

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
NOVEMBER 17, 2014
NRD-2014-0100
500 E. Sixth Street
Sixth Street

PROPOSAL

Construct a rooftop addition.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes to construct a rooftop addition to a contributing building within the Sixth Street Historic District. The addition will consist of a deck right up to the parapet wall with a steel trellis beginning 13.5 feet back from the front parapet. The rooftop will also have a glass-framed stair enclosure and a bar addition at the rear with prefinished steel panels. The front of the bar addition will be set approximately 25 feet back from the front parapet. A new guardrail and planters are proposed for the edge of the parapet. The windows and doors will be refurbished.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The building is contributing to the Sixth Street National Register Historic District, which has Architectural Design Guidelines, providing:

- ◆ Minimize the visual impact of rooftop uses as seen from the street.
- ◆ Set activities back such that they are not visible from the sidewalk below. At a minimum, they should be set back the height of a one-story building. This includes trees, umbrellas, and tables.

The Downtown Austin Plan states that a minimum 15-foot setback for all rooftop uses is appropriate for buildings within the Sixth Street National Register Historic District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff cannot recommend this proposal, as even though the bar is set significantly back from the front parapet, the rooftop area, including the planters and trees, are right up on the parapet, in violation of the Architectural Design Guidelines for Sixth Street and the recommendations of the Downtown Austin Plan.

The Commission asked staff to look into the history of the building at the October 27, 2014 meeting; while the building has been altered (then restored) over the years, it dates from the late 19th century, and was once the home of several African-American professional offices, including that of real estate brokers, attorneys, and a dentist, the Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall for African-Americans, and an African-American boarding/apartment house during the times of segregation in Austin when African-Americans were universally denied lodging or housing in white businesses and neighborhoods.

This building represents the polyglot environment of E. 6th Street in its heyday – which had a combination of Anglos, Germans, African-Americans, Jews, and Lebanese business owners, tenants, and residents.

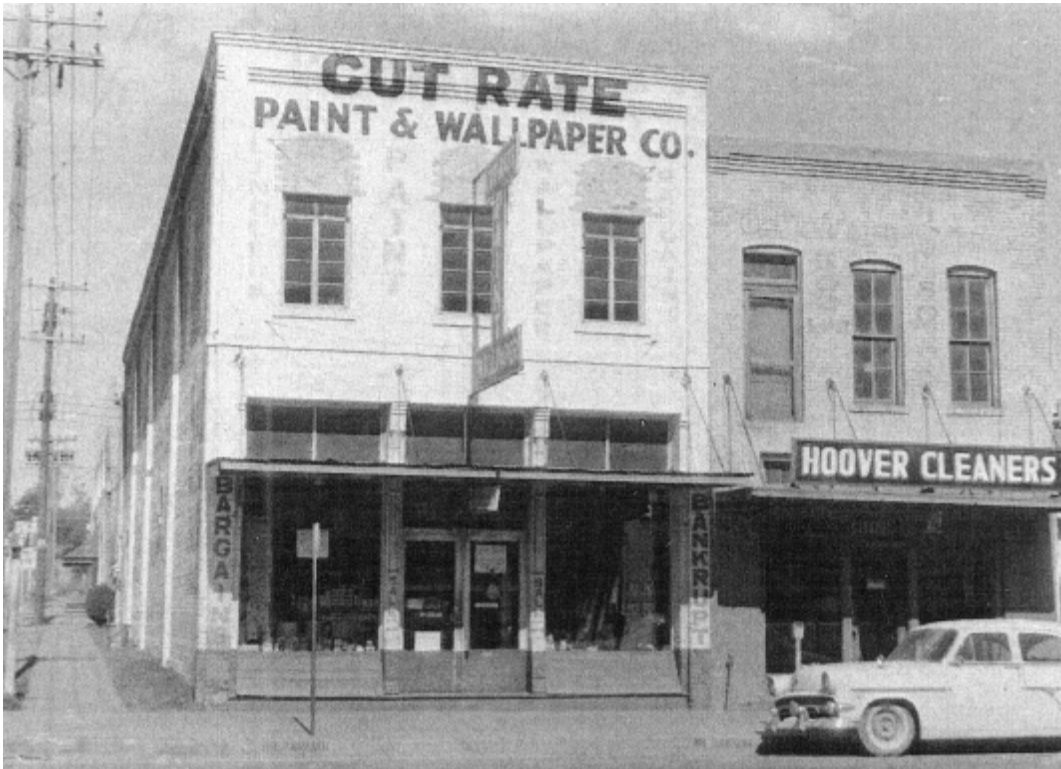


Photo of the building dating from around 1957 shows casement windows in the upper story. George Hoover (of Hoover Cleaners) eventually bought the Cut Rate paint and Wallpaper Company business.



Photo of the building around 1980 shows the current 2:2 windows in the second story.

500 E. 6th Street
ca. 1892



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 500 E. 6th Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
November, 2014

1992	Vacant
1985-86	Cut Rate Paint Company George W. Hoover, proprietor B: Ann Rivers, architect NOTE: Ann Rivers also listed her home address here.
	Renfro & Steinbomer, architects Robert Renfro and Robert Steinbomer
1981	Cut Rate Paint Company George W. Hoover, proprietor
1977	Cut Rate Paint Company George W. Hoover, proprietor
1973	Cut Rate Paint Company George W. Hoover, proprietor
1968	Cut Rate Paint Company

	George W. Hoover, proprietor
1962	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: Cut Rate Paint Company is not listed in the directory; George W. Hoover was the proprietor of Hoover Cleaners next door at 502 E. 6 th Street.
1959	Cut Rate Paint Company Gurdon W. Williams, proprietor NOTE: George W. Hoover was the proprietor of Hoover Cleaners, next door at 502 E. 6 th Street.
1955	Cut Rate Paint Company Gurdon W. Williams, proprietor
1952	Cut Rate Paint Company Gurdon W. Williams, proprietor
1949	Cut Rate Paint Company Gurdon W. Williams, proprietor
1947	Cut Rate Paint Company Gurdon and Mae Williams, proprietors
1944-45	Cut Rate Paint Company Gurdon Williams, proprietor
1941	Le Roy Walker Used tires NOTE: Neither Gurdon W. Williams nor the Cut Rate Paint Company are listed in the directory. ½: Vacant
1939	Hurley Mattress and Awning Company Carson R. Wilkerson, proprietor ½: Vacant
1937	Hurley Mattress Company Carson R. Wilkerson, proprietor ½: Vacant
1935	Hurley Mattress and Awning Company Carson R. Wilkerson, proprietor ½: Ramirez Jewelry Shop Gabriel Ramirez, proprietor "Watches and jewelry manufacturing, jewelers and engravers, watch repairing a specialty, all work guaranteed." Zaragoza Club Joseph Garcia, proprietor
1932-33	Abraham Nassour Grocery ½: Zaragoza Club Eugene Vasquez, proprietor Dominoes

NOTE: Neither Gabriel Ramirez nor Ramirez Jewelry is listed in the directory.

NOTE: Hurley Mattress and Awning Company is listed at 502 E> 6th Street.

- 1930-31 Mrs. Geneva M. Ellis
Furniture
½: Edwin and Olive Beal (colored), renters
Furnished rooms
NOTE: Abraham Nassour had a general merchandise store at 210 Congress Avenue.
- 1929 Armstrong C. and Geneva M. Ellis
New and second-hand furniture
½: Edwin and Olive Beal (colored), renters
Furnished rooms
- 1927 Gage Brothers, tinnern
Robert M. and Arthur D. Gage, proprietors
General tin and sheet metal work, furnace work, roof repairing, and painting,
½: Edwin and Olive Beal (colored), renters
Furnished rooms
NOTE: Armstrong C. and Geneva Ellis had their furniture store at 921 Congress Avenue.
- 1924 Gage Brothers, tinnern
Robert M. and Arthur D. Gage, proprietors
General tin and sheet metal work, furnace work, roof repairing, and painting.
½: Edwin and Olive Beal (colored), renteers
No occupation listed

Annie Wilson (colored), renter
No occupation listed
- 1922 Gage Brothers, tinnern
Robert M. and Arthur D. Gage, proprietors
½: Richard W. and Ophelia M. Beal (colored), renters
Proprietors of a restaurant at 424 E. 6th Street.

Mary Winn (colored), renter
No occupation listed
- 1920 Vacant
NOTE: Gage Brothers was located at 403 Neches Street; they were listed as sheet metal contractors.
½: Unknown
NOTE: Richard W. Beal is not listed in the directory.
- 1918 Cabaniss Hardware Company
Scott Cabaniss and L. Kellan, proprietors
NOTE: Cabaniss Hardware also had a space at 121-23 Congress Avenue.
NOTE: Rev. Richard W. and Katie Beal (colored) are listed at 708 E. 12th Street; he was an agent for the American Mutual Benefit Association (colored), 2nd floor, 424 E. 6th Street.

1916 Rafael Pena
Pool hall

Thomas F. Carden
Barber

2nd floor: Robert B. Fairbanks (colored)
Real estate

Samuel L. Brown (colored)
Physician

Lewis M. Mitchell (colored)
Office

Sarah H. Shelton (colored)
Dentist

1914 General S. Hamby
Saloon

Happy Land Theater
General S. Hamby, proprietor

2nd floor: Robert B. Fairbanks (colored)
Real estate

Dennis R. Pickens (colored)
Attorney

Lewis M. Mitchell (colored)
Office

V.L. Madison (colored)
Real estate

S. Howland Shelton (colored)
Dentist

1912-13 General S. Hamby
Pool hall

Joseph W. Haley (colored)
Barber

Gray & Jackson (colored)
Restaurant
John E. Gray and Howard G. Jackson, proprietors

2nd floor: Robert B. Fairbanks (colored)
Real estate

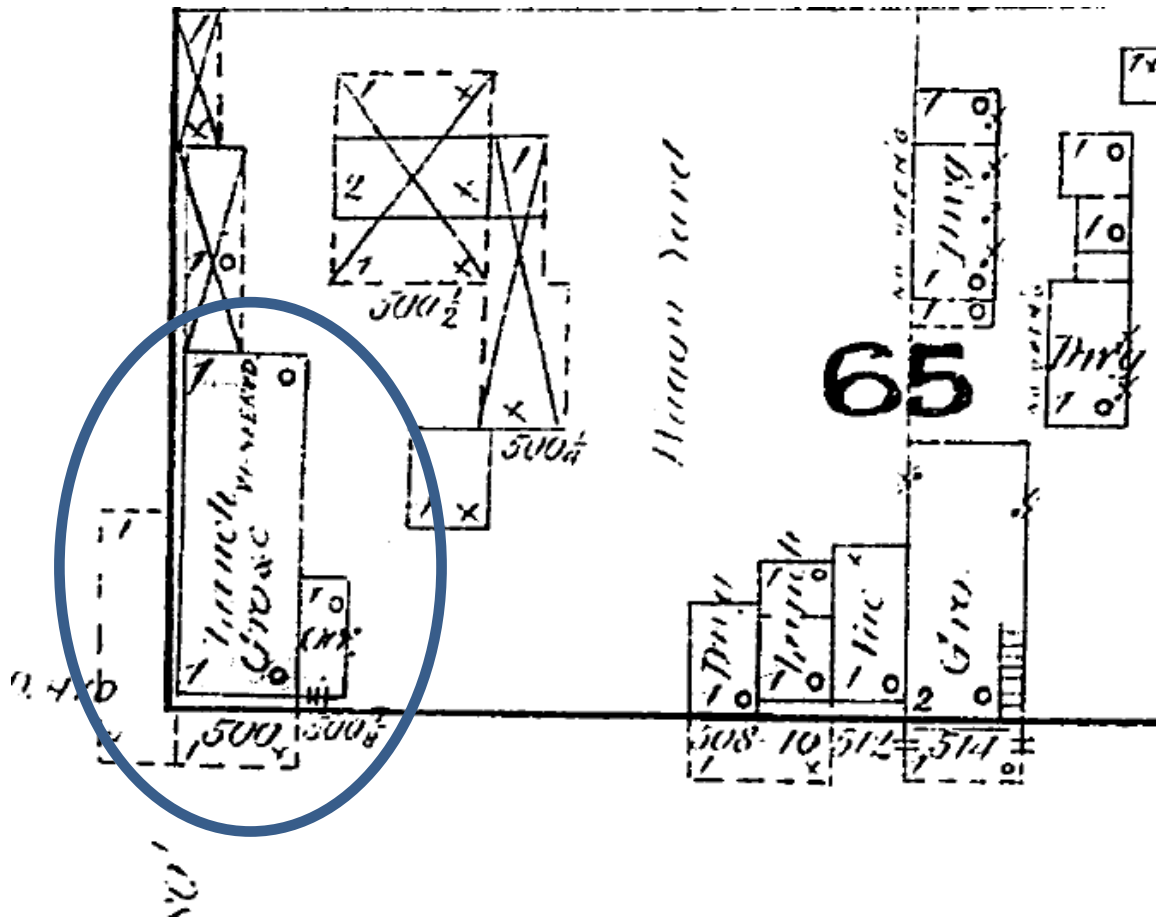
Dennis R. Pickens (colored)

- Attorney
- Lewis M. Mitchell (colored)
Office
- Johnson & Mitchell (colored)
Tailors, cleaners, and pressers
Lucius V. Johnson and Lewis M. Mitchell, Jr., proprietors
- 1910-11 Joseph W. Haley (colored)
Barber
- General S. Hamby
Pool room
- 2nd floor: Dennis R. Pickens (colored)
Attorney
- 1909-10 Dennis R. Pickens (colored)
Attorney
- Knights of Pythias Hall (colored)
NOTE: General S. Hamby had his saloon at 502 E. 6th Street.
- 1907-08 J.D. Tally Furniture Company
NOTE: There is a J.D. Talley who was employed by the Hume Lumber Company, but nobody clearly identified with the furniture company is listed in the directory.
- 2nd floor: Watchman Publishing Company (colored)
This may have been additional space for the Austin Watchman, publishers of an African-American-sourced weekly newspaper, which had its offices across Neches Street at 424 E. 6th Street.
- 1906-07 J.D. Talley Furniture Company
2nd floor: Watchman Publishing Company (colored)
This may have been additional space for the Austin Watchman, publishers of an African-American-sourced weekly newspaper, which had its offices across Neches Street at 424 E. 6th Street.
- 1905 There is no obvious listing for a downstairs tenant.
Upstairs: Lewis M. Mitchell (colored)
Mail carrier, notary public, and proprietor of the Texas Pythian Journal.
- NOTE: The Austin Watchman is listed at 424 E. 6th Street; it was published on Saturdays by J.H. Harrison (colored), editor, with D.C. Lacy (colored), business manager.
- 1903-04 Lewis M Mitchell
Carrier No. 2, Austin Post Office, Notary Public, and Grand Chancellor, Colored Knights of Pythias of Texas, proprietor and publisher of the Texas Pythian Journal.

1900-01

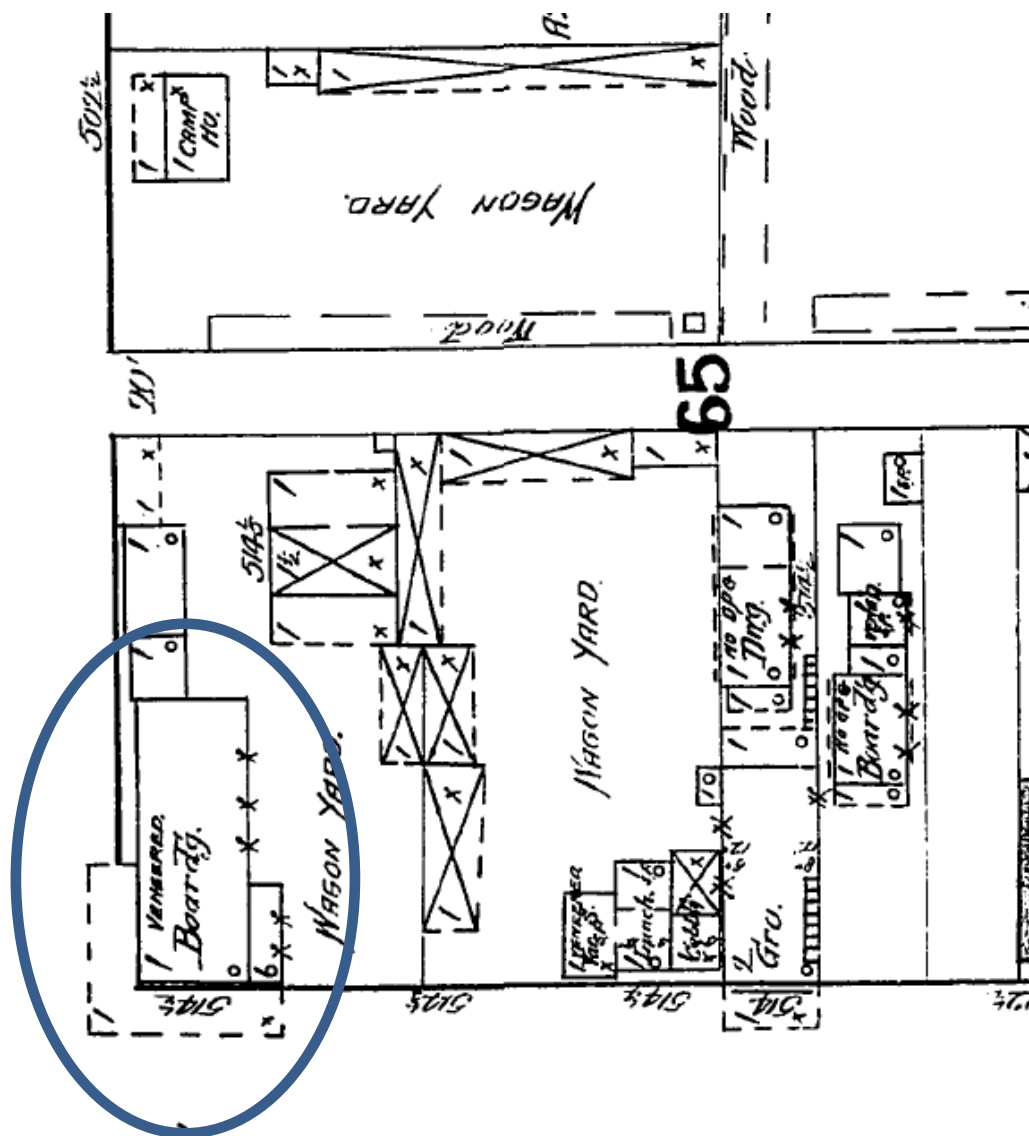
Unknown – further research will be necessary to determine the earlier occupants of the building.

NOTE: Lewis M. Mitchell has no office listed; there is no listing for an African-American Knights of Pythias Hall or organization in the directory.

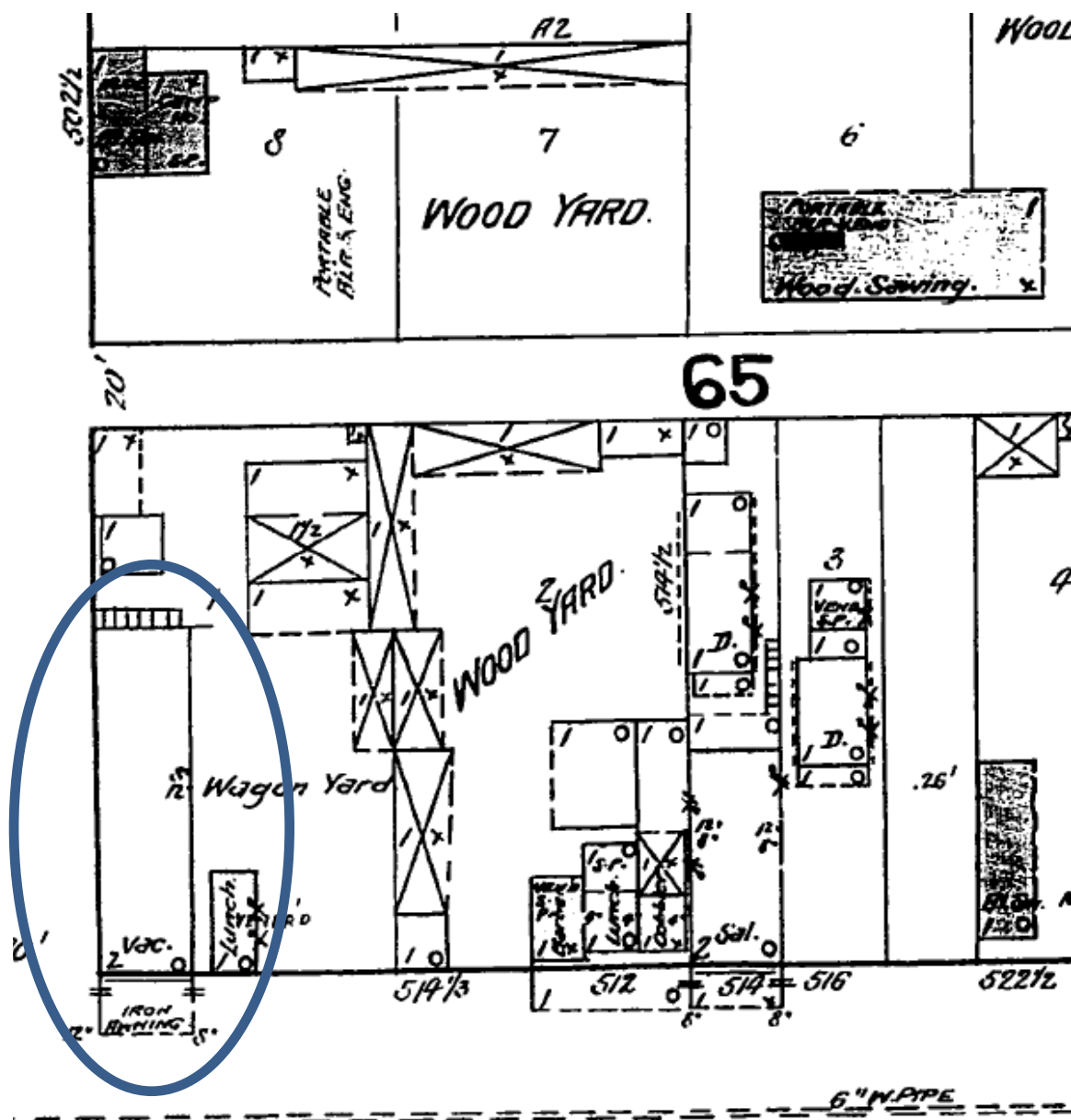


The June, 1883 Sanborn map shows a one-story veneered building on the site which was used as a lunch roof and grocery. The building had a wraparound porch around the corner of Neches Street.

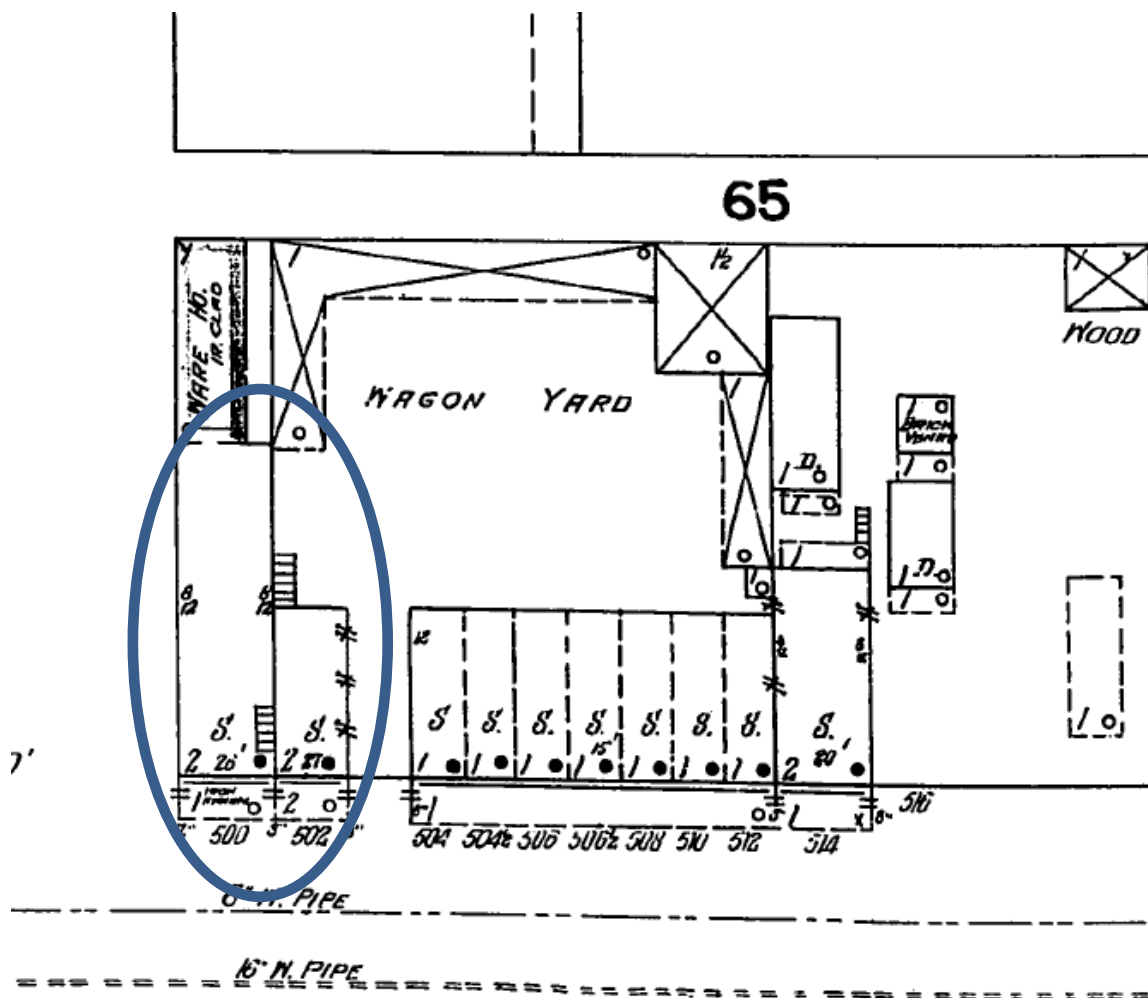
NECHES



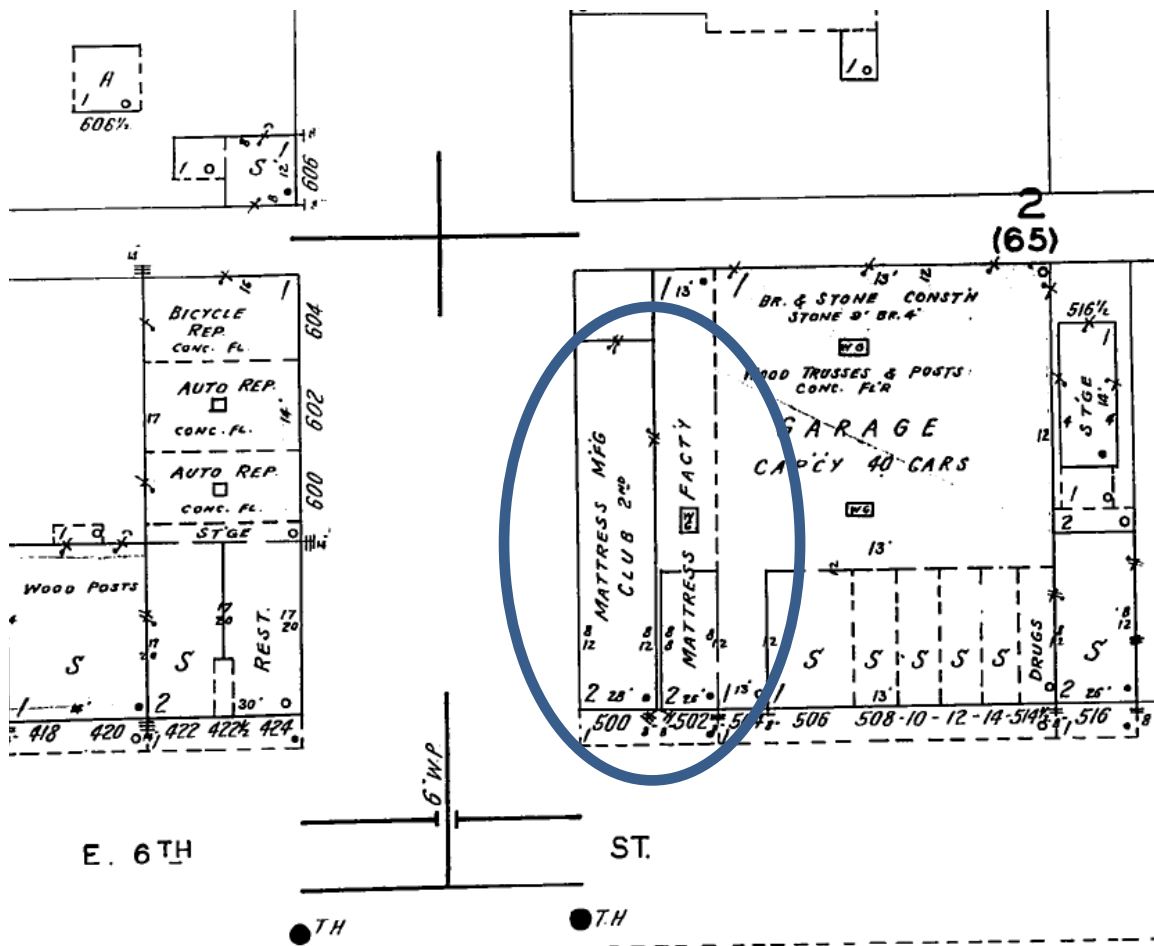
The July, 1889 Sanborn map shows a one-story veneered boarding house on this site.



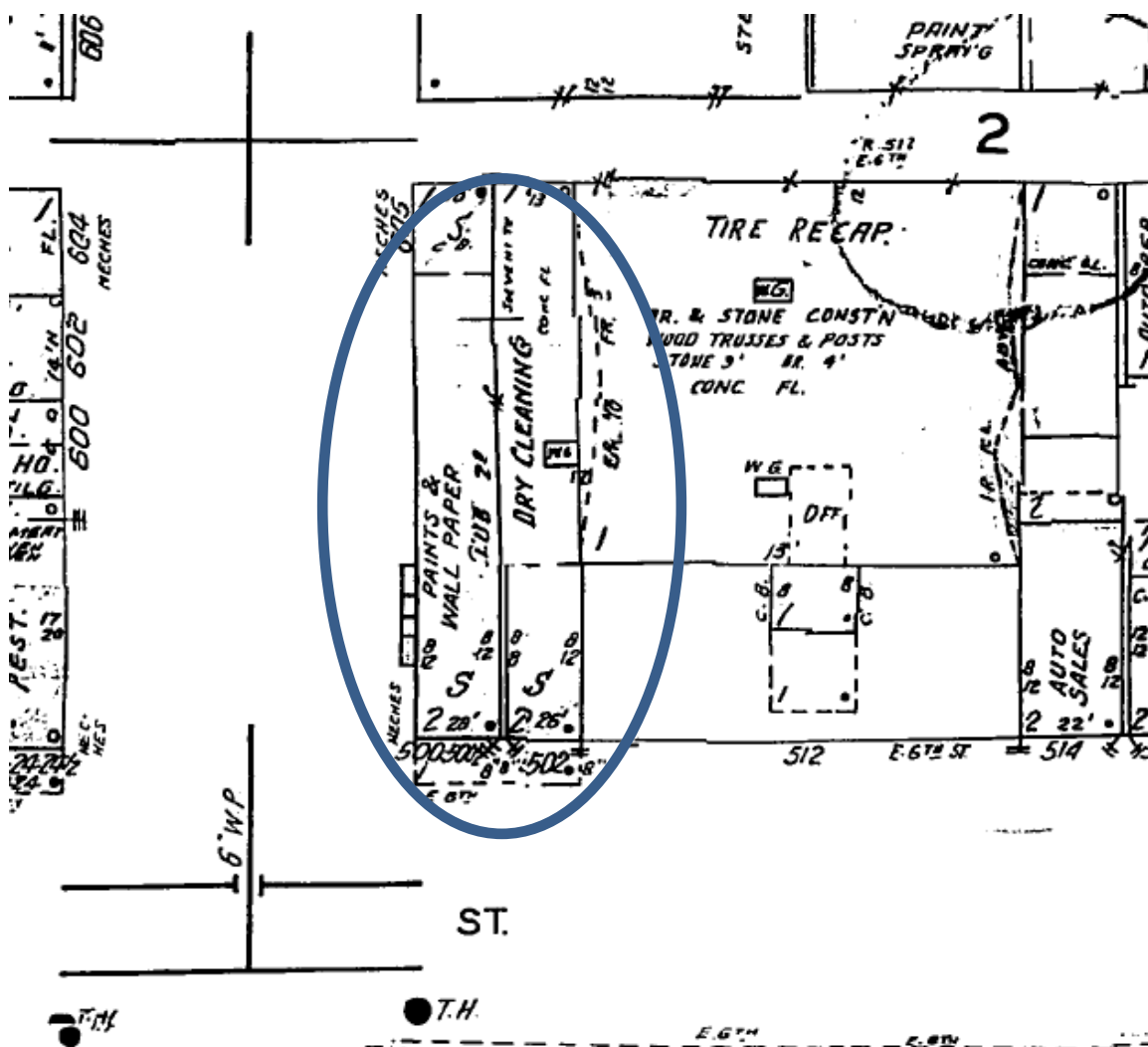
The January, 1894 Sanborn map shows the building as 2 stories, but vacant.



The 1900 Sanborn map shows the 2-story building listed as a store – the building had a 1-story porch on the front. Note the 2-story building at 502 E. 6th Street – this was later General Hamby's saloon and Happy Time Theater.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the Hurley Mattress Company plant in this building and in the adjacent building at 502 E. 6th Street; the building at 500 E. 6th Street had a club (the Zaragoza Club) upstairs.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the building as a paints and wall paper business (Cut Rate Paint Company, and George Hoover's cleaning business next door at 502 E. 6th Street.