

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
OCTOBER 26, 2020
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2020-0421
2617 E. 4TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a house that was moved to this site from an unknown location in 1938.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a central, front-gabled independent porch on ornamental metal posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; synthetic siding.

RESEARCH

The house was moved onto this lot from an unknown location in 1938 by M.E. Chernosky, a local builder and developer on the east side of Austin. Paul and Juanita Cordova purchased the house and lived here for the rest of their lives. Paul Cordova was a cleaner and presser, who established Vogue Cleaners, located at the corner of Rosewood Avenue and Chicon Street, with Mike Garza, around 1948. After Paul's death in 1967, Juanita Cordova kept the business going until her own retirement many years later.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is outside the bounds of any City survey to date.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house may meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a typical 1930s vernacular frame house that most likely does not predate its move onto this lot by many years. The house reflects a common style with no architectural distinction.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was associated with Paul and Juanita Cordova, who operated Vogue Cleaners at the corner of Chicon and Rosewood from around 1948 through the 1980s. Paul Cordova represents a Latinx entrepreneur in an area of the city that was primarily African-American in composition, across Chicon Street from the Rosewood Courts public housing project. There may be significant historical associations for the Cordovas' identity as entrepreneurs on the east side of Austin.
- 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.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 333'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2020-0421

LOCATION: 2617 E 4TH ST

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.



2617 E. 4th Street
Moved onto this site ca. 1938



OCCUPANCY HISTORY

2617 E. 4th Street

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

1959	Paul Cordova, owner No occupation listed
1957	Paul and Juanita Cordova, owners Proprietor (with Mike Garza), Vogue Cleaners, 1817 Rosewood Avenue.
1955	Paul and Juanita Cordova, owners Proprietor (with Mike Garza), Vogue Cleaners, 1817 Rosewood Avenue.
1952	Paul and Juanita Cordova, owners Proprietor (with Mike Garza), Vogue Cleaners, 1817-19 Rosewood Avenue.
1949	Paul and Juanita Cordova, owners Proprietor (with Mike Garza), Vogue Cleaners, 1817 Rosewood Avenue.
1947	Paul and Juanita Cordova, owners Proprietor, City Cleaners and Hatters (not listed in the directory).
1944-45	Paulo and Janie Cordova, owners No occupation listed
1941	Paulo and Janie Cordova, renters Presser, Garnett Lewis Cleaners, 405 W. 6 th Street.
1939	Vacant NOTE: Paul and Juanita Cordova are listed at 1308 Neches Street; he was a presser for Garnett Lewis Cleaners, 405 W. 6 th Street.
1937	The address is not listed in the directory. NOTE: The house was moved onto this site in 1938 from an unknown location.

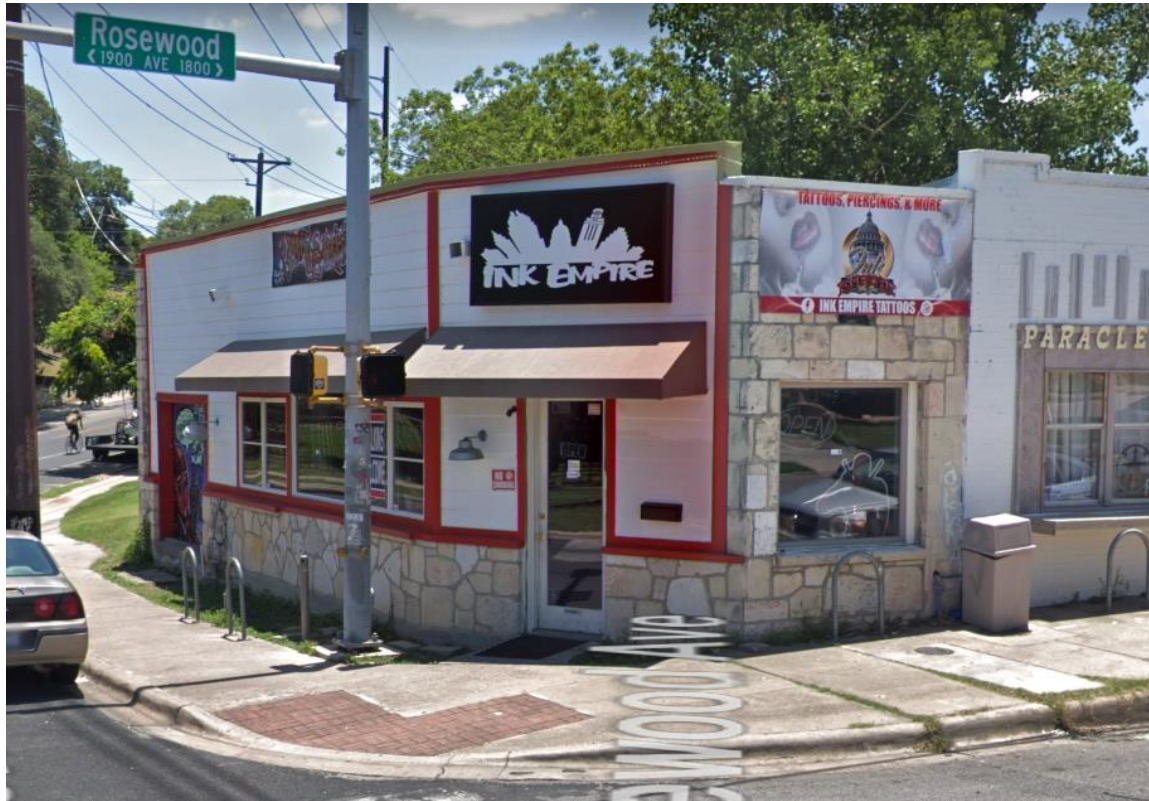
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Paul and Juanita Cordova (ca. 1939 – ca. 2011)

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Paulino and Janie Cordova as the owners of this house, which was worth \$500. Paulino Cordova was 38, had been born in Texas, and was a presser in a tailor shop. Janie Cordova was 28, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had 3 children: Theresa, 7; Frank, 4; and Maria, 1, all of whom had been born in Texas. Also in the household were Janie Cordova's sister, Lochis Beltrano, 29, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed, and her two sons: San Diego, 7, and Pasqual, 4, both of whom had been born in Texas.

Pablo Luna Cordova registered for the World War II draft in 1942. He was living at this address and was employed by Lloyd Doggett at University Cleaners at 2004 Speedway in Austin. He was born in 1902 in Bastrop, Texas. He was 5'-3" tall, weighed 122 pounds, and had a ruddy complexion with black hair and brown eyes. His wife was Juanita Beltran Cordova.

His 1967 death certificate shows that Paul Cordova was living at this address at the time of his death. He was born in 1902 in Bastrop, Texas, and was in the clothes cleaning and pressing business. Janie Cordova died in 2011.



Vogue Cleaners, owned by Paul and Juanita Cordova, was located in this building at 1817-19 Rosewood Avenue.

PAUL CORDOVA

Paul Cordova, 65, of 2617 E. 4th St., died in a local hospital Friday. He was a member of Cristo Rey Catholic Church.

A Rosary will be recited Sunday at 8 p.m. at Angel Funeral Home Chapel. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated Monday at 10 a.m. at Cristo Rey Catholic Church with Rev. Fr. Charles Davis officiating. Burial will follow in Assumption Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Angel Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Juanita Cordova of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Mary Helen Pineda and Mrs. Ray Moncivias, both of Austin; three sons, Frank, Paul Jr., and Carlos Cordova, all of Austin; and 16 grandchildren.

Obituary of Paul Cordova

Austin American-Statesman, September 9, 1967

PAUL CORDOVA

Paul Cordova, 65, of 2617 E. 4th St. died in a local hospital Friday. Mr. Cordova was a member of Cristo Rey Catholic Church and the co-owner of Vogue Cleaners.

Rosary for Paul Cordova will be recited Sunday at 8 p.m. at Angel Funeral Home Chapel. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated Monday at 10 a.m. at Cristo Rey Catholic Church with Rev. Fr. Charles Davis officiating.

Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery under direction of Angel Funeral Home.

Obituary of Paul Cordova

Austin American-Statesman, September 10, 1967

PAUL CORDOVA

A Requiem Mass for Paul Cordova of 2617 East Fourth Street was celebrated Monday morning in Cristo Rey Catholic Church with Rev. Fr. Charles Davis officiating. Burial followed in Assumption Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Angel Funeral Home.

He was co-owner of Vogue Cleaners.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Juanita Cordova of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Ray Moncivias and Mrs. Mary Helen Pineda, both of Austin; three sons, Frank, Paul Jr. and Carlos Cordova, all of Austin; and 16 grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Mike Garza Sr., Alex Esparza, Ray Esparza, Gonzalo Serrano, Crescencio Gomez and Ike Perez.

Funeral of Paul Cordova
Austin Statesman, September 11, 1967

Juanita Cordova 1912 - 2011 Juanita Beltran Cordova also known as Momma, Grandma, Beautiful and Huelita passed away on April 5, 2011 at the age of 98. She was born in McNeil, Texas to Victoriano Beltran and Maria Miranda Beltran on July 12, 1912. Juanita was a housewife but also worked in the family laundry and dry cleaning business. After her husband passed away, she took over the business on Rosewood and Chicon named Vogue Cleaners here in Austin. After her retirement from the business, she started baby-sitting her grandchildren and great grandchildren until her second retirement at the age of 94. Juanita gave her life to Christ on July 14, 2009 at the age of 96. Juanita was predeceased by her husband, Pablo Cordova Sr.; sons, Clemente Cordova, Frank (Pancho) Cordova, Pablo (Gora) Cordova Jr.; grandchildren, Donna Moncivais, Janie Ruiz, Cynthia Pineda, Manuel Pineda Jr., Paul Pineda, Pete Pineda, Ruth Ann Gonzales and Ricky Cruz. She is survived by two brothers, Pedro Beltran, Jimmy Beltran; two daughters, Theresa Moncivais, Mary Helen Pineda; son, Carlos Cordova and his wife Josie; daughter-in-law, Ruth (Cuca) Cordova; 18 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and 26 great-great-

grandchildren. Juanita was one of the first pioneers of La Calle Cuatro Barrio and the last Standing Pillar to leave this neighborhood. A special thanks to Dr. Pete Garcia and Alice, Hospice Austin, Ruth (Cuca) Cordova, Lydia Sahley, Lillie Salas, Theresa Moncivais, Estelita Fuentes and Mari Cantu for care provided. A very special thanks to her daughter-in-law Josie Cordova, who provided the utmost care for Juanita during the past four years and especially during her last days. Pallbearers are Albert Cordova, Mario Cordova, Luis Cordova, Frank Cordova, Christian Sahley and Vincent (Blackie) Gonzales. Honorary pallbearers are Chris Sahley, Buddy Salas, Gavin Salas, and Delfino Moncivais. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m., Thursday with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. at the Mission Funeral Home Serenity Chapel 6204 South First Street. (South). Funeral service 10:00 a.m., Friday at Mission Funeral Home Serenity Chapel. Interment will follow at Assumption Cemetery.

Obituary of Juanita Cordova
Austin American-Statesman, April 7, 2011

M. E. Chernosky 261~~7~~ E. 4th. St.
~~253~~ 37 - 6 9 -

M. E. Chernosky

Move house onto lot

131r - 8/24/38

1

Building permit to M.E. Chernosky to move the house onto this lot (1938)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

No. 10840 387

Received of M.E. Chernosky Date Aug 24, 1938

Address 2617 East 4th

Amount Two and 50/100-- \$ 2.50

Plumber self Size of Tap 1"

Date of Connection 10/11/38

Size of Tap Made 1/4"

Size Service Made 1/4"

Size Main Tapped 2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 9'

From E. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 25'

Location of Meter CURB

Type of Box VOID

Depth of Main in St. 11' 11" B 2'

Depth of Service Line 17"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 2'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 6-12-39

No. Fittings	Size	Job No.	Req. No.
1 Curb Cock	1/4"		
1 Elbow	1/4"		
1 St-Elbow	1/4"		
1 Bushing	1/4"		
1 Reducer	1/4"		
1 Pipe	1/4"		
1 Lead-Comp.	1/4"		
1 Nipples	1/4"		
1 Union	1/4"		
1 Plug	1/4"		
1 Tee	1/4"		
1 Stop Box-A-X-LID	1/4"		
1 Box	1/4"		
1 Lid	1/4"		
Values			
Job No.			
Req. No.			

INDEXED

Water service permit to M.E. Chernosky for this address (1938)

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

No. 1474215

Received of owner Date 8/24/1938

Address 2617 E. 4th.

Amount \$

Builder or Owner M.E. Chernosky Plumber

Lot 9 Block 6 Subdivision Chernosky Plat No. 25b

Date of Connection 10/12/1938

By City 23' W/E. PL

By Plumber

Checked By Hanson

Size Main 6" Depth 3'

Main Assign. in St. 16' from PL

Stub Depth Prop. Line 1 1/2'

Stub Location

Book No. A-1275

Paving Cut No.

No. Fittings	Size	Price
15' pipe	4"	.40
Pipe		
Wyes		
Bends		
Reducers		
Plugs		
Sand		
Gravel		
Remix		
Stoppers		
Castings		
Other 4" tap	15	
Labor:	1 day	3.00
		total 5.05

Sewer service permit for this address (1938)

Paul Cordova

2617 East 4th St.

~~387~~
~~28-B~~

9

6

-

Chernosky #2

Frame addition to rear of residence.

40405 3-7-49

\$500.00

Owner

Building permit to Paul Cordova for a frame addition (1949)

10-5-00 10/11/79

OWNER	Juanita P. Cordova	ADDRESS	2617 E 4th St
PLAT	387	LOT	9
		BLK.	6
SUBDIVISION	Chernosky #2		
OCCUPANCY			
BLDG. PERMIT #	184224	DATE	7-30-79
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	4,600.00
CONTRACTOR	CH Bldrs	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	

~~Repair and remodel exist res.~~

Building permit to Juanita Cordova to repair and remodel the house (1979)