# HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION AUGUST 28, 2017 DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS HDP-2017-0437 300 COLORADO STREET

## PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1924 warehouse, now used as a restaurant.

### ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, flat-roofed, brick warehouse building with four original bays, now modified with fenestration and brick wainscot.

### RESEARCH

The building appears to have been built in 1924. Prior to 1924, this block was occupied by a series of one-story wood buildings, some of which housed soft drink parlors run by Hispanic women, but others with more nefarious businesses. The block was adjacent to Guy Town, Austin's infamous red-light district, and perpendicular to the main set of railroad tracks, which had an east-west course through the city.



News story on the arrest of Maggie Garza, who is identified as the proprietress of a soft drink parlor at 300 Colorado Street in the 1924 city directory; a "disorderly house" was a euphemism for a brothel.

Austin Daily Statesman, June 23, 1915

Beginning in the 1920s, after the closure of the neighborhood's sporting houses and saloons, this area began to develop as a commercial area, with businesses that were either related to the railroad, such as warehouses, light industrial uses, such as bottling plants, or autorelated businesses, operating side-by-side.

There had long been a spur of the railroad that followed 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and that was the location of the earliest of the modern warehouses, such as the Merchants' Transfer Warehouse (now heavily modified as Trulucks) at the northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets, the Nelson Davis wholesale grocery warehouse, on the south side of the 100 block of W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and others, in the early 1910s. This building, at the south end of the 300 block of Colorado Street, has four large bay openings facing east onto Colorado Street, indicating an intended purpose as a warehouse, being so close to the main line of the railroad. The building reflects the early history of this section of Austin in its occupancy history: the first tenants of the building were the Electrified Water and Bottling Company, at 300 Colorado, the Auto Salvage Company at 302 Colorado, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company at 304-06 Colorado, and a sheet metal works at 308 Colorado.



Advertisement for the Electrified Water and Bottling Company, 300 Colorado Street Austin <u>Statesman</u>, October 5, 1924

Although the companies renting these spaces changed, the uses associated with this building remained for many years. The Milwaukee Bottling Company, a beer distributorship, occupied 300 Colorado from the late 1920s through the early 1930s; the space continued to be used as a warehouse, for the Fehr Baking Company, through the early 1940s, when it then reverted back to a beer distribution warehouse. 300 Colorado was a truck storage building for Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage Company in the early 1960s, and then the headquarters for Air Conditioning, Inc. the company that purchased the entire building in the mid-1960s, and occupied it until the mid-1970s.



Milwaukee Bottling Co., Distrs. 300 COLORADO STREET - PHONE 4911 - AUSTIN, TEXAS

Advertisement for Grand Prize Lager Beer, distributed by the Milwaukee Bottling Company, 300 Colorado Street Austin Statesman, January 11, 1934

The space at 302 Colorado Street maintained a typical use and occupancy for this neighborhood over the years as well. After the Auto Salvage Company vacated the site in the mid-1920s, the space was used by the Griffith Drug Company as their warehouse until the mid-1930s. There was a candy and cigar company's warehouse at 302 Colorado from the mid-1930s through the mid-1940s; the space was then incorporated into the beer distribution warehouse that also operated out of 300 Colorado. City directories after 1957 do not show 302 Colorado as a separate address, but it appears that the space formerly known as 302 Colorado became part of Air Conditioning, Inc. in 1967 for their headquarters.

The earliest mention of the building in the Austin newspapers dates from July, 1924 – the Austin Rifle Club had an indoor rifle range at 304 Colorado Street. Soon thereafter, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company held the space at 304 Colorado Street from the time of construction of the building in 1925 until the early 1930s. The space was then occupied by the Texas Nut Candy Company until around 1940. Beginning in the early 1940s, this space was used for automobile-related businesses, including an auto parts warehouse, then in the mid-1940s, as an auto garage, an identity it maintained through the mid-1960s.



Newspaper article noting the indoor rifle range of the Austin Rifle Club at 304 Colorado Street Austin <u>Statesman</u>, July 11, 1924

The spaces at 306 and 308 Colorado reflect a trend from light industrial use to auto-related business. 308 Colorado originally housed a sheet metal business. Around 1930, all of this space was used by Goodyear Tire and Rubber, but soon thereafter, Goodyear left this building, and the northern portion of this building (308) was home to a plumbing supply warehouse. The plumbing supply company moved into its own building around the corner in 1937, was followed by a Venetian blind manufacturing company, and by 1940, there was an electrical equipment manufacturer at 306 Colorado, and an auto body shop at 308 Colorado. Cal Marshall operated his auto body shop at this location until around 1960. Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage, which had their headquarters across the street at the now-demolished building that also had served as the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, had a truck storage facility in this building at 306 Colorado in the 1940s and 1950s. The entire building was used as the headquarters for Air Conditioning, Inc. in the mid-1960s, but by the mid-1970s, there were individual businesses operating here once again.



News story on the opening of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company headquarters



Advertisement for Warner's Venetian Blind manufacturing company Austin <u>Statesman</u>, July 24, 1938

This modest building tells the story of the conversion of the delivery and storage of goods in Austin from the time of its construction in the mid-1920s through the mid-1960s, when the railroad and trucking companies moved out of downtown. The transformation of this space from warehouses to auto-related businesses coincided with the replacement of the railroad by trucking firms in Austin's consumer economy. The old train passenger depots at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Congress were torn down and the new passenger station was built west of Lamar Boulevard on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in the late 1940s. Without the railroad, older warehouse buildings changed tenants, and while there were a few trucking firms remaining downtown, most located on the outskirts, closer to the highways. The void was filled by auto-related businesses, including auto body shops, transmission repair shops, auto parts stores and warehouses, and others. In the not-so distant past, the west side of downtown, including the area north and west of this building, was characterized by the large number of car dealers, auto repair shops, and other auto-related businesses, especially south of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This building represents that history.

Since the mid-1980s, there has been a resurgence of interest and vitality in downtown Austin, especially in the area now referred to as the Warehouse District. Bars, restaurants, theaters, and other businesses opened in the old warehouse buildings, and the popularity and ambience of the area is defined by the historic character of the modest brick buildings.

### STAFF COMMENTS

The building was listed as a Priority 1 for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984). The building was also identified as significant in the cultural resources study for the Downtown Austin Plan, and in several workshops and symposia for the preservation of the Warehouse District over the last 10 years. The Downtown Austin Plan did not include this building in its core identification of the Warehouse District, which unfortunately encompasses only the 200 block of W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

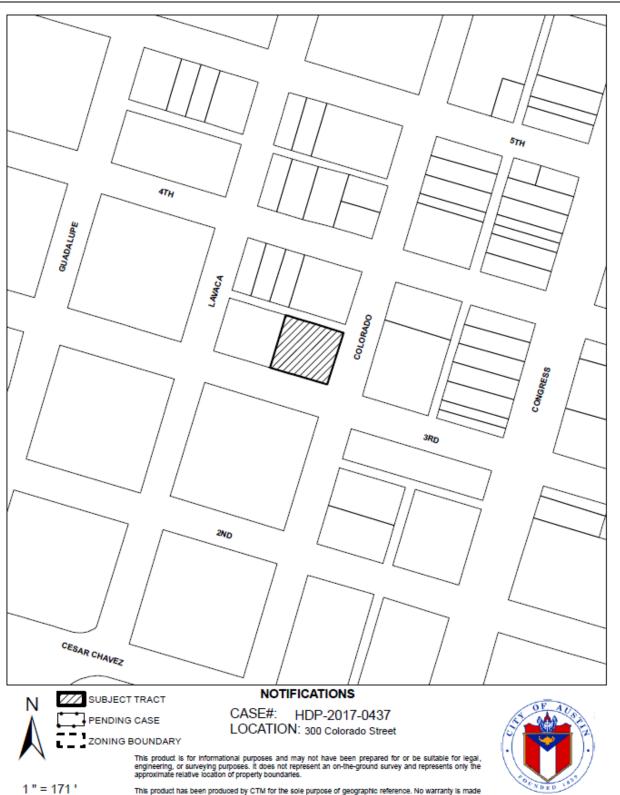
The building's conversion to the restaurant use in the mid-1990s resulted in modifications to the façade, including infilling the original garage bays with brick and fenestration, and sand-blasting to remove the white paint applied in the 1960s. A good percentage of the brick on the front of the building is not original.

Staff believes that the building has historical significance, despite the changes to the historic fabric of the building. While staff generally goes through an evaluation of the ways that the building does or does not meet the criteria for designation as a historic landmark at this point in the report, because staff is going to request either initiation of the historic zoning case or a postponement of this case in order to fully assess and compare the significance of this building with others in the warehouse district, that evaluation will come at a later date with greater information.

- a. **Architecture.** The building is a brick ca. 1925 warehouse building with utilitarian architecture; much of the brick on the façade has been replaced and the original garage bays have been infilled. However, the building does retain sufficient integrity to convey its historic appearance and identity as a warehouse.
- b. **Historical association**. The building has had no individually-significant associations through the panoply of tenants over the years, but does represent the history of this section of downtown and the rise and fall of the importance of track-side warehouses in Austin.
- c. **Archaeology**. The building was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value**. The building does possess a unique location that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
- e. Landscape feature. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Initiate historic zoning or postpone until September 25, 2017 to fully evaluate options for the future of this building. This building is too important to the character of the Warehouse District to not entertain and evaluate options other than strict demolition.



This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

# 300-08 Colorado Street ca. 1924





Fenestration along Colorado Street

# OCCUPANCY HISTORY 300-08 Colorado Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center By City Historic Preservation Office November, 2008

1992	300: 302: 304: 306:	Central Texas Electrical Supplies Bruce Bowman, proprietor The address is not separately listed in the directory. Austin Prints for Publications Photo laboratory Jeff Rowe, proprietor Lone Star Silver & Associates Photography Jeff Rowe, proprietor Specific Motor Works office
	308:	Auto repair David Rhoads, proprietor Specific Motor Works Auto repair
1987	300: 302: 304:	Vacant The address is not separately listed in the directory. Austin Prints for Publications Photo laboratory Jeff Rowe, proprietor Lone Star Silver & Associates Photographers Jeff Rowe and Scott Van Osdal, proprietors
	306: 308:	Specific Motor Works office Specific Motor Works Auto repair David Rhoads, proprietor
1977	300:	Otis Elevator Company J.C. Walden, manager
	302:	Dafta Company Furniture manufacturer
	304:	Don Frank, proprietor Texas Temporary Placements Temporary employment agency Red Carpet Maintenance Building maintenance Jim Lindsey, general manager
	306:	Dafta Company Furniture manufacturer Don Frank, proprietor

1977 (cont.)	308:	Holley's Automotive Auto repair Ronald Holley, proprietor
1975	300:	Otis Elevator Company
	302: 304:	J.C. Walden, manager The address is not listed separately in the directory. Dobbins-Marsh Inc. Air-conditioning
	306:	Raymond E. Marsh, president Music and Sound Systems, Inc. Robert G. Griffith, president
	308:	Vacant
1969	300 302:	Air Conditioning, Inc. Air-conditioning/heating, refrigeration, and plumbing contractors Pike H. Dobbins, president and general manager
		The address is not listed separately in the directory. Air Conditioning, Inc. warehouse
1967	300:	Air Conditioning, Inc. Commercial contractors Pike H. Dobbins, president and general manager
	302: 304-8	The address is not listed separately in the directory. Air Conditioning, Inc. warehouse
1963	300:	Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage truck storage NOTE: Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage was at 311 Colorado Street.
	302: 304:	The address is not listed separately in the directory. Aus-Tex Engine Rebuilders Michael Gillis, proprietor
	306: 308:	Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage garage Vacant
1957	300-2:	Browning Distributing Company Clarence E. Browning, proprietor
	304:	Aus-Tex Engine Rebuilders Auto repair
	306: 308:	Michael Gillis, proprietor Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage truck storage Cal T. Marshall Body Shop Auto repair Cal T. Marshall and Melvin T. Sunday, proprietors
1953	300-2:	Grand Prize Distributing Company Beer
	304:	George Mizzetti, manager Aus-Tex Engine Rebuilders Auto repair Michael Gillis, proprietor

1953 (cont.)	306: 308:	Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage Company truck storage NOTE: The main office for Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage was across the street at 311 Colorado Street. Cal Marshall Body Shop Auto repair Cal Marshall, proprietor
1949	300-2:	Grand Prize Distributing Company Beer
	304:	Jerry D. Ferrell, proprietor Aus-Tex Engine Rebuilders Auto repair
	306:	Michael Gillis, proprietor Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage warehouse NOTE: The main office for Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage
	308:	was across the street at 311 Colorado Street. Cal Marshall Auto Body Shop Auto repair Cal Marshall, proprietor
1947	300-2:	Grand Prize Distributing Company Beer
	304:	W. Lyle Riddle, manager Aus-Tex Auto Parts Auto parts and accessories
	306:	O.H. Allen and Fred D. Pinkston, proprietors Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage Company warehouse NOTE: The main office for Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage
	308:	was across the street at 311 Colorado Street. Cal Marshall Auto Body Auto repair Cal Marshall, proprietor
1944-45	300-2:	Grand Prize Distributing Company Beer
	304:	James G. Wiley, manager T.E. Poppe Auto Supplies (Not listed in the main directory)
	306:	Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage Company warehouse NOTE: The main office for Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage
	308:	was across the street at 311 Colorado Street. Cal Marshall Auto Body Auto repair Cal Marshall, proprietor
1941	300:	Fehr Baking Company J.B. Hughson, sales manager NOTE: Fehr Baking Company moved from here to 316 Colorado
	302:	Street around 1943. Hausler-Kilian Cigar and Candy Company Glenn W. Kennedy, manager

1941 (cont.)	304:	Capital Candy Company
	306:	Wallace T. Kelly, proprietor Universal Electric Company Manufacturers, the Lewis Welder, quality repairing of transformers, motors, switchboards, and generating equipment.
	308:	Glover A. Lewis, manager Cal Marshall Auto Body Shop Auto repair Cal Marshall, proprietor
1937	300:	Fehr Baking Company Jack Rhodes, manager
	302:	Hausler-Kilian Cigar and Candy Company Alton E. Hausler, manager
	304:	Texas Nut Candy Company
	306:	J.P. McPherson, proprietor Monte Carlo Distributing Company Beer
	308:	Leonard M. Kelly, manager Vacant
1935	300:	Railway Express Agency depot E.L. Bodelle, agent Fehr Baking Company warehouse
	302:	R.B. Wright, manager Hausler-Kilian Cigar and Candy Company Alton E. Hausler, manager NOTE: The 1930 U.S. Census lists Alton E. Hausler, then 29, living in San Antonio with his wife and daughter. He was the manager of a filling station. State vital statistics records indicate that Alton Hausler died in Bexar County in January, 1997.
	304:	Texas Nut Candy Company James P. McPherson, proprietor
	306: 308:	Vacant Donnelly-White Company
	500.	Plumbers, and wholesale plumbing and heating supplies Steve White, E.L. Milstead, and W.A. Matthews, proprietors
1932-33	300:	Milwaukee Bottling Company Reinhard L. Franke and Julius C. Gerke, proprietors
	302:	Griffith Drug Company warehouse W.B. Ransom, proprietor NOTE: Griffith Drug Company had a store located at 103-07 W. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street.
	304:	Texas Nut Candy Company James P. McPherson, proprietor NOTE: The 1930 U.S. Census shows James P. McPherson as a resident of Waco, and the manager of a confectionary company
	306:	there. He was then 48 years old, and had been born in Alabama. Vacant

1932-33 (cont)	)308:	Donnelly-White Company Wholesale plumbing and heating supplies Steve White, president NOTE: The warehouse was located at 204-08 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street. NOTE: Donnelly-White built a new building for their company at the northeast corner of 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Lavaca Streets in 1937. In the early 1930s, the company had several buildings in the middle of the block (where a parking lot is now) as well as this space at the northern end of the building facing Colorado Street.
1930-31	300:	Milwaukee Bottling Company
	302:	Reinhard L. Franke and Julius C. Gerke, proprietors Griffith Drug Company warehouse A.W. Griffith, proprietor
	304-8:	NOTE: The drug store was located in the Scarbrough Building. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company C.W. Raschke, manager NOTE: The 1930 U.S. Census shows Carl Raschke and his wife Lois living in Austin at 1403 Kenwood Avenue in Travis Heights. He was listed as the manager of a wholesale tire business, had been born in Texas, and was then 29 years old. State vital statistics records indicate that a Charles W. Raschke died in Lee County in December, 1938.
1929	300: 302:	Milwaukee Bottling Company Reinhard L. Franke and Julius C. Gerke, proprietors Griffith Drug Company warehouse Arthur W. Griffith, president Drugs, Kodaks, and supplies – the drug store was in the Scarbrough Building.
	304-6:	Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Carl W. Raschke, office manager
	308:	The address is not separately listed in the directory.
1927	300:	Electrified Water and Bottling Company W.C. Young, manager
	302:	Auto Salvage Company Emil Traunecker, proprietor
	304-6:	Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Edward B. McAllister, office manager
	308:	Leroy W. Denman and Son Sheet metal works; tools, dies, hose clamps, cotton gin togs, sheet metal stamping Leroy W. Denman and Robert Denman, proprietors
1924	300:	Margaret Garza Soft drinks
	302: 304: 306: 308:	Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant

300: Margaret Garza Soft drinks J.M. Espinoza 302: Barber 304: Maria Garcia Soft drinks 306: Pedro Valteror No occupation listed 308 Asuncion Costa Soft drinks

Earlier directories show that Domenico Millicio had a restaurant at 302 Colorado Street in 1907, and lived next door. The remaining addresses on this end of the block were all residences of Hispanic families. Mike Falcone had the Two Brothers Saloon at 300 Colorado Street in 1905; the Palace Saloon was at 308 Colorado Street with residences in between.

The building was renovated for Sullivan's Restaurant in 1995-96; Sullivan's expanded into the southern half of the building in 1997 with the opening of Ringside at Sullivan's.

## **NEWSPAPER MATERIALS:**

### 300 Colorado Street:



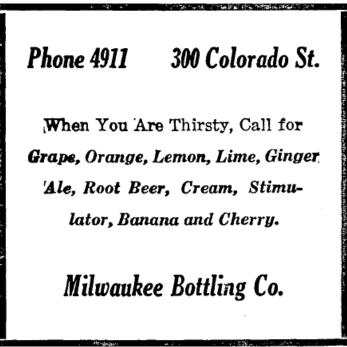
Advertisement for the Electric Water and Bottling Works, 300 Colorado Street Austin American-Statesman, February 8, 1925

1922



Advertisement for the Milwaukee Bottling Company, run by Reinhard L. Franke and Julius C. Gerke, and headquartered at 300 Colorado Street from 1927 until the mid-1930s.

Austin American-Statesman, August 14, 1927



Advertisement for Milwaukee Bottling Company Austin <u>American-Statesman</u>, September 4, 1927 R. L. FRANKE R. L. Franke, 79, of 1810 Ashby died in a local hospital Wednesday evening. He was a retired merchant, member of St. 1 Martins Lutheran Church and had been a resident 35 years. Survivors include his widow, Lillie; daughter, Mrs. M. E. Adcock, Austin; brother, John Franke, Abilene; three sisters, Mrs. Bruno Kupatt, Fredericks-Paul Pfeiffer, burg, Mrs. Apache, Okla. and Mrs. W. H. Spiser, Wichita Falls; and grandson, Howard Terry Adcock, Dallas. Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Hyltin-Manor Funeral Home with Rev. Edward V. Long officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Hill Park.

Obituary of Reinhard Franke, who with Julius Gerke, ran the Milwaukee Bottling Company at 300 Colorado Street in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Austin American, October 15, 1964

> JULIUS C. GERKE Funeral for Julius C. Gerke, #, of 607 Dawson Road, will be 2 ät. p m Sunday <del>st</del> Hyltin-Manor Funeral Home. Burial will be in Forest Oaks Memorial Park, with graveside services under the auspices of B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 201. Gerke died in a local hospital Friday. He was a member of the Methodist Church, а member of B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 201 and had been a resident of Austin for 20 years. At the time of his death he was employed by the C. G. Puryear Company as a bookkeeper. : Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Lucille Gerke of Austin; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gerke of Bryan; one step-son, Charles Eubank of Austin: one step-daughter, Mrs. Jeanette McCrarey of Santa Anna, one brother, E. A. Gerke of Bryan

Obituary of Julius Gerke, partner of Reinhard Franke in the Milwaukee Bottling Company at 300 Colorado Street in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Austin American, August 8, 1970









CRAND PAIZE PAIZE Constants



J. D. (Jerry) FERREL

#### GRAND PRIZE DISTRIBUTING CO. 300 COLORADO STREET PHONE 8-6608-AUSTIN

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we announce the addition of John H. Ferrel as a new member of the Grand Prize family. Mr. Ferrel is well known to many of you in the Austin area, not only as a friend, but as a man of vast experience in the beverage field. He has the warehouse capacity and the necessary delivery equipment to back up his knowledge of the business and to meet the increasing demand for grand-tastin' Grand Prize.

We at the Grand Prize Brewery pledge our solid support to Mr. Ferrel in providing a beer of consistently fine quality.

For prompt service call 8-6608 or write the Grand Prize Distributing Company at 300 Colorado Street, Austin.



Announcing a new distributor for Grand Prize beer, 300 Colorado Street Austin <u>Statesman</u>, January 14, 1949 304 Colorado Street:



Obituary of J.P. McPherson, who had the Texas Nut Candy Company in this building (304 Colorado Street) in the 1930s. Austin <u>American</u>, December 24, 1941



Advertisement for Aus-Tex Auto Parts, 304 Colorado Street Austin <u>Statesman</u>, April 18, 1946

MICHAEL GILLIS
Michael Gillis, 66, died Sun-
day at his residence, 456 Bull
Creek Road. He was a veteran
of World War I and a member
of the Methodist Church.
He owned and operated Aus-
Tex Engine Rebuilders until his
- Telifement bast year.
Survivors include his widow.
one daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Lew-
allen of Austin; a son, John
Michale Gillis of Corpus Christi;
three grandchildren and 2 great
grandchildren.
Services are pending at Weed-
Corley Funeral Home.

Obituary of Michael Gillis, who ran Aus-Tex Engine Rebuilders at 304 Colorado Street from the late 1940s through the mid-1960s.

Austin American, January 20, 1964

**306 Colorado Street:** 



Advertisement for Country Club beer, distributed by Associated Distributor, 306 Colorado Street Austin <u>Statesman</u>, November 17, 1938 308 Colorado Street:



Advertisement for Donnelly-White Plumbing and Heating Supplies, 308 Colorado Street Austin <u>Statesman</u>, August 12, 1938



Announcement from Cal Marshall Body Shop, 308 Colorado Street Austin <u>Statesman</u>, August 23, 1957

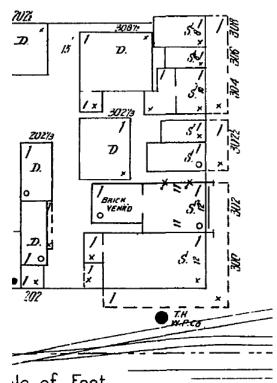


Advertisement by Cal Marshall Body Shop, 308 Colorado Street, for \$5.00 monthly parking Austin <u>Statesman</u>, May 11, 1958

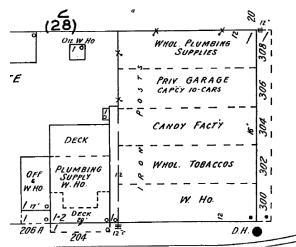
> MARSHALL, Cal T., 68, 5302B Indio Circle, died Wednesday. Services 3 p.m. Friday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Burial, Oakwood Cemetery. Survivors: wife, Mrs. Una Marshall of Austin; Haughter, Mrs. Alan (Shirley) Farish of San Antomio; three grandchildren; two great-grandchilthren.

Death notice of Cal Marshall, who operated a body shop at 308 Colorado Street (the northern section of the building) from the early 1940s to the early 1960s. Austin American-Statesman

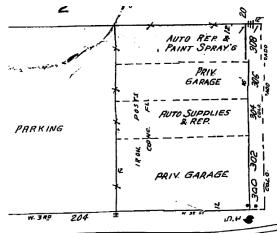
December 14, 1978



The 1900 Sanborn map shows a series of one-story commercial buildings along the 300 block of Colorado Street; none of these remain.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the current building in the 300 block of Colorado Street housing a warehouse at 300, wholesale tobaccos at 302, a candy factory at 304, a private garage at 306, and wholesale plumbing supplies at 308 Colorado. The 1935 city directory listing show Fehr Baking Company's warehouse at 300 Colorado, a cigar and candy company at 302, the Texas Nut Candy Company at 304, 306 being vacant, and Donnelly-White wholesale plumbing supplies at 308 Colorado.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the addresses of 300 and 302 Colorado combined into one space as a private garage, auto supplies and repairs at 304, a private garage at 306, and auto repairs and painting at 308. City directories in the early 1960s show that Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage maintained a truck storage facility at 300-02, Aus-Tex Engine Rebuilders was at 304, Southwestern Ice and Cold Storage maintained another garage at 306, and Cal Marshall's Body Shop was at 308 Colorado.