

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**  
**GF-21-154919**  
**308-10 E. 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1938 commercial building.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, flat-roofed brick commercial building with modern replacement metal-framed fixed-sash fenestration and a modern, metal-framed entry door. In 2008, the building has a fluted full-width masonry canopy band, which was its only ornamentation; that has since been removed.

## **RESEARCH**

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The building was constructed in 1938; the first tenant was the Brown Cracker and Candy Company, which used the building as a warehouse. The space was used through the early 1940s as a cracker company warehouse. Ben Blond's electrical supply business was located next door to the west at 308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in the early 1940s; that building has since been demolished, but Blond used this building as his warehouse after the cracker companies moved out from the 1950s through the 1980s.

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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The building is not listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) likely because it was not 50 years old yet; staff would assess this building as a low priority for preservation as it has been significantly modified, and only the form remains.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain low integrity. The windows and doors have been replaced, and the only ornamentation on the building, a fluted canopy band across the front above the door and windows, has been removed.
- 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 retains its form but little else; the form is an example of a utilitarian warehouse building with little ornamentation, but which has been compromised by modifications so would no longer qualify under this criterion.
  - b. Historical association. The property does not have much in the way of individual significance, and prior to the modifications, would have had a larger role in relating the story of the district of warehouses on the east side of downtown that includes buildings on San Jacinto, Trinity, Neches, and Brazos Streets.
  - 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 is within an identifiable area of warehouses on the east side of downtown along the railroad tracks; these buildings provide a context for the history of this building and the extended warehouse district. This building would have qualified under this criterion as part of a larger evaluation of this area of downtown but the modern alterations have so damaged its integrity that this building no longer can relate its history.
  - 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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Release the permit. The modifications to this building have rendered it ineligible for consideration as a historic landmark and preparation of a documentation package of current conditions is no longer warranted. While staff generally appreciates the reuse of a historic age building, that reuse must be more sensitively done than occurred here so that the historic character of the building remains articulated.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 21-154919

LOCATION: 310 E 3RD STREET

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

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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**310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
ca. 1938**



**2008 photo**



**Current photo**

## OCCUPANCY HISTORY

### 308-10 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
November, 2008

**NOTE: The building at 308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street has been demolished. Blond Electric Company, which occupied 308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street for many years, also had the building at 310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street as their warehouse from the mid-1950s on.**

1987	<b>308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Blond Electric Company, Inc. Benjamin Blond, proprietor
1977	<b>308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Blond Electric Company, Inc. Benjamin Blond, proprietor
1967	<b>308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Blond Electric Company, Inc. Benjamin Blond, proprietor
1957	<b>308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Blond Electric Company, Inc. Wholesale electrical supplies Benjamin Blond, proprietor NOTE: The address is listed as 308-10 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street.
1953	<b>308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Blond Electrical Supply Company Benjamin Blond, proprietor  <b>310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Sunshine Biscuits, Inc. Earl G. Bryson, Jr., manager
1949	<b>308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Blond Electrical Supply Company Wholesale electrical supplies Morris Lerner, manager  <b>310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Sunshine Biscuits, Inc. Ira A. Hayes, branch sales manager
1944-45	<b>310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</b> Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company Brown Cracker and Candy Division Ira A. Hayes, branch manager
1941	308 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street is a residential address.

**310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**

Brown Cracker and Candy Company

George W. Todd, manager

1937

Both 308 and 310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street are residential listings.

NOTE: Brown Cracker and Candy Company was located at 120 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.



**The tender escort of  
jams and jellies**

Tenderly crisp they are ... just the proper thing to escort jams and jellies to the happy appetite.

And besides — Brown's Saltine Flakes are crammed full of healthful energy. Weight for weight, they contain more calories than white bread... Lots more!

**Brown's  
Saltine Flakes**

**BROWN**

Brown  
Cracker & Candy Co  
Distributors of  
Sunshine Biscuits  
in Texas

Advertisement for Brown's Crackers  
Austin American, November 7, 1928

# Austin businessman Benjamin Blond dies

Benjamin Blond, 83, an Austin businessman who ran for the City Council and for mayor in the 1970s, died Tuesday after a long illness.

Blond was encouraged to run for city office by his friends and other business owners in the community, who wanted to see a businessman in a city office, said his granddaughter Meianie Bowles.

Blond ran for the Place 6 seat on City Council in 1974. He lost in a runoff. He ran for mayor in 1976 and lost to Carol Rylander, who won her first term that year.

"He was well-known in this city, and he wanted to do something good for Austin," Bowles said. "He was encouraged by friends. He was actively involved in local charities like the Muscular Dystrophy Association."

Born in Austria in 1906, Blond came to the United States with his

parents when he was 2 years old. In 1929, he founded Worth Electric Supply Co. in New York City. He moved to Austin in 1948 and started Blond Electric Supply Co., at 308 E. Third St., which he ran until his death.

Blond was president of the Austin Jewish Federation for two terms and was active in the North Austin Youth Association.

His first wife, Eva Blond, died in 1959. Survivors include his second wife, Josephine Marko Blond; daughter Barbara Loeffel, of San Antonio; son Phillip Blond, stepdaughter Sandra Bowles, and stepson Steven Hoes, all of Austin.

Services for Blond will be at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Colonial Chapel of the Cook-Walden Funeral Home, at 6100 N. Lamar Blvd., with the Rabbi Marc Sack officiating. Burial will be in Agudas Achim Cemetery.

Obituary of Benjamin Blond, the owner of Blond Electric Company at 308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (now demolished), which expanded into this building as additional warehouse space in the 1950s.

Austin American-Statesman  
February 7, 1990



### Benjamin Blond

Benjamin Blond, 84, of Austin, died Tuesday, February 6, 1990.

Ben was born in Austria. At the age of two, his parents brought him to New York City. In 1929, he founded Worth Electric Supply Company in New York City, and continued in business there until he moved to Austin in 1941, and established Blond Electric Supply Company.

He was president of the Austin Jewish Federation for two terms; ran for Austin City Council in 1974, and for mayor in 1976.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM, Thursday in the Colonial Chapel at Cook-Walden Funeral Home, with Rabbi Marc Sack officiating. Interment will be in Agudas Achim Cemetery.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Eva Blond, in 1959, three sisters, and one niece.

Survivors include his loving wife, Josephine Marko Blond; daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Sheldon Loeffel of San Antonio, Texas; son and daughter-in-law, Phillip and Jayleen Blond; stepdaughter and husband, Sandra and Robert M. Bawles; and stepson, Steven Roes, all of Austin. Survivors also include eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and Dr. William S. and Beverly Moskovitz.

Palbearers are Leonard Hyman, Dr. Fred Kramer, Benard Laves, Charles Law, Mike London, John Minor, Brian Novy, and Joe Silberstein. Honorary pallbearers are Lloyd Bishop, Hyman Frankel, Joe Garza, Joe Goltz, Jake Groner, Lieutenant Ernie Hinkle, Willie Krueger, Louis Laibovitz, Ed London, Fred Miller, Dave Howard Novey, Dr. Eugene P. Schoch, Jr., Horace Silberstein, Aaron Winetroub, Lennie Parvin, Abe Goldstein, and Ben's many other friends from Austin.

In lieu of customary expressions of sympathy, contributions may be made to the Jed Sack Memorial Fund, Congregation Agudas Achim, Muscular Dystrophy Association or the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home, Lamar location.

### Obituary of Benjamin Blond

Austin American-Statesman, February 7, 1990

Building permit for the construction of the warehouse at 310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (1938)



## SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No. 15039

Austin, Texas

Received of Becker Lumber Co. Date 11/18/1938  
 Address 310 E. 3rd.  
 Amount Twelve Dollars \$ 12.00  
 Builder or Owner Becker E. t. Plumber \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lot A & B Block 32 Subdivision orig city Plat No. 10

Date of Connection <u>12/15/1938</u>	No. Fittings 32 1/2" Pipe 4" 3.25 1 Bends 4" .40 Reducers Plugs Sand Gravel Remix Stoppers Castings 1 Other 4" tap .15 Labor: 3 days 9.00 total 12.80
By City <u>28 1/2' N. of SLL of house</u>	
By Plumber _____	
Checked By <u>Boatright</u>	
Size Main _____ Depth <u>8'</u>	
Main Assign. <u>29' from PL</u>	
Stub Depth _____ Prop. Line <u>2'</u>	
Stub Location _____	
Book No. <u>B-608 CO @ PL 29' N. of</u>	
Paving Cut <u>N PL of E. 3rd. St.</u> No. _____	

Sewer service permit for 310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (1938)

Becker Estate 308 East 3rd Street

10 5 32 - -

Original City

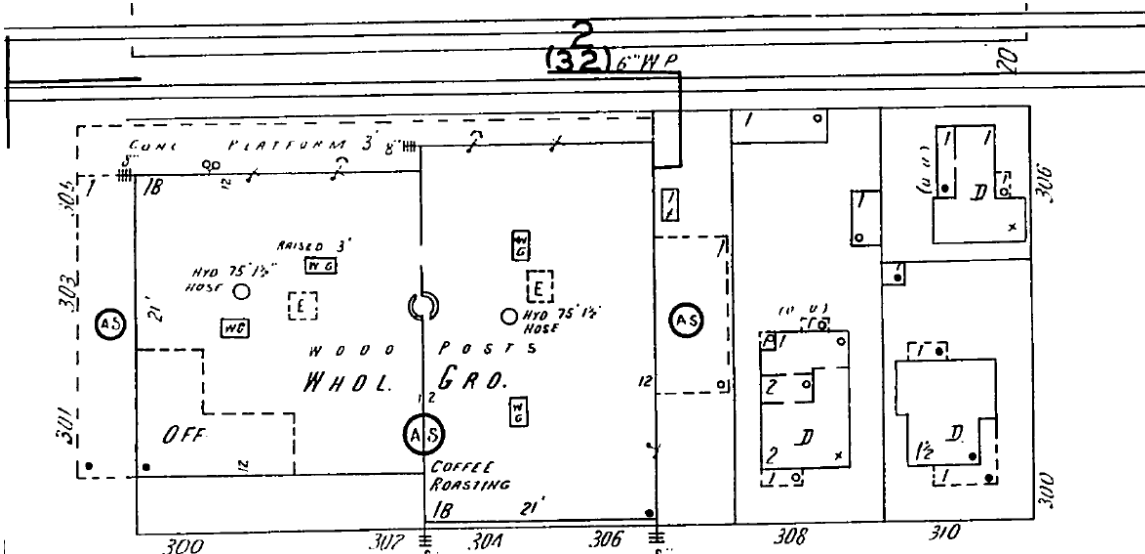
Masonry commercial building

35260 9-22-47

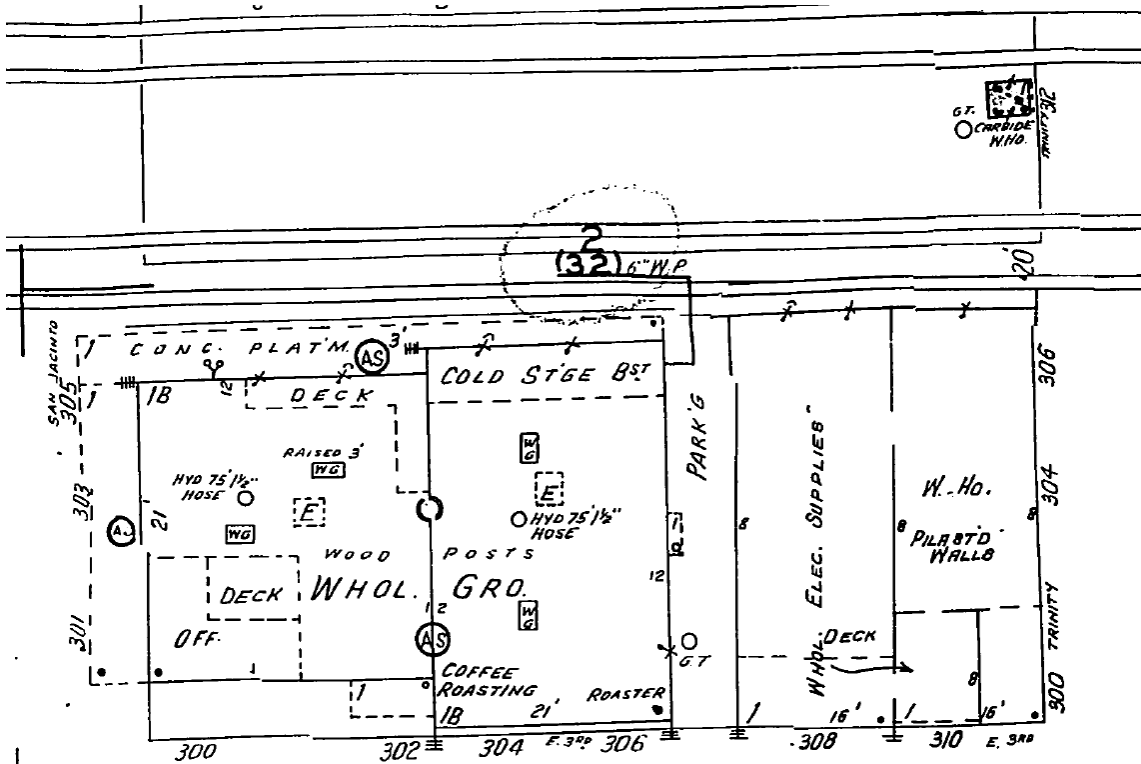
\$9000.00

O. Ashley

2

Building permit to construct the building (now demolished) at 308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (1947)The 1935 Sanborn map shows two residential structures at 308 and 310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (bottom right corner).





The 1961 Sanborn map shows the building at 310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street at the right of the map; the back opened up onto the railroad tracks. Benjamin Blond's wholesale electrical supply business was located at 308 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street with additional space at 310 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.