

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
AUGUST 26, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0423
712 W. MONROE STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1933 building.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan building; front-gabled roof; brick veneer and vertical wood siding; vinyl-sash windows; entry porch with two doors.

RESEARCH

712 W. Monroe Street was occupied by Genaro and Belen Galarza from about 1935 until at least 1986. Genaro Henry Galarza was born in 1902 in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1923 via Laredo and arrived in Austin by 1933. With his wife Belen, Genaro Galarza established the El Olvido Grocery store in their home and a carpenter shop at 1306 S. 1st Street. A 1945 *Austin American* story featured the couple's dedication to the country:

Mr. and Mrs. Genaro H. Galarza are a humble Mexican couple who work hard every day and do not make much money but they are very rich... in sincerity and nobleness of spirit... Every penny went into war bonds... hung on the wall in the tiny grocery store. That wall now holds between \$1,800 and \$1,900 in \$25, \$50, and \$100 war bonds. The couple can't tell you to the dollar how much is on the wall because they don't bother to count them. ("No Records Needed To Prove Their Loyalty," May 13, 1945)

The Galarzas filed a naturalization application in 1940, and Genaro Galarza became a U.S. citizen in June 1945. By 1968, the Galarzas had retired from the grocery business. Genaro Galarza died in 1987 in Austin.

Belen Hernandez de Galarza was born around 1900 in Mexico. She married Genaro Galarza in San Luis Potosí in 1920 and immigrated with him to the United States three years later. The couple had two sons, both of whom fought in World War II, and two daughters. Belen Galarza died in 1991 in Austin.

El Olvido Grocery (also called Genaro Galarza Grocery in one city directory) was located in 712 W. Monroe Street from about 1941 until about 1965. Little information was found about the store during research.

STAFF COMMENTS

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain a moderate degree of integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (City of Austin Land Development Code, Section 25-2-352). The property does not appear to demonstrate significance according to any criteria.

- a. **Architecture.** The house is designed in a vernacular style and does not appear to be architecturally significant.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was occupied by Genaro and Belan Galarza and his family for at least 50 years, from around 1935 until 1992. There do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The building's function as a family-run neighborhood grocery for more than twenty years may have significant community value. However, the building does not retain any physical characteristics that identify it as a grocery store. It is not known if the building's function as a grocery store was physically distinguished at the time of operation.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.




The property does not appear to be eligible for designation as a historic landmark.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of the existing building, then relocation over demolition; but release the demolition 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



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0423
LOCATION: 712 W Monroe St.



1" = 169'

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.

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.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (south) façade elevation of 712 W. Monroe Street.



Primary (south) façade and east elevation.

Occupancy History

Completed by Historic Preservation Office staff, July 2019

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1932 | Address not listed |
| 1935 | <i>712 Monroe not listed</i>
710 Monroe: Guenrio and Belende Galarza, renters
Repairman, Driskill Hotel |
| 1937 | <i>712 Monroe not listed</i>
710 Monroe: Guenrio and Belende Galarza, owners |

- 1939 Guenrio and Belender Galarza and 4 children; renters
Laborer
- Henry Galarza, renter
Carpenter, St. Edward's University
- 1941 Gunario and Belen Galarza, owners
Grocer, 712 W. Monroe
- Henry Galarza, renter
Helper, The Hargis Co.
- 1944 Genaro and Balan Galarza and 3 children; renters
Carpenter, 1306 S. 1st
- Genaro Galarza, Jr., renter
U.S. Army
- 1947 El Olvido Grocery
- Belen Galarza, owner
El Olvido Grocery
- Genaro Galarza
Cabinet maker, 1306 S. 1st
- Henry G. Galarza, Jr., renter
Henry's Radio and Sound Service
- Asuncion Galarza, renter
Stock keeper, H.E.B.
- 1949 Genaro and Belen Galarza, owners
El Olvido Grocery
- Belen Galarza
El Olvido Grocery
- Henry Galarza, renter
Mechanic, Texas Novelty Co.
- 1952 Genaro and Belen Galarza, owners
Grocer
- Andrew Galarza, renter
Student
- Mary J. Galarza
Office secretary, Merri Drug Co.
- 1955 Genaro Galarza Grocery

- Genario [sic] and Belen Galarza, owners
Grocer
- Mary J. Galarza, renter
Typist, International Life Insurance.
- 1959 Galarza Grocery
- 1962 El Olvido Grocery
- Genaro and Belan [sic] B. Galarza, owners
- Belan B. Galarza
El Olvido Grocery
- 1965 Genaro and Belen B. Galarza, owners
- El Olvido Grocery
- Belan B. Galarza
El Olvido Grocery
- 1968 Genaro and Balan [sic] B. Galarza, owners
Retired
- 1973 Genaro and Balan [sic] B. Galarza, owners
Retired
Note: Asuncion and Virginia Galarza lived at 709 W. Monroe Street.
- 1977 Hernaro and Velen Barbso [sic], owners
Retired
- 1981 a. Genaro and Belen Galarza, owners
No occupation listed
- b. Bill and Helen L. Wagner
No occupation listed
- 1986 a. Genaro and Belen Galarza, owners
Retired
- b. Bill H. and Hellen L. Wagner
Builder, Action Fence Co.
- 1992 Henry Garaza [sic], Jr., owner
No occupation listed

Background Research

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

[Under General Provisions of the Nationality Act of 1940 (Public, No. 853, 76th Cong.)]

To the Honorable the U. S. District Court of West. Dist. of Texas Austin, Texas

This petition for naturalization, hereby made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full, true, and correct name is Genaro Galarza

(2) My present place of residence is 712 W. Monroe, Austin, Travis, Texas (3) My occupation is Carpenter

(4) I am 41 years old. (5) I was born on Sept. 19, 1902 in San Luis Potosi, Mexico

(6) My personal description is as follows: Sex male, color white, complexion dark, color of eyes black, color of hair black
 height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 185 pounds, visible distinctive marks None, race White

present nationality Mexico (7) I am not married; the name of my wife or husband is Relan Galarza
 we were married on April 22, 1920 at San Luis Potosi, Mexico

or she was born at San Luis Potosi, Mexico on Janv. 27, 1900

and entered the United States at Laredo, Texas on Dec. 30, 1923 for permanent residence in the United States
 and now resides at 712 W. Monroe, Austin, Travis, Texas and was naturalized on Dec. 30, 1923
 at Laredo, Texas certificate No. _____; or became a citizen by _____

(8) I have 4 children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows:
Genaro Galarza, Jr., born May 24, 1921 at San Luis Potosi, Mexico; now residing at Austin, Texas (in U.S. Army); other three children born in and now residing in United States of America.

(9) My last place of foreign residence was San Luis Potosi, Mexico (10) I emigrated to the United States from
San Luis Potosi, Mexico (11) My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was
 at Laredo, Texas under the name of Genaro Galarza
 on December 29, 1923 on the Footbridge
 as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached to this petition.

(12) Since my lawful entry for permanent residence I have not been absent from the United States, for a period or periods of 6 months or longer, as follows:

DEPARTED FROM THE UNITED STATES			RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES		
PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE	PORT	DATE (Month, day, year)	VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE

(13) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on May 13, 1940 in the U.S. District
 Court of West. Dist. of Texas at Austin, Texas (14) It is my intention in good faith to become a
 citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, State, or sovereignty of whom or which at
 this time I am a subject or citizen, and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (15) I am not, and have not been for the period of at least 10 years
 immediately preceding the date of this petition, an anarchist, nor a believer in the unlawful damage, injury, or destruction of property, or sabotage; nor a disbeliever in
 or opposed to organized government; nor a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposition to organized government.
 (16) I am able to speak the English language (unless physically unable to do so). (17) I am, and have been during all of the periods required by law, attached to the
 principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. (18) I have resided continuously in the
 United States of America for the term of 5 years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since December 30, 1923
 and continuously in the State in which this petition is made for the term of 6 months at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since
December 30, 1923 (19) I have not heretofore made petition for naturalization: No.
 on _____ at _____ in the _____
 Court, and such petition was dismissed or denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: _____
 and the cause of such dismissal or denial has since been cured or removed.

(20) Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for naturalization, are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States (if such declaration
 of intention be required by the naturalization law), a certificate of arrival from the Immigration and Naturalization Service of my said lawful entry into the United
 States for permanent residence (if such certificate of arrival be required by the naturalization law), and the affidavits of at least two verifying witnesses required by law.

(21) Wherefore, I, your petitioner for naturalization, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and that my name be changed to _____
No change

(22) I, aforesaid petitioner, do swear (affirm) that I know the contents of this petition for naturalization subscribed by me, that the same are true to the best of my own
 knowledge, except as to matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe them to be true, and that this petition is
 signed by me with my full, true name: **SO HELP ME GOD.**

Genaro Galarza
(Full, true, and correct signature of petitioner, without abbreviation)

1002 of 1075

618-19120-1

Petition for Naturalization, 12/30/1940.

No Records Needed To Prove Their Loyalty



APPROXIMATELY \$1,850 in war bonds have been purchased by Mrs. Genaro H. Galarza and her husband. They buy bonds and hang them on the wall of their grocery store at 712 West Monroe. They never bother to count them . . . They just buy them.

By **NANCY PHILIPS**
American-Statesman Staff

Mr. and Mrs. Genaro H. Galarza are a humble Mexican couple who work hard every day and do not make much money but they are very rich.

They are rich in sincerity and nobleness of spirit.

They came here 12 years ago from Mexico and adapted themselves with enthusiasm but they worked so hard building up a tiny grocery

store at 712 West Monroe and a carpenter shop at 1306 South First that they had little time to learn the English language very well.

With the outbreak of war they proudly sent two sons to service—Corp. Genaro H. Galarza, Jr., 22, radio mechanic in France, and Asuncion Galarza, fireman first class, 19, somewhere in the Pacific.

After that every penny went into war bonds and toward building the beautiful bedroom and the wonder-

ful bathroom.

As they bought bonds they hung them on the wall in the tiny grocery store.

That wall now holds between \$1,800 and \$1,900 in \$25, \$50 and \$100 war bonds.

The couple can't tell you to the dollar how much is on the wall because they don't bother to count them.

They just keep buying them and putting them on the wall — that seems to be the important thing.

Galarza has put the rest of the money and a great deal of painstaking work in fixing up a bedroom and bathroom for his two sons so that when they return they will have a beautiful place to live.

At his carpenter's shop, Galarza patted his flat pant pockets.

"See, no money in pocket. . . put little beet I got in bonds for my country. . . in the rooms waiting for my sons."

His face was bright with excite-

"The bathroom is of..." he groped for words and tried to explain with his shoulders, "... of tile," he concluded triumphantly.

"I work verry hard... you see I sweat... but I am no seatizon." The smile left his face.

Twice, he said, he had applied for citizenship papers failing each time because of his ignorance of English.

"I go up... they say theengs... I cannot say them back." He shrugged his shoulders helplessly.

Then with simplicity born of sincerity he declared, "I am good seatizon. I know. It is because they cannot see my heart that I no get papers."

Mr. and Mrs. Galarza may not be able to sing the Star-Spangled Banner in English but it is engraved in their hearts.

"No records needed to prove their loyalty," The Austin American, 5/13/1945.

Building Permits and Maps

Unless the plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

No. A 1999

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE Austin, Texas

M. Antone Urigio Address Rear 112 West Menard St

Plumber Wattings Size of Tap 1/2 Date 10/12/28

Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection	<u>11/16/28</u>	No. Fittings	
Size of Tap Made	<u>3/4</u>	Curb Cock	<u>1</u>
Size Service Made	<u>3/4</u>	Elbow	<u>1</u>
Size Main Tapped	<u>2"</u>	St. Elbow	<u>1</u>
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	<u>10'</u>	Bushing	<u>1</u>
" " " "	<u>6" 246</u>	Reducer	<u>1</u>
Location of Meter	<u>at curb</u>	Pipe	<u>89'</u>
Type of Box	<u>lock</u>	Head-Conn	<u>1</u>
Depth of Main in St.	<u>4"</u>	Nipples	<u>1</u>
" " Service Line	<u>12"</u>	Union	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	<u>30' 6"</u>	Plug	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	<u>Jen</u>	TEE	
		Stop	<u>1</u>
		Box	<u>1</u>
		Lid	<u>1</u>
		Valves	<u>1-2" X 3/4" pipe</u>
		Req. No.	<u>19212</u>

Foreman's Signature Beriman

INDEXED

Water service permit issued to Antone Urigio, 10/12/1928.

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE

AUSTIN, TEXAS

No. ^{Sec. 117} 1846

M. Calcasieu Lbr. Co. Address 712 West Monroe St.

Plumber ? Size of Tap 1/2 Date 7-28-33

Date of Connection 7/31/33
 Size of Tap Made 3/4
 Size Service Made 1/2
 Size Main Tapped 2"
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 13'
 From Prop. Line to Curb Cock 10'6"
 Location of Meter at well
 Type of Box lock
 Depth of Main in St. 8"
 Depth of Service Line 180
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 98'6"

Foreman's Report

No. Fittings	Size	
1	3/4"	Curb Cock
1	1/2"	Elbow
1	2 1/2"	St. Elbow
1	2 1/2"	Bushing
1	2 1/2"	Reducer
2	2"	Pipe
1	2 1/2"	Stand Comp.
1	3/4"	Nipples
		Union
		Plug
		Tee
		Stop
		Box
		Lid
		Valves
		Req. No. <u>4803</u>

Checked by Engr. Dept. W.T.D. 8-7-33
INDEXED 11-7-61 SNP

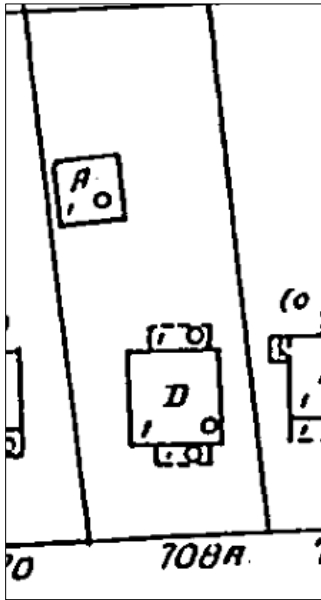
Foreman's Signature Berman

Water service permit issued to Calcasieu Lumber Co., 7/28/1933.

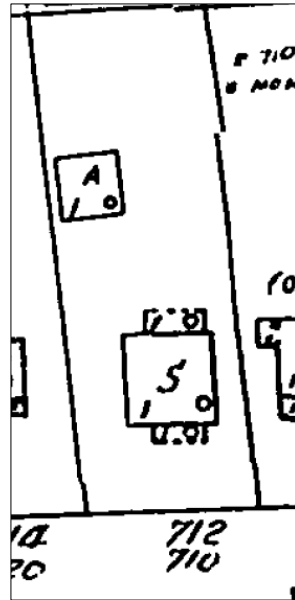
Newspaper records indicate that a wood-frame storage building was constructed in 1938.

Genaro Galanza		712 West Monroe St.	
117	6	-	-
R. G. Smith			
Frame addition to residence.			
55542	11-27-53	\$50.00	
Owner			

Building permit for wood-frame addition to residence issued to Genaro Galanza [sic], 11/27/1953.



1935 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.



1962 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.