

## HISTORY OF BUILDING

The house situated at 209 E. 31st St., Austin, Texas was constructed in 1887 for Adolph and Rose Thielepape on the lot they had purchased the previous year from Alfred Grooms in the newly subdivided Grooms addition north of the city limits.<sup>1</sup> This lot and house was located on the west side of what was then known as Lampasas Street at approximately its north terminus, Centre St. not yet having been cut in. (see 1889-1890 City Directory entry for Hugh McGillvray cf. 1891-1892 entry for same) Centre St. would become by about 1893 simply W.31st St., whereas Lampasas/Speedway served as the East-West dividing line until 1934 when that line was moved west to University Ave. and the Speedway Ave. extension (Hyde Park's Ave. E.)

For over thirty years no apparent alterations were made on the house.

Then, in 1920 its owner and occupant, Wm. J. Disch put the building on large skids or rails and winched the building some fifty feet west to its present location. This move necessitated the removal of the original front porch and

front siding boards. The front porch was replaced by a smaller concrete slab with a semi-circular arched stoop cover very common to that period. Other modifications were made on the mid portion of the house, but the original 16 ft. X 40 ft. front section and rear kitchen section were kept intact in and the same spatial relationship to each other. Disch had a new home built on the corner site in 1924 whereupon the "old Disch home"- as it was known to area residents was readdressed as 103 W. 31st St.

By the time the present owner acquired the property in 1974 (the address having been changed to 209 E. 31st around 1934), the house had fallen into a state of serious deterioration, but from that time to now there has been gradual but steady work done on the house to reverse that decline. The entire cedar post foundation was replaced by a system of concrete piers and reinforced concrete grade beams resting directly on a continuous crushed rock filled perimeter trench. The roof covering was stripped off down to the rough-sawn 1 X 4 lath and replaced with galvanized steel roof meta, and all architectural details have been reproduced as faithfully as possible to the originals.

1. See warranty deed dated Sept. 21, 1886 in Travis Co. deed records, Vol.70, pg. 332, and Mechanic's Lien dated Feb. 21, 1887 in mech. lien records, Vol. 72,pgg. 490, and Warranty Deed dated June 19, 1888 in deed records, Vol. 79, pg. 518.

