

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**JUNE 28, 2021**  
**PR-2021-066307**  
**1611 CANTERBURY STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1904 house.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, wing-and-gable plan, frame house with a partial-width independent porch on ornamental metal posts; front door with a transom; single 1:1 fenestration; synthetic siding.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1904 for Nathaniel Hessey, a pioneer merchant and jeweler in Austin. Hessey worked for John A. Jackson, a jeweler and silversmith at the time he first appears in city directories at this address. From 1904 until his death in 1908, he is listed as a pawnbroker and jeweler. His wife, Tennie, then continued to reside in this house, but also is listed at 2309 San Antonio Street, a house where she also took in boarders. Tennie Hessey resided here sporadically, more constantly in her later years; she died in 1949.

Tennie Hessey's daughter, Helen Duval, is also listed at this address in her mother's later years. She was married to Easton Duval, a design engineer for the highway department. In the late 1950s, the family sold the house to Frank and Pauline Casarez, who lived here at least through the early 1990s. Frank Casarez was an optician for Dickinson Optical for many years.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

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The East Austin Historic Resources Survey (2016) recommends this house as contributing to a potential local or NR historic district.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

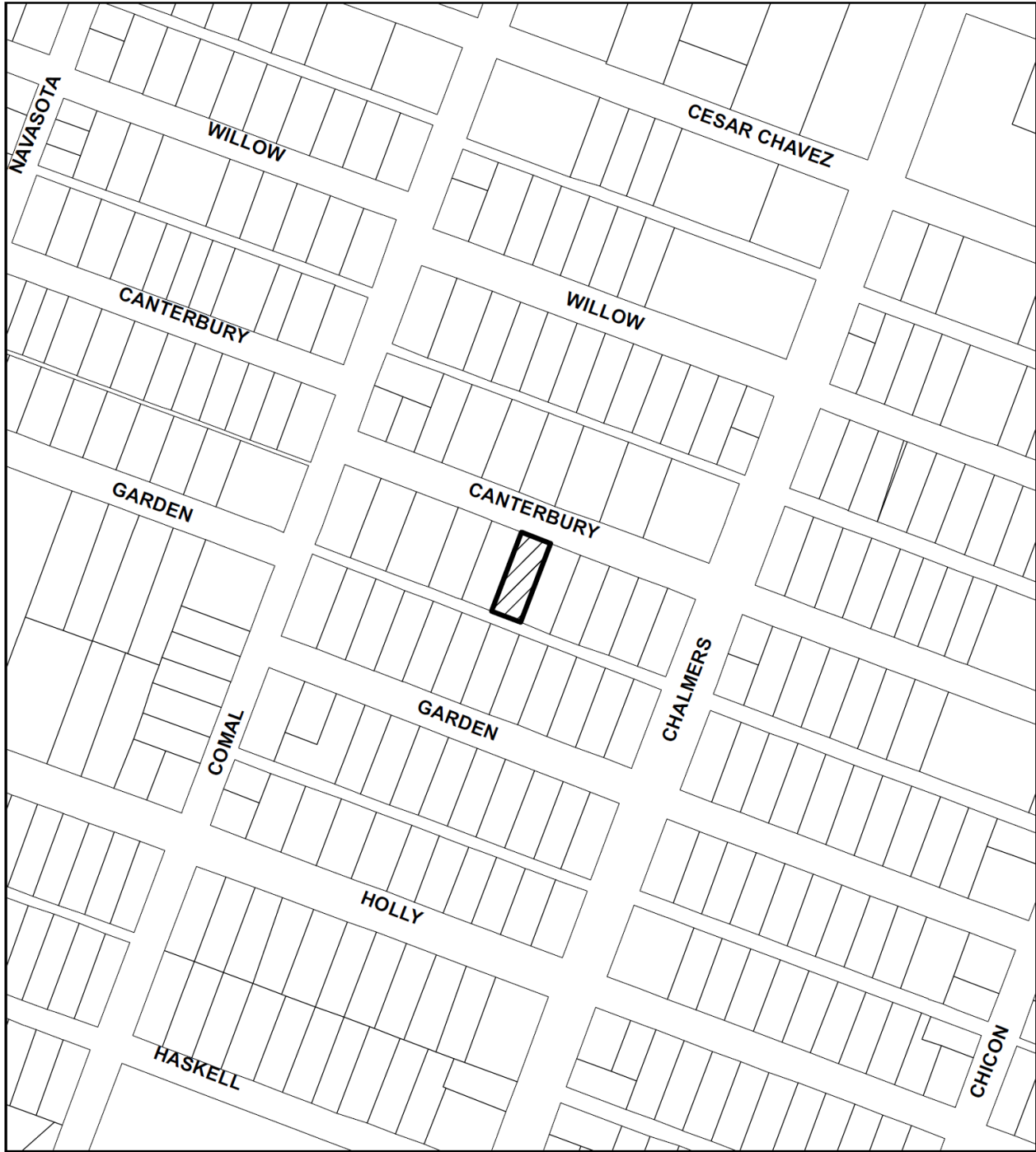
- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity with the exception of the siding, doors, and windows.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined it may meet the criterion for architectural significance but does not meet any other criterion squarely.
  - a. *Architecture*. The house represents a residential type that once was common in middle-class Austin neighborhoods at the turn of the century, but has become rare with time and development. This house has lost its integrity of materials over the years, but has the potential for restoration, as all of its architectural elements remain intact; the house has architectural significance in that it is an increasingly rare example of its type.
  - b. *Historical association*. The house does not have the required historical associations necessary for designation as a historic landmark. The house first associated with an early jeweler and pawnbroker; after his death, his widow occupied the house until her death some 40 years later, but also lived in another house and rented this house out. The house does not meet the criterion for significant historical associations.
  - 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 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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Strongly encourage rehabilitation or relocation 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, prior to permit issuance.

# LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 208'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 21-080306

LOCATION: 1611 CANTERBURY ST

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

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1611 Canterbury Street  
ca. 1904



## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1611 Canterbury Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
January, 2013

1992	Frank R. and Pauline R. Casarez, owners Retired
1985-86	Frank R. and Pauline R. Casarez, owners Optician, Dickinson Optical (multiple locations)
1981	Frank and Pauline R. Casarez, owners Optician, Dickinson Optical Company (multiple locations)
1977	Frank and Pauline Casarez, owners Optician, Dickinson Optical, 115 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1973	R. Frank and Pauline Casarez, owners Optician, Dickinson Optical, 115 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street and 1301 W. 38 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1968	R. Frank and Pauline R. Casarez, owners Optician, Dickinson Optical, 1301 W. 38 <sup>th</sup> Street.
1962	R. Frank and Pauline Casarez, owners Optician, Dickinson Optical, 113 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.

- 1959 R. Frank and Pauline R. Casarez, owners  
Optician, Dickinson Optical, 115 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: The 1958 city directory shows Francisco and Paulina R. Casarez at 1105 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street; he was an optician at Dickinson Optical, 115 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Easton and Helen Duval are listed at this address in the 1958 city directory. He was a design engineer for the State Highway Department.
- 1955 Easton W. Duvall, owner  
Designing engineer, State Highway Department
- 1952 Easton W. and Helen Duval, renters  
Engineer, State Highway Department
- 1949 Tennie Hessey, owner  
Widow, Willard Hessey  
No occupation listed
- Easton W. and Helen Duval, renters  
Designing engineer, State Highway Department
- 1947 Tennie Hessey, owner  
Widow, Nathan H. Hessey  
No occupation listed
- Easton W. and Helen M. Duval, renters  
Survey engineer, State Highway Department
- 1944-45 Tennie Hessey, owner  
Widow, Nathan Hessey  
No occupation listed
- Easton W. and Helen M. Duval, renters  
Office engineer, State Highway Department  
Also listed is Easton W. Duval, Jr., no occupation shown.
- 1941 Tennie Hessey, owner  
Widow, M.H. Hessey  
No occupation listed
- Easton W. and Helen Duval, renters  
Engineer, State Highway Department
- 1939 Solomon W. and Donna Cox, renters  
Barber, 112 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: Tennie Hessey, the widow of Nathan H. Hessey, is listed at 2309 San Antonio Street; she had no occupation shown. Easton W. and Helen J. Duval are also listed at 2309 San Antonio Street. He was an engineer for the State Highway Department. Helen J. Duval was the daughter of Nathaniel and Tennie Hessey.
- 1937 S.L. and Lula Johnson, renters  
Salesman, Sani-Products of Texas, potato chips, 810 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1935 Harlie and Mondra Barnard, renters  
Baker

	Theo and Nelda Schroeder, renters Baker, Kohn's Bon Ton Baking Company, 1307-09 Lavaca Street.
1932-33	John M. and Lora Blandino, renters John: Waiter, Looke's Café, 813-15 Congress Avenue. Lora: Waitress, Austin Hotel Coffee Shop, 705-07 Congress Avenue.
1930-31	Sid E. and Esther Eves, renters No occupation listed
	Jack and Signa Jones, renters Car inspector
1929	James R. and Eva Harrell, renters Carpenter
1927	James R. and Eva Harrell, renters Carpenter
1924	Tennie Hessey, owner Widow, N.H. Hessey Librarian, Christian Science Reading Room, 514 Littlefield Building.
1922	Robert and Mary Underwood, renters Switchman, International and Great Northern Railroad NOTE: Tennie Hessey is listed at 2309 San Antonio Street; she had no occupation shown.
1920	Jesse W. and Catherine White, renters Carpenter
1918	Tennie Hessey, owner Widow, Nathan H. Hessey No occupation listed Also listed is Helen Hessey, no occupation shown.
1916	Tennie Hessey Widow, Nathan H. Hessey No occupation listed
1914	Tennie Hessey Widow, N.H. Hessey No occupation listed
1912-13	Tennie Hessey Widow, N.H. Hessey No occupation listed
1910-11	Tennie Hessey Widow, N.H. Hessey No occupation listed
1909-10	Nathaniel H. Hessey Jeweler

- 1906-07 Nathaniel H. Hessey  
Proprietor (with F.H. Smith), Hessey & Company, pawnbrokers, 613 Congress Avenue.
- 1905 Nathaniel H. Hessey  
Proprietor (with F.H. Smith), Hessey & Company, pawnbrokers, 613 Congress Avenue.
- 1903-04 Unknown  
NOTE: Nathaniel Hessey is listed at 809 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. He was a clerk for John A Jackson, collateral broker, jeweler, dealer in diamonds, silverware, musical instruments, 619 Congress Avenue.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **Nathaniel and Tennie Hessey (ca. 1904 – ca. 1949)**

The 1910 U.S. Census shows Tenny Hussy at this address. She was a 41-year old Arkansas-born widow with her own income. With her lived her daughter, Helen, 10, who had been born in Texas; and her mother, Virginia Greathouse, an 81-year old Tennessee-born widow with no occupation listed.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Tennie Hessey as the owner of this house, which was worth \$2,700. She was a 71-year old Arkansas-born widow with no occupation listed. With her lived her daughter, Helen May Duval, and Helen May's husband, Easton W. Duval. Easton W. Duval was 44, had been born in Louisiana, and was an engineer for the State Highway Department. Helen May Duval was 40, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Billy, 18, who had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed.

According to her 1949 death certificate, Tennie A. Greathouse Hessey was living at this house when she died. She had been born in January , 1869 in Mineral Spring, Arkansas and was a homemaker.

# NATH HESSEY FOUND DEAD

AUSTIN JEWELER DISCOVERED  
HANGING IN HIS BARN LAST  
NIGHT, HIS NECK HAVING BEEN  
BROKEN.

## NO REASON ASSIGNED

Nothing Found to Indicate Cause for  
Deed—Had Been as Cheerful as  
Usual During Day—Found by  
Mrs. Hessey.

Nathan Hessey, the well known jeweler and pawnbroker of this city, was found shortly after 8 o'clock last night in the barn in the rear of his house, hanging by his neck to one of the rafters, being suspended by a bridle rein. He was first discovered by Mrs. Hessey who was looking for him to answer a telephone call. Her screams brought quick aid from the neighbors and those who were first to arrive found Mrs. Hessey holding up the body in the hope that life was not extinct. The body was cut down and medical aid hastily summoned. Dr. Howard Granberry and Dr. Herbert Sterzing soon being on the scene.

Death was found to be due to the breaking of the neck by the strap, and the physicians could do nothing. The strap had been fastened around the neck with a slip-knot which had tightened severely and the opinion was expressed that death had been almost instantaneous. The face was almost black and blood had issued from the mouth and nose. Mr. Hessey had removed his coat before going to the barn and was clad in his pants, shirt and vest when found, his collar and tie not having been removed. The strap had been fastened to one of the rafters in the barn and owing to its length Mr. Hessey's feet would have touched the floor had he not doubled up his legs. As it was, his knees brushed the floor. A stepladder leaned against the wall nearby.

Chief Morris was soon on the scene, being followed by J. D. Moore, justice of the peace. Careful search of the person and of the premises failed to reveal any note or any indication of what reason the deceased might have had. About twenty minutes before being found dead, Mr. Hessey had been called to the phone to give a message for Charles Ledbetter, with whom he had an engagement to play dominoes last night. Mrs. Ledbetter answered the phone and stated last night that he had spoken naturally and cheerfully, saying that he would be unable to play dominoes with the boys as he had another engagement. The conductor on the street car on which he rode home last night said that while he did not seem quite as cheerful as usual, he was not unnaturally morose when he rode home. C. D. Caswell, who is employed by Mr. Hessey as clerk, said last night that he had seemed as cheerful as usual and that so far as he knew there was no trouble, financial or otherwise. Mr. Hessey had suffered for some time from an eruption upon his face, and the theory was advanced last night that this had some effect upon his brain.

The news came as a distinct shock to all who heard it. To those who knew Mr. Hessey intimately it was almost unbelievable, for a more cheerful or genial disposition was seldom known. Mr. Hessey has been in business for himself for several years, having previously been a clerk for J. A. Jackson. He was 41 years of age and is survived by a wife and little daughter, Helen. He also has a sister, Mrs. Greathouse. The death of his little son several years ago changed Mr. Hessey's nature considerably according to those who knew him best and he never fully recovered from the shock of the loss. It is possible that this may have affected him last night in some way. The remains were taken in charge by Undertaker V. O. Weed. Justice J. D. Moore last night stated that he would render a verdict of death by voluntary hanging, cause unknown. The funeral is announced elsewhere.

Story of the death of Nathaniel Hessey  
Austin Daily Statesman, April 17, 1908



**MRS. TENNIE A. HESSEY**

Mrs. Tennie A. Hessey, 80, died at her home, 1611 Canterbury, Friday at 2:50 p. m. She had been a resident of Austin for the past 65 years.

She was the widow of N. H. Hessey, pioneer Austin merchant and Congress Avenue jeweler for many years.

She is survived by the one daughter, Mrs. E. W. Duval of Austin, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home Saturday at 5 p. m. with Mr. E. B. Winkler officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Obituary of Tennie Hessey  
Austin American, August 13, 1949

**MRS. TENNIE A. HESSEY**

Funeral services for Mrs. Tennie A. Hessey, 80, widow of N. H. Hessey, were conducted at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home Saturday. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers were E. M. Greathouse and Reagan Greathouse, both of Austin; Robin M. Pate of Brownsville; T. A. Greathouse of Houston; Jack L. Penick of Corpus Christi; and R. Malcolm Tyler of Huntsville, all nephews of the deceased.

Story on the funeral of Tennie Hessey  
Austin American-Statesman, August 14, 1949

**Census listings for Tennie Hessey while living on San Antonio Street:**

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Tennie Hessey as the owner of the house at 2309 San Antonio Street, which was worth \$15,000. She was a 61-year old Arkansas-born widow who is listed as a homemaker. With her lived her daughter, Henrietta Duval, 30, and Henrietta's husband, E. William Duval, 35, a Louisiana-born draftsman for the State Highway Department, along with their son, E. William Duval, Jr., 8. Mrs. Hessey had 2 lodgers: Eva Evans, 28, a Texas-born stenographer for an insurance company; and Hughes Isaac, 69, who had been born in Kentucky and had no occupation listed.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Tennie Hessey and her daughter, Helen, at 2309 San Antonio Street. Tennie Hessey was a 50-year old Arkansas-born widow who was the proprietor of a rooming house. Helen Hessey was 21 and had no occupation listed.

**Renters listed in census reports in between the occupancy of Tennie Hessie:**

The 1920 U.S. Census shows J.W. and Mary C. White as the renters of this house. J.W. White was 53, had been born in Indiana, and was a carpenter for the railroad. Mary C. White was 55, had been born in Indiana, and had no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Robert and Eva Harrell as the renters of this house. Robert Harrell was 50, had been born in Texas, and was a carpenter for a building contractor. Eva Harrell was 41, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had no children listed with them.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Solly and Dona Cox living with their daughter, Zula Johnson, in a rented house at 502 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin. Solly Cox was 57, had been born in Texas, and was the proprietor of a barber shop. Dona Cox was 53, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. Their daughter, Zula Johnson, was 21 and had no occupation listed. She had a 3-year old son, Stanley. Also in the household was Solly's son, Solly Cox, Jr., 12. The household also included lodgers: George A. Priest, Jr., 28, and his wife, Viola Priest, 22. George A. Priest, Jr. was a Texas-born café manager; Viola Priest was a café waitress.

**Easton William Duval (son-in-law of Tennie Hessey):**

His 1917 World War I draft registration card shows that Easton William Duval was born in 1896 in Houma, Louisiana. He lived on Route 5 in Austin and was a student at the officer's Training Camp at Fort Funston, Leon Springs, Texas, where he was a private. He was single, of medium build and height, with blue eyes and light hair.

Easton Duval, Jr. was born June 20, 1921 and was killed in action in World War II on May 31, 1944. He was in the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force Regiment in Barri, Italy.

**Frank and Pauline Casarez (ca. 1958 – ca. 2002)**

Pauline R. Casarez, age 71, of Austin, passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family and friends on Sunday, October 27, 2002. She was preceded in death by her husband, Francisco R. Casarez; her parents, Jose and Anselma Rodriguez; two brothers, Eusebio and Estanislado Rodriguez; and two sisters, Guadalupe Osorio and Ramona Castillo. Survivors include: beloved children; Jesse (Pato) Casarez and wife, Donna, Steve Casarez and wife, Sylvia, Cecilia C. Luna and husband, Ricardo, Grace Heatley and husband, Gene, Ana M. Martinez and husband, Roland, Vangie Cerda and husband, Frank and Amalia (Molly) Ramirez, all of Austin; two brothers, Jose M. Rodriguez of Austin, Ricardo Rodriguez of Los Angeles, Calif., one sister; Andrea Rodriguez of Austin. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and especially close family friends, Martin Orta, Jr., Mrs. Senaida Mokarzel, Jose and Socorro Bernal, and Clem and Trinie Cortez. Recitation of holy rosary will be on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Thursday 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Rev. Fr. J.C. Cain, O.M.I. will officiate. Committal services will follow at Capital Memorial Park Cemetery in Pflugerville, Texas. The Casarez family would like to express their gratitude and thanks to the staff of Shivers Cancer Center and Hospice Austin for their special care given to our mother. Serving as pallbearers are Eugene (Trey) Heatley, Joe A. Heatley, Antonio F. Luna, Steve Casarez, Jr., Rene Castro, and Michael Castro. Honorary pallbearers are Daniel A. Ramirez and Andrew Ryan Cerda. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Hospice Austin, 2820 E. M.L.K., Austin, Texas 78702; or to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 1206 E. 9th St., Austin, Texas 78702. Arrangements entrusted to Mission Funeral Home, 1615 E. Cesar Chavez, (512) 476-4355.

Obituary of Pauline Casarez  
Austin American-Statesman, October 29, 2002