

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
JANUARY 10, 2024
HR-2023-161000
SIXTH STREET NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
719-21 EAST 6TH STREET

PROPOSAL

Remodel storefront and awning.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) The proposed design replaces the existing storefront with a new painted metal storefront.
- 2) The proposed design replaces the entry door in the same location, set back 3'-0" from the façade.
- 3) The proposed project extends the existing awning to space across the entire façade.
- 4) Repaint awning. Clean and repair columns, entry, and brickwork.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story brick commercial building with two painted storefronts sheltered by a metal awning at the westernmost bay.

RESEARCH

The building at 719 and 721 East 6th Street was constructed around 1907. Its first occupants were William Goosby and Thomas McCoy, a restaurant owner and barber. City directories indicate that both business owners were African American. By 1912, brothers Abraham and Joe Nassour had moved into the building, along with restaurant owner Manuel Hernandez. Joe Nassour was a grocer, while Abraham ran a saloon. The brothers, born in Beirut, were part of a larger community of Syrian and Lebanese merchants—including the Daywood, Ferris, Attal, Fayad, Joseph, and other families—who helped to establish 6th Street as a bustling business district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

By the early '20s, Joe and Abraham Nassour's brother John was using both halves of the building for his grocery store. In the '30s and '40s, he shared the space with Samuel Fayad's domino parlor and Louis Daywood's billiards hall. By the late 1940s, the building held the Schooner Beer Bar and Golden Gloves Inn; in the '50s, Joe's Inn and the Villalpando Barbershop, along with several cafes, made their homes there.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects in National Register districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repair and alterations

1. General standards

The proposed project mostly removes non-historic storefront elements from the building, retaining wood panels, existing awning, and existing brickwork.

4. Exterior walls and trim

The proposed project repairs existing brickwork and repaints only previously painted masonry. Repairs are proposed for existing wood storefront accents.

11. Commercial storefronts

The proposed storefront replacement appears appropriate.

Summary

The project meets the applicable standards. Plans have been amended to include Committee feedback.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The property is listed as contributing to the Sixth Street National Register Historic District. The 2022 Sixth Street Snapshot Resurvey lists the property as contributing to the historic district.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity. Both storefronts have been altered.
- 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 one-part commercial block.
 - b. Historical association. The property appears to be associated with the Nassour family.
 - 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 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. However, continued research into the Lebanese and Syrian business community who helped to establish 6th Street as a center of commerce may further reveal this building's role in their success.
 - e. Landscape feature. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

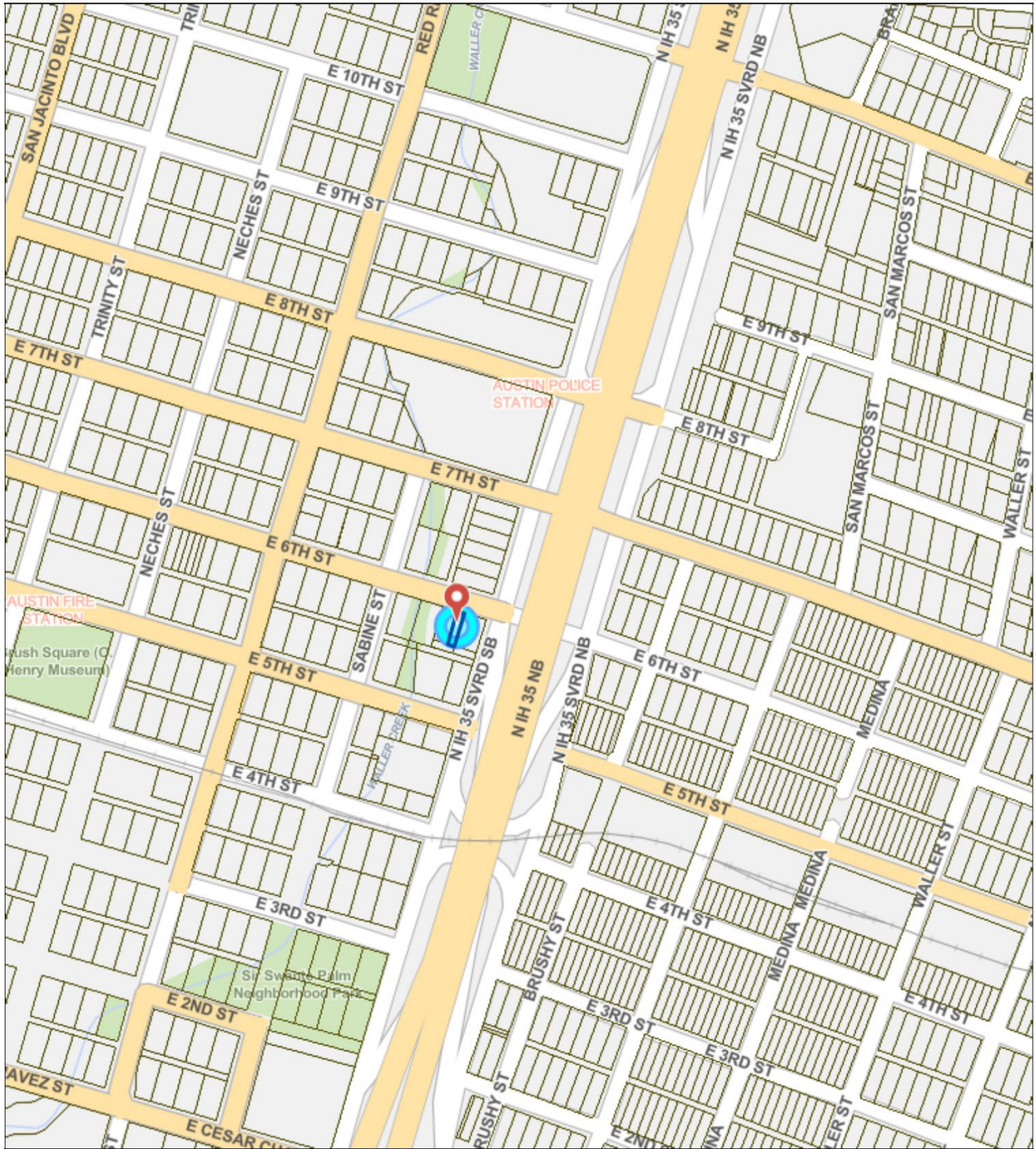
COMMITTEE FEEDBACK


Replace storefront within existing opening.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Comment on plans.

LOCATION MAP






1: 4800

12/27/2023

HR 23-161000

719 E 6TH STREET



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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



McRostie LLC, Sixth Street Snapshot Resurvey, 2022



Portal to Texas History, 1970

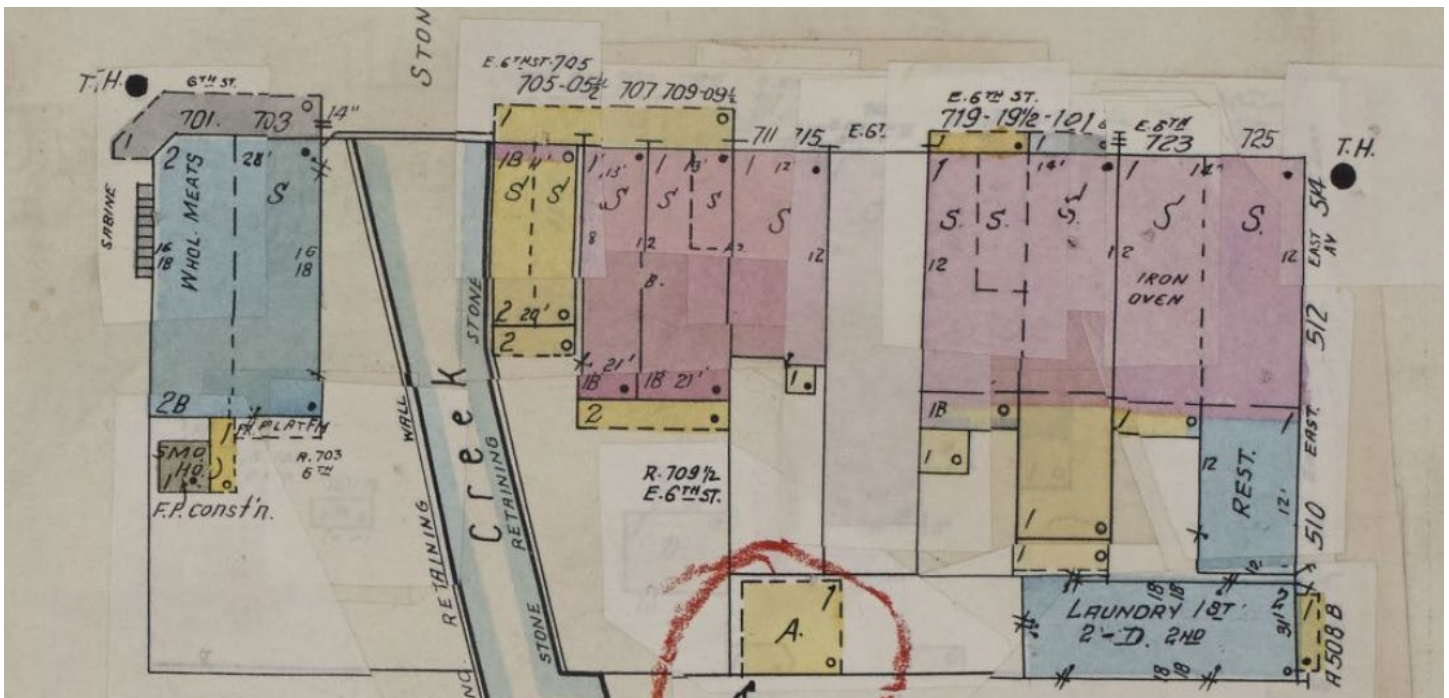
Occupancy History

City Directory Research, June 2022

1959	719 - El Papa Gallo Club (beer) 719 ½ - Villalpando Barbershop 721 - Joe's Inn (beer)
1955	719 – Original Café 719 ½ - Villalpando Barbershop 721 - Joe's Inn (beer)
1952	719 – Schooner Beer Bar 721 - Vacant
1947	719 – Schooner Beer Bar 721 - Golden Globe Inn (restaurant)
1944	719 – Louis Daywood billiards

	721 - John Nassour (beer)
1941	719 – Samuel Fayad (dominoes) 721 – John Nassour (grocery)
1937	719 – Samuel Fayad (dominoes) 721 – John Nassour (grocery)
1932	719 – Checker Front grocery 721 – John Nassour (grocery & fruit)
1927	719-21 – John Nassour (grocery and fruit)
1924	719-21 – John Nassour (grocery and fruit; general merchandise)
1920	M. J. Allen (tailor)
1916	719 – Nassour Bros. grocery 721 - Abraham Nassour (saloon); Michael Albert (restaurant)
1912	719 - Nassour Bros (grocery) 721 – Abraham Nassour saloon, Manual Hernandez (restaurant)
1909	721 - William Goosby (restaurant); Thomas McCoy (barber)
1906	719 - J. S. Prado 721 not listed

Historical information



Sanborn map, 1962

A. C. Randle & Co. have moved their furniture business from 721 East Sixth street to 717 East Sixth street.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 13 Jan 1907: 8.

LEGAL NOTICE.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR LIQUOR LICENSE.

The State of Texas,
County of Travis:

To the Sheriff of Travis County,
Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to cause to be published a copy of the following notice at least once each week for ten days exclusive of the day of the first publication before the return day hereof in a newspaper of general circulation which has been continuously and regularly published for a period of not less than one year next preceding the date hereof in the county of Travis, State of Texas, to-wit:

The State of Texas,
County of Travis:
July 27, 1917.

To the County Attorney of Travis County, the District Attorney of the Criminal District Court or any resident, tax-paying citizen residing and owning property in or near 721 East Sixth Street, in the City of Austin, Texas.

You are hereby notified that A. Nassour has filed with the Judge of the County Court of Travis County, a petition which is now held in my office open to public inspection that he be granted a license as a retail liquor dealer, such business to be pursued at

No. 721 East Sixth Street, in the City of Austin, Texas.

Applicant alleges that he is a law-abiding, tax-paying male citizen of the State of Texas, over the age of 21 years, and has been a resident of Travis County for more than two years next before the date of filing of his petition and that he has never had a license as a retail liquor dealer revoked or forfeited within two years next before the filing of his petition and that he has never been convicted of a felony and served a term for such conviction and that the place at which he desires to engage in business is not in a block or a square in which there are more bona fide residences than there are business houses, or in which there is a church or school and prays that he be granted a license to engage in such business at such place.

You are therefore notified to appear before such County Judge on or before the 6th day of August, 1917, and show cause if any you have why said license should not be granted as prayed for.

Given under my hand and seal of office this the 27th day of July, A. D. 1917.

FRED C. MALONE,
Clerk County Court, Travis County,
Texas.

The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 27 July 1917: 7.

SNEAK THIEF GETS NINETY-ODD DOLLARS FROM NASSOUR STORE

**East Sixth Street Establishment
Robbed In an Unusually
Bold Manner.**

A daylight robbery occurring at 1:30 Wednesday afternoon in which Joe Nassour, owner of a grocery store at 719 East Sixth Street, was the victim of a loss of approximately \$90, added another depredation to Austin's already long list and introduced some very peculiar circumstances into the game that has been in progress here for the past several months.

Mrs. Nassour, wife of the owner of the store, who was in charge of the place while her husband was on a business mission in the country, had stepped out on the sidewalk for a few minutes to talk with friends when she heard a noise on the inside and ask Salem Joseph, in business nearby, to see who was in the store. Joseph glanced in the door, he stated, but saw no one and was walking away when he noticed a white man about six feet in height and poorly clad coming from the door. He stated that he asked the man what he wanted and the fellow replied, "nothing," in a gruff voice.

Joseph became suspicious, he said, and went in the store to examine the cash register to find the drawer open and the cash missing. John Nassour, brother to the owner of the grocery store, who owns a fruit store next door, followed the man and caught him at Fifth Street on East Avenue. He accused the man of taking money from the store and demanded that it be returned. The man admitted that he had taken some money from the register and gave \$8.50 in change to Nassour. Nassour explained that the man walked away hurriedly, proceeding down East Avenue. Nassour had not ascertained the exact amount of the loss but stated he believed the man had not returned the entire loot and followed him a second time, catching him on Fourth Street. He stated that he demanded the balance of the money, and that the man gave him 95 cents in small change, and after a heated argument took a one dollar bill from his pocket and begged to be allowed to keep it, saying it was every cent he had, and needed it. Nassour said the pitiful plea stirred his sympathy, and he told him he might keep the dollar.

Joe Nassour, owner, stated that neither his wife nor his brother knew of the heavy loss as they did not know of the amount in the cash register, and

(Continued on Page Twelve.)

it was not until his return from the country later in the afternoon that the loss of several large bills amounting to what he believed to be about \$90 was revealed.

Joseph explained that the police were notified of the theft as soon as the open cash register was noticed, John Nassour going after the thief in the meantime. Nassour said that he wanted to hold the man until police arrive, but that he did not understand the law, and was afraid to attempt holding him. He said that the man disappeared from the scene in a hurry after being released the second time. He stated that the police arrived about thirty minutes after the robbery occurred and searched the territory, but that no trace of the thief could be found.

John Nassour stated that the man kept picking at his teeth while the two were talking and complained that he had been to a doctor and had a tooth removed, and that he was suffering a terrible pain. All of a sudden, Nassour explained, the man mouth became covered with what appeared to be blood, which action caused the fellow to cry out as if in anguish. He stated that from the action of the man, he believed this to be a trick of the fellow to gain sympathy and change the subject of the conversation. He said the man continued to squeeze a gold tooth, and later took it from his mouth.

Joe Nassour stated that he had been in business in this store for fifteen years, and that this was the first time he had been the victim of a loss by robbery.

Reports current Thursday that Henry Wukasz grocery on First Street had been burglarized Wednesday night, were disproved on investigation.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 28 Mar 1924: 1.

7 File Petitions For Citizenship

Pete Voudouris, 3911 Duval street, took the oath of allegiance to the United States on Monday afternoon and became a naturalized American citizen. Voudouris was formerly a citizen of Greece.

Seven petitions for naturalization were filed with the federal district clerk and set for hearing at the 1926 June term of the court.

The following naturalization petitions were filed: Julia Rosa J. Dieter, 801 West Thirtieth street, born in Texas; Esther Frieda Johnson Dieter, 4103 Avenue C, born in Texas; Philip Dieter, 4103 Avenue C, born in Germany; Joseph Nassour, 719 East Sixth street, born in Syria; Wolf Meyerowitz, 607 East Fifth street, born in Russia, and Mary Hannusch, 600 West Seventh street, born in Germany.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 09 June 1925: 10

Orders Still Pool Play

Two East Sixth street places allegedly used for operation of pool halls had been closed down Wednesday for that purpose in restraining orders granted by Judge J. Harris Gardner in 53rd district court on applications filed by Co. Atty. Perry L. Jones.

Sheehan Joseph was restrained from using premises at 805 East Sixth street and Louis Daywood from using property at 719 East Sixth street as pool halls.

Judge Gardner set Jan. 15 at 3 p. m. for hearing injunction applications filed by Jones against the two men.

The restraining order in each case was directed against the defendant, his agents, servants, employees, associates, and representatives and all occupants of the premises or any part thereof from operating and maintaining, directly or indirectly, a pool hall.

Countians Pay \$995.95 Fines

Maximum fines of \$100 costs and court costs were levied against seven men who pleaded guilty Friday to operating marble tables.

The pleas were entered in County Court.

Two other defendants entered guilty pleas to the same charge and were fined \$25 and \$50, respectively. The total fines and court costs levied against the nine defendants was \$995.99.

Those fined \$100 and costs were: Joe Pacheco, San Jacinto Inn, 301 East 16th; Bill Horton, Horton's Cafe, 2714 East First; Ted Stathos, Coney Island, 1707 San Jacinto; W. A. Dornwell, Nick's Drive-In, 2105 Hancock Drive; F. W. Bollman, Fritz's Barn, 1109 Manor Road; Charlie Nohra, Golden Gloves Inn, 721 East Sixth; and Paul Joseph, P-J Cafe, 207 East First.

NEW BEER PETITIONS

Five new petitions for Travis county licenses to handle beer were on file in County Clerk Fred C. Malone's office, bringing to 51 the total number of applications filed here.

Today's petitioners were R. G. Mallory, 2100 Guadalupe street; W. H. Belschner, 1500 South Congress; John Nassour, 721 East Sixth street; Flora Ruiz, 1203 East 11th street; and Mike Balagia, 323 East Sixth street.

The new petitions were filed too late to be considered Friday at the scheduled hearing before County Judge Roy Archer.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 13 Sep 1933: 1.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 10 Jan 1945: 11.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 03 Feb 1951: 3.

Transfer from the air forces to the mechanized cavalry has brought Martin Nassour, former Austin high and St. Edward's university football star, the gold bars of a second lieutenant. He was graduated from the Fort Riley, Kan., OCS, which he entered as a corporal, and then visited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Nassour of 407 East Seventh, before reporting to his new station. A B.B.A. graduate of St. Edward's, Lt. Nassour enlisted in the army air forces and served in Puerto Rico.



NASSOUR

HARWELL

NASSOUR—John Nassour, age 68, died at his home, 509 Brushy street at 5:15 p. m. Tuesday. Mr. Nassour had lived in Austin since 1909 and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Bulbol Nassour of Austin; his mother, Mrs. Helen Abraham Nassour of Beirut, Lebanon; one sister, Miss Fannie Nassour of Beirut, Lebanon; four brothers, Rev. George G. Nassour of Austin, Abraham Nassour of Austin, Joe Nassour of Austin and Herbert Nassour of Lockhart; seven nephews and seven nieces. Rosary services will be held at the Cook Funeral home at 8 p. m. Wednesday. Funeral services will be held at St. Mary's Catholic church at 11 a. m. Friday with Father Joseph McAllister officiating.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 Jan 1943: 5.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 Apr 1944: 11.

Mrs. Nassour's Service Slated Here Tomorrow

Rosary services for Mrs. Amelia Nassour will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Cook Funeral Home.

Requiem mass will be said at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at St. Marys Cathedral with the Rev. Harold Hughes, CSC officiating.

Mrs. Nassour died at her home, 4212 Ave. H, Monday afternoon. She was born in Lebanon, but had been a resident of Austin since 1911.

She is survived by her husband, Abraham Nassour of Austin; two daughters, Mrs. Addie Shean and Mrs. Agnes Sab; and three sons, Ed Nassour, Martin Nassour and Ferria Nassour all of Austin.

Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Death Takes City Merchant In Hospital

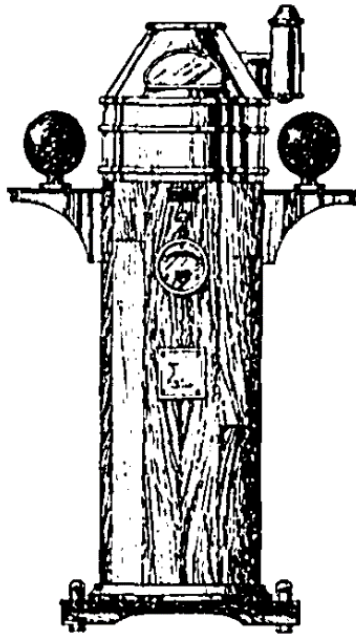
Abraham Nassour of 4212 Avenue H died Wednesday in a local hospital. He was a retired merchant and had been a resident of Austin since 1905.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 9 a. m. in St. Mary's Cathedral after rosary services Thursday at 8 p. m. in Cook Funeral Home. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Addie Shean and Mrs. Agnes Sab, both of Austin; three sons, Ed Nassour, Martin Nassour and Ferris Nassour, all of Austin; a sister, Mrs. Fannie Nassour of Lebanon; three brothers, the Rev. George Nassour of Lebanon, Joe Nassour and Herbert Nassour, both of Austin, and nine grandchildren.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 07 May 1957: 3.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 21 Aug 1957: 11.



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The Austin American - Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; Austin, Tex.. 16 Sep 1979: B10

Permits

OWNER Joe Nassour		ADDRESS 721 East 6th Street	
PLAT 9	LOT	West 23' of 5	BLK 62
SUBDIVISION Original City			
OCCUPANCY Tavern			
BLD PERMIT # 97610		DATE 10-26-65	OWNERS ESTIMATE 300.00
CONTRACTOR Gage Brothers		NO. OF FIXTURES	
WATER TAP REC #		SEWER TAP REC #	
Remodel Commercial Bldg.			

Building permit, 1965

ADDRESS: 721 E. 6th				PERMIT 145927		PLAT 9	
LOT: W-25' of 5				BLOCK		SUB. Original City	
				OUTLOT			
FIRE ZONE 2		USE DIST: C-2 1/3 rd		OCCUPANCY: Remodel existing comm bldg			
10-25-74		LAYOUT		FRAMING 2-13-75		FINAL	
PRINC. BLDG.		ACC. BLDG.		PRINC. BLDG.		ACC. BLDG.	
						PRINC. BLDG.	
FOUNDATION		FLOOR JOIST SIZE & O.C.		NECESSARY BLDG. CONN.		ACC. BLDG.	
FR. SETBACK		CEILING JOIST SIZE & O.C.		ROOM VENTILATION		PAVED PARKING 9 min. conforming	
TOTAL & MIN. SIDE YD.		STUD SIZE & O.C.		STAIRS REQ. & NO.			
SIDE STREET YARD		MASONRY WALL		ATTIC FIRE STOPS REQ.			
OWNER: James R. Irion				CONTRACTOR: J. Davis Doenges			

Building permit, 1975

OWNER James R. Irion ADDRESS 721 E. 6th

PLAT 9 LOT W-23' of 5 BLK

SUBDIVISION Orig. City

OCCUPANCY Restaurant

BLD PERMIT # 145923 DATE 10-24-74 OWNERS ESTIMATE 1500.00

CONTRACTOR J. Davis Doenges NO. OF FIXTURES See Plan

WATER TAP REC # Exist SEWER TAP REC # Exist

Remodel Exist. Comm. Bldg. Parking - Non Conforming

Building permit, 1974

SIGN PERMIT

OWNER James R. Irion ADDRESS 721 E. 6th

PLAT 9 LOT W. 23 of 5 BLK

SUBDIVISION Orig. City

OCCUPANCY Sign

BLD PERMIT # 147315 DATE 1-16-75 OWNERS ESTIMATE 500

CONTRACTOR Owner NO. OF FIXTURES

WATER TAP REC # SEWER TAP REC #

Erect a Sign

Building permit, 1975