PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1919 commercial building.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, flat-roofed brick-veneered commercial building originally divided into duplex spaces; the storefront has been replaced with modern materials, but the line of fixed-sash clerestory windows above the duplex storefronts appears to be original.

RESEARCH

Like the building next door at 409 Colorado, also slated for demolition, this building originally had automobile-related uses. Pinckney W. Powell had an auto painting business in this building from the time of its construction until the mid-1930s; Joseph C. Dill had an auto top and auto trimming business here as well for the same duration. From the mid-1930s until around 1950, the Insurance Forms Department of Texas occupied this entire building for their operations. From the early 1950s through the late 1960s, Scarbrough's a local department store at 6th Street and Congress Avenue, had their drapery workshop and delivery and parcel post department. The south half of the building became a surplus office equipment warehouse in the 1970s. In the 1990s, the building was renovated as a restaurant and cocktail lounge; successor cocktail lounges occupied this space until early 2019.

STAFF COMMENTS

The building was not listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984). Staff has evaluated this building for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that while the building may not rise to the level of an individual landmark, it is an integral part of the context of the Warehouse District, a branded destination in downtown Austin.

a. **Architecture.** The building is a one-story duplex commercial building with a brick veneer and a line of clerestory windows above what would have been the original ground-floor openings. The storefronts have been replaced over the years, but the form and details of the building are otherwise intact.

b. **Historical association.** The building was constructed for automobile uses – the first tenants of the building were an auto body shop and an auto top shop, which remained here until around 1936. The building then became a state department warehouse until the early 1950s, when Scarbrough's a local department store, moved into this space for its parcel post department and drapery workhouse. Since the 1990s, the building has been home to various cocktail lounges and restaurants.

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 is important to the context of the greater Warehouse District, but probably does not have community value in and of itself.

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**

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, including adaptation/incorporation of the façade into any new building proposed for the site. If the commission votes to release the demolition permit for this building, then staff recommends the 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 and consideration of erecting a plaque detailing the history of the building and the Warehouse District on the site.
LOCATION MAP

NOTIFICATIONS
CASE#: HDP-2019-0678
LOCATION: 415 COLORADO 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.

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.

1" = 333'
413-415 Colorado Street
ca. 1919

2009 photograph

2019 photograph
OCCUPANCY HISTORY
413-15 Colorado Street

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

1992  Neither 413 nor 415 Colorado Street is listed in the directory.

1987  413: The address is not listed in the directory.
       415: Office Surplus Equipment Warehouse
            No proprietor listed

1981  413: The address is not listed in the directory.
       415: Vacant

1977  413: The address is not listed in the directory.
       415: Office Surplus Equipment Warehouse
            No proprietor listed

1975  413: The address is not listed in the directory.
       415: Office Surplus Equipment
            Gary Bergvall, manager

1969  Neither 413 nor 415 Colorado Street is listed in the directory.

1967  413: Scarbrough's Drapery Workshop
       415: Scarbrough's City Delivery and Parcel Post Department

1963  413: E.M. Scarbrough & Sons Drapery Workshop
       415: E.M. Scarbrough & Sons City Delivery and Parcel Post Department

1957  413: E.M. Scarbrough & Sons Drapery Workshop
       415: The address is not listed separately in the directory.

1953  413-5 E.M. Scarbrough & Sons Drapery Workshop

1949  413-5 Insurance Forms Department of Texas Printers

1947  413-5 Insurance Forms Department of Texas Printers

1944-45  413-5 Insurance Forms Department of Texas Printers

1941  413-5 Insurance Forms Department of Texas
Printers

1937 413-5 Insurance Forms Department of Texas
Printers

1935 413-5 Powell Auto Body Works
Expert body and fender repair, painting and trimming, springs, windshield and door glass, motor repairs, and auto blacksmithing.
Pinckney W. Powell, proprietor

Dill Auto Top Company
Joseph C. Dill, proprietor
NOTE: Around 1936, Joseph C. Dill moved his business to 404 Colorado Street.

1932-33 413-5 Powell Auto Body Works
Expert body and fender repair, painting and trimming, springs, windshield and door glass, motor repairs, and auto blacksmithing.
Pinckney W. Powell, proprietor

Dill Auto Top Company
Joseph C. Dill, proprietor

1930-31 413-5 Powell Auto Body Works
Expert body and fender repair, painting and trimming, springs, windshield and door glass, motor repairs, and auto blacksmithing.
Pinckney W. Powell, proprietor

1930-31 (cont.) Dill Auto Top Company
Joseph C. Dill, proprietor

1929 413-5 Powell Garage and Body Works
Expert body and fender repair, painting and trimming, springs, windshield and door glass, motor repairs, and auto blacksmithing.
Pinckney W. Powell, proprietor

Dill Auto Top Company
Joseph C. Dill, proprietor

1927 413-5 Powell Garage and Body Works
Pinckney W. Powell, proprietor

Dill Auto Top Company
Joseph C. Dill, proprietor

1924 413-5 Pinckney W. Powell
Auto painting

Dill Auto Top Company
Automobile and carriage trimmers
Joseph C. Dill, proprietor
1922  413-5  Pinckney W. Powell
    Auto painting and also acting yard manager, International and
    Great Northern Railroad

    William J. Dill
    Auto and carriage trimmer

1920  Pinckney W. Powell
    Auto painting; builder of automobile and truck bodies, painting and
    trimming, specialists in spring work and axle welding.

    William J. Dill
    Auto and carriage trimmer

    NOTE: The address is listed as 411 Colorado Street.
    NOTE: 413 Colorado Street is listed as vacant.

1918  The address is not listed in the directory.

    NOTE: The only building listed on the odd side of the street north of the
    alley is the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company warehouse
    at 407 Colorado Street.

NOTE: The 1914 city directory shows 411 Colorado Street as vacant, and 415 Colorado
Street as the machine shop of Oscar E. Hallen and Joy C. Messer, which was still in
existence at the time of the publication of the 1916 city directory. The 1912-13 city
directory shows the barber shop and residence of Ysidro Montalvo at 411 Colorado Street
and the Studebaker dealership of Charles E. Anderson, Jr., Walter S. Benson, and
Madison H. Benson at 415 Colorado Street.

Advertisement for Powell Garage and Body Works. Pinckney W. Powell had an auto
painting and body shop here from around 1919 to 1936.

    Austin American, July 7, 1923

21 AUTOS, ACCESSORIES
WHEN WRECKED—Or disabled call 6705 or 6939. We can pick-up any wreck and repair it. Powell Garage & Body Works, 413 Colorado St.
Advertisement for Powell Garage and Body Works
Austin American, August 19, 1923

WRECKER SERVICE
PHONE 6705
When you go into the Ditch, and our wrecker will come to you!
Competent crew who know how "to get there" in a hurry. In our shop experienced mechanics will make the necessary repairs and put your car in good running order.
Remember — Phone 6705 Day — 6939 Night
Powell Garage & Body Works
413 Colorado St.

Advertisement for Powell Garage and Body Works
Austin Statesman, February 12, 1924

Storage Washing
WELDING Polishing Greasing
"WE TREAT YOUR CAR LIKE A FRIEND"
POWELL GARAGE & BODY WORKS
413-15 COLORADO STREET
WRECKING SERVICE, DAY AND NIGHT
PHONE: DAY 6705; NIGHT 6939
Welcome, Texans

WASHING
WELDING

“YOUR CAR IS OUR FRIEND”

GREASING
STORAGE

Powell Garage & Body Works

Expert Body, Fender Repairing, Body Building, Painting and Trimming, Springs for all Cars, Auto Glass and Automobile Blacksmithing

WRECKER SERVICE
DAY AND NIGHT

413-415 COLORADO STREET

Phones: Day 6705—Night 6939

Powell Garage and Body Works advertisement (believed to be ca. 1928), Austin History Center Vertical Files, Automobile garages

Advertisement for Dill’s Auto Top Company in Powell’s Garage
Austin American-Statesman, April 4, 1926
Congratulations to the expanded Chevrolet dealership in the 200 block of E. 5th Street from the Dill Auto Top Company
Austin American-Statesman, July 24, 1927

Christmas greetings from Dill Auto Top Company, located in Powell’s Garage
Austin American, December 25, 1935

Christmas thanks and greetings from Powell Auto Body Works
Austin American, December 25, 1935
New Year's greetings from Dill Auto Top Shop at this location
Austin Statesman, January 1, 1936
Joe Dill moved his business across the street to 404 Colorado Street later that year.
Obituary of Pinckney W. Powell, who operated the Powell Garage and Body Works here from around 1919 until 1936. His son, Roger, took over the Day and Night Garage next door at 409 Colorado Street as well as the Powell Auto Body Works at that address from the mid-1930s through the early 1940s.

Austin American, July 9, 1939

Obituary of Will J. Dill, who ran an automobile and carriage trimming shop here in the 1920s. His son, Joe C. Dill, continued the business, and expanded it to include automobile tops and seat covers.

Austin American, February 2, 1929
Obituary of Joseph C. Dill, who operated an auto top business here from the mid-1920s until around 1936, when he moved his operations to 404 Colorado Street. Joseph C. Dill was the son of William J. Dill, who had had an automobile and carriage trimming business here in the early 1920s. Joe Dill married Bessie Powell, the daughter of Pinckney W. Powell, who had an auto painting business here from 1920 until around 1936. His brother-in-law, Roger Powell, continued the Powell Auto Body Shop here until 1936, when he moved to 409 Colorado and Dill moved to 404 Colorado.

Austin American, February 15, 1938
The 1900 Sanborn map shows a one-story store with a canopy with a one-story dwelling behind it at 411 Colorado Street.

The 1935 Sanborn map shows the current building at 413-5 Colorado Street as a one-story building labeled “Auto Repair and Body Works” with a concrete floor and wood trusses and a canopy or awning across the front. The 1935 city directory listing shows the building occupied by Powell Auto Body Works and the Dill Auto Top Company.
The 1961 Sanborn map shows the building at 413-15 Colorado Street as split into two halves, the southern half (413) being devoted to upholstering, and the northern half (415) denoted as general storage. There is a canopy or awning over each section of the building, but they differ in depth, according to the map. City directories show that E.M. Scarbrough & Sons had their drapery workshop here from the early 1950s to the late 1960s.

The building was remodeled as a restaurant and bar in 1995 for Miguel's La Bodega; it has also housed Ringer's Sports Bar, and now Maria Maria, with remodeling between each incarnation.