PROPOSAL
Construct a new rear addition, garage, and greenhouse.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS
1) Demolish existing 1-story rear additions: replace with new 1-story addition and attached garage. The addition’s wing and garage will have a low-slope membrane roof, while its western gable will have a composition shingle roof with exposed rafter tails. The proposed new addition is clad in fiber cement lap siding with a parged foundation and stepped frieze board. Window types include 6:6 double-hung, multi-lite fixed, and 6- and 12-lite casement.
2) Demolish and replace existing front porch flatwork.
3) Widen and rebuild first-floor bay window.
4) Add new 4:4 double-hung window at west elevation.
5) Replace second-floor wood siding with fiber cement lap siding to match addition.
6) Replace composition shingle roof.
7) Restore and repaint wood trim, windows, doors, and shutters at main façade.
8) Build new detached greenhouse. The green house will be clad in fiber cement lap siding to match addition. It is capped with a gabled standing-seam metal roof atop exposed rafter tails. Decorative trim includes a frieze board and wraparound sill. It features casement windows at the north and east elevations and steel French doors at the south.

RESEARCH
The house at 1616 Northumberland Road was constructed in 1940 for Francis J. and Jane Johson Amsler. Francis Amsler was employed by the E.M. Scarbrough Company for almost 50 years, beginning his career as a teenager in 1923 before advancing to credit manager, treasurer, and vice-president of the company. Amsler was active in Austin’s business and retail community throughout his long career, serving as head of the Better Business Bureau, president of the Texas State Retail Merchants’ Association, chairman of the Austin Advertising Review Board, chairman of Downtown Austin Unlimited, and president of the Retail Credit Executives of Texas. The Amslers contributed to Austin in other ways as well: Jane Amsler was active in the Red Cross and Francis Amsler served the Austin Community War Chest, Child and Family Services, and the United Fund. The Amslers lived at 1616 Northumberland until at least 1974.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW
The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation are used to evaluate new construction projects in National Register historic districts. Applicable standards include:

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided. The proposed project removes mostly non-historic material that is not visible from the street, with the exception of the enlarged bay window; the rebuilt window retains the original design.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment. The proposed addition is differentiated from the old in its one-story design, shallow-pitched membrane roof, and articulated transition between original brick and new fiber cement siding. It is compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features of the historic building.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its
environment would be unimpaired. If the proposed addition and garage were removed in the future, most of the existing historic fabric would remain intact.

**Staff Comments**

The house contributes to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.

*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 criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25·2-352). The property may demonstrate significance according to City Code:
   a. *Architecture.* The house is constructed in an eclectic style, featuring Colonial Revival- and Monterey-style influences.
   b. *Historical association.* There do not appear to be historical associations; however, the Commission may consider the contributions of retail executive Francis Amsler to Austin business and advertising.
   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**

Comment on and release the permit.
PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos

Occupyancy History
City Directory Research, March 2020
Note: Directory information available through 1959 only due to library closure.

1959    Francis J. Amsler, owner
1955    Francis J. and Jane J. Amsler, owners
         Treasurer, E.M. Scarborough Company
1952    Francis J. and Jane J. Amsler, owners
         Credit manager, E.M. Scarborough and Sons
1949    Francis J. and Jane J. Amsler, owners
         Credit manager, E.M. Scarborough and Sons
1947    Francis J. and Jane J. Amsler, owners
         Credit manager, E.M. Scarborough and Sons
1944-45 Francis J. and Jane J. Amsler, owners
         Credit manager, E.M. Scarborough and Sons
1941    Address not listed.
Biographical Information

Jane Johnson
Will Marry
At Noon Today

The marriage of Mrs. Jane Johnson and Francis Amsler will be quietly solemnized today at high noon, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Jones, of 504 West Tenth street.

Only the two families will be present and the bridal couple will be unattended. The Rev. Virgil Fisher, pastor of the First Methodist church, will read the ceremony before an altar, built in the bay window of the living room, with a grouping of palms and touches of ivory and gold in the floral decoration to harmonize with the bride's gown of green waffle crepe worn with brown accessories and with corsage of Tallyman roses tied with gold ribbon.

Mrs. Jones, mother of the bride, and Mrs. John Amsler, mother of the groom, will wear corsages of pink sweetheart roses, tied with silver ribbons.

After the ceremony a buffet luncheon with bridal appointments will be served to the bridal couple and the wedding guests, before Mr. Amsler and his bride leave for a brief wedding trip. They will visit San Antonio and spend several days with friends in the hill country of West Texas.

Returning to Austin they will be at home at 203 West 33rd street, where their home is completely furnished and awaiting their coming.

Mr. and Mrs. John Amsler, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Amsler and Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Amsler of Hempstead, will attend the wedding.

The Austin Statesman: May 23, 1934
The Austin American: Sep 8, 1935
Amsler Heads Chest Division

Francis J. Amsler has accepted chairmanship of the employee solicitation division in Austin’s united Community and War Chest campaign, Mayor Tom Miller, director of campaign forces, announced Saturday.

Amsler is credit manager of E. M. Scarbrough & Sons and has been president of the Austin Credit Men’s association. The mayor said he was pleased that “a young man of his initiative and ability” had taken the chairmanship of the important employee division in the greater part of 320 Austin business firms have already pledged themselves to double their former Community Chest totals.

Chairmen of other campaign divisions, including the women’s division, state departments, and the University of Texas, will be announced the early part of this week, the mayor indicated.

Austin will seek to raise $161,500 between Oct. 14 and 21 to take care of Community Chest needs, the Boy Scout budget and all war-time appeals with exception of the Red Cross, which will hold its campaign next spring. War appeals include the USO’s 1943 request of $21,480.

Merger of Four Family And Children’s Social Work Agencies Effective Monday

The merger of the four Austin family and children’s social work agencies into the Child and Family Service, Inc., for a better coordinated program will be effective Monday, Harold Braun, executive secretary of the Community Chest, has announced.

The new combined agency will begin its work Monday at 610 Guadalupe, where it will share space with the Community Chest, which has moved from its offices in the Driskill hotel to its new permanent home.

At the same time the four agencies which will close their services are the Family Service society, the Children’s Bureau, the PTA School Lunch fund and the Milk fund.

The work of all four of these agencies will be carried on by the Child and Family Service under the supervision of Miss Margaret Watt. For the past several years, Miss Watt has been a supervisor in the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities of Brooklyn, N. Y. During part of that period she was on the faculty of the school of social work of Fordham university.

Mrs. Weeks President

Mrs. O. D. Weeks, president; Art Sprinkle, vice president; Frank Amkler, treasurer, and Miss Watt, executive director.

On the board of directors are Amkler, Mrs. C. P. Arrowwood, the Rev. John Barkley, Mrs. Charles M. Bristow, Jr., R. W. Byram, Joe Carrington, Mrs. R. J. Coleman, Dr. H. J. Ellinger, Mrs. Newton J. Friedman, Taylor Glass, Rex Hopper, Miss Mona Jarrell, Mrs. Lloyd Jeffress, Mrs. William Ray Miller, Sprinkle, Mrs. R. M. Thomson, Jr., Mrs. Weeks and Lee Willborn.

The new agency was created as the result of the recommendation made by Paul Beiser last August following a study of the family and children’s field in Austin. Beiser, executive director of the St. Louis Provident association and Children’s Aid society, came to Austin last year at the request of the Community Chest then headed by W. T. Caswell and the Council of Social agencies.

The Austin American: Sep 27, 1942 and Jul 1, 1945
Scarborough Treasurer Honored

CORPUS CHRISTI—Francis J. Amsler, credit manager and treasurer of E. M. Scarborough and Sons of Austin, is the new president of the Retail Merchants Association of Texas.

He was elected by the board of directors during the organization's 60th annual convention here Tuesday.

Amsler has been associated with Scarborough's for 37 years, the last 31 as credit manager. He was given the additional duty of treasurer in 1949.

He has been active in credit affairs for many years and is currently serving as president of the Retail Merchants Association in Austin. He is a past president of the Retail Credit Executives of Austin and Texas and the Better Business Bureau of Austin.

Amsler has participated in many civic affairs in his hometown, among them the United Fund, Red Cross and Boy Scouts. He is a native of Hempstead.

The Austin Statesman: Jan 29, 1952

The Austin Statesman: May 25, 1960

APPOINTED — Scarborough's Department Store Saturday announced the appointment of Francis J. Amsler as assistant to the president to aid in the development of various areas of the business. He has served for many years as credit manager and treasurer of the firm. The credit department will remain under his supervision.

The Austin American: Nov 5, 1961
Downtown Merchants Pick Francis Amsler

Francis Amsler of Scarbrough's is the new chairman of Downtown Austin Unlimited, an organization of merchants set up to promote shopping in the heart of the city. Morton Plotsky of Jack Morton's is the new vice chairman. Joe K. Wells, Austin National Bank vice president, was re-elected treasurer.


Most stores will remain open for Christmas shopping to 9 p.m., beginning Monday and extending to Christmas Eve. All merchants were asked at the meeting to advertise their store hours for the benefit of Christmas shoppers.

Dr. William Brown, professor of marketing at The University of Texas, presented ideas for promoting interest in the area's stores. He suggested that store owners sponsor special events in the heart of the city, including a parade similar to those held in New York and other major cities, or singing of Christmas carols by a choir moving through the streets on a float.

The UT marketing expert also suggested a survey of shoppers' opinions on downtown versus suburban stores.

The Austin Statesman: Nov 21, 1963

Congress Avenue To Get New Lights

A new $33,000 lighting program to give Congress Avenue a beaming "color-corrected" look won the unanimous vote of the City Council Thursday.

Target date for installation of 88 new mercury vapor lights from the Congress Avenue bridge north to 11th Street is mid-September.

The vote on the brighter look for Austin's business and shopping area followed the appearance of an eight-man delegation from Downtown Austin Unlimited. Francis Amsler, a Scarbrough's executive and chairman of the businessmen's lighting committee, asked for the new system to replace the present lights which were installed about 1930.

"We believe the new lights will cut present hazards to both traffic and pedestrians on the avenue and discourage law violators," Amsler told the council. "It also seems that Congress Avenue leading up to the Texas Capitol should be made as attractive as possible at night."

One test light has already been installed at Sixth and Congress. "Color-corrected" lamps will not change the appearance of store window displays on the avenue, Amsler added.

The new system will be financed by $40,000 fund already set aside for street lighting, but unallocated until Thursday.

The new 1,000-watt lights will replace the present 1,500-watt types which use more electricity but produce less light.

City Electrical Department Chief Dexter Kinney said he will try to have the lights installed by the time University of Texas students return to the city in September. However, he said that "would be pushing it a little. We'll definitely have them up by Christmas."

The Austin Statesman: Aug 1, 1963
Amsler, who lives with his wife at 1616 Northumberland, is well-known in Austin civic circles. He has been active in the United Fund, has served on the Board of Child and Family Service Society and on the Board of the Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is past president of the Better Business Bureau and past chairman of the Downtown Association. During his tenure as credit manager, he served as president of both local and state credit organizations.

Amsler's native Hempstead, joined the staff of Scar-state credit organizations. He is a member of the Austin and literally "grew up in the tin Country Club and an elder store." He served for many years as credit manager, and more recently as store manager.

The Amslers have one daughter, Mrs. J. P. Godleski of Lake Jackson.
Advertising Review Board
To Be Headed by Amsler

Francis Amsler, vice-president emeritus of Scarbrough's, has been appointed chairman of the Austin Advertising Review Board.

The board is a joint project of the Austin Better Business Bureau and the Austin Advertising Club. Its purpose is to sustain high standards of truth and accuracy in advertising in the Austin area. Review boards are already established in many cities throughout the nation.

The review board will function as a working arm of the Better Business Bureau. Its membership of 30 will consist of a broad cross-section of advertisers, advertising agencies and consumer representation. The board will operate in panels which will review advertising terms and practices about which there is question concerning content or accuracy. The point in question will already have been reviewed with the advertiser by the advertising department of the Better Business Bureau. It is referred to the AARB only when there is an impasse and the questioned advertising is neither altered nor withdrawn, with arbitration as a possible solution before further action is required.

Amsler retired Jan. 1, after serving 49 years at Scarbrough's. He now serves the store on special projects. He has served as past president of both the local and state Retail Merchants Associations and Retail Credit Executives. He is a past president of the Austin Better Business Bureau and Downtown Austin Merchants Association.

The Austin Statesman: Feb 4, 1973
Burial Set
For Wife
Of Executive

Services for Mrs. Jane Amsler, wife of Scarbroughs
vice President Francis J. Amsler, will be 11 a.m.
Thursday at Weed-Cortley
Funeral Home.

Mrs. Amsler, of 1616 Northumberland Road, died
Tuesday. She was active in the
Junior Helping Hand and
served as a volunteer worker
with the American Red Cross.
She was also a member of
First Southern Presbyterian
Church.

She is survived by her
husband; a daughter, Mrs.
Jane Ann Godleski of Lake
Jackson; a grandson, Mark
Godleski of Houston; a
granddaughter, Gail Godleski
of Lake Jackson; and a
great-granddaughter.

The Austin American Statesman: Dec 11, 1974

Permits

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Amsler
1616 Northumberland
Road

147 27 & E.½ of 26

Pease Estates

2-story frame residence & garage attached.

20169 8-8-40

Building permit, 8-8-40

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

No: 184437

Received of

F. J. Amsler

Address: 1616 Northumberland Rd.

Amount: Two and 50/100 - - - - $ 2.60

Plumber: 

Date of Connection 8-29-40

Size of Tap Made 2"

Size Service Made 2"

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Carb Cock 2"

From W' Prop. Line to Carb Cock 2"

Location of Meter 

Type of Box

Depth of Main in St. 3'

Depth of Service Line 20'

From Carb Cock to Tap on Main 34'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 9-23-40

Water tap permit, 8-12-40

The Austin American Statesman: Jul 27, 1980

On the move.

Francis Amsler, former manager
of Scarbroughs; Charles Rieger,
vice president of finance for the
store; and Bill Clawson, operations
and personnel vice president, have
been named directors of the locally
owned department store . . . . Ed
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 

at 1616 Northumberland St.,

further described as lot, block, outlot,

subdivision, section, division, plat.

which is to be used as a

Sewer tap permit, 8-12-40

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Received of FRANCIS J. AMSLER Date 5-21-17
Address 1616 NORTHUMBERLAND
Amount $50.00

Plumber C. ORT

Date of Connection 6-7-59
Size of Tap Made 2

Size of Service Made 2

Size Main Tapped 2

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 25
From E Prop. Line to Curb Cock 35
Location of Meter 22

Size of Box 22 x 24

Depth of Main in St. 2

Depth of Service Line 3

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main

Checked by

Water tap permit, 5-25-57

Francis Amsler 1616 Northumberland
147 27 AE.25' of lot 26

Pecan Estates

Frame addition to rear of residence.

74613 11/13/59 1800.00

Ed Willenberg

To enlarge family room

Building permit for addition, 11-12-59