

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
APRIL 27, 2020  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2020-0095  
601 W. 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1890 commercial building.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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Two-story, rectangular-plan brick commercial building with a decorated cornice; it appears that the ground floor storefronts have been filled in with masonry; modern replacement windows and doors.

## **RESEARCH**

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The building appears to date from ca. 1890, when Carl Beryman opened a neighborhood store here. Before constructing this building for his store and upstairs residence, Beryman lived just to the south of the current building, and had his store at 325-27 Congress Avenue. His was a variety store, selling dry goods, furnishing goods, boots, shoes, hats, notions, groceries, and feed; he was also an agent for several steamship lines. Around 1904, he brought in his son, also named Carl, and changed the name of the business to C.W. Beryman and Sons. They listed fewer wares in their city directory listings after 1908, concentrating on dry goods and groceries. Around 1913, they listed their business as “general merchandise” after the elder Carl Beryman passed away in 1912. His obituary notes that he was a Swedish immigrant who had been in business in Austin for many years and very well-respected. His son, Carl E. Beryman, took over the store after his father’s death, and operated it out of this building until around 1915. A succession of owners of grocery businesses occupied this building, some living upstairs, until around 1919, when W.M. Powell opened the Powell Quality Grocery, in business until around 1926. After a short period of vacancy, there was another succession of grocery stores; around 1938, the building became Fowler’s Food Store, in business until the mid-1950s, the last commercial enterprise in this building. Carl and Marietta Fowler also had a café, and lived upstairs.

Around 1955, the building was converted to four apartments. It is believed that the infill of the ground floor storefronts occurred at that time. An undated, but believed to be early 1960s photograph at the Austin History center shows the current appearance of the building.

This building has a very unusual and tragic history – two of the owners of stores in this building died from exposure. Carl E. Beryman died in record cold weather in 1949; Carl L. Fowler wandered into a field in 1957 and froze to death.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

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

Staff has evaluated this house 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 two-story vernacular brick commercial building with little architectural distinction. The ground floor of the building has been modified significantly with the infill of what is supposed to be commercial storefronts for the grocery businesses that occupied the building.

The modification of this building has compromised its integrity of materials, design, and feeling, so that it no longer reads as a retain grocery store.

- b. **Historical association.** The building was constructed as a grocery store with upstairs living quarters, reflecting a typical pattern at the turn of, and during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There do not appear to be significant historical associations with any of the families who owned the grocery businesses in this building.
- 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 was a neighborhood grocery store, and as such, could 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**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of the building, using physical evidence to guide any restoration; this ca. 1890 building appears to be structurally sound and should be considered for a return to its original purpose – a neighborhood grocery store. However, in its current state of modification, it no longer retains the requisite architectural integrity to qualify as a historic landmark. Starr recommends the 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.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 333'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2020-0095

LOCATION: 601 W 26TH 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.



601 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
ca. 1890



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY

### 601 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street

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

- 1992      A:      Vacant  
            B:      Neil Orman, renter  
                    Student  
            C:      Paul W. Schroeder, renter  
                    No occupation listed  
            D:      Paja Ghosh, renter  
                    No occupation listed  
                    NOTE: The directory indicates that Paja Ghosh was a new  
resident at this address.
- 1987      A:      Greg Kent, renter  
                    No occupation listed  
                    NOTE: The directory indicates that Greg Kent was a new resident  
at this address.  
            B:      Joseph F. Cahill, renter  
                    No occupation listed  
                    NOTE: The directory indicates that Joseph F. Cahill was a new  
resident at this address.  
            C:      Frederick J. Moran, renter  
                    No occupation listed  
                    NOTE: The directory indicates that Frederick J. Moran was a new  
resident at this address.  
            D:      Vacant
- 1981      A:      Vacant  
            B:      No return  
            C:      Vacant  
            D:      No return
- 1977      A:      Leslie Carpenter, renter  
                    Student  
            B:      Gerald and Joan Thornton, renters  
                    No occupation listed  
            C:      Glenn Dunlap, renter  
                    No occupation listed  
                    NOTE: The directory indicates that Glenn Dunlap was a new  
resident at this address.  
            D:      M.J. Austin, renter  
                    No occupation listed  
                    NOTE: The directory indicates that M.J. Austin was a new resident at this  
address.
- 1973      A:      Davis K. Webb, renter  
                    Student  
            B:      William J. Bourland, renter  
                    Student  
            C:      Mary M. Moore, renter

	D:	Teaching assistant, University of Texas Rick Bell, renter Student
1968	A:	Vacant
	B:	Robert H. Ryan, renter Instructor, University of Texas
	C:	Vacant
	D:	Vacant
1965		Jack M. and J. Ann McGinnis, renters
	Jack:	Student
	J. Ann:	Employed by the public schools
1961		James D. Mueller, renter Cattle buyer
		William H. Luedecke, III, renter Student
1959	A:	Paul Salzberger, renter Student
	B:	William Stelfox, renter Student
	C:	Ruth Newton, renter No occupation listed
	D:	Jerald R. Senter, renter Physician
1957	A:	Marvy and Joan Finger, renters Marvy: No occupation listed Joan: Salesperson, Hemphill Book Store No. 2, 2501 Guadalupe Street.
	B:	F.J, Jr. and June E. Dyke, renters No occupation listed
	C:	Mabel M. Davis, renter Widow, F.W. Davis No occupation listed
	D:	Donald E. and Barbara B. Chandler, renters Donald: No occupation listed Barbara: Office secretary, Clay Products Association of the Southwest, 109 Perry-Brooks Building.
1954		Fowler's Food Store Carl L. and Marietta Fowler, proprietors NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street. NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.
1952		Fowler's Food Store Carl L. and Marietta Fowler, proprietors NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street. NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.
1949		Fowler's Food Store

- Carl L. and Marietta Fowler, proprietors  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.
- 1947      Fowler's Food Store  
 Carl L. and Marietta Fowler, proprietors  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.
- 1944-45      Fowler's Food Store  
 Carl L. and Marietta Fowler, proprietors  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.
- 1941      Fowler's Food Store  
 Carl L. and Marietta Fowler, proprietors  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: The Fowlers also ran Fowler's Café at 603 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1939      Fowler's Food Store  
 Carl L. and Marietta Fowler, proprietors  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: The Fowlers also ran Fowler's Café at 603 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1935      Lay's Grocery  
 Harold O. Lay, proprietor  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Harold O. and Vera Lay lived at 2516½ Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Carl L. and Marietta Fowler are not listed in the directory.
- 1932-33      Lay's Grocery  
 Harold O. Lay, proprietor  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Harold O. and Vera Lay are also listed at 2516 Nueces Street.
- 1930-31      Blue Bonnet Grocery  
 Martin L. and Mary A. Bowdoin, proprietors  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2516 Nueces Street, with an old address  
 of 2510 Nueces Street  
 NOTE: Martin L. and Mary A. Bowdoin are listed at 2516 Nueces Street.
- 1929      Bluebonnet Grocery  
 Mary A. Bowdoin, proprietor  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.  
 NOTE: Martin L. and Mary A. Bowdoin are listed at 2510 Nueces Street;  
 he was an auto mechanic.
- 1927      Vacant  
 NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1924      Powell's Quality Grocery  
 William M Powell, Jr., proprietor

NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.

NOTE: William M, Jr. and Annie Powell lived at 2906 Rio Grande Street.

- 1922 Powell's Quality Grocery  
William M. Powell, proprietor  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.  
NOTE: William M. and Annie Powell lived at 2906 Rio Grande Street; they also had a grocery and restaurant at 213 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Also listed at 2510 Nueces was Samuel G. and Emma Cross. They were renters and neither had an occupation shown in the directory.
- 1920 W.M. Powell and Sons Grocery  
Wilburn M., Wilburn M., Jr. John B., William M., Elisha J. and Charles H. Powell, proprietors  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.  
NOTE: Powell and Sons also had a grocery store at 213 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: The address of 601 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street is not listed in the directory.
- 1918 Doole and Sons Grocery  
John S., Charles Y, and David Doole, Jr., proprietors  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.  
All of the Doole family also had residential addresses of 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1916 Philippus and Hunter, groceries  
Henry Philippus and James T. Hunter, proprietors  
Fancy and staple groceries, poultry, cigars and tobacco  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1914 Carl J. Berryman, groceries  
NOTE: Carl J. Berryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1912-13 C.W. Beryman & Son, general merchandise  
Carl J. Beryman, proprietor  
Groceries and notions  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1910-11 C.W. Beryman & Sons, groceries and dry goods  
Carl W. and Carl J. Beryman, proprietors  
NOTE: Both Carl W. and Carl J. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1909-10 C.W. Beryman & Sons, dry goods and groceries  
Carl W. and Carl J. Beryman, proprietors  
NOTE: Both Carl W. and Carl J. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1905 C.W. Beryman & Sons, groceries and dry goods  
Charles T. Beryman, proprietor  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2610 Nueces Street.  
NOTE: Charles T. Beryman lived on the premises.  
NOTE: Carl J. Beryman is listed as a clerk in the store; he also lived on-site.



- 1900-01 Carl W. Beryman  
Dry goods, furnishing goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, groceries, feed,  
agent for Shite Star, American, and Cunard steamship lines.  
NOTE: Carl W. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1898-99 Carl W. Beryman  
Dry goods, furnishing goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, groceries, feed,  
agent for Shite Star, American, and Cunard steamship lines.  
NOTE: Carl W. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1897-98 Carl W. Beryman  
Dry goods, furnishing goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, groceries, feed,  
agent for Shite Star, American, and Cunard steamship lines.  
NOTE: Carl W. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1895-96 Carl W. Beryman  
Dry goods, furnishing goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, groceries, feed,  
agent for Shite Star, American, and Cunard steamship lines.  
NOTE: Carl W. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1893-94 Carl W. Beryman  
Dry goods, furnishing goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, groceries, feed,  
agent for Shite Star, American, and Cunard steamship lines.  
NOTE: Carl W. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1891-92 Carl W. Beryman  
Dry goods, furnishing goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, groceries, feed,  
agent for Shite Star, American, and Cunard steamship lines.  
NOTE: Carl W. Beryman also lived on the premises.  
NOTE: The address is listed as 2510 Nueces Street.
- 1889-90 Unknown  
NOTE: Carl W. Beryman had a residential address of 2508 Nueces  
Street. He had a shop at 325-27 Congress Avenue, selling dry goods,  
notions, boots shoes, groceries, feed, and was an agent for the White  
Star, Inman, and North German-Lloyd steamship lines.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **C.W. Beryman; Carl E. Beryman (ca. 1890 – ca. 1915)**

Carl W. Beryman was born in Sweden in 1838 and died in Austin in 1912. His death certificate shows that he was living at this address, and was a merchant. Carl E. Beryman, who took over the business after his father's death, died of exposure on a bitterly cold night in 1949 when he left a private mental hospital.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows C.W. Beryman living at 2510 Nueces Street. He was 71, had been born in Sweden, and was a merchant with his own store. With him lived his 30-year old son, Carl G. Beryman, who was a clerk for his father (and died in 1928). Carl E. Beryman, who took over the business after this father's death is not listed with them in the census report.

C. W. Beryman has moved his entire stock of goods to his new store on August street, Sixth ward, and would be glad to see his patrons and friends at his new quarters, where he will sell them goods as cheap as they can be bought in the city of Austin.

Notice of C.W. Beryman's business move from 325-27 Congress Avenue to the current building.  
Austin Daily Statesman, May 1, 1890

**C. W. BERYMAN.**  
During the year 1808 Mr. Beryman began his business career in Austin on a small scale. It needs not our pen to describe his successful operations. In 1890 he built the substantial two-story brick (West 26th street) and moved therein. He carries a large and diversified stock of dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes, groceries, etc. He is also agent for the Inman, White Star and German Lloyd Steamship lines to Europe. Mr. Beryman has been a resident of Austin since 1858 and is one of our most highly respected citizens.

Description of Beryman's business and building  
Austin Daily Statesman (Business Edition), March 22, 1894

## MORTUARY

**C. W. BERRYMAN.**

C. W. Berryman, who died suddenly at a few minutes past midnight yesterday, was a well known pioneer resident of this city, having settled here in 1853. He served in the Civil war from 1862 to the close and was engaged in business here for many years.

Mr. Berryman was born in Sweden seventy-three years ago and as a young man learned the trade of a silversmith, which he followed for a year after his arrival in Austin. In 1859 he entered the employ of H. M. Swenson, the Austin merchant prince of those days and later New York millionaire. In this employment he remained until his enlistment in the Confederate army.

After the war he went into the general merchandising business for himself and accumulated considerable property in the course of his career. He retired from business some five years ago, after a two years' absence in his native country.

He is described by his friends as an extremely loveable and upright man.

He is survived by an only sister in Esko, Sweden, and a son, Carl J., who conducts a business in this city.

The funeral will take place this afternoon, conducted by the Rev. G. A. Hickman, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church, and Rev. C. C. Pugh, pastor of the University Baptist church. A short service at 2:15 o'clock will be held at the residence, Twenty-sixth and Nueces streets, and at 3 o'clock a service will be held at the Swedish Lutheran church, Congress avenue and Sixteenth street. Interment will be at Oakwood.

The pallbearers: J. W. Graham, A. H. Thweatt, G. A. Bergstrom, John O. Palm, Carl Burkman and Carl Hickman.

Obituary of Carl W. Berryman  
Austin Daily Statesman, March 7, 1912

# Record Cold of 2-Below Claims Two Lives Here

Two persons were dead of exposure and one seriously ill Monday after one of the coldest weekends in Austin's history.

The dead are Carl Emanuel Beryman, 43, found suffering from exposure outside the city limits, and a 77-year-old Negro woman found dead in her home. -

Beryman was found in a critical condition about 11 a. m. Sunday after being reported missing from the Oak Ridge Sanitorium late Saturday. He was discovered on a small county bridge just outside the city limits on Riverside Drive and died 17 minutes after reaching Brackenridge Hospital. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

News story on the death of Carl E. Beryman  
Austin Statesman, January 31, 1949

**Carl L. and Marietta Fowler (ca. 1938 – ca. 1955)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Carl L. and Marietta Fowler as renters at this address (listed as 2516 Nueces Street). Carl L. Fowler was 48, had been born in North Carolina, and was the owner and manager of a retail grocery store. Marietta Fowler was 39, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them. The Fowlers lived in Abilene, Texas in 1935.

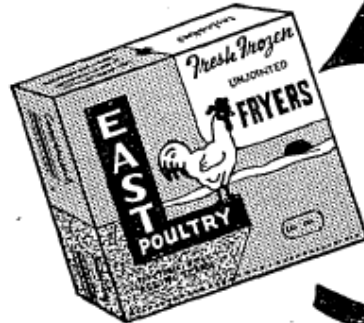
Carl L. Fowler died in 1957; Marietta Fowler died in 1967.

EAT  
FRESH  
FROZEN

# FRYERS

They're Fresh  
They're Delicious  
They're  
ECONOMICAL

*Beat the High  
Cost of Living!*



**LOOK**  
FOR THIS COMPACT  
CARTON FOR

- Freshness
- Sanitation
- Economy

Achilles Food Store 1612 Lavaca Street	Giddings Cash Grocery Georgetown, Texas	Pate's Food Store 1311 S. Congress
A&P Food Store 919 Lamar Blvd.	Good Luck Grocery 1407 West 5th	Perry's Grocery 1318 West 5th
Balcarr Food Market 1608 West 38th	Hammer Food Store 1304 S. Congress	Ramsey's Food Pantry 2291 East Avenue
Togie Baylor 4417 Duval	The Handy Hut 391 Barton Springs Road	Ritter's Grocery 1104 Manor Road
Bedgood Food Store 5315 Burnet Road	H.E.B. No. 2 824 West 12th	Rosedale Grocery 4902 Burnet Road
Behl's Food Store 821 Barton Springs Road	H.E.B. No. 4 1405 San Jacinto	Rio Grande Grocery 2202 Rio Grande
Browning's Food Store 4214 East Avenue	H.E.B. No. 5 3106 Windsor Road	Seoncl Grocery 1001 Red River
Bofords Ram-Pak 1111 Chicon	H.E.B. No. 8 2624 S. Congress	Shaw's Food Store 1917 Manor Road
B and M Market 1803 San Jacinto	Highland Grocery 5216 Avenue F.	Shipwash No. 2 4408 Alice Ave.
Barton Hgts. Grocery & Market 1107 Kinney Ave.	Jim Dandy No. 1 593 East 1st	Slaughter No. 1 216 West 19th
Brykerwoods Food Store 1706 West 35th	Jim Dandy No. 2 3711 Guadalupe	Slaughter No. 2 1109 Rio Grande
Cash Food Store Kyle, Texas	Johnson No. 1 1311 East First	Slaughter No. 3 2863 San Jacinto
Casarraghi Grocery 1901 West 10th	Johnson No. 2 1091 East First	South Austin Cold Storage 1901 S. Congress
Checker Front Stores Consumers Co-Op 2980 Duval	Johnson No. 3 4001 Duval	Southwestern Food 215 West 2nd
Cass Grocery & Market 5099 East Avenue	Mayton's Food Mart 3900 Lamar (Morningside)	Stop and Shop Grocery 5337 Dallas Highway
Cowan's Grocery 1902 East First	McGee Grocery 1915 Canterbury	Sunbeam Market 4805 Burnet Road
Danz Grocery 5301 Dallas Highway	Mitchell's Food Store 5312 Airport Blvd.	Tak-Home Food Store 2801 East First
Davis Grocery & Market 1401 Lavaca	Roy Miller Grocery & Market 3412 East 5th	Taylor's Grocery 1516 West 10th
Deep Eddy Grocery 2315 Lake Austin Blvd.	Nabors Grocery 1519 East First	Vincent Valdes Cash Grocery 405 Barton Springs Road
Elsie Jane's Grocery & Market 1012 West 6th	North Side Food Pantry 306 East 50th	Warren Food Store 4508 Burnet Road
Enfield Food Mart 1211 West Lynn	Nauman's Food Store 4634 Burnet Road	Willeford Grocery 3509 East Avenue
Fewler's Food Store 2516 Nueces	Northloop Grocery 5301 Burnet Road	Wilsons Food Store 316 East 1st
Frantzell Food Store 1700 East 12th	Paul Bros. No. 2 519 East 6th	Wonder Food Store 2215 Post Road
		Joe Wukach 2800 Guadalupe

Ad for local Leonard East's frozen chickens and the stores where it was available. Fowler's Food Store is listed second from the bottom in the left column.

Austin Statesman, January 27, 1949



C. L. FOWLER

## **Austin Man, 65, Sought Over Area**

A search was on Monday for a 65-year-old Austin man who disappeared after leaving the Elks Club late Saturday night.

The missing man is C. L. Fowler, 4302 Avenue A—an employee of Hemphill Book Stores.

Fowler's car was found Sunday afternoon in a ditch on the Manor Highway but there was no trace of the driver. The car had been abandoned about a mile east of the city limits.

Mrs. Fowler told The Austin Statesman her husband left home about 8 p. m. Saturday to go to the club. She said the last she heard of him was from a friend who saw him leave the club about 11 p. m.

Police and the sheriff's department quoted Mrs. Fowler as saying her husband had been weakened by a stroke a few years ago.

Fowler was described as five feet, six inches tall, 175 pounds, grey hair and blue eyes. He was wearing a dark blue suit with black tie when he left the Elks Club.

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News story on the disappearance of Carl L. Fowler  
Austin Statesman, November 25, 1957

# C. L. Fowler Death Laid To Exposure

By WRAY WEDDELL JR.

Justice of the Peace J. H. Watson signed a death certificate Friday listing exhaustion and exposure as causes of death in the strange C. L. Fowler case, but did not rule out the possibility of foul play.

Sheriff T. O. Lang, however, replied, "No, sir, I sure don't," when asked if he thought freezing weather late last month and strength-sapping ankle-deep mud had human aid in striking down the 65-year-old man.

Fowler disappeared in bitter cold shortly before midnight Nov. 23. His body was found Sunday in a field east of Austin half buried in mud. Missing were his billfold, wrist watch, eye glasses and neck tie.

Lang said Friday that despite the mystery provided by the missing articles, not a shred of evi-



dence had been turned up pointing to violence.

He quoted a pathologist, Dr. John R. Rainey Jr., as saying he had found no evidence that Fowler had suffered from anything other than exposure and exhaustion.

Watson entered his cause-of-death verdict after consultation with the pathologist, but then told a reporter he was not prepared to certify that Fowler's death was an "accident."

Fowler, a stroke victim who had been known to become lost while driving at night, was last seen alive as he drove away from the Elks Club. The temperature was well below freezing and sleet was flying.

The next day his car was found mired deep in a ditch off US 290 (Manor Highway). The clutch had been burned out, indicating a desperate effort to free the car.

Fowler remained on the missing persons list for 22 days—until a farmer found his body while plowing a field off Decker Lane—a country road which intersects US 290. The body, a mile from where the car was found, was sunk so deep in mud it could not be seen more than a few feet away.

Since no tracks were found from the car to the field, Lang believes Fowler walked on US 290 pavement for a quarter of a mile until he reached Decker Lane, then walked down the latter—also paved—until he came to the field where he died.

Lang believes that Fowler, perhaps panicky by then, was trying to reach a small farm house when he struck out across the open field—a sea of sticky mud that night.

Tracks in the field show, according to the sheriff, that Fowler

fell several times and at times crawled on his hands and knees until he collapsed to die in the wet cold.

Lang said he had questioned the pathologist about the possibility of an attack on Fowler before he stumbled and crawled into the field. He quoted the physician as saying that any one seriously injured would not have had the strength to move about in the deep mud as Fowler had done.

As for the billfold, glasses and other missing personal items, Lang believes they are buried in the field, much of which was plowed before discovery of Fowler's body.

Lang said Fowler carried his billfold in his side pocket instead of hip pocket and it could easily have fallen out during the ordeal in the cold mud. He said the wrist watch had a stretch band and was probably lost during Fowler's desperate crawling. As for the eye glasses, they could have simply fallen off, said Lang.

Of the missing neck tie, Lang said it was apparent that Fowler had torn at clothing around his

neck in his death throes. Lang said the dying man even got rid of his rain coat, which was found nearby almost completely buried in the mud.

Lang said he was convinced that no human hand contributed to Fowler's death despite the picture of possible violence presented by the missing articles.

He said that X-rays of the body showed no fractures and no blood was found on Fowler's mud-caked clothing.

**MRS. MARIETTA FOWLER**

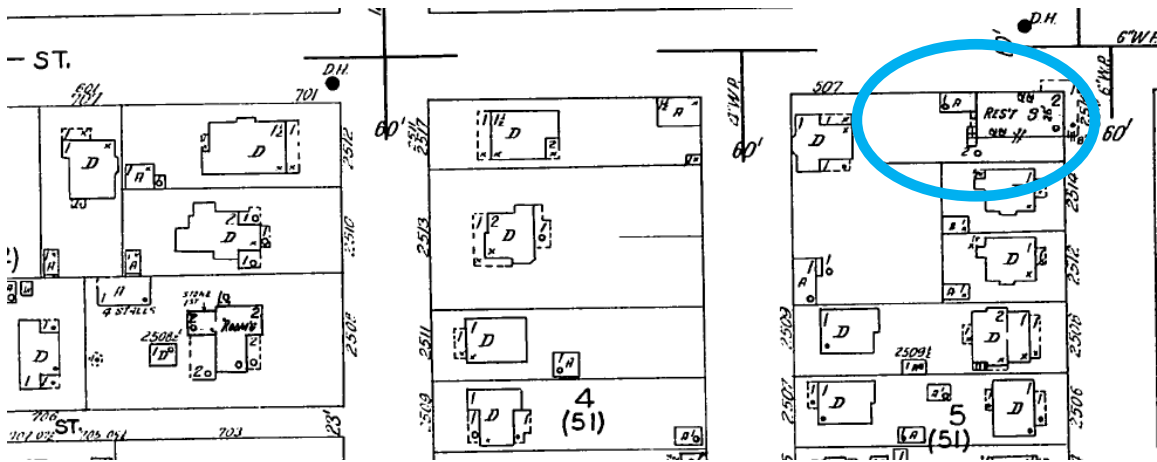
Mrs. Marietta Fowler, 66, 4302 Ave. A., died in a local hospital Thursday. She was a member of Shettles Memorial Methodist Church and Elks Does.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Emma Polindexter of Novice, Texas; five sisters, Mrs. Julia Kent of Clyde, Mrs. Libbie Gorman of Las Cruces, New Mexico, Mrs. Edith Hagar of Abilene, Mrs. Opal Betzen of Woodward, Okla. and Mrs. Lola Mae Stevens of Navajo Dam, New Mexico; and four brothers, Calvin Polindexter, of Lawn, Tom Polindexter of Novice, Henry Polindexter of Big Spring and W. J. Polindexter of Ervin, N.C.

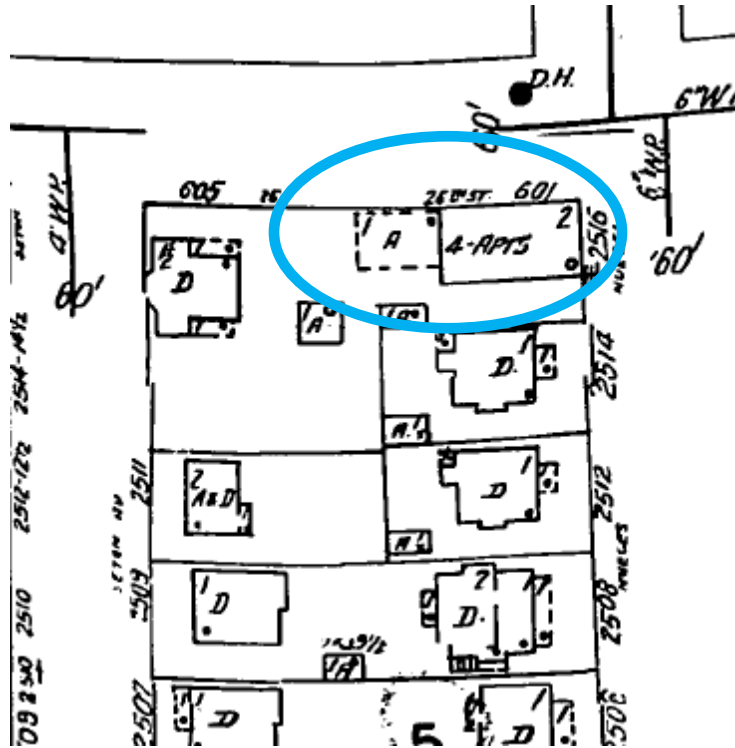
Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Cook Funeral Home with Rev. Harry C. Bamberger officiating. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be Forest Gathright, George L. Patterson, J. L. Armstrong, F. E. Wilder, Henry Wendlandt and Burkley Campbell.

Obituary of Marietta Fowler  
Austin Statesman, May 19, 1967



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the building as a 2-story restaurant and store with an old address of 2510 Nueces and a new address of 2516 Nueces Street. The store has a wraparound awning at the corner of 26h and Nueces Streets.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows the two-story building at the corner with the addresses of 2516 Nueces Street and 601 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street. The awning shown on the 1935 map above is no longer depicted.