

# THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT

1920 – 1939

1101 E. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST. AND 414 WALLER ST.

SAVE OUR AUSTIN!  
THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT IS ONE OF  
THE ONLY TWO OIL DEPOTS OF ITS  
KIND REMAINING IN AUSTIN

## OUR POSITION:

1. WE REQUEST THAT THE ENTIRE HISTORICALLY ZONED "HUMBLE OIL DEPOT" BE RELOCATED WITH AN APPROPRIATE PLAQUE . THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY CAPITAL METRO IS FOR THE RELOCATION OF JUST THE TOILET ROOM, ENTRY AND DISPATCH OFFICE IN THE BIG WAREHOUSE, WHICH WE FIND UNACCEPTABLE TO MAINTAIN THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "HUMBLE OIL DEPOT"
2. THE PLAQUE SHOULD NOT ONLY HONOR THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT, BUT IT SHOULD ALSO HONOR THE HISTORICALLY DESIGNATED WORK THAT ARTIST REJI THOMAS CREATED IN HER BUILDINGS AND THE FACT THAT SHE BROUGHT THE EMERGING ART SCENE TO EAST AUSTIN.
3. OUR HOPE IS THAT THESE BUILDINGS CAN REMAIN TOGETHER AND SERVE AS AN EAST AUSTIN HISTORY / ART CENTER AS THEY HAVE BEEN FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

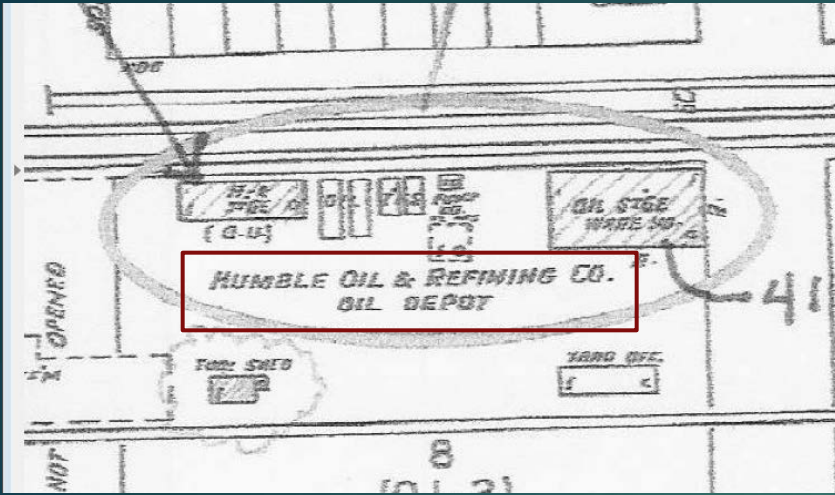
414 Waller Street  
ca. 1925



THE ORIGINAL  
HUMBLE OIL  
DEPOT BUILT IN THE  
1920'S

BOTH BUILDINGS  
TOGETHER  
COMPRISED THE  
ORIGINAL HUMBLE  
OIL DEPOT, SHARING  
THE SAME ADDRESS  
AT 414 WALLER ST.

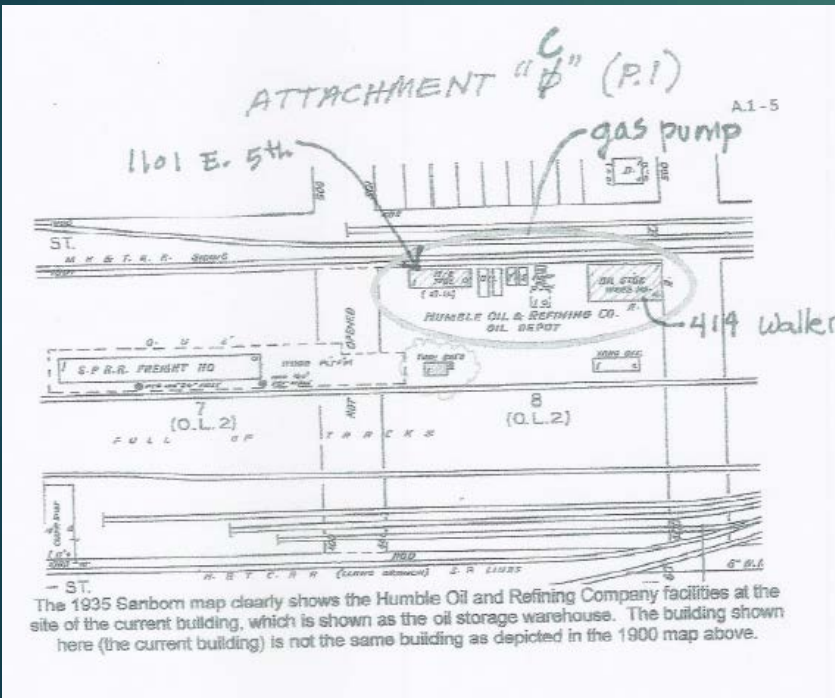




1935 SANBORN MAP BLOW-UP

THE 1935 SANBORN MAP SHOWS THESE TWO BUILDINGS, WHICH WERE THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT. NOT ONE BUILDING, BUT TWO! CLEARLY BOTH OF THESE BUILDINGS WERE BUILT BEFORE 1935.

WHICH BUILDING WAS BUILT FIRST IS QUESTIONABLE, BUT BOTH USED THE 414 WALLER STREET ADDRESS. ON MARCH 23, 2015 THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION RECOMMENDED "HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT." THIS "HUMBLE OIL DEPOT" CONSISTED OF THE TWO BUILDINGS AS SHOWN ON THE SANBORN MAP.



1935 SANBORN MAP

IT HAS NEVER BEEN CLARIFIED AS TO WHICH PORTION RECEIVED HISTORIC ZONING. THE ONLY CLARIFICATION IN THE DOCUMENTATION IS THAT "THE HISTORIC PORTION" RECEIVED THE CHANGE IN ZONING.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

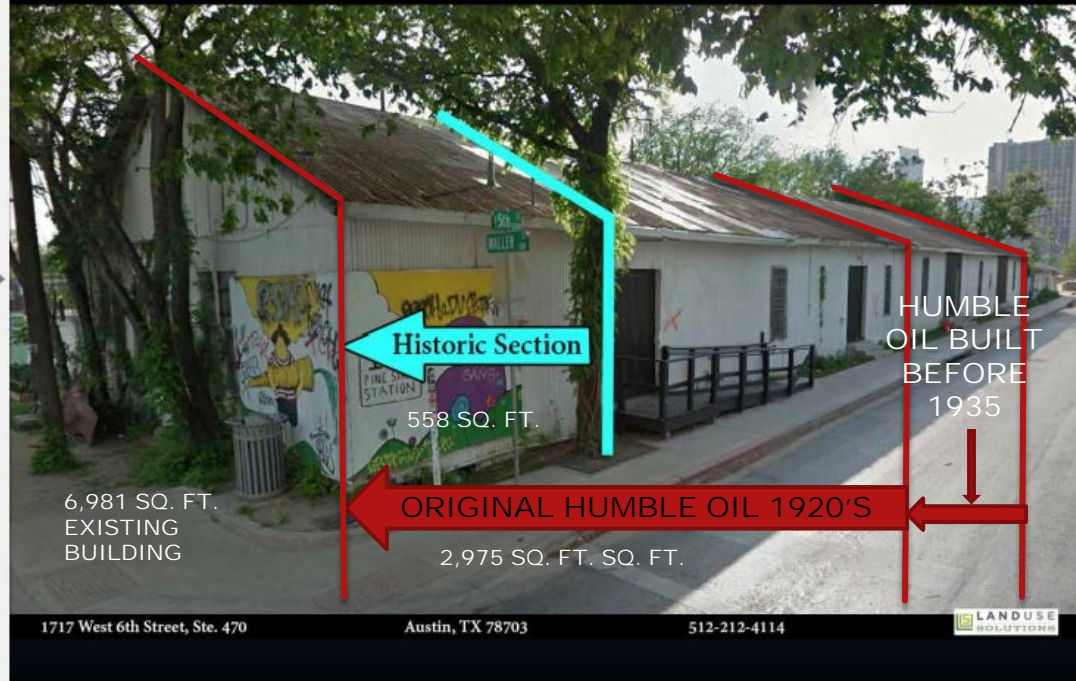
The ca. 1925 Humble oil depot is one of only 2 buildings of its type in Austin. It retains a high degree of integrity, and has historical significance for its association with Austin's early 20<sup>th</sup>-century railroad and industrial period. This building has been recommended for historic designation, but also for a move to a new location.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** March 23, 2015: Recommended historic designation for the Humble Oil depot.

MARCH 23, 2015 – HISTORIC ZONING FOR THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT

# Historical Section

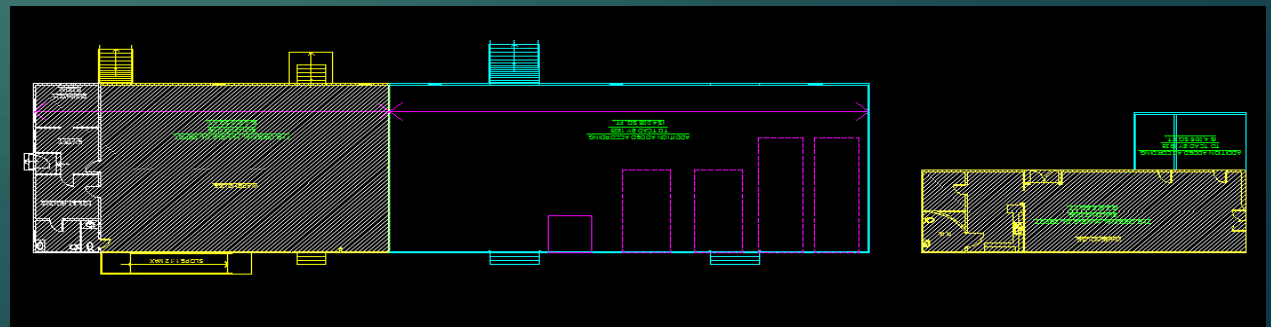
Pine Street Satation



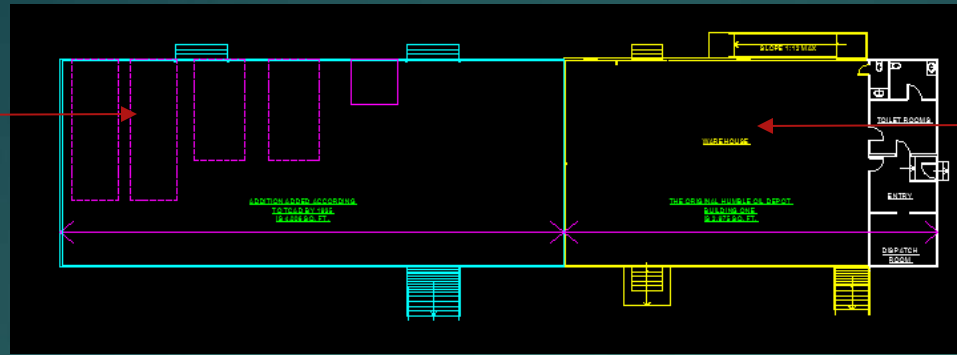
CAPITAL METRO'S DOCUMENTATION INDICATES PLANS TO MOVE ONLY THE TOILET ROOM, SMALL DISPATCH OFFICE, AND ENTRY WAY. THEY ARE NOT SHOWING ANY PLANS FOR RELOCATION OF ANY OF THE WAREHOUSE, WHICH WAS THE BACKBONE OF THE ORIGINAL HUMBLE OIL DEPOT.

THESE ERRONEOUS PLANS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION

CLEARLY, WHERE THE ORIGINAL BUILDING OF THE WAREHOUSE ENDS AND WHERE THEY ADDED ON BEFORE 1935 IS EVIDENT BY THE CHANGE IN SIZE OF THE LOADING DOCK DOORS AND WINDOWS.



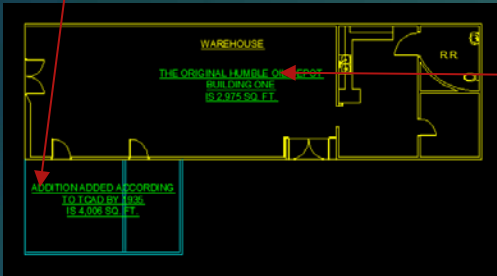
ADDITION ADDED ACCORDING  
TO TCAD BY 1935  
IS 4,006 SQ. FT.



THE ORIGINAL HUMBLE OIL DEPOT  
BUILDING ONE  
IS 2,975 SQ. FT.

ADDITION ADDED ACCORDING  
TO TCAD BY 1935  
IS 318 SQ. FT.

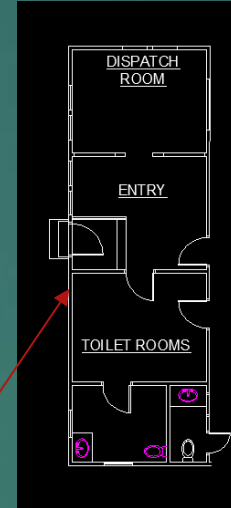
414 WALLER ST.



THE ORIGINAL HUMBLE OIL DEPOT  
BUILDING TWO  
IS 1,322 SQ. FT.

THE LOCATION OF THE OIL TANKS  
AND PUMP AS SHOWN ON THE  
1935 SANBORN MAP

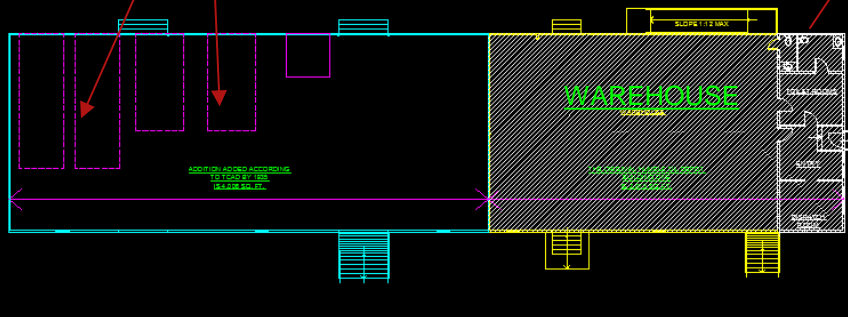
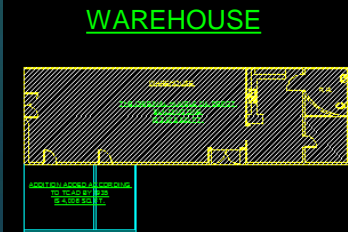
1101 E. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST.



CAPITAL METRO  
PLANS ON MOVING  
558 SQ. FT.

CAPITAL METRO INTENDS TO MOVE  
A 558 SQ. FT. PORTION OF A 2,975  
SQ. FT. ORIGINAL HUMBLE OIL DEPOT  
AT THE 414 WALLER ADDRESS. THIS  
MEANS 2,417 SQ. FT. OF THE  
ORIGINAL HUMBLE OIL DEPOT AT  
THIS ADDRESS IS DESTINED FOR  
DEMOLITION AND 4,006 SQ. FT. OF  
THE BUILDING THAT IS INDICATED ON  
THE 1935 TAX ROLL SHALL BE TORN  
DOWN AS WELL.

THE OTHER BUILDING AT 1101 E. 5<sup>TH</sup>  
ST. IS ALSO A PART OF THE ORIGINAL  
"HUMBLE OIL DEPOT" AND IS ALSO  
DESTINED FOR DEMOLITION. IT IS  
APPROXIMATELY 1,322 SQ. FT.



ORIGINAL HUMBLE OIL DEPOT – 1101 E. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
AND 414 WALLER ST.

Property ID: 359112 Legal Description: IMPS ONLY (ON SPROW) LOT 34-44 & 178X275' OLT 2 DIV O CENTRAL ROW 3 STEEL STORAGE TANKS & BLDGS

Geographic ID: 0204051901 Agent Code:

Type: Real

Property Use Code:

Property Use Description:

Location

Address: 1101 E 5 ST TX 78702 Mapsco:

Neighborhood: WAREHOUSE <20,000 SF Map ID: 020201

Neighborhood CD: 61EAS

Owner

Name: THOMAS REJINA Owner ID: 317142

Mailing Address: 1101 E 5TH ST % Ownership: 100.000000000000% AUSTIN, TX 78702-3855

Exemptions:

Values

Taxing Jurisdiction

Improvement / Building

Improvement #1:	WAREHOUSE <20000	State Code:	F1	Living Area:	7000.0 sqft	Value:	\$154,452
Type	Description	Class CD	Exterior Wall	Year Built	SQFT		
1ST	1st Floor	D - 3		1935	7000.0		
881	COMMCL FINISHOUT	I - 4		1990	1600.0		

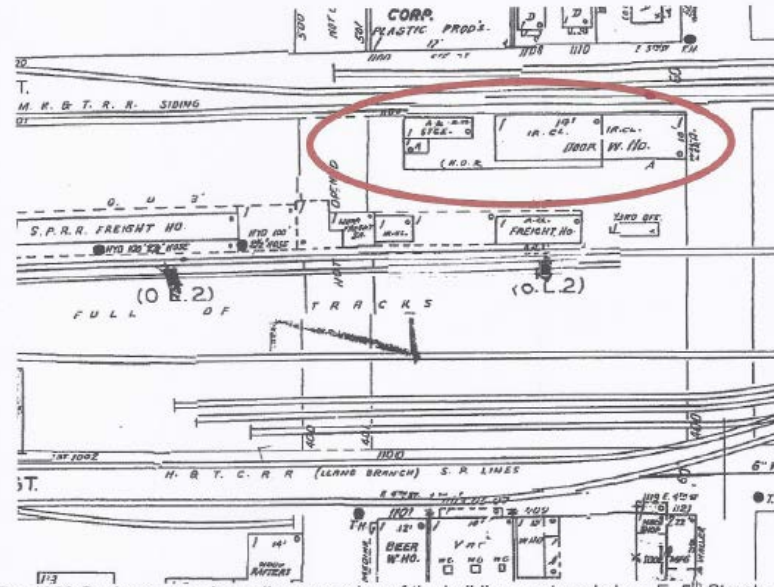
Improvement #2:	WAREHOUSE <20000	State Code:	F1	Living Area:	1496.0 sqft	Value:	\$29,137
Type	Description	Class CD	Exterior Wall	Year Built	SQFT		
1ST	1st Floor	D - 3		1935	1496.0		

Land

Roll Value History

Deed History - (Last 3 Deed Transactions)

#	Deed Date	Type	Description	Grantor	Grantee	Volume	Page	Deed Number
1	10/22/1991	MS	MISCELLANEOUS	JUNG ODAS	THOMAS REJINA	11548	00033	
2	6/7/1982	MS	MISCELLANEOUS	CALCASIEU LUMBER CO	JUNG ODAS	07779	00764	
3				CALCASIEU LUMBER CO	00000	00000		



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.

## 1962 SANBORN MAP

THE 1962 SANBORN MAP SHOWS THE TWO ADDITIONS TO THESE BUILDINGS, WHICH ACCORDING TO TCAD WERE ON THE TAX ROLLS IN 1935

ACCORDING TO THE ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET: "APPRAISED VALUE: Unknown. The property does not seem to be on the tax rolls." AUGUST 23,2015

THIS IS NOT CORRECT. THE BUILDING AT 414 WALLER STREET IS SHOWN ON THE 1101 E. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST. TAX ROLE ALONG WITH 1101 E. 5<sup>TH</sup> ST. ADDRESS.

THIS IS WHAT CAPITAL METRO PLANS TO RELOCATE

TCAD SUMMARY DATED 9/16/2015

## ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2015-0002      **HLC DATE:** March 23, 2015  
August 24, 2015  
**PC DATE:**

**APPLICANT:** Liz Purcell

**HISTORIC NAME:** Pine Street Station – ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS

**WATERSHED:** Waller Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 414 Waller Street, 1101 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff supported the landmark designation of the ca. 1925 Humble oil depot, which was then recommended for historic zoning by the Commission. The Commission also approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to move the ca. 1925 building to another railroad-related site in East Austin. Staff, however, does not support the landmark designation of the additional buildings, but recommends archival documentation of these buildings instead. Staff recognizes the historical significance of the Humble Oil depot, and recognizes that the complex was developed over time, but since the buildings are being removed from their original location, the significance of the additional buildings will be compromised, and staff believes that archival documentation of these buildings and interpretation of the depot complex at its new site is the most appropriate measure in this case.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

The ca. 1925 Humble oil depot is one of only 2 buildings of its type in Austin. It retains a high degree of integrity, and has historical significance for its association with Austin's early 20<sup>th</sup>-century railroad and industrial period. This building has been recommended for historic designation, but also for a move to a new location.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** March 23, 2015: Recommended historic designation for the Humble Oil depot.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:**

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The building was brought to the attention of the Historic Landmark Commission by a group of citizens, one of whom had her art studio in the building for many years. The citizens asked the Commission to initiate a historic zoning case on this building to preserve it as part of Austin's industrial heritage in East Austin, as well as for its later uses as a art studios and performing arts spaces. The building is not noted in any City survey.

Capital Metro will agree to the zoning of the building as historic, but opposes the re-zoning of the land. Capital Metro may have future plans to move the building to another location along the tracks and allow it to be used as an arts center. Moving the building will require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Commission.

The other historic gasoline depot in Austin (which is also a landmark) is the Texaco Depot in the 1300 block of E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street along the railroad tracks. This is another situation where

I STARTED THIS CASE A YEAR AGO. AS THE COMMISSION CAN SEE, THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION IN MARCH 2015 ONLY ADDRESSED ONE OF THE BUILDINGS.

OUR FIRST HEARING WAS SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

<http://austintx.swagit.com/play/09232014-1095> CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

I HAVE CONSISTANTLY MENTIONED THE TWO BUILDINGS.

IT TOOK 11 MONTHS TO GET THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO EVEN REFERENCE THIS OTHER BUILDING. THE COMMISSION MEMBERS INSTRUCTED STAFF TO REPORT ON THE OTHER BUILDING MONTH AFTER MONTH. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD BE IRRELEVANT. THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION WAS TO REZONE THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT. THE SECOND BUILDING IS NOT AN ADD- ON OR ADDITION AND POSSIBLY WAS THE FIRST ONE CONSTRUCTED.

IT APPEARS THAT BECAUSE THE OTHER BUILDING WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION THAT " THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT" NOT A SPECIFIC PORTION OF THE " HUMBLE OIL DEPOT" HAS BEEN REZONED. CAN THE CITY ACTUALLY COME BACK 11 MONTHS AFTER THE FACT AND SAY "WELL EXCEPT THE OTHER BUILDING" ?

## ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2015-0002      **HLC DATE:** March 23, 2015  
**PC DATE:**

**APPLICANT:** Historic Landmark Commission

**HISTORIC NAME:** Pine Street Station

**WATERSHED:** Waller Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 414 Waller Street

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

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff supports 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 for the historic building, and not the rear additions nor the land, although staff would encourage the property owner to further investigate the feasibility of maintaining this building on its current site.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

The ca. 1925 Humble oil depot is one of only 2 buildings of its type in Austin. It retains a high degree of integrity, and has historical significance for its association with Austin's early 20<sup>th</sup>-century railroad and industrial period.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:**

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The building was brought to the attention of the Historic Landmark Commission by a group of citizens, one of whom had her art studio in the building for many years. The citizens asked the Commission to initiate a historic zoning case on this building to preserve it as part of Austin's industrial heritage in East Austin, as well as for its later uses as a art studios and performing arts spaces. The building is not noted in any City survey.

Capital Metro will agree to the zoning of the building as historic, but opposes the re-zoning of the land. Capital Metro may have future plans to move the building to another location along the tracks and allow it to be used as an arts center. Moving the building will require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Commission.

The other historic gasoline depot in Austin (which is also a landmark) is the Texaco Depot in the 1300 block of E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street along the railroad tracks. This is another situation where the building is designated as a landmark, but the land, also owned by Capital Metro, is zoned historic.

## HISTORY OF HUMBLE OIL – 414 WALLER & 1101 E. 5TH

*Humble Oil & Refining Company.* The Pine Street Station warehouse had its beginnings in 1924, when Humble Oil and Refining Company applied to the Austin City Council "to erect a warehouse on the corner of 5th and Waller Streets on property of the H&TC Railway right-of-way". Humble is the company that later became Exxon and is now ExxonMobil. The minutes of the special Austin City Council meeting held September 26, 1924 state that the application was referred to the Safety Committee on that date with a 5-0 vote. Additionally, the minutes for the October 2, 1924 regular meeting of the Council state that Humble Oil's application was approved in a 5-0 vote. The city directory records indicate that Humble continued to use the warehouse from the mid-1920s until approximately 1939 (for purposes referred to variously as "main facility", "office and plant", "wholesale oils", or "bulk station"). Oil was often transported in railcars (in addition to pipelines), and the 1935 Sanborn map indicates the warehouse was used as an oil depot and storage facility.

The period from 1925 to 1939 when the warehouse was Humble Oil depot/storage facility in Austin was a key time in the development of the Texas oil industry. During this period, Humble Oil became the largest domestic producer of crude oil in the U.S. Additionally during this period the subsidiary Humble Pipe Line Company became the largest transporter of crude oil in the U.S. and Humble had the largest refinery in the U.S. (See The Handbook of Texas entries for Exxon Company, U.S.A.; and Oil and Gas Industry.)

It would be difficult to overstate the importance of Humble Oil in the history of Texas in the 20th century. Texas Monthly named Humble Oil the "Company of the Century" in its December 1999 *The Best of the Texas Century* list, stating: "As much a defining company as a refining company, Humble Oil shaped the reality and perception of Texas oil around the globe." ExxonMobil traces its beginnings to the Humble Oil Company, which was chartered in Texas in February 1911. It reorganized in 1917 as the Humble Oil and Refining Company. In February 1919, Humble doubled the number of authorized shares and sold 50 percent of its stock to Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. This sale initiated Humble Oil's long-term connection with the company that eventually absorbed it as Exxon. The following summarizes Humble Oil's historic importance to the State of Texas, and the U.S.

# HISTORICAL WORKS CREATED IN THESE BUILDINGS - 1980'S TO 2014

clients		
State Capitol Restoration 1987-90	National business League	John Williams Interiors
State Capitol Restoration Senate side 1984-85	Austin Metropolitan Business Resource C	Neil Austin Homes
Vice President Gore - Motorola	71st. Black Legislative Council	Terence Winters Designs
Ann Richards Governor Office - Gifts for Queen of England	Black Arts Alliance	Whit Hanks
Meals on Wheels	Burger King	Four Season's Hotel - Austin
American Institute for Learning - Austin	Bexar County Court House	Austin Heritage Society MLK Celebration
Democratic National Convention	Capitol City Chamber of Commerce	(Collection) Rudolf Green
Ann Richards	Carter Design Group	County Line (owner)
Barbara Jordan	Concordia College	Clarksville Jazz & Arts Festival
Zale	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	Dell Computers - Inventors Awards
Gib Lewis - Speaker of House	Mayor's Office / City of Austin	Michael Dell (Fortune Replicas)
Capital Records	D.A.R.E.	Origin
B.B. King	Texas Dermatology Society	AMD
Fred Meyers, Virgin Records	Edmundson Communication Group	MC² - Governor Bush: Recycle Award
Michael Ray Charles	Beverly Griffith	Texas Recycling Coalition
Stain Glass Brooklyn Church	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Austin Community College - Installation
Texas Women CHamber of Commerce	Headliner's Club	Texas Trial Lawyers
St. Edward's University - Austin	Austin Chamber of Commerce	The Nature Conservancy
University of Texas - Austin	Human Rights Commission	Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
Trinity University - San Antonio	Kiwanis Club	Safe Place
Rotary Club	Keep Austin Beautiful	Federation of Eastern Stars of the World
		Avalon Hair Salon
		Adelaide, Australia / City of Austin
		Saltillo, Mexico / City of Austin
		Brackenridge Foundation
		U.S.D.A. / Walt Disney, Steven Spielberg
		L.C.R.A.
		Legal Aid Society
		Lulac
		Milto's Restaurant
		Midland Black Chamber of Entrepreneurs
		Miss Black Austin
		Ronald McDonald House
		Pizza Hut
		Senator Karren Mitchell
		RWM Designs
		Texas Association for the Study of Afro-American
		Life and History
		Texas Medical Association
		Urban League

OTHER WORKS INCLUDE GIFTS TO THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND AND THE PRESIDENT SALINAS OF MEXICO FROM ANN RICHARDS.



LET'S NOT FORGET TO MENTION THE HISTORIC WORK CREATED IN THESE HISTORIC BUILDING'S BY ARTIST REJI THOMAS WHO OWNED THE BUILDINGS FOR SEVERAL DECADES. MANY OF THESE WORKS ALREADY HAVE HISTORIC RECOGNITION.

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/best-of-austin/year:2015/poll:critics/category:politics-and-personalities/1665438/>

## Most Gracious: Reji Thomas

The visual artist who played an essential role in the mid-Nineties restoration of the Texas State Capitol building – no one else possessed the skills set to perform the particular antiquated process to replicate all of the mammoth structure's glass – was unceremoniously forced out of her working studio that she'd built up, from nothing on the plot of a crumbling old railroad depot, over two decades ago. Welcome to Austin gratitude, 2015. The historic site also served as Pine Street Station, a local artist and community hub. We're not going to dwell on the bad faith clumsily ramrodded by disingenuous real estate and PR hacks involved in what resulted in her eviction (karma is a bitch, after all). We know an award can't right a wrong, but we offer hats off to the lady who has moved on and is focusing on her visual art. We look forward to her rising from the dust.

## SAVE OUR AUSTIN!

THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT IS ONE OF THE ONLY TWO OIL DEPOTS OF ITS KIND REMAINING IN AUSTIN

PLEASE REQUIRE THAT CAPITAL METRO RETAIN THE HISTORY OF THE ORIGINAL "HUMBLE OIL DEPOT" AND RELOCATE THE HISTORICAL PORTION OF THESE BUILDINGS. REMOVING ONLY THE TOILET ROOM, ENTRY AND DISPATCH OFFICE IS AN INSULT TO OUR HISTORY.

PLEASE REQUIRE THE PLAQUE NOT ONLY HONOR THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT, BUT ALSO THE HISTORICAL WORK CREATED BY ARTIST REJI THOMAS DURING THE PAST 30 YEARS AND THE FACT THAT THOSE BUILDING'S BROUGHT THE EMERGING ART SCENE TO EAST AUSTIN.

PLEASE REQUIRE THAT CAPITAL METRO KEEP THESE BUILDINGS TOGETHER TO TRULY DEPICT THE HISTORY OF "THE HUMBLE OIL DEPOT"

WE WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION FOR LOOKING AT THE FACTS REGARDING THE HISTORY OF THESE BUILDINGS AND BASING YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THESE FACTS.