# HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION APRIL 22, 2019 DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS HDP-2019-0180 220 COMAL STREET

#### **PROPOSAL**

Demolish a ca. 1922 neighborhood grocery.

#### ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame commercial building with a full-width independent porch on plain wood posts and a rectangular false front accented with a triangular section at the center.

#### RESEARCH

The building appears to have been built around 1922; the December, 1921 Sanborn map shows the site as vacant. The building was constructed as a grocery store by Henry G. and Fannie Tuke, who had previously operated a grocery store at 1121 E.  $4^{th}$  Street, where they resided. Henry Tuke was a Dutch immigrant; Fannie Tuke had been born in St. Louis. They built a dwelling attached to the south side of the store, and operated their business here, called the Cash Grocery Store (1922 – 1932) then the H.G. Tuke Grocery thereafter until they sold the business around 1936.

Albert Eng, of Chinese descent, purchased the store and adjacent house from the Tukes around 1936, and operated the grocery business until around 1946, when he appears to have moved to San Antonio, where he lived the rest of his life.

From around 1946 until around 1963, the store was owned and operated by Clayton A. and Aline Lyon, who also lived in the adjacent dwelling. Clayton Lyon was a former truck driver; he and Aline's father, Roy McCarty, are listed as the first proprietors of the business; after around 1948, the business became Clayton's alone, and he changed the name from Lyon and McCarty Grocery to Lyon's Grocery and market, and finally to Lyon's Food Market. Lillie Swartz and her husband Jesse, owned and operated the store from the mid-1960s until around 1970. Lillie Swartz also lived on the site, and the Swartzes had two building permits for residential buildings on the site – the first by Jesse Swartz in 1966 to construct a house at 218 Comal, the address of the former residence of previous proprietors. Lillie Swartz then obtained a building permit to move a house onto the site in 1969. Whether these buildings were ever constructed or located on the property is unknown at this time; in any case, they are not on the site now.

#### STAFF COMMENTS

The grocery store was recommended to local landmark designation by the East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016). Staff is also aware of several complaints filed recently regarding rodent and other infestations of the building, and the applicant has informed that the building is in a very deteriorated condition.

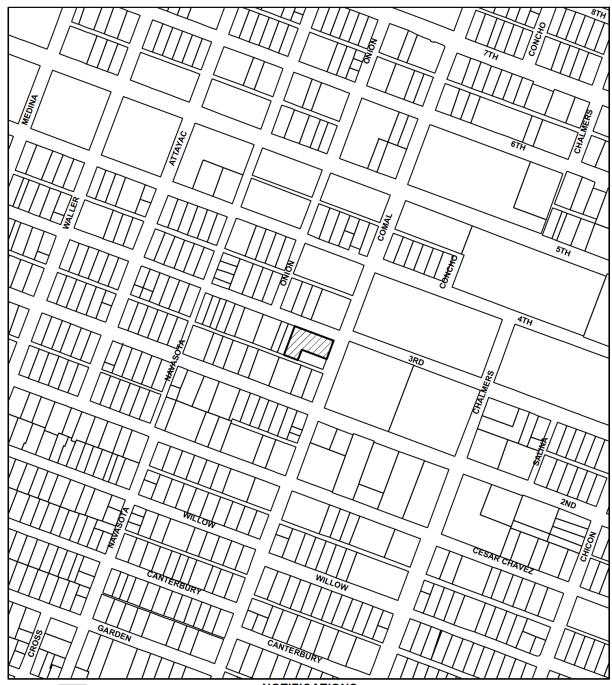
Staff has evaluated this building for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the store building meets the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

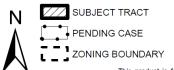
a. **Architecture.** The building is a simple, wood-frame store building which used to be commonplace in Austin neighborhoods, but is now a rarity. The building retains a remarkable degree of integrity and has architectural distinction for its vernacular style and identification as a neighborhood grocery store.

- b. **Historical association**. The building has a history dating back to the early 1920s, when it was established by a Dutch immigrant and his family as a neighborhood grocery store. Since that time, the building has had other owners, all relatively long-term until the present, including a Chinese-American grocery merchant, who operated the store from the mid-1930s through the mid-1940s.
- 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 has possible community value as a good example of a vanishing resource and reflects the history of neighborhood grocery stores in Austin. The store contributes to the historic character and image of the neighborhood and the city.
- 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

Either initiate historic zoning or postpone to June 24, 2019 to fully consider alternatives to demolition. The rarity of this resource merits a full evaluation of options to preserve and reuse the building.





#### NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0180 LOCATION: 220 COMAL STREET

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

1 " = 333 '

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.



220 Comal Street ca. 1922





#### OCCUPANCY HISTORY 220 Comal Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center By City Historic Preservation Office October, 2018

1920 The address is not listed in the directory.

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke are listed at 1121 E. 4th Street, where

they ran a grocery store.

1922 Cash Grocery Store

Henry G. Tuke, proprietor

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1924 Cash Grocery Store

Henry G. Tuke, proprietor

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke lived next to the store at 218 Comal Street.

1927 Cash Grocery Store

Henry G. Tuke, proprietor

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1929 Cash Grocery Store

Henry G. Tuke, proprietor

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1930-31 Cash Grocery Store

Henry G. Tuke, proprietor

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke lived next to the store at 218 Comal Street.

1932-33 H.G. Tuke Grocery

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1935 H.G. Tuke Grocery

NOTE: Henry G. and Fannie Tuke lived next to the store at 218 Comal Street.

NOTE: Albert Eng is not listed in the directory.

1937 Lee Sang Grocery

Albert Eng, proprietor

NOTE: Albert Eng lived next to the store at 218 Comal Street.

1939 Lee Sang Grocery

Albert Eng, proprietor

NOTE: Albert Eng lived next to the store at 218 Comal Street. NOTE: Lee Sang is not listed in the directory as a person.

1941 Lee Sang Grocery

Lee Sang, proprietor

NOTE: Lee Sang lived next to the store at 218 Comal Street.

NOTE: Albert Eng is not listed in the directory/

1944-45 Lee Sang Grocery

Lee Sang, proprietor

NOTE: Lee Sang lived next to the store at 218 Comal Street. NOTE: Neither Clayton Lyon nor Roy B. McCarty are listed in the

directory.

1947 Lyon and McCarty Grocery

Clayton A. Lyon and Roy B. McCarty, proprietors

NOTE: Clayton A. and Aline Lyon as well as Roy B. McCarty lived next to

the store at 218 Comal Street.

NOTE: Roy B. McCarty was Aline Lyon's father.

1949 Lyon's Grocery and Market

Clayton A. Lyon, proprietor; Aline Lyon, clerk

NOTE: Clayton A. and Aline Lyon lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1952 Lyon's Grocery and Market

Clayton A. Lyon, proprietor; Aline Lyon, clerk

NOTE: Clayton A. and Aline Lyon lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1954 Lyon's Grocery and Market

Clayton A. Lyon, proprietor; Aline Lyon, clerk

NOTE: Clayton A. and Aline Lyon lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1957 Lyon's Food market

Clayton A. Lyon, proprietor

NOTE: Clayton A. and Aline Lyon lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1961 Lyon's Food Market

Clayton A. Lyon, proprietor

NOTE: Clayton A. and Aline Lyon lived next to the store at 218 Comal

Street.

1965 Swartz Grocery

Lillie M. Swartz, proprietor

NOTE: Lillie M. Swartz lived next door to the store at 218 Comal Street.

1968 Swartz Grocery

Lillie M. Swartz, proprietor

1973 Daywood Grocery

Richard Daywood, Jr., proprietor

1977 Daywood Grocery

Richard Daywood, Jr., proprietor

1981 Harkins Grocery

Sam Harkins, proprietor

1985-86 Sam's Grocery

Sam El-Kaileh, proprietor

1992 Billy's Grocery

Belal Hassein, proprietor

#### **BIOGRAHICAL INFORMATION**

#### Henry G. and Fannie Tuke (proprietors ca. 1921 – ca. 1936)

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Henry and Fannie Tuke as the owners of the house at 218 Comal Street; that house was worth \$3,500. Henry Tuke was 73, had been born in Holland to Germanborn parents, and was the proprietor of a grocery store. He immigrated to the United States in 1892 and was a naturalized citizen. Fannie Tuke was 68, had been born in Missouri to Germanborn parents, and had no occupation listed. They had two children at home: son Clemmons, 30, who had been born in Oregon, and was a mechanical engineer in a foundry; and daughter Lillie, 32, who had been born in Oregon and was a clerk in the grocery store.

Henry G. and Fanny Tuke appear at their former residence at 1121 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in the 1920 U.S. Census. Henry G. Tuke was a 62-year old Dutch-born retail grocery merchant. This census report shows that both of his parents had been born in Holland as well, as opposed to the 1930 U.S. Census, which shows his parents having been born in Germany. The 1920 census report also reports that Henry G. Tuke immigrated to the United States in 1885 and became a naturalized citizen in 1898. Fanny Tuke was 55, and had been born in Missouri to a German-born father and a French-born mother. She had no occupation listed. They had 3 children at home: son Francis, 25, a salesman in a retail grocery; daughter Lillian, 22, and son Clement, 21. All of the children had been born in Oregon. Lillian and Clement had no occupation shown in the census report.

By 1940, according to the census report of that year, Henry G. and Frances Tuke were living at 701 Patterson Avenue, a house they owned, and which was worth \$3,000. Henry G. Tuke was 83, had been born in Germany, and had no occupation listed. Frances Tuke was 81, had been born in Missouri, and had no occupation listed. With them lived their daughter, Lillian M., 43, who was not married. She was born in Oregon and had no occupation listed.

Henry G. and Fannie Tuke were living at 701 Patterson Avenue at the time of their deaths, 10 days apart in August, 1944. Fannie Tuke was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1858 and was a homemaker. She died August 2, 1944. Henry G. Tuke was born in Hanover, Germany in 1856, and was a widower who worked in the grocery business. He died 10 days later, on August 12, 1944.

TUKE: Rosary services for Mrs. Fannie Veith Tuke, 86, were held in the chapel of Wilke Funeral home at 8:30 p. m. Wednesday with funeral mass at St. Mary's Catholic church at 9 a. m. Thursday, with Father Schreiner officiating. Pallbearers were H. T. Spear, Charles Thomas, James Stiles, Alfred Helm-camp, W. H. Luch and M. O. Rester. Interment was in Mt. Calvary.

Note on the death and funeral of Fannie Tuke Austin <u>Statesman</u>, August 3, 1944

## Austin Man Dies 2 Weeks After Wife

Henry G. Tuke, 87 a resident of Austin for the past 35 years, died at the family home, 701 Patterson, Saturday, just two weeks after the death of his wife.

Surviving are one daughter. Miss Lillian Tuke, and one son, Clement Tuke, both of Austin. Rosary services will be held at the Wilke Funeral chape at 8:30 p. m. Sunday, and funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's church at 9 a. m. Monday with Father Joseph R. McAllister officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary cemetery.

Story on the death of Henry G. Tuke Austin American-Statesman, August 13, 1944

#### Albert Eng (ca. 1936 - ca. 1946)

Albert Eng is listed in the 1940 U.S. Census at 218 Comal Street, a house he rented. He was 45, had been born in California, and was a retail grocery merchant. He is listed as being Chinese.

Albert Eng died in San Antonio in 1963. His death certificate shows that he was a retired cook in a café who had been in California in 1896. His "color or race" was listed as "yellow."

#### Clayton A. and Aline Lyon (ca. 1946 – ca. 1963)

Clayton and Aline Lyon appear in the 1940 U.S. Census for Buckeye, Maricopa County, Arizona where they lived with Clayton's father, Melvin Henry Lyon, a 50-year old Texas-born farm laborer who was a widower and who had lived in Konawa, Oklahoma in 1935. Clayton Lyon was 27, had been born in Oklahoma, and was a truck driver. Aline Lyon was 23, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. She lived in Waco, Texas in 1935.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows the future Aline Lyon as the 12-year old daughter of Roy B. and Mary McCarty of Comanche County, Texas. Aline was born in Texas and was the oldest of Roy and Mary McCarty's 3 children. Roy McCarty, who lived with Clayton and Aline when they first bought this grocery business in 1946, was a 34-year old Texas-born foreman for a construction crew. Mary McCarty was 30, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. The parents of both Roy and Mary McCarty had been born in Tennessee.

Clayton A. Lyon was born in 1912 and died in Austin in 2000. Aline McCarty Lyon was born in 1917 and died in 2012. Both are buried in the Haynie Chapel Cemetery in Garfield, Travis County.

LYON, Clayton A., 87, of Cedar Creek died Tuesday. Services 11 a.m. today, Haynie Chapel Cemetery, Garfield. Arrangements by Wilke-Clay-Fish.

Death notice for Clayton A. Lyon

Austin American-Statesman, March 17, 2000



#### Aline Lyon

Aline Lyon, age 94, of Cedar Creek, formerly of Austin, passed away January 10, 2012. She and her husband, Clayton, owned and operated Lyon's Grocery at 3rd & Comal for 18 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clayton; her daughter, Loretta Berdoll; her brothers, Pat and R.B. McCarty. Aline is survived by her son, Roy Lyon and wife Carol; her daughter, Mary Hauger and husband, Ralph; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Graveside Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2012 at Haynie Chapel Cemetery in Garfield. Aline's family thanks ASERA Care Hospice in Bastrop for their tireless and compassionate care.

Obituary of Aline Lyon Austin <u>American-Statesman</u>, January 12, 2012



### NEW Armour Process gives Cloverbloom "99" that delicious natural flavor your family loves!

Never before have you tasted a suread at any price that is more delightfully appetizing than thrifty Cloverbloom "99". It is so utterly delicious, so temptingly good that it will win instant approval . . . particularly from husbands who insist on the finest.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK than "just another mar-GUARANTEE

garine" . . . It is a sensational new food discovery . . . a golden yellow spread that tastes like the more expensive natural yellow spread. You see, Cloverbloom "99" is actually churned... the natural way, by an exclusive new Armour process. In actual taste comparisons with natural yellow spreads, 3 out of 4 people cannot identify Cloverbloom "99" as a margarine

Although a few pennies more per pound than ordinary margarine, Cloverbloom "99" costs considerably less than the more expensive natural yellow spread it so perfectly duplicates.

You must try this sensational new food discovery. Hurry to one of the stores listed below. Start enjoying Cloverbloom "99" today. Double your money back if not completely satisfied.

Start enjoying this exciting new taste discovery TODAY!

THE BEST AND NOTHING BUT THE BEST IS LABELED ARMOUR



Get Your Lovely PRINCESS ALOHA BABY ORCHID at these Stores:

CHECKER FRONT NO. 3, 1817 East 6th CHECKER FRONT NO. 4, 1801 East 6th CHECKER FRONT NO. 4, 1801 San Jacinto CHECKER FRONT NO. 8, 1843 Sa. Congress

GUARANTEE

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CHECKER FRONT NO. 10, 2221 East Are CHECKER FRONT NO. 12, 116 West 6th CHECKER FRONT NO. 14, 6th East 42rd CHECKER FRONT NO. 15, 504 West 19th CHECKER FRONT NO. 15, 103 East 1st CHECKER FRONT NO. 17, 914 West 1217 I.G.A. STORES:

OSBORNE GROCERY, 2131 East 1st PAUL BROTHERS NO. 2. 519 East 612

Advertisement for Cloverbloom margarine, available at the Lyon Grocery, 220 Comal Street Austin Statesman, January 12, 1950

## \$319 Cash, Checks Stolen in Purse At Grocery Store

The loss of \$319 in cash and checks from Lyons Grocery, 220 Comal, headed a list of thefts under investigation by detectives

Monday.

C. A. Lyons told officers the money and checks were taken from a purse, left under a counter at his store. He said he left the front door of the store open while cleaning up, and that he had gone into the living quarters behind the store. Upon returning, the money was gone, Lyons reported.

Theft from the Lyon Grocery Austin <u>Statesman</u>, July 26, 1954

# Small Grocery Hit By Daylight Holdup

woman storekeeper at 220 Co-|dollar bills. mal Street Monday morning, raising the score to four stick-ining north on Comal Street. ups here in six days.

trolman Jack Adkins the ban-town. dits got \$425 in small bills.

She described the robbers as a "tall, thin Negro man waving a gun and another shorter man''.

"I've never been scared here before, especially in the mornings," Mrs. Swartz said. have lots of people going to work and school children coming in."

She said the bandits acted like customers until the tall, the counter and whipped out a tion at 2135 East Seventh. pistol.

nie the money and hurry."

Mrs. Swartz said she handed white man.

Daybreak bandits robbed a over \$425 in ten, five and one

The bandits fled on foot, run-

A 14-year-old Allan Junior Mrs. Lillie Swartz, owner-op-High School student saw one erator of the small, neighbor- of the susepets turn west on East hood Swartz Grocery, told Pa-Fourth Street, running toward

> "I didn't get a good look at him," Jerry Castillo, of 305 Comal, told Detective George West, "About all I could tell was that he had on black pants."

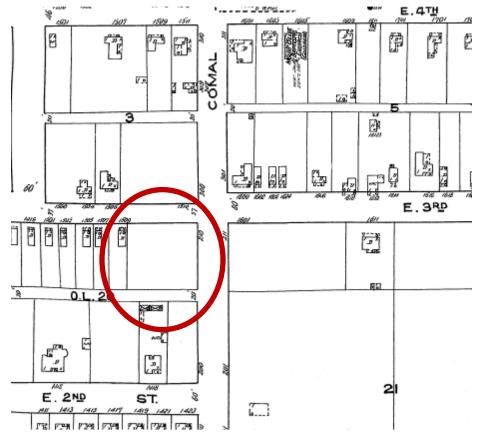
> The grocery store robbery was the biggest haul reported in a series of stickups here.

Early Saturday a lone white man robbed the Waldorf Motel at 6702 North Lamar and escaped with \$30.

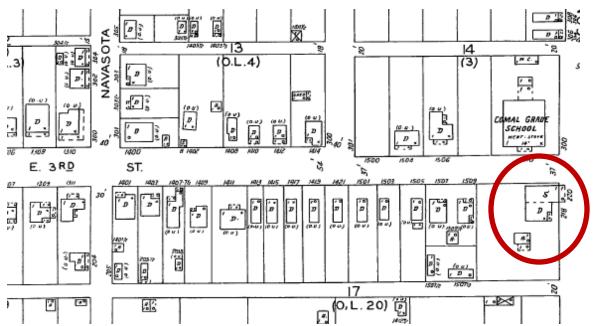
Friday a lone Negro bandit got more than \$30 from a stickthin man stood face to face at up at the Hancock Service Sta-

On Wednesday the haul was "You know what this is? Give \$175 from the Payless Liquor Store at 6534 North Lamar by a

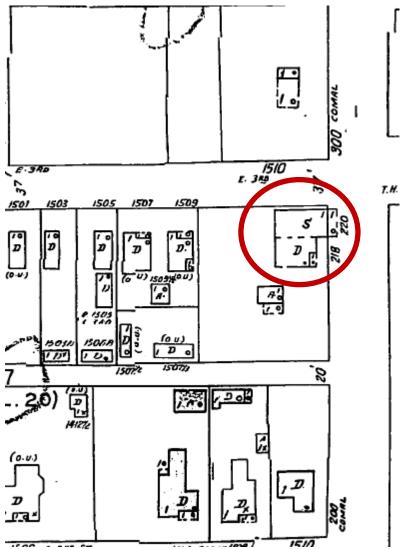
Lillie Swartz, proprietor of the grocery store at 220 Comal Street, was held up Austin Statesman, February 22, 1965



The site of the current store is shown as vacant on the December, 1921 Sanborn map.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the store and the adjacent dwelling where the early proprietors lived.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the store and the adjacent dwelling, where early proprietors lived.

OWNER 5	J. B.	Schwartz	<del></del>	ADDRE	SS 2	18 Com	aì	
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1724-80 Repair Min OWNER Lilly Swartz	ADDRESS 218 Coma1	
PLAT 27 LOT	2	BLK
SUBDIVISION Swartz Addn		
OCCUPANCY Duplex		
BLD PERMIT # 113230 DATE 6-	OWNERS ESTIMATE \$1,00	0.00
CONTRACTOR Earl Bradford	NO. OF FIXTURES	several
WATER TAP REC # E59064	SEWER TAP REC # Exist	
Frm res onto lot and re	pair	

Building permit to Lilly Swartz to move a house onto the lot at 218 Comal Street (1969) This building is not on the site now.

City records indicate a permit to add air conditioning to the store in 1985.