

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 24, 2020  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2019-0751  
66 COMAL STREET

## PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1946 house.

## ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled frame house with a full-width, shed-roofed independent porch on plain, square wood posts; flat-roofed carport to the left of the main block of the house; modern replacement windows, including a fixed-sash window on each side of a secondary front entrance.

## RESEARCH

The house was built in 1946, according to city building and utility records. There were a few short-term renters and owners of the property until around 1953, when the house was purchased by Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, who lived here for the rest of their lives. Johnny Escobedo was a barber who opened his own barber shop, the Don Juan, on E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street in the mid-1950s. He maintained his shop until his retirement around 1970. Gertrude Escobedo ran a beauty shop out of the house for around 40 years.

## STAFF COMMENTS

The house was recommended as contributing to a potential South East Austin historic district in the East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016), despite the replacement of the front windows.

### SOUTH EAST AUSTIN



Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house does not meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is a post-World War II frame cottage with no architectural distinction and the replacement of all the front windows and doors, compromising its integrity of materials and design.

- b. **Historical association.** The house was the home of a Mexican-American barber and his wife, who ran a beauty shop out of the house for 50 years, but there do not appear to 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**

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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 house does not meet the criteria for individual designation as a historic landmark.

## LOCATION MAP



1" = 292'



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0751  
66 COMAL STREET

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.

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66 Comal Street  
ca. 1946



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
66 Comal Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
January, 2020

1992	Gertrude M. Escobedo, owner Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1985-86	Gertrude M. Escobedo, owner Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1981	Gertrude M. Escobedo, owner Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house)
1977	Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners Johnny: Retired Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1973	Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners Johnny: Retired Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1968	Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners Johnny: Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1803 E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street. Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house).
1965	Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners Johnny: Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street.

- Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house).
- 1962 Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners  
 Johnny: Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 Gertrude: Proprietor, Linda's Beauty Shop (at the house).
- 1959 Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners  
 Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1955 Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners  
 Proprietor, Don Juan Barber Shop, 1814 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1953 Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo, owners  
 Johnny: Barber  
 Gertrude: Finisher, Eric Sims Cleaners, 708 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street and 210 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1952 James A. and Wilma Criswell, renters  
 U.S. Air Force  
 NOTE: Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo are listed at 2405 Santa Rosa Street; he was the proprietor of Escobedo's Barber Shop, 303 Brushy Street. Francisco Escobedo worked as a barber there. Gertrude Escobedo worked as a presser for Harry Piland Cleaners, 210 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1949 John J. and Marie Jacewicz, renters  
 U.S. Marine Corps
- 1947 King and Mary Glass, owners  
 Chemist
- 1944-45 The address is not listed in the directory.  
 NOTE: King I. Glass is listed at 1801 ½ Congress Avenue; he was a fellow at the University of Texas and had no wife listed with him.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Johnny and Gertrude Escobedo (ca. 1953 – ca. 2007)**

His 1940 World War II draft card shows that Johnny Escobedo was born in Uvalde, Texas in 1907 and was living in Austin where he worked for Crockett Motor Company. He was 5'-11" tall, weighed 175 pounds, and had a light brown complexion with brown eyes and black hair. His wife and next of kin was Mery Rose Escobedo.

Juan O. Escobedo appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the 29-year old son of Otilia Escobedo, who rented an apartment at the rear of 1007 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. Otilia Ortiz was listed as his mother on his death certificate. Juan O. Escobedo was born in Texas, and was a delivery boy for a retail grocery store. He was divorced. His mother, Otilia Escobedo, 51, was born in Mexico and had no occupation listed. Juan had an older brother, Enrique, 35, who had been born in Texas and was a truck driver for a furniture store. Enrique was married to Ramona, 18, who had been born in Texas, and was a maid for a private family.

Johnny Escobedo died at the VA Hospital in Temple, Texas in July, 1978. His last address was this house at 66 Comal Street. He was born in Texas in 1907 and was a barber.

**ESCOBEDO, Johnny**, 66 Comal St., died Thursday. Services 10 a.m. today at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Burial, Austin Memorial Park. Survivors: wife, Mrs. Gertrude Escobedo of Austin; daughter, Mrs. Linda Binkley of Austin; sister, Mrs. Margarita Muniz of New Haven, Mich.; brother, Frank Escobedo of Houston; three grandchildren.

Obituary of Johnny Escobedo  
Austin American-Statesman, July 22, 1978

**ESCOBEDO, Gertrude M.**, 89, retired beautician, of Austin died Wednesday. Visitation 9 and services 10 a.m. Saturday, Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar location.

Death notice for Gertrude Escobedo  
Austin American-Statesman, February 16, 2007



**Gertrude Escobedo**

Gertrude Escobedo, age 89, died February 14, 2007.

Born November 17, 1917 in Manchaca, Texas, she was the oldest daughter of Exiquio and Casimira Martinez and married John Escobedo on February 19, 1949. She was preceded in death by her husband, by her brothers Lee, Alex, and John and her sisters Frances, Rosie, Peggy, Josephine and Eriberta. Gertrude is survived by her brothers Sinforiano and Felix, her sister Giney, her daughter Linda, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Gertrude was the owner of Linda's Beauty Shop and worked closely with her best friend Mary Frances Ligon, tending to the styling needs and gossip of her friends and family for over 40 years. Her strong faith in God led her to several conferences for the Southern Baptist Convention and weekly services at Iglesia Bautista Betania. Gertrude showed us all that we should be grateful for what we have and thankful for all the Lord has given us. The strength of character and the dignity in which she led her life is an example for all of us. She is with the Lord.

A viewing will be on February 17, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at Cook-Walden Funeral home at 6100 North Lamar in Austin. A service will follow at 10:00 a.m. in the Cook-Walden Chapel.

Obituary of Gertrude Escobedo  
 Austin American-Statesman, February 17, 2007





Receipt No. 6110 Application for Sewer Connection N<sup>o</sup> 20634

Austin, Texas, 6-18- 1946

To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by

C. L. Taylor at 66 Comal Street,  
further described as Lot 46 of 117 of 5 Block 4 Outlot 4 Division  
subdivision Welch Sub. Plat 20-A, which is to be used as a Res.

In this place there are to be installed 5 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 22594  
I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge. 6-20-46 cur

Depth at Prop. Line 5'-10 1/2" at Main Respectfully,

Stub 214 - N of MH at Holly St. P. F. Myers  
Connected (Location)

Date 6-25-46

By Johnson

NOTE: Connection Instructions

8" Sewer in Comal St. 10' deep,  
Main 4" E of W.R. B-881

Sewer connection application for this address (1946)

**Johnny Escobedo**

**66 Comal Street**

**135**

**46x117' of 5**

**-**

**46**

**0**

**Welch Sub.**

**Box garage.**

**52831 1-1-53**

**\$175.00**

**Owner**

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame garage (1953)

- Johnny Escobedo      66 Comal Street

135      Center 43' X 173' of 5      -

Welch

Frame Addn. to Residence

81070

8-28-61

400.00

Owner

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### STORAGE AND DINING AREA

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame storage room and dining area addition to the house (1961)

Johnny Escobedo      66 Comal St.

135      Center 43' X 173' of 5      -

Welch Addition

Frame Addition to rear of Residence

83070

3-8-62

150.00

Owner

1

### STORAGE & PORCH

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame storage room and porch on the rear of the house (1962)

OWNER Johnny Escabedo . . . ADDRESS - 66 Comal St.  
 PLAT 135 LOT Center 43' x 173' of 5 BLK  
 SUBDIVISION Welch Addn  
 OCCUPANCY Frame Addn to Rear of Res  
 BLD PERMIT # 91567 DATE 4-10-64 OWNERS ESTIMATE 500.00  
 CONTRACTOR Owner NO. OF FIXTURES  
 WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #  
 Bedroom Dining Room

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame bedroom and dining room addition to the rear of the house (1964)

OWNER Johnny Escabedo . . . ADDRESS 66 Comal Street  
 PLAT 135 LOT Center 43' X 173' of Lot 5 BLK -  
 SUBDIVISION Welch Addition  
 OCCUPANCY Utility Room  
 BLD PERMIT # 98424 DATE 1-24-66 OWNERS ESTIMATE 50.00  
 CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES Exist  
 WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #  
 Frame Addition To Residence  
 56 sq.ft.  
 #153877 12-23-75 Frm. Acc. Bldg. 80 St. Ft. \$50.00

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a frame utility room addition (1966)

OWNER Johnny Escobedo ADDRESS 66 Comal Street  
PLAT 135 LOT Center 43' X 173' of Lot 5 BLK -  
SUBDIVISION Welch Addition  
OCCUPANCY Garage  
BLD PERMIT # 100970 DATE 9-19-66 OWNERS  
ESTIMATE 200.00  
CONTRACTOR owner NO. OF FIXTURES  
WATER TAP REC # \_\_\_\_\_ SEWER TAP REC # \_\_\_\_\_

Masonry Accessory Building

Building permit to Johnny Escobedo for the construction of a masonry garage (1966)