

## Historical background of 414 Waller Street (Pine Street Station)

City of Austin Historic Preservation Office, October, 2014

The building at 414 Waller Street dates from around 1925, and was constructed by the Humble Oil and Refining Company as their main facility in Austin. The original building, as shown on the 1935 Sanborn map, was at the corner, and corresponds to what is now the long row of connected buildings extending west along the 1100 block of E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

At the time the Humble facility was built, there were a number of oil and gas facilities along this section of the what was then the Houston and Texas Central Railroad tracks, including a facility for Gulf Oil, and another for Magnolia Petroleum at the other corners of 5<sup>th</sup> and Waller Streets. The parcel of land where the existing building was constructed was, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century part of the yards of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, and had their own railroad facilities there, rather than facilities of private companies. The 1900 Sanborn map shows what appears to be a dwelling at the site of the current building on Waller Street and the iron-clad warehouse of the Wyse Oil Company directly behind (to the west) of it. However, city directories of the same period indicate that the Wyse Oil Company had their facilities on the northwest, rather than the southwest corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Waller Streets – which source is in error is certainly not clear.

What is clear is that through the 1924 Austin city directory, any address corresponding to the location of the current building was associated with the Houston and Texas Central Railroad yards and the yardmaster. Not until the 1927 directory did the Humble Oil and Refining Company appear as an address, and it was as 414 Waller Street. Prior to 1925, the Humble Oil and Refining Company had their facilities on the west side of town, along the tracks at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bowie Streets. They moved to the east side around 1925, and remained here until around 1950.

Additions to the building to the west were constructed at various times; the 1962 Sanborn map shows the variety of additions that still exist today. After Humble moved out of the facility around 1950, the entire block appears to have been used by the Acme Fast Freight Company, forwarding freight agents. They were in operation until the late 1960s. The buildings appear to have been vacant until they were brought back to life by an emerging art scene in East Austin in the 1980s, including Reji Thomas, who established her glass studio in the building. In more recent years, the buildings have also been used as a music venue, called Pine Street Station.

414 Waller Street  
ca. 1925

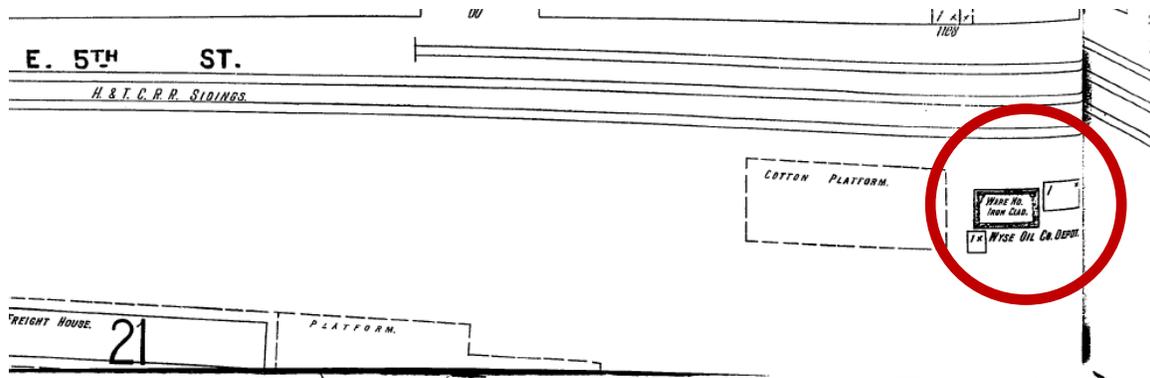


OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
414 Waller Street

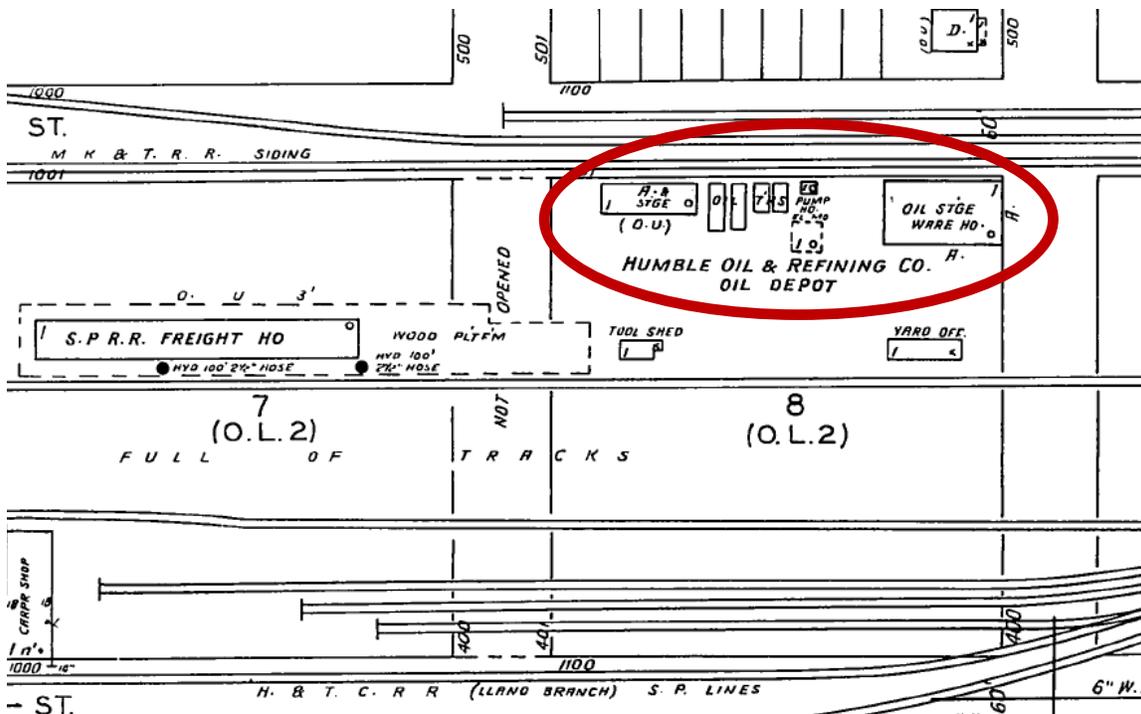
City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
 By City Historic Preservation Office  
 October, 2014

1992	No return
1985-86	Graphic Glass by Reji Reji Thomas, proprietor NOTE: The address is listed as 1101 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street. There is no listing for 414 Waller Street.
1981	No addresses listed on the odd side of E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street and nothing listed at 414 Waller Street.
1977	No addresses listed on the odd side of E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street west of Waller Street and nothing listed at 414 Waller Street.
1973	No addresses listed on the odd side of E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street west of Waller Street and nothing listed at 414 Waller Street.
1968	1101 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Acme Fast Freight, forwarding agents Carl W. Wolff, freight agent Nothing listed at 414 Waller Street.
1962	1101 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Acme Fast Freight, forwarding agents Carl W. Wolff, freight agent Nothing listed at 414 Waller Street.
1959	1101 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Acme Fast Freight, forwarding agents Carl W. Wolff, freight agent Nothing listed at 414 Waller Street.
1955	1101 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Acme Fast Freight, forwarding agents Carl W. Wolff, freight agent 414 Waller Street: Vacant
1952	1101 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Acme Fast Freight, forwarding agents Carl W. Wolff, freight agent Nothing listed at 414 Waller Street.
1949	1105 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Glazier Frosted Food Company Arthur W. Booth, proprietor 414 Waller Street: Humble Oil and Refining Company Bulk Station
1947	1109 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Southern Pacific Lines yard office 414 Waller Street: Humble Oil and Refining Company, wholesale oils
1944-45	1109 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: Southern Pacific Lines yard office 414 Waller Street: Humble Oil and Refining Company, wholesale oils

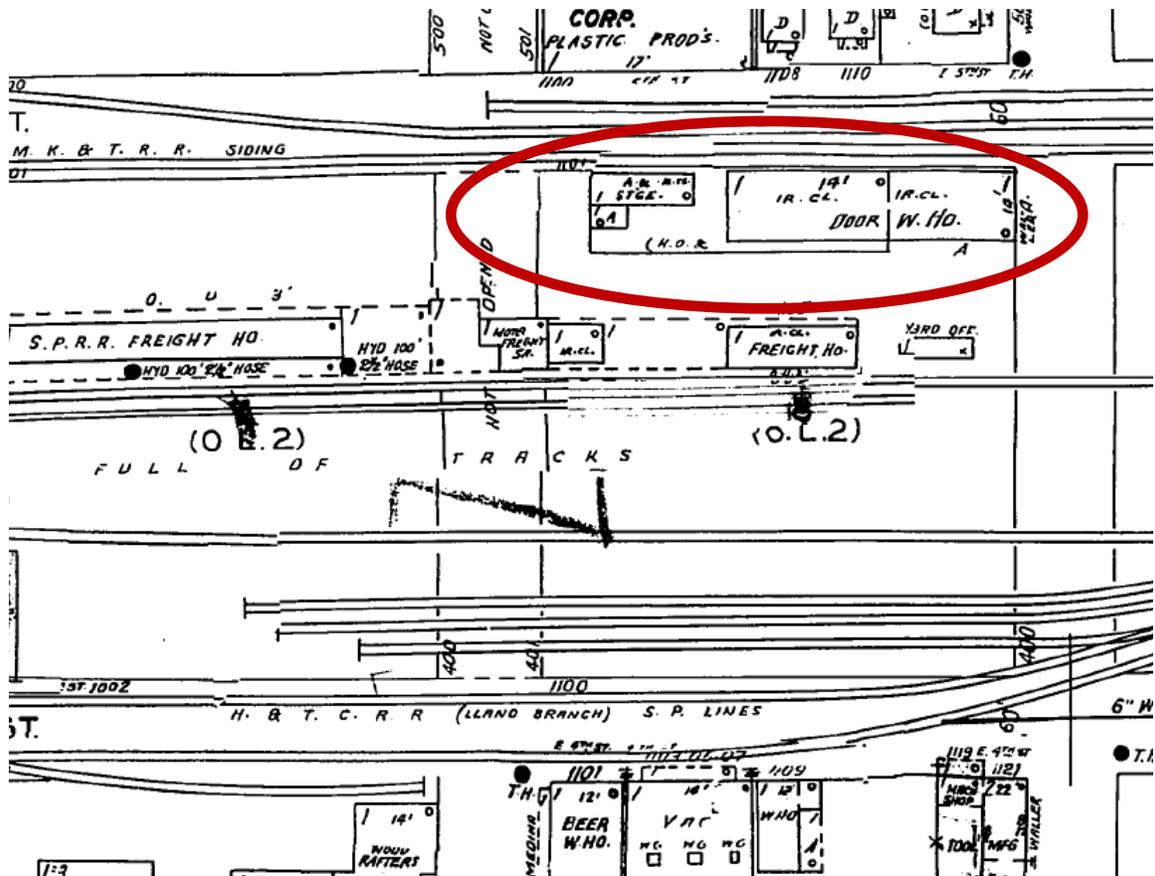
1941	1109 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street: 414 Waller Street:	Southern Pacific Lines yard office Humble Oil and Refining Company, wholesale oils
1939	414 Waller Street:	Humble Oil and Refining Company, office and plant
1937	414 Waller Street:	Humble Oil and Refining Company, main facility
1935	414 Waller Street:	Humble Oil and Refining Company, main facility
1932-33	414 Waller Street:	Humble Oil and Refining Company
1930-31	414 Waller Street:	Humble Oil and Refining Company
1929	414 Waller Street:	Humble Oil and Refining Company
1927	414 Waller Street:	Humble Oil and Refining Company
1924	412 Waller Street:	Houston and Texas Central Railroad yardmaster NOTE: Humble Oil and Refining Company had their facility at W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Bowie Streets.
1922	412 Waller Street:	Houston and Texas Central Railroad yardmaster
1920	412 Waller Street:	Houston and Texas Central Railroad yardmaster



The 1900 Sanborn map shows what appears to be a house facing Waller Street and the Wyse Oil Company iron-clad warehouse behind it. There were spur railroad tracks along E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street at that time – the Houston and Texas Central Railroad freight depot and platforms are at the very bottom of this map shot and faced along the main line of the railroad between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets.



The 1935 Sanborn map clearly shows the Humble Oil and Refining Company facilities at the site of the current building, which is shown as the oil storage warehouse. The building shown here (the current building) is not the same building as depicted in the 1900 map above.



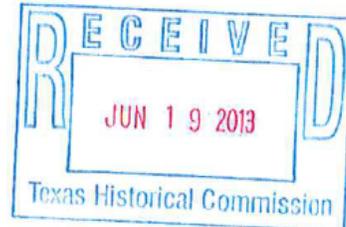
The 1962 Sanborn map shows the expansion of the building westward along E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street – the buildings are noted as a door warehouse – Davidson Sash and Door Company had its plant just to the west of this facility.

CAPITAL METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULATORY  
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June 18, 2013

Ms. Linda Henderson, Historian  
Federal Programs  
History Programs Division  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711



*EL*

Re: Plaza Saltillo Railroad Track Relocation

Dear Ms. Henderson:

The above-referenced project, which will receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration, would relocate the commuter-rail tracks between Onion Street and the IH-35 northbound frontage road in East Austin. Track relocation would allow development of pedestrian-friendly, dense, mixed-use development surrounding commuter rail stations on the Metro Rail Red Line. The proposed double tracks would skirt E. 4th Street between Interstate Highway 35 on the west and Waller Street on the east, and then turn northeast to connect with the current track alignment immediately west of the Plaza Saltillo MetroRail station. No new right-of-way would be required for this project.

Capital Metro's historical consultant, AmaTerra Environmental, Inc., conducted a reconnaissance survey of the project Area of Potential Effects to identify historic properties. Survey efforts identified a total of 20 historic-age properties, of which one is recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No eligible historic districts were identified. Capital Metro requests your concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect on historic properties under Section 106.

A completed Request for SHPO Consultation form with attachments is enclosed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached via telephone at 512-363-3706 or via email at [steve.roudebush@capmetro.org](mailto:steve.roudebush@capmetro.org).

Sincerely,

Steve Roudebush  
Real Estate and Asset Management  
CAPITAL METRO

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

29 July 2013

Steve Roudebush  
Real Estate and Asset Management  
CAPITAL METRO  
2910 East Fifth Street  
Austin, Texas 78702

*Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966  
Proposed Plaza Saltillo Railroad Track Relocation, Austin, Travis County, Texas (LTA)*

Dear Mr. Roudebush,

Thank you for submitting information on the above-referenced project and for allowing us time to reach out to Preserve Austin to find out if there were local concerns over the track relocation within the current Metro Rail Red Line right-of-way. This letter serves as official comment from Texas' State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

THC staff led by Linda Henderson reviewed the materials. THC has determined that the project will have no effect on historic properties. It is possible that buried cultural materials may be present in the project area. If such materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue in the project area where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division (512/463-6096) to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.

Thank you for your continued coordination with our office. Please contact us with any questions: 512/463-5851 or [linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,



Linda Henderson

For:

Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer





Figure 5: Surveyed Property Locations. (Google Earth)

**Map ID 5** is a circa 1950 commercial warehouse building. The single-story building is composed of five Quonset huts with joined barrel vault roofs and has steel frame walls with corrugated steel panels on a concrete foundation. The building has three large steel sliding doors and a pair of inset steel doors on the main facade, with a similar pair of inset steel doors on the east side. The building has no visible windows, but the three central vaults each have one metal slat vent near the top. A wood stairway is located on the front of the building. The building was occupied by the Steck Company in the 1950s, vacant in the 1960s, and used by the Glastron Mobile Homes Company in the 1970s. Its current use is unknown. It has minimal significance under Criterion A for its commercial associations. Its architecture is unusual for the area, but not particularly noteworthy or significant under Criterion C. It is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

**Map ID 6** is a circa 1935 single-story building that once served as a residence. The building sits on a raised foundation concealed by metal siding, with board and batten siding on the walls and a side-gabled roof with exposed rafter tails covered with standing seam metal roofing. Windows are multi-light wood sash. The front entry is accessed by a wood stairway leading to a raised concrete porch. The rear entry has a small wood ramp. The building has been converted into a business with an ATM (automated teller machine) sign hanging prominently above the main entrance but its present use is unknown. Sanborn maps indicate a second residence (since demolished) was located behind the existing one, facing the alley. The building has minimal significance under Criterion A for association with important events or trends and is not architecturally significant under Criterion C. As such, it is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

**Map ID 7** is a circa 1935 commercial warehouse building. The single-story building has wood-frame walls with corrugated metal siding under a gabled roof with exposed rafter tails and corrugated metal roofing. Windows are a mix of multi-light wood-sash and metal-sash; visible doors are wood. The north side of the building has multiple loading docks that are currently covered with corrugated metal. The west end of the building is a smaller, more modern section that has been converted into an entertainment facility with a small outdoor stage and seating area. The building was originally owned and operated by the Humble Oil and Refining Company, and later served as a warehouse for the Davidson Sash and Door Company and was one of several buildings on the property. The other buildings have been demolished and this lone survivor has since been converted into multiple small spaces that house an organic farming company and artists' studios. It has nominal significance under Criterion A for its commercial associations and under Criterion C as an example of commercial warehouse architecture. However, the modifications to the property and loss of associated buildings

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impact integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. It is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

NOTE: The building at 414 Waller Street is Map ID No. 7 above.