PROPOSAL
Demolish a ca. 1939 house.

ARCHITECTURE
One-story, rectangular-plan house clad in painted brick, capped with a side-gabled roof with composition shingles and shallow eaves. It has single and paired 1:1 wood windows and a full-width shed-roof porch with decorative metal supports. A small addition was constructed to the rear in 1950. A detached garage is located behind the house. The home’s small footprint and minimal detailing is typical for homes of the era and location.

RESEARCH
The house was built in 1939 and rented by NYA assistant director Raymond Leberban, then purchased by Forrest W. and Cecile Trafton around 1945. Forrest Trafton was a tile contractor. He began working for his uncle’s family business, Trafton Marble and Tile, before he and his father branched off to start their own business, Trafton and Son, in 1940. Cecile Trafton worked as bookkeeper and office manager for the business, and her brother John F. Rodriguez was an assistant manager. Son Capt. William Trafton later joined the business

The Traftons lived in the home until Mrs. Trafton’s death in 1968; per deed records, it stayed in the family until 2006. Renters include grandson Mike Trafton and tilesetter Joe Castro, who may also have been associated with the Traftons’ business.

STAFF COMMENTS
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark
1) The building is more than 50 years old.
2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (Land Development Code, Section 25-2-352). The property may demonstrate significance according to one criterion:
   a) Architecture. The house is constructed in the Minimal Traditional style.
   b) Historical association. While the house is associated with the Trafton family, who contributed their expertise as contractors to some of Austin’s most iconic buildings at midcentury, the Trafton & Son building at 3700 Guadalupe may hold stronger associational and architectural significance due to its exceptional exterior tilework that showcases the Traftons’ skills at both trade and salesmanship. However, the Commission may wish to consider Forrest and Cecile Trafton’s importance with regards to their house, given the uncertain integrity of the Trafton & Son building since 2011.
   c) Archaeology. The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
   d) Community value. The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature 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
Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release the 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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Occupant Details</th>
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| 1992 | Joe S. and Ophelia Castro, owners  
       | Retired          |
| 1985-86 | Joe S. and Ophelia Castro, renters  
          | Tile setter      |
| 1981 | No return        |
| 1977 | Mike Trafton, renter |
| 1973 | Johnny and Susan Rose, owners  
       | Child care attendant, School for the Blind |
| 1968 | Forrest and Cecile Trafton, owners  
       | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1965 | Forrest and Cecile Trafton, owners  
       | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1962 | Forrest and Cecile Trafton, owners  
       | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1959 | Forrest W. and Cecile Trafton, owners  
       | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1955 | Forrest W. and Cecile Trafton, owners  
       | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1952 | Forrest W. and Cecile Trafton, owners  
       | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1949 | Forrest W. and Cecile Trafton, owners  
       | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1947 | Forrest W. and Cecile Trafton, renters |
| 1944-45 | Forrest W. and Cecile Trafton, owners  
          | Trafton and Sons tile contractors |
| 1941 | Raymond D. and Mary Leberban, renters  
       | Assistant division director, NYA |
| 1939 | Address not listed |
**Biographical Information**

MRS. CECILE L. TRAFTON

Requiem mass will be offered for Mrs. Cecile Lillian Trafton, 76, of 4701 Hammsby, Saturday at 10 a.m. at St. Louis Catholic Church with Monsignor Edward Malecha officiating. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery. Rosary will be recited Friday at 7 p.m. from the Cook Funeral Home.

Mrs. Trafton lived in Austin 43 years and was a member of St. Louis Catholic Church, of the Ladies Guild at St. Louis Catholic Church and was office manager for Trafton and Son Tile Co.

She is survived by her husband, Forrest William Trafton of Austin; a son, Capt. William F. Trafton of Austin; one sister, Mrs. Mary Neill of San Antonio; a brother, John F. Rodriguez of Austin; three grandchildren and a niece and a nephew.

Pallbearers will be Clarence Campbell, Leon Campbell, Otis Smith, Sandy Smith, Grady Smith, and Leroy Smith.

*The Austin Statesman: Jul 26, 1968*

**Directors of Austin Home Exposition Meet**

The Austin Educational Better Homes exposition directors have completed plans or the exposition to be held in Pemberton Heights about June 1. Left to right standing—Otis Vaughan, A. J. Stuart, Earl Tummell; sitting at table, left to right—Louis Groos, Forrest Trafton, Edwin C. Kreisle, Scott Yaemans, W. L. Bradfield and D. C. Bradford, the directors.

*The Austin American: Apr 19, 1936*

**TRAFTON & SON**

TILE CONTRACTORS

Formerly Associated with Trafton Tile & Marble Co., Austin Branch

Announce Removal to New Address

403 W. 26th St.

One Door Off Guadalupe on West 26th St.

Plenty Parking Space More Convenient

PHONE 2-7231

*The Austin Statesman: Aug 2, 1940 and May 13, 1949*
GOOD ADVERTISEMENT—Trafton and Son Tile Company, 3700 Guadalupe is its own best advertiser of its wares through the attractive tile front of its building. The company, designed, selected and completed the dusty, gray-green tile finish of the building’s exterior. The firm moved to the Guadalupe location in 1945, made additions and did some remodeling on the building in 1950.—(Neal Douglass Photo)

WHOLE TRAFTON FAMILY HAS HAND IN TILE FIRM

The tile trade is a family matter with Trafton and Son Tile Company, 3700 Guadalupe.

Forrest Trafton, the owner, has been in the business 28 years. He opened his firm in Austin in 1940 in partnership with his father, W. E. Trafton, who was an active tile setter for 40 years.

Before coming to Austin, Forrest Trafton was associated with his uncle in the Trafton Tile and Marble Company of San Antonio. A son, Bill, is in the University of Texas and expects to be associated in business with his father when he completes his studies. Mrs. Trafton serves as bookkeeper for the firm.

Just ask any member of the Trafton family on the telephone and they can tell you what you want to know about tile. Show room, office and warehouse for the firm are all located at 3700 Guadalupe. There are 20 persons employed, and five vehicles operate within a 150-mile radius of Austin.

Officers of the firm include: Forrest Trafton, owner; W. E. Trafton, retired owner-partner; John F. Rodriguez, estimator and assistant manager; and Mrs. Forrest Trafton, bookkeeper.

Some of the jobs handled by the firm include: Commodore Perry Hotel, recent remodeling of Driskill (more than 120 bathrooms); International Life Insurance Building, the First Federal Building now under construction, and a number of Austin’s finest residences.

Carrie Nation Went Whole Hog on Mate

Carrie Nation, one of the most talked-of and talked-about individuals in the past 150 years, again made the press in 1903.

An eastern newspaper said bar-busting Carrie “is now both a ‘gras’s’ and a ‘sod’ widow. Her late husband, from whom she was divorced, is no more.” Commented The Austin Statesman, Oct. 14, 1903: “Mrs. Nation always did go whole hog or nothing.”
in genuine CLAY TILE

YOUR BUDGET
can include real clay tile!
Whether you are starting out or doing over, there is a place for clay tile in your
home—and in your budget. Some people may think clay tile is expensive simply
because it is found in the best homes. Actually, clay tile can be included in
the budget for vast majority of homes.

THE INITIAL COST
is more than offset by unfailing permanence!
Because you never have to repaint or replace clay tile. Whenever you use tile,
it takes care of itself. It won’t fade, it won’t stain. As you see, it’s largely a
matter of how much tile you can afford. Concentrate first on clay tile for the
bath room and then on your kitchen, where it’s advantages over other materials
are beyond dispute.

- No more waxing—ever!
- Tile is lovely—for the life
  of your home!
- Washes down easily!
- Steam and water can’t harm!
- Tile is lovely to look at and easy
  to care for
- Colors keep their beauty!

"Just an occasional sponge keeps my Clay Tile Baths sparkling", says Mrs. Andrew E.
Putnam, 6003 Sherwood Forest Blvd., Austin, Texas. "I Like Clay Tile, too, as a sales feature":
That’s why we use it in all
our houses and of course, installed by Trafton & Son for the finest workmanship and super-
vision.

TRAFTON and SON
SERVING AUSTIN for 21 YEARS — "The FINEST of MATERIALS combined with EXPERT WORKMANSHIP"

The Austin American: Oct 18, 1953

Mrs. Trafton
Returns Home

Mrs. Forrest Trafton of 4703
Ramsey returned Friday morning
from visiting her son and daugh-
ter-in-law, Lieutenant and Mrs.
William Trafton, and her new
grandson at Travis Air Force Base,
Calif.
The baby, who has been named
Michael Forrest, was born Sept.
10.
Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs.
Forrest Trafton and Mr. and Mrs.
Arthur Lee Quicksall of 5603 Burnet
Road. The baby’s mother is the
former Miss Leona Quicksall.
Lt. Trafton, a jet pilot in the
US Air Force, received his wings
in August at Webb AFB in Big
Spring, and was recently trans-
ferred to the California base.

The Austin American: Sep 25, 1955
CONGRATULATIONS
CAPITAL PLAZA!
WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO FURNISHING
AND INSTALLING CERAMIC TILE AND QUARRY TILE FOR
AUSTIN'S NEWEST AND FINEST SHOPPING CENTER.

TRAFTON & SON
TILE CONTRACTORS
"FORREST & BILL TRAFTON"

3700 GUADALUPE
HO 5-8711

AWARD WINNERS — Three Austin architectural firms and a local ceramic tile contractor have been awarded the Tile Council of America's "CQ" Award for high quality use of ceramic tile. Receiving the awards from left, E. G. Spencer, right, head of the TCA's architectural program, are from left, Austin architects Arthur Fehr, Charles Carleton, George Page and Herbert Crume. Also receiving an award, but not shown, was the contractor Forest Trafton.

The Austin American; Mar 18, 1967
The Trafton & Son building at 3700 Guadalupe (now Planet K Gifts) won the Chronicle’s 2004 pick for “Best Building to Consider for Preservation.” While the building is still standing, its façade, roofline, and some character-defining features have been modified, obscured, and/or removed.


Building Permits

D. D. Godwin 4703 Ramsey Ave.
- 33 27 -
Rosedale "H"
brick veneer residence and frame garage.
276N 6/22/39

Building permit, 6-22-39
Connection Charge $12.51

APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.

Austin, Texas, June 21, 1929

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
City of Austin, Texas

Sir:

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions
on premises owned by W. H. Thompson
at 4703 Ramsey Ave., Street,
further described as lot 27, block 33, outlot,
subdivision Rosedale "H", division , plat 185,
which is to be used as a

Sewer tap permit, 7-7-39

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

Received of W. H. Thompson Date
Address 4703 Ramsey Avenue
Amount Two and 50/100-- $ 2.50
Plumber

Date of Connection 6/21/39
Size of Tap Made
Size Service Made
Size Main Tapped
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock
From "Prop. Line to Curb Cock
Location of Meter
Type of Box
Depth of Main in ft. 2' 6" 3' 4" 5'
Depth of Service Line
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main
Checked by Engr. Dept. 7-6-39

Water tap permit, 6-21-39

Forrest Trafton

185 27

Rosedale "H"

Stucco addition to residence (rear).

43769 3-3-50 $3000.00

Day labor

Building permit for addition, 3-3-50