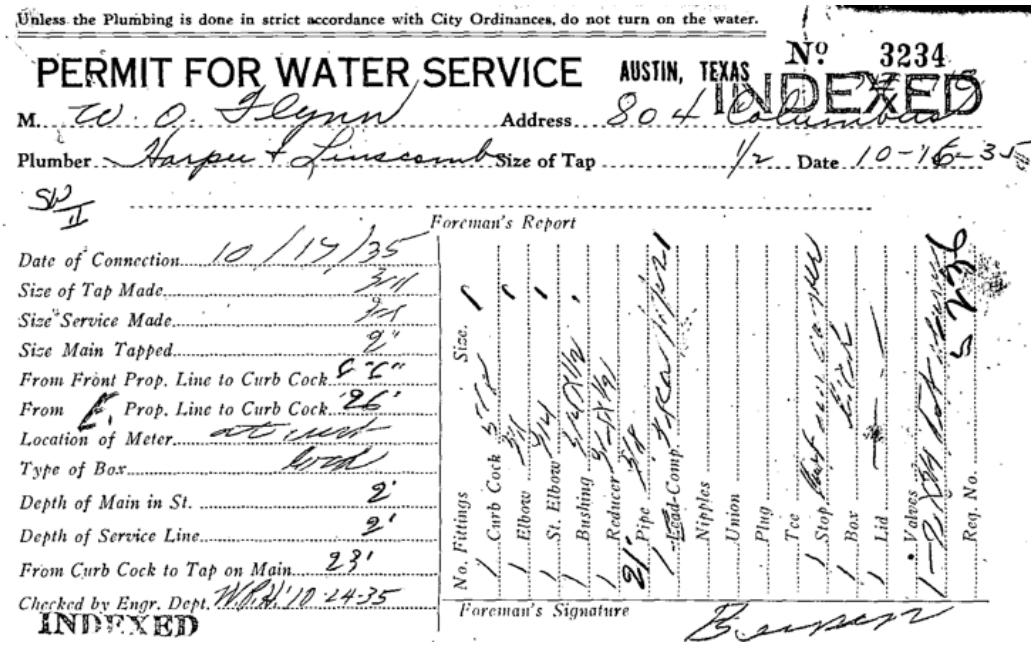
MR. and MRS. SAM LUNG, 1605 Canterbury, a girl, Saturday at Seton.

MR. and MRS. CARL A. HOBBS, 1150 Gunter, a girl, Sunday at Seton.

MR. and MRS. JOHN H. POTTS, 804 Columbus, a girl, Sunday at Seton.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 11 Dec 1945: 13.

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. 3234

INDEXED

M. W. O. Flynn Address 804 Columbus

Plumber Harper & Linscomb Size of Tap 1/2 Date 10-16-35

SP II

Foreman's Report

Date of Connection 10/17/35

Size of Tap Made 3/4

Size Service Made 3/4

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 6'6"

From E. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 26'

Location of Meter at curb

Type of Box Wood

Depth of Main in St. 2'

Depth of Service Line 2'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 23'

Checked by Engr. Dept. WRH 10-24-35

INDEXED

No. Fittings	Size	Curb Cock	Elbow	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead-Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tee	Stop	Box	Lid	Valves	Req. No.
1	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4	21'	1				1	1	1	1	1	5236

Foreman's Signature [signature]

Water tap permit, 1935