

**Zoning Public Hearing
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**



**AGENDA ITEM NO.: Z-10
AGENDA DATE: Thu 06/24/2004
PAGE: 1 of 1**

SUBJECT: C14H-04-0005 – Sayers House. Conduct a public hearing and approve an ordinance amending Chapter 25-2 of the Austin City Code by rezoning property locally known as 709 Rio Grande Street from General Office, Mixed Use, Capitol View Corridor (GO-MU-CVC) district to General Office, Mixed Use, Capitol View Corridor - Historic (GO-MU-CVC-H) combining district zoning. Historic Landmark Commission Recommendation: To grant General Office, Mixed Use, Capitol View Corridor - Historic (GO-MU-CVC-H) combining district zoning. Zoning and Platting Commission Recommendation: Pending. Applicant: Blair Fox (owner). City Staff: Steve Sadowsky, Historic Preservation Office, Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department, 974-6454.

REQUESTING	Transportation, Planning	DIRECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT:	and Sustainability	AUTHORIZATION: <u>Austan Librach</u>

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-04-0005

H.L.C. DATE: April 26, 2004

Z.P.C. DATE: June 15, 2004

AREA: 7,756 square feet (Lot 7A, Resubdivision of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7, Block 78, Original City)

APPLICANT: Blair Fox

AGENT: NA

HISTORIC NAME: Sayers House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 709 Rio Grande Street

ZONING FROM: GO-MU-CVC

ZONING TO: GO-MU-CVC-H

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from general office, mixed use, Capitol View Corridor (GO-MU-CVC) district, to general office, mixed use, Capitol View Corridor – Historic (GO-MU-CVC-H) combining district zoning.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from general office, mixed use, Capitol View Corridor (GO-MU-CVC) district, to general office, mixed use, Capitol View Corridor – Historic (GO-MU-CVC-H) combining district zoning, by consent (Vote: 7-0; Leary absent, Bunton and Fowler off dais).

ZONING AND PLATTING COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from general office, mixed use, Capitol View Corridor (GO-MU-CVC) district, to general office, mixed use, Capitol View Corridor – Historic (GO-MU-CVC-H) combining district zoning, by consent (Vote: 9-0).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

The house is listed as Priority 1 for preservation in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE: June 24, 2004

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:

Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The ca. 1905 Sayers House is an excellent local example of the American Foursquare style. Governor Joseph D. Sayers had the house built for himself and Mrs. Sayers shortly after leaving office. After his death in 1929, his widow, Orline Sayers, worked with many philanthropic

organizations. Ernest W. Jackson, president of the Steck Company, purchased the house in 1949, and lived here until 1957.

Staff evaluated the property for historic landmark designation and determined that the house meets Historic Landmark Designation Criteria 1, 3, 6, and 11:

(1) Character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Austin, State of Texas, or the United States.

The Sayers House reflects the tastes and standard of living of the political elite in Austin around the turn of the twentieth century. Joseph D. Sayers built this house after serving two terms as Texas governor. He remained active in state politics, and practiced law in Austin until his death in 1929.

(3) Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.

Prized for its simplicity and practicality, the American Foursquare style became popular through pattern books and catalogs in the mid-1890s. Their boxy massing affords a maximum amount of living space for a house on a small urban lot, and represented a departure from the ornate designs of the earlier Queen Anne style. American Foursquare houses are defined by their symmetrical four-room plan. They generally are two-and-a-half stories, with a hipped roof, deep eaves, attic dormers, a spacious front porch, and a low level of ornamentation.

The Sayers House embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the American Foursquare style with its two-and-a-half story massing, symmetrical façade and plan, brick walls, front porch, and hipped roof with a hipped-roof dormer. The Sayers House also attests to the continuing popularity of Classical Revival details at the turn of the twentieth century with its porch roof balustrade, cornice details, and the second story casement windows with a Classical motif. The house has 12:1 windows with stone lintels and sills on the front of the house and 1:1 windows on the sides and back.

(6) Relationship to other distinctive buildings, sites or areas which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on architectural, historical or cultural motif.

The Sayers House is at the corner of Eighth and Rio Grande Streets, in close proximity to the Robinson-Macken House, the Crow-Tennant House, and the Gilfillan House, all designated City historic landmarks.

(11) Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city, state or the United States.

Joseph D. Sayers (1841-1929) was born in Mississippi but raised in Bastrop, Texas. After practicing law in Bastrop, he was elected state senator from Bastrop in 1872, and lieutenant governor in 1878. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1884 to 1898, securing payment for Texas Rangers who had protected the frontier, and promoting a deep-water harbor at Galveston. Sayers was elected governor of Texas in 1898, and re-elected in 1900. During his administrations, a hurricane devastated Galveston, and oil was discovered at Spindletop, southwest of Beaumont. He approved the creation of the Girls Industrial College (now Texas Woman's University) at Denton and promoted transportation, especially railroads, across the state. After retiring from public office in 1903, he established a law practice in the Bosche Building on Congress Avenue, and continued to serve on various State boards and commissions until his death in 1929.

Sayers married **Online Walton** (ca. 1850-1943) in 1879 in Bastrop. Mrs. Sayers was the first Texas First Lady to redecorate the Governor's Mansion, entertained presidents, and headed the Austin Relief Society after the 1900 Galveston hurricane. She was one of the founders of the Texas Fine Arts Association in 1911, and helped to promote art throughout the state. Mrs. Sayers remained in the Rio Grande Street house until her death in 1943.

Ernest W. Jackson (1895-1983) founded a school supply business in 1919 after graduating from the University of Texas. His business merged with the E.L. Steck Company in 1921; Jackson became vice-president and general manager in 1932, president in 1952, and chairman of the board in 1957. He entered the banking industry in the 1960s, serving as the chairman of the Austin National Bank. Among his many civic activities, Jackson led two successful bond campaigns for school construction after World War II. Jackson purchased the house in 1949, and lived there with his family until 1957.

PARCEL NO.: 0107000507000

DEED RECORD: Vol. 12274, Page 2639 (1994)

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$9,132 (total – all taxing authorities) – owner-occupied rate.
City property tax exemption: \$2,404.

APPRAISED VALUE: \$586,421

PRESENT USE: Residence and studio

CONSTRUCTION/DESCRIPTION: Two-story rectangular-plan American Foursquare-style house with brick walls, a hipped roof, hipped dormer, 12:1 and 1:1 fenestration, and central independent porch.

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS

Blair Fox
709 Rio Grande Street
Austin, Texas 78701

DATE BUILT: ca. 1905

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: None..

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Joseph D. Sayers (1903)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:

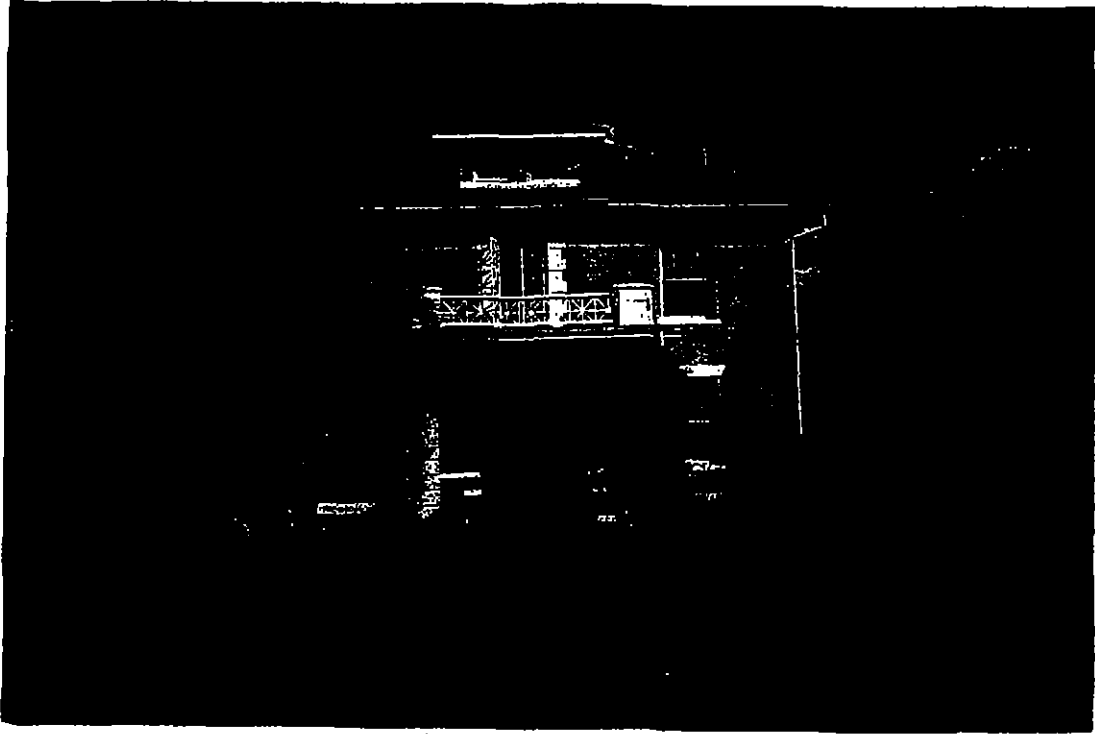
NATIONAL REGISTER: No

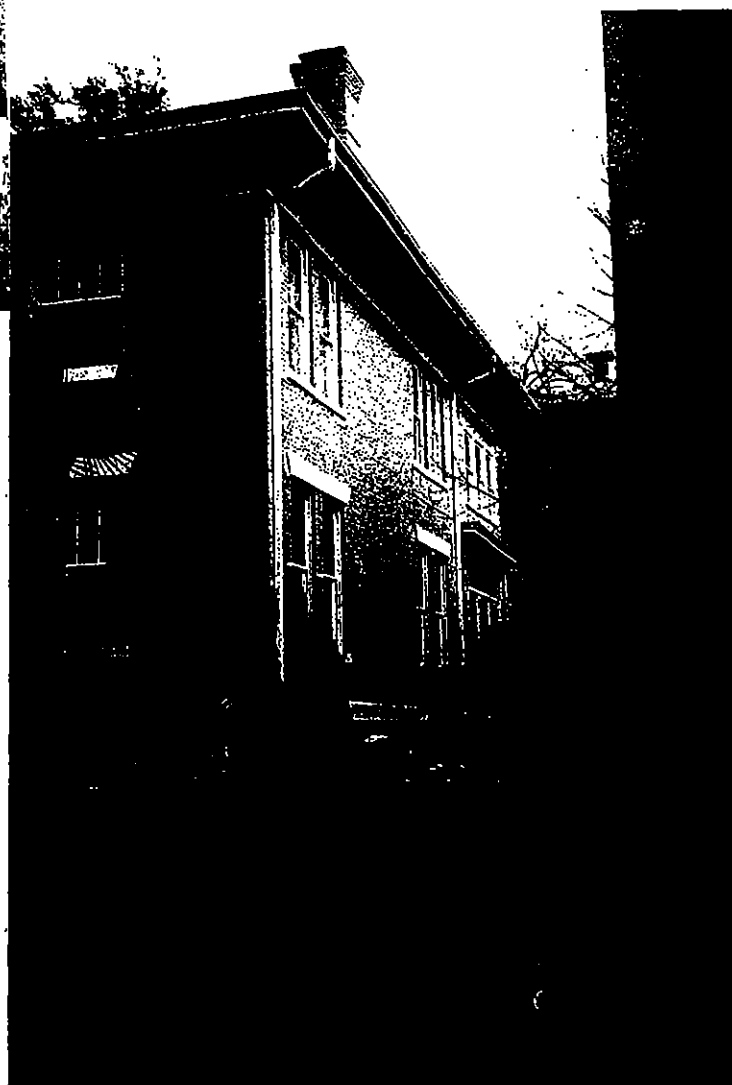
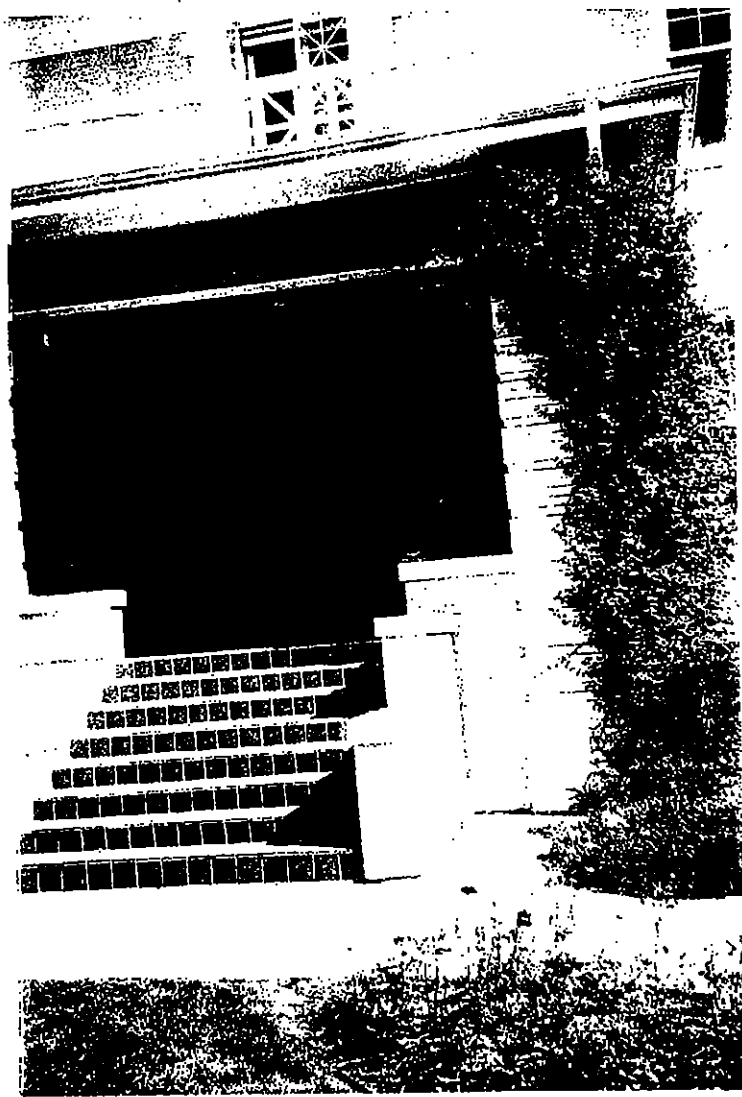
RECORDED TEXAS LANDMARK: No

NATIONAL LANDMARK: No

LOCAL SURVEYS: Yes, the house is listed as a Priority 1 for preservation in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

709 Rio Grande-Sayers House





A. APPLICATION FOR Historic ZONING

PROJECT INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

APPLICATION DATE: 03/15/04 FILE NUMBER(S) C42-04-0005

TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____

TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____

TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____

CASE MANAGER Steve S.

CITY INITIATED: YES / NO

ROLLBACK: YES/NO

APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: Shaw

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S

NAME: Blair F. Fox

2. PROJECT

NAME: Sayers House

3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range):

709 Rio Grande Street

ZIP 78701

COUNTY: Travis

IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:

LOCATED _____ FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE N. S. E. W. (CIRCLE ONE) SIDE OF
(ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS
APPROXIMATELY _____ DISTANCE FROM ITS
INTERSECTION WITH _____ CROSS STREET.

4. ACRES _____ (OR)

SQ. FT. 5,952

5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:

EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
<u>G0-MU-CVK</u>	<u>residence</u>		<u>5,952 sq. ft</u>	<u>residence</u>	<u>G0-MU-CVK-H</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

AREA TO BE REZONED:

RELATED CURRENT CASES:

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE? (YES ☒ NO ☐

FILE NUMBER: _____

7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT? (YES/NO)

FILE NUMBER:

8. SUBDIVISION? (YES/NO)

FILE NUMBER:

9. SITE PLAN? (YES/NO)

FILE NUMBER:

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name:

Original City of Austin
Block(s) 78 Lot(s) 7A, resub. of Outlot(s)
lot 8, & part of lot 7
Plat Book: 24 Page
Number: 41

10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two copies of certified field notes if subdivision reference is not available or zoning includes partial lots)

11. VOLUME: 12274 **PAGE:** 2639 **TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.**
01070005070000

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

Vol. 12274 p. 2639

12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? (YES) NO
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP, etc) MU + CVC

13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES (NO)

14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES (NO) (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)

TRIPS PER DAY: _____

TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S): _____

OTHER PROVISIONS: _____

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. ☒ **SOLE** ☐ **COMMUNITY PROPERTY** ☐ **PARTNERSHIP** ☐ **CORPORATION** ☐ **TRUST**

If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION

SIGNATURE: Blair F. Fox **NAME:** Blair F. Fox

FIRM NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 472-2432

STREET ADDRESS:

709 Rio Grande Street
CITY: Austin **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 78701

EMAIL ADDRESS:

bfox@austin,rr.com

OWNER INFORMATION:

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

SIGNATURE: _____ **NAME:** _____

A.

SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

Submittal Verification

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Patti Woolery-Price 3-10-2004
Signature Date

Patti Woolery-Price
Name (Typed or Printed)

Independent Researcher (426-7643)
Firm (If applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Blair F. Fox 3-10-2004
Signature Date

Blair F. Fox
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, Blair F. Fox have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions,
(Print name of applicant)

restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

709 Rio Grande Street
(Address or Legal Description)

Austin, Texas

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

BLAIR FOX
(Applicant's signature)

March 10, 2004
(Date)

JOSEPH DRAPER SAYERS, 1841-1929

Joseph Draper Sayers, eldest son of David and Mary Thomas Sayers, was born at Grenada, Mississippi in 1841. He had a brother Sam and a sister Jessie. After his mother's death, the family moved to Bastrop County, Texas, in 1851. He graduated from Bastrop Military Institute, after which, in 1862, he joined the Fifth Regiment, Mounted Volunteers, C. S. A. He was promoted to the rank of major in 1864 and was assigned to General Thomas Green's staff, with whom he served at the battle of Val Verde, New Mexico, and at the two Louisiana battles in which he was severely wounded. After the war, he returned to Bastrop where he taught school and studied law at night. He was admitted to the bar in 1866. He practiced law in Bastrop for ten years during the reconstruction period in partnership with George Washington ("Wash") Jones. In 1872 he was elected state senator from the Bastrop district and in 1878 lieutenant governor. [Handbook of Texas Online, "Sayers, Joseph Draper"] In 1879 he married Orlene Walton of Bastrop who was the sister of his first wife, Ada, who had died in 1871, only four years after they were married. [Vertical file, "Sayers, Joseph Draper", Center for American History]

In 1884 the voters of the 9th and 10th districts elected him to the United States House of Representatives where he served continuously through 1898. During his time in Congress, he served on the appropriations committee and was known as the "watchdog of the Treasury". He was instrumental in finally obtaining payment for Texas Rangers who had protected the frontier against Indian attacks. [Handbook of Texas Online, "Sayers, Joseph Draper"] He also served on the naval affairs committee and supported the building of the first two ironclad battleships, the *Maine* and the *Texas*, the latter so named as a tribute to Congressman Sayers by the Secretary of the Navy. In addition, he promoted deep-water harbors at Galveston and other port cities along the Gulf coast. [Fitzgerald, p. 19]

Sayers was elected governor of Texas in 1898 and again in 1900. He was known as a "business" governor and his administration was marked by great progress, including the beginnings of the Texas oil industry at Spindletop in 1901. Railways were built, expanding from some 800 miles of track to 1,344 miles, including the interurban lines connecting Denison and Sherman and Fort Worth and Dallas. ["Joseph D. Sayers", vertical file, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission]

As governor, he dealt with three Texas disasters: the Huntsville Penitentiary Fire and horrific Brazos River flood, both in 1899 and the devastating 1900 Galveston hurricane, personally coordinating relief work by telegraph. [Handbook of Texas Online, "Sayers, Joseph Draper"] He supported higher education, signing the bill in 1901 that established the Girls Industrial College (now Texas Woman's University) at Denton, and appointed its first board of regents, three of whom were the first women to serve on the governing board of a Texas college. [Fitzgerald, p. 19, and Handbook of Texas Online, "Texas Woman's University"]

In 1903, shortly after leaving office, he purchased the 709 Rio Grande Street property on which he had a large home built for himself and Mrs. Sayers. They both resided in the home until they died, he in 1929 and she in 1943. They had no children.

After leaving the governorship at the age of 62, a lesser man might have retired. Sayers, however, established a law practice in Austin with an office at 808-1/2 Congress Avenue in the Bosche Building [City directory, 1905, p. 232] and continued to serve the state in various capacities. From 1913-1915, he was chairman of the state Industrial Accident

Board, and in 1916 was appointed to the University of Texas Board of Regents. From 1916 until his death in 1929, he continued to practice law after moving his office to the Littlefield Building. [City directories, 1916-1929] In addition, he was chairman of the Board of Legal Examiners from 1922 to 1926, and in 1927 was appointed by Governor Dan Moody to the Board of Pardon Advisors on which he served until his death.

In his private life, he was a member of the Methodist Church and a high ranking Mason having served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1875. He died of a heart attack on May 15, 1929. The capitol was closed the next day as his body lay in state. A religious service was held in the Sayers home, conducted by the Rev. K. P. Barton, presiding elder and former pastor of the University Methodist Church, assisted by the Rev. R. Bascom Watts, pastor of the University Methodist Church. The burial service in Bastrop was conducted by the Masonic lodges of Austin and Bastrop. [*Austin Statesman*, May 16, 1929] His grave at Fairview Cemetery in Bastrop was honored by the Texas Historical Commission with a historical marker in 1979. [*Bastrop Advertiser*, June 11, 1979]

Joseph Draper Sayers was highly respected throughout his life by everyone from presidents and his colleagues in Congress, state government, and the legal profession to his constituents and personal friends. His life of public service spanned five decades bridging two centuries and was important in the transition of Texas from a frontier wilderness to its beginnings as an industrialized state.

SOURCES:

Austin Statesman, Austin, Texas, May 16, 1929.

Bastrop Advertiser, June 11, 1979.

Fitzgerald, Hugh Nugent, *Governors I Have Known*, Austin, TX: The Austin American-Statesman, 1927.

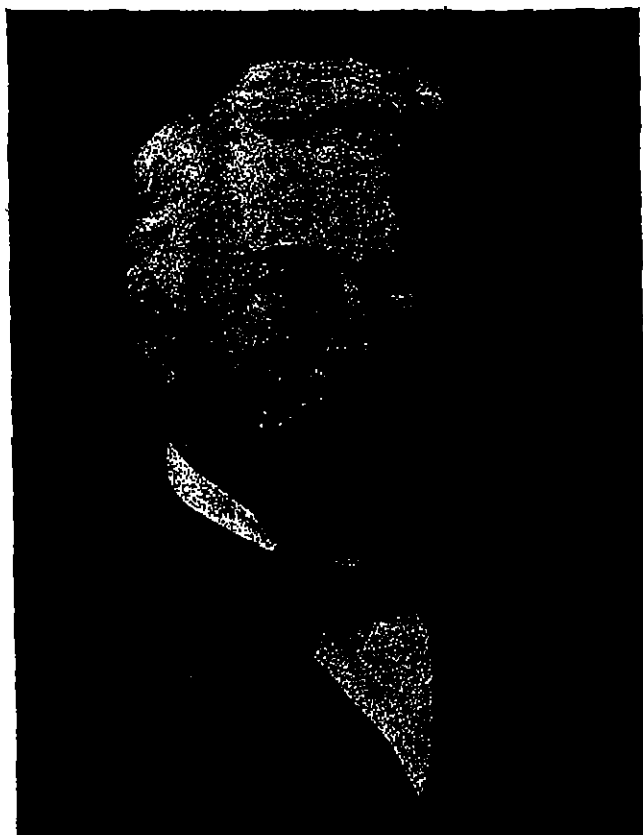
Handbook of Texas Online, "Sayers, Joseph Draper", "Texas Woman's University"
[<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/>]

"Joseph D. Sayers", biographical file, Austin Public Library, Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

"Joseph D. Sayers", vertical file, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

"Joseph D. Sayers", vertical file, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Polk City Directories, Austin, Texas, 1916-1929.



—Portrait by Onderdonk

JOSEPH D. SAYERS

Twenty-third Governor — 1899-1903 (Served two terms)

Birthplace: Mississippi—September 23, 1841.

Public Offices: State Senate, Lieutenant Governor, and member of Congress.

He was a gallant veteran of the Confederacy.

His honored name remains forever a cherished household word in Bastrop where he was long a most useful citizen.

"His noble life and useful career will offer a fitting example for the inspiration and emulation of Texas youths."

Joseph D. Sayers passed away May 15, 1929; buried in Bastrop, Texas.

First and second term: Lieutenant Governor J. N. Browning.

ORLINE WALTON SAYERS, ca.1850-1943

Online Walton was born in Aberdeen, Mississippi, daughter of William F. and Marie A. Walton. Like her future husband, she moved with her family to Bastrop, Texas, as a child, and was living there at the time of her marriage to Joseph D. Sayers in 1879. Her older sister Ada was Sayers' first wife. Ada died in 1871 only three years after they were married. Joseph Sayers married Online Walton on February 19, 1879 in Bastrop by the Rev. Weems Wooten. ["Sayers, Joseph D.", vertical file, Center for American History] They lived in Austin while Sayers served as lieutenant governor under Governor Oran M. Roberts. [Jackson, p. 121]

The couple moved to Washington, D. C. when Sayers was elected to Congress in 1884. Orlene Sayers found a place in Washington social life and developed a close friendship with Frances Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland. When her husband was elected governor of Texas in 1898, "Mrs. Sayers told friends that Mrs. Cleveland had trained her for her position at the [governor's] mansion." [Austin Statesman, Dec. 27, 1943] Known as the "Dolly Madison" of Texas, she was a gracious hostess who held a weekly open house, a custom known as "Tuesdays at home" that was carried on for many years by her successors. During her years as first lady of the state, she entertained two presidents, William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. Online Sayers also undertook, with state permission, a project of refurbishing the mansion and its furnishings, as well as redesigning and overhauling the grounds, the first governor's wife to do so. [ibid.] Online Sayers headed the Austin Relief Society after the 1900 Galveston storm, working tirelessly to alleviate the suffering and devastation. She also was president of the Austin Auxiliary to the Young Men's Christian Association, an organization that was close to her heart, President of the YWCA for many years, member of the Settlement Association, the Humane Society, and the Methodist Church. [Jackson, p. 127; *The Standard Blue Book*, Texas Edition, 1920, p. 150]

On April 6, 1911, Mrs. Sayers was one the founders of the Texas Fine Arts Association the earliest organization to promote art throughout the state, in honor of Elisabet Ney, the Austin sculptor. Ney's Hyde Park studio "Formosa" was the home of the group and the site for the semiannual art shows it sponsored. Joseph D. Sayers was one of the first officers of the organization. [Handbook of Texas Online, "Texas Fine Arts Association"]

After Joseph D. Sayers' death in 1929, Online Walton Sayers continued to live in their home at 709 Rio Grande. She survived her husband by 14 years, passing away on December 26, 1943. [Austin Statesman, December 27, 1943] She always refused to divulge her age, though at the time of her death, her friends believed her to be over the age of 90. She is buried in Fairview Cemetery in Bastrop alongside her husband, as is her sister Ada, Joseph D. Sayers first wife.

SOURCES:

Austin Statesman, Austin, Texas, December 27, 1943.
Handbook of Texas Online, "Texas Fine Arts Association"
[<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/>]
Jackson, Pearl Cashell, *Texas Governors' Wives*, Austin, Tex.: E. L. Steck, Publishers, 1915.
"Sayers, Joseph D.", vertical file, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.
The Standard Blue Book, Texas Edition, Vol. XII, San Antonio, Tex.: A. J. Peeler & Co., 1920.

TEXAS GOVERNORS' WIVES



MRS. SAYERS

ERNEST WALTER JACKSON, 1895-1983

Ernest W. Jackson and wife Harriet Stanford Jackson purchased the house at 709 Rio Grande Street on December 1, 1949, from Vivian Ragsdale, the second owner. The Jacksons lived there until 1958, when they began leasing the house to Tyre D. Jeffrey, president of the Jeffrey Title Company, and his wife Marie Jeffrey. In 1961 the Jacksons sold the property to Mrs. Bessie C. Barnhart, widow of Horace C. Barnhart, Sr., and her son Horace C. Barnhart, Jr. [Deed records; city directories]

Ernest W. Jackson was born August 12, 1895, in Goldthwaite, Mills County, Texas. His education at the University of Texas was interrupted by his two years of service in the army's Rainbow Division during World War I. He later returned to the University, received his law degree, and passed the bar examination in 1932.

In 1919, after the end of the war, Jackson established a school supply business that in 1921 merged with the E. L. Steck Company. In 1932, the year he was admitted to the State Bar of Texas, the Steck Company was incorporated with Jackson as its vice president and general manager, a position he held until 1952 when he became president of the company. In 1957 he was elected chairman of the board.

Jackson sold his interest in the Steck Company in 1962 and embarked upon a banking career. He became chairman of the board of directors of the Austin National Bank and served in this capacity until he retired December 31, 1968. In his retirement, Jackson was a consultant in the areas of industry and finance.

Ernest W. Jackson was a prominent Austin civic leader, serving as a trustee of the Austin school board, including two years as board chairman. After World War II, he led two successful \$10 million bond campaigns that the school district needed to fund its postwar construction program. [*Austin American*, June 16, 1969] For this effort, the National Council of Parent Teacher Association Presidents awarded him their honorary life membership.

He was chairman of the Austin Charter Commission that was appointed to revise the 1909 charter. The commission drew up the current charter that was adopted in 1953.

Jackson was a member and past president of the Austin Rotary Club, a member of the First Methodist Church, a trustee and chairman of the executive committee of Huston-Tillotson College, and a trustee of the Emmanuel Methodist Church.

His professional associations included serving as president of the Lithographers National Association and its board chairman for a number of years. He was also president of the Southwest School of printing for several years, and remained on the board until it was merged with Sam Houston State College.

Although he never practiced law, he continued his membership in the State Bar and in the Travis County Bar Association. [*Austin American*, June 16, 1969]

His wife, Harriet Stanford Jackson, died in 1970, and his 59 year old son, Ernest Walter Jackson III succumbed to cancer in May 1983. [obituary, *Austin American*, Sept. 7, 1970; Texas death index, 1983] Jackson himself died less than two months later on July 5, 1983, at the age of 83. [obituary, *Texas Bar Journal*, Nov. 1983, p. 1339] He was survived by his second wife, LaVerne, whom he married in 1971. [*Austin American-Statesman*, July 7, 1983; state marriage index, 1971]

SOURCES:

Austin American, June 16, 1969, Sept. 7, 1970.
Austin American-Statesman, July 7, 1983.
Polk City Directories, Austin, Texas, 1949-1961
Texas Bar Journal, Nov. 1983.
Texas State Death Index, 1970, 1983.
Texas State Marriage Index, 1971.
Travis County Deed Records, 1949, 1961

CITY OF AUSTIN HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

TEXAS HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM — TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION (rev. 8-82)

1. County Travis TRA
AU 5. USGS Quad No. 3097- 242 Site No. J-22-35
 City/Rural Austin UTM Sector _____
 2. Name _____ 6. Date: Factual _____ Est. 1915
 Address 709 Rio Grande 7. Architect/Builder _____ Contractor _____
 3. Owner _____ 8. Style/Type _____
 Address _____ 9. Original Use _____
 4. Block/Lot _____ Present Use _____
 10. Description 2 story brick residence

11. Present Condition _____
 12. Significance _____

13. Relation to Site: Moved Date _____ or Original Site (describe) _____

14. Bibliography _____ 15. Informant _____
 16. Recorder HHM Date Jan-Mar 84

DESIGNATIONS

TNRIS No. _____ Old THC Code _____
☐ RTHL ☐ HABS (no.) TEX _____
 NR: ☐ Individual ☐ Historic District
☐ Thematic ☐ Multiple-Resource
 NR File Name _____
 Other AHS

PHOTO DATA

B&W 4x5s _____ Slides _____
 35mm Negs. _____

YEAR	DRWR	ROLL	FRME		ROLL	FRME
		2	29	to		
				to		
				to		

Tax Parcel # _____

Original Owner _____

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

	Good	Fair	Poor
Structure	_____	_____	_____
Grounds	_____	_____	_____
Neighborhood	_____	_____	_____

PRESERVATION INDEX:

_____ City Zoning
 _____ 1 Priority Research

COMMENTS:

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Outstanding _____ Excellent _____
 Significant _____ Contributory _____

(Photo)

AUSTIN

.. TEXAS ..

"The City of the Violet Crown"

Her Thriving Industries - Beautiful Homes - Commercial and Public Buildings - Educational and State Institutions - Scenic Views - Additions and Places of Interest and a Statistical Review of Business Resources



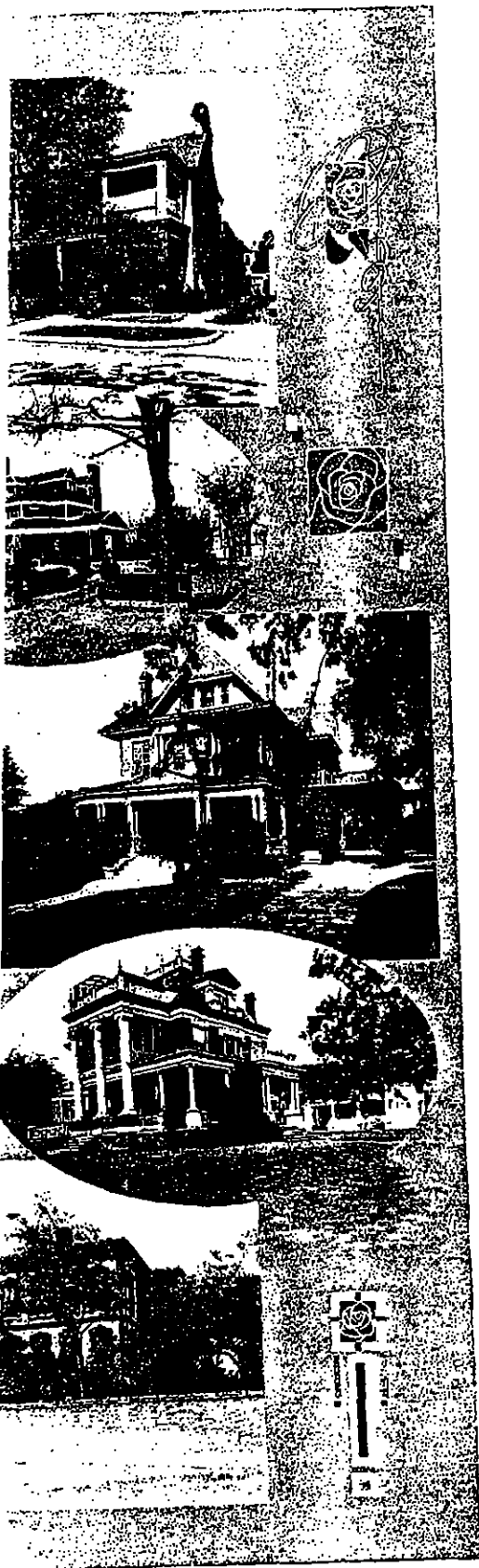
PUBLIC LIBRARY

AUSTIN TEXAS

The Ideal Home City

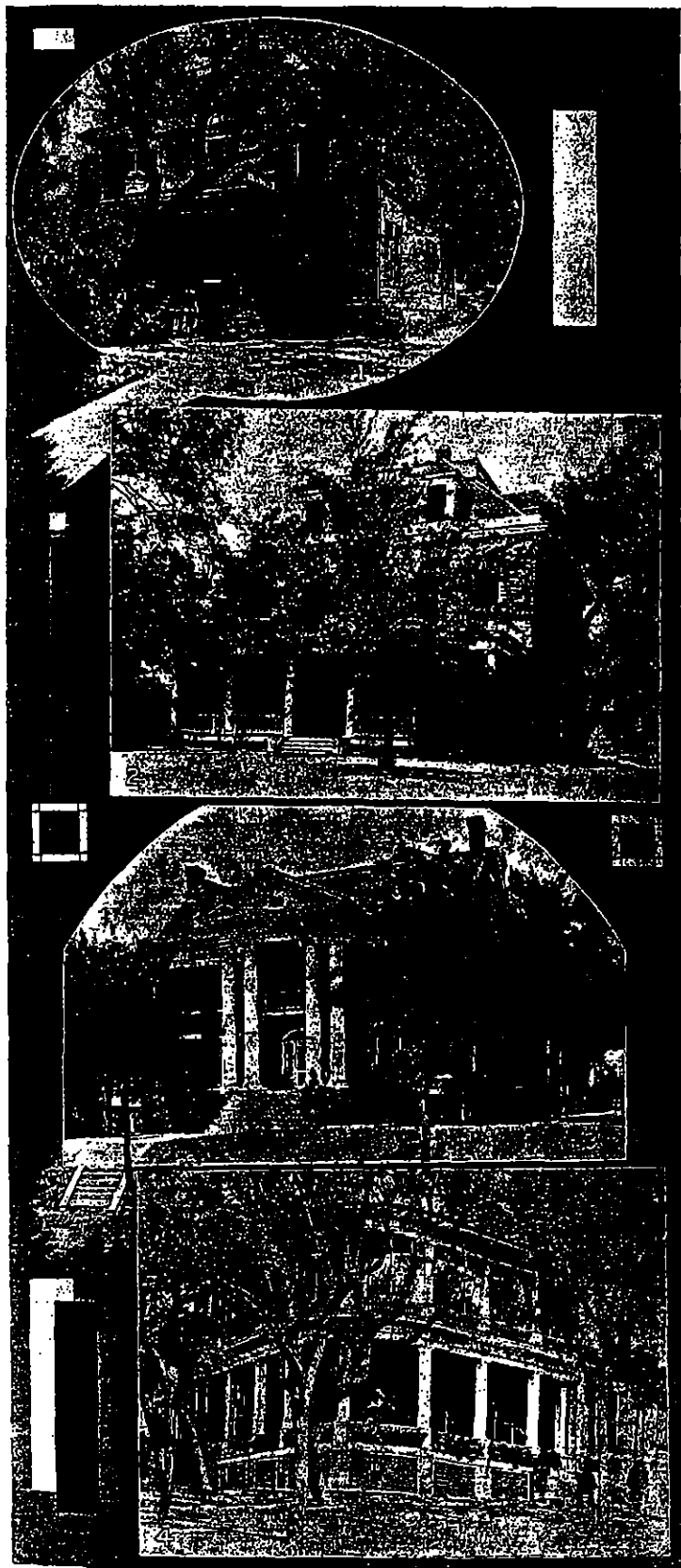
1917

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RESIDENCES

1. Hon. D. F. Houston, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture
 2. Hon. E. M. House, Personal Advisor to President Wilson
 3. Hon. J. H. Sayers, Ex-President Woman's Federated Clubs of America
 4. Hon. J. H. Sayers, United States Attorney General
 5. Hon. J. H. Sayers, United States Postmaster General



RESIDENCES

1. Hon. Joseph D. Sayers, Ex-Governor and Ex-Congressman
2. Hon. Thaddeus A. Thomson, Ex-United States Minister to Colombia, South America
3. H. A. Thomson 900 W. 17
4. R. M. Thomson

701 R. M. Thomson

1802 West Avenue

1508 N. W. Brande

757

**F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology
Deed Research for 709 Rio Grande Street**

Transaction	Vol./Page
S. M. Swenson [original patentee, patent #455] to E. A. Shelden [assignee], lot 7 in block 78, in the City of Austin, December 15, 1851	File #521, Texas Gen'l Land Office
State of Texas to Wm. H. Cushney, lot 8 in block 78, in the City of Austin, patent #338, June 27, 1849	File #356, Texas Gen'l Land Office
R. G. Patton to Hugh Brazelton Carter, north one-half of lots 7 and 8 in block 78 in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas May 23, 1901 \$500	172/209
Hugh Brazelton Carter & wife Mary B. Carter to Joseph D. Sayers, north one-half of lots numbers seven [7] and eight [8] in block number seventy eight [78] November 9, 1903 \$1,250	180/150
Mrs. Joseph D. Sayers, estate, to W. L. Roots & Vivian Ragsdale, the North one-half of Lots Nos. Seven (7) and Eight (8), Block No. Seventy eight (78) in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, together with all improvements situated thereon, less, however, the East 3 1/2 feet of said Lot No. 7 June 2, 1944 \$11,500	741/430
W. L. Roots to Vivian Ragsdale, all of the North one-half [1/2] of Lots Numbers Seven [7] and Eight [8] in Block Number Seventy-eight [78] of the City of Austin, except, however, such part of the North one-half [1/2] of said Lot Number Seven [7] as was recovered in two causes Numbers 13,320 and 13, 201 in the District Court of Travis County, Texas July 19, 1946	821/39
Vivian Ragsdale to E. W. Jackson, Lots Nos. Seven (7) and Eight (8) in Block No. Seventy-eight (78) in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, except the East Three Feet Six and One-half inches (E. 3ft. 6 1/2 in.) of Lot No. Seven (7) December 1, 1949	1020/74
E. W. Jackson, Sr. and wife Harriet Jackson to Bessie Calloway Barnhart & Horace C. Barnhart, Jr., Lots Nos. Seven (7) and Eight (8)	2354/548

in Block No. Seventy-eight (78) in the City of Austin,
Travis County, Texas, except the East Three Feet Six
and One-half inches (E. 3 ft. 6 1/2 in.) of Lot No. Seven (7)
July 28, 1961

Bessie Calloway Barnhart to Helen E. Barnhart
Wiley, All of Lots No. Seven-A (7-A) and Eight-A
(8-A) out of the Resubdivision of Lot Eight (8) and
part of Lot Seven (7) in Block Seventy-eight (78)
out of the original City of Austin, Travis County, Texas
December 23, 1972 4530/362

Helen E. Barnhart Wiley & Pauline C. Barnhart
to Charles E. Brown, Lots 7A and 8A, Block 78,
Resubdivision of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7, Block 78,
Original City of Austin 11807/593
November 4, 1992

Charles E. Brown to Blair F. Fox, Lot 7-A, "resubdivision
of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7, Block 78, Original City of Austin"
September 19, 1994 12274/2639

**F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History
Occupancy Research for 709 Rio Grande Street**

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1906-1907	Jos. D. Sayers Lawyer	Polk City Directory
1909-1910	Jos. D. Sayers Lawyer	Polk City Directory
1912-1913	Jos. D. Sayers Attorney	Polk City Directory
1914	Jos. D. Sayers State Industrial Accident Bd.	Polk City Directory
1916	Jos. D. Sayers State Industrial Accident Bd.	Polk City Directory
1918	J. D. Sayers (Online W.) Lawyer	Polk City Directory
1920	J. D. Sayers (Online W.) Lawyer	Polk City Directory
1922	Jos. D. Sayers (Online W.) Lawyer	Polk City Directory
1924	J. D. Sayers (Online W.) Lawyer	Polk City Directory
1927	J. D. Sayers (Online W.) Lawyer	Polk City Directory
1929	J. D. Sayers (Online W.) Member, State Board of Pardon Advisors	Polk City Directory
1930-1931	Mrs. O. W. Sayers (wid Jos D)	Polk City Directory
1932-1933	Mrs. O. W. Sayers (wid Jos D)	Polk City Directory
1935	Mrs. O. W. Sayers	Polk City Directory
1937	Mrs. O. W. Sayers	Polk City Directory
1939	Mrs. O. W. Sayers	Polk City Directory
1940	Mrs. Online Sayers	Polk City Directory
1941	Mrs. Online W. Sayers	Polk City Directory

1942	Mrs. Orlene W. Sayers	Polk City Directory
1944-1945	vacant	Polk City Directory
1947	Apartments 1 - Mrs. Vivian Ragsdale o[wner] court reporter 2 - Leland S. Everett (Estylene) no occupation listed 3 - Douglas E. Berman (Kath) asst. State Attorney Gen'l	Polk City Directory
1949	Apartments, p. 896 1 - Mrs. Vivian Ragsdale [wid Bailey] court reporter 2 - Maurine E. Willis chief admn. div. Sec. of State 3 - John Brooks student	Polk City Directory
1950	E. W. Jackson [no city directory]	Austin Telephone Directory, 1950
1951	E. W. Jackson [no city directory]	Austin Telephone Directory, 1951
1952	Ernest W. Jackson o[wner] (Harriet) Pres. The Steck Co.	Polk City Directory
1953	Ernest W. Jackson o[wner] (Harriet) Pres. The Steck Co.	Polk City Directory
1954	Ernest W. Jackson o[wner] (Harriet) Pres. The Steck Co.	Polk City Directory
1955	Ernest W. Jackson o[wner] (Harriet) Pres. The Steck Co.	Polk City Directory
1957	Ernest W. Jackson o[wner] (Harriet) Chairman of bd. The Steck Co.	Polk City Directory
1958	T. J. Jeffrey (Mary) no occupation listed	Polk City Directory
1959	Tyre D. Jeffrey (Marie) Pres. Jeffrey Title Co.	Polk City Directory
1960	Tyre D. Jeffrey (Marie) Pres. Jeffrey Title Co.	Polk City Directory
1961	Tyre D. Jeffrey (Marie) Pres. Jeffrey Title Co.	Polk City Directory

1962	Tyre D. Jeffrey Pres. Jeffrey Title Co.	Polk City Directory
1963	vacant	Polk City Directory
1964	vacant	Polk City Directory
1965	[709 Rio Grande not listed; skips from 708 to 800 Rio Grande]	Polk City Directory
1966	[unlisted as above]	Polk City Directory
1967	Polly Travis [no occupation listed]	Polk City Directory
1968	Polly Travis [no occupation listed]	Polk City Directory
1969	A. Ted Stautberg student	Polk City Directory
1970	A. Ted Stautberg student	Polk City Directory
1971	A. Ted Stautberg student	Polk City Directory
1972	vacant	Polk City Directory
1973	John Phillips [no occupation]	Polk City Directory
1974	Stewart Steen student	Polk City Directory
1975	Bradley W. Bayoud student	Polk City Directory
1976	Bradley W. Bayoud student	Polk City Directory
1977	Hill S. Swift student	Polk City Directory
1978	Hill S. Swift student	Polk City Directory
1979	Vacant	Polk City Directory
1980	Ray Hall Advertising & Public Relations Hall, Ray C. & Jan. C.	Polk City Directory

	h. 4004 Edgemont Dr.	
1981	Ray Hall Advertising & Public Relations Hall, Ray C. & Jan. C. h. 4004 Edgemont Dr.	Polk City Directory Edgemont Dr,
1983	Ray Hall Advertising & Public Relations Hall, Ray C. & Jan. C. h. 4004 Edgemont Dr.	Polk City Directory
1984	Roy[sic] Hall Advertising & Public Relations Hall, Ray C. & Mary Anne F. h. 6508 Ladera Norte	Polk City Directory
1985-1986	Sandy L. Kemp, herbalife distributor. 1005 W. Stassney	Polk City Directory
1987	vacant	Polk City Directory
1988-1989	vacant	Polk City Directory
1990	vacant	Polk City Directory
1992	vacant	Austin South Directory
1992-1993	[709 Rio Grande not listed]	Cole Directory for Greater Austin & Vicinity
1993-1994	[709 Rio Grande not listed]	Cole Directory for Greater Austin & Vicinity
1995-	Blair Fox [current owner]	Austin Telephone Directory, 1995-