

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 22, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0337
602 W. 7TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1913 building.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story Craftsman house clad in stucco, with partial-width porch, single and mulled multi-lite wood windows in various configurations, gable roof with exposed rafter tails, and flat-roofed porch.

RESEARCH

W.H. Richardson, Jr. built the house around 1913 after marrying his wife Elizabeth. Richardson was a partner in his father's business, one of the largest wholesale and retail hardware and sporting goods stores in Austin at the time -- until around 1921, when he became vice-president of the company. The Richardsons' store was located at 416-18 Congress Avenue. W.H. Richardson, Jr. served as president of the company from the time of his father's death in 1924 until around 1941, when he became the personnel manager for the Department of Public Safety. The Richardsons lived in the house until at least 1947.

After 1947, the house was purchased by the Austin Engineers and Associates Club, who added onto the building in 1954. From 1965-1977, the American Legion's Post 83 operated from the building. Its next occupant, Jerry Box, demolished the porch and remodeled the front of the building in 1979. Several other businesses moved into office space within the building from the 1980s until at least 1992.

STAFF COMMENTS

The property appears in the 1984 Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey. No priority recommendation for the property is listed.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain a low degree of integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (City of Austin Land Development Code, Section 25-2-352).
 - a. **Architecture.** Though the house was a good example of the Craftsman style in the past, it no longer appears to possess architectural significance due to loss of integrity.
 - b. **Historical association.** There appears to be a significant historical association with W.H. Richardson.
 - c. **Archaeology.** The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
 - d. **Community value.** The property does not appear to have a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, a neighborhood, or a particular group.
 - e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, then relocation over demolition, but release 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. The property does not appear to retain sufficient integrity to qualify as a landmark.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0337
 LOCATION: 602 W 7th Street



1" = 140'

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.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Main elevation, 2018; West elevation, 2017. Google.

Occupancy History

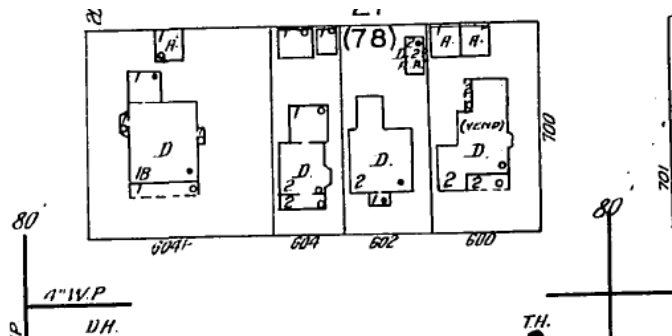
City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
June, 2019 and December, 2010

1992	Various offices including Jerry Real Estate and Universal Publishers
1985-86	Various offices including Jerry Box Real Estate, Austin Zoological Society, and Merritt-Bernard-Jason, Inc. architectural planners
1981	Jerry Box Real Estate
1977	American Legion Post 83
1973	American Legion Post 83
1968	American Legion Post 83
1965	American Legion Post 83

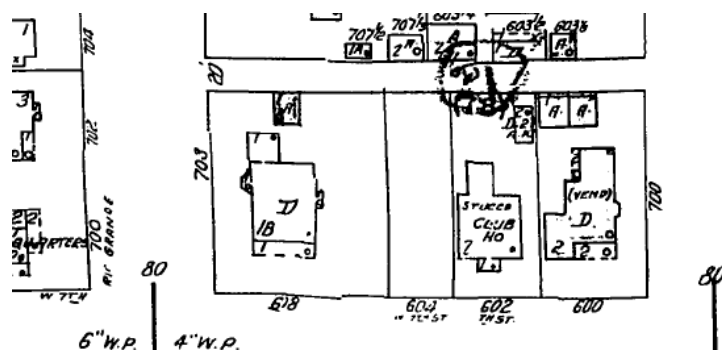
1962	Austin Engineers and Associates Club Mrs. Olive McNamara, manager
1959	Austin Engineers and Associates Club Mrs. Olive McNamara, manager
1955	Austin Engineers and Associates Club John E. Jensen, manager
1952	Austin Engineers and Associates Club Josephine S. Hook, manager
1949	Austin Engineers and Associates Club Bryant M. Collins (Collins Construction Company, asphalt contractors), president; Jo S. Hook, secretary
1947	William H., Jr. and Bess Richardson, owners Personnel director, State Department of Public Safety
1944-45	William H., Jr. and Elizabeth Richardson, owners Personnel director, State Department of Public Safety
1942	William H., Jr. and Elizabeth Richardson, owners Clerk
1941	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners President, W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipes and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue.
1940	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners President, W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416 Congress Avenue
1937	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners President, W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
1935	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners President, W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
1932-33	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners President, W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
1929	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners President, W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
1927	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners President, W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
1924	William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners

- Vice-President, W.H. Richardson and Company (W.H. Richardson, Sr., president), hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
- 1922 William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners
Vice-President, W.H. Richardson and Company (W.H. Richardson, Sr., president), hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
- 1920 William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners
Principal (with W.H. Richardson, Sr.), W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
- 1918 William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners
Principal (with W.H. Richardson, Sr.), W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
- 1916 William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners
Principal (with W.H. Richardson, Sr.), W.H. Richardson and Company, hardware, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
- 1914 William H., Jr. and Bessie Richardson, owners
Principal (with W.H. Richardson, Sr.), W.H. Richardson and Company, cutlery, stoves, agricultural implements, pipe and pipe fittings, guns, and fishing tackle, 416-18 Congress Avenue
- 1912-13 The address is not listed in the directory.
NOTE: W.H. Richardson, Jr. is listed as boarding at the Driskill Hotel.

Background Information



The 1935 Sanborn map shows the house as a frame two-story dwelling with a small front porch.



The 1961 Sanborn map shows that the house has been stuccoed; the ca. 1954 addition does not seem to appear in this depiction.

RICHARDSON IS BURIED TODAY

Private Services for Pioneer Merchant.

Private services, with interment in Oakwood cemetery, will be held Wednesday afternoon for Capt. W. H. Richardson Sr., 87, who died Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock at his home, 1222 West Sixth street, after a brief illness. One of the pioneer citizens of Texas, Capt. Richardson had lived in this state since 1866 and in Austin since 1892.

Capt. Richardson was president of the W. H. Richardson Hardware company, which maintains two stores here and one at Manor. He had been actively engaged in the hardware business for nearly half a century.

Capt. W. H. Richardson was born in Harford county, Maryland, on Nov. 12, 1837. During the civil war he commanded a troop of cavalry in the Twelfth Virginia cavalry, under Col. Harry Gilmore of Maryland. He saw service in Virginia and Maryland and was detained for a time as a prisoner by the Yankees at Camp Chase, Ohio.

Capt. Richardson married Euphemia Keyser of Page county, Virginia, who survives him. Surviving children are: Mrs. N. E. (Julia) Fitzgerald of Knoxville, Tenn.; Mrs. H. P. (Nina) Hill of Trujillo, Peru; Julian A. Richardson of Long Beach, Cal., and W. H. Richardson Jr. of Austin. He is also survived by two sisters, Misses Nannie and Mary Richardson, and a brother, George Richardson, of Belair, Md.

Capt. Richardson has been a citizen of Texas since 1866 and of Austin since 1892. He has been over 50 years the head of an active business institution and since 1893 has been engaged in the hardware business in Austin.

The funeral of Capt. Richardson will be held this Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock from the family residence, 1222 West Sixth street. Funeral will be private. The senior members of the business firm will act as pallbearers. Father Michael Quinlan will officiate.

Obituary of W.H. Richardson, Sr.
Austin American; September 17, 1924

W. H. Richardson Dies Here After Lengthy Illness

W. H. (Billy) Richardson Jr., 78, Austin civic leader and former businessman, died Saturday afternoon at his home. He had been ill for several years and was unconscious for five days prior to his death.

A charter member of the Austin Rotary Club, Richardson served as club president and was the first district governor of Rotary elected from Austin.

He was at one time past owner of the W. H. Richardson Hardware Company, a business established by his father. Up until five years ago when he suffered his first stroke, he was personnel manager with the Department of Public Safety at Camp Mabry.

Richardson was graduated from the University of Texas and played guard on the first University football team. He served for a time on the Athletic Council at the University.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p.m. from Cook Funeral Home with the Rev. Charles Sumners, pastor of St. David's Episcopal Church, officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Gage Richardson of Austin; one sister, Mrs. N. E. Fitzgerald of Knoxville, Tenn.; and a brother, Julian A. Richardson of Los Angeles, Calif.

Obituary of W.H. Richardson, Jr.
Austin American Statesman; January 18, 1953



1946 photo of W.H. Richardson Co. store (2nd from left). University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>.

Permits

Eng & Assoc Club 602 W. 7th
 -99- # E 53' of 3 78 E
 ? Robenson
 add to comm bldg
 58256 10-4-54 12000/
 Carl E Quick

OWNER	Judge Sam Houston	CLADDRESS	602 W. 7th St.
PLAT	99	LOT	E.53 of Lt 3
		BLK.	78
SUBDIVISION	Original City		
OCCUPANCY	Offices Remodel		
BLDG. PERMIT #	189146	DATE	12-18-79
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	300.00
CONTRACTOR	Jerry Box	NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC#		SEWER TAP REC#	
Demolish porch walls of 2 stry stucco office bldg.			

BID 2004