HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS JULY 26, 2021 DA-2021-080264; GF-2021-103631 1308 LAVACA STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1940 building.

ARCHITECTURE

Mid-century Modern Magnolia/Mobilgas service station. The building form is a flat-roofed oblong box with a projecting canopy. Two pipe columns supporting the canopy rise from the platform for the gas pumps, which have been removed. The station is clad in stucco with five evenly spaced horizontal ribs extending to the header height. Near the top of the parapet, a continuous ribbed band wraps the building and canopy. The building has two overhead doors for automotive service bays; these have been replaced with modern doors. Storefront windows under the canopy wrap to the side of the building; while largely boarded over, they appear to be original to the building.

RESEARCH

The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) <u>A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas</u>, 2016 update, features this service station as a Magnolia/Mobilgas station of the type built in 1940–1950. Multiple gas stations constructed in the 1930s to 1950s featured a canopy with horizontal banding extending around the parapet, including those built for Conoco and Texaco. This station is distinguished by other characteristics of its design, including use of stucco cladding with evenly spaced ribbing, rather than enameled metal panels.

The construction date of the building is estimated. A prior Magnolia gas station on this site was constructed ca. 1920 based on city directory research. It was a filling station, situated diagonally to address the intersection of Lavaca and W. 14th streets, as shown on a 1935 Sanborn map. This larger service station was built by the time the map was updated in 1961. Between 1920 and 1935, city directories list a Magnolia Petroleum Company station; beginning in 1937, accompanying a change in management, it is noted as D.L. Elsner's Service Station. This name change may also mark the shift in function from a gas station to a service station with construction of the current building, but the date is earlier than the range indicated for this station design in TxDOT's field guide. There is a new water service permit for the address in 1939.

Dale Laurin Elsner, Sr. (1909–1984) operated D.L. Elsner's Service Station from 1937–1944. Previously, Elsner had worked as an attendant at another Magnolia gas station. For a couple of years while operating this station, he rented the neighboring house at 303 W. 14th St. Subsequently, the station went through multiple changes of management: Alton C. Ayers operated Ayers Brothers filling station in 1947, Leon A. Metcalf operated Metcalf Service Station in 1949, and Tom P. Coppedge operated Coppedge Service Company filling station in 1952. From 1955–1970 or later, Don E. Harris ran Don's Mobilgas Filling Station.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The <u>Historic Resources Survey for Old Austin Neighborhood Association</u> (HHM, Inc., 2020) lists the property as individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and designation as a historic landmark.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building retains a high degree of integrity. Replacement of the overhead doors is considered a minimal modification in TxDOT's field guide. The windows are boarded, but the visible upper portion retains the same configuration as shown in historic gas stations of this type.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria:
 - *a.* Architecture. The building is an excellent example of a midcentury gas station with a distinctive design associated with Magnolia/Mobilgas stations. The HHM survey documented multiple gas and service stations in the west downtown area, but no others retain integrity or have architectural significance sufficient to be recommended for designation. Outside of the survey area, other noteworthy gas stations in central Austin

include the former Conoco station at 1500 San Jacinto Blvd. (Megabus) and the former Texaco station at 1211 West Lynn St. (Sledd Nursery). Each are architecturally distinctive and significant in their own right.

- b. Historical association. The HHM survey indicates the service station is significant in the areas of community planning and development and transportation, representing broad patterns of history. In central Austin, it is a rare surviving example of a once more ubiquitous property type; within the original city plan, it is the last remaining gas or service station that could be designated as a landmark.
- *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.

Preservation Texas named historic gas stations statewide to their 2017 <u>Texas' Most Endangered Places list</u>. Austin currently has no gas or service stations designated as historic landmarks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consider initiation of historic zoning. Should the Commission instead choose to release the demolition permit, encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, then require completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of 8.5 x 11" photographs of all elevations printed on photographic paper, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history for archiving at the Austin History Center, prior to release of the permit.



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



HHM, Inc., Historic Resources Survey for Old Austin Neighborhood Association, 2019

Occupancy History City Directory Research, 2021

5	5
1959	Don's Mobilgas Station
1957	Don's Mobilgas Station Donald E. Harris, operator; residence at 1232 Broadmoor Dr.
1955	Don's Mobilgas Filling Station Don E. Harris, residence at 1802 Enfield Rd.
1952	Coppedge Service Co. filling station Tom P. Coppedge, residence at 1300 Alegria Ave.
1949	Metcalf Service Station Leon A. Metcalf, residence at 5207 Duval St.
1947	Ayers Bros. filling station Alton C. Ayers, residence at 305a Deep Eddy Apartments
1944	D.L. Elsner's Service Station Dale L. Elsner, residence at 3410 Hollywood Ave.
1941	D.L. Elsner's Service Station Dale L. Elsner, residence at 303 W. 14 th St.
1939	D.L. Elsner's Service Station Dale L. Elsner, residence at 303 W. 14 th St.
1937	D.L. Elsner's Service Station Dale L. Elsner, residence at 1604 Navasota St.
1935	1312: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 57 Note: Dale Elsner was an attendant at Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 786 at 211 E. 16 th St.
1932	1312: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 57
1930	1312: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 57
1929	1312: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 57
1927	1312: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 57
1924	1312: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 104
1922	1312: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 2
1920	1306: Magnolia Petroleum Co. Station No. 2
1918	1306: Vacant1308: Auto Paint Shop1310: VacantNote: Addresses correspond to three stores shown at this corner on 1900 Sanborn map.

These Firms Make it Possible for You to Obtain CHERRY Vouchers					
Ada	ms Best Extract	Heep-Lockhart Dairy Stores	Pate's Food Store		
Austin I	Flower & Gift Shop	No. 1000 Congress No. 22335 Guadalupe No. 41015 So. Congress No. 5506 West 28th No. 5506 Guadalupe	Raatz Grocery & Bakery		
Bec	ker Lumber Co.	Harben Lock Texaco Station	L. Bonugli Red & White Gro.		
Brid	lges Food Store	Howell's Gulf Station	Sixth & Blanco Service Station		
J. C. Br	ryant Creamery Co.	John Bremond Co.	Smith's Gulf Servicenter		
	pital Laundry &	Enters John Bremond Coffee Birdseye Frosted Foods	Strid Shoe Repair Shop		
R	Cleaning Co.	Durkee's Famous Spices White Crest Flour	Shipwash Grocery No. 1 2800 Rio Grande No. 2 4408 Alice Ave.		
Elsner'	s Magnolia Station	Hylo Cleaner	Saunders Drug Store		
Gene'	's Service Station	Kocurek Magnolia Station	University Drug Store		
	500 East 1st	Leon's Slipper Shop	H. H. Voss Co.		
Geo.	Wesley Cleaners	Longhorn Waffle Shop	511 Congress		
Hie	cks Rubber Co.	* 609 Congress	Wes Williams Cleaners		
	325 Congress	McKinnon's Jewelers	West Austin Drug Store		
nur	ley Mattress Co.	McNamara Bakery Products	Walker's Austex Chili Co.		
Home	e Steam Laundry	Millner's Magnolia Station	West Austin Cleaners		
Heep	Dairy Products	Nau's San Jacinto Drug Store	S. T. Wells' Magnolia Service		

Portion of ad showing Elsner's Magnolia Station, The Austin Statesman, Jan. 7, 1941

ELSNER'S D L SERVICE STATION (Dale L Elsner), Mobilgas and Mobiloil, Mobilaundry and Mobilubrication, Specializing in Polishing and Waxing, Your Car Picked Up and Delivered, Socony Vacuum Credit Cards Honored, Tire and Battery Service, 1308 Lavaca, Tel 8-7851

Austin City Directory listing for D.L. Elsner's Service Station, 1944

Mobil Dealers at these May 14 Thru May 21 Come In! Get acquainted

and receive your free Souvenir Key for your car.

A A REPORT OF A REPORT OF A	Souvenir K your co	ey for	
		-	
	Service Station	Bob's C	& Ser. Sta. GR 6-3387

Johnson's Mobil Service 2900 South Lomos Austex Truck Stop

IT'S

11220 Interregional Hwy. 'North on US 81 Gordon's Mobil Service

GL 3-905 Don's Mobilgas Serv. Sta.

GR 8-2626 D. C. Wallace Mobil

Service Station 5615 Burnet Rd. GL 3-8159

Wm. Bach Mobil Service 1401 Keenig Lone HO 5-0994

3401 North Lamor

1409 E. 6th

Hamilton's Mabil Service HI 2-9216 4205 Monchata Rd. Kickel's Mobil Service

GR 2-4036

Adams Mobil Service GR 6-3475 1900 Speedway Mayers Mobil Service 7200 Weadraw Ave. GL 3-9351 Lewis Mobil Service

Metcalf's Mobil Service

424 Se. Lamar

GR 2-0570

\$422 Burnet Rd. GL 3-9203 Gene Johnson Ser. Sta. 1511 Lavora GR 8-2417

Willie Kocurek 19th & GR 2-0347 San Jacinto **Ricks Sales Company** 6203 No. Lamor HO 3-6420

Shirley's Mobil \$101 Airport Blvd. Austin Battery & Electric

3001 Guadalups

GL 3-2446

GL 3-909 West 5th L. A. Joseph Mobil Ser. **Picnic Mobil Service**

concept In car care . . .

Your FREE gleaming Golden Mobil Key, cut to fit the ignition of your car, is the symbol of the new Mobil outlook on the care of your car. It's more than just new methods, new training, new equipment . . . it's "know-how" . . . car awareness. Your Mobil Dealer has moved a long, long way from the day when car care meant a fill-up and a clean windshield. We realize, just as you do, that a family's car is vitally important not only as hard-earned money spent, but also in convenience and enjoyment and prestige. And your Mobil Dealer is concentrating on giving your car the kind of service which will keep it at the peak of condition. Mobil products, famous the world over, like the New Car Gasoline, Mobilgas Special ... and Mobil Care ... intelligent, modern service for your car. Stop in soon at your nearest Mobil Dealer and see for yourself!

* With Each Fill-up of Mobilgas Special or Mobilgas

You're miles ahead with



It's Our Way of Saying Welcome!

The Austin Statesman, May 13, 1960

YOUR

Austin Small Business Labor Shortage Reaches Critical Point in Services

By ANNE-MARIE EVANS Staff Writer

The upward trend of labor shortage in certain employment areas seems to have reached a critical point in Austin.

projects.

Most contractors operating

in Austin are having to bring

in both skilled and unskilled

A second area to be

profoundly affected by Austin's labor shortage are the

service stations. Columns of

want ads and constant radio

attendants are indications of

the seriousness of the

"Long hours, hard and dirty

work, in many cases night

hours," are some of the reasons Washmon gives to

From one end of town to the

other, owners seem to be

looking for "any kind of help

The owner of Don Harris Mobilgas, 1308 Lavaca, who currently needs some help,

does not look with much hope

to the students. From

experience he has found that

"students in general do not

E. L. Anderson, owner of a

want to get their hands dirty."

Gulf service station and

garage at 1720 E. 12th St., who

has been in the business for

37 years, finds the current situation "worse than it's ever

been." Besides a shortage of

labor, his business also suffers

from "too fast an overturn.

They come and go within a

Mew's Texaco Service Station, 525 W. Ben White

Blvd., has more part-time help than full-time employes

"Only in individual cases.

where an owner has had one

or more full-time employes

work for him for many years, is fulltime labor no problem,"

says William Bach, who owns a Sinclair Station at 340

Northland Drive, "Otherwise

The third area to be affected by the labor shortage

- though more indirectly -

are concerned, one reason for the shortage is that high

school graduates do not want

to work at night or on Saturday. They want a five-

day week. If they cannot find

it in the sales area, they go

to something else," Washmon

"As far as store employes

is the retail business.

the problem exists all over."

few days."

working for him.

explain the labor shortage.

- full or part-time."

for 'service

announcements

tobs

situation.

advertising

station

manpower from out of town.

A survey of small business and enterprises which offer a service to people - such as laundries, food stores, retail stores, restaurants, service stations and garages - as well as of the entire business construction indicates that employers in these areas are finding more more that jobs are and available, but that there are not enough people to fill them, Statistics at the local Texas Employment Agency bear out these findings.

The basic cause for this slutation, according to W. E. Washmon, manager of the local office of the Texas Employment Agency, is that the elty of Austin is expanding faster than its population is growing.

The construction area definitely is affected the most, W a sh m on says. He immediately politis to the many building projects planned and begun by the University of Texas, the multiple expansion plants by such companies as IBM, Tracor, and the many new apartment complexes being raised in and around Austin.

There are not enough workmen to accomodate the many contracting companies operating in the city.

"Also, construction jobs involve a workday from 7:30 a.m. to about 4:30 p.m. which makes it impossible for students (who account for a large portion of the Austin labor force) to take or such a job on a part-time basis," he adds.

Construction companies, such as Citadel Construction Co. of San Marcos, contractors for the Brackenridge Hospital extension project, repeatedly have blamed the critical manpower situation in Austin for the slow progress on many projects.

Lester Palmer, executive director of the University Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, has stated that Austin labor shortage makes it difficult to get bids from contractors on many projects. He adds that it is this situation that is affecting the planned expansion of Memorial Stadlum.

Although the completion of the LBJ School of Public Affairs Sid Rlchardson Library and the Jester Center will release a substantial number of Austin workers, positions."

Washmon points out that already the University has \$100 million for new building of business is inadequate.

Especially where night jobs are concerned, buses seem to stop operating too early to provide a way home for many young peoplo — particularly to and from outlying areas.

Interviews with several managers of food stores such as Slaughters, 7-E1 e v e n, Handy Andy, H.E.B., reveal that these employers are having to rely heavily on parttime help to alleviate their shortage of employes.

"It is very hard to find fulltime people for jobs in a grocery store," says the manager of Sam Slaughter at 219 W. 19th St. "It is exceptionally hard work; therefore, people here in Austin go to easier work." Managers of other chain

Managers of other chain stores as well admit that a lot of their employees (many of them students) are hired on a part-time basis.

The influx of students into Austin for the resumption of classes at the University and other city colleges and universities, fortunately has somewhat alleviated the labor shortage in this area.

It is fairly easy for students of both high school and college age to incorporate a few hours of this type work into their school schedule.

Still, the part-time help does not solve the problem of fulltime labor shortage.

Affected in a similar manner are Austin eating establishments. In all areas of the city, in all types of restaurants, owners a re experiencing difficulty in finding help — though the situation does not seem to be critical.

Again, Washmon points to the transportation problem as one of the reasons for the shortage, since many restaurants are located on the outskirts of the elty. This makes access to them difficult for many younger members of the labor force.

As in the retail business, restaurant owners are also relying on part-time help which seems to be easier to obtain — for a solution to their employe shortage. The owner of Pale Baker

The owner of Dale Baker Barb-Que, 3003 Lake Austin Blvd., though not experiencing any shortage himself, states

says. He immediately adds that an obvious indication of the shortage is "the forced change over of so many retail stores to a self-service system, since they cannot flad enough personnel to fill all that "Austin restaurants of any size at all are having problems hiring people." He adds that many owners are using high school students in their establishments.

Lim Ting, owner of Lim Ting Restaurant, 3900 S. Congress, similarly experiences problems in obtaining full-time help. Parttime employes, according to this owner, seem to be more plentiful.

In addition to the labor shortage, restaurant owners and managers are also having to cope with the problem of constant employe turnover.

"Good hands that remain for a long time are hard to find," says the manager of Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 2915 Guadalupe. "A lot of male students are job jumpers who come to work for a couple of days and then just leave."

In his establishment, as in Sid's Restaurant, 3501 lamar, part-time help is relied on heavily.

As of Sept. 10, 527 job openings had been reported to the local TEA office, and most of these openings are in the sales field, the construction and industrial area, and the food service business.

A fundamental, allencompassing solution to the labor problem in Austin at this time "is out of the question," says Washmon. "Time is going to have to take care of this."

However, at least in the construction business, some steps are being taken to try to alleviate the situation.

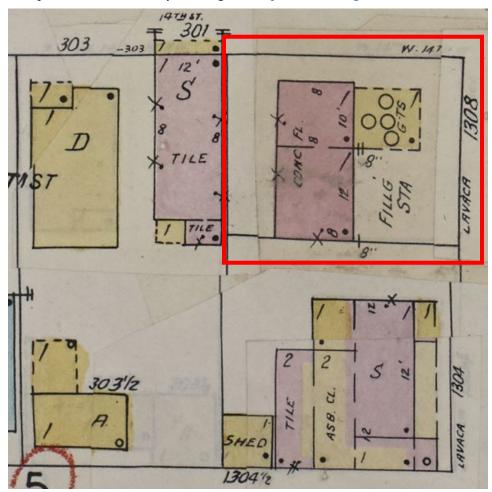
In this line many of the unions are offering programs which teach as well as train youngsters and anybody else willing to learn new skills. "Several of the local unions are even lowering their educational requirements to get more younger people into construction-t yp e jobs," Washmon says.



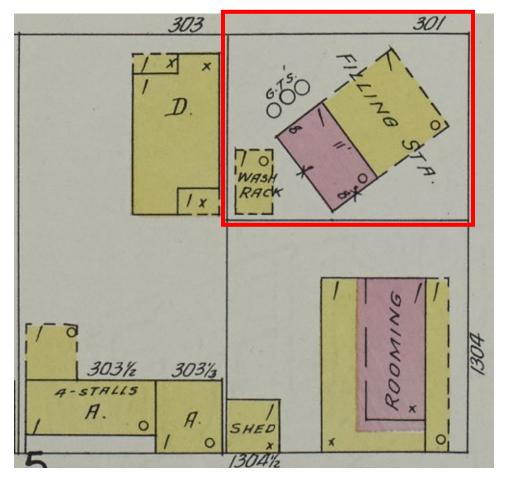
The Austin Statesman, Nov. 7, 1970

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

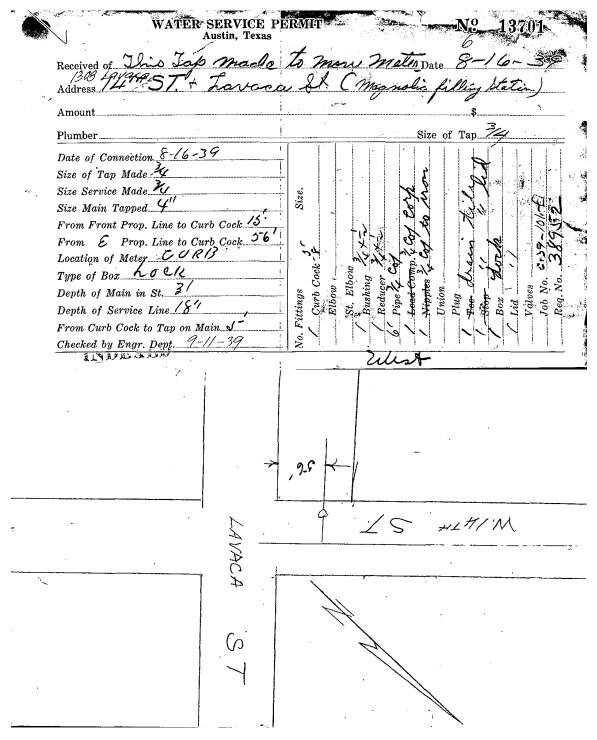
Source note: Sanborn Maps are from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1935-1961, vol. 1, sheet 18



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1935, sheet 18. Note prior filling station at this location.



Water tap permit, 1939

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Affairs Division, Historical Studies Branch

Historical Studies Report No. 2003-03

A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas

By W. Dwayne Jones

2016 Update By David W. Moore, Jr. and Shonda Mace

GUD

Magnolia (Mobilgas)

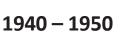
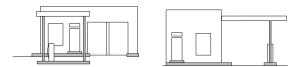




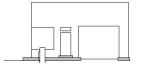


Figure 6-14. During the 1940s, many Magnolia stations adopted the oblong box form with or without a canopy, such as this station once located in the Fort Worth area.

With Canopy



Without Canopy



		_

Identifying Features:

- Flat roof with horizontal band in parapet
- Stucco or porcelain enamel finish
- Canopy, if present, is flush with roofline and extends from office
- Canopy has rounded corners
- Narrow metal poles support canopy
- Service bays extend on side of office
- Centrally located single-door entry with transom
- Large fixed-glass windows that extend to side present a glass wall effect
- Evenly spaced ribbing in brickwork across front and sides
- Three red and white bands extend around the roofline and canopy
- Modern style

Magnolia / Mobil

c. 1940 – c. 1950



Figure 10-38. Construction date and location unknown.

Clean, crisp lines and prominent rounded corner suggests Modern stylistic influences.

- 1. White porcelain enamel exterior finish
- 2. Large drum-like storefront with curved windows and transoms
- 3. Ocular windows on either side of storefront bay
- 4. Red accent trim used as company branding
- 5. Pegasus logo on front parapet

Alterations: None.



Figure 10-39. Constructed c. 1940; located at 1308 Lavaca Street, Austin, Travis County.

Long, low horizontal emphasis and minimal amounts of detailing suggestive of Modern-style influences.

- 1. Canopy with rounded corners
- 2. Narrow metal poles, continued to 1970
- 3. Large fixed-glass windows present a glass wall effect
- 4. Evenly spaced ribbing in brickwork across front and sides
- 5. Red and white bands along roofline and canopy

Alterations: Service bay doors replaced, painted exterior finish, pumps removed, some windows and rear bathroom door boarded.

Historic Resources Survey for Old Austin Neighborhood Association

June 26, 2020



Prepared for Old Austin Neighborhood Association

Prepared by HHM & Associates, Inc. Austin, Texas



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION				
HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FORM				
PROJECT # 1760-Down	town Austin		HHM ID	112117
County Travis			City	Austin
Address 1308 Lavaca	a St			
SECTION 1				
Basic Inventory				
Current Name N/	A			
Historic Name M	AGNOLIA GAS STATION			
Owner Information:				
Name PHARR PARA	DISE PARK LLC			
Address 303 W 14TH S	ST	City	AUSTIN	
State TX		Zip	78701	
Geographic Location:	Latitude: 30.27653180000001		Longitude:	-97.74256769999995
	opying and pasting url below into web brov /maps/place/30.276531800000001,-97.742		9995	
Legal Description (Lot/Blo	ck): N57.52 OF LOT 7 & N 57.53 OF E 29' O	F LOT 8 BL	OCK 157 ORIGINAL	CITY
Appraisal District ID	199826			Year
Property Type: Building				
Current Designations:				
Architect: Unknown or N/	A	Builder: U	nknown or N/A	
Construction Date: 1950) (source: TxDOT Gas Station Guide; Sanbo	rns from 1	935 & 1962)	
Function				
Current Use: Comn	nercial			
Historic Use: Comn	nercial			
Images				
Recorded by: HHM &	Associates, Inc., Austin, Texas	Date	e Recorded: Thu, 2	1 Nov 2019
To viev	v hi-res image: <u>click here</u>		To view hi-ı	res image: <u>click here</u>

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION				
	HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FORM			
PROJECT #	1760-Downtown Austin	HHM ID	112117	
County	Travis	City	Austin	
Address	1308 Lavaca St	_		

SECTION 2		
Architectural Description		
		building that was built in 1950. The property was originally
Alterations/modifications Alterations: Windows boarded, Do	oors replaced	
□ Relocated, specify date, former	location and information of interest:	
Classification		
Туре	Plan	Stylistic Influence
Auto Sales/Service	Box with Canopy	Mid-century Modern
Physical Characteristics		
Roof		
Form: Flat	Materials: Not visible	
Wall		
Exterior material(s): Brick, St	иссо	
Door(s) Primary		
Single door(s) primary entrar	nce, Garage Doors	
Windows		
Fixed, Boarded		
Porches/Canopies		
Other exterior features		
Ancillary Buildings		
Landscape/Site Features		

	TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION				
HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY FORM					
PROJECT # 1760-Downtown A					
County Travis	City Austin				
Address 1308 Lavaca St					
SECTION 3					
Historical Information					
Associated Historical Context:					
Occupant History:					
History Notes:					
Applicable National Register (NR)	Criteria: A, C				
A - Associated with events th	at have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history				
B - Associated with the lives of	of persons significant in our past				
	haracteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or ue, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual				
	yield, information important in prehistory of history				
Areas of Significance:	Community Planning and Development, Transportation				
Period(s) of Significance:	1950-1970				
Level of Significance:	Local				
Integrity:					
Aspects Retained					
Integrity notes	Alterations compatible				
NRHP Evaluation:					
Recommendation	Individually eligible for NRHP				
District Name	N/A				
Status in District	N/A				
Justification: Possesses integrity and significance					
Local Historic Evaluation:					
Recommendation	Local landmark				
District Name	N/A				
Status in District: N/A					
Justification	Possesses integrity and significance				
Prior Survey Documentation:					
Survey Name(s): N/A					
Survey Notes					

end