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1101 E. 5TH AND 414 WALLER STREET HISTORY

Historic Landmark Commission
C/O Austin Historic Preservation Office
Planning and Development Review Dept.
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

July 28, 2015

We would like to update the new Commission members on what is really going on. Capital Metro submitted an application to the commission in 2013 for Historical Designation of 20 buildings without notifying the owners. Their research was approved and these buildings all gained a Historical status based on this flawed report. Of particular concern to them was 414 Waller and 1101 E. 5th which sit in the middle (ground zero) of the new Plaza Saltio Development. They were very clever and did not mention that 2 buildings sat directly in the middle of the new project in the RFP for their development. They thought that they could just get rid of the owner, like they did at the Texaco Compound, and demolish these two historic buildings based on their flawed Reconnaissance Survey that was approved by the Historic landmark commission in 2013.

There are a couple of issues of concern. First of all, 414 Waller has gained historic zoning and a relocation is proposed with a plaque. Which portion of the warehouse is actually historic? Please reference Attachment "A". Their proposal is to relocate less than ¼ of the original Humble oil depot that was approved by City Council in the 20's. The remaining addition was built sometime between the 1935 Sanborn map and the 1962 Sanborn map. This portion also has significance to the railroad history of Austin. Please reference Attachment "B" which clearly indicates Capital Metro's intension. This was actually recommended for approval at last night's hearing. We no longer support the relocation of a sliver of the "historic portion" of the building. Move it all or at least the portion built and approved by the COA in the 20's.

We also would respectfully ask the commission to look at the fact that this was a depot not just two buildings. Please reference Attachment "C & D". The history of these building needs to be saved.

The little building was also built in the late 20's, early 30's. The Plaza Saltio Development Historic Report mentions the little building. The report is just as flawed regarding 1101 E. 5th. The representative from Capital Metro who got up and spoke, out of place, said this building was determined of non-historic significance. Yes that is true. The Reconnaissance Survey Report, that is flawed, did determine it of non-historic significance. And the Historic Landmark Commission approved this recommendation in 2013. They also made the same determination on the warehouse at 414 Waller, which now has partial historic zoning. They most certainly don't want 1101 E. 5th declared historic because it is slab on grade. Little harder to move. The warehouse is pier and beam! Capital Metro failed to mention the buildings in the middle of the proposed Plaza Saltio Development RFP because they planned on getting rid of the buildings before the historical significance that they had approved in 2013 with flawed documentation, was questioned. Approval of historical significance on the property that they did not own and with no notification to the owner of this property.

I would like to reiterate. We have no problem with the relocation of the Depot. All of it. Not a sliver that Capital Metro has determined is historic without experience or knowledge of historic significance.

I am resending my backup from the hearing last night so that all of you can read a real survey and history of the two buildings, including the minutes from City Council that approved the construction in the 20's.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Elizabeth S. Purcell

July 28, 2015

Elizabeth S. Purcell **Date**

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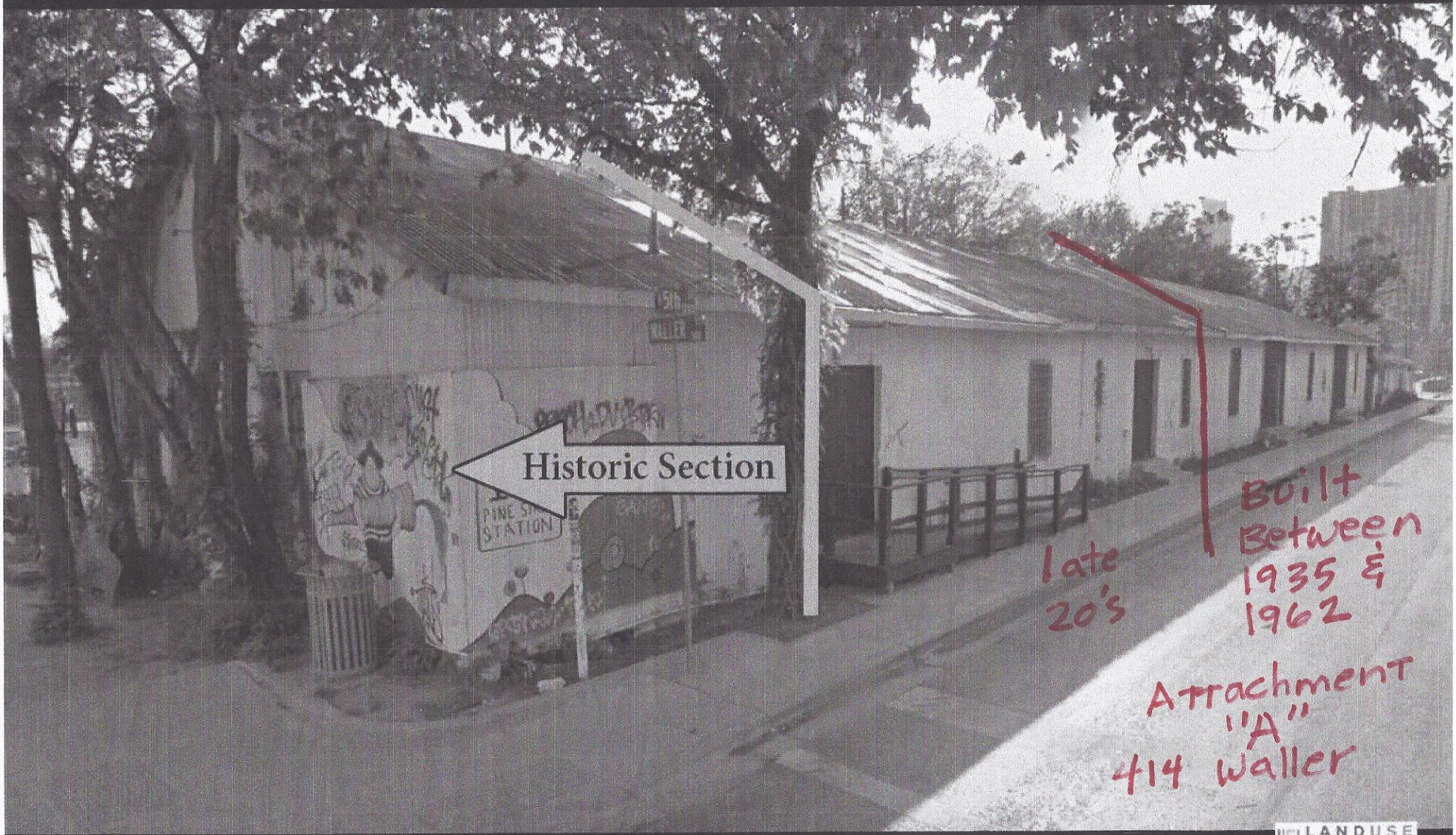
Historical Section

Pine Street Satation

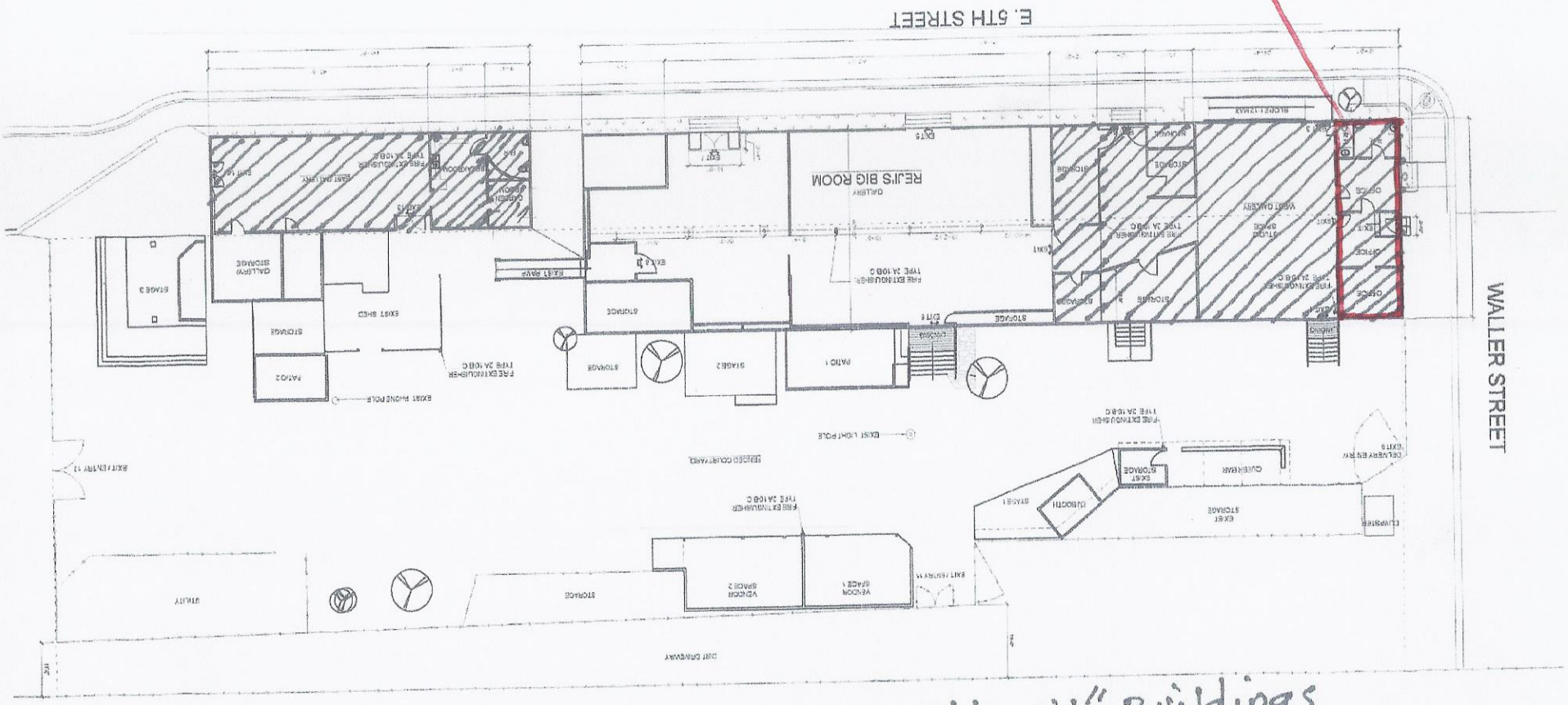


1717 West 6th Street, Ste. 470 Austin, TX 78703 512-212-4114

LANDUSE SOLUTIONS

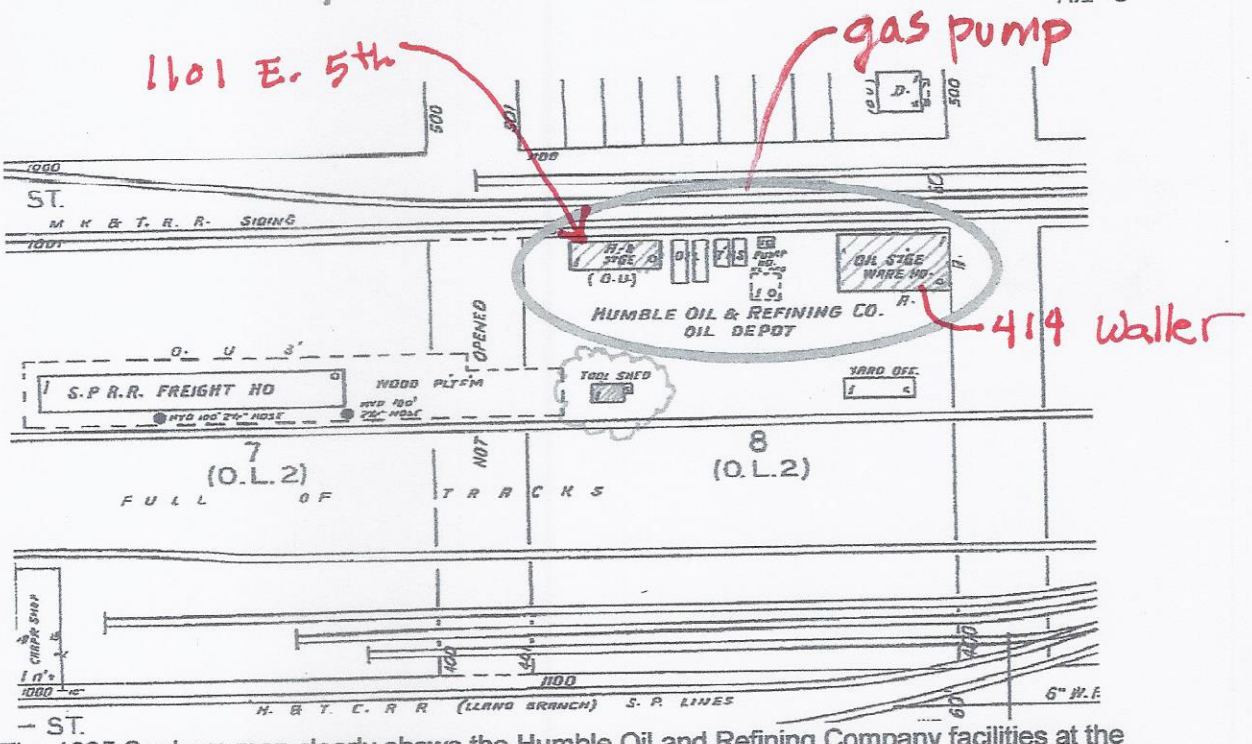
ATTACHMENT "~~E~~ B" (P. 1)

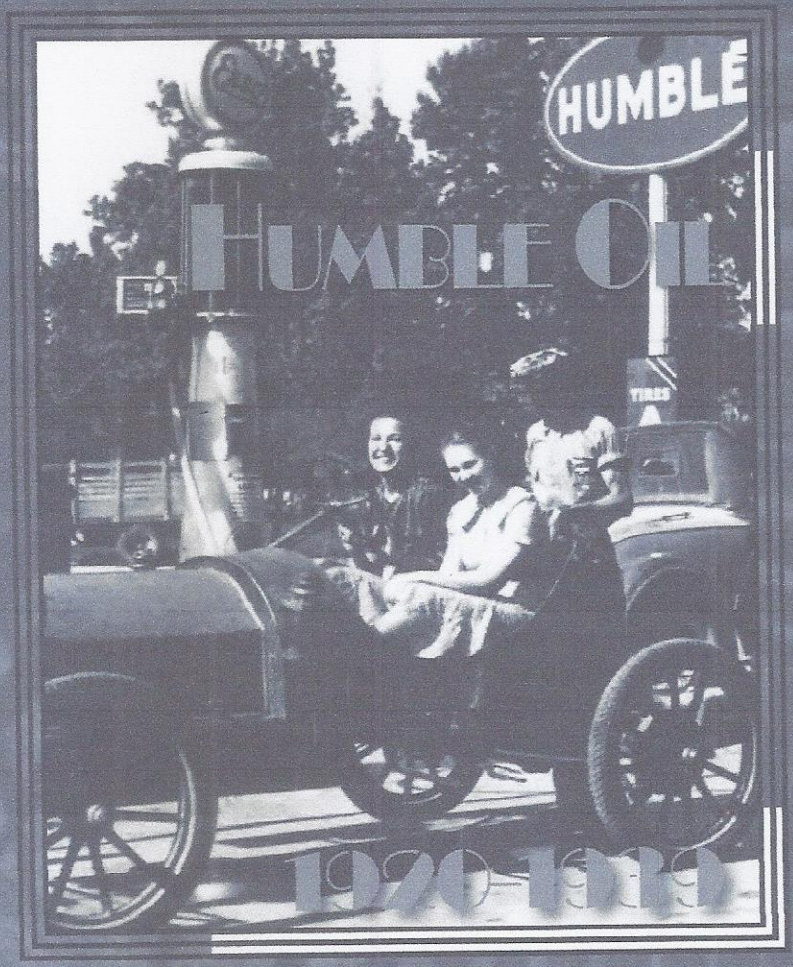
This is what they are planning To relocate.



THE ORIGINAL "Humble Oil" Buildings
SANBORN MAP - 1935

ATTACHMENT "C" (P.1)



The 1935 Sanborn map clearly shows the Humble Oil and Refining Company facilities at the site of the current building, which is shown as the oil storage warehouse. The building shown here (the current building) is not the same building as depicted in the 1900 map above.

"D"