

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2022  
PR-2022-005907; GF-2022-016715  
6801 BURNET RD.**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a commercial (café) building built in the year 1968.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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This commercial building was built circa 1968 and is a single-story, wood-frame construction with red-painted brick masonry veneer with a mansard, asphalt roof. The patio area was later enclosed and retains an exterior tan stucco treatment with 8 large picture windows set at regular intervals across the Burnet Street facing façade. The building has been vacant since approx. 2018 and has graffiti on the façade and sides. The Frisco sign should be noted as part of the Burnet landscape since 1976.

## **RESEARCH**

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Location of the Frisco restaurant from 2008-2018. The Frisco's closing in 2018 marked the end of an 86-year old legacy business initially opened by Harry Akin in 1932 at the corner of S. Congress and Riverside.

Harry Akin was the first Texan and the first Southwesterner to hold the position of President of the National Restaurant Association. (1) Akin is highly respected and remembered for his civil rights advocacy practiced through his restaurant chain. Akin's businesses were among the first in Texas to desegregate; serving and hiring black people. He was also known for equal pay to minorities and women. His advocacy earned him a spot as a civil rights adviser to President Lyndon B. Johnson who was known to sneak in the back of the Night Hawk restaurant on S. Congress for a meal in the private dining room. Akin was elected mayor in 1967 and assisted in the passage of laws prohibiting segregation in public places. (2)

During this time the two biggest employers in the City of Austin were the University of Texas and the State of Texas, but The Night Hawk restaurant chain was also known as a top place to work. The businesses provided a higher standard of training, higher wages, and benefits like retirement options. Hoover Alexander, the founder of Austin legacy business Hoover's Cooking, started as a busboy at the Night Hawk and credits the Night Hawk as where he "discovered his passion for food and where he learned the restaurant business from the ground up." (3)

In 1994, a partnership of former Frisco Shop long-term manager Lawrence Baker and the Akin's nephew, R. Harry Akin, purchased the Frisco Shop. The business changed hands again in 2008, when the Frisco moved one block North into what was then the former Curra's Grill. The move in 2008 to 6801 Burnet Road was due to the demolition of the original Frisco location at 5819 Burnet Road (now a Walgreen's). Frisco's stayed at the 6801 Burnet Rd location until its closure in 2018.

Prior to Frisco's moving in 2008, this location at 6801 Burnet Rd was home to multiple restaurants over the decades including the following: Mr. Steak (1968), The Saxon Restaurant (1973), Jambalaya (1976), and Curra's Grill (2003).

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The property is at least 50 years old and represents a period of significance of at least 50 years ago, unless the property is of exceptional importance as defined by National Register Bulletin 22, National Park Service (1996).
- 2) The building appears to retain 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 meet two criteria:
  - a. Architecture. The building does not appear to convey architectural significance.
  - b. Historical association. The property does have significant historical associations due to its association with Harry Akin.
  - 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 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. It is the last location of the Frisco restaurant and therefore also the last iteration of a Night Hawk restaurant.

- e. Landscape feature. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city. However, the neon Frisco Sign appears to have been an installation on Burnet road since approximately 1976 (46 years) and therefore consideration for its preservation may be given.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff has determined that the property does not meet the criteria for period of significance of at least 50 years ago or of exceptional importance. Staff encourages the incorporation and preservation of the Frisco sign on Burnet Road into new designs for the property. Staff encourages rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, then release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

## LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT



PENDING CASE



ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 333'

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 22-016715

LOCATION: 6801 BURNET ROAD

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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### *Photos*



*Google Street View, 2019*

### *Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, February 2022

1959      Address not listed (building not yet constructed; Frisco Shop Restaurant listed at 5819 Burnet Road)

## Permits

OWNER Robert Lee & John Penn Est ADDRESS 6801 Burnet Road

PLAT 392 LOT 9 & 10 & Pt. 7-8-17-18-19-co-21 BLK --

SUBDIVISION Burnet Rd. Hts.

OCCUPANCY Restaurant, Mr. Steak, Inc. OWNERS

BLD PERMIT # 106346 DATE 1-2-68 ESTIMATE 75,000.00

CONTRACTOR Andrew S. Patton NO. OF FIXTURES See plans

WATER TAP REC # E54009 SEWER TAP REC # 49718

One story frame w/brk. veneer comm. bldg. 3178 sq. ft.

Building permit, 1968

|                                    |              |                      |                           |                                |            |                        |                 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| ADDRESS: <u>6801 Burnett Road</u>  |              |                      |                           | PERMIT <u>106346</u>           |            | PLAT <u>392</u>        |                 |
| LOT: <u>9-10 &amp; part of 7-8</u> |              |                      |                           | BLOCK                          |            | SUB.                   |                 |
| <u>17-18-19-20-21</u>              |              |                      |                           | OUTLOT                         |            | <u>Burnet Road Hts</u> |                 |
| FIRE ZONE <u>3</u>                 |              | USE DIST: <u>B 1</u> |                           | OCCUPANCY: <u>Comm Bldg</u>    |            |                        |                 |
| LAYOUT                             |              | FRAMING              |                           | FINAL                          |            | ROOF OVERHANG          |                 |
| <u>2/5/68</u>                      | PRINC. BLDG. | ACC. BLDG.           | <u>4/17/68</u>            | PRINC. BLDG.                   | ACC. BLDG. | <u>6/11/68</u>         | PRINC. BLDG.    |
| FOUNDATION                         |              |                      | FLOOR JOIST SIZE & O.C.   |                                |            | NECESSARY BLDG. CONN.  | ACC. BLDG.      |
| FR. SETBACK                        | <u>✓</u>     | <u>✓</u>             | CEILING JOIST SIZE & O.C. | <u>✓</u>                       | <u>✓</u>   | ROOM VENTILATION       | PAVED PARKING   |
| TOTAL & MIN. SIDE YD.              |              |                      | STUD SIZE & O.C.          |                                |            | STAIRS REQ. & NO.      | <u>Restroom</u> |
| SIDE STREET YARD                   |              |                      | MASONRY WALL              |                                |            | ATTIC FIRE STOPS REQ.  | <u>1</u>        |
| OWNER: <u>Mr. Steak Inc</u>        |              |                      |                           | CONTRACTOR: <u>Andy Patton</u> |            |                        |                 |
| <u>78.4 x 40.4 x 23 = 3178</u>     |              |                      |                           | <u>Cafe</u>                    |            |                        |                 |

Building permit, 1968

ADDRESS: 6801 Burnet Rd PERMIT 116285 PLAT 392

LOT: 9 & 10 BLOCK Burnet Hts SUB. Burnet Hts

FIRE ZONE 3 USE DIST: C / OCCUPANCY: Remodel Bldg

| LAYOUT                |              |            | FRAMING                   |              |            | FINAL                 |              |            | ROOF OVERHANG |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
|                       | PRINC. BLDG. | ACC. BLDG. |                           | PRINC. BLDG. | ACC. BLDG. |                       | PRINC. BLDG. | ACC. BLDG. |               |
| FOUNDATION            |              |            | FLOOR JOIST SIZE & O.C.   |              |            | NECESSARY BLDG. CONN. |              |            |               |
| FR. SETBACK           | ✓            |            | CEILING JOIST SIZE & O.C. | ✓            |            | ROOM VENTILATION      | ✓            |            |               |
| TOTAL & MIN. SIDE YD. |              |            | STUD SIZE & O.C.          |              |            | STAIRS REQ. & NO.     |              |            |               |
| SIDE STREET YARD      |              |            | MASONRY WALL              |              |            | ATTIC FIRE STOPS REQ. |              |            |               |

OWNER: R. Lee & J. Penn CONTRACTOR: Joe Higgs

Cafe

Building permit, 1970

OWNER Robert Lee & John Penn, Est. ADDRESS 6801 Burnet Road

PLAT 392 LOT 9 & 10 Pt. 7 thru 21 BLK

SUBDIVISION Burnet Hts.

OCCUPANCY Rest.

BLD PERMIT # 116285 DATE 3-9-70 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$850.00

CONTRACTOR Joe Higgs NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist

Remodel exist comm bldg.

Building permit, 1970



SIGN PERMIT

OWNER Saxon Restaurant ADDRESS 6801 Burnet Road

PLAT 392 LOT 9 BLK B

SUBDIVISION Penn Estate

OCCUPANCY Sign

BLD PERMIT # 135189 DATE 3-28-73 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$850.00

CONTRACTOR Modern Signs Inc. NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #

Erect a sign

*Sign permit, 1973*

SIGN PERMIT

OWNER Saxon Restaurant ADDRESS 6801 Burnet Rd.

PLAT 392 LOT 9 BLK

SUBDIVISION Penn Estate

OCCUPANCY Sign

BLD PERMIT # 142410 DATE 5-9-74 OWNERS ESTIMATE 300.00

CONTRACTOR Ad-Lite Signs NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #

Erect A Sign

*Sign permit, 1974*

ADDRESS: 6801 Burnet Rd. PERMIT 147967 PLAT 392

LOT: B BLOCK Penn Estate SUB. Penn Estate

OUTLOT

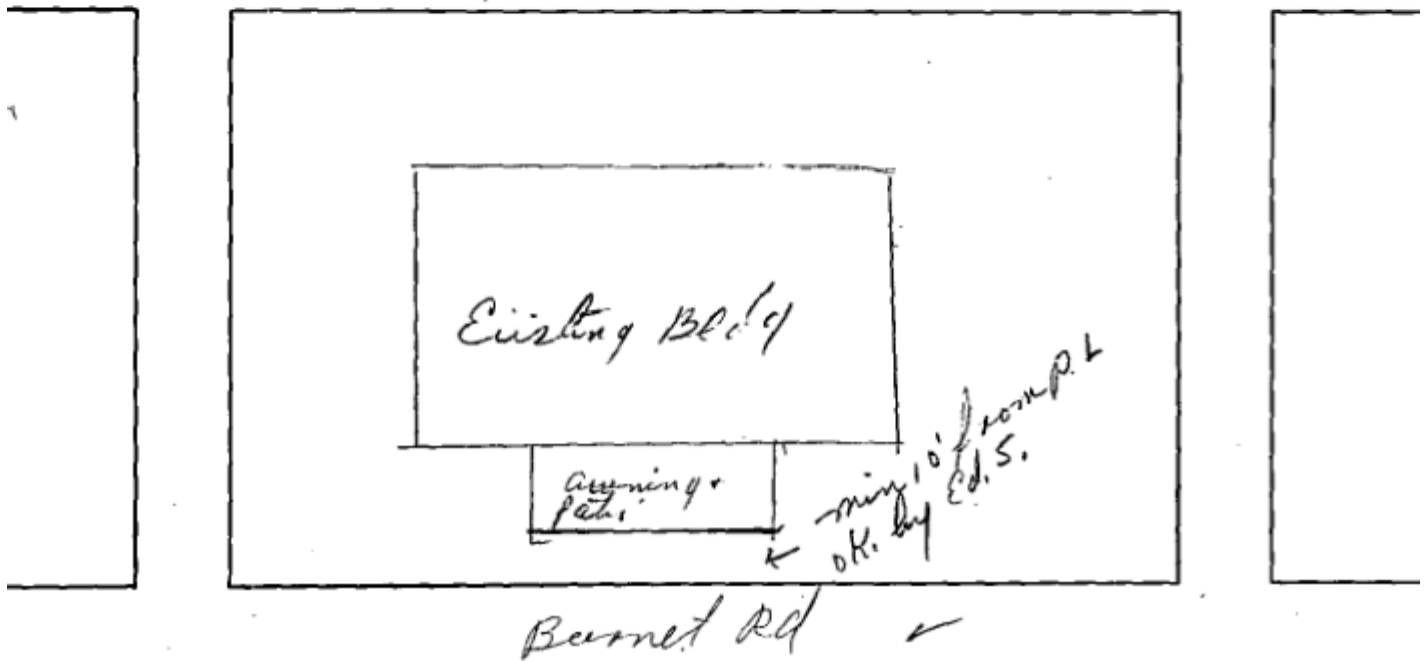
FIRE ZONE 3 USE DIST: C-1st OCCUPANCY: Private & Public Dwelling

|                       | LAYOUT       |            |                           | FRAMING      |            | 9-19-75               | FINAL        |            | ROOF OVERHANG |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
|                       | PRINC. BLDG. | ACC. BLDG. |                           | PRINC. BLDG. | ACC. BLDG. |                       | PRINC. BLDG. | ACC. BLDG. |               |
| FOUNDATION            |              |            | FLOOR JOIST SIZE & O.C.   |              |            | NECESSARY BLDG. CONN. |              |            | ACC. BLDG.    |
| FR. SETBACK           |              |            | CEILING JOIST SIZE & O.C. |              |            | ROOM VENTILATION      |              |            | PAVED PARKING |
| TOTAL & MIN. SIDE YD. |              |            | STUD SIZE & O.C.          |              |            | STAIRS REQ. & NO.     |              |            |               |
| SIDE STREET YARD      |              |            | MASONRY WALL              |              |            | ATTIC FIRE STOPS REQ. |              |            |               |

OWNER: Wm. Penn Estate CONTRACTOR: Bob. Loupe.

15 x 20 = 2007

227-75



Building permit, 1975



OWNER William Penn Est. ADDRESS 6801 Burnet Rd.  
 PLAT 392 LOT B BLK  
 SUBDIVISION Penn Est.  
 OCCUPANCY Restaurant  
 BLD PERMIT # 147967 DATE 2-27-75 OWNERS ESTIMATE 2,000.00  
 CONTRACTOR Bob Toups NO. OF FIXTURES ~~EX~~ None  
 WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist  
 Patio & ~~BAV~~ Fabric Awning in Front of Comm. Bldg. 200 Sq.

*Building permit, 1975*

Penn Est.  
 OWNER Robt. Loe and John READ ADDRESS 6801 Burnet Rd  
 PLAT 392 LOT 13 BLK  
 SUBDIVISION Penn Estate  
 OCCUPANCY restaurant  
 BLD PERMIT #148091 DATE 3-5-75 OWNERS ESTIMATE \$3000.00  
 CONTRACTOR Bob Toups NO. OF FIXTURES  
 WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #  
 remodel exist comm bldg.

*Building permit, 1975*

|                        |                    |                 |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| SIGN PERMIT            |                    |                 |                 |
| OWNER                  | Robert Penn Estate | ADDRESS         | 6801 Burnet Rd. |
| PLAT                   | 392                | LOT             | Tract B.        |
|                        |                    |                 | BLK.            |
| SUBDIVISION            | Pecan Estate       |                 |                 |
| OCCUPANCY              | Sign               |                 |                 |
| BLDG. PERMIT #         | 154554             | DATE            | 2-2-76          |
|                        |                    | OWNERS ESTIMATE | \$25.00         |
| CONTRACTOR             | occupant           | NO. OF FIXTURES |                 |
| WATER TAP REC#         | SEWER TAP REC#     |                 |                 |
| erect sign - Janbalaya |                    |                 |                 |

*Sign permit, 1976*

|                              |                      |                 |                   |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SIGN PERMIT                  |                      |                 |                   |
| OWNER                        | Jambalaya Restaurant | ADDRESS         | 6801 Burnet Rd.   |
| PLAT                         | 392                  | LOT             | 9,10 & Pt of 7-21 |
|                              |                      |                 | BLK. B            |
| SUBDIVISION                  | Penn Estate          |                 |                   |
| OCCUPANCY                    | Sign                 |                 |                   |
| BLDG. PERMIT #               | 154963               | DATE            | 2-17-76           |
|                              |                      | OWNERS ESTIMATE | \$500.00          |
| CONTRACTOR                   | Port A Sign          | NO. OF FIXTURES |                   |
| WATER TAP REC#               | SEWER TAP REC#       |                 |                   |
| erect sign - Changeable Copy |                      |                 |                   |

*Sign permit, 1976*

Address: 6801 BURNET RD. | Permit: 178274 | Plat: 392

Lot: B | Block: — | Subdivision: PENN ESTATE

Outlot: —

Fire Zone: 3 | Use Dist. C#188 | Occupancy: REPAIR FLOOR & ROOF OF 1 STRY WOOD FR. COMM. BLDG.

| Layout                 |   | Framing                   |  | Final       |  | Commercial  |  |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| Foundation             |   | Floor joist size & o.c.   |  | Bldg. Conn. |  | Parking     |  |
| Front setback          |   | ceiling joist size & o.c. |  | Room Vent.  |  | Exits       |  |
| Total & Min. side yard |   | stud size & o.c.          |  | Stairs      |  | Exit lights |  |
| Side St. Yard          |   |                           |  | Rails       |  | Fences      |  |
| Type Const.            | V | W. Insulation             |  | Attic Vent. |  | Corridors   |  |
| Spec. Permit #         |   | Sheetrock                 |  | Insulation  |  |             |  |
| BOA                    |   | Commercial Sheetrock      |  | Hood Vent.  |  |             |  |
|                        |   | Occup. Sep. Thru out      |  | Glass       |  |             |  |
|                        |   |                           |  | Deadbolts   |  |             |  |
|                        |   |                           |  | Fireplaces  |  |             |  |

Owner: JAMBALAYA RESTAURANT | Contractor: WILDFIRE CONST. CO.  
LARRY BARRON  
453-8574

1-4-79 RED TAPED

BID 2005 JUNE 77

City of Austin

Clerk B. W. T. Date 12-14-78

Address: 6801 BURNET RD.

Building permit, 1978

OWNER Jambalaya Restaurant ADDRESS 6801 Burnet Rd.

PLAT 392 LOT B BLK.

SUBDIVISION Penn Ests.

OCCUPANCY Restaurant Remodel

BLDG. PERMIT # 178274 DATE 12-18-78 OWNERS 1,000.00 ESTIMATE

CONTRACTOR Wildfire Const CO. NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#

Repair floor & roof of 1 stry wd fr, comm bldg.

Building permit, 1978

**5819 Burnet Road Permits**

|   |                            |      |                                   |                       |
|---|----------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| OWNER                                     | SIGN PERMIT<br>Frisco Shpp |      | ADDRESS 5819 Burnet Rd.           |                       |
| PLAT                                      | 326                        | LOT  | 100'x200' of Louise<br>Woelke Tr. | BLK.                  |
| SUBDIVISION                               | Unplatted                  |      |                                   |                       |
| OCCUPANCY                                 | Sign                       |      |                                   |                       |
| BLDG. PERMIT #                            | 155460                     | DATE | 3-10-76                           | OWNERS<br>ESTIMATE \$ |
| CONTRACTOR                                | Ad Lite Sign               |      | NO. OF FIXTURES                   |                       |
| WATER TAP REC#                            |                            |      | SEWER TAP REC#                    |                       |
| erect sign - Frisco Shop                  |                            |      |                                   |                       |
| 9-19-77# 167486- Frisco Shop- Sign Permit |                            |      |                                   |                       |
| Duplex Sign Co.                           |                            |      |                                   |                       |
| 1,000.00                                  |                            |      |                                   |                       |

*Sign permit, 1976***Henry Woelke 5819 Burnet Road****326 100' X 200' of Louise Woelke Tract****unplatted****Frame addition to rear of commercial building.**~~70351~~**9/12/58****2500.00****70351****owner****1 floc  
drain****SSTORAGE***Building permit, 1958*

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Frisco Shop Lessee                 | 5819 Burnet Road |
| 326 100 X 200                      | -                |
| Louise Woelke Tract                |                  |
| Fr. & Stone addition to comm bldg. |                  |
| 67081 7/24/57                      | 10500.00         |
| A. W. Bryant                       | -                |

*Building permit, 1957*

### Historical information

[illegible]

Original Frisco Location: 5819 Burnet Road



Most Recent Frisco Location: 6801 Burnet Road  
(Seen here as the old Curra's Grill)

**Other 30 -- No Title**  
*The Austin American Statesman* (1973-1980); Mar 3, 1979;  
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman  
 pg. 20

**JAMBALAYA** — Enjoy authentic New Orleans style Cajun & Creole cooking. Over 75 entrees. Also **steaks and steak** and seafood combinations; oysters on the half shell and genuine file gumbo. 4801 Burnet Rd. 453-8574. Open 6 p.m. daily.

AD for Jambalaya Restaurant located at 6801 Brunet Rd circa 1979

**Night Hawk Plans For 'Frisco Shop'**  
*The Austin Statesman* (1921-1973); Feb 11, 1953;  
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman  
 pg. 19

## Night Hawk Plans For 'Frisco Shop'

The Night Hawk restaurant system has announced plans for a new business venture, a "Frisco Shop" in northwest Austin.

The announcement came Tuesday following approval of plans by the city building inspector's office for a \$22,000 frame restaurant building at 5819 Burnet Road. Harry Aiken, operator of the chain, said the new restaurant will specialize in Frisco hamburgers.





AF-PICA-28696 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Night Hawk residents and its frozen foods division expanded through the 1970s with steakhouses in San Antonio and Houston. After 40 years of commercial success, Akin died in 1976. Akin's wife, Lela Jane, ran the business until its decline in the 1980s. The original Night Hawk No. 1 building burned in 1985 and when it finally was rebuilt and reopened, its customer base had disappeared. Although the restaurants have now closed and changed hands, the frozen foods division is still in operation in San Antonio and remains successful. Harry Akin remains a legendary Austin entrepreneur in the eyes of many.<sup>9</sup>



JF-PIC-28079 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Courtesy: <https://historictravisheights.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/gsrc-np.pdf>

1-Restaurants: Woo Wives

Brewer, Anita

*The Austin American Statesman* (1914-1973); May 29, 1960: ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman pg. A1

2-Wood, V.B. (2001, January 26) Harry Akin and the Night Hawk Legend; The Flight of the Night Bird. The Austin Chronicle. Retrieved on February 16, 2022 from The Austin Chronicle. Web site: [http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2001-01-26/food\\_fe](http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2001-01-26/food_fe).

3- “About Us”, Hoover's Cooking, February 16, 2022, [HTTPS://www.hooverscooking.com/about](https://www.hooverscooking.com/about)

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