

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JANUARY 28, 2019
NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
NRD-2018-0071
1808 W. 6TH STREET
WEST LINE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1917 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, front-gabled raised frame bungalow with a partial-width independent porch on battered posts and brick piers; paired 1:1 fenestration with decorative muntin and mullion patterns on the double-leaf door leading to a non-historic wood front deck, and on the side of the house.

RESEARCH

The house appears to have been built around 1917 by Belle (Isabelle) Sutor, the widow of prominent hotelier William J. Sutor. William J. Sutor established the Sutor Hotel in 1903 at 304-06 Congress Avenue, adjacent to the railroad tracks traversing downtown Austin. The Sutor was known for its elegant suppers and Sunday dinners and accommodations for traveling businessmen. After William J. Sutor passed away in 1913, Belle, took over the operations of the hotel, and won recognition for her business skill and style in the Austin newspapers. She and her daughter, Ida Mae, lived in the hotel until they built this house on the western edge of Austin in 1917. Belle sold the hotel in 1924, and retired to this house; she passed away in 1939. Her daughter, Ida Mae Mathews, who is listed as both a widow and a divorcee, continued to live in this house until her own death in 1973. Ida Mae Mathews worked as a stenographer for the City Water, Light, and Power Department for many years, before switching over to the Austin Transit Company, where she worked until her retirement. After Ida Mae died in 1973, the house became a rental property. One of the tenants in the mid-1980s was Howard Hand, a local antiques dealer.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house is contributing to the West Line National Register Historic District.

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

- a. **Architecture.** The house is an early frame bungalow with an unusual level of ornamentation, particularly in the windows of the house and the historic front porch, which is almost concealed yet contains piers and battered porch columns in monumental proportions. This house qualifies under the criterion for architecture as an excellent example of the true "Craftsman" bungalow, showing the architectural details executed by skilled craftsman, and built before the bungalow became a mass-market commodity.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was owned and occupied by Isabelle Sutor, a notable female entrepreneur and hotelier in Austin in the early 20th century. This is the home she built after living in her downtown hotel for many years. There may be significant historical associations.
- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image,

or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.

- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The applicant has submitted credible information that the house is not sufficiently structurally sound to move or cost-effective to rehabilitate, so staff will recommend release of the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center. Because the house is contributing to the historic district, staff will not release the plans until the Commission has reviewed the plans for any replacement structure for this site.

E-mail from the applicant:

Steve, I was finally able to get in touch with Jr. Brown Tuesday afternoon last week. He met me at the job site and we reviewed the potential for moving the house offsite to another location as a means to salvage the improvements.

Jr. said the only option for moving the house would be to remove the entire roof structure and cut the house into small pieces in order to maneuver the load under the MOPAC overpass across W 6th Street. He said that neither Theresa Avenue or the alley off Paterson could be used because of the sharp 90 degree turns. He said the house would then require a new foundation and re-assembly. His estimate was at least \$150,000 just to move it somewhere reasonably close, not including interior remodel costs.

Brown and Sons House Movers

The house needs everything including all new MEP systems, insulation, windows interior finishes, etc. in addition to re-framing, new roof and foundation required by the move. Assuming \$100/SF for remodeling, he said I could reasonably expect to spend \$250,000 or more and therefore his opinion was that nobody would invest that much in a house that could be rebuilt new for less than that.

I offered to give it to him or someone he might know and he laughed and said "no thanks". He said he didn't write letters as you have requested but that I could document his statements and he would be glad to confirm to you in a telephone conversation what I have related to you. His office number is 512-247-3901 and cell is 512-297-8061.

River City Structural Movers

I also contacted Jery Edgett of River City Structural Movers at 512-554-8510. He said he had looked at the possibility for moving the house several times over the past 10 years for various interested parties, as had Edgar Dodson of San Antonio. He said the same thing Jr. Brown said about having to tear the roof off and cut the house into small pieces in order to maneuver the roadways. Jery said he wouldn't touch the job for a total move and put back contract of less than \$250,000 depending on what interior finish work was required. He also said he would be glad to tell you this in person if you wanted to call.

Other House Movers

He said Edgar Dodson had come from San Antonio to look at the project some years ago and had declined to submit a bid to move the house saying it would be a waste of time to put together a detailed estimate because the house would have to be cut apart and then would need so much work that salvaging it would require "government money" as he put it, in other words, like the state or UT spends.

Jery also said that he had heard that David Rutledge at DAR Demolition had looked at possibly moving the house and had reached the same conclusions. I have not been able to get in touch with David or Edgar in order to confirm but since Jr. Brown and Jery Edgett both are saying the same thing about logistics and cost I'm satisfied that it wouldn't be worth moving the house and demo is the best remaining option.

By no later than Thursday afternoon I'll be sending the structural engineers report as well as an architect's evaluation of the house's existing condition, along with my report on why I believe the house fails to meet the requirements of a historical landmark for association with Mrs. Sutor.

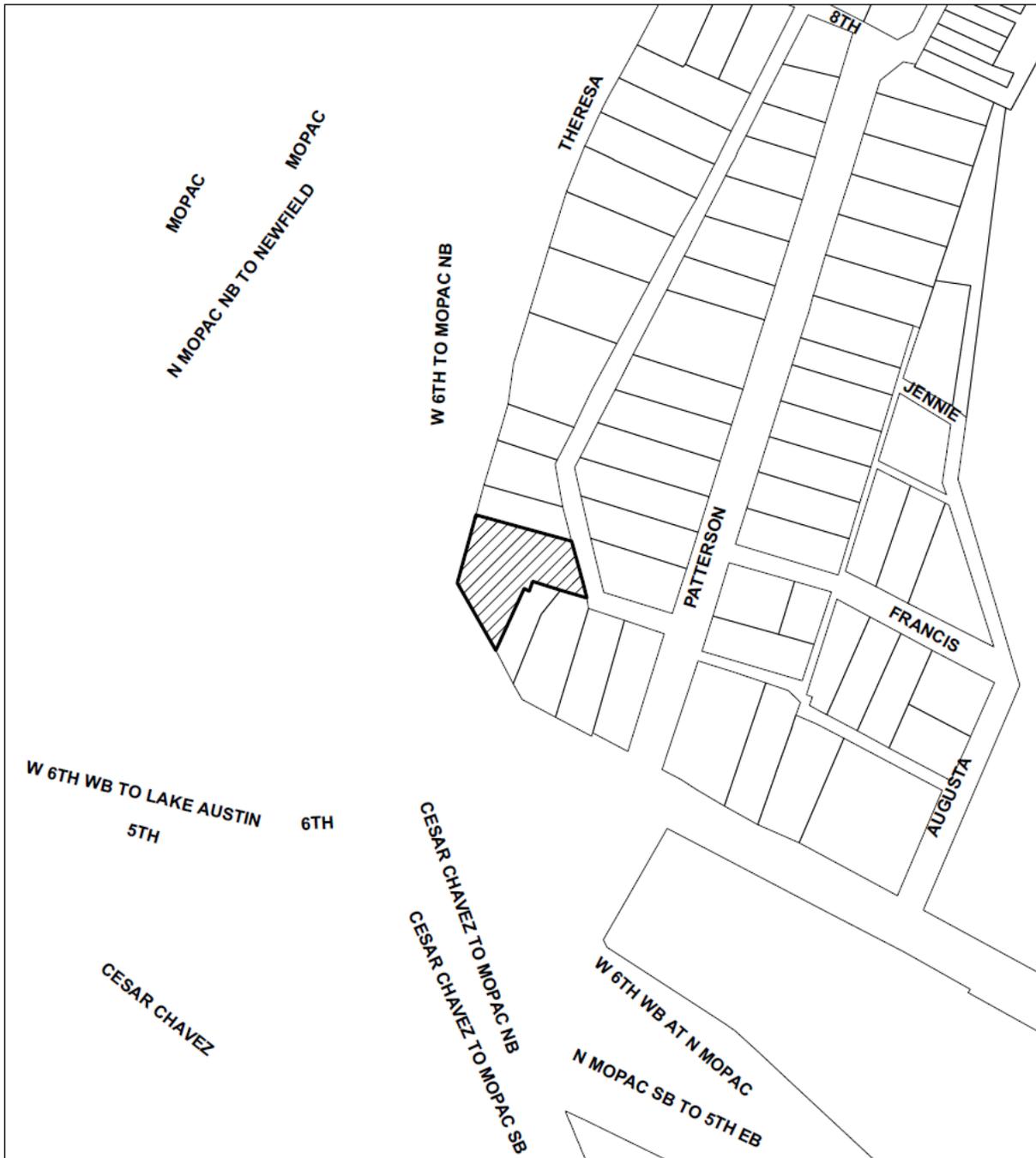
I hope that after reviewing this information you can support our request and recommend consent agenda approval to Historical Commission at next Monday evening's meeting.

Thanks Steve.

Jim Lindsey

Syllabus Partners LLC

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: NRD-2018-0071
1808 W 6TH STREET

1" = 167'

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



1808 W. 6th Street
ca. 1917



OCCUPANCY HISTORY

1808 W. 6th Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
October, 2016

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1992 | Christopher Wenzel, owner
Accountant |
| 1985-86 | Ella B. Hand, owner
Retired
Also listed is Howard T. hand, proprietor of the House of Antiques, 807 W. 12 th Street. |
| 1981 | Thomas and Simonetta Latimer, renters
Carpenter
NOTE: The directory indicates that Thomas and Simonetta Latimer were new residents at this address. |
| 1977 | No return |
| 1973 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Retired |
| 1968 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Widow, W.C. Mathews
Retired |
| 1962 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Clerk, Austin Transit Company, 1315 W. 5 th Street. |
| 1959 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Clerk, Austin Transit Company, 300 Orchard Street. |
| 1955 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Clerk, Austin Transit Company, 120½ W. 6 th Street. |
| 1952 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Clerk, Austin Transit Company, 801 Scarbrough Building. |
| 1949 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Clerk, Austin Transit Company, 815 Scarbrough Building. |
| 1947 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Clerk, Austin Transit Company, 815 Scarbrough Building. |
| 1944-45 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
Office worker, Austin Transit Company, 812-16 Scarbrough Building. |
| 1941 | Ida M. Mathews, owner
No occupation listed |

- 1939 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ida Mathews, a book-keeper.
- 1937 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ida Mathews, an assistant book-keeper at the City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1935 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ida Mathews, employed by the City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1932-33 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William, J. Sutor
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ida Mathews, a stenographer for the City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1930-31 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ida Mathews, a stenographer for the City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1929 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ida Mathews, a stenographer for the City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1927 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
No occupation listed
Also listed is Ida M. Mathews, a stenographer for the City Water, Light, and Power Department.
- 1924 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
Proprietor, Sutor Hotel "European Plan", 306 Congress Avenue.
Also listed is Ida M. Mathews, a clerk in the circulation department of the Austin Statesman, newspaper 7th and Brazos Streets.
- 1922 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
Proprietor and manager, Sutor Hotel, 306 Congress Avenue.
Also listed is Ida M. Mathews, a clerk in the circulation department for the Austin Statesman, newspaper, 7th and Brazos Streets.
NOTE: The address is listed as 1806 W. 6th Street.

- 1920 Isabelle Sutor, owner
Widow, William J. Sutor
Proprietor and manager, Sutor Hotel, 304-06 Congress Avenue.
Also listed is Ida M. Mathews, a stenographer for the Austin Statesman,
newspaper, 7th and Brazos Street.
- 1918 Belle Sutor
Proprietor, Sutor Hotel, 304-06 Congress Avenue.
NOTE: Ida M. Mathews is not listed in the directory.
- 1916 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: Belle Sutor is listed at 3050 Guadalupe Street; she was the proprietor of
the Sutor Hotel, 304-06 Congress Avenue.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Isabelle Sutor and Ida Mae Mathews (ca. 1917 – ca. 1973)

Isabelle Sutor and her daughter, Ida Mae Mathews appear at this address in the 1930 U.S. Census. They owned the house, which was worth \$10,000. Isabelle Sutor was a 68-year old Pennsylvania-born widow with no occupation listed. Her father had been born in England, and her mother had been born in New Jersey. Ida Mae Mathews was 36 and divorced. She was born in Pennsylvania to an English-born father and a Pennsylvania-born mother. She was a clerk at City Hall.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Belle Sutor and Ida May Mathews as the owners of this house. Belle Sutor was a 58-year old Pennsylvania-born widow who was the proprietor of a hotel. Ida May Mathews is shown as a 26-year old Pennsylvania-born widow, who was a stenographer for the newspaper.

The 1910 U.S. Census shows William J. and Isabelle Sutor living at the address of their hotel, 304 Congress Avenue. William J. Sutor was 56, had been born in Texas to German-born parents, and was a hotel keeper. Isabelle Sutor was 46, had been born in Pennsylvania to an English-born father and a New Jersey-born mother; she had no occupation listed. With them lived Isabelle's children from her first marriage, Edward Battersby and Ida May Battersby. Edward Battersby was 21, had been born in Pennsylvania to an English-born father and a Pennsylvania-born mother. He had no occupation listed. Ida May Battersby was 18, had been born in Pennsylvania to an English-born father and a Pennsylvania-born mother. She was a clerk in a hotel. The family had a live-in servant, Julia Schwartzbach, 45, who had been born in Germany, and is listed as a chambermaid in the hotel.

Her 1939 death certificate shows that Mrs. Isabelle Sutor was living at this address at the time of her death. She was the widow of William J. Sutor. She was born in 1862 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and had no occupation shown.

Ida Mae Mathews was living at this address at the time of her death in 1973. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1891, and was a book-keeper. She is listed as a widow.

NUPTIALS CELEBRATED AT ALL SAINTS CHAPEL

MR. WILLIAM J. SUTOR, POPULAR
HOTEL MAN OF AUSTIN, AND
MRS. ISABELLE C. BATTERSBY
OF PHILADELPHIA MARRIED.

The nuptials of Mrs. Isabelle C. Batteraby, of Philadelphia, and Mr. William J. Sutor, of this city, were quietly celebrated at All Saints chapel Twenty-seventh street and White avenue, at 8 o'clock last night. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Kinsolving and was witnessed by only immediate relatives. After the ceremony the newly wedded couple proceeded to the parlors of the Hotel Sutor, where they, with invited guests, enjoyed a sumptuous repast. The parlors were ablaze with electric lights and beautifully decorated with palms and flowers.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutor were tendered the heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the happiest wedded life by all present.

The following was the most excellent menu:

Celery. Sliced Tomatoes. Olives.
 Chicken Broth in Cups.
 Soft Shell Crabs.
 Shoe String Potatoes.
 Roasted Mexican Quail, Giblet Sauce.
 Broiled Squabs on Toast.
 French Peas.
 Larded Fillet of Tenderloin,
 Mushroom Sauce.
 Lobster Salad.
 Asparagus, Aroma Butter.
 Rum Omelette.
 Assorted Fruit, Vanilla Ice Cream.
 Cakes.
 Cafe Noir.

Mr. Sutor, the groom in the happy union of life partners, is one of Austin's best known and most enterprising and substantial citizens. He was born here September 10, 1854, and ever since reaching the age of manhood has been identified with the business interests of the city with the exception of two years, when he resided in Philadelphia. It was while a resident of the Quaker City that Mr. Sutor met the charming young lady who is now his bride. Mr. Sutor is now the manager of the Hotel Sutor and is recognized as one of the best, and is beyond a doubt one of the most popular hotel men in Texas. His numerous friends here and elsewhere in the state will wish him every happiness in his married life.

Mrs. Sutor is a highly accomplished lady, connected with an old and prominent family of Philadelphia. Mr. and Mrs. Sutor have apartments at the Hotel Sutor.

William J. Sutor married Isabelle Battersby
 Austin Statesman, October 6, 1903

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 +
W. J. SUTOR DIES.
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 +

+ W. J. Sutor died this morning +
 + at 1:15 o'clock at the Seton In- +
 + firmary. The cause of death +
 + was Bright's disease. +

+ Funeral notice will be pub- +
 + lished later. +

+ The deceased was about 59 +
 + years old; was born in Travis +
 + County and was proprietor of +
 + the Sutor Hotel. +

+-----+

Front page news of the death of William J. Sutor
 Austin Statesman, August 1, 1913

DEATH OF W. J. SUTOR SAD NEWS TO HIS MANY FRIENDS

—•—
**HOTEL PROPRIETOR SPENT MOST
 OF LIFE IN AUSTIN.**

—•—
 Deceased Was Son of One of Pioneer
 German Settlers of Travis County.
 Funeral Today.

—•—

Traveling men of Texas, and especially those who have visited Austin for many years, received the news of the death of William J. Sutor, aged 60, which occurred early yesterday morning, with much regret. Mr. Sutor was proprietor of the Sutor Hotel, 306 Congress Avenue, for many years, and was widely acquainted with "Knights of the Trip" over all parts of the country.

Death was due to an attack of Bright's disease and the end came at the Seton Infirmary at 1:15 a. m. Friday. He leaves innumerable friends and acquaintances in Austin besides a large family.

A mother, five sisters, one brother and two daughters besides a wife comprise the survivors of his immediate family. The children are Mrs. D. G. Campbell, San Antonio; and W. C. Mathews, Austin. His sisters are Mrs. Frank Seery, Austin; Mrs. Andrew Vogel, San Antonio; Mrs. John Creighton, Eagle Pass; Mrs. William Goodrich, Hemphill; and Miss Adele Sutor, Philadelphia; his brother, Fred Sutor, also resides in Philadelphia. His mother is Mrs. E. H. Sutor and is well advanced in years.

Born in Austin in 1853, Mr. Sutor spent the major portion of his life here. He resided in San Antonio for a short time and spent one year in Philadelphia, but Austin was his favorite place—the city where he received his education and reared his family. He lived at 3050 Guadalupe Street during late years and made a number of acquaintances in his private life.

The deceased was a son of Frederick William Sutor, one of the early German settlers of Austin. The little frame shack occupied by the family when they first moved to Austin was located where the Sutor Hotel now stands. The entire 300 block on the west side of Congress Avenue is still known as the Sutor block.

Funeral services will be held from the residence at 5 o'clock today and burial made here. Rev. Milton Worsham will officiate.

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Obituary of William J. Sutor
Austin Daily Statesman, August 2, 1913

OWNER OF SUTOR HOTEL AMONG AUSTIN'S MOST PROGRESSIVE WOMEN

Proof that women are "good business men," and that a woman is as unselfish in the support of civic projects for the betterment of the town in which she lives, as any man, is found in the record of Mrs. W. J. Sutor's business career. Mrs. Sutor

has conducted the Sutor Hotel in a very successful manner since the death of her husband, W. J. Sutor, in 1913. But Mrs. Sutor is not only a good business woman. She is also one of Austin's most ardent civic supporters, and has always been identified with the forward growth of the city. Although a proprietor of a rival hotel, Mrs. Sutor was one of the most ardent supporters of the drive for the new Stephen F. Austin hostelry before the project became a reality, and did her bit in getting this new boost for the Capital City across.

The Sutor Hotel was established in 1903 and conducted under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Sutor until the death of the former ten years later.

Proof of the prosperity of the hotel under Mrs. Sutor's management since the death of her husband is shown in the continuous improvements which have been made with the growth of patronage received by the Sutor Hotel each year:

Extensive remodeling of the entire hotel has recently been completed, the inside of the house being completely renovated. Many new baths have been added increasing the accommodations of the place as the clientele has increased.

Recognition of Isabelle Sutor's business acumen
Austin Statesman, June 17, 1924

SUTOR HOTEL SOLD TO LOCAL BUSINESS MEN BY MRS. SUTOR

Hostelry Will Be Continued Under Present Name by T. E. Odiorne and R. H. Brown.

Purchase of the Sutor Hotel from Mrs. Sutor by T. E. Odiorne and R. H. Brown, proprietors of the Brown & Odiorne drug store was definitely announced Friday morning by the new owners.

The transfer of the hotel properties becomes effective Saturday, Nov. 1, and the purchase price does not include the building but only furniture and hotel properties as well as the good will. The consideration was not made public.

The hotel will be continued under the name of the Sutor Hotel by which it has been known for nearly half a century. The Sutor policy of catering to the commercial men of Texas will also be continued, it was announced by Mr. Odiorne, one of the new owners. Improvements in service and installation of new fixtures are planned, Mr. Odiorne stated.

Mrs. Sutor did not announce her future plans but stated that she will retire from the hotel business. No change will be made in the staff of employes and the hotel will be operated under the personal supervision of Mr. Brown and Mr. Odiorne. Their drug store is located next door to the hotel, thus giving the new hotel owners a lease on the entire building.

With the retirement of Mrs. Sutor from the active management of the Sutor Hotel, continuous operation of the hostelry by the Sutor family for the past thirty-five years will be terminated. The Sutor Hotel building was erected by Mrs. E. H. Sutor some thirty-five or forty years ago and upon Mrs. Sutor's death, the building was sold to the Robertson estate which still owns it.

The hotel was operated under the management of W. J. Sutor, beginning about 1902 and continuing until his death in 1913 when Mrs. Belle Sutor took active charge. The Sutor is one of the old landmarks of Austin and Central Texas, and is one of the best known hotels in the state.

Mrs. Isabelle Sutor sells her hotel to Brown and Odiorne, local pharmacists
Austin Statesman, October 31, 1924

SUTOR—Mrs. Isabelle Sutor, 76, a resident of Austin since 1904, the widow of the late Wm. J. Sutor, owner of the former Sutor hotel in Austin, died at her home, 1808 West Sixth street, late Wednesday afternoon. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Carlos Houston and Mrs. Ida May Matthews, both of Austin.

Funeral services will be held from the funeral home, 1109 Colorado, Friday at 8:45 a. m. and at 9 a. m. from the St. Mary's Catholic church with Father James J. O'Brien officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood cemetery. Rosary services will be held from the funeral home Thursday at 8 p. m.

Obituary of Isabelle Sutor
Austin Statesman, August 31, 1939

IDA MAE MATHEWS

Rosary for Ida Mae Mathews, 82, 1808 W. 6th St., will be 7:30 p.m. Monday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Rev. Harold Zink, officiating. Mass will be 9 a.m. Tuesday in St. Mary's Catholic Church. Burial will follow in the Oakwood Cemetery.

Mrs. Mathews died Sunday in a local hospital.

Obituary of Ida Mae Mathews
Austin Statesman, October 8, 1973

Victim's Funeral Tuesday

Funeral will be Tuesday for an elderly woman who died Sunday after being hospitalized since Sept. 9 when she was involved in an auto-pedestrian accident.

Ida Mae Mathews, 82, of 1808 W. 6th St., died Sunday at Brackenridge Hospital. Austin police said her death will not be listed as a traffic fatality since her physician said she died due to "causes unrelated to the accident."

Funeral will be Tuesday at 9 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, Rev. Harold Zink officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Funeral notice for Ida Mae Mathews
Austin Statesman, October 8, 1973

