

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 27, 2020
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2020-0153
311 W. 6TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1927 commercial building.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, flat-roofed brick commercial building with a decorative stepped parapet and raised brick belt courses in the front wall and corner posts; modern, replacement metal and plate-glass storefront. The original ca. 1927 building has a ca. 1991 addition to the right, which resembles the original building in materials, scale, and ornamentation, but is set back from the façade of the original building.

RESEARCH

The building appears to date from ca. 1927, and was first the home of a Maytag appliance store, which was in business here until around 1931. Interestingly, prior to the construction of this building, the Salvation Army Hall was on this site, reflecting that this section of downtown still had its rough edges as a part of the city's old red-light district, with saloons, gambling halls, and warehouses dominating the neighborhood to the south.

Italian immigrants Onorato del Curto and Pasquale Caruso opened the Standard Market delicatessen here in 1931; Caruso and his family lived in the house just south of the building for many years. Caruso became the sole proprietor of the business around 1933 and changed the name to Caruso's Café and Delicatessen, and was one of a very small number of Austin restaurants serving Italian food at the time. Caruso dropped the delicatessen aspect of the business in the mid-1950s; Caruso's Café was in business here until he passed away in 1966. The building has had several subsequent restaurants since Caruso's closed, and remains a restaurant space today. There is a ca. 1991 addition to the west of the original building.

STAFF COMMENTS

The building was listed as a Priority 2 for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

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

- a. **Architecture.** The building is a one-story brick commercial building with some ornamental brickwork in the raised bricks forming patterns in the storefront and the stepped parapet wall; however, the storefront has been modified with the installation of a modern metal-framed window and door system. The building reflects a common type and does not appear to have the architectural distinction to qualify as a historic landmark.
- b. **Historical association.** For over 30 years, the building was identified as the home of Caruso's Café and Delicatessen, a business started by an Italian immigrant to Austin. For years, this was one of a handful of Italian restaurants in the city, but there do not appear to be significant historical associations.
- 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 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, 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 building does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

LOCATION MAP



-   SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2020-0153
LOCATION: 311 W 6TH STREET



1" = 134'

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.

311 W. 6th Street
ca. 1927 with a ca. 1991 addition



OCCUPANCY HISTORY

311 W. 6th Street

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

1992	Sfuzzi Restaurant No proprietor is listed in the directory.
1987	Beans Restaurant James Dawson, proprietor
1981	Beans Restaurant James Dawson, proprietor
1977	Sascha's Restaurant Adolph Klundt, proprietor
1973	Sasha's Restaurant Mike Hutchison and Adolf Klundt, proprietors
1967	Caruso's Café John J. Lucius, proprietor
1963	Caruso's Café Pasquale Caruso, proprietor Also listed as living on this site is H.E. Lucius, the cashier at Caruso's Café.
1957	Caruso's Café Pasquale Caruso, proprietor
1953	Caruso's Café and Delicatessen Pasquale "Pete" Caruso, proprietor
1949	Caruso's Café and Delicatessen Pasquale Caruso, proprietor
1947	Caruso's Café and Delicatessen Real Italian spaghetti and ravioli, steaks Pasquale Caruso, proprietor
1944-45	Caruso's Café and Delicatessen Real Italian spaghetti and ravioli, steaks Pasquale Caruso, proprietor
1941	A: Roma Package Store Liquors Theodore H. Neal, proprietor B: Caruso's Café and Delicatessen Pasquale Caruso, proprietor NOTE: Pasquale and Arcelia Caruso are listed as living at 1412 W. 6 th Street.

- 1937 Caruso's Café and Delicatessen
Pasquale Caruso, proprietor
NOTE: Pasquale and Cecilia Caruso lived in a house in the back of the restaurant.
NOTE: The address is listed as 307 W. 6th Street.
- 1935 Standard Market
Delicatessen
Paquale Caruso, proprietor
NOTE: Pasquale and Cecilia Caruso lived behind the market.
NOTE: The address is listed as 307 W. 6th Street.
- 1932-33 Standard Market
Delicatessen
Onorato del Curto and Pasquale Caruso, proprietors
NOTE: Pasquale and Cecilia Caruso lived behind the market.
NOTE: The address is listed as 307 W. 6th Street.
- 1930-31 Maytag Shop
Washing machines
A. Bland Broughton, manager
NOTE: The address is listed as 307 W. 6th Street.
- 1929 The Maytag Shop
Washing machines
W. Douglass Stephenson, manager
- Delco-Light Products
Hubert O. Roberts, Jr., manager
- Rear: Constantino and Trinity Villasana, renters
Waiter, Looke's Café, 815 Congress Avenue
NOTE: The address is listed as 307 W. 6th Street.
- 1927 Salvation Army Hall
Captain Hubert Uptegrove, officer in charge
NOTE: There was also the Salvation Army Hotel here.
NOTE: The address is listed as 307 W. 6th Street.
NOTE: The current building was constructed in 1927 after the tenancy of the Salvation Army at this site.
- 1924 The directory listing is residential.

NOTE: The building was extensively remodeled in 1991, when the addition to the west was constructed.

Proprietor Of Caruso's Dies at 75

Pasquale (Pete) Caruso, proprietor of Caruso's Restaurant on West 6th Street for many years, died Saturday in a local hospital at age 75.

A resident of Austin since 1929, Caruso was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Christopher Columbus Society, and the Ancient Order of Davids. He was a veteran of the Italian War of 1912.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Arcelia Caruso of Austin; one son, John J. Lucius of Austin; one sister residing in Italy; and four granddaughters.

Rosary will be recited at the Hylin-Manor Funeral Home at 7 p.m. Sunday by Rev. Richard E. McCabe. Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Father McCabe at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Mary's Cathedral. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Obituary of Pasquale ("Pete") Caruso, who had a delicatessen and café in this building from the early 1930s to the late 1960s.
Austin American, February 6, 1966

PASQUALE "PETE" CARUSO
Requiem Mass for Pasquale "Pete" Caruso, 75 of 1412 West 6th, will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Mary's Cathedral by Father Richard E. McCabe. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Lewis Troiano, Arthur Casiraghi, Forrest Pearson, M. D. Mosteller, Olin Crow, and Anthony Colonetta.

Notice of the requiem mass for Pasquale ("Pete") Caruso
Austin American, February 7, 1966

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE Austin, Texas

M. *Maytag Shop* Address *302* **INDEXED**

Plumber..... Size of Tap *3/8* Date *7-22-27*

No. A 1274

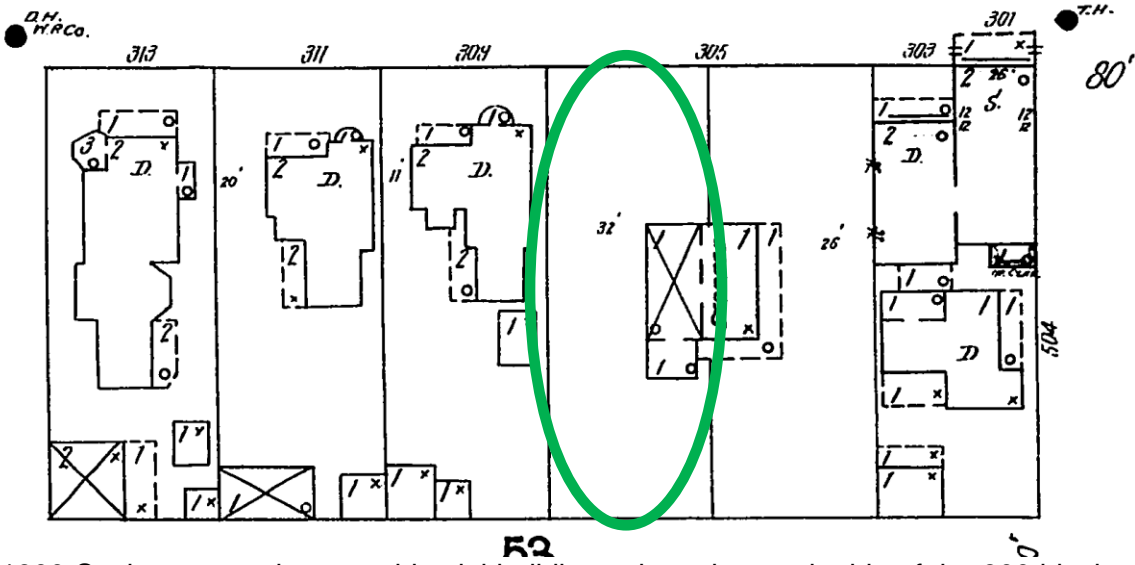
Foreman's Report.

Date of Connection..... <i>7/11/27</i>	Size.
Size of Tap Made..... <i>1/2</i>	
Size Service Made..... <i>1/2 Lead</i>	
Size Main Tapped..... <i>4"</i>	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock..... <i>2'</i>	
" " " " " " " " " " " "	
Location of Meter..... <i>Allen</i>	
Type of Box..... <i>T.C.B.L.</i>	
Depth of Main in St..... <i>2.6'</i>	
" " Service Line..... <i>14'</i>	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main..... <i>6'</i>	
Checked by Engr. Dept. <i>8-2-28</i>	Foreman's Signature <i>M. C. Eubank</i>
INDEXED <i>M. C. Eubank</i>	

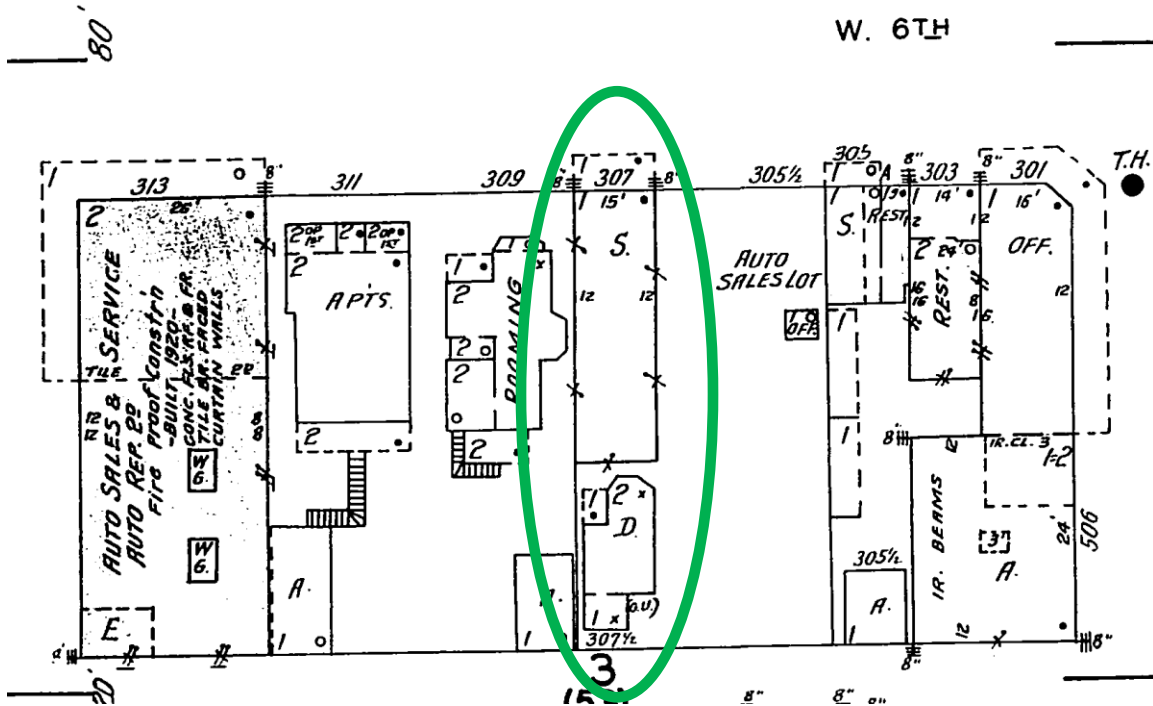
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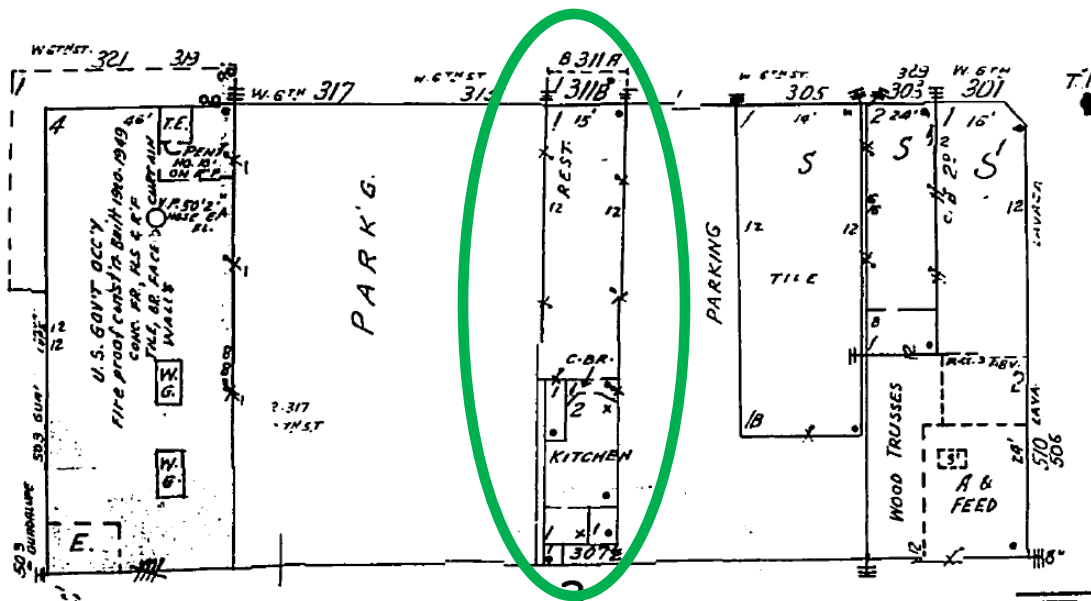
Water service permit to the Maytag Shop, the first tenant of the building (1927)



The 1900 Sanborn map shows residential buildings along the south side of the 300 block of W. 6th Street. The location of the current building is on the left (west) side of the lot having a storage building.



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the existing building with an address of 307 W. 6th Street. The two-story dwelling to the rear was likely the home of Pasquale and Cecilia Caruso, who operated the Standard Market, a delicatessen, and later Caruso's Café and Delicatessen here from the early 1930s through the late 1960s. The map shows that the building had a structural canopy or awning across the front.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the current building in the middle of the block just to the right of the large parking lot with the address of 311 W. 6th Street – it is noted as a restaurant. The two-story house to the rear of the building had been demolished by this time, although the city directory for 1963 lists H.E. Lucius, who worked as a cashier at Caruso's, living on the premises. The structural awning or canopy across the front shown on the 1935 map above is still visible here.

The one-story section to the west of the main portion of the building is believed to have been a ca. 1991 addition to the building. The addition does not appear on the 1961 Sanborn map.