

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
APRIL 27, 2015  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2015-0305  
4811 BURNET ROAD**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1958 commercial building.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, irregular-plan, gabled- and flat-roofed concrete block and Masonite commercial building with a large flat-roofed overhang supported by angled metal posts; plate-glass fenestration in bands around the building.

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**RESEARCH**

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The site was originally the home of a branch lot of Capitol Chevrolet in 1957, but it is unclear as to whether there was a building on the site. There is no building permit extant for the current building, and it is believed to have been built as a Frostop Drive-In restaurant in 1958. Frostop was a root beer company out of Columbus, Ohio, that built drive-in restaurants throughout the country in the late 1950s and early 1960s, similar to its principal competitor, A&W. There is still a Frostop Drive-In in Huntington, West Virginia, that shares some of the architectural features of the building on Burnet Road, including the extended overhang and Masonite construction. This building was the Frostop until around 1970, when it became Walt's Coffee Pot. It was The Cove restaurant in the late 1970s, and around 1978, it became the Omelettry, which it remains to this day, although the restaurant will be moving to a new location in a strip center on Airport Boulevard.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The building does not appear in any City survey.

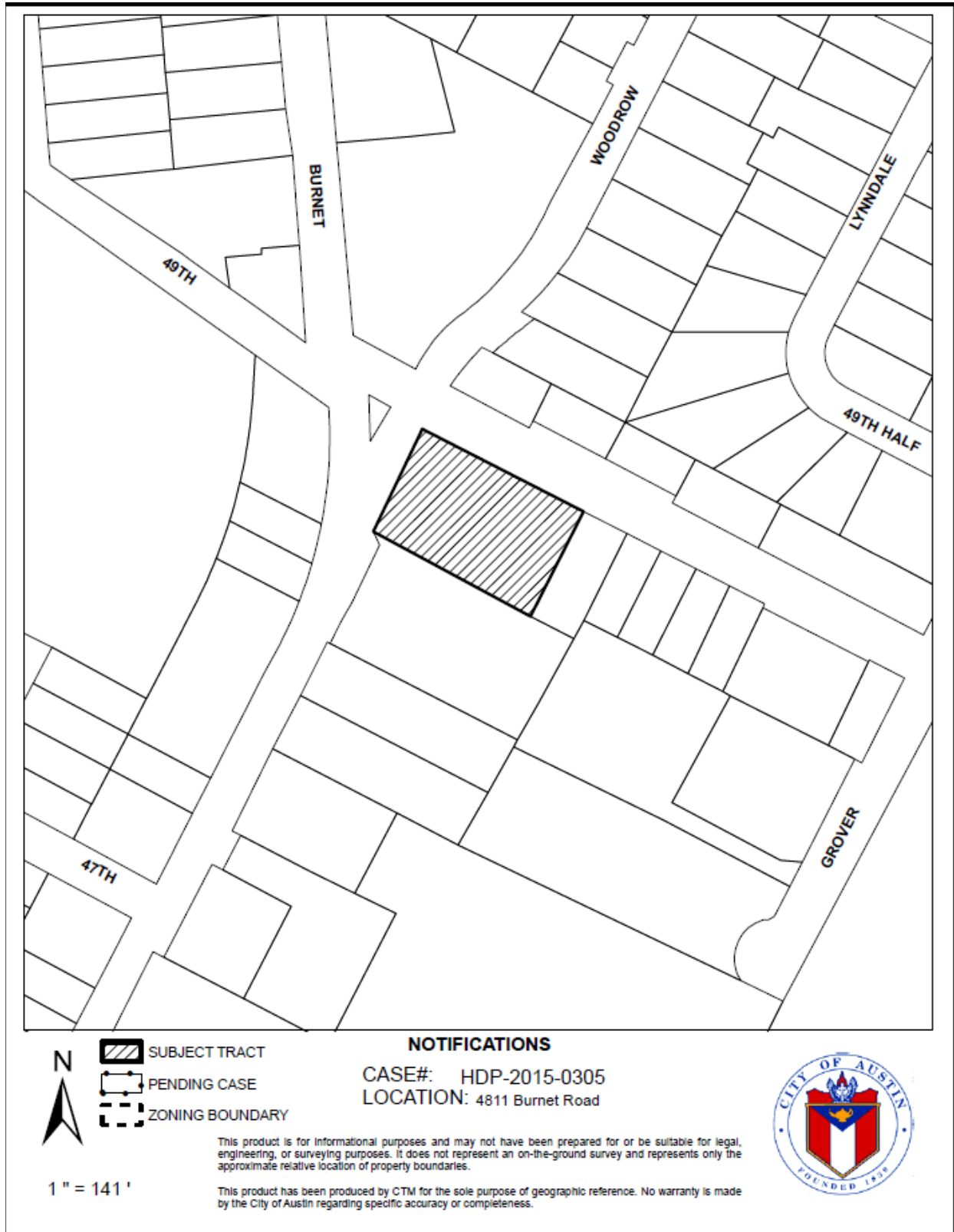
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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If this building had retained its original configuration as a Frostop Drive-In, then staff would have recommended initiation of a historic zoning case as an example of mid-century modern design and association with the drive-in restaurant culture of the 1950s. However, this building has been substantially modified over the years, and no longer retains its integrity of materials and design. Staff recommends release of the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

## LOCATION MAP



4811 Burnet Road  
ca. 1958



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 4811 Burnet Road

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
April, 2015

1992	The Omelettry, restaurant Ken Carpenter, proprietor
1985-86	The Omelettry, restaurant Ken Carpenter, proprietor
1981	The Omelettry, restaurant Ken Carpenter, proprietor
1977	The Cove Restaurant Rockwell Boyd, proprietor NOTE: There is no listing for The Omelettry; Ken Carpenter is listed as the peace education secretary for the American Friends Service Committee.
1973	Walt's Coffee Pot, restaurant Walter Harden, proprietor
1968	Frostop Drive-In, restaurant Billy V. Jackson, proprietor
1962	Frostop Drive In, restaurant Curtis Kirksey, proprietor
1959	Frostop Drive-In, restaurant Curtis Kirksey, proprietor

- 1958 Vacant
- 1957 Capitol Chevrolet branch show lot
- 1955 The address is not listed in the directory.



The Frostop Drive-In in Huntington, West Virginia  
Note the angled metal posts supporting the overhanging roof, identical to those on the current Burnet Road building.



Ad for the Frostop Drive-In  
Austin Statesman, April 28, 1960

**TAKE HOME SPECIAL!**  
**½ Gal. Frostop Root Beer FREE!**  
WITH EVERY ORDER OF 5 HAMBURGERS  
OR MORE!  
**WED., THURS., FRIDAY**  
PHONE YOUR ORDER FOR IMMEDIATE PICKUP  
**FROSTOP DRIVE-IN • • 4811 BURNET RD.**

Ad for Frostop Drive-In  
Austin Statesman, January 11, 1961

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIALS!**  
TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY—THURSDAY (11 TO 9 P.M.)  
• **STEAK SANDWICH**  
ON BUN WITH SALAD  
• **BURGER IN A BOAT**  
All Served With French Fries and Root Beer  
• **EXTRA SPECIAL — COKE FLOAT . . . . 9¢**  
**49¢** ea.  
**Frostop Drive-In Restaurant**  
**4811 BURNET ROAD**  
**CALL GL 2-1015** AND YOUR FOOD  
ORDER IS WAITING  
VISIT OUR AIR-CONDITIONED DINING ROOM

Ad for the Frostop Drive-In  
Austin Statesman, September 5, 1963

Sign Permit:			
OWNER	Omelettry	ADDRESS 4811 Burnet RD.	
PLAT	189	LOT	1
		BLK.	
SUBDIVISION		Albert Wilson	
OCCUPANCY		Sign	
BLDG. PERMIT #	170048	DATE	1-23-78
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	500.00
CONTRACTOR	Port A Sign		NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	

Sign permit for the Omelettry (1978)