

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2018-0151

**HLC DATE:**

January 28, 2019

**PC DATE:**

February 26, 2019

**APPLICANT:** Ogee Preservation, LLC.

**HISTORIC NAME:** Cisco's Bakery and Restaurant

**WATERSHED:** Lady Bird Lake

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 3

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 1511 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street

**ZONING FROM:** TOD-NP to TOD-H-NP

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from transit-oriented development, neighborhood plan (TOD-NP) combining district zoning to transit-oriented development – Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (TOD-H-NP) combining district zoning.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

Architecture, Historical Associations, Community Value

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended the proposed zoning change from transit-oriented development, neighborhood plan (TOD-NP) combining district zoning to transit-oriented development, Historic Landmark, neighborhood plan (TOD-H-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 7-0 (Brown, Hibbs, and Tollett absent).

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** Motion to grant Staff's recommendation of TOD-H-NP combining district zoning for C14H-2018-0151 - Cisco's Bakery and Restaurant located at 1511 E. 6th Street was approved on the consent agenda on the motion by Commissioner Seeger, seconded by Commissioner Anderson on a vote of 12-0. Commissioner DeHoyosHart absent.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The building is recommended as a historic landmark by the East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016).

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:** March 28, 2019

**ACTION:**

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

**CASE MANAGER:** Steve Sadowsky

**PHONE:** 974-6454

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:** East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association; Greater East Austin Neighborhood Association.

**BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

**Architecture:**

Two-story, rectangular-plan brick commercial building with a shaped parapet consisting of segmental-arched corner piers with ornamental raised brickwork and a segmental-arched

tablet in the center of the parapet containing “1914”, the date of construction of the building. The second story of the façade is blank; fenestration along the east and west elevations consists of single 1:1 windows, reflecting the use of the second story of the building as rooms or apartments for rent. The storefront has been modified with the construction of a metal-framed plate-glass storefront, mosaic tile on the corner piers, and a projecting front stuccoed frame canopy containing three round arches that was constructed in 1963. There is a one-story frame and stucco addition to the west of the original building, with a blank wall facing 6<sup>th</sup> Street and a modern, glazed metal door; the addition has a mansard parapet. The addition was constructed in 1973.

### **Historical Associations:**

The building was constructed in 1914 by J.B. Pierce and his brother, Ben Pierce, as their meat market. The Pierces had an old barn and pen on this site for their livestock business, and were operating a meat market at this address as early as 1906. Prior to that time, the site was the home of the W.J. Johnson meat market. Johnson was a butcher and had a meat market here according to the city directories of 1898 through 1905. City directories indicate that J.B. Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; his brother Ben lived at 1507 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, both directly to the east of their business property. The upstairs of the building had apartments from the very beginning: the 1916 city directory shows John H. Sheppler, an engineer for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, and Mack C. Galbreath, the proprietor of the East Austin Stock Yard, as tenants upstairs.

James B. Pierce, according to his obituary in the Austin American in 1945, was one of few surviving trail drivers who drove cattle and horses up the old Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas. He was born near Garfield, Texas in eastern Travis County in 1867, but spent most of his life in Austin. When he was only 15 years old, he made his first cattle drive to Kansas, and upon returning to Austin, opened his livestock business and meat market on this site. The Pierce brothers were prominent butchers in Austin; their shop was renowned as the “cleanest in Texas.” The Pierce brothers were in business here until 1933, when Ben Pierce moved his operations to the 100 block of Colorado Street in Leonard East’s Produce Company, which also specialized in chickens, fowl, produce, and pecans.

Both floors of the building are listed as vacant in city directories from 1935 through 1940, although the applicant’s research shows that there was a grocer specializing in pecan sales in the building in the winter of 1933, and the building was the home of the Austin Packing Company in 1936. An undated photograph, but likely from the 1930s, shows the building with the Austin Packing Company signage on the front. The Blue Bonnet Packing Company took over the meat packing business in the building in 1937, offering fresh and cured meats as well as sausage. In the late 1940s, G.C. Carlin operated a grocery business out of this building; he and his wife, Mary lived upstairs. The building housed a series of taverns in the early 1950s – the Little Corner Tavern, then the Las Palmas Bar.



Undated photograph of the building (likely mid-1930s)

In 1955, Rudy Cisneros moved his coffee and doughnut shop from the 1300 block of E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street into this building, and established a bakery and restaurant that would become renowned in Austin as a meeting place for politicians, civic leaders, and other noteworthy people in the state capital, including Lyndon Johnson, John Tower, Jake Pickle, John Connally, Austin mayor Lester Palmer, and others. It has been said that many of the deals made in Texas government occurred in the back room of Cisco's over coffee, biscuits, or a Mexican breakfast of migas or huevos rancheros. Rudy Cisneros was nicknamed the "Mayor of East Austin" and became a leader in East Austin politics. Every political candidate seeking support in East Austin knew to consult with Rudy Cisneros. But Cisco's was far more than a meeting place for politicians and other civic leaders – Rudy Cisneros was devoted to hosting benefits for various local charities, such as the March of Dimes, the Warm Springs Association in Gonzales, Texas, various musical and artistic groups, and the A.B. Cantu Pan-American Center. He was a dedicated philanthropist whose influence in the city, and particularly the east side, was unrivaled in his time. When he passed away in 1995, his son Clovis took over the business, maintaining the old family recipes and famous hospitality.



Rudy Cisneros, ca. 1955

Rudy Cisneros, longtime owner of **Cisco's** Bakery and a legendary Austin figure known for opening his heart and restaurant to the world, died at his home Monday morning after a long illness. Cisneros, who had suffered several strokes, was 71.

At **Cisco's**, 1511 E. Sixth St., Cisneros played host to more than four decades' worth of Austinites, University of Texas students, politicians, tourists and visiting dignitaries of all stripes. And he enjoyed playing host. With his ever-present cigar jammed into his cheek, Cisneros brought a personal touch to his customers. He made strangers welcome and newcomers feel like friends.

``The main thing in life," he once said, ``is friendship. I'm not liberal or conservative. I'm an independent. In the military, I got to know a lot of different kinds of people. I got to know people from different lands. I learned how to treat people like equals." His regular customers soon learned to be treated as equals because Cisneros insulted them, with undisguised glee, equally.

Austin humorist Cactus Pryor has said he stops in at **Cisco's** whenever ``I've tired of officious, polite, insincere people. The staff at **Cisco's** is deliciously the worst in the world. They insult you in a friendly way. I often take my family there after church. Rudy insults them. I often take the preacher, too, and Rudy insults him,

too. Rudy is very democratic in that way." John Cisneros, one of Rudy's sons, said his father compared running the restaurant to raising a puppy dog. ``He said when you bring a puppy dog up, you nurture it and feed it and take care of it. He said always treat yourself and your kids and your business that way," John Cisneros said. Last year, Rudy Cisneros said he was putting his restaurant on the market. But no sale was ever announced, and he continued to operate it.

John Cisneros said Monday he does not know what will happen to the restaurant. Several family members, including John Cisneros, who does the baking, work there.

Rudy Cisneros was 6 months old when his family moved to Austin from Smithville. He quit school in the fourth grade, left home and worked odd jobs in Corpus Christi. He joined the U.S. Cavalry, lying about his age, when he was 15. He served five years in South Texas as a driver and interpreter for senior Army officers. After World War II, he held a number of jobs, including bellhop, bartender and insurance salesman. In 1949, he opened **Cisco's**; has continued to operate at the same location.

On the walls of **Cisco's** are the photographs of only a few of the famous who dined there: Walter Cronkite, the Gatlin Brothers, the actress Amanda Blake, the late U.S. Sen. John Tower, golfer Ben Crenshaw, former Texas House Speaker Gib Lewis, former U.S. Rep. Jake Pickle and President Lyndon B. Johnson. South African Episcopal Bishop Desmond Tutu was there. ``I liked him," Rudy Cisneros said. ``I don't know what he was doing in town. A group of people brought him in, and he was a nice fellow. That was before I made him famous."

Until about five years ago when the long tradition changed, first-time visitors to the restaurant often were confused by the lack of a menu. But, as Cisneros was fond of saying, ``We don't need a menu; we know what we have."

Pickle, who knew Cisneros for 40 years, said, ``Rudy was the unofficial mayor of East Austin. His bakery has been the hangout for politicians and entertainers and musicians and would-be leaders of almost anything. He was the character of East Austin and probably had as many friends scattered over the city and state as any individual. The walls of his restaurant are sort of a measurement of the times and the events and progress made in this city by certain people." And Pryor remembered that Cisneros ``was a very kind man said his father's death, though expected, was still hard to take. ``It's hard to realize what has happened. You figure your parents will live forever."

Cisneros is survived by two other sons, Rudy Cisneros Jr. and Clovis Cisneros, both of Austin; five daughters, Julie Cantu and Ava Cox, both of Austin, Ruth Ann Nance of Blanco, Robbie Smith of Bedford and Alice Cisneros of San Antonio; two stepchildren, Jo Gail Newman of Austin and Joseph Newman of Galveston; a brother, Robert Cisneros Jr. of Austin; two sisters, Alicia Cisneros of Dallas and

Annabelle Casarez of Corpus Christi; 22 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Colonial Chapel, 6100 N. Lamar Blvd. Services are at 10 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Obituary of Rudy Cisneros  
Austin American-Statesman, August 8, 1995

**PARCEL NO.:** 0204061806

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** LOT 6 BLK 3 OLT 4 PLUS 1/2 ADJ VAC ALLEY DIVISION A

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$10,175 (income-producing, no cap). City portion: \$2,840.

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$1,800,000

**PRESENT USE:** Restaurant

**CONDITION:** Excellent

**PRESENT OWNERS:**

1511 East 6<sup>th</sup>, LLC  
4612 Spanish Oaks Club Boulevard, #B  
Austin, Texas 78738

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1914

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** Modifications to storefront, early 1960s; side addition, ca. 1973.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** James B. Pierce and Ben Pierce (1914)

**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** None.














 SUBJECT TRACT  
 PENDING CASE  
 ZONING BOUNDARY

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2018-0151

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.



City of Austin - Historic Preservation Office  
Historic Zoning Application Packet

**F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology**

**Deed Research for (fill in address)** 1511 E 6th Street

*List Deeds chronologically, beginning with earliest transaction first and proceeding through present ownership. The first transaction listed should date at least back to when the original builder of any historic structures on the site first acquired the property (i.e., should pre-date the construction of any buildings/structures on the site). Please use the format delineated below.*

*For each transaction please include: name of Grantor/Grantee, date of transaction, legal description involved, price, and volume/page number of deed records. If there is a mechanic's lien please copy the entire document.*

Transaction	Vol./Page
August Zander (Mary) to JB & BC Pierce, Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A July 1, 1907 \$2,300	Vol. 215, p. 588
JB Pierce (Hattie) to BC Pierce (Mabel Iva) Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A March 15, 1927 \$10,000	Vol. 399, p.254
BC Pierce et al to Rep. Bank of Trust Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A April 4, 1934 \$1	Vol. 502, p.103
Rep. Bank and Trust Co. to R.E. Stevenson Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A August 3, 1934 \$5,250	Vol. 506, p.624
R.E. Stevenson to E.G. Kingsbery (Ora Nell) Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A December 19, 1942 \$10 + \$5,800 owed to John W Kearns dated 7/22/1939	Vol. 709, p.292
E.G. Kingsbery to B.D. Gilliland Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A May 31, 1945 \$8,010	Vol. 764 , p.410

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City of Austin - Historic Preservation Office  
Historic Zoning Application Packet

**F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology**

Transaction	Vol./Page
Sol Ginsburgh & Max Silberstein to Rudolph Cisneros (Elma) Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A March 5, 1962 \$10 + \$15,460.25 owed to Fred C Morse dated 3/5/1958	Vol. 2417, p.230
Rudolph Cisneros to Ivan R. Williams Jr Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A December 8, 1967 \$10 + \$13,411.45 owed to First Fed Savings and Loan dated 3/9/62	Vol. 3392, p.595
Ivan R. Williams Jr to Rudolph Cisneros, Warranty Deed Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A March 5, 1980 \$10 + \$13,411.43 owed to First Federal Savings and Loan dated March 9, 1962	Vol. 6892, p.724
Rudolph Cisneros to Cisco Bakery Inc, Warranty Deed Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A April 30, 1980	Vol. 7012, p.332
Rudolph Cisneros to Cisco Bakery Inc, Warranty Deed Correction Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A August 30, 1990	Vol. 11116, p.988
Cisco Bakery Inc to 1511 E 6th LLC, Special Warranty Deed Lot 6, Block 3, Outlot 4, Plus 1/2 Adj Vac Alley, Div A September 25, 2017	Deed #2017154450

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City of Austin - Historic Preservation Office  
**Historic Zoning Application Packet**

**F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History**

**Occupancy Research for** \_\_\_\_\_ **1511 E 6th Street**

*Using City Directories available at the Austin History Center or other information available, please provide a chronology of all occupants of the property from its construction to the present. For commercial property, please provide residential information on business owner as well.*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Occupant Name and Reference</b>	<b>Source</b>
1914-1933	Pierce J B & Bro Meats, City Directories ADD OWNER INFO	City Directories
1935-1942	Vacant	City Directories
1944-5	Jas Caffma	City Directories
1947-1949	Carlin	City Directories
1952	Little Corner Tavern Beer ADD OWNER INFO	City Directories
1953	Vacant	City Directories
1954	Los Palmas Bar ADD OWNER INFO	City Directories
1955-1987	Cisco Bakery & Coffee Shop Rudolph Cisneros, ADD ADDRESS	City Directories
1988-1994	Cisco Restaurant & Bakery; Cisco's Liars Club Rudolph Cisneros, ADD ADDRESS	City Directories
1995 -2016	Cisco's Restaurant & Bakery Clovis Cisneros	City Directories
2017	Cisco's Restaurant Bakery & Bar Bryan J Schneider,	Deed

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# A Clean Bill of Health

At the invitation of J. B. Pierce & Bro., local butchers, the Mayor and Dr. T. J. Bennett, chairman of the Board of Health, and Dr. E. J. Swift, municipal house inspector, paid a visit to their killing pen near the city and found the whole plant in EXCELLENT CONDITION.

Dr. Swift in his report had named the Pierce plant as one of three exceptions to the existing rule, but the report of the Board of Health had made no exception a circumstance in which the Messrs. Pierce thought an injustice had been done there. Dr. Bennett agreed that there was no occasion for criticism of the Pierce outfit—From Austin Statesman, March 30, 1912.

## Our Abattoir Has

Running Water,  
Perfect Sewerage,  
Concrete Floors,  
Sanitary Wallscotings,  
Approved Equipment,  
Screens, Ventilation,  
Sunshine.

## Our Feeding Pens

Are constructed and equipped and designed for best results and contain at all times only prime, wholesome livestock. We make animal feed contracts.

## Our Market

Distributes the best and choicest products that industry and expert attention can produce.

## References

OUR CUSTOMERS

# J. B. PIERCE & BRO.

1511 East Sixth Street

Both Phones

Advertisement in the Austin newspaper, March 31, 1912

## BUILDING PERMITS.

C. A. Herzog, 1300 East First Street,  
one and a half story wood dwelling;  
\$2500.

J. B. Pierce & Bro., 1511 East Sixth  
Street, two-story residence and mar-  
ket combined. \$4500.

Notice of the construction of the building, February 10, 1914

# J. B. PIERCE & BROTHER

Dealer in

CHOICE BEEF, PORK, MUTTON,  
VEAL, LARD AND  
SAUSAGE.

Terms Cash. 1511 E. 6th St.

Old Phone 1550.

New Phone 988.

Advertisement for J.B. Pierce and Brother meat market  
Austin Daily Statesman, October 14, 1914

ANNOUNCING  
THE OPENING OF  
AUSTIN  
PACKING COMPANY

1511 EAST SIXTH STREET

●  
Fresh Meats

●  
Cured Meats

●  
Sausages  
●



Delivered Anywhere in the City

The Austin Packing Company is Austin's newest meat packing house. Equipped to supply the Citizens of Austin and vicinity with all kinds of fresh meats, cured meats and a complete line of fine sausages.

We invite you to try our products.

PHONE 2-6021

**Austin Packing Company**

1511 EAST SIXTH STREET

Advertisement for the Austin Packing Company  
Austin American, May 1, 1936



# **Blue Bonnet Packing Co.**

**1511 EAST SIXTH STREET**

**(In Old Pearce Market Building)**

**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL**

**Ready to Serve You With  
FRESH AND CURED MEATS**

**HOME-MADE SAUSAGES  
AND LUNCH MEATS**

Phone 9657

Free Delivery

Phone 9657

**HOME OWNED**

**C. L. TAYLOR, Prop.**

Advertisement for the Blue Bonnet Packing Company  
Austin American, May 22, 1937

Narrative— Cisco's Restaurant Bakery & Bar  
1511 E 6<sup>th</sup> St, Austin, Texas

**Summary**

Cisco's Restaurant Bakery & Bar is a two-story commercial structure located at 1511 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Built in 1914, the Restaurant has been a prominent feature of the landscape of East 6<sup>th</sup> Street for over 100 years. Originally Pierce J B & Bro Meat Company and now Cisco's Restaurant, the property has served East 6<sup>th</sup> Street in numerous capacities – including briefly as a packaging company, grocery store, and tavern.

Over the years, 1511 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street has retained a high degree of integrity, and the building today appears much as it would have when it was built in 1914. It clearly conveys its significance, and has not been significantly compromised by additions or alterations. 1511 E 6<sup>th</sup> is significant as a Historic Austin Landmark due to its Historical Association with Rudy Cisneros, an Austin philanthropist, businessman, and Cisco's original owner; and its Community Value as a significant activity hub of the East Austin community, and Austinites in general. Its period of significance spans from 1914, when it was built, to 1968 per National Register guidelines.

**History of the Building**

1511 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street is located at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Comal Streets in East Austin. It was built in 1914, and originally was a two-story, two-part commercial block building. Its primary building material is brick, and a shaped parapet with an inscribed date are the most significant character defining features of the property.

J.B. Pierce & Bro obtained a building permit for the property on February 10, 1914.<sup>1</sup> The \$4,500 permit issued was for a "two-story residence and market combined".<sup>2</sup> The new building replaced their barn that had burned down on the site in 1899.<sup>3</sup>

The building is entered from East 6<sup>th</sup> street, and the storefront is comprised primarily of glass windows with a fully-glazed, aluminum-frame door. Mosaic tile along the storefront level and three arching awnings were added circa 1960, and do not significantly impact the integrity of the storefront. By 1962, a one-story rectangular addition was constructed on the lot immediately west of Cisco's.<sup>4</sup> The addition is built around the stairway to the second floor, with the stairway entrance fronting 6th Street.

Six offices line a single-loaded corridor on the second floor, though historical occupant details are sparse. The six rooms on the second floor have always served as rental units, and were available to rent as soon as the building was completed.<sup>5</sup> Initially, the entire floor was rented

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<sup>1</sup> "Building Permits", *Austin American-Statesman*, February 10, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> "Last Night's Fire", *Austin American-Statesman*, February 4, 1899.

<sup>4</sup> Sanborn Map Company. Austin, Travis County, Texas, 1962. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps"

<sup>5</sup> "For Rent", *Austin American-Statesman*, May 29, 1914.

out as six separate rooms; later, it was split into two 3-room apartments. Currently, the second floor serves as office space.

### Summary of Use

Originally, 1511 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street was built to house the J B Pierce & Brother Meat Company with on-site cold storage.<sup>6</sup> Prior to the construction of the subject building, the Pierce company had a barn and killing pen on site. While the barn burned down in 1899, the site was actively used by the Pierce company throughout the early 1900s, prior to the construction of the subject building.<sup>7</sup> JB Pierce & Brother sold a variety of meats to their Austin customers – including beef, pork, mutton, veal, lard, and sausage.<sup>8</sup> They also carried specialty products, such as Christmas Baby Beef.<sup>9</sup> The Pierce Company and the building at 1511 E 6th was particularly well known due to their distinction of being the ‘cleanest market in Texas’.<sup>10</sup>

J B Pierce & Brother used the building at 1511 E 6th to serve the Austin community from 1914 through 1933. In November of 1933, Ben C. Pierce began to operate his meat market out of the new L. East Produce Company market, located at 103-105 Colorado Street.<sup>11</sup> With Pierce no longer occupying the premises, Hugh’s Orchards, a grocer specializing in pecan sales, began operating out of 1511 by December of 1933.<sup>12</sup>

Hugh’s Orchards occupied the building only briefly, and in 1935 the retail space was on the Business Rental Bulletin - with the rental price listed as \$75.<sup>13</sup> In 1936, the Austin Packing Company moved into the space.<sup>14</sup> The official opening of the Austin Packing Company was on May 1, 1936.<sup>15</sup> The company served as a meat packing house, and carried fresh meats, cured meats, and sausage. However, as soon as 1937, the Austin Packing Company was no longer at the property, and had been replaced by the Blue Bonnet Packing Company.<sup>16</sup> Blue Bonnet Packing Company, like the Austin Packing Company, served “fresh and cured meats... homemade sausages and lunch meats”.<sup>17</sup>

During the 1940s and 1950s, the property had numerous uses, and was also often vacant. In 1944-5, G-C Grocery operated out of the building.<sup>18</sup> In 1952, Little Corner Tavern occupied the

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<sup>6</sup> Also referred to as Pierce J B & Bro Meats

<sup>7</sup> “Last Night’s Fire”, *Austin American-Statesman*, February 4, 1899.

<sup>8</sup> “J B Pierce & Brother”, *The Austin American*, October 14, 1914.

<sup>9</sup> “Christmas Baby Beef”, *The Austin American*, December 21, 1919.

<sup>10</sup> “The Baby Beef will be Slaughtered Today”, *Austin American-Statesman*, December 20, 1914.

<sup>11</sup> “L East Produce Company Ready to Supply Trade”, *The Austin American*, November 20, 1933.

<sup>12</sup> “Pecans”, *The Austin American*, December 6, 1933.

<sup>13</sup> “Rental Bulletin”, *The Austin American*, February 17, 1935.

<sup>14</sup> “Attention Farmers!!”, *The Austin American*, April 5, 1936.

<sup>15</sup> “Announcing the Opening of Austin Packing Company”, *The Austin American*, May 1, 1936.

<sup>16</sup> “Blue Bonnet Packing Company”, *The Austin American*, May 22, 1937.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> *The Austin American*, August 15, 1945, p 11.

building.<sup>19</sup> And, by 1954, the property was Los Palmas Bar.<sup>20</sup> A listing from March of 1954 listed the entire property - the store as well as seven rooms upstairs - for rent for \$175.<sup>21</sup>

1955 saw 1511 E 6<sup>th</sup> begin to function as Cisco's Restaurant. Initially, Cisco's operated out of 1313 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street; the original business, called Cisco Donut Shop, opened 1949.<sup>22</sup> In 1955, owner Rudolph Cisneros (Cisco) moved the Donut Shop just two blocks down the street to open the larger Cisco Bakery & Coffee Shop at 1511 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>23</sup> While originally Cisco's just served coffee, customer demand and staff ability lent to the expansion of products that Cisco's offered. Cisco's was a bakery and coffee shop through the 1980s, and began to operate as a restaurant by name in 1988 - though it had offered food for many years prior to 1988.

Cisco's has continued to serve the East Austin population into the present, and is still a vibrant restaurant, bakery, and bar; the second floor still serves as rental space. Rudy Cisneros passed away in 1995 and, at that time, the restaurant was taken over by his son, Clovis Cisneros. Currently, it is run by a group of four owners - one of whom is Matthew Cisneros, Rudy's grandson. The building has experienced few major changes throughout the year, has a high level of integrity, and clearly conveys its significance.

#### **Historical Association with Rudolph Cisneros**

1511 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street is especially significant for its historical association with Rudolph (Rudy, "Cisco") Cisneros. Cisneros opened Cisco's Bakery, then called Cisco Donut Shop, in 1949 at a location just down the street - at 1313 E 6<sup>th</sup>. In 1955, he moved the bakery to its present location at 1511, and almost immediately began to develop a name for himself as a philanthropist and political activist. The property has a long-standing and significant association with Cisneros, who greatly contributed to the city of Austin and its residents.

In 1958, Cisneros began what would be a long history of fundraising and donation at Cisco's. He took the proceeds from three months of Wednesday coffee sales (\$185), and donated it to Gonzalez Warm Springs Association - the Texas Rehabilitation Center.<sup>24</sup> In 1949, Cisneros began the first of many benefit days for the March of Dimes. All coffee sales at Cisco's on "Coffee Days", as well as anything extra patrons wanted to donate, went to the March of Dimes.<sup>25</sup> Cisco's wasn't the only restaurant collecting donations for March of Dimes through "Coffee Days", but it was significant as it was the first cafe in Austin to do so.<sup>26</sup>

In 1964, Cisneros began a new fundraiser; this time, he collected for the family of a University of Texas employee who was murdered that March.<sup>27</sup> The fundraiser was organized through the

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<sup>19</sup> City Directory, 1952.

<sup>20</sup> City Directory, 1954.

<sup>21</sup> "Mercantile", *The Austin American*, March 28, 1954.

<sup>22</sup> City directory, 1949

<sup>23</sup> City Directory, 1955.

<sup>24</sup> "Two Firms Aid Drive for Center", *The Austin American*, Nov 9, 1958, p 38.

<sup>25</sup> "Java Break to Benefit MOD Push", *The Austin American*, January 7, 1960, p 15.

<sup>26</sup> "Lions Club Adds \$400 for MOD", *The Austin American*, January 20, 1961, p 28.

<sup>27</sup> "Fund Started for Cantus", *The Austin American*, April 9, 1964, p 25.



Lions Club, of which Cisneros was a member, and he served as Chairman of the fundraising committee.<sup>28</sup> Cisneros held a "Coffee Day" for Cantus' family to kick off the fundraiser.<sup>29</sup> Also in April of 1964, Cisco's held a benefit breakfast for another organization - the Pan American Recreation Center.<sup>30</sup> This fundraiser raised \$250 for the local organization.<sup>31</sup>

Cisneros organized another fundraising breakfast, this one in August 1965, in collaboration with the Lions Club. The August 1965 breakfast would provide financial support to teens who wanted to participate in the Attorney General's Youth Conference on Crime.<sup>32</sup>

Cisneros also held benefits for artistic and musical causes. For example, in 1966, Cisneros held a benefit for the Johnson High School Choir, JHS drama students, and McCallum High School string students.<sup>33</sup> The high school students, along with a group of 25 adults, were travelling to Mexico to perform a five-day concert tour.<sup>34</sup> Cisneros' breakfast was organized to help support the group financially.

Aside from strictly raising funds for charitable and needy organizations, Cisneros also organized benefits to honor both individuals and organizations. Cisneros himself was honored in 1971. U.S. Rep Jake Pickle presented Cisneros with a plaque "for his many contributions to the community".<sup>35</sup> A newspaper article covering the event stated that Cisneros "has been active for many years in civic and charitable projects in the city [... and] is a member of the Austin Bergstrom Air Force Base Community Council".<sup>36</sup>

Through his history of fundraising, benefits, and supporting the local community, Rudolph Cisneros made a significant impact on Austin. Cisneros' importance, and his historical association with the building, exceeds the City of Austin historic landmark criteria in the field of Historical Association.

### **Community Value**

Since the early 1900s, 1511 E 6th has served as a significant location for the East Austin community, and Austinites in general. The location of the property and its use as a meeting spot for politicians and educators garnered it particular significance for the neighborhood and the city. It significantly impacted the cultural identity of East Austin, and has a high degree of community value.

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> "Pan-Am Benefit", *The Austin American*, April 28, 1964, p 5.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

<sup>32</sup> "Lions Aid to Youth Meet Set", *The Austin American*, August 7, 1965, p 11.

<sup>33</sup> "Musical Ambassador", *The Austin American*, May 31, 1966, p 19.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> "Cisneros Honored", *The Austin American*, February 27, 1971, p 6.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

Community members began gathering at the subject building shortly after it was built, in 1914. While the building served as Pierce's Meats, classes on dietetics were held at the property.<sup>37</sup> The YWCA of Austin held an educational 'meat demonstration' and lesson on dietetics at the subject building on March 19, 1919.<sup>38</sup>

When the property became Cisco's in 1955 it became an even more prominent location for gathering. Public education programs were still held at the property, though the type of meetings transitioned more towards the political sphere. One such affair was held in October of 1964; Rudolph Cisneros held a breakfast to honor Congressman J.J. Pickle.<sup>39</sup> It was a tradition for Cisneros to hold a breakfast every year for 'the 10th district's representative in Congress'.<sup>40</sup> Many city, county, and state officials attended the breakfasts.<sup>41</sup>

However, not all of the breakfasts at the property were associated with politics. In March of 1964, Cisneros held a breakfast for Manuel Navarro, the National Golden Gloves Boxing Champion.<sup>42</sup> The Mayor, Lester Palmer, attended the breakfast, along with other city and recreational facility officials.

Other breakfasts were held at Cisco's over the years to honor numerous individuals and organizations, such as City Council, the Bergstrom Air Force Base, and the Attorney General. In 1966, Cisneros hosted a breakfast that honored the officers of Bergstrom Air Force Base.<sup>43</sup> Many important BAFB officials were present, including the Mayor, civic leaders, the city aviation director, 20 base officers, and state and federal leaders.<sup>44</sup> Later in 1966, Cisneros held another benefit breakfast. The breakfast, held in October, honored then Attorney General of Texas, Waggoner Carr.

Aside from a space only for honorary breakfasts, Cisco's was also a place for general gathering and sharing of community information. A 1-story rectangular addition was built on the west elevation of Cisco's in the 1960s and it served as the home of what would come to be called "Cisco's Liars Club". In a 1965 newspaper, an article stated:

*"At any time of afternoon or evening, you can find gathered in the back room all sorts of interesting people from all walks of life. And the conversation is always stimulating, be it on politics or porcupines. Owner RUDY CISNEROS is highly selective about his back room participants, but once you're in you're in it's like no other scene you've ever seen. Viva Cisco's"*<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> "The Austin Y.W.C.A...", *The Austin American*, March 19, 1919, p 4.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

<sup>39</sup> "Breakfast to Honor Rep Pickle", *The Austin American*, Oct 6, 1964, p 10.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid

<sup>41</sup> Ibid

<sup>42</sup> "Breakfast for the Champ", *The Austin American*, March 8, 1964, p 60.

<sup>43</sup> "Cisneros Plans Fete for BAFB", *The Austin American*, April 20, 1966, p 27.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid

<sup>45</sup> "Believe it or not...", *The Austin American*, November 20, 1965, p 27.

In 1968, The Austin American wrote an article about the Govalle Gardenia Club - referred to as an "exclusive, elite, silk stocking, uppity uppity" Club.<sup>46</sup> The group met weekly, on Wednesday afternoons, in the back room of Cisco's, and had no association with gardening. Rather, the group, comprised of "influential newsmen, leading civic leaders, prominent businessmen, well known public officials, high military brass, television personalities, movie stars, politicians, and other people like that", according to Cisneros, gathered to talk about anything and everything one of the members wanted to bring to the table. The "undemocratic group" gathered, ate steak (for \$1, a special on Wednesdays), and had "half-baked conversations". However, what was never allowed were speeches by political candidates seeking votes.

From gathering for public education classes, to honoring athletes and businessman, to serving as the converging point for Austin's best, Cisco's, and the subject building in general, has been a prominent location from 1955 (and earlier) and into the present. Its status as the gathering place for East Austinites, and members of the city generally, has given it a significant amount of value within its community, and it is an important Austin landmark.

Due to its Historical Association with Rudy Cisneros, and its Community Value as a neighborhood hub and the hand it played in shaping the cultural identity of East Austin, Cisco's is an important Austin Landmark. It has retained a high degree of integrity, and the building appears close to how it would have when it was built in 1914. It clearly conveys its significance, and has not been significantly compromised by additions or alterations. Throughout its long history, Cisco's has been a valuable aspect of East Austin, and through its landmark status and continued use as an establishment in the community, it will continue to impact the community for years to come.

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<sup>46</sup> "No Stump - Head Gardenia Shocked at Reported Politicking", *The Austin American*, October 2, 1968, p 6.

1511 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
ca. 1914



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1511 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street

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

1987	Cisco Bakery and Coffee Shop Rudolph P. Cisneros, proprietor
1977	Cisco Bakery and Coffee Shop Rudolph P. Cisneros, proprietor
1967	Cisco Bakery and Coffee Shop Rudolph P. Cisneros, proprietor
1957	Cisco Bakery and Coffee Shop Rudolph P. Cisneros, proprietor
1947	G.C. Carlin, groceries NOTE: G.C. And Mary Carlin lived on the premises.
	½: Max and Dorothy Leighty, renters Max: U.S. Army Dorothy: Dental assistant, Robert H. Dixon
1940	Vacant



	<p>½: Vacant</p>
1937	<p>Vacant</p> <p>½: Vacant</p>
1935	<p>Vacant</p> <p>½: Vacant</p>
1932-33	<p>James B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors</p> <p>NOTE: James B. and Hattie Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.</p> <p>½: Patrick M. and Estelle Williams, renters</p> <p>Plant foreman, Dr. Pepper Bottling Company, 607 Red River Street.</p>
1930-31	<p>James B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors</p> <p>NOTE: James B. and Hattie Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street</p> <p>½: Patrick M. and Lucy Williams, renters</p> <p>Plant foreman, Dr. Pepper Bottling Company, 607 Red River Street</p>
1929	<p>James B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors</p> <p>NOTE: James B. and Hattie Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.</p> <p>½: Edward and Ola Outlaw, renters</p> <p>Proprietor, Round Top Garage, 1818 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street</p>
1927	<p>J.B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors</p> <p>NOTE: James B. and Hattie Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street</p> <p>½: Vacant</p>
1924	<p>J.B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors</p> <p>NOTE: James B. and Hattie Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.</p> <p>½: Charles T. and Bertha Bustin, renters</p> <p>Salesman, B.E. Pierce Motor Company, 204-06 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>
1922	<p>James B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors</p> <p>NOTE: James B. and Hattie Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; Benjamin C. Pierce lived at 1507 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street</p> <p>½: Mayme Weatherford, renter</p> <p>No occupation listed</p>
1920	<p>James B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin S. Pierce, proprietors</p> <p>NOTE: James B. and Hattie Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; Benjamin C. Pierce lived at 1507 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.</p> <p>½: Ida M. Weatherford, renter</p> <p>Widow, B.L. Weatherford</p> <p>No occupation listed</p>
1918	<p>James B. Pierce and Brother, meats</p> <p>James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors</p>

NOTE: James B. Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; Benjamin Pierce lived at 1507 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

½: Mack C. and Mary Galbreath, renters  
Proprietor (with William M. Stephenson), East Austin Stock Yards, 2715 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street

John H. Sheppler, renter  
Engineer, Houston and Texas Central Railroad

1916 J.B. Pierce & Bro., meats  
NOTE: James B. Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; Benjamin Pierce lived at 1507 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Mack C. Galbreath  
Proprietor (with William M. Stephenson), East Austin Stock Yard, 2715 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street

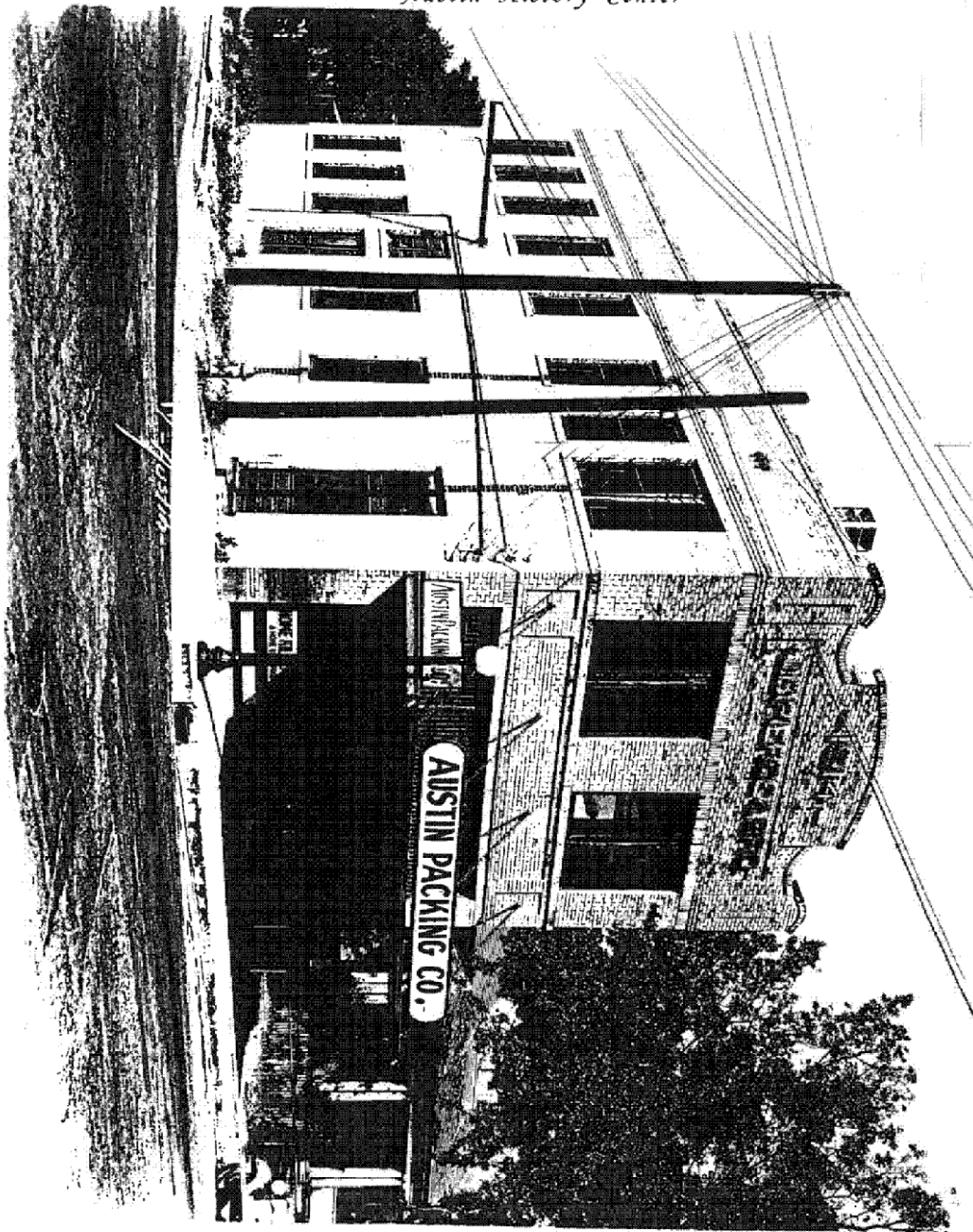
John H. Sheppler  
Engineer, Houston and Texas Central Railroad  
NOTE: The directory indicates that John H. Sheppler occupied the second floor of the building

1914 J.B. Pierce and Brother, meats  
James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce, proprietors  
NOTE: James B. Pierce lived at 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street; Benjamin Pierce lived at 1507 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street

NOTE: The building was built in 1914. James B. and Benjamin C. Pierce had a meat market at this address as early as 1906; prior to that time, the address was the home of the W.J. Johnson meat market (noted as being at the corner of Comal Street) Johnson was a butcher and had a meat market here according to the city directories of 1898 through 1905.

*Austin History Center*

ITD- 6000 C. 1211  
See also:  
AT- MEAT INDUSTRY & TRADE M2600  
C05417



DO NOT REMOVE THIS COPY

Undated photograph of the building, but likely late 1930s

# Funeral Scheduled Today For James B. Pierce, 77, Old Time Cattle Trail Driver

Funeral services for James Byron Pierce, 77, who died Monday in a local hospital, will be held Tuesday at 4 p. m. at the Cook Funeral home with Dr. W. R. White officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood cemetery under the auspices of the IOOF lodge.

Pierce was one of few surviving trail drivers who more than half a century ago drove cattle and horses up the old Chisholm trail to Abilene, Kan. for market. In his later years he served as a member of the Austin police force, as a deputy sheriff, and as a court bailiff. With his brother, Ben C. Pierce, he engaged in the livestock business for more than a half century and the two brothers conducted the Pierce meat market on East Sixth street.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Hattie Ann Pierce of Austin; one son, Ben E. Pierce, Austin life underwriter; two brothers, Ben C. Pierce of Austin and George W. Pierce of Massachusetts.

Pierce was a member of the IOOF, Woodmen of the World and Elks lodge.

Pierce was born Nov. 17, 1867, near Garfield, in Travis county 14 miles east of Austin, but spent most of his life in Austin.

When only 15 years of age he made his first trip up the cattle trail to Kansas, helping to wrangle a herd of 2,000 horses and mules which his father, the late George Pierce, and Aaron Pumphrey had bought from a livestock firm known as Bryant and Reed.

He made a second jaunt with some cowhands in 1886 starting out from Taylor with 18 herds of cattle totaling 66,000 head, belonging to Blocker, Davis and Driskill. Part of them were driven to Pueblo, Colo., where 2,100 head were sold to a syndicate. Due to difficulty in finding market for some of the other cattle, half of them froze to death, Pierce related on one occasion.

Despite that setback, Pierce, with his brother, Ben Pierce, continued to engage in the livestock business during the intervening years of his life.

He returned to Texas after the 1886 drive and married Miss Hattie Ann Outlaw of Bastrop county Nov. 14, 1888.

## Taylor Returns To Law Practice

Lt. Col. Q. C. Taylor, chief of the legal division, state selective service headquarters for Texas, Monday returned to his law office in the Newwood building to take up where he left off five years ago in the private practice of law. He is a member of the firm of White, Taylor and Chandler of Austin.

Accompanied by Mrs. Taylor, Col. Taylor Saturday went to Fort Sam Houston, where he obtained the cherished terminal leave and separation from the service that started when the Texas national guard was federalized in the fall of 1940.

Coincidentally, his son, Capt. Kerns Taylor, an officer in the quartermaster corps, was recently released from service after a five-year tour of duty, most of which was in the Canal Zone. He is now working part time as a clerical assistant in the district clerk's office while attending the University of Texas. He plans to join his father in the practice of law, when he completes his law work at the university.

Col. Taylor and his family are making their home on the Taylor ranch west of Austin on the Burnet highway.

Upon Col. Taylor's request to be released from active duty, Gen. J. Watt Page, state selective service director, in writing to Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, national director, paid tribute to Col. Taylor's five years of work with selective service headquarters.

## 'Under Cover' Suit Jury Chosen

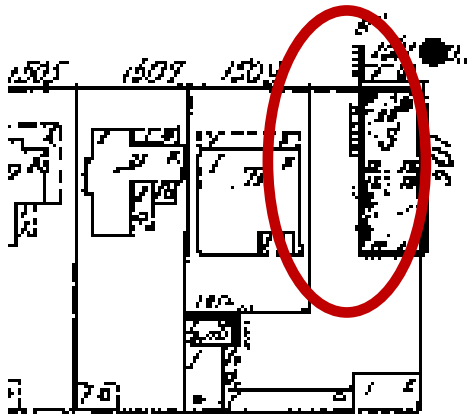
Obituary of James B. Pierce  
Austin American, November 6, 1945

OWNER Rudolph Cisneros ADDRESS 1511 East 6th St  
 PLAT 27 LOT 6 BLK 3 DIV \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUBDIVISION Unplotted  
 OCCUPANCY Canopy  
 BLD PERMIT # 89147 DATE 8-26-63 OWNERS ESTIMATE 1,000.00  
 CONTRACTOR Alvino Mendoza NO. OF FIXTURES \_\_\_\_\_  
 WATER TAP REC # \_\_\_\_\_ SEWER TAP REC # \_\_\_\_\_  
 CANOPY  
Frame and stucco addn to comm bldg. Not to be supported  
on public property, min. height to bottom is 9', will be  
extended over city prop.

Building permit to Rudolph Cisneros to construct an addition (1963)

OWNER Rudy Cisneros ADDRESS 1511 East 6th St.  
 PLAT 27 LOT 6 BLK 3  
 SUBDIVISION R. H. Peck  
 OCCUPANCY Dinning Area  
 BLD PERMIT # 136345 DATE 5-22-73 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$5,000.00  
 CONTRACTOR Owner NO. OF FIXTURES see plans  
 WATER TAP REC # exist SEWER TAP REC # exist  
mas addn to exist. comm. bldg. - one sty.

Building permit to Rudy Cisneros to construct a one-story masonry addition (1973)



The 1922 Sanborn map shows the building along with the homes of James B. Pierce and Ben Pierce at 1507 and 1509 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The Pierce brothers had their meat market in this building from 1914 until 1933.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the building designated as a restaurant at the top right corner of the map. The homes of the Pierce brothers have been replaced with commercial buildings.