PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1946 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a full-width, shed-roofed independent porch on plain, square wood posts; flat-roofed carport to the left of the main block of the house; modern replacement windows, including a fixed-sash window on each side of a secondary front entrance.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1946, according to city building and utility records. There were a few short-term renters and owners of the property until around 1953, when the house was purchased by Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, who lived here for the rest of their lives. Johnny Escobedo was a barber who opened his own barber shop, the Don Juan, on E. 6th Street in the mid-1950s. He maintained his shop until his retirement around 1970. Gertrude Escobedo ran a beauty shop out of the house for around 40 years.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was recommended as contributing to a potential South East Austin historic district in the East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016), despite the replacement of the front windows.

SOUTH EAST AUSTIN

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

a. Architecture. The house is a post-World War II frame cottage with no architectural distinction and the replacement of all the front windows and doors, compromising its integrity of materials and design.
b. **Historical association.** The house was the home of a Mexican-American barber and his wife, who ran a beauty shop out of the house for 50 years, but there do not appear to be significant historical associations.

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. The house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.
66 Comal Street
ca. 1946

OCCUPANCY HISTORY
66 Comal Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
January, 2020

1992  Gertrude M. Escobedo, owner
       Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house).

1985-86  Gertrude M. Escobedo, owner
         Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house).

1981  Gertrude M. Escobedo, owner
       Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house)

1977  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Johnny: Retired
       Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house).

1973  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Johnny: Retired
       Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house).

1968  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Johnny: Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1803 E. 1st Street.
       Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house).

1965  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Johnny: Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6th Street.
Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house).

1962  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Johnny: Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6th Street.
       Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda’s Beauty Shop (at the house).

1959  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6th Street.

1955  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6th Street.

1953  Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners
       Johnny: Barber
       Gertrude: Finisher, Eric Sims Cleaners, 708 E. 15th Street and 210 W. 19th Street.

1952  James A. and Wilma Criswell, renters
       U.S. Air Force
       NOTE: Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo are listed at 2405 Santa Rosa Street; he was the proprietor of Escobedo’s Barber Shop, 303 Brushy Street. Francisco Escobedo worked as a barber there. Gertrude Escobedo worked as a presser for Harry Piland Cleaners, 210 W. 19th Street.

1949  John J. and Marie Jacewicz, renters
       U.S. Marine Corps

1947  King and Mary Glass, owners
       Chemist

1944-45 The address is not listed in the directory.
       NOTE: King I. Glass is listed at 1801 ½ Congress Avenue; he was a fellow at the University of Texas and had no wife listed with him.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:
Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo (ca. 1953 – ca. 2007)
His 1940 World War II draft card shows that Johnny Escobedo was born in Uvalde, Texas in 1907 and was living in Austin where he worked for Crockett Motor Company. He was 5’-11” tall, weighed 175 pounds, and had a light brown complexion with brown eyes and black hair. His wife and next of kin was Mery Rose Escobedo.

Juan O. Escobedo appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the 29-year old son of Otilia Escobedo, who rented an apartment at the rear of 1007 E. 5th Street in Austin. Otilia Ortiz was listed as his mother on his death certificate. Juan O. Escobedo was born in Texas, and was a delivery boy for a retail grocery store. He was divorced. His mother, Otilia Escobedo, 51, was born in Mexico and had no occupation listed. Juan had an older brother, Enrique, 35, who had been born in Texas and was a truck driver for a furniture store. Enrique was married to Ramona, 18, who had been born in Texas, and was a maid for a private family.

Johnny Escobedo died at the VA Hospital in Temple, Texas in July, 1978. His last address was this house at 66 Comal Street. He was born in Texas in 1907 and was a barber.
Obituary of Johnny Escobedo
Austin American-Statesman, July 22, 1978

ESCOBEDO, Johnny, 66 Comal St., died Thursday. Services 10 a.m. today at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Burial, Austin Memorial Park Survivors: wife, Mrs. Gertrude Escobedo of Austin, daughter, Mrs. Linda Binkley of Austin, sister, Mrs. Margarita Muniz of New Haven, Mich., brother, Frank Escobedo of Houston, three grandchildren.

Death notice for Gertrude Escobedo
Austin American-Statesman, February 16, 2007

ESCOBEDO, Gertrude M., 89, retired beautician, of Austin died Wednesday. Visitation 9 and services 10 a.m. Saturday, Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar location.
Obituary of Gertrude Escobedo

Austin American-Statesman, February 17, 2007
C. L. Taylor 66 Comal Street

20-A 4 4 46'x117' of 5

Welch Subdiv.

Frame residence

29961 4-17-46 $2700.00

Owner

Building permit for the construction of this house (1946)

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WATER SERVICE PERMIT

No. B 1141

Received of

Address... 66 Comal Street

Amount... 50.00

Plumber... Meye

Date of Connection... 7-11-46

Size of Tap Made...

Size Service Made...

Size Main Tapped...

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock...

From S. Prop. Line to Curb Cock...

Location of Meter...

Type of Box...

Depth of Main in St... 1'

Depth of Service Line...

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main...

Checked by Engr. Dept... 7-13-46

Water service permit for this address (1946)
Sewer connection application for this address (1946)

Johnny Escobedo
66 Comal Street

135 46x117' of 5

Welsh Sub.

Box garage.

52831 1-1-53 $175.00

Owner

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame garage (1953)
STORAGE AND DINING AREA

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame storage room and dining area addition to the house (1961)

Johnny Escobedo 66 Comal St.

135 Center 43' X 173' of 5

Welch Addition

Frame Addition to rear of Residence

83070 3-8-62 150.00

Owner

STORAGE & PORCH

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame storage room and porch on the rear of the house (1962)
Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame bedroom and dining room addition to the rear of the house (1964)

OWNER Johnny Escobedo ADDRESS 66 Comal St.
PLAT 135 LOT Center 43' x 173' of 5 BLK
SUBDIVISION Welch Addn
OCCUPANCY Frame Addn to Rear of Res

Owner DATE 1-10-64 ESTIMATE 500.00

Bedroom Dining Room

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame utility room addition (1966)

OWNER Johnny Escobedo ADDRESS 66 Comal Street
PLAT 135 LOT Center 43' X 173' of Lot 5 BLK
SUBDIVISION Welch Addition
OCCUPANCY Utility Room

Owner DATE 1-24-66 ESTIMATE 50.00

Frame Addition To Residence

NO. OF FIXTURES Exist
56 sq.ft.

#153877 12-23-75 Frm. Acc. Bldg. 80 St. Ft. $50.00

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame utility room addition (1966)
Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a masonry garage (1966)