

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
AUGUST 2, 2023
PR-2023-084145; GF-2023-088414
5901 CARY DRIVE

PROPOSAL

Partially demolish and replace fenestration at a ca. 1953 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story Ranch house with rambling plan, low-pitched compound-gabled roofline with deep eaves, and multi-light windows. It is clad in rusticated stone and cedar shingle siding.

RESEARCH

The house at 5901 Cary Drive was built in 1953. Its first occupants, who lived in the home until at least 1959, were James D. and Glenna Cole. James Cole, a veteran and inventor who had served as a B-24 pilot during World War II, opened the Cole Products Company after he completed his military service. After an unsuccessful stint as a paint dealership, Cole Products soon became a metal-goods manufacturing company, achieving national success and million-dollar contracts with Cole's designs for kitchen vent hoods, evaporative coolers, bathroom fans, and outdoor painting buckets.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

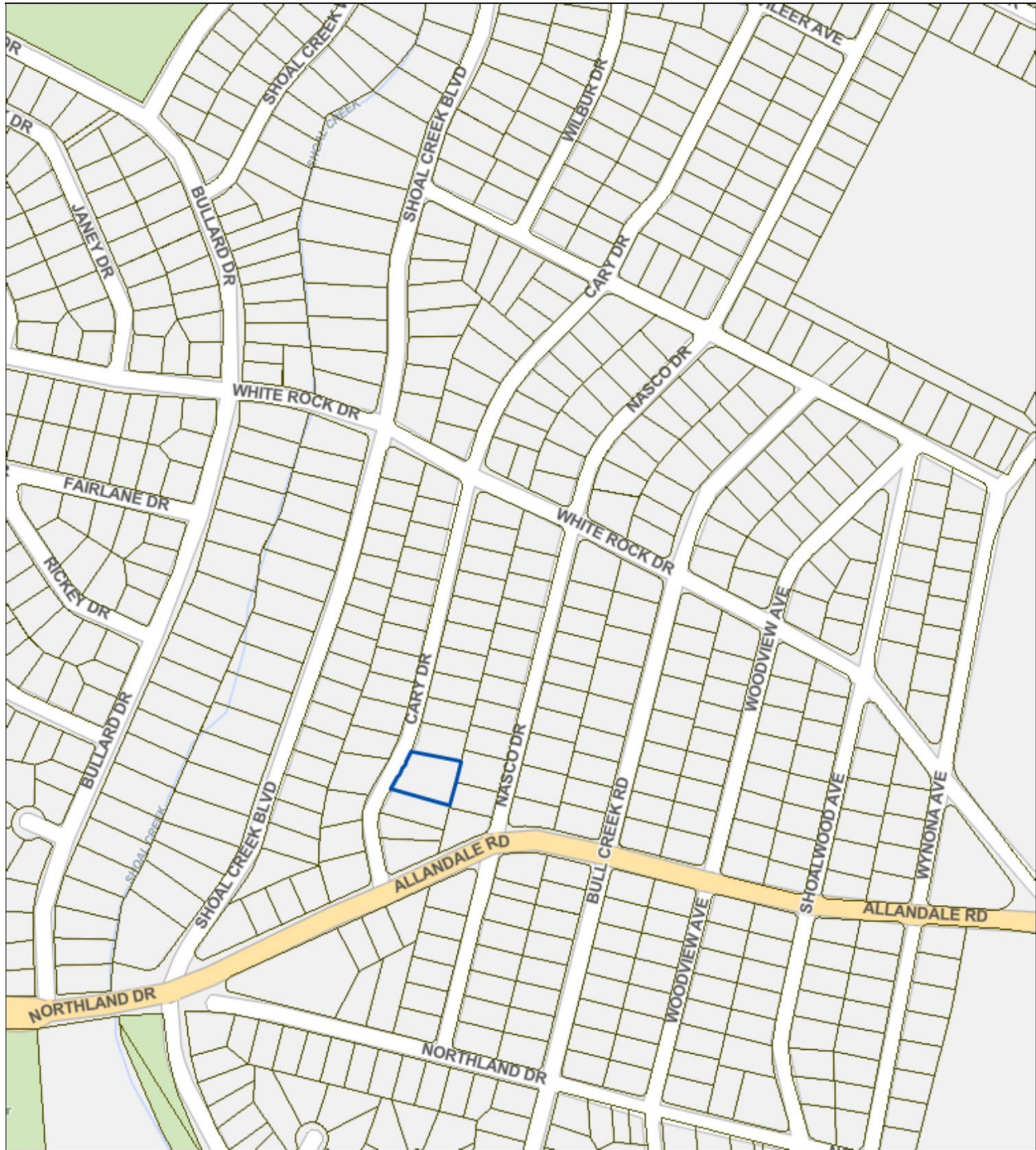
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark


- 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 is a good example of a Ranch-style house.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with Austin businessman James D. Cole.
 - 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 was not evaluated for its ability to convey 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 does not appear to have a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the modification plans after receipt of a City of Austin Documentation Package, encouraging the applicant to maintain existing opening sizes and locations at the portions of the house visible from the street.

LOCATION MAP






1: 4800

7/19/2023

GF 23-088414

5901 CARY DRIVE



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. This product has been produced by the City of Austin for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

PROPERTY INFORMATION*Photos*



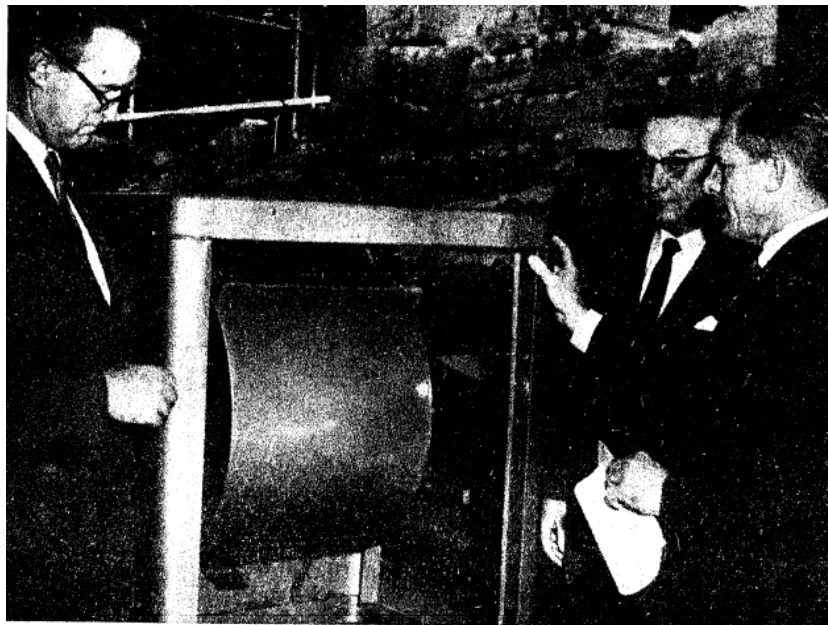
Partial Demolition Permit Application – 2023

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, July 2023

- 1959 James D. & Glenna Cole, owner – Cole Products Inc.
- 1957 James D. & Glenna Cole, owner – Cole Products Inc.
- 1955 James D. & Glenna Cole, owner – Cole Products Inc.
- 1954 James D. & Glenna Cole, owner – Cole Products Inc.
- 1953 James D. & Glenna Cole, owner – Cole Products Inc.
- 1952 Address not listed.

Historical information



The first evaporative cooler rolls off the assembly line at Cole Products Corporation's new manufacturing plant at 6935 Ryan Drive. Its assembly comes less than a year after the former Cole plant was destroyed by fire on Feb. 19, 1959. Inspecting the shiny new cooler are, left to right, Neils Thompson

and Bert Calahan of the Chamber of Commerce economic development committee, and James D. Cole, president of Cole Products. Products that will come from the new plant are the Colewave and Twinair coolers, the patented Cole Roller Paint Pail and other metal products of Cole's design.

Cole Products Begins Its Operations Again

Cole Products Corporation is back in the Austin industrial future.

It has been part of the future before. James D. Cole, president of Cole Products Corporation, is a native of Georgetown, who, after war service as a B-24 pilot, returned to Austin. Beginning in 1956 his manufacturing business grew until by February, 1959, he was in full production on a million and a half dollar evaporative cooler order for White Stores, Inc.

On Feb. 19 the plant was destroyed by fire. In spite of no financing, no manufacturing plant and no sales department, Cole set out to perfect a product which would satisfy some of the biggest users of evaporative coolers in the nation. To turn the trick, he designed and built a revolutionary new cooler. As a result, less than a year later the company is back in business. The whole of its first year is financed and its production sold.

The new Cole Products Corporation plant is versatile and any number of light metal products eventually will be manufactured here.

Cole is known nationally for his automatic range hoods which revolutionized the hood industry a few years ago.

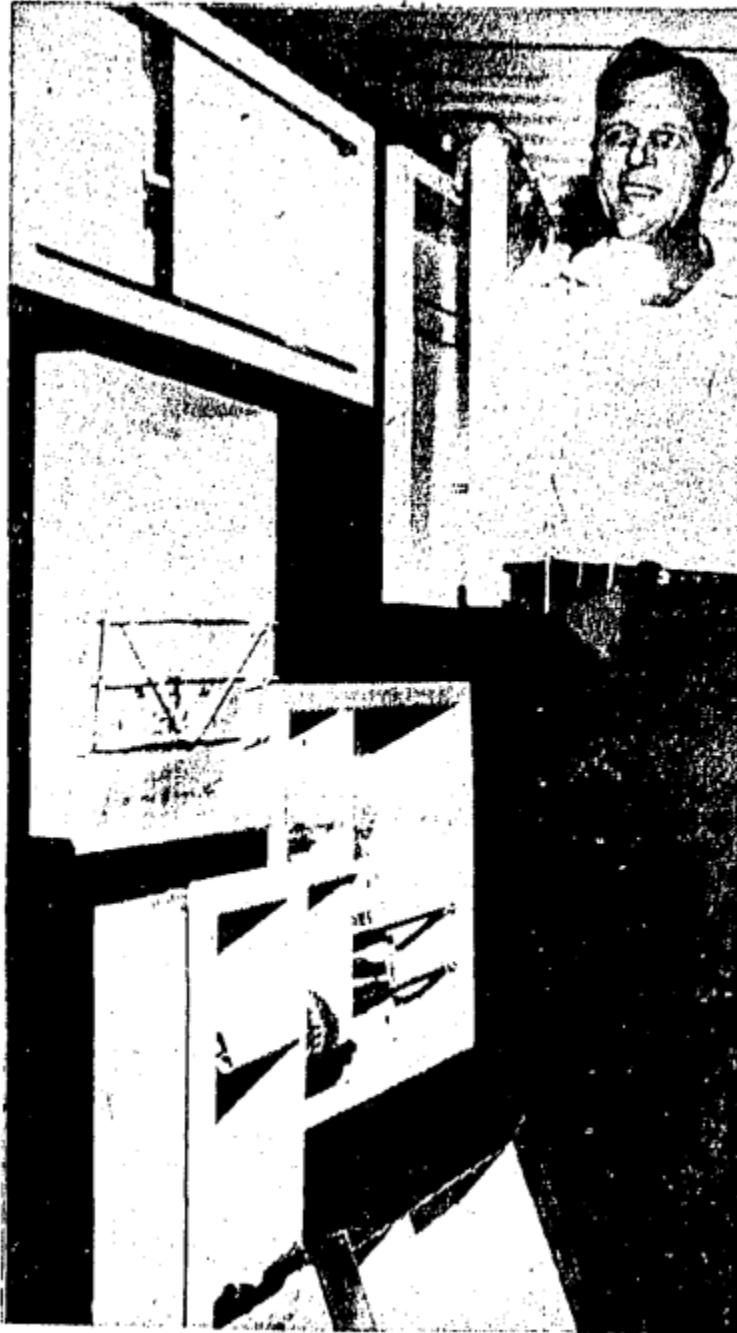
Next in production will be his patented pail, an improved holder for home and industrial paint applied with a paint roller. Cole is now considering a licensing arrangement with a British manufacturer who wants to manufacture this product overseas.

When the Cole Products Corporation plant was destroyed a number of offers were received from other cities seeking to attract industry. Cole says, "We chose to rebuild in Austin to continue to enjoy the fine schools for our children and to stay in close touch with our friends without whose help we may never have reopened our plant. We believe the Cole Products Corporation can be a growing part of the Austin industrial future."

Neils Thompson, economic development chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, said: "The Cole plant presently employs 30, will soon employ 80 and will bring a million dollars or more annually into Austin."

Cole Products Begins Its Operations Again. The Austin American (1914-1973). 31 Jan 1960: C14.

Cole Products Corporation's Newest Item On Major Market Is Roller Paint Bucket



JAMES D. COLE

Austin American—UPI

Designer and Manufacturer of Bathroom Specialties

Cole Products Corporation, 9725 North Interregional Highway, is the outgrowth of two major expansions and one completely new corporation venture for James D. Cole in the last 12 years.

Cole's first business attempt in 1946, a paint contracting firm, proved unprofitable. He turned to the manufacture of evaporative coolers and sheet metal work with his last few dollars, expanding to Cole Manufacturing Company in 1952. This full-scale manufacturing concern, specializing in coolers and kitchen stove hoods, was later incorporated and enlarged to sell products on a national scale.

Cole, his inventive mind searching for new products, sold the patents, dies and manufacturing facilities of Cole Manufacturing Company in 1956 to turn to the fabrication of bathroom specialties under the name of Cole Products Corporation.

In March 1956 Cole moved his company to its new location on the Interregional highway. The plant a modern two-story building consisting of 15,000 square feet of floor space with air conditioned offices.

Beginning operations with the manufacture of the Venett bathroom cabinet, he has since expanded the line to include six models.

Now made in assorted colors and including such extras as concealed ventilating fans and Protec-to-Ray, an electronic deodorizer and sterilizer, his products are marketed on a national level.

The latest addition to the Cole line, a boon to do-it-yourselfers as well as professionals, is a paint bucket especially designed to be used with paint rollers.

The pails, available in sizes ranging from one-half gallon to five gallons, feature handles that adjust to keep the pail in balance, a roller rest that keeps the roller "round," and a sturdy base that allows the pail to rest firmly on a scaffold board or the floor.

Though only recently added to the company's line, the pails are already being sold through such paint firms as Sherwin-Williams, Cooke Paints, Morris Paint and Varnish, United Paint Company and Seidlitz Paint Company. DuPont has evidenced an interest in the new design and has recently placed an order with Cole for his product.

The American Bridge Company and chain-link fence manufacturers, said Cole, have welcomed the new design for roller paint pails. The Navy, in adopting rollers for painting ships, has shown an interest in the buckets, as has the Air Force for use in washing airplanes.

Cole, a native of Georgetown, served as a pilot in World War II, participating in bombing raids on Germany from a base in England.

Cole, a native of Georgetown, served as a pilot in World War II, participating in bombing raids on Germany from a base in England.

Following the war, he moved to Austin to begin his manufacturing career.

He has taken advantage of his pilot's training by utilizing his own airplane to make trips over the nation to confer directly with potential as well as

established customers.

Cole, as president of the corporation, has engaged the services of the following men to serve with him as board of directors: W. A. Darter, an engineering graduate from the University of Texas; Pearce Johnson, Austin attorney; Myers K. Parsons, a BBA graduate from Texas; and Doyle Logsdon, with 10 years' experience in electrical contracting.

Cole and White Stores Sign \$1.5 Million Pact

James D. Cole, president of Cole Products Corporation, Saturday announced that final contracts involving \$1.5 million have been signed by his firm with White Stores Inc.

Cole said his firm has agreed to furnish 10,000 units of the contracted item to White Stores, to be sold throughout a six-state area. Announcement of the exact nature of the fabricated metal item was withheld by the manufacturer.

The contract, said Cole, provides for additional orders over and above the original 10,000.

In greeting the news of the official signing, Joe Crow, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Central Industrial Committee, said, "Cole Products Corporation's securing of this contract is a significant step in the development of Austin industry. The contract should insure considerable industrial employment and activity in the field of metal fabrication."

W. Erle White, president of White Stores Inc., told The American-Statesman, "We welcome this chance to deal with another Austin industry. The volume of business provided for in this new contract should result in the development of a

substantial industry for Austin, along with increased employment for both skilled and semi-skilled workers in the area.

"Our company is extremely interested in the development and growth of Austin," he added. "We are confident of the city's future—so confident that we have purchased land on South Congress Avenue for construction of a second White Store."

Meanwhile, at the Cole Products plant on North Interregional Highway, midnight oil is being consumed in great quantities as tooling up operations are completed.

Actual manufacturing should get underway in November, Cole said.

The signing of the final contracts this week was the culmination of many months' labor for the young manufacturer.

Working almost single-handed, Cole convinced the White Stores Board of Directors, Austin bankers, investors and his suppliers that Austin was the ideal location for the manufacture of the item, and that he was the man to do the job.

Now that the selling is done, the real task must be accomplished—that of proving Cole Products Corporation can live up to the dreams of its young president.

And Cole is meeting this challenge with complete confidence and faith in the abilities of his employees and himself.



Austin American-UPI

JAMES D. COLE AND \$1.5 MILLION CONTRACT
A significant step forward for Austin industry.

pg. 23

Austin's Newest Industrial Concern Begins Operation, Sets Open House

Austin's industrial development takes a step forward this week as the new **Cole Products Corporation** begins operation. Production of a complete line of products for builders will begin immediately after open house held Saturday for the public.

The new company will manufacture and sell nationally a line of nine products all designed and manufactured under the supervision of James D. Cole, president.

A new manufacturing plant with over 13,900 square feet of warehouse, storage and manufacturing area has recently been completed. The new plant is on a tract at 9725 Interregional Highway.

Manufacturing facilities consist of a complete tool and die department, blanking, forming and drawing department with capacity up to 50 tons, and a complete spray painting department which includes a spray booth, hot spray equipment, a conveyor, an infra-red oven and a bonderizing machine.

"We will begin manufacturing operations immediately with a payroll of about 30 employees. The number of employees will be expanded rapidly as full production gets underway," Cole said Friday.

The **Cole Products Corporation** has received a letter of commitment approving its application for a Small Business Administration loan. In addition the board of directors announced today that approval has been received to raise \$120,000 through a public offering of stock.

Officers of the company include James D. Cole, president; W. W. Patrick, vice president, and Louis

Scott Wilkerson, secretary. Serving on the board of directors are Joe Crow, insurance and real estate; James D. Cole, product designer; Patrick, advertising; Andrew S. Patton, home builder; Myers Parsons, insurance; Wilkerson, attorney, and Walter Carrington, home builder.

Cole has received patents on a number of products for the home building trade which have proved their commercial success. Patent applications are pending for several of the new products shortly to be introduced at the National Builders Show in Chicago. "**Cole products** seek to be competitive in price and still offer at least one original non-competitive feature. We believe this policy assures our success with the 22,000 builders in the nation who can buy our products," Cole said.

Cole started in business here after he returned from service as a B-24 pilot in World War II. He found himself broke after a year in the paint contracting business. With his last \$8 he built an evaporative cooler which he sold profitably. From the proceeds of this he

began building and selling more coolers. He developed a manufacturing business with national sales of evaporative coolers and range hoods known as the Cole Manufacturing Company. The Cole Manufacturing Company was sold to other interests in March of 1956 and Cole immediately started building the new **Cole Products Corporation**.

The public is invited to an all day open house from 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. Saturday.

COLE ERECTING NEW PLANT BUILDING

J. D. Cole announced Saturday that he will begin erecting immediately a new building to manufacture Vent-Rite Range hoods.

The new building, made necessary by a rapidly expanding national demand for this Cole Company product, will be located just off the 6700 block on the Dallas Highway on property recently purchased by Cole at Raymond and William Streets. The concrete block and brick building will furnish 8,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing and office space. This is more than double the size of the present plant.

Early this year Cole completed an expansion which doubled his

floor space and more than doubled his manufacturing facilities. Growth quickly made even this increase in size too small, and the company now more than four weeks behind on production and shipments of the Vent-Rite Hood.

Improvement in Vent-Rite Hoods by the addition of the grease-stop

filter unit developed by Cole is credited with the greatly increased demand for Vent-Rite Range Hoods. This filter removes grease of cooking by trapping it in either a honey-comb aluminum foil filter which is washable or a spun-glass filter which is disposable. Increased production made addition of the filter possible with no increase in price.

Distribution of Vent-Rite Hoods has thus far been limited by Cole to Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas with only enough hoods sold in other states to test the national market. Expanded manufacturing facilities of the new plant will make nationwide sales possible and national advertising and sales plans are in effect now to attract orders for the Austin product from every market in the country.

COLE ERECTING NEW PLANT BUILDING. *The Austin American* (1914-1973); 13 July 1952: B4.

Permits

Andrew S. Patton

5901 Cary Drive

Map

4

A

Allendale Oaks

Stone veneer and frame residence and garage attached.

52939 1-13-53

\$21,000.00

Owner

Building Permit - 1953