

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

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CASE NUMBER: C14H-2010-0008

HLC DATE: March 22, 2010
April 26, 2010
May 24, 2010
June 28, 2010
July 26, 2010
August 23, 2010

PC DATE:

APPLICANT: Destination Hotels and Resorts, Inc., owner

HISTORIC NAME: Driskill Hotel

WATERSHED: Town Lake

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 117 E. 7th Street.

ZONING FROM: CBD to CBD-H

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from central business district (CBD) to central business district – Historic Landmark (CBD-H) combining district zoning.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: The case has been postponed by the applicant's request since March 22, 2010. August 23, 2010: Recommended the proposed zoning change from CBD to CBD-H. Vote: 7-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The Driskill Hotel is listed as a Priority 1 for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984). The only portion of the hotel nominated for landmark designation at this time is the 1930 tower on 7th Street.

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

The hotel consists of the original ca. 1886 four-story Romanesque Revival section, constructed of pressed brick with white limestone trim and large porticos on the east and south elevations, and a 12-story ca. 1930 tower on 7th Street. The only portion of the hotel nominated for landmark designation at this time is the 1930 tower on 7th Street.

Historical Associations:

Colonel Jesse Driskill purchased the property at the corner of 6th and Brazos Streets in 1884, demolishing the old feed store which had been on the site. Driskill had made his money in the cattle business before moving to Austin around 1870, furnishing beef for the Confederate Army and then driving cattle to railheads in Kansas. He decided to build a first class hotel in Austin,

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and hired local architect Jasper N. Preston to design the building. Preston, born in upstate New York in 1832, had been raised and educated in Lansing, Michigan. He moved to Austin in 1875, and began a successful architectural career, designing business buildings, such as the Tips Hardware Building on Congress Avenue, and the Hannig Building on E. 6th Street; he also designed many homes and churches in the city. He was on the jury to pick the design for the State Capitol after the old capitol burned in 1881, and served as the supervising architect on the Capitol project. After designing the Driskill Hotel, he moved to Los Angeles, California.

Preston designed a monumental four-story Romanesque Revival building for Colonel Driskill's hotel, constructed of pressed brick with white limestone trim. Each of the three principal facades featured a gabled parapet, each of which was topped with a bust of a member of the Driskill family, crafted by Italian artisans. Colonel Driskill looks over the principal and south façade, facing 6th Street; his son A.W. ("Tobe") looks over the west façade, and son J.W. looks over the east (Brazos Street) façade. The arches in the porticos on the south and east elevations of the building were reputed to be the largest in the state.

Work began on the hotel in January, 1885. The brick and limestone were both local, while the plate glass, hardware, tile, and other materials were personally chosen by Driskill and Preston on a trip to the east coast. Driskill envisioned a first-class hotel for Austin, and chose only the finest materials for the building. The hotel had all of the modern conveniences of the time, including steam heat, a hydraulic elevator, and an outside window for every room. The plastering was done by George Oag, who had done all the plasterwork at the then-new Post Office on W. 6th Street. Sam French did all the woodwork in the hotel. The hotel opened to great fanfare and celebration in December, 1886. The Driskill was quickly accepted by Austinites as a social hub – Governor Sul Ross held his inaugural ball at the hotel in January, 1887, beginning a long tradition of the Driskill's status as the epicenter of political life in Austin and Texas. Besides Sul Ross, Texas governors Hobby, Ma Ferguson, and Dan Moody held their inaugural balls at the hotel.

However, Colonel Driskill's association with the hotel was short-lived. Driskill lost a lot of money in the winter of 1886-1887 when a hard winter following a long drought decimated his cattle business. At the same time, S.E. McIlhenny, who leased the hotel from Driskill, moved to Galveston to manage the Beach Hotel there, and the Driskill Hotel closed. Tom Smith, who had been the manager of the Raymond House hotel on Congress Avenue, re-opened the hotel in January, 1888, but Driskill sold the hotel that same year to J.M. ("Doc") Day.

With the completion of the new State Capitol in 1888, the hotel flourished. The Driskill had a telegraph office, news and cigar stand, and a drug store fountain. The hotel also became known as a fine place to dine in downtown Austin, with a large and exotic menu. However, Day had sunk a lot of money into the hotel, and the mortgage was held by British businessmen. Day sold the hotel in 1893 to actor Maurice B. Curtis, who had agreed to assume Day's mortgage notes. He defaulted on the notes and the hotel was purchased at auction in 1894 by C.H. Silliman, a Fort Worth banker. In 1895, Major George W. Littlefield, who had opened his bank in the southeast corner of the hotel in 1890, purchased the building from Silliman, and began a modernization campaign, installing a new electrical system, long distance telephone service, an ice plant, a steam laundry, and adding 28 rooms to the hotel. Littlefield ran the Driskill until 1903. Dr. E.P. Wilmot, a banking rival of Littlefield's, purchased the hotel in 1906 and installed W.L. Stark as the manager; Stark remained in that position until the 1950s.

The first-class hotel market in Austin changed dramatically in the early 1920s with the construction of the Stephen F. Austin Hotel at 7th and Congress; for the first time, the Driskill had real competition for the high-end clientele. The Driskill responded by adding more rooms to the old structure at 6th and Brazos by converting the older guest rooms into smaller rooms, and then constructed the annex, which extended the hotel from 6th Street to 7th Street. The

annex was designed by the El Paso firm of Trost and Trost in 1928, and was completed in 1930, as a high-rise.

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A major renovation of the hotel occurred in 1952 with modernization of the rooms, lobby, and the installation of air conditioning. The old main entrance of the hotel on 6th Street was blocked off, and Austinites who were used to crossing through the hotel from 6th Street to 7th Street were no longer able to do so. The hotel suffered several fires in the 1950s and 1960s, and closed in 1969, although the private clubs and several businesses in the hotel remained open. The furnishings of the hotel were auctioned off in 1969 when the owners prepared to demolish the hotel and construct a new high-rise glass and steel tower in its place. People throughout Austin and Texas decried the fate of the old hotel, and a group of civic leaders led by local architect Max Brooks, organized the Driskill Hotel Corporation, which bought the hotel and began a campaign to renovate, preserve, and rehabilitate the building. The Driskill re-opened in 1973 with a grand celebration of preservationists and civic leaders; the inaugural party was attended by representatives and descendants of every Texas governor since the opening of the hotel. The civic group sold the hotel that year to Braniff Hotels, which pledged a massive restoration program. Braniff sold the hotel in 1980 to a California hotel group, which also announced a restoration program for the hotel. The hotel changed hands again in the 1980s, but in 1987, the mortgage holder had to foreclose on the property. The Great American Life Insurance Company of Los Angeles purchased the Driskill in 1995, and embarked on a \$30 million restoration program, which began in 1996.

PARCEL NO.: 02060307130000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The West 80 feet of Lots 7 and 8, and the North 12 x 80 feet and South 34 x 60 feet of Lot 9, and the North 22 x 60 feet of Lot 10, Block 69, Original City.

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$ 269,257; city portion: \$70,652 (for the original portion of the hotel and the tower).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$31,731,959 (for the original portion of the hotel and the tower).

PRESENT USE: Hotel

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS: Destination Hotels and Resorts, Inc.

DATE BUILT: ca. 1886 with a ca. 1930 high-rise addition.

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: The original part of the hotel has been restored to its 1886 appearance, reversing changes that were made in a ca. 1952 modernization project. The ca. 1930 tower has had some alterations to it, including the installation of a modern storefront on 7th Street and the installation of fixed sash windows.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Jesse L. Driskill (1886)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: The Driskill Hotel is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.

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J. L. Driskill
founder

Colonel Jesse Lincoln Driskill, founder of the hotel

Driskill

Hotel.

**AMERICAN
PLAN.**

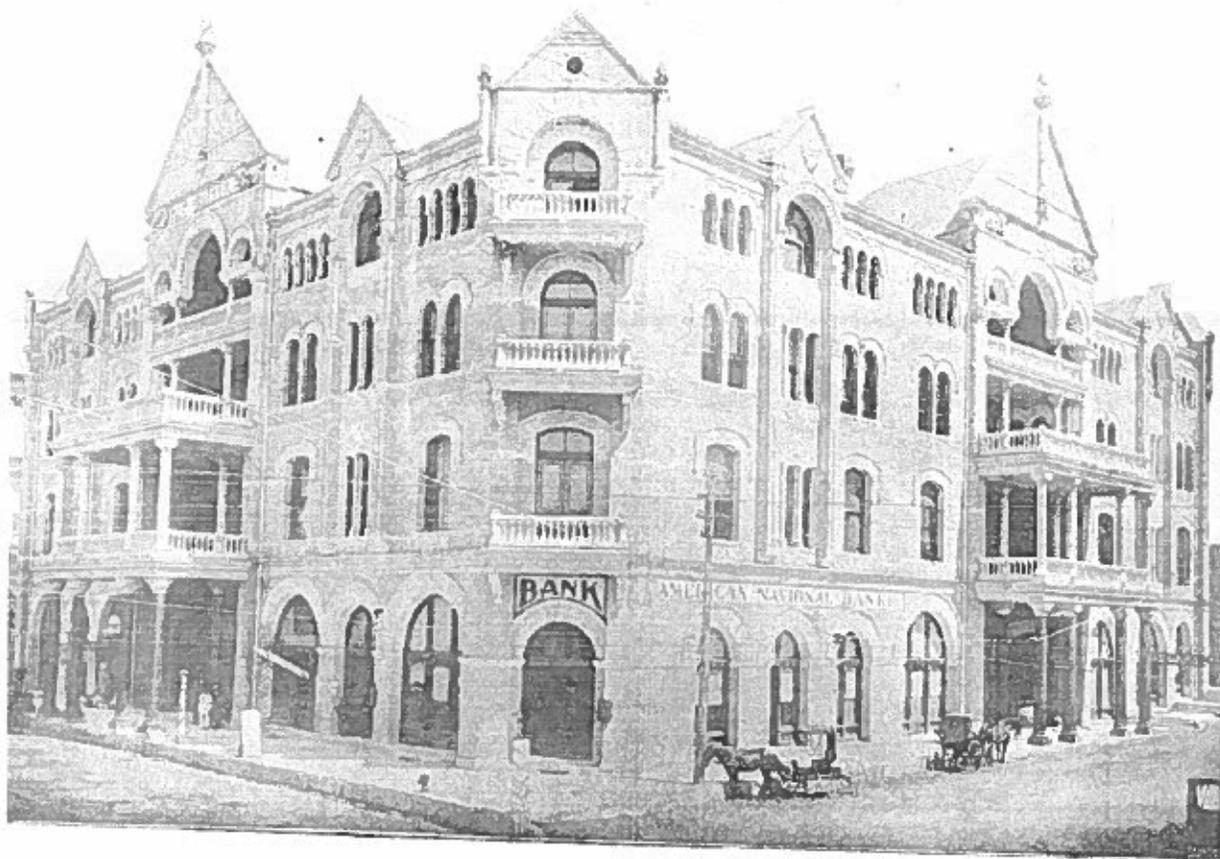
State headquarters T. F. A. Also
Headquarters Post F.

Balls, Receptions, Banquets and
Wedding Parties Specially Cared for.
Steam Laundry now open with
modern improvements. First-class
work guaranteed.

IRWIN DANIEL,
Manager.

Advertisement from the Austin Daily Statesman
November 9, 1899

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The Deskitt Hotel

Undated historic photograph, but likely 1901. George W. Littlefield opened his bank in the southeast corner of the hotel in 1890. The façade to the left faces 6th Street; the façade to the right faces Brazos Street.



View east on 6th Street from Congress Avenue shows the early scale of the hotel.

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FINEST ROOMS WITH BATH IN THE SOUTH
ELECTRIC LIGHT AND STEAM HEAT THROUGHOUT.



STATE HEADQUARTERS T. P. A.
ALSO POST OFFICE T. P. A.

The Driskill

American Plan

G. W. LITTLEFIELD,
PROPRIETOR
IRWIN DANIEL,
MANAGER

RATES
\$3.00 TO \$5.00 PER DAY

AUSTIN, TEXAS.

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Undated advertisement for the Driskill Hotel, but prior to 1903, when Littlefield sold the hotel.

"The Home of Southern Hospitality"



EXTENDS

A Personal Invitation

- to old and new students and to faculty members
- to make the DRISKILL their down-town headquarters.

The Driskill Hotel

W. L. STARK, Manager

Undated advertisement

Texas Hotel Polishes Its 'Diamond'

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By Janis Lynn Kneblik
Special to The Christian Science Monitor
Austin, Texas

"Finest hotel south of St. Louis"—that's the way advertisements 75 years ago described the Driskill Hotel here. Yet there were no screens on the mammoth windows, no telephones, no electric lights, and no steam heat.

Preparing to celebrate its diamond anniversary in December, the Driskill maintains its reputation as a colorful place to stay in Texas' capital city.

Built by Col. Jessie L. Driskill, a hard-living cattleman, the building was finished in 1885. News of Colonel Driskill's inn spread. Furnishings worth an estimated \$50,000 were purchased in the East; and, when they passed through the hands of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad, representatives were quick to sense the shipment's ultimate value. They contacted the owner and received permission to use the Driskill in a set of advertisements, portraying the hotel as "the Winter Resort for the Frozen North."

Property Sold

In 1887, Driskill sold the property, and thereafter it changed hands a number of times. The Driskill Hotel Company, current owner, acquired the property in 1906.

Each proprietor repaired the structure and added equipment, yet changed little of the Driskill's outward appearance. Early improvements included an ice factory and an electric light plant. To insure patrons an ample supply of water, the artesian well under the building was tapped; and native lumber, found stored in the hotel, was used in 1923 to build a coffee bar.

The skylight, which had fascinated visitors, was enclosed after

bats from the countryside infested the rotunda and eluded all capture attempts. A 12-story annex was added later.

From its beginning the Driskill has bragged of its satisfied visitors. Walter P. Stuart of Dallas was so impressed with the service when he visited the hotel on his wedding trip in 1895 that he wanted to return on his golden anniversary. A postcard request for a room was returned with an apology; a convention had taken over the hotel for the period desired, and there was no room available.

Situation Explained

An Austin friend intervening for Mr. Stuart explained the situation to J. L. Stark, the manager. Realizing the significance of the request, Mr. Stark found room space.

What was the old hotel like?

Each of the principal façades of pressed brick, dressed with white limestone, loomed up like a palace. Stone carvings of Colonel Driskill and his sons, J. W. (Bud) and A. W. (Tobe) were placed on columns at each of the three entrances along with symbols of the longhorn, cherubim and seraphim.

With the opening of the grand hotel, theatrical managers had no trouble booking the best talent in the profession, such as Edwin Booth, Sol Smith Russell, and Helena Modjeska. After the opera or play, the theater crowd made its way to the Driskill.

Judge 'Unseated'

Old-timers remember when Chief Justice Reuben R. Gaines was host at a formal five-course dinner party. As a young lady entered the room, the judge, a true gentleman, stood up. The waiter, trying to anticipate his every move, thought that he was going to carve the turkey. Quick-

ly and quietly he pulled the chair back to give the judge more room. The young lady seated, the judge sat down, too—pulling the cloth, food, and silverware to the floor with him.

The first formal affair in the Crystal Ballroom was the inaugural ball of Gov. L. S. Ross. Panels and draperies in the ballroom were of a specially woven fabric with heavily threaded designs in beige, rose, and blue. Enriching the scene were great corridors which took an estimated 1,500 square yards of velvet carpeting.

In the center of the room hung the ebony crystallized ball which gave the room its name. It was to observe the political fortunes of many in the 60 years it hung in the room. In 1952 it was replaced by an elaborate chandelier from New Orleans. The crystal ball now decorates a rival hotel.

Perhaps the most talked-of room is the Maximilian Room, with its gold-leaf mirrors designed for the Empress Carlotta of Mexico as a wedding gift from her husband Emperor Maximilian. Framed in rich fabric panels, draperies, and carpeting, the eight hand-carved mirrors reflect all events in the room.

A gilt medallion, rumored to be an exact likeness of the Empress, is placed in a cameo effect above the center of each mirror. Carlotta never saw the mirrors, and they were no viewed by the public until the Driskill purchased them in 1936. Maximilian had ordered them sent to San Antonio for safe keeping while his government remained unstable.

A fine hotel, a beautiful hotel. The Driskill cannot look back and see itself. It is itself today the colorful Driskill of 1885.

Article in the Christian Science Monitor, January 3, 1961

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DRISKILL HOTEL AT EAST SEVENTH AND CONGRESS
Historic hotel will close Tuesday (Staff photo by John Yates)

'Driskill Era' Coming to End

By ROWLAND NEIHAWAY
Staff Writer

For the first time since 1886 the Driskill Hotel will close its doors to the public next Tuesday.

Hotel manager Under Sweet said Thursday that plans of the hotel will create open on an indefinite basis. These include the Citadel Club, Driskill Club, and the dining room, just the bar, beauty and lunch shops.

Sweet said the change is timed with the adjournment of the Legislature since about 65 legislators and lobbyists are staying at the hotel.

Some hope will exist for the historic old hotel in the form of Austin architect Max Breckel, who built a Save-the-Driskill group.

Breckel said Thursday that the situation was "and in the category of being handed into the road that he has been in touch with Ralph O'Connor, president of Richland

Restaurants, Inc., of Houston, owners of the hotel, but that there were no new developments.

Sweet said that he was sorry to see the hotel close but that Driskill owners had that was a Driskill "in being a no competition with the sewer properties."

The Driskill Hotel first opened its doors in December 28, 1886. A historical inscription on the wall of the opening reads that the new Driskill in Austin was "the first hotel built in St. Louis—a magnificent hotel whose appointments would be an ornament to St. Louis or San Francisco."

"The original part of the hotel was built by Colonel Jesse L. Breckel, a Texas cattleman who told his workers to put only the best of materials into the new hotel. He said he wanted it constructed as a deer would never see. People at the Driskill Thursday said that many of the doors had sagged yet.

When the Driskill was built there were no telephones, no steam heat and no screens on the windows. But it was still, for miles around, the center for all elegant gatherings, parties and grand balls.

The rooms were heated by fireplaces and had mirrors large enough for the maid ladies to see the edges of their white ruffled dresses. There also were large velvet wardrobes and even a lotion in place in being the bell boys standing in such rooms.

The Driskill Hotel has always been a stopping place for visiting businessmen. But in three days, the businessmen made up to the hotel on a horse with their saddle bags and luggage. A heavy stable, across the way on Seventh Street cared for the guests' horses.

Such historical guests as Anna Field, Stuart Roberts, Edwin Hood and many others have their signatures on the old hotel registers.

But these were the old days and Tuesday the "Driskill Driskill" is closing. About 200 employees will be let go with about \$200,000 of the hotel's money is severance pay. Only twenty employees will remain to work on the clubs and shops.

Driskill manager Sweet said "Within the organization we have over 600 years of hotel experience."

One of the employees, who stated were twenty years experience to the organization said Thursday, "It just won't seem the same not coming back to this grand old hotel every morning."

A lot of people will feel that way.

Austin History Center

Reprieve Won By Driskill

By BARBARA WORLEY
Staff Writer

It's not even yet, but the Driskill Hotel resolved a long-mooted "reprieve" Thursday when a group of American investors announced formation of the Driskill Hotel Corporation and a plan to restore the "old" Driskill to its former elegance — along with a couple of significant additions.

The additions are a new 12-story ultra-modern tower adjacent to the original building and a 150-car parking garage across the street on the present Driskill parking lot.

Austin architect Max Brooks, spokesman for the corporation, said his aims are twofold: to save the Driskill and to create for the city of Austin "something it really needs — a fine hotel and convention facility."

The plan includes a convention center which would utilize the second and third floors of the 19th Century building situated at 6th St. and River. The floor would be connected by escalators, providing a meeting hall with a seating capacity of more than 1,000.

Brooks said the total value of the project, excluding the parking garage, will be in excess of \$5 million, but declined to estimate at this time what the "excess" would be.

Plans call for the corporation to buy the land where the present 12-story Driskill addition is located — on 11th St. — and to lease both the original building and the parking area on a 20-year basis.

The present addition will be torn down and replaced by the 12-story structure.

Halp O'Connor, president of Highland Resources, Inc., of Houston, owners of the Driskill, said the Driskill Hotel Corporation had been given an option for the purchase and the lease.

The option expires Oct. 1. O'Connor said his firm extended "complete cooperation and support" in the project, and described it as "the most feasible plan put forth" to achieve the objectives of saving the Driskill and providing Austin with a "first class hotel facility."

Brooks stressed that the success of the project is contingent in large part on public support.

"We are developing plans now for citizen participation through long-range guaranteed reservations of rooms," he said. He said that the corporation is discussing the possibility of "giving many people an opportunity to show in a small way their



THE 'NEW DRISKILL'—This artist's concept shows the proposed new Driskill Hotel facilities as viewed from 7th Street looking south. On the right is the proposed 12-story Driskill Hotel Tower, to be constructed on the site of the present 12-story addition. On the left

and in the background is the original four-story Driskill Hotel, located on the corner of 6th Street and Brazos. In front of it is a glassed-in facility which was not detailed in detail in the announcement of plans for the project.

interest in preserving this Texas landmark."

He added that more detailed information on the corporation's plans should be available within two weeks.

Other principals involved in the corporation are attorney Clint Small Jr., Sen. Charles Herring, banker Tom McCrummey, architect Howard Barr, Malcolm Millum of Capital Steel, architect David Granger, Dick Reynolds of Reynolds-Pendland, architect Roy White, public relations executives George Christian, Banks Miller Jr., Bob Nicks and attorney John J. McKay. All of Austin.

Brooks said response to the long-term reservation plan was "critical to provide funds to fill the gap" between the amount of money the corporation can raise and the actual cost of the project. His estimate was given of the cost of the purchase from Highland.

The interior of the original four-story building will be completely remodeled, and the exterior will be restored.

The Crystal Ballroom and the Meridian Room on the second floor will be retained, but remodeled to provide a restaurant for the convention floor.

The original building's present furniture will be included in

the lease agreement, and Brooks said there is a possibility of establishing a facility to display items of historical and artistic significance.

With the October date as a deadline for financing and architectural planning, the corporation has set a late fall goal for work to begin on demolishing the 12-story tower. By January 1, 1962, according to the corporation's plan, extensive remodeling of the original and construction of the Driskill Hotel Tower will have begun.

The corporation has set \$297,000 as the date for the hotel's grand opening.

Brooks added that the corporation's goal was to provide Austin with a hotel "unlike any other hotel in the country."

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Architectural rendering of the ca. 1930 annex tower

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THE DRISKILL'S OLD 12-story annex will take on a new look after refurbishing this year that includes expanding the existing hotel rooms and complete remodeling. The Driskill, which was recently spared death from the wrecker, will be operated and managed by Braniff International when it reopens next year. The long-time landmark of downtown Austin has been closed since 1969.

Unknown publication, 1971

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JAN. 21, 1973

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A guest list of historic proportions is forming for the Austin Heritage Society's February 10-11 weekend gala marking formal reopening of the famous Driskill Hotel in downtown Austin.

At least one blood relative of each Texas Governor since 1886--in some cases, several--will be special guests for a Saturday night Grand Ball and a Sunday afternoon Tea Dance staged by the Heritage Society as a benefit for its Capital City projects. Each Governor will be represented in a formal Presentation ceremony slated for the Ball, and the Jim Hogg Suite on the hotel's mezzanine, where political VIPs have been billeted through the years, will feature special tables for the honorees. Again, at the Tea Dance, gubernatorial relatives and descendants will be special guests.

Governor John Ireland (1883-1887) will be represented by Mrs. J. Chrys Dougherty, a great-granddaughter, and Mr. Dougherty of Austin, while Governor Lawrence (Sul) Ross (1887-91) will be represented by his grandson, Lt. Col. Neville P. Clark of San Antonio. Hosting Col. Clark will be close Austin friends, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. John C. Horton.

Miss Ima Hogg of Houston, prominent Texas historic preservationist and one-time Honorary Chairman of the Austin Heritage Society's annual Antiques Show, will be at the parties representing her father, Governor James S. Hogg (1891-95). Her hosts will be Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones of Austin.

Governor Charles A. Culberson (1895-99) will be represented by his great-grandnephew, Bill Poddock of Houston, and Mrs. Poddock, while Governor Joseph D. Sayers (1899-03) will be represented by his nephew, Ralph Sayers, and Mrs. Sayers of Houston. Judge and Mrs. Bob Shannon will be weekend hosts to the Sayerses.

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Governor S.W.T. Lanham (1903-07), who made news in Austin when he calmly walked his family from a downtown hotel up Congress Avenue to his inauguration ceremony at the Capitol, will be represented by a grandson, the Rev. Sam Lanham of Houston, and Mrs. Lanham. Hosts to the Lanhams will be Mr. and Mrs. James Motheral and Mrs. Fritz Lanham of Austin.

Governor Thomas M. Campbell (1907-11) will be represented at the parties by a grandson, Thomas Wommack, and Mrs. Wommack of Austin, and a great-granddaughter, Diane Wommaok Daniel (Mrs. Price Daniel, Jr.).

Governor James E. Ferguson (1915-17) will be represented by a grandson, James Stuart Watt of Austin, and Mrs. Watt. Representing Governor William P. Hobby (1917-21) will, of course, be his son, Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby of Houston and Austin, and Mrs. Hobby, while the other Hobby honoree will be his widow, a prominent Texan in her own right, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby of Houston. Senator and Mrs. Charles Herring will be hosts to the Hobbys.

Hallie Maud Neff (Mrs. Frank) Wilcox of Waco will represent her father, Governor Pat Neff (1921-25), and will have as her Austin hosts Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wood. Governor Miriam A. Ferguson ~~1925-27 and 1933-35~~ (1925-27 and 1933-35) will be represented by her grandson, George Nalle, Jr., of Austin and Mrs. Nalle.

Governor Dan Moody (1927-31) will be represented by his widow; his son Dan Moody, Jr., and Mrs. Moody; and his daughter, Mrs. Nancy Moody Hudson, all of Austin. Representing Governor Ross Sterling (1931-33) will be his son, Walter Sterling, and Mrs. Sterling of Houston. Their weekend hosts will be long-time friends, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Caven.

Governor James V. Allred (1935-39) will be represented by a son, David Allred, and Mrs. Allred of . Hosting them will be Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bolton, who were friends of the Governor.

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Governor W. Lee O'Daniel (1939-41) will be represented by his daughter, remembered as "Molly" and now Mrs. Richard E. Danielson of Los Angeles. Mrs. Danielson will be accompanied to Austin by her entire family, occupying a suite at the Driskill. Hosts to the Danielsons will be Mr. and Mrs. Clyde W. Smith.

Governor Coke R. Stevenson (1941-47) hopes to be present for the ceremonies, but he will also be represented by such family members as Mrs. Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. Coke Stevenson, Jr., of Austin, and his daughter, of

Representing Governor Beauford Jester (1947-49) will be his widow, now Mrs. Josh Morris of Texarkana, or a daughter, Mrs. Tom Berry of Houston, and Mr. Berry. Hosting them will be Land Commissioner and Mrs. Bob Landis Armstrong.

Governor ~~substituted~~ Allan Shivers (1949-57) and Mrs. Shivers will be present for the festivities, as will Governor Price Daniel (1957-63) and Mrs. Daniel. Both families still reside in Austin, Governor Shivers as Chairman of the Austin National Bank and Governor Daniel as a Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Making every effort to adjust his schedule to be present is Governor John B. Connally (1963-69), ~~who~~ who will be accompanied by Mrs. Connally, while Governor ~~is~~ Preston Smith (1969-73) and Mrs. Smith plan to return to the Capital City from Lubbock.

Governor and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe will be making one of their first official appearances in Austin since their inaugural ceremonies on January 16.

Impressive as the aforementioned list of gubernatorial VIPs may be, it does not include numerous other members of Governors' families who will be among the party guests. Only Texas Governor whose descendants have not yet been able to accept invitations ~~is~~ is Governor Oscar B. Colquitt (1911-15),

for whom relatives have been located in Florida and California.

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General Chairman for the Driskill opening parties is Mrs. Bob R. Armstrong of Austin, who may be contacted through the Heritage Society office, P.O. Box 2113, Austin, 78767, for information regarding patron and regular tickets for the Grand Ball, sponsor and regular tickets for the Tea Dance. All proceeds from the parties will benefit the Austin Heritage Society.

The Driskill Hotel, first opened on December 20, 1886, is now the property of the Driskill Hotel Corporation, a publicly-owned company. It is being operated by the Braniff International Hotel Division.

Copy for a story on the 1973 re-opening gala

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

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CASE NUMBER: C14H-2010-0021

HLC DATE:

June 28, 2010

PC DATE:

October 12, 2010

APPLICANT: Francis Wilde, owner

HISTORIC NAME: Olson-Foster House

WATERSHED: Waller Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 3808 Avenue H

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NCCD to SF-3-H-NCCD

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from family residence – neighborhood conservation (SF-3-NCCD) combining district to family residence – historic landmark – neighborhood conservation (SF-3-H-NCCD) combining district zoning.

The Olson-Foster House meets the criteria for designation for its architectural and historical significance, in that it is an excellent example of a 1930s brick Tudor Revival-styled cottage and typifies middle-class architecture in the Shadow Lawn subdivision. The house is also associated with the Frank Olson family, prominent Swedish-American farmers, as well as the R.C. and Anna Nellie Foster, who represent the Lebanese-American community in the Hyde Park area.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from SF-3-NCCD to SF-3-H-NCCD. Vote: 6-0 (Rosato absent).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

One-story irregular-plan, side-gabled brick-veneered cottage with a central, front-gabled projecting entry containing a round-arched entry and door; paired and triple 1:1 fenestration with 9:1 wood screens. The house is typical of the Shadow Lawn section of Hyde Park, which was designed for the middle class in the 1930s and 1940s.

Historical Associations:

The house was built in 1934 for Frank Oscar and Esther Olson by Martin Shipe and Sons. Olson was a successful pioneer farmer who lived in the house until his death in 1945. He was born in Illinois to Swedish immigrants, but then the family relocated to Texas and pursued

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agriculture around Manor. The 1900 U.S. Census shows Frank O. Olson as the 25-year old son of Mr. B. Olson, who was living in rural Travis County. Frank O. Olson was born in Illinois in 1874; both of his parents had been born in Sweden. The 1900 census report shows that Frank was married to Esther, who had been born in 1879 in Texas to Swedish-born parents. Frank is listed as a farmer in the census report. The Olson family had moved to Texas between 1874, when Frank was born in Illinois, and 1882, when a younger sister, Ida, was born in Texas. Olson's 1917 World War I draft registration card shows Frank and Esther Olson living at Manor, Texas, where he was engaged as a farmer. The 1930 U.S. Census shows F.O. and Esther (Easter) Olson living in rural Travis County; F.O. was then 55 years old; Esther was then 52. The only child living with them at that time was their daughter Gladys, who was then 13. The Olsons owned the house they lived in, which was worth \$3,000. Olson is listed as a cotton farmer. Neither Esther nor Gladys had an occupation listed. Frank O. and Esther Olson purchased this lot from Victor and Ida Bengston in 1925, and moved into Austin between 1930 and 1934, when they had this house built. The materials for the house came from Becker Lumber Company, as evidenced by the release of the mechanic's lien on the property. Frank Olson is listed as a farmer in city directories of the 1930s and 1940s. Their daughters, Bendella, a teacher, Dora, a stenographer for the State Highway Department,, Mildred, an invoice clerk for E.M. Scarbrough & Sons Department Store, and Gladys, a clerk with the Texas Insurance Checking Office, all lived in the house through the early 1940s. Gladys married Robert W. Meacham, who is listed as the home-owner in the 1944-45 city directory.

After Frank's death in 1945, only Esther and her daughter Dora remained in the house. Dora worked for the State Highway Department for many years. After her mother's death in 1960, Dora remained in the house another year, then sold the property to R.C. and Anna Nellie Foster.

Robert C. Foster ran the R.C. Foster Mercantile Company, a dry goods store on E. 6th Street. Originally from North Carolina, Foster walked into Austin from San Antonio in 1939, having already made his mark in the business world selling towels, toothpaste, and other necessities to work camps during the Depression. Anna Nellie Foster was the daughter of Alex Joseph, a prominent Lebanese immigrant, who, like many of his countrymen, opened a grocery business in Austin. The family remained very close over the years, and represent the tightly-knit Lebanese-American community in Austin. Anna Nellie and two of her sisters all lived on Avenue H and raised their families together. Nellie Foster passed away in 1985. R.C. Foster passed away in 2005. The house was sold in 2006 to Rex and Cynthia Baker, III, whose son, Rex IV was going to the University of Texas School of Law. They sold the house in 2009 to the current owner, Francis (Frank) E. Wilde, who leads global supply chain strategy initiatives for Dell Computers.

PARCEL NO.: 02180601120000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The South 70 feet of Lot 40, Shadow Lawn

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$4,951 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$1,158.

APPRAISED VALUE: \$431,394

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

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PRESENT OWNER:

Francis Wilde
3808 Avenue H
Austin, Texas 78751

DATE BUILT: ca. 1934

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: None.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Frank O. and Esther Olson (1925)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

A.5 - 5
CA
/22



Olson-Foster House
3808 Avenue H
ca. 1934

OK to go SS 4-13-10

9/23

A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

PROJECT INFORMATION:

#10443978

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>5-25-10</u> <u>04-2010-0021</u>	FILE NUMBER(S):
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____	CITY INITIATED: YES/NO <input checked="" type="radio"/>
CASE MANAGER: <u>S. Sadowski</u>	ROLLBACK: YES/NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: <u>R. Turner</u>	

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: Francis E. Wilde

2. PROJECT NAME: Dison - Foster House

3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): 3800 Avenue H

ZIP: 78751 COUNTY: Travis

IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:

LOCATED 70 FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE N. S. E. W. (CIRCLE ONE) SIDE OF avenue H (ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY _____ DISTANCE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH 38th CROSS STREET.

AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES .2 (OR) SQ. FT. 8,725

5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:

EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
<u>SF-3</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>0280002</u> <u>(tax map)</u> <u>40</u>	<u>.2</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>SF-3-H</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

SCANNED

GRID# 125 walter creek/urban

A.5
9/24

RELATED CURRENT CASES:

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE? (YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO)	FILE NUMBER:
7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT? (YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO)	FILE NUMBER:
8. SUBDIVISION? (YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO)	FILE NUMBER:
9. SITE PLAN? (YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO)	FILE NUMBER:

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

10. VOLUME/ PAGE: Book 3 Vol 71 TAX PARCEL I.D. NO. 213100

OTHER PROVISIONS:

11. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES NO
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD,NP, etc)

12. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO National Register

13. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)
TRIPS PER DAY: _____
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S): _____

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

14. SOLE ___ COMMUNITY PROPERTY ___ PARTNERSHIP ___ CORPORATION ___ TRUST

If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION:

15. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION.

SIGNATURE: [Signature] NAME: Francis E. Wilde

FIRM NAME: Dell Inc. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (214) 402-2180

STREET ADDRESS: 3808 Avenue H

CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78751

EMAIL ADDRESS: Frank_wilde@dell.com

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AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

16. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION
 SIGNATURE: Mandy Schmidt NAME: Mandy Schmidt
 FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: (512) 992-5578
 STREET ADDRESS: 707 W. 18th St.
 CITY: Austin STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 78701
 CONTACT PERSON: Mandy Schmidt TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: Schmidt.Mandy@gmail.com

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY:

D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Mandy Schmidt 2/23/10
Signature Date

Mandy Schmidt
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (if applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Mandy Schmidt 2/23/10
Signature Date

Mandy Schmidt
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (if applicable)

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E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, Mandy Schmidt (Print name of applicant) have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

3808 Avenue H
(Address or Legal Description)
Austin, TX 78751

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

Mandy Schmidt
(Applicant's signature)

2/23/10
(Date)

TAX CERTIFICATE
Nelda Wells Spears
Travis County Tax Assessor-Coll. Cor
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9473

NO 1054202

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ACCOUNT NUMBER: 02-1806-0112-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

BAKER REX G III & CYNTHIA G
4901 MCGREGOR LN
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX 78620-3311

S70FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN

ACRES .0000 MIN* .000000000000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 3808 AVENUE H

This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interests are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s):

YEAR	ENTITY	TOTAL
2009	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*
TOTAL SEQUENCE 0		*ALL PAID*
TOTAL TAX:		*ALL PAID*
UNPAID FEES:		* NONE *
INTEREST ON FEES:		* NONE *
COMMISSION:		* NONE *
TOTAL DUE ==>		*ALL PAID*

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2009 \$10,164.60

ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2009 EXCEPT FOR UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.

The above described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional rollback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code). Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of \$10.00 for all Tax Certificates.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF 02/04/2010

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: *C. Wells*

SCANNED

Olson-Foster Historic Designation 1

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/28F.1: Deed Chronology

Transaction	Vol. / Page
Victor & Ida J. Bengston to Frank Oscar & Esther Olson. S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN November 1, 1925 \$700	Vol 380, pp 291-292.
Pearl & L.C.Nelson; Dora Olson; Hildegard & A.D Johnson; Bendella & Tom Stokes; Mildred & Milton Jarl; Gladys & Robert W. Meachum; all acting Individually and as Independent Executrix of the Estate of Esther S. Olson, deceased, to Robert Coleman and Anna Nellie Foster. S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN (enclosed) June 3, 1961 \$11,000	Vol 2312, pp 21-28.
Robert Coleman Foster Senior to Robert Coleman Senior Revocable Living Trust S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW September 28, 2001	Docket # 2001187113
Robert Coleman Senior Revocable Trust to Rex G and Cynthia G Baker S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN Warranty Deed with Lender's Lien (enclosed) May 31, 2006 \$460,687 (\$150,000 principal Lender's Lien)	Docket #2006105581
Rex G. III Baker and Cynthia Baker to Francis Wilde S70 FT OF LOT 40 SHADOW LAWN January 22, 2010 \$344,000.00 Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien	Docket # 20090090

F.2: Occupancy History

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1934	House probably built in 1934 when Frank Oscar Olson bought the property and moved in with his family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directory
1935-1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (typist State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directories

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H • Gladys, resident 3808 • Mildred (invoice department E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H 	
1937	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (clerk), resident 3808 • Mildred L (clerk E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directory
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (telephone operator), resident 3808 • Mildred L (cashier E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directory
1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendella (teacher), resident 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (Employee at Texas Insurance Checking Office), resident 3808 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directory
1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • M Gladys (Clerk, Texas Insurance Checking Office), resident 3808 • Mildred L (cashier E M Scarbrough & Sons), resident 3808 Av H) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directory
1942	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dora (stenographer State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H • F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H • Gladys (Clerk, Texas Insurance Checking Office), resident 3808 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directory
1944-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meacham Robt W (Gladys), homeowner 3808 Av H • Dora (stenographer State Highway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Directories

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department), resident 3808 Av H F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H 	
1946-1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H F Oscar (Esther) farmer, homeowner 3808 Av H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories
1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H Esther (widow Oscar), homeowner 3808 Av H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directory
1950 - 1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H Esther (widow Oscar), homeowner 3808 Av H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories
1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dora P (laboratory recorder, State Highway Department), resident 3808 Av H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directory
1962-1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories
1966 - 1967	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H Robt C Jr (student), resident 3808 Ave H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories
1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carolyn (student), resident 3808 Ave H R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H Robt C Jr (student), resident 3808 Ave H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directory
1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carolyn (clerk, Prudential Insurance), resident 3808 Ave H R C Mercantile Co Inc Geo Mezzetti pres R C Foster v-pres agcy 1802 E 6th Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H Robt C Jr (student), resident 3808 Ave H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directory
1970-1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robt C (Anna) V-Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories
1979-1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robt C (Anna) Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co Inc, homeowner 3808 Avenue H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories
1986-2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robt C, Pres R C Foster Mercantile Co. 1802 E. 6th Street, homeowner 3808 Avenue H 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories
2001 -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster Robt C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Directories

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2006		
2006 – 2009	Rex G IV Baker, UT Law Student	• Neighborhood Inquiry
2009 – Present	Francis E. Wilde, Dell	• Current Owner

F.3: Biographical Data**FRANK OSCAR AND ESTHER OLSON**

The house was built in 1934 for Frank Oscar and Esther Olson by Martin Shipe and Sons. F. O. Olson was a successful pioneer farmer who lived in the house until his death in 1949. He was born in Illinois to Swedish immigrants, but then the family relocated to Texas and pursued agriculture. Olson served in the U.S. Military in World War I. Esther was a dedicated mother and housewife.

After Frank's death, Esther remained in the family home until her passing in 1960. The Olsons raised six daughters: Miss Dora Olson, Mrs. Pearl Nelson, Mrs. Hildegard Johnson, Mrs. Bendella Stokes, Mrs. Mildred Jarl, and Mrs. Gladys Meachem. Miss Dora Olson lived in the house for a year after her mother's death. She worked as a lobby clerk for the State Highway Department and remained in Austin until her death in 2009. Esther also had two sisters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. The Olsons were both buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, TX through the local Lutheran Church.

Sources:

Military Registration Card

Ancestry.com

City of Austin Internment Report

ANNA NELLIE FOSTER

Nellie Foster was the wife of Robert Coleman Foster, an occupant of the Avenue H home for the later part of her life. She and her family contributed greatly to the history and culture of the Shadow Lawn neighborhood and the City of Austin. Nellie was born to parents Alex and Manoon Joseph, who emigrated from Lebanon, then to Austin. Alex and Manoon had 5 children: Gloria, Julia, Richard, Nellie, and Agnes. The Joseph family augmented the Lebanese culture still found today in Austin. Nellie and her three sisters Victoria, Julia, and Agnes all resided in homes on Avenue H, raising their families together. All four sisters were beauticians prior to raising their children. Before moving to Avenue H, the Joseph family (three sons and four daughters) resided in the area of downtown Austin at 108 East First Street, close to the current location of the Austin Convention Center. Nellie's childhood home has been preserved to this

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day. Her father, Alex Joseph, operated a grocery store on Congress. Many of the Joseph children owned several stores and buildings around Austin.

Gloria Joseph, married to Vic Zigup, lived on Avenue H and owned half of the Con Street Cafe. Julia and her husband Gus Attal lived at 3810 Ave H. Gus founded A&A Appliance, located on Burnet Road until its closing last year. Julia & Gus had three kids: Ronnie who took over A&A Appliance from Gus and lives in Austin; Sonny ran a pawn shop on 6th Street until his recent passing; and Judy who lives in San Antonio. Richard Joseph currently lives in Houston.

Alex Joseph exemplified the hard work and perseverance of many immigrating families to the United States. Alex Joseph was a proud citizen, as he enlisted in World War I while living with his family, before moving to Avenue H. Alex Joseph lived at 3805 Avenue H with one of Nellie's sisters, Agnes, in 1963. He remained there until his death in 1965. Agnes remained on the block until 2009, when she passed away in the home at the age of 87. Prior to Alex residing in the home, Agnes lived there with her husband Leo E. Owens. Leo, however, died two years after their marriage while serving overseas in Korea. Their son Lee, who was 6 months old when his father passed away, still lives in the home today.

The Lebanese population in Texas often resided in close-knit communities, exemplified by Nellie and her family on Avenue H. The Lebanese culture also began to assimilate into the Roman Catholic Church in Texas. Following this movement, Nellie and her sisters were all life-long members and contributors to St. Mary's Cathedral Catholic Church of Austin. Additionally, the Lebanese influence holds strong as the tradition of trading was often the business of choice for the culture. It is no surprise that Nellie's husband, Robert Coleman Foster, was also in the same business as her family, as he operated and owned R. C. Mercantile Company.

Robert Coleman Foster and Nellie Foster had 2 children who lived in the 3808 Avenue H home with them, Carolyn and Coleman. In honor of Carolyn's marriage to Richard Groeskopf in January of 1970, Nellie planted a pecan tree in the front yard of 3808 Avenue H; the tree continues to grow in the front yard. Carolyn, who works for Prudential, lives with her husband in Round Rock. Coleman lives in Austin and works as a coin dealer.

Nellie Foster passed away in the Olson-Foster home on December 23, 1985. She and her family left a lasting impact on Shadow Lawn, as her husband continued to thrive in the family home. Likewise, her large family still continues to work and add to the spirit of the City of Austin.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Military Registration Card

Oral History from Catherine Moor (neighbor and family friend)

Oral History from Lee Owens (family member)

Austin American Statesman Obituary of Anna Nellie Foster December 23, 1985

Pecan Press *Agnes Joseph Owens Obituary* written by Avenue H resident Catherine Moore

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ROBERT COLEMAN FOSTER

Robert Coleman (R.C.) Foster began his occupancy in the Olson-Foster home in June of 1961, with his wife, Anna Nellie. A prominent businessman, R.C. quickly became well-known in the neighborhood, as he was referred to as the "Mayor of The Block".

Robert was born on July 16, 1917 in Davie County, North Carolina to Mr. Coleman Fosters and Mrs. Mary D. Williams. He traveled to Austin from San Antonio in 1939, walking every step of the 80 mile journey. In February of 1944, R. C. married Anna Nellie Joseph, whom he stayed with until her passing in the Olson-Foster home in 1985.

R. C. was a successful businessman throughout his lifetime. During the Depression, he earned a living by selling towels, toothpaste and other necessities to various camps of workers. Robert used his experience and knowledge to form his own business in Austin, R. C. Mercantile Company. This place of business was centrally located Austin at 1802 East Sixth Street. He owned R. C. Mercantile for over sixty years.

Robert was a kind and friendly soul, and graced Avenue H with his personality. The block was tightly-knit, as Nellie's three sisters all owned homes also on The Avenue. This made it simple for all of the cousins to grow up and play together with all of the families. A family friend ascertains that R.C. Foster often spent his leisure time on the front porch, enjoying his cigars and chatting with the passersby. Additionally, his obituary depicts him smoking a cigar with an American top hat. At one point in his life, Robert Coleman and his friend Senator Walter Richards walked the long journey from Avenue H all the way down to the Night Hawk Restaurant near Lady Bird Lake nearly every night.

R.C. and Anna Nellie occupied the Olson-Foster home from 1961 until their respective passings, spending a majority of their lives in the Shadow Lawn home. They raised two children, Robert Coleman Foster, Jr. and Carolyn Foster in the family home. Robert Coleman passed away on June 12, 2005 in Austin. In addition to his son and daughter, R. C. was survived by various grandchildren and great grandchildren of Austin, where the Foster family name still stands strong, all beginning with the determined and hard-working Robert Coleman Foster. His body rests in peace with his wife at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Austin.

Sources:

North Carolina Birth Index – Vital Statistics of Davie County, N.C. (1917)

Oral History from Catherine Moor (neighbor and family friend)

Google map of R. C. Mercantile Company location

Austin American Statesman Obituary of Robert Coleman Foster June 15, 2005

REX BAKER IV

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Rex Baker IV lived in the Olson-Foster home from 2006-2009 while attending the University of Texas School of Law. He continued the Baker family legacy of earning a law degree with honors from the same institution as 3 generations before. His parents Rex Baker III and Cynthia Baker bought the home in 2006. Both parents are practicing lawyers in Dripping Springs, Texas.

Rex III is a member of the UT System Chancellor's Counsel, allowing him to actively support current law students attending his alma mater. In addition, Rex III and Cynthia contribute to the Chancellor's Excellence Endowment, which provides assistance to students throughout Texas. This leads to improving the education of our community and state for years to come.

Rex Baker IV is currently an associate member of Gardere's Corporate practice group in Houston, Texas. He specializes in Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions, Energy Industry Team, and Private Equity Industry Team.

Sources:

University of Texas Systems Archive "Their Traditions are Building a Better Future"
Oral History from Kathy Schmidt (neighbor and friend)

FRANCIS E. WILDE

In 2009, Francis (Frank) E. Wilde bought the home. Wilde currently leads global supply chain strategy initiatives for Dell. His career began developing customer relationship management and supply chain management software for SEER Technologies. He then transitioned to management consulting with Deloitte Consulting, leading technology integration and strategy and performance improvement engagements within Deloitte's Strategy & Operations practice. The strategy and performance improvements required a mix of technology integration as well as process engineering and change management to create value for his clients.

After nine years with Deloitte Consulting, Wilde joined Hewlett-Packard and led a performance improvement organization to launch strategic technology accounts. The organization helped launch global accounts totaling \$2.3 billion in value. Wilde then became an account executive for our account with American Airlines and had P&L responsibility for a software application development business with American Airlines, a \$240 million contract.

Having spent his career in consulting and operational roles, Wilde launched a strategy consulting practice focused on marketing strategy, performance improvement and performance management utilizing a mix of organizational design, technology integration, and change management to create value for the clients.

In addition to impressive professional achievements, Wilde is a devoted and active citizen. He currently serves as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy. In 1991, Wilde was member of the winning team in the National Academic Decathlon. The team won regionals, state, and nationals. For their great accomplishment, the team met Phil Graham, Lloyd Bentsen, and

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George H. W. Bush in a reception in the Rose Garden following the competition (See attached article). Wilde has also had the great honor of meeting presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton for his various successes.

Wilde comes from a lineage of high achievers. The great Irish poet and playwright, Oscar Wilde, is an ancestor of the current tenant. In addition, the Wilde family designed and built the moveable sign around Times Square in New York City, at a time before electronic signs were developed.

Wilde remains active in community service and philanthropic initiatives. In the past, he has led Deloitte Consulting Community Service Committee in the San Francisco Bay Area, served on the Executive Board for Habitat for Humanity San Francisco, and led community service initiatives for Deloitte Consulting and Hewlett-Packard throughout his career. Wilde enjoys strengthening the communities in which we operate. He plans to bring his dedication and strength of service to the citizens of The City of Austin.

The Olson-Foster home has been home to various tradesmen and professionals that have positively influenced the history of the City of Austin. The wide variety of industries practiced by the tenants displays an accurate snapshot of the diverse and essential positions that keep our city progressing.

F.4: Historical Events

No known historically significant events occurred at this location.

F.5: Photographs

Attached

F.7: Reproductions

Attached

F.8: Site Plan

Please see attached maps.

09
/36*Basis for Recommendation:*

The ca. 1934 Olson-Foster House is an exceptionally well maintained example of brick Tudor Revival bungalow. As this style of home is uncommon in the city of Austin, it is therefore frequently recognized as historically significant architecture. In addition to the style of home, the area and time period in which the structure was built add value to its place in the community.

ARCHITECTURE

**Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a recognized architectural style, type, or method of construction.*

A one story, streamlined, brick Tudor Revival-Style bungalow. The house is front-gabled, with a triangular-pitched roof. Round arched front doorway with decorative hardware; also, decorative entryways in the back and side of home. The entryway exhibits a round arched window, consistent with the design of the front door.

Interior of the home also embodies classic Tudor design. The central hallway divides the home into two distinct areas: living quarters and community rooms (Wikipedia). Wood flooring and medieval-inspired light fixtures bring the Tudor style to life throughout the home. Multi-paned windows are presented in groups of 2 and 3, a key characteristic of the Revival Style (Antique Home).

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

**Has significant associations with persons, groups, institutions, businesses, or events of historical importance which contributed to the history of the city, state, or nation*

Robert Coleman Foster and Anna (Nellie) Foster were the second owners of this house. The family occupied the home from 1961 until 2005. Nellie came from a large family of Lebanese immigrants, Alex Joseph and Manoon Joseph. Four of the Joseph sisters – Nellie, Victoria, Julia, and Agnes - lived on Avenue H and raised their families, many of whom have had a direct and lasting impact on the city of Austin, the State of Texas, and the United States.

Agnes Joseph Foster married Leo Owens, who fought and died for his country in the Korean War. Their son, Lee Owens, still lives in the house he was raised in at 3805 Avenue H. Julia and Gus Attal built and lived in the home at 3810 Avenue H. Gus's brother, Wolford Attal, is the grandfather of Charles Attal, who is now the promoter and booker for the annual Austin City Limits Music Festival.

In addition to the Joseph decedents, two other Lebanese families lived on Avenue H during this time. The Foster family represents a subset of an important immigrant population in Austin.

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Robert Coleman Foster grew to be an important figure in Austin through his contributions in both business and the Hyde Park neighborhood. The R C Mercantile Company was located in Central Austin, owned and operated by R C for over 60 years. Part of the sign advertising the merchandising store can still be seen on the east 6th street building, a reminder of Foster's long-lasting service of providing goods to the city of Austin. Foster is an excellent example of an enduring figure during difficult times and his presence in the neighborhood as "Mayor of the Block" ascertains his unforgettable character.

**Represents a significant portrayal of the environment of a group of people in a historic time:*

The Olson-Foster home was constructed during the historically significant architectural boom of the 1930's. During this time, the developer of the Shadow Lawn District, Martin Shipe, envisioned and created more affordable homes for middle-class citizens utilizing the Tudor Revival Bungalow architecture (Hyde Park Neighborhood Association). This wave of construction was historically significant as it led to the early efforts of Austin's suburban development and the advent of self-sufficient communities.

Homes in the Shadow Lawn subdivision were built later than the surrounding Hyde Park area, as Shipe left the land to his wife and daughter. Eventually, the land was used as fair grounds; evidence of the land's history can still be seen in the curve in 39th street, which follows the path of the old fair track.

Shipe's development of Hyde Park correlates directly to the advancement of Austin in residential districts. Building homes for more socioeconomic levels than just upper-class, the Hyde Park boom set a precedent for the City of Austin citizens to live comfortably and centrally in Tudor Revival Bungalows (HPNA). The Olson-Foster home is a direct result of this movement in this architectural design shift.

COMMUNITY VALUE:

In addition, the house adds value to the community as "contributing structure" in the Hyde Park Historic District, as it aligns with the following criteria: it was built during the mid 1930's, a period of significance for Hyde Park; and, it retains its general appearance from that time (HPNA).

The Olson-Foster home stands today as it did when constructed in 1934. The Travis County Property Information exemplifies that no major structural improvements have been made to the home, and the floor plan retains its historic character.

As previously highlighted, the 1930's represents an important time period for the Hyde Park Historic District as this was a time where significant residential changes occurred in the neighborhood. As the neighborhood began to shift away from its aristocratic origins and appeal increasingly to the middle and working class, a major architectural shift from lavish Queen Anne

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style designs to the more modest, bungalow style house was seen (HPNA). The Tudor Revival-Style of the Olson-Foster House embodies this design shift of the 1930s in the Hyde Park Historic District.

This significance is also noted by similarity in style of the homes surrounding the Olson-Foster House. Four neighboring homes on Avenue H display the same modest, brick Tudor-style common to the construction of the time. The Olson-Foster House is a true representation of this historical time for the Hyde Park Neighborhood, and recognizing this important historical resource would add value in establishing the already historic neighborhood as an official local historic district.

REGISTRATION CARD

NAME: Frank Oscar Olson INDEX NO: 1195

REGISTRATION NO: 1042

REGISTRATION DATE: 9/13

REGISTRATION OFFICE: Major Travis Fox

REGISTRATION TYPE: 13

REGISTRATION CLASS: 9c

REGISTRATION STATUS: 1874

REGISTRATION RACE: Swedish

REGISTRATION SEX: Male

REGISTRATION AGE: 35

REGISTRATION OCCUPATION: Farming

REGISTRATION EMPLOYER'S NAME: Major Travis Fox

REGISTRATION ADDRESS: Wife E. T. Olson

REGISTRATION SIGNATURE: Frank Oscar Olson

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

42-1-69

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

SOLICIT			FIELD			CLASS OF YEAR		CLASS OF RACE	
T-1	M-1	S-1	M-2	M-3	S-2	1	2	3	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

I certify that the above are true and that the registrant has read and understands the provisions of the Act and that all of the above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

S. C. Seaton
Date of Registration: Sept 12th 1918

Local Board Train Class
Austin, Texas
Board Train Comfy
ASTORIA TEXAS 1918

Frank Oscar Olson's World War I draft registration card

STEWART

F. O. OLSON

F. O. Olson, 71, prominent Austin citizen, died at a local hospital Saturday. Surviving are his widow, six daughters, Mrs. Lawrence Nelson of Elgin, Mrs. Milton Jarl, Mrs. Robert Meacham and Miss Dora Olson, all of Austin, Mrs. Tom Stokes and Mrs. A. D. Johnson, both of San Antonio; one sister, Mrs. Ida Bengtson of Austin. The body is at the Hyltin Funeral home. Funeral services will be held

Monday at 1:30 p. m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran church with the Rev. J. E. Chester, assisted by Dr. A. L. Scott, officiating.

Obituary of F.O. Olson

Austin American Statesman, January 28, 1945

OLSON—Funeral services for F. O. Olson, pioneer resident and farmer of Travis county, were held at the Gethsemane Lutheran church Monday at 2:30 p. m., with the Rev. J. E. Chester and Dr. A. L. Scott officiating. Burial was in Oakwood under direction of Hyltin Funeral home. The body was removed to the family home, 3808 Avenue H, Sunday afternoon. Pallbearers were Lawrence Olson, Ernest Olson, Henry Anderson, Emil Anderson, Hilding Anderson and Elton Halmberg.

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MRS. ESTHER OLSON
 Mrs. Esther Olson, widow of the late F. O. Olson of 3808 Ave. H. died in a local hospital, Monday. Survivors are six daughters, Miss Dora Olson of Austin, Mrs. L. C. Nelson of Elgin, Mrs. A. D. (Pete) Johnson of San Antonio, Mrs. Tom G. Stokes of Houston, Mrs. Milton H. Jarl and Mrs. R. W. (Bob) Beachem both of Austin; three sisters, Mrs. Emma Strom and Miss Anne Holmberg both of Austin and Mrs. Victor Nelson of New Sweden; one brother, Robert Holmberg of New Sweden; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.
 Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church with the Rev. M. L. Lundquist, officiating.
 The body will lie in state at the Church from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
 Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery, under the direction of the Cook Funeral Home.
 Pallbearers will be Emil Anderson, Hilding Anderson, Herman P. Becker, Dr. Oliver Strom all of Austin, Eddie Westling, Austin and Lawrence Olson of New Sweden.

Obituary of Esther Olson
Austin Statesman, October 3, 1960

MRS. ESTHER OLSON
 Funeral services for Mrs. Esther Olson were held Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 p. m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church with the Rev. M. L. Lundquist officiating.
 The body will lie in state at the church from 2 until 3:30 p. m.
 Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery under the direction of the Cook Funeral Home.
 Pallbearers will be Emil W. Anderson, Hilding Anderson, Herman P. Becker, Dr. Oliver Strom, Ed Westling and Lawrence Olson of New Sweden.

Funeral notice for Esther Olson
Austin Statesman, October 4, 1960

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Anna Nellie Joseph Foster

Anna Nellie Joseph Foster, 79 of Austin died Monday. She was a life-long resident of Austin and a member of St. Marys Cathedral Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, R.C. Foster of Austin; one son, Colman Foster of Austin; one daughter, Chrylyn Foster-Groskopf of Houston; three sisters, Mrs. Victoria Zegab, Mrs. Julia Algal, and Mrs. Agnes Owens, all of Austin; one brother, Richard Joseph of Houston; and five grandchildren.

A rosary service will be recited at 7:00 PM Wednesday night in the Colonial Chapel of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home. The funeral mass will be at 1:00 PM Thursday in St. Marys Cathedral, with Father Henry Bourgeois CSC officiating.

Burial will follow in Mt. Calvary cemetery.

Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home.



Robert Coleman (R.C.) Foster, Sr.

Robert Coleman (R.C.) Foster, Sr., 87, of Austin passed away Sunday, June 12, 2005. He was born July 16, 1917 in Davie County, North Carolina to Coleman and Della Foster.

Robert Coleman Foster came to Austin in 1939 by way of San Antonio. He walked every step of the way from San Antonio to Austin. Mr Foster owned R.C. Foster Merchandise Co. Inc. for more than 60 years.

Mr. Foster married Nellie Joseph on February 12, 1944. On December 23, 1985 she preceded him in death. He is also preceded in death by his siblings, Lester Foster, Raymond Foster, Elizabeth Mazzolini, Lucille Roldman, Rad Foster, Bertie Foster Bairy and Herman Lee Foster.

He is survived by his son, Robert Coleman Foster, Jr. and wife, Mary Ann of Austin; daughter, Carolyn Foster Groskopf and husband, Richard of Houston; grandchildren, Jennifer Foster Halter and husband, David of Austin; Robert Louis Foster of Dallas, Janalyn Rebecca Foster of Austin, Courtney Groskopf McHenry and husband, Dan of San Antonio and Allison Kimberly Foster of Austin; great grandchildren, James David Halter, Joseph Robert Halter and John Edward Halter; brother, Glenn Foster; sister, Juanita Foster Houser, both of Yadkinville, N.C.; sister-in-law, Agnes Joseph Owens and nephew, Les Owens. He is also survived by a loving friend, Olivia Maldonado of Austin and numerous nieces and nephews in North Carolina and Central Texas.

The family will receive friends at 6:00 p.m., followed by Rosary services at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 15, 2005 in the Colonial Chapel of Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 16, 2005 at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, 12041 Bittern Hollow, Austin, Texas 78758, with Father William Brooks officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Austin.

COOK-WALDEN
Funeral & Cremation
222 North Lamar
512-477-1111