

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS**  
**NOVEMBER 2, 2022**  
**PR-2022-142458**  
**DART BOWL**  
**5700 GROVER**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Total demolition of the commercial structure most recently known as “Dart Bowl.”

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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Single-story commercial building of stucco and metal construction with a porte-cochere at the full-glazed automatic door front entrance. The project site plan also indicates the demolition of a small residential structure that appears to be addressed as 5610 Roosevelt Avenue. 5610 Roosevelt Avenue does not require HLC review.

## **RESEARCH**

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5700 Grover was home to Austin’s iconic 32-lane Bowling Alley, Dart Bowl. Originally located at Anderson and Burnet, Dart Bowl was moved to this location in 1997. Dart Bowl closed in July 2020 due to the pandemic after 62 years of business in Austin. The Dart Bowl was founded in 1958 by current co-owners’ (John Donovan and wife, Jacy) grandfather Harry Peterson, who was joined in partnership ten years later by Jerry and Betty Ray, who, along with her son, remain involved in ownership and management of the company’s remaining two Austin bowling alleys-Highland and Westgate Lanes. Dart Bowl was used as a filming location for director Richard Linklater’s film *Boyhood* starring Ellar Coltrane, Patricia Arquette, and Ethan Hawke, and for the NBC drama series *Friday Night Lights*. Dart Bowl also housed The Dart Bowl Café, known for its secret recipe enchiladas and owned by the Martinet family, which helped make Dart Bowl a beloved Austin institution. In a recent KXAN poll, Dart bowl made the top 10 list of nostalgic restaurants/businesses no longer around.<sup>1</sup>

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity.
- 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 does not appear to convey architectural significance.
  - b. Historical association. The property appears to have significant historical associations with Austin legacy Business, Dart Bowl.
  - 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 may 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**

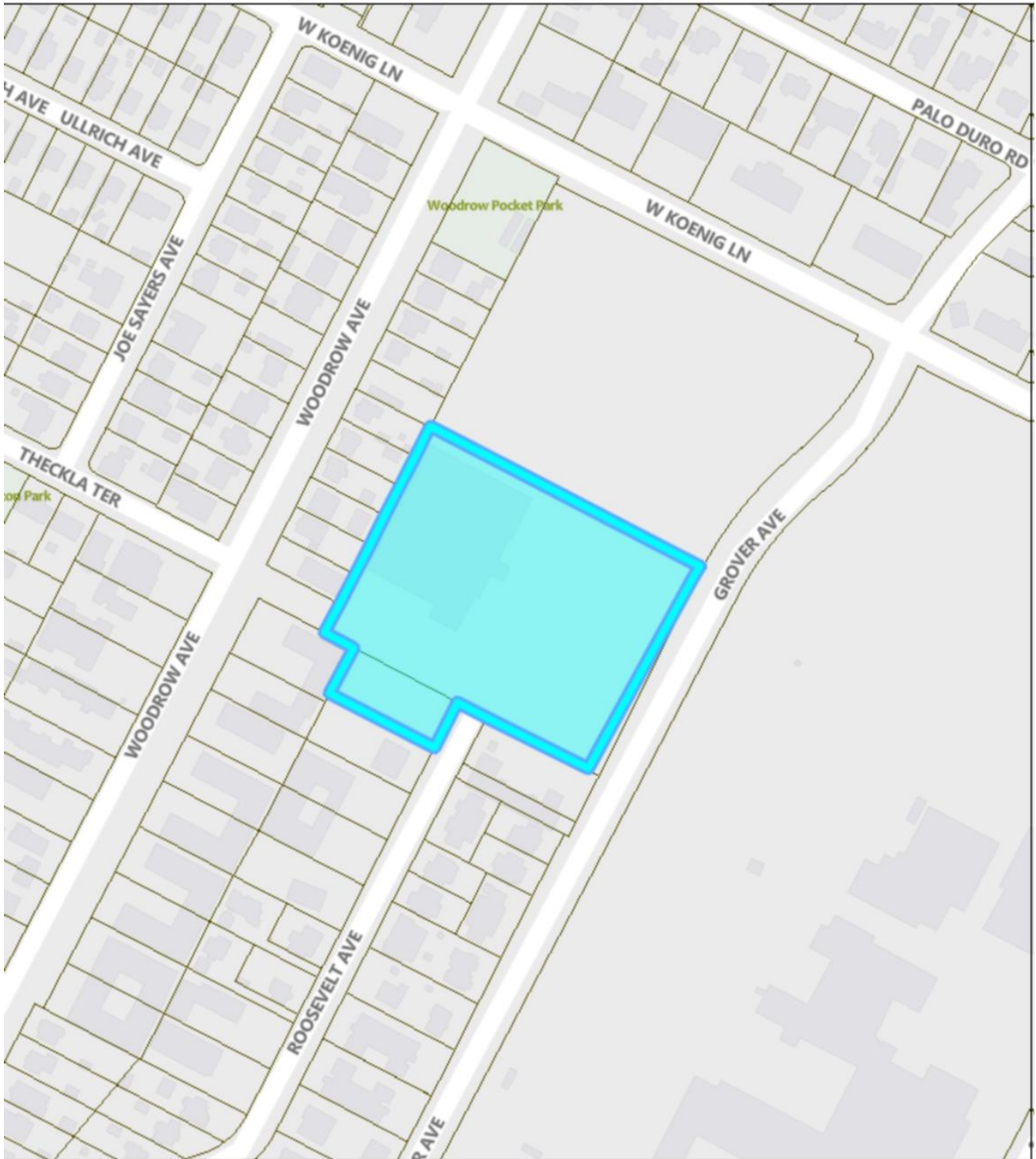
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If there is no strong community objection, encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, then relocation over demolition, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of 8 x 10” photographs of all elevations printed on photographic paper, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history for archiving at the Austin History Center.

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<sup>1</sup> [Old Austin restaurants, businesses that shut down \(kxan.com\)](https://www.kxan.com/news/old-austin-restaurants-businesses-that-shut-down/)

# LOCATION MAP



1: 2400



**GF 22-154621**  
5700 GROVER AVENUE



10/19/2022

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**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

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*@StevenSarabia, 2020*