

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
FEBRUARY 7, 2024
HR-2024-005087
SIXTH STREET NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
513 EAST SIXTH STREET

PROPOSAL

Rehabilitate a ca. 1870 blacksmith shop. Replace windows and doors.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) Repair and repaint the existing brick façade.
- 2) Keep the existing openings and replace the windows and doors, removing the outer non-historic gate and recessing windows in line with the new front door.

ARCHITECTURE

513 East 6th Street is a single-story brick structure. The front elevation consists of three arched windows, which have been altered throughout the years. The original brick cornice detailing is simple and understated but remains intact. However, the brickwork has been painted.

RESEARCH

The building at 513 East 6th Street was constructed around 1870 as a blacksmith shop. Its earliest occupant, African American blacksmith George W. Harrison, conducted business there for around twenty years; his next-door neighbor and business partner, William Risher, is honored with the landmarked building at 511 East Sixth. After 1892, the building changed hands and became several dry goods stores, grocers, saloons, and eventually an A&P in the 1920s. By the 1940s, it became an independent grocer again under Paul Smothers, with the Sussdorf Brothers' restaurant and fishmonger in the rear portion of the building.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The design standards established by Ordinance No. 20230720-160 ([July 2023](#)) and based on the Citywide Historic Design Standards for properties in the 500 and 600 blocks of East Sixth Street apply. The proposed project was evaluated based on the following applicable standards:

Rehabilitate and adaptively reuse contributing buildings, including at least the first 15 feet of historic facades.

The proposed alterations include retention of most of the building's historic-age façade and do not appear to preclude potential future designation. Though the recessed windows somewhat change the building's profile, they do not substantially alter the existing arched openings.

Summary

The project meets the applicable standards.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The building contributes to the Sixth Street National Register Historic District. The 2022 Sixth Street Snapshot resurvey lists the property as contributing to the Sixth Street National Register Historic District.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity. Some incompatible alterations have 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 is a good example of an early vernacular blacksmith shop.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with blacksmith George W. Harrison.
 - 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 appears to be associated with early Black businesspeople and craftsmen in Austin.
- e.* Landscape feature. The property was not evaluated for its ability to convey a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

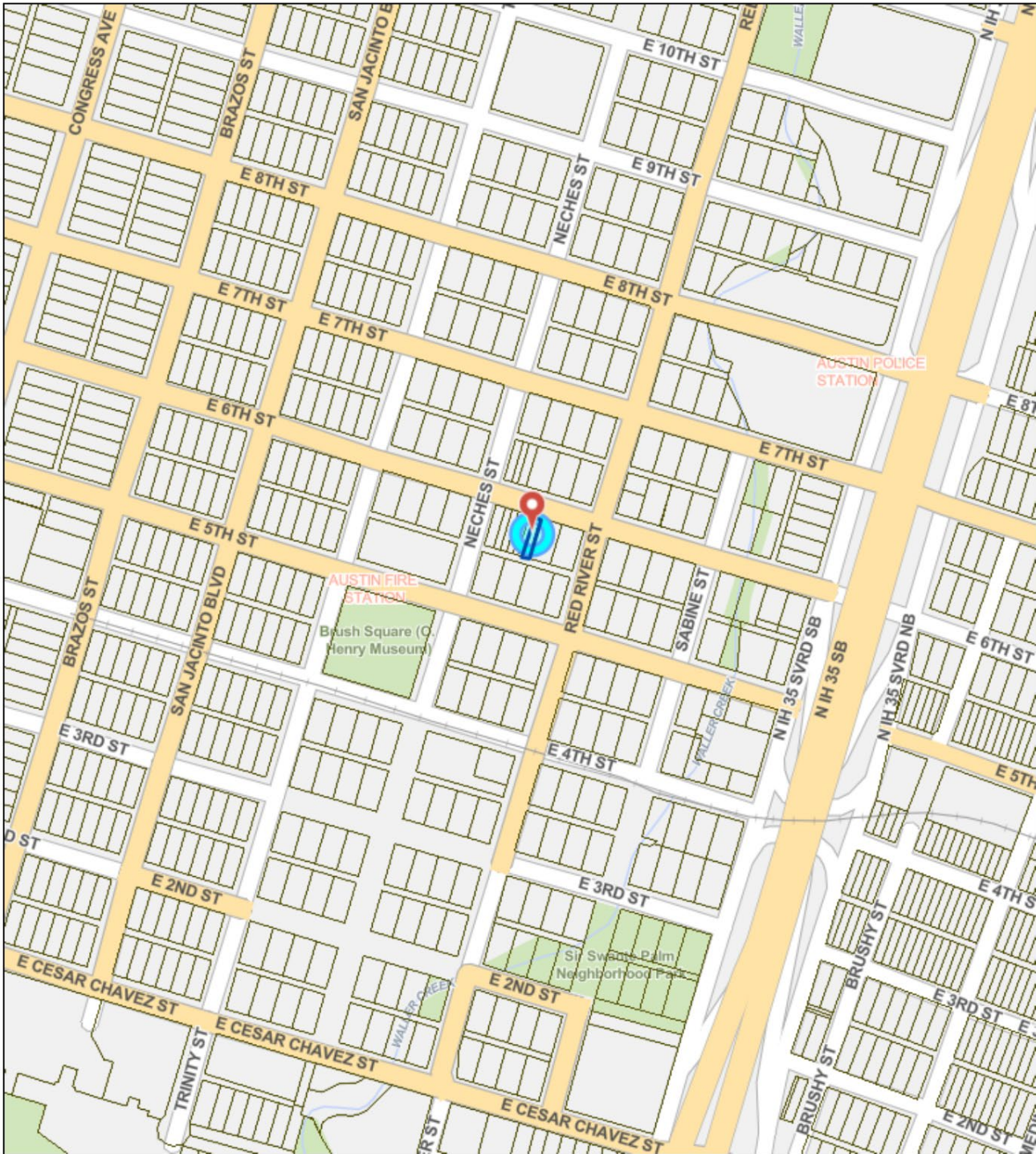
COMMITTEE FEEDBACK


None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Comment on plans.

LOCATION MAP






1: 4800

1/19/2024

HR 24-005087

513 E 6TH STREET



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PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Historic review application, 2022



1975, Texas Historical Commission via UNT Portal to Texas History

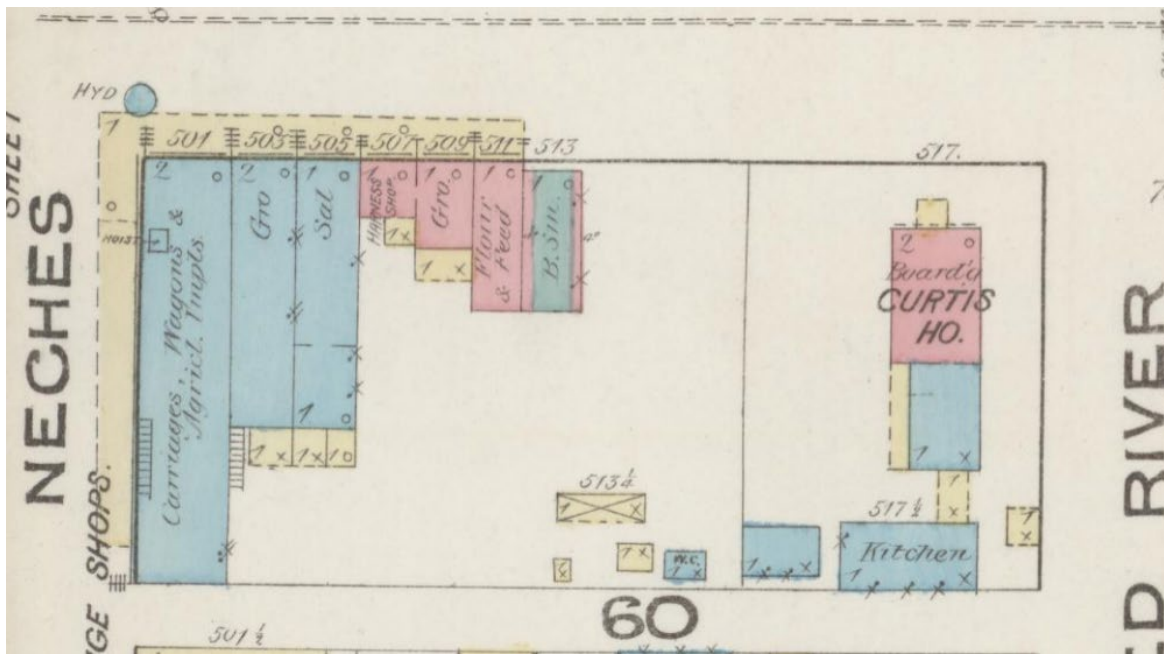
Occupancy History

City Directory Research, January 2024

1959 Smothers Food Store

1955	Smothers Food Store, grocers
1952	Smothers Food Store, grocers
1949	Smothers Food Store, grocers 513 ½: vacant
1944	Smothers Food Store, grocers 513 ½: A.W. Sussdorf, fish
1941	Smothers Food Store, grocers 513 ½: Oscar Sussdorf, restaurant
1939	Vacant 513 ½: Oscar Sussdorf, restaurant
1935	Great A&P Tea Company No. 105
1932	The Great A&P Tea Company
1929	The Great A&P Tea Company
1927	Tom Louis, grocer
1924	John Mecey, confectioner
1920	H. B. Hill, soft drinks
1918	A.H. Schneider, saloon
1916	Adolph H. Schneider, saloon
1912	Khalil Shaplay, dry goods
1909	Mecey Brothers, dry goods
1906	George T. Simpson Grocery Co.
1903	W. C. Duncan, feed and grain
1891	G. W. Harrison, blacksmith (c)
1889	G. W. Harrison, blacksmith (c)
1887	G. W. Harrison, blacksmith (c)
1872	George W. Harrison listed as a blacksmith with William E. Risher on Pecan Street near East Avenue

Historical Information



1885 Sanborn map

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, ETC.

The following petitions were introduced:

By Alderman Glass: A petition of citizens requesting the council to place an arc light over the middle of the crossing of Congress avenue and First street.

It was moved that the petition be referred to the water and light committee.

Alderman Glass moved that the petition be granted, and that the city clerk be authorized to enter into a contract with the Austin Water, Light and Power company for the placing of the light.

The former motion was adopted by a rising vote of 7 to 5.

By Alderman Platt: A petition from Kuhn & Martin requesting permission to place a canvass sign across the street from the top of house No. 513 East Sixth street to the top of house opposite.

It was referred to the street committee.

IN COLORED SOCIETY.

Contributed.

The fifth anniversary of the wedding of Professor and Mrs. Blackshear (wooden wedding) was celebrated on Friday last at their home, 1214 Angelina street, and it was pronounced a very enjoyable affair. The new house of the celebrants was tastefully decorated and the plan and finish of the house were favorably commented upon. The guests arrived early and spent a happy hour in admiring the tasteful gifts, in conversation and in listening to selections of vocal and instrumental music, furnished by Mrs. Tom White, Miss Nettie Scott, Professor H. B. Fry and others. After refreshments and more conversation, congratulations to the host and hostess were in order, and the happy guests departed, leaving the delighted couple cheered and inspired to enter with renewed hope and zeal upon the sixth year of the duties of wedded life. The list of gifts comprised the following:

Push-bottomed rocker, by Mrs. Lashwah, Miss Nettie Scott, Miss F. C. Hamilton, Mr. C. N. White, Mr. Jones, Mr. Maxwell; willow cornucopias, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Madison; picture easel, Professor H. B. Fry; music rack, Mrs. Hancock, Miss Lee and Miss Evans; card basket, Miss L. J. Higgins; comb, brush and pan, Miss P. A. Glen; cedar bucket, Mr. and Mrs. Heard; cedar bucket, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones; combined hall mirror and rack, Mr. and Mrs. Givens and Mrs. Bradley; knife-box, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson; butter mold, Miss C. A. Lewis; potato slicer, Miss C. A. Lewis; salt case, Mrs. M. E. Allen; salt case, Mr. and Mrs. Burton; tray and spoon, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Carrington; bread board and tooth-picks, Miss Mary Reynolds; oak centre table, Mrs. J. E. Lambkins and Miss F. L. Collins; knife-box, Mr. and Mrs. Ward; oak centre table, Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison; half dozen Japanese mats, Mr. and Mrs. Clement; oil painting, Mr. and Mrs. W.

Austin Daily Statesman (1891-1902); Austin, Tex.. 07 Sep 1892: 3.

Austin Daily Statesman (1891-1902); Austin, Tex.. 20 Apr 1896: 8.

POLICE HUNTING STOLEN BEESWAX

THEFT OF A LARGE QUANTITY
FROM MERCHANT ON SIXTH
STREET HAS BEEN REPORTED
TO THE DEPARTMENT.

CITIZENS COMPLAINING OF NUISANCES AT NIGHT

Emptying of Garbage Along the
Speedway and Throwing of Stones
Cause Annoyance—Escaped Prison-
er Caught and Put to Work.

The theft of a large quantity of
beeswax from the store of a Jewish
merchant at 513 East Sixth street has
been reported to the police department,
and is now being investigated.

Thirty-nine large cakes of the wax
were stolen by the thieves, who gained
an entrance to the store in some mys-
terious way. One of the cakes had
been broken up and placed in a flour
sack.

No other articles, however, were re-
ported missing, and the money drawer
had not been rifled, which leads to the
impression that the wax was stolen by
parties desiring to use it rather than
dispose of it.

A short time ago a similar robbery
occurred in a store on Congress av-
enue, which was entered by cutting
through a screen door from an adjoin-
ing room. At that time a large quan-
tity of hams and bacon was taken
by the thieves.

+++++
+ I want my friends and the pub- +
+ lic to know that I am in the +
+ feed business at 513 East Sixth +
+ street, new phone 704, and that +
+ I am a candidate for city mar- +
+ shal at the coming city election +
+ in April, 1903. A. J. THORP. +
+++++

Austin Daily Statesman (1891-1902); Austin, Tex.. 13 July 1902: 11.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 08 Jan 1904: 3

SALOON LICENSES GRANTED.

Additional saloon licenses which
have received favorable action this
week by County Judge William von
Rosenberg Jr. are the following: Henry
Petri, 200 West Sixth Street, liquor;
H. M. Gault, Cocklebur, liquor; J. C.
Stark, 1108 East Eleventh Street, malt;
Joe Ravanelli, 1121 East Fourth Street,
liquor; F. D. Buratti, 1605 East Sixth
Street, liquor; Ramon Pratt, 20 Con-
gress Avenue, liquor; T. Inocente, 600
Brazil Street, malt; D. W. Schmitt,
110 Congress, liquor; C. Michellino,
1007 East Sixth Street, liquor; Ed A.
Moyer, 719 Congress, liquor; M. Domi-
nico, 309 East Fifth, malt; J. L. Wim-
berley, 1309 South Congress Avenue,
malt; A. H. Schnolder, 513 East Sixth
Street, liquor; Ben Piper, 200 Con-
gress Avenue, liquor.

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 26 June 1915: 5.

Bevo Beats Big Blaze

A unique way of putting out a fire is related in Night Clerk Tannehill's report of last night. The report follows: "Officers Cloud and Browne discovered a fire at 513 East Sixth Street in a Bevo joint. Officer Browne turned in the alarm while Officer Cloud broke in the door, and, having handled many schooners and knowing well the value of the big glass with a past reputation, seized one and badly attacked the fire. By the time the firemen arrived Officer Cloud had extinguished the fire."

CITY PERMITS.

Edward Peterson, 1151 San Barnard Street, food products.
Mrs. M. A. Hethecoat, food products.
D. A. Goodstein, food products.
Mrs. Kittie Pollard, 513 East Sixth Street, food products.

The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 01 June 1918: 4.

The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 18 July 1919: 6.

TWO OTHERS TO BE OPENED SATURDAY

Atlantic and Pacific
to Expand Rapidly
in Austin.

Establishment and operation of 10 to 12 stores in Austin, opening as fast as locations can be secured, is planned by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea company. In 1925, it was announced Friday morning by W. A. Terry, superintendent of the Houston division, who is here in connection with the opening of two new stores Saturday.

The first store of this chain organization was opened June 1, 1927 at 4103 Guadalupe street and so great was the success of this store that Mr. Terry made arrangements for the opening Saturday of two new stores at 513 East Sixth street and 3605 Speedway. A fourth store will be opened after Jan. 1 on West Sixth street opposite the postoffice.

\$400.
S. Ferris, 513 East Sixth street, repairs to store, \$200.
Stephen Thomas, 1500 East Sixth street, repairs to residence, \$25.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 05 July 1927: 10.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 16 Dec 1927: 1.

What's Ham Without Eggs?

Two juveniles were in the hands of police Thursday only because they insisted on ham and eggs, instead of being satisfied with just ham.

The two boys snatched an eight-pound cured ham from a truck belonging to Paul C. Smothers, and made a successful getaway.

They built a fire near the creek in the rear of Palm School and the ham started heating. It smelled so good the two boys decided to go get some eggs to go with it.

Of all the stores in town they selected for the snatch, they picked Smothers' Grocery at 513 East Sixth, operated by the same man from whom they had stolen the ham.

They only had time to stuff a couple of eggs in their trousers pockets before police arrived.

TAYLOR STORE HEAD LEADS IN TEXAS GRAIN

Albert Johnson, manager of the A.&P. store at 403 North Main street, Taylor, was awarded a 17-jewel Illinois watch Sunday for showing the greatest increase in business among 100 Texas stores. Asst. Supt. A. E. Davis announced here Monday. A Houston store manager was second, and O. G. Kurio, manager of the Austin store at 513 East Sixth street, received honorable mention in third place.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 09 Apr 1928: 2.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 14 Apr 1949: 10.

Permits

S. Ferris

513 E. 6th St.

9

60

pt. of 7

Original City

Masonry add'n. to commercial bldg.

25471 3-6-44

\$400.00

Chas. Hanson

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

No. 1932A

Austin, Texas

Received of _____ Date 1/1/1914
Address 513 E. 6th.
Amount \$
Builder or Owner _____ Plumber _____
Lot W. 23' of 6 Block 60 Subdivision orig city Plat No. 9