

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
OCTOBER 26, 2020
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
GF-20-146072
1601 WILLOW STREET**

PROPOSAL

Partially demolish a ca. 1912 house and construct a new addition.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) Demolish two-story portion of house.
- 2) Construct a two-story addition. The proposed addition includes a side gable set atop the existing roof, immediately behind the hipped ridgeline and intersected by a south (rear)-facing cross gable with exposed rafter tails. It is clad in horizontal wood siding to match existing and features double-hung 1:1 mullied and single windows with wood trim to match existing. The existing wraparound porch is extended to the east and south elevations, with all wood details to match existing. The roof is clad in composite shingles to match existing.
- 3) Add a masonry chimney to rear elevation.
- 4) Repaint existing siding, trim, railings, doors, and windows.

ARCHITECTURE

The 2-story house is clad in horizontal wood siding and has 1:1 mullied and single wood windows. Its compound gabled and hipped roof is clad in composition shingles and features exposed rafter tails. Its first-floor wraparound porch is supported by Classical columns.

RESEARCH

The building at 1601 Willow Street was constructed between 1910 and 1912. The Thomson family, its first occupants, rented the home until James Thomson's death in 1914; his widow remained in the home for at least another two years. A series of short-term renters lived in the house until 1924, when Leonard and Helen Gillaspay purchased it. It is likely that the Gillaspay family added the two-story portion of the house to accommodate renters, who appear in Austin directories in 1935. Leonard Gillaspay, a postal worker, passed away in 1938. His wife, Helen, married Uel V. Ives, a WWI veteran and American Legion luminary, by 1947; the couple lived in the home until the 1950s. Their daughter Helen and her husband Robert Primose lived with them after Robert returned from service in WWII until at least 1952.

After a decade of short-term renters, the home was purchased by Augustin and Reyes Castillo in 1964. Augustin Castillo, a quarry worker, passed away in 1969; Reyes Castillo, a waitress, continued to live in the house until her death in 2017. She raised 11 children there, and her porch became a neighborhood nexus. In a 2016 *Austin American-Statesman* article, Michael Barnes asked Castillos's sons what it was like to grow up in the house:

"Mama's house, because of where it's located on the corner — and us knowing a lot of people — there was always something going on," says Tony Castillo, 73, her eldest surviving offspring and a retired teacher and coach. "Especially on the porch. There would be music and just about everybody would stop by." "A lot of people congregated here," says Derek Castillo, 44, Tony's son and a business-development director for a video production company. "If something was going on, this was the place to meet."
The *Austin American-Statesman*, Sep 4, 2016.

Castillo's obituary declares: "She was at her happiest sitting on her Willow St. porch of 52 years, enjoying her time with cherished family and friends" (*Austin American-Statesman*, 2017).

STAFF COMMENTS

The 2016 East Austin Historic Resource Survey recommends this property as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource and a contributing resource to a

potential South East Austin National Register district, as well as designation as an Austin landmark and a contributing property to a potential South East Austin local historic district.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity. Additions appear to have been constructed within the historic period.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). The property may demonstrate significance according to City Code:
 - a) *Architecture*. The house is constructed with Craftsman and Folk Victorian influences.
 - b) *Historical association*. The house's longest-term residents included working-class households whose lifeways and contributions to their communities echo the neighborhood's demographic patterns as a whole.
 - 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 was a reportedly active neighborhood nexus due to its corner lot and wide porch, which may contribute to the character, image, or cultural identity of the neighborhood. However, only the three-year period from 1967 to 1970—from the time it was purchased by the Castillo family, who began and encouraged this tradition of neighborhood gatherings, to the end of the historic period—may be considered under this criterion.
 - e) *Landscape feature*. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are used to evaluate alterations to historic properties. Applicable standards may include:

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided. The proposed project requires demolition of a historic-age addition. Alteration of historic fabric is required for proposed roofline changes.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment. The proposed alterations are slightly differentiated from the existing historic building by their placement and massing; however, identical decorative detailing at street-visible elevations may suggest false historicism. The rear and east alterations are compatible with existing material. The side-gabled second floor addition is less compatible with the secondary Comal Street façade due to its scale.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired. If the rear and side alterations were removed in the future, the essential form of the historic building would be unimpaired. Roofline alterations would require considerable work to reverse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the second-floor gable be reduced in scale or moved towards the rear of the house to minimize visual impact at the Willow and Comal Street elevations, and that decorative details and/or building volumes be subtly altered to enhance differentiation between new and existing building fabric, then 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.

LOCATION MAP



-  N
-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 20-146072
LOCATION: 1801 Willow St.

1" = 133'

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





Source: Applicant, 2020

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, 2016-2020, by HPO staff and H-H-M, Inc.

- 1910 Not listed
- 1912 James Thomson, renter
- 1914 James Thomson, renter
Bartender, M. Arnold Pakenius
- 1916 Annie Thomson, renter
- 1918 W. D. and Mattie O. Neyland, renters
Captain, Hose Co. No. 7
- 1920 W. A. and Ina Tew, renters
Residential electrician
- 1922 Lizzie Lehmann, renter
- 1924 Lizzie Lehmann, owner (wid Fritz)
- 1927 Leonard and Helen Gillaspy, owners
Carrier, post office
- 1930 Leonard and Helen Gillaspy, owners
Post office clerk
- 1932 Leonard and Helen Gillaspy, owners
Post office clerk
- 1935 Leonard and Helen Gillaspy, owners
Post office clerk
H. W. and Eula Strong, renters
Salesman, Heffington Pet Co.
- 1937 Leonard and Helen Gillaspy, owners
Post office clerk
Lloyd B. and Corine Leffingwell, renters
Truck driver, G & H Motor Freight Lines
- 1939 Leonard and Helen Gillaspy, owners
Post office clerk
Weldon M. and Erminee Pitman, renters
Brakeman
- 1941 Helen Gillaspy, owner (wid Leonard A.)
Grady and Evelyn Cardwell, renters
Post office clerk
- 1944 Walter H. and Lola M. Klingemann, renters
Salesman, J.C. Bryant Co.
- 1947 Uel V. and Helen E. Ives, owners
Electrician
Note: Helen E. Ives was formerly Helen Gillaspy.
- 1949 Harold R. and Helen Primrose, renters
Student
Note: Helen Primrose, née Gillaspy, was born to Helen E. Ives and Leonard Gillaspy.

- 1952 Harold R. and Helen Primrose, renters
Bookkeeper
- 1955 a. Mary Rabel, renter
Operator, telephone company
b. Vacant
- 1957 Vacant
- 1959 J. W. Huckabay, renter
- 1962 J. W. and Faye Huckabay, renters
Driver, Tex Construction Service
- 1967 Augustine Castillo, owner
Laborer
- 1972 Mrs. Reyes Castillo, owner
- 1977 Reyes Castillo, owner
- 1981 Reyes Castillo, owner
- 1987 Reyes Castillo, owner
- 1992 Reyes Castillo, owner

Biographical Information

FUNERAL NOTICE.

Funeral services of James Thomson will be held this (Tuesday) morning at 10:30 o'clock from the residence, 1601 Willow Street. Dr. Arthur F. Bishop will officiate.

The pall bearers will be Ed Houston, E. R. Barnes, O. L. Fulton, Will Foster, Jim Pierce and Ben Pounds.

Interment will be made in Oakwood cemetery.

Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

The Austin Statesman: Dec 1, 1914

● **Obituary**

GILLASPY—L. A. Gillasp, 42, died at a local hospital Tuesday at 9 a. m. Mr. Gillasp has been a clerk in the post office for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife; three daughters, Helen Marie, Lorraine and Nelda Gillasp; his mother, Mrs. J. W. Gillasp of Centralia, Wash.; two sisters, Mrs. Jap Spiller, Smithville, and Mrs. Tina Mobley of Red Rock; and three brothers—Willie Gillasp of Taylor, Arthur Gillasp of Taylor and Charles Gillasp of Houston.

The body is resting at the funeral home at 1105 Guadalupe pending completion of funeral arrangements.

GILLASPY—Funeral services for L. A. Gillasp, 43, were held from the funeral home Wednesday at 2 p. m. with the Rev. Luther Norman officiating. Burial was in Austin Memorial park.

Active pallbearers will be James Holt, Monroe Davis, H. V. Hays, Emil Schwartz, M. A. Brumbles and Charlie Watt. Honorary pallbearers will be Ewell Nalle, postmaster; J. E. Shelton, assistant postmaster; A. Koch, superintendent of mails; E. L. Davis, assistant superintendent of mails; J. S. Gresham, foreman; O. N. Bruck, foreman, and H. V. Hoefler, cashier.

Mr. Gillasp, who has been a postal employe for 13 years is survived by his widow; three daughters, Helen Marie, Lorraine and Nelda Gillasp; his mother, Mrs. J. W. Gillasp of Centralia, Wash.; two sisters, Mrs. Jap Spiller of Smithville, and Mrs. Tina Mobley of Red Rock; and three brothers, Willie Gillasp and Arthur Gillasp of Taylor and Charles Gillasp of Houston.

The Austin Statesman: Nov 22, 1938 and Nov 23, 1938

WARREN U. IVES

The body of Technical Sergeant Warren U. Ives, who was killed in Czechoslovakia April 25, 1945, were to be received Friday afternoon by the Hyltin Funeral Home. Tentative funeral arrangements are for Sunday afternoon. Ives, who was born in Austin and educated in the Austin schools, enlisted June 20, 1943, and served in the European Theater until he was fatally wounded near Pilsen.

Survivors are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Uel V. Ives; his grandmother, Mrs. M. E. Rhemann of Austin; and three sisters, Mrs. Helen Primrose, Mrs. Nelda Waters and Mrs. Lorraine Bazemore, all of Austin.

The Austin Statesman: Jan 14, 1949

Helen; three daughters, Mrs. Helen Primrose, Mrs. Lorraine Bazemore and Mrs. Nelda Nygard of Austin; eight grandchildren; sister, Margaret Allen; and two brothers, George Rhemann and Earl Ives of Austin.

Ives was a member of the Church of Christ and veteran of World War I. He was a member of the American Legion, Travis Post No. 76; member of Volture Local No. 175-40 & 8; past chef de gare of the Volture; Commisvoyogeous of Grand Volture of Texas, and past sergeant of arms of the Legion Post.

Funeral services will be held Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at Cook Funeral Home. Burial will be in Austin Memorial Park under auspices of the Legion post.

UEL V. IVES

Uel V. Ives, 2201½ Lake Austin Boulevard, died in a local hospital Friday afternoon. Survivors are his widow,

The Austin American: Nov 16, 1963

IVES, Mrs. Helen Elizabeth, 78, 1607 Norris Drive, died Tuesday. Services 3:30 p.m. Friday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Survivors: daughters, Helen Primrose, Lorraine Bazemore, Nelda Stanley, all of Austin; sister, Eula Strong of Austin; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

The Austin American Statesman: Oct 13, 1976

AUGUSTINE CASTILLO

Requiem Mass will be celebrated Monday at 10 a.m. for Augustine Castillo, 52, of 1601 Willow St., at Guadalupe Catholic Church with Father Stanley Guzik officiating. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery under direction of Mission Funeral Home.

Rosary will be recited Sunday at 8 p.m. at Mission Funeral Home chapel.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Reyes Castillo; seven sons, Juan Castillo, Salvador Castillo, Alfredo Castillo, Stevan Castillo, Arthur Castillo, Augustine Castillo III and Rodolpho Castillo, all of Austin; five daughters, Mrs. Alice Ortiz of Plainview, Maria Lozano, Esther Trevino, Silvia Zapata and Pat Lozano, all of Austin; three brothers, Juan Castillo of Kerrville, Salvador Castillo of Junction, and Tufelo Castillo of Houston; four sisters, Mrs. Aroura Najaro of Llano, Mrs. Josephine Vasquez of San Antonio, Mrs. Margartia Reyna of Houston and Mrs. Adela Trejo of San Antonio; and ten grandchildren.

CASTILLO, Estevan, 21, 1601 Willow St., died Friday. Services pending at Angel Funeral Home. Survivors: mother, Mrs. Reyes Castillo of Austin; sisters, Sylvia Castillo, Mrs. Maria Lozano, Esther Trevino, all of Austin, Alicia Ortiz of Plainview; brothers, Johnny Castillo, Tony Castillo Jr., Salvador Castillo, Alfredo Castillo, Rudy Castillo, Arturo Castillo, all of Austin; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fermín Ramírez of Temple.

The Austin Statesman, May 25, 1969 and The Austin American Statesman, Sep 11, 1977

Our beloved Reyes Castillo, age 96, resident of Austin joined her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. She passed peacefully at home surrounded by her family. Reyes was born in Cypress Mills, Texas, on January 6, 1921 to Fermin and Cresencia Castor Ramirez. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Augustine Castillo; her daughters, Alice Ortiz, Mary Lozano, and Sylvia Hernandez; her sons, John, Alfred, Arturo, and Steve Castillo; her sisters, Rosa Gonzalez, Dominga Rodriguez, and Margaret Vasquez, and her brothers, Jose and Chano Ramirez.

Reyes is survived by her children, Tony (Bernice) Castillo, Salvador (Theresa) Castillo, Rudy Castillo, and Esther Trevino; her sister, Lupe Olivares; 15 grandchildren, and numerous great and great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other loving family and friends.

Reyes' main focus was her family and friends. She was at her happiest sitting on her Willow St. porch of 52 years, enjoying her time with cherished family and friends.

Visitation will begin at 3:00 p.m., Friday, April 21, 2017 with Recitation of Holy Rosary held at 7:00 p.m., Mission Funeral Home, 1615 E. Cesar Chavez St. Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 12:00 p.m., Saturday, April 22, 2017, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1206 East Ninth St., Austin, Texas. Interment will follow at Assumption Cemetery.

Legacy.com, <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=reyes-castillo&pid=185162213&fhid=14369>

Reyes CASTILLO

1921 - 2017



OFFICERS ARE ELECTED BY THE FIREMEN

FOUR FIRE COMPANIES HELD ANNUAL ELECTIONS AND SOME OF THE CONTESTS ARE VERY CLOSE.

NEW DRIVER IN 10TH WARD

W. D. Neyland is Elected After a Heated Campaign—Company is to Erect Quarters—San Jacinto Day Committees to Meet Tonight.

Protection, North Austin, South Austin and the Tenth Ward fire companies held their annual election of officers last night, the officers to receive their commissions at the annual inspection of the Austin fire department on San Jacinto day. Many of the offices were hotly contested for. The contests, however, were carried on in good spirit and after the elections refreshments and a general good time enjoyed.

All of the committees on San Jacinto day celebration have been called by Fire Chief-elect Walter to meet at the city hall tonight at 8 o'clock for the purpose of making arrangements for the event.

Tenth Ward Company.

At the election of the Tenth Ward company there was a lively contest for driver, resulting in the election of W. D. Neyland. The other officers elected were:

N. A. Turner, president; John Grist, vice president; H. A. Herzog, treasurer; J. T. Swanzy, secretary; John O'Brien, foreman; Sam Hargrave, first assistant foreman; A. R. Gluzel, second assistant foreman; A. Berner, steward; Charles Ludwig, sergeant-at-arms; Will O'Brien, Tip Robinson and Jim Cummings, fire police.

The Tenth Ward company expects to erect a fire house on the two lots, corner of First and Waller streets.

The Austin Statesman: Apr 8, 1910

Men who have enlisted for the regular army and sent to San Antonio within the last two or three days include Will R. Wood, cavalry, Fredonia; Uel V. Ives, field artillery, Fiskville; Don Wilson, infantry, Johnson City; Edward Theobald, engineers, Austin.

The Statesman: May 27, 1917

\$12,000 Building Permits Issued Here in Week

Austin building last week totaled \$12,033, bringing the total for the year to \$120,029.50.

The largest single permit of the week was one for \$6175 for the erection of a seven-room hollow tile and stucco residence for Prof. C. A. Wiley of the University of Texas to be located at 1815 Travis Heights boulevard.

Other permits issued during the week were:

L. A. Gillaspy, addition of screened porch to residence, 1501 Willow street, \$50.

E. M. Bohls, rebuild garage, 92 Rainey street, \$6.

T. E. C. Stewart, set up canvas awning or shed, 903 East Sixth street, \$8.

Miss Mary Rogers, addition of open porch to residence, 508 East 11th street, \$70.

J. W. Hazelwood, re-roof frame residence, 1110 South First street, \$50.

L. A. Colwell, alter garage building, 506 Elmwood Place, \$250.

The Austin American: Mar 25, 1934

Former Austin Girl Is Recent Bride

Mrs. Vel V. Ives of Orange has announced the marriage of her daughter, Helen Gillaspy, R. N., to Harold R. Primrose, gunner's mate 3-c, U. S. navy, Jan. 15 in a double ring ceremony performed by the Rev. Henry E. Spacek, Jr., at Orange.

The bride is a graduate of Austin high school and a 1941 graduate of Braekenridge school of nursing. She is now employed at the New Orange City hospital.

The bridegroom attended school in New York and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Primrose of New York City.

The couple will live in Orange where the bridegroom is now stationed. He has seen combat action in the South Pacific, North Africa and Sicily.



Missing in Action

T-Sgt. Warren Ives, son of Mr. and Mrs. Uel V. Ives, 1601 Willow street, has been missing in action since April 25, his parents have been notified by the war department.

Sgt. Ives was top turret gunner on a B-17 bomber which was damaged by anti-aircraft fire over Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. His plane dropped out of formation and fell into a spin, according to information furnished his parents. There are two known survivors of the plane, but no definite information has been received as to the whereabouts of Sgt. Ives.

The Austin Statesman: Jan 21, 1944 and Jul 3, 1945

Statesman Congratulates

"She's having all her good luck at one time," Mrs. U. V. Ives of Orange says of her daughter, Mrs. Robert Primrose, 1601 Willow street, who had a son born Wednesday at 5 p. m. at Brackeridge hospital.

Mrs. Primrose's husband, a navy gunner's mate 3-c now at Norfolk, Va., is getting his discharge tomorrow. He phoned his wife Wednesday night and was so excited when he heard that the baby was a boy that he began to shout to all his buddies, and Mrs. Primrose had to talk to all of them, Mrs. Ives tells us.

The baby is his parents' first, and his grandmother's first grandson. Mr. and Mrs. Ives and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Primrose of New York city are the grandparents of the 7 lb. 1 1-2 oz. boy.

The Austin Statesman: Aug 30, 1945

Auxiliary Sets Meeting On Monday

Mrs. Ed Hemme will assume duties as the new president of the Travis Unit 76 of the American Legion Auxiliary at the auxiliary meeting Monday at the Legion Home at 8 p. m.

Mrs. Hemme has announced the following committee chairman: Mrs. U. V. Ives and Mrs. Helen Primrose, rehabilitation; Mrs. R. A. Proctor and Mrs. Grace Williams, child welfare; Mrs. R. H. Francis, flowers; Mrs. Frances Studer and Mrs. Harvey Young, membership.

The Austin American: Aug 14, 1955



TOUCH OF FLANDERS—The traditional poppy, symbolic of patriotic services to the nation by its veterans, will be sold here Saturday with the proceeds going to aid veterans and their families. Eric Anderson, standing, commander of Travis Post 76 of the American Legion, receives a poppy from Jamie Primrose. Uel V.

The Austin Statesman: Nov 9, 1956

Ives, member of the post, gets his poppy from Veronica Taylor. The two girls are junior members of the Auxiliary unit of the post. The poppy grew to be the symbol of veterans' sacrifices in the famous poem, "In Franders Field the popples blow..."

Austin Statesman-United Press



LEGION PRESENTATION — The American Legion's 40 and 8, which met recently on a pilgrimage to the French Merci Boxcar, presented local officials with a copy of the resolution which gave the boxcar to the Grand Voiture

of Texas. J. Frank Graham, left, grand chef de gare of Texas, presents the resolution to Uel Ives, chef de gare of Voiture No. 175 of Austin. The boxcar is located at the American Legion Post 76 home.

H. B. Whitworth

The Austin Statesman: Feb 19, 1960



Reyes Castillo has watched the world go by from her broad front porch

[statesman.com/NEWS/20160904/Reyes-Castillo-has-watched-the-world-go-by-from-her-broad-front-porch](https://www.statesman.com/NEWS/20160904/Reyes-Castillo-has-watched-the-world-go-by-from-her-broad-front-porch)

By [Michael Barnes](#)

When Reyes Castillo moved to Willow Street in 1964, her household was among the only Hispanic ones on her East Austin block.

"There were not a lot of Spanish people at first," Castillo, 94, says. "One family across street was here when we moved in — and they are still here."

Throughout the decades, however, she witnessed a steady stream of Latinos joining them among the modest homes and tall trees south of East First Street, which became East Cesar Chavez Street in time. The Castillos were part of a second wave of Latinos sharing the area with descendants of mostly Scottish, Swedish, German and Chinese blue-collar families.

She remembers a place where folks got along fairly well side by side.

"We didn't go around to people's houses and get into their business," she says. "There were neighbor white ladies when we first moved here. They'd sleep in the yard. They were nice. They were no problem of all."

The first wave of Latinos came to the district of mostly bungalows and cottages — with a few Victorians sprinkled into the mix — during the 1920s. The second wave started in the 1940s, and included the Castillo family, who first moved to East Austin in 1951.

Now, the tide has reversed.

"White people bought up all those houses," she says. "Friendly people. Now there are only three Spanish-speaking people on our block."

Castillo, who reared 11 children while working to support her family — especially after her husband, Augustine Castillo, died in 1969 from a heart attack — has watched all these changes from her broad front porch. Famous folks — musicians, politicians, wrestlers — regularly passed by.

"Mama's house, because of where it's located on the corner — and us knowing a lot of people — there was always something going on," says Tony Castillo, 73, her eldest surviving offspring and a retired teacher and coach. "Especially on the porch. There would be music and just about everybody would stop by."

"A lot of people congregated here," says Derek Castillo, 44, Tony's son and a business-development director for a video production company. "If something was going on, this was the place to meet."

Enough family to go around

When asked about her descendants, Reyes Castillo needs help counting. She's outlived seven of her 11 children. And, for the record, she has 19 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

"She had to raise a lot of kids on her own on a waitress' salary," Derek Castillo says. "I don't know how she did it!"

Born in Blanco County, Reyes Castillo was the eldest of Fermin and Cresencia Ramirez's seven children. As a child, she also lived in Marble Falls and Temple. She attended a one-room school in Cypress Mill near Johnson City through the eighth grade.

"I was the only Mexican in my school," she says. "I was treated alright. I liked school. I liked everything. I wanted to learn."

What cut short her education?

"I got married. That was mistake," she jokes. "The biggest mistake I ever made."

Reyes Castillo was 15 at the time. Her husband, Augustine, drilled rocks. But she always worked, too.

After moving to the East Avenue area in 1951, she worked at the Market Cafe just off the avenue. What about her children?

"My children didn't starve," she says. "They all ate good. I always had the table ready for comida (a meal)."

The Castillo kids attended El Cristo Rey Catholic Church on East Second Street — "because it was in the neighborhood" — as well as Zavala, Metz, Brooke, Allan and Johnston schools.

Meanwhile, Reyes Castillo also waited tables at the iconic La Tapatia. She made their praline desserts and tortillas. For a time, she worked at a bar behind Cisco's on East Sixth Street called the Back Door. Other gigs at Luther's Barbecue, Arbuckle's Drug Store and an egg business on South First Street helped keep the family afloat.

Among her regular customers at La Tapatia was Coach Darrell K Royal. Neighbors included wrestler Dusty Rhodes, eatery owner Joe Lung and musician Ruben Ramos. Down the street was Tim Overton's criminal gang, brought back to life in Jesse Sublett's recently published book, "1960s Austin Gangsters."

"South of Cesar Chavez," Tony Castillo says. "This was a more uppity area."

As anyone in the Holly, Cesar Chavez or Govalle areas can confirm, it was also a good place to put down real roots.

"I garden a little bit with help," Reyes Castillo says. "The dirt here is good."

The older Castillos recall their other East Austin homes before Willow Street.

Reyes: "Remember when we lived in that ugly house?"

Esther Treviño, 69, her daughter: "They were all ugly houses!"

Reyes: (In Spanish) "Everybody didn't have bed. The little ones slept in our bed."

Tony: "We were close to the Cabello family. They had 13 kids in two rooms. We moved a lot. Always playing in playgrounds from early morning to 9 in the evening."

Salvador "Sal" Castillo, now a retired state government worker, came home one night and the family had already moved.

Reyes Castillo turns serious when she talks about outliving so many of her children. One of her surviving sons is emotionally challenged, needing constant care. Still, she's ready with a funny story, some of them unprintable in a family newspaper. She cackles with impish delight at the wayward tales told in Spanish, perhaps assuming that the stranger on Willow Street would not understand them.

The changing demographics on the east side don't affect Castillo much.

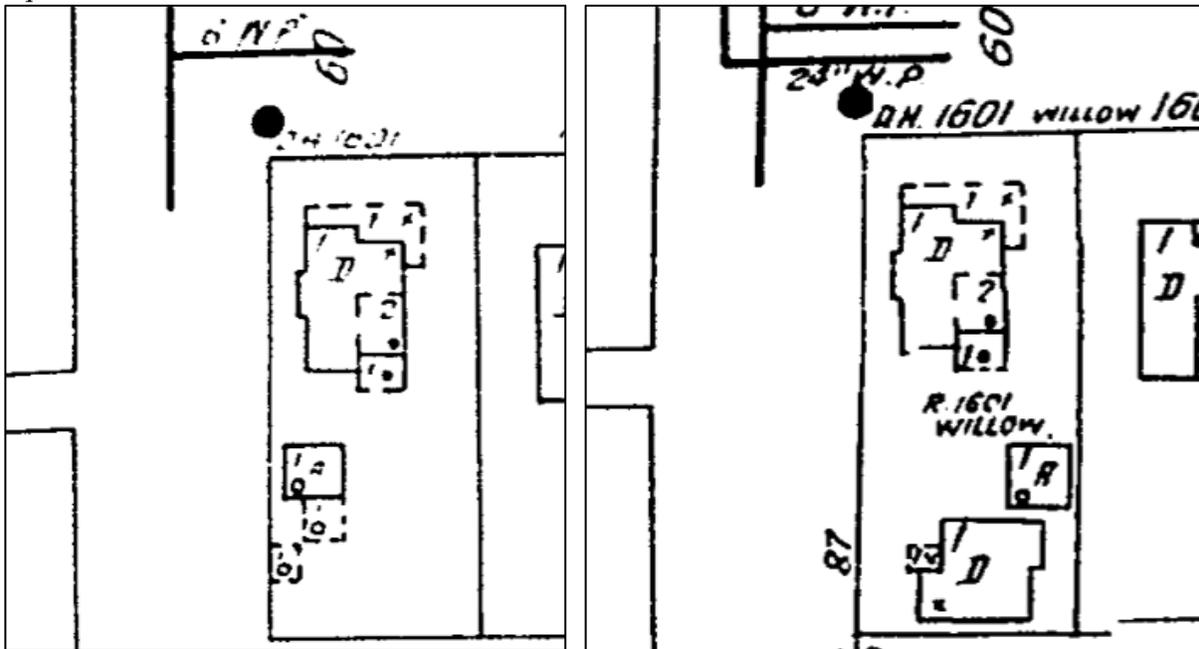
"For me, it's the same," she says. "I don't care. I don't go anywhere."

Though she may splurge on brisket or menudo from some favorite old eateries that haven't been turned into bars or nightclubs, she's slowly losing her appetite altogether.

"There's no secret to living so long," she says. "I used to eat good. Now I'm just making it. My mother was 98 when she passed."

The Austin American-Statesman, Sep 4, 2016. <https://www.statesman.com/NEWS/20160904/Reyes-Castillo-has-watched-the-world-go-by-from-her-broad-front-porch>

Maps



1935 and 1962 Sanborn maps showing 2nd-floor addition and outbuildings

Building Permits

Mrs. L. A. Gillispie 1601 Willow St.
 20 35 3 S.pt.of 1
 Riverside
 frame res.& corrugated iron garage

264n - 3-20-39

Building/remodel permit, 3-20-39

Mr. & Mrs. U. V. Ives

1601 Willow Street

20

1

1

35

(

Riverside

Repairs to residence.

49332 10-19-51

\$400.00

Owner

Repair permit, 10-19-51

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

E N^o 15659

20

Received of Meter Leads at Willow Date _____
 Address 1601 Willow St.
 Amount No Rec. of serv. - Locate \$ _____
 Plumber Renew if not cap. Size of Tap _____

Date of Connection	
Size of Tap Made	
Size Service Made	
Size Main Tapped	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	
From <u>S</u> Prop. Line to Curb Cock <u>13'</u>	
Location of Meter	
Type of Box	
Depth of Main in St.	
Depth of Service Line	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	INDEXED

No. Fittings	Size
Corp. Cock	
Elbow	
St. Elbow	
Bushing	
Reducer	
Pipe	
Lead Comp.	
Nipples	
Union	
Plug	
Tee	
Stop	
Box	
Lid	
Valves	
Job No. <u>K-323-700502</u>	
Req. No. <u>Wheat</u>	

Water tap permit, 1958