### 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



### **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

- 1935 *712 Monroe not listed* 710 Monroe: Guenrio and Belende Galarza, renters Repairman, Driskill Hotel
- 1937 *712 Monroe not listed* 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. $1^{\rm st}$
	Genaro Galarza, Jr., renter U.S. Army
1947	El Olvido Grocery
	Belen Galarza, owner El Olvido Grocery
	Genaro Galarza Cabinet maker, 1306 S. 1 <sup>st</sup>
	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 Grcoery
	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

		TION FOR N			
[Under Gen	eral Provision	ns of the Nationali	ty Act of 1940 (Pu	ublic, No. 853, 1	76th Cong.)]
To the Honorable the U.	S. Distr	ict Court of West	t. Dist. of	Texas Aus	tin, Texas
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and now resides at .712	W.Monfoe,	Austin, Travis,	TEXES and	was naturalized on	a Charl Clearl
4	Number and street)	certificate No.	; or becat	me a citizen by	
(8) I have	; and the name, sar, d	late and place of birth, and pres	ext place of residence of each	h of said children who is	living, are as follows:
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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 . . . 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

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 so hard building up a tiny grocery beautiful bedroom and the wonder-

them on the wall of their grocery store at 712 West Monroe. They never bother to count

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 lectle beet I got in bonds for my countri. . . 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 scatizon. 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	
	NºA 1999
S PERMIT FOR WATER	SERVICE Austin, Texas
M Interie Miguo	Address 1/2 West Menrag St
Plumber Matting gl	Size of Tap Date 1 Ji # 78
	Foreman's Report.
Date of Connection. 11/6/24	
Size of Tab Made	
Size Service Made	
Size Main Tapped	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock.	5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
Location of Meter	A MAGN
Type of Box	Cock Cock
Depth of Main in St.	NNN NNN NNN NNN NNN NNN NNN NNN NNN NN
103.1.1	Fittings Fittings Curb ( Elbocw St. Ell Bushim Pipe Union Union Union Union Union Req. A Req. A
". " Service Line	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	Foreman's Signature
BANA AND C	V J S V PAUCA

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

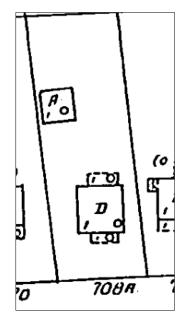
		D.8 - 10
Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water. PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, IEXAS M. Calcasien Lor. Co. Address FIT M.	Nº UN	Sec. 117 1846 Monse St
Plumber	Date.	7.28.33
Date of Connection       Foreman's Report         Size of Tap Made       Foreman's Report         Size of Tap Made       Foreman's Report         Size of Tap Made       Foreman's Report         Size Service Made       Foreman's Report         Size Main Tapped       Foreman's Report         Size Main Tapped       Foreman's Report         From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock       Foreman's Signature         Location of Meter       Foreman's Signature         Type of Box       Foreman's Signature         Depth of Service Line       Foreman's Signature         From Curb Cock to Tap on Main       Foreman's Signature         INDEXED       11-7-61         Water service permit issued to Calcasieu Lumber Co., 7/2		Lid Lid Lid Level Reg. Wo. 4. 8 03
water service permit issued to Calcasieu Lumber Co., 72	40/1950	).

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

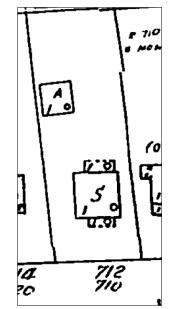
Genard	Galanza	712 West Monroe St.
117	6	
	R. G. Smith	•
	Frame addition	to residence.
	55542 11-27-53	\$50.00
	Owner	

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

## D.8 - 11



1935 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.



1962 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.