

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
JULY 26, 2021
DA-2021-080258; GF-2021-103638
301 W. 14TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1953 building.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story flat-roofed commercial building with modest Mid-century Modern stylistic influences. Cladding on the front is a combination of narrow coursed ashlar limestone and stucco, with side elevations consisting of stucco and clay tile. The façade has a large display window with horizontal muntins next to a recessed entry with a glass door and a similar fixed window set at a diagonal.

RESEARCH

John Marvin Davis, Sr. (1902–1987) and Eula Mae Davis (1905–1981) owned the neighboring house at 303 W. 14th St., where they lived and ran Raven Plumbing Company. Beginning in the mid-1950s, John Davis also operated Davis Cash Grocery and Market, and the building at 301 W. 14th St. may have been purpose-built for the business. The grocery store was previously run by Joseph A. Davis (1912–1990) and located at 1401 Lavaca St. John and Joseph Davis appear to be cousins. This building was completed ca. 1953 according to tax appraisal records, and the 1955 city directory lists it as the grocery in association with John Davis’s name. There is not known to be any relation between this family or business and the Nelson Davis & Son wholesale grocery business.

In 1961, Amy Stark Interiors moved into the building. Stark was a member of the Austin chapter of the American Institute of Designers and served as chair of the Austin Woman’s Federation interior decorating group. By 1970, the building was owned by the Country Store Art Gallery. A 1974 ad describes it as the “newly decorated street entrance” to the Best in the World Shop, affiliated with the Country Store gallery.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The [Historic Resources Survey for Old Austin Neighborhood Association](#) (HHM, Inc., 2020) lists the property as ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places or landmark designation.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building retains low to moderate integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it does not meet two criteria:
 - a. Architecture. Due to its relatively modest original design and subsequent modifications, the building does not convey architectural significance.
 - b. Historical association. The property does not appear to have 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

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse over demolition, but release the permit upon 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.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: DA-21-080258; GF 21-103638
 LOCATION: 301 W 14TH ST



1" = 131'

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*

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, 2021

1959 Davis Grocery & Market
 1957 Davis Grocery & Market
 1955 Davis Cash Grocery & market
 1952 Address not listed

Historical Information

BUY THESE DRUG SPECIALS

COLGATE DENTAL CREAM
 with **GARDOL***
 GIVES THE
SUREST PROTECTION
ALL DAY LONG!

...Brushing for Brushing
 The Surest Protection Ever
 Offered by a Toothpaste



ECONOMY SIZE
63¢

*Sodium M-Lauroyl Sarcosinate

Buy the
GIANT SIZE
and SAVE!



HALO SHAMPOO

89¢

YOU SAVE 36¢

Savings based on cost per ounce of smaller size

SAVE FOR SANTA!

H. L. ACHILLES GROCERY
 1612 Lavaca

BEARD GROCERY
 Bee Caves Road

BIEL GROCERY
 4627 Red River
 No. 2—North Loop

BIG BEAR FOOD STORES
 No. 1—310 South Congress No. 4—6113 Burnet Rd.
 No. 5—718 West 29th St.

BROCK'S GROCERY AND MARKET
 2209 So. 1st St.

BRYKERWOODS FOOD STORE
 1706 West 35th St.

CHECKERFRONT STORES
 No. 4—1501 San Jacinto No. 5—1522 South Congress
 No. 18—1504 Robin Hood Trail No. 21—209 North Loop

CRESTVIEW FOOD MART
 7100 Woodrow Ave.

DAVIS CASH GROCERY
 301 West 14th

FLOW'S GROCERY
 Del Valle

FOWLER'S GROCERY
 2514 Nueces

Excerpt from ad featuring Davis Cash Grocery, The Austin Statesman, Dec. 5, 1955

DISTINCTIVE INTERIORS FOR GRACIOUS LIVING



VISIT US AT OUR NEW LOCATION

Amy Stark INTERIORS

301 WEST 14TH STREET
PHONE GR 2-2050

Decorators Hosts At Farewell

The Austin Chapter of the American Institute of (Decorators) Designers, recently honored one of its members, J. R. Clements, with a farewell party at the Amy Stark Interiors, 301 West 14th Street. Hosts for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Stark.

Mr. Clements, who is now affiliated with the Deauntrieve Furniture Store in Lafayette, La., as interior designer, was formerly with H. M. Oetting Furniture Co.

Two of his former professors at The University of Texas and a number of local A.I.D. members who were his former classmates, were among those present. They were Miss Anna Brightman, associate professor of home economics and Charles Weldon York, assistant professor of home economics. Mrs. Michael (Sharon) Henson Wash, George Perkins, Bob Jones, Larry Schroeder, and Miss Ann LeNell Weber, who also assisted the Starks as hostess. Mrs. Stark is governor of the Texas Chapter, A.I.D.



This pine open-shelved pewter cupboard, typical of those found in rural New England homes in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, is being reproduced by the Century Furniture Com-

pany of Hickory, N. C., as a part of their new Henry Ford Museum collection. The piece is of the type mentioned by Mrs. Amy Stark, interior designer, speaker for Austin Woman's Federation.

Decorator Gives Nod

Period Combinations Give Added Interest

By LOIS HALE GALVIN

"Don't be afraid! Use your imagination."

"If you have a few traditional pieces of furniture, and several contemporary ones, by all means put them together," advises Mrs. Amy Stark, thus giving another affirmative nod to the professional viewpoint on this common enigma to so many homemakers.

Mrs. Stark, a member of the American Association of Interior Designers and one of the Texas A.I.D. Chapter governors, told members of the interior decorating group of the Austin Woman's Federation, that she believes a room or a home is much more interesting if different periods and different wood finishes are used in decorating them.

"The planning of interior decorating always has been an exciting project, but this year, it seems more exciting than ever," she stated.

Two influencing factors, both stemming from the White House, were given credit for stimulating one of the current, and exciting, trends: a return to our historic past for inspiration in home furnishings and interior decorations. One of these is the President's old fashioned rocking chair, which sends the sales of rocking chairs upward every time Jack Kennedy appears on television in it.

The other is the First Lady's great effort of collecting historic antiques for the White House. These antiques, intended as a permanent addition to the home of presidents, gave manufacturers the idea to reproduce furniture from the past periods.

Mrs. Stark, commenting on the television program earlier this year in which Jacqueline Kennedy took the American public on a tour showing what was being achieved in this undertaking, stated that members of the A.I.D. were asked to work with her. Among these was a Texan, Ben Read of Dallas, a partner in the Read and Pate Interiors.

"There is no doubt that we will be using the past periods in our decorating schemes for a long time," Mrs. Stark prophesied.

"At the January furniture market we saw reproductions of many of the authentic antiques shown on Mrs. Kennedy's TV-tour. Even the fabric mills had brought out the beautiful materials we recommend to be used with the period furniture, such as matelasse, damask, velvets and pure silks, with which it is so wonderful to work.

"But, whatever your heart desires in home furnishings, it is on the market today, for of course, the contemporary designers were busy showing their new designs with their comfortable straight lines, devoid of clutter, they also showed lovely fabrics with an af-

finity for contemporary lines.

"The Moorish trend was another highlight of the market. Characteristic aspects of the Moorish designs are heavy carved doors, carved chests, some in white with gold leaf. Then there were the wrought iron chandeliers and brass candleholders reproduced as they were made in Spain during the 15th and 17th centuries, and the beautiful fringed Spanish rugs that are very eye-catching.

"We saw the Shibu trend at the Dallas Museum of Art and at the Anderson Studio in Dallas, where the most beautiful materials imaginable were displayed.

"No doubt you know that Japanese culture has achieved the greatest height of beauty in man-made things, because they have studied nature, and have applied her principles more than any other civilization. Shibu is based on these Japanese principles.

"We are influenced by trends," Mrs. Stark pointed out, "and those I have mentioned are prevalent today. But, your home is the only part of your environment you can control, so remember that it must reflect YOU, not the White House, not the Moorish or any other trend unless it's right for you.

"Therefore, it will pay you to master all of the useful ways to improve your home, and the most useful and pleasing way is through the use of color. So decide on the color you like, for usually it is the color that will do the most for YOU.

To be livable, easy to take, while still satisfying, the interior designer advised that the color scheme should be undemanding, yet interesting. Color reflects color, as a mirror reflects, she explained, giving as an example that a red carpet on the floor puts a pink tinge on a white ceiling.

"And, pink walls make your skin look quite healthy," Mrs. Stark said. "Only a few days ago I told Ann that I had to do a pink job. It seems so long since anyone has asked for pink in the interior decorating scheme. So, no doubt, my home at 2404 Bowman

will soon blossom in pink.

Ann is Miss Ann La Nell Weber, Mrs. Stark's assistant in her interior decorating studio at 301 West 14th Street. She also assisted Mrs. Stark at the AWP lunch-

con meeting in the Bamboo and Lotus Rooms of the Summer Terrace House. Miss Weber explained some of the room color schemes they had designed and sketched. They further emphasized the col-

or combinations with sample displays of fabrics, floor and wall-coverings.

"Keep in mind that the color you select for walls and ceilings must be very soft, just a tint," Mrs. Stark cautioned. "You can create a rich atmosphere by using the brilliant pure colors in draperies and upholstery. Regardless of the kind of furniture, traditional or contemporary, your

room will turn out beautifully if you use soft colors.

"Most important, is to use only two colors and a neutral in your fabrics," she said, "and be very selective of your accessories, because even the tiniest accessory becomes a part of your color scheme."

Mrs. Stark was later unanimously elected chairman of the AAWF Interior decorating group.



**COME TO A GARDEN PARTY
AT BEST IN THE WORLD**

Come see our newly decorated street entrance at 301 West 14th transformed into a beautiful, bountiful, botanical garden. . . .

Browse through our freshly decorated interiors, filled with lush silk arrangements, new needlepoint designs, fine jewelry, luxurious Portbault linens, and new additions to our collection of American Indian baskets and jewelry.

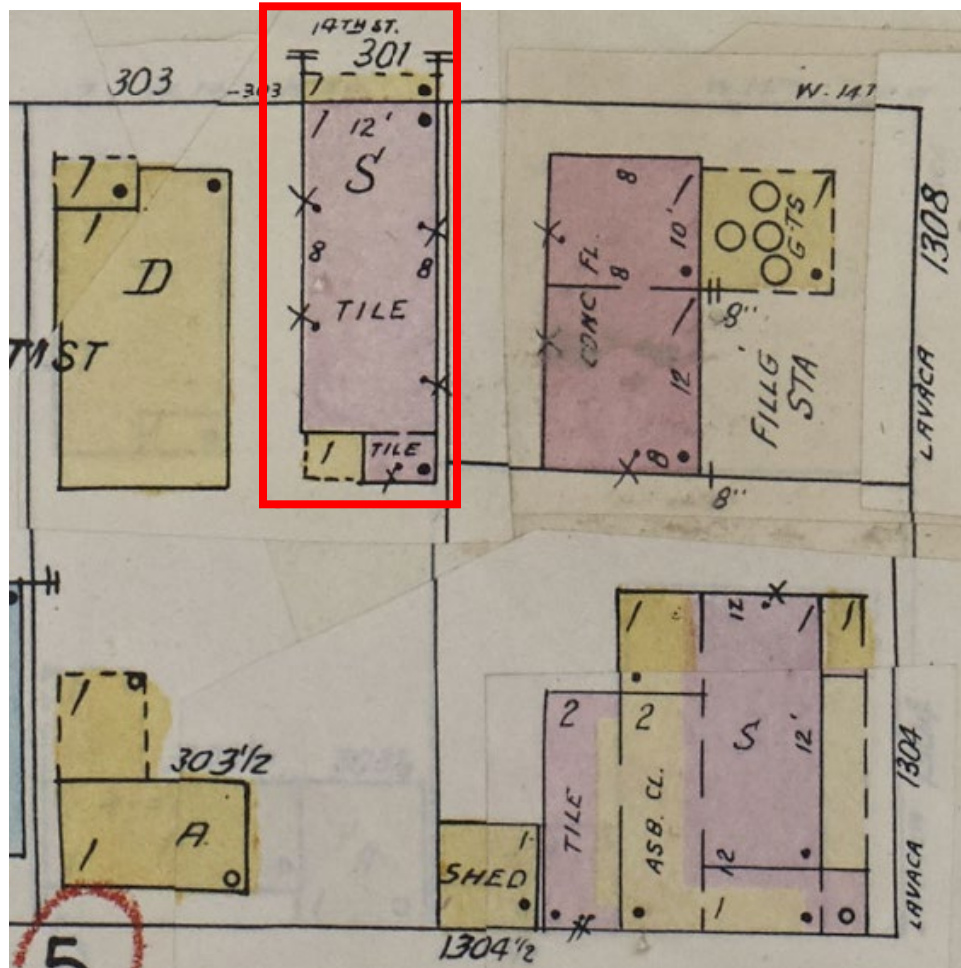
Stroll around and let yourself be carried back to a gentler time. . . . Come into our garden. . . . Refresh yourself. It just might make your day!

*Starting tomorrow
Continuing for a whole blooming week
The Best In The World Shop
1304 Lavaca Street
Austin - Texas
476-2019*

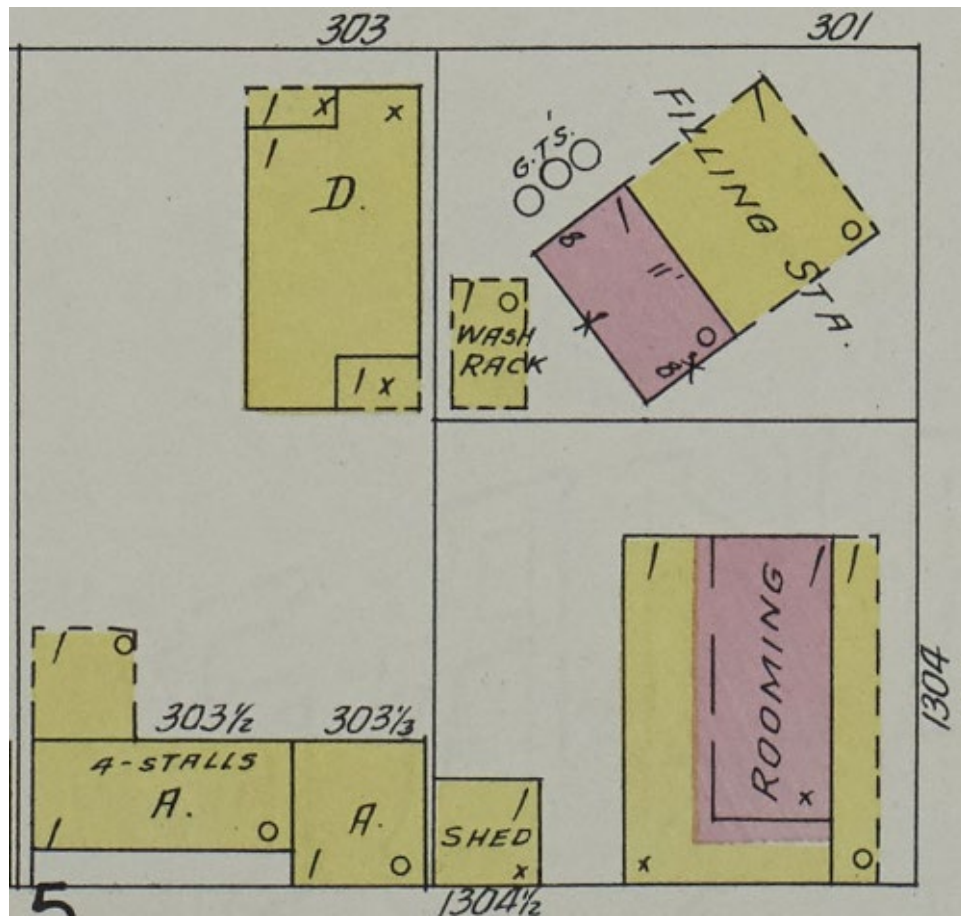
Austin American-Statesman, May 19, 1974

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 building does not appear on map.

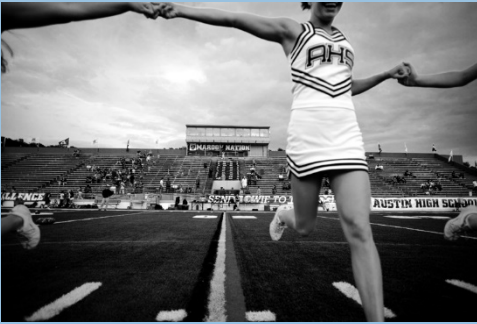
Permits

OWNER Country Store ADDRESS 301 West 14th St.
 PLAT 1 LOT part of lot 8 & 9 BLK
 SUBDIVISION Original City
 OCCUPANCY Art Gallery
 BLD PERMIT 1A6528 DATE 3-31-70 OWNERS
 ESTIMATE \$2,000.00
 CONTRACTOR H.H. Rothell NO. OF FIXTURES
 WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist
 REmodel a comm bldg.

Building permit for remodel, 1970

Historic Resources Survey for Old Austin Neighborhood Association

June 26, 2020



Prepared for
Old Austin Neighborhood
Association

Prepared by
HHM & Associates, Inc.
Austin, Texas



Thu, 21 Nov 2019



Thu, 21 Nov 2019

IDENTIFICATION

Address 301 W 14 ST
 Appraisal District ID 199834
 Addition/Subdivision OLD CITY SUBD
 Legal Description LOT 3 BLK A OLD CITY SUBD

Owner Name PALMER G J JR
 Owner Mailing 303 W 14TH STREET
 Address AUSTIN TX 78701

HISTORY

Current name
 Current use Commercial
 Year built 1953 (source: Appraisal district, 1935-1961 Sanborn)

Historic Name
 Historic Use Commercial
 History Notes

CLASSIFICATION

Primary/Secondary PrimaryPrimary resource
 Property Type Store
 Form/Plan Enframed window wall
 Stylistic Influence(s) Mid-century Modern

MAJOR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

No. of Stories 1
 Exterior Material(s) Stone, Brick, Wood
 Roof Form Flat
 Window Type(s) Fixed
 Window Material(s) Metal

INTEGRITY

Alterations All windows replaced, Doors replaced
 Additions
 Notes Alterations outside period of significance

PREVIOUS EVALUATIONS

Designations (Survey No. City Scan: CHBS 2018 - Form: Commercial/Block; Estimated Date: 1953; Style: Mid-Century Modern; Integrity Score: 3)
 Surveys City Scan: CHBS 2018 - Form: Commercial/Block; Estimated Date: 1953; Style: Mid-Century Modern; Integrity Score: 3

LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Designation Not eligible for local designation
 Justification Lacks integrity
 Applicable Criteria
 Area(s) of Significance
 District Name
 Status (N/C)

NATIONAL REGISTER (NRHP) RECOMMENDATIONS

Designation Not eligible for NRHP
 Justification Lacks integrity, Lacks significance
 Applicable Criteria
 Area(s) of Significance
 District Name
 Status (N/C)