

Historical Zoning Application: Green and White Grocery, 1201 E. 7th St.

Applicant: John Lopez Cazares

Date: 1/31/24

Project Name: Green and White Grocery

Project Street Address: 1201 E. 7th St.

Existing Zoning: TOD-NP

Area to be Rezoned: .1495 Acres

Proposed Zoning: TOD-H-NP

Qualifications for Landmark Designation: Architecture, Historical Association, &
Community Value

Owner information: John Lopez Cazares
1201 E. 7th Street
Austin, Texas 78702
(512) 472-0675

Application Prepared by: Matthew Medina (Preservation Austin) &
JuanRaymon Rubio (City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission)

Qualifications for Landmark Designation

1201 E. 7th St. meets the qualifications for Local Historic Landmark designation based on the following criteria: Architecture, Historical associations, and Community Value.

Architecture

Green and White Grocery is a one-story wood frame building sited on the northwest corner of the block. The store is approximately 44' by 74', and has its main facade along E. 7th St. The store has had multiple additions since its initial construction in 1938. Sanborn maps, historic photos, and oral histories have helped determine the building's growth over time, although some additions and modifications appear to have happened without documentation. The store was originally half the size and depth and likely received a rear addition in 1944 and a store enlargement in 1950.¹ Subsequent additions to the end of the building after 1965 resulted in its current state.

Today, the store is defined by its Craftsman style characteristics including decorative wood brackets and exposed rafter rails beneath the primary roof structure and the first-story awning, and a large clipped gable roof, also known as a jerkinhead roof. The building features composite siding at the exterior walls, asphalt composition shingles, and aluminum doors and windows. The main facade has a classic "Green & White Groc." sign painted green with custom tube lighting letters. The west elevation has no windows, and the east elevation has a few hopper

¹ Norverto, Lopez. "Building Permit." 44660, Austin, Texas, 1950, *Austin History Center*.

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clerestory windows. A portion of the west elevation is defined by a rubble stone wall that extends along Waller St. towards the detached residence. The stone wall has entrance steps to the house and backyard. It appears in historic photos from the 1940s. The rear elevation has a protruding dormer at the southeast corner with a private store entrance.

Changes to the building since the 1960s include removal of crenelated parapet roof, infilled door and windows, and painted murals on the front and side elevations. Local graffiti artist, Federico Archuleta, painted two of his iconic stencils onto the walls that read "Paz y amor ¡Por favor!" and "Til death do us part".

Behind the store is a two story wood frame house built in 1948. The house has historically been listed as 607 Waller St. It is a simple building with craftsman style features including gabled roofs, covered front porch, and exposed rafter tails. The house has a concrete block foundation, wood siding, and asphalt shingle roofing. The rear elevation has two garage doors and access to a separate unit. Oral history from John Cazares indicates that several family members lived in the house since its original construction. At one point, the family rented out the house and divided it into separate units. The house has been converted back into a single-family unit.

Norverto Lopez continued building residences on his land at 1203 E. 7th, and a large multi-unit apartment complex at 604 Waller St. (Green & White Courts). The old complex and other houses have been demolished. The rear house at 1203 E. 7th St. remains intact and is owned by another family heir. The Green and White Grocery Store and house are two structures that represent a historic live/work/grocery pattern of development in the neighborhood. Located across the street from the City of Austin and National Register listed Briones House, and a mere five-minute walk from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Green and White continues to be one of the many East Austin institutions that are emblematic of the longstanding Mexican American community.

Historical Associations

Green and White Grocery is eligible for historic designation for its long-standing association with Norverto T. Lopez, wives Maria de Jesus Lopez and Margaret Lopez, and their descendants, notably the Cazares Family. Norverto came from a large family based in Austin. He was one of nine siblings and had three children: Carlos, Olga, and Gertrude. His wife Susie [Maria de Jesus] tragically passed away when their children were young, and Norverto later remarried to Margaret Lopez. Gertrude "Gertie" Lopez would go on to marry Travis County commissioner and famous Mexican-American politician Richard Moya. Olga and John L. Cazares, met when Cazares worked at Green and White Grocery. They both had attended Palm School and were members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Together they had six children; John Jr., Leonard, David, Anna, Suzie, and Paula.

History of Green and White Grocery and the Lopez/Cazares Family

Norverto T. Lopez and wife Maria de Jesus Lopez first purchased the 1201 block of East 7th Street on March 28th, 1936, for the total sum of eight hundred and seventy five dollars, with a

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two hundred dollar down payment.² The legal description of the land purchase for 1201 East Seventh street address is stated in Travis County Deed Record 545 as, "Lot No. 1, Block No. 1, Outlot No.3, in Division "A", city of Austin, Travis County, Texas.", purchased from the Harris-Wilson company specializing in real estate, insurance, loans and rentals.³ A full two years after his initial land purchase, in March of 1938 Mr. Lopez would finish paying a commission to craftsman W.E. Watson whose task was to "construct, erect, finish complete and deliver in a true workmanlike manner, a one-story frame store building and integral living quarters, according to plans and specifications agreed upon by and between the said parties hereto.", and also to be finished within just thirty working days.⁴ The completion of the store by W.E Watson marks the birth of one of Austin's longest standing businesses. The East Austin population continued to expand as a result of the city plan and East 7th street became an area of commercial expansion. As the Great Depression began, jobs became scarce, yet East Austin developed into a "self-reliant and industrious community" in spite of segregation.⁵ Green and White is evidence of this economic expansion in East Austin, and the arising need for grocery and food service in that area. The store was opened directly along an expanded line of city bus routes down East Seventh street that began service in 1933.⁶ Continuous growth is a common theme among much of the store's history from its founding in the late 1930's through the 1970's.

A 1938 statesman article reporting on a robbery at 1201 East Seventh, described as "N. T. Lopez' store [where] the front glass was broken, and the prowler reached his arm through to remove the money drawer. All the burglar got were eight candy bars and a dozen 3-cent stamps.", which dates the first evidence of a merchant operation for Norverto in any capacity.⁷ The 1940 census shows the Lopez household had grown with the addition of Maria Olga Lopez who was just five years old, and the address listed is 609 Waller Street.⁸ Today, the house behind the store is 607 Waller Street. It is unclear if the store had a side entrance for residential use, or if the house was divided into two addresses. The census also confirms significant operation of the store by 1940 because the occupation of Norverto is listed as "Merchant", and that the house was "owned", also listing the number of hours worked the week prior to the reporting of the census data as a substantial eighty six hours worked.⁹ In April of 1941, the first public mention of the Green and White grocery was a Fluffo brand advertisement for "pure vegetable shortening" made by Proctor and Gamble. The advertisement lists "Green and White Grocery, 1201 East Seventh " as one of the 130 participating stores handing out a "Free Recipe" for a "mouth-melting economical hamburger dinner" with the purchase of the vegetable

² Norverto T. Lopez contract and travis county deed record 545, pg. 103-105 Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 545, book,1936-06/1936-09; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1536489/m1/110/?q=Norverto%20Lopez>; accessed January 24, 2024), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office. pg. 103-105

³ Ibid.

⁴ Travis County (Tex.). Clerk's Office. Travis County Deed Records: Deed Record 566 - Mechanics Liens, book, 1937-08/1938-05;(<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1564415/m1/421/?q=travis%20county%20deed%20record%20566>; accessed January 26, 2024), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Travis County Clerk's Office. 415-417.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Hijacker Loots Another Store", *Austin American Statesman*, March 14, 1938. <https://www.newspapers.com> (Accessed January 11, 2024).

⁸ Year: 1940; Census Place: Austin, Travis, Texas; Roll: m-t0627-04149; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 227-44

⁹ Ibid

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shortening.¹⁰ This is evidence of Green and White's connection to the larger Austin business community. Just two years later, the store was listed in a wartime advertisement by Lipton's Noodle Soup prompting people to bring their "Waste Fats to be used for Gunpowder Against the Axis!". Green and White was one of forty-six participating companies that acted as repositories for community members.¹¹

Long before the days of massive conglomerates like Target and Whole Foods that now take up the first block of East Fifth St., Green and White developed into a large grocery store. The Lopez family's sustained success led to a \$1,500 expansion of the store in 1944, and another \$2,000 addition to the store in 1950.¹² All of the historic building permits list the contractor as "owner", however it's likely one or all of the additions were most likely done by his brother Trinidad Lopez, who is listed as a "carpenter" in the "House Building" industry on the 1950 US Census.¹³ Green and White was likely one of the bigger groceries in East Austin, and is certainly one of a handful remaining. By the mid-1950's, Green and White Grocery was a well run profit machine for Norverto, who decided to expand his Green and White brand to include an apartment complex right across the street from the store on the other side of Waller Street. Norverto announced his plans to Austin in a statesman article that detailed a "10-unit \$50,000 tourist court with facilities for expansion to 20 units in the future-will be constructed in the 1100 Block of East Seventh within the next three months." in June of 1954.¹⁴ One historic photo from the family appears to show construction of the courts. The configuration of the courts are shown in a 1965 Sanborn Map. The tourist courts had newspaper advertisements that highlighted "NEW KITCHENETTE apartments with washing facilities. Bus, convenient to Bergstrom field and downtown."¹⁵ The bus routes were a key part of influencing the growth of East Austin commerce and needs.

As Mr. Lopez focused on other business endeavors, he looked to his son-in-law and daughter for help. John A. Cazares, who began working at the store at the age of 16 in 1946, married Olga Lopez on August 21st, 1955.¹⁶ The local newspaper indicated a changing of the guard at Green and White grocery, when the "bridegroom" was described as "a graduate of Austin High School and is now manager of the Green and White Grocery in Austin."

Another remodel in 1965 cost Norverto \$12,000, and "closed up one corner to create a room; [with] new shingles on exterior walls; [and] re-roof with comp shingles".¹⁷ This would be the last that Norverto would work on the Green and White Grocery as he passed away peacefully at the

¹⁰ "Fluffo Pure Vegetable Shortening", *Austin American Statesman*, April 12, 1941. <https://www.newspapers.com> (Accessed January 11, 2024).

¹¹ "World War II Lipton Noodle Soup Ad", *Austin American Statesman*, September 24, 1943. <https://www.newspapers.com> (Accessed January 11, 2024).

¹² Norverto, Lopez. "Building Permit." 26419, Austin, Texas, 1944, *Austin History Center*; Norverto, Lopez. "Building Permit." 44660, Austin, Texas, 1950, *Austin History Center*.

¹³ National Archives at Washington, DC; Washington, D.C.; *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950*; Year: 1950; Census Place: Austin, Travis, Texas; Roll: 647; Page: 1; Enumeration District: 256-118.

¹⁴ "Tourist Court Planned Here", *Austin American Statesman*, June 13, 1954. <https://www.newspapers.com> (Accessed January 11, 2024).

¹⁵ "NEW KITCHENETTE", *Austin American Statesman*, June 12, 1955. <https://www.newspapers.com> (Accessed January 11, 2024).

¹⁶ "Miss Maria Olga Lopez Bride of John A. Cazares", *Austin American Statesman*, September 1, 1955. <https://www.newspapers.com> (Accessed January 11, 2024).

¹⁷ Ibid.

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Brackenridge hospital on April, 3, 1971.¹⁸ A Travis Central Appraisal District property search shows that Olga Lopez Cazares was given ownership of the Green and White grocery at 1201 E 7th, with the same legal description as the initial land purchase in 1938.¹⁹ John A. Cazares Sr. maintained a close relationship with the Lopez family, and was a pallbearer for Norverto's brother Trinidad, when he passed away in 1973.²⁰

John Cazares Sr. continued to operate the store with his family, and he became known throughout the community for providing jobs and feeding his neighbors. The store became especially popular during Christmas time, when the family sold thousands of homemade tamales. Cazares Sr. retired in 1993 and turned the business over to his son John Cazares Jr. In 1996, Cazares Jr. transitioned the store from groceries to a botanica, supplying candles, charms, and other spiritual goods. Cazares Jr. decided to keep the store name, both out of convenience but also because of its historic importance. However, "the Botanica" has become the unofficial name for the store.

Cazares Sr. passed away in 2012. His obituary includes several stories of how he filled in as a father figure for many youth and how he helped support Latino politicians, including Gonzalo Barrientos, former state senator from Austin. Three generations of East Austinites have seen the Green and White Grocery through financial constraints of World War II and beyond. Although the neighborhood has changed drastically from the 1950s, Green and White Grocery continues to be a landmark institution that has served the community and survived due to the hard work, determination, and fortitude of Norverto T. Lopez, his family, and their descendants.

Community Value

Green and White Grocery is also considered eligible for historic designation under the criterion of community value. An exponential number of East Austin residents remember buying groceries, food (especially tamales), and religious items at Green and White for more than seventy years after the store first opened its doors to the neighborhood. When the store first opened, Norverto Lopez and his family served the East Austin community tacos and hamburgers. As the decades flew by, the Lopez family formed a growing enterprise of historic businesses. Their longstanding association with operation of the store has helped to anchor the changing community for over 80 years. Green and White Grocery developed into a cultural center for the community of East Austin, greatly contributing to the value that is placed on East Austin today.

The store's successful service to the segregated Mexican-American demographic was likely influenced by a deep connection to the community, and an emerging market for Mexican goods that rapidly grew in East Austin. By the 1980s, Green and White had become the go to spot for anyone in Austin looking for Mexican Herbs, homemade tamales, breakfast tacos, tripe for Menudo, and Mexican chocolate. Green and White grocery employed many Mexican-American

¹⁸ Norverto Trevino Lopez, Texas Department of State Health Services; Austin Texas, USA; *Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982*

¹⁹ "Travis Central Appraisal District Property Search," Stage.travis.prodigycad.com, accessed January 26, 2024, <https://stage.travis.prodigycad.com/property-detail/192881/2023>.

²⁰ "Trinidad T. Lopez Obituary", *Austin American Statesman*, April 16, 1973. <https://www.newspapers.com> (Accessed January 11, 2024).

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members of the East Austin community. Much of the staff were from East Austin. An Austin Statesman article includes an anecdote about Elena Sanchez who had worked at the store for at least 30 years by 1989. The legacy of Norberto continued on as Cazares Sr. was seen as a beacon of help in his community, assisting those who needed support. He gave credit to customers who could not always afford to pay at that moment and arranged grocery deliveries for elderly customers. He also conducted additional services for people at his store, including cashing their social security checks. During the height of the Chicano movement in Austin, as the first Mexican American politicians were being elected to city and state offices, Gonzalo Barrientos campaigned at Green and White Grocery. Local leaders recognized the store was an important cultural hub run by a prominent East Austin community member.

Green and White Grocery is also a case study of the historic commercial development in East Austin after the 1928 Koch and Fowler Plan. The plan for city development systemically segregated Austin's minority population through oppressive city districting, imitating other popular southern segregationist policies for urban development.²¹ The effects of this plan were swift. Most of the City's Hispanic population resided in East Austin, specifically south of 8th street, with a concentration along E Cesar Chavez Street, formerly East 1st street.²² The economic conditions of the great depression made employment scarce and a trend of "self-employment" arose in the community. Through perseverance, businesses opened to serve within the confines of the segregated district.²³

²¹ "City of Austin Historic Resources Survey, Final Report Volume I.", Hardy·Heck·Moore Inc., October 24, 2016, *Austintexas.gov*. I-64-88.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

City of Austin - Historic Preservation Office
Historic Zoning Application Packet

F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology

Deed Research for (fill in address) 1201 E. 7th St. / 607 Waller St.

List Deeds chronologically, beginning with earliest transaction first and proceeding through present ownership. The first transaction listed should date at least back to when the original builder of any historic structures on the site first acquired the property (i.e., should pre-date the construction of any buildings/structures on the site). Please use the format delineated below.

For each transaction please include: name of Grantor/Grantee, date of transaction, legal description involved, price, and volume/page number of deed records. If there is a mechanic's lien please copy the entire document.

Transaction

Vol./Page

Harrison-Wilson company to Norverto T. Lopez
Purchase of "Lot
No. 1, in Block 1, Outlot No. 3, in Division "A"
June 26, 1936
\$875

Travis County Deed Record
No. 545 Pg. 104-105

Transfer of deed from Norverto T. Lopez (Deceased 1971)
to Olga Lopez Cazares in 1971

Transfer of deed from John Cazares Sr. to Olga Lopez Cazares

Transfer of deed from Olga Lopez Cazares to
John Lopez Cazares Jr., her son beginning in 1993-2013
(multiple gifts)

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F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

Occupancy Research for (fill in address) 1201 E. 7th St. / 607 Waller St.

Using City Directories available at the Austin History Center or other information available, please provide a chronology of all occupants of the property from its construction to the present. For commercial property, please provide residential information on business owner as well.

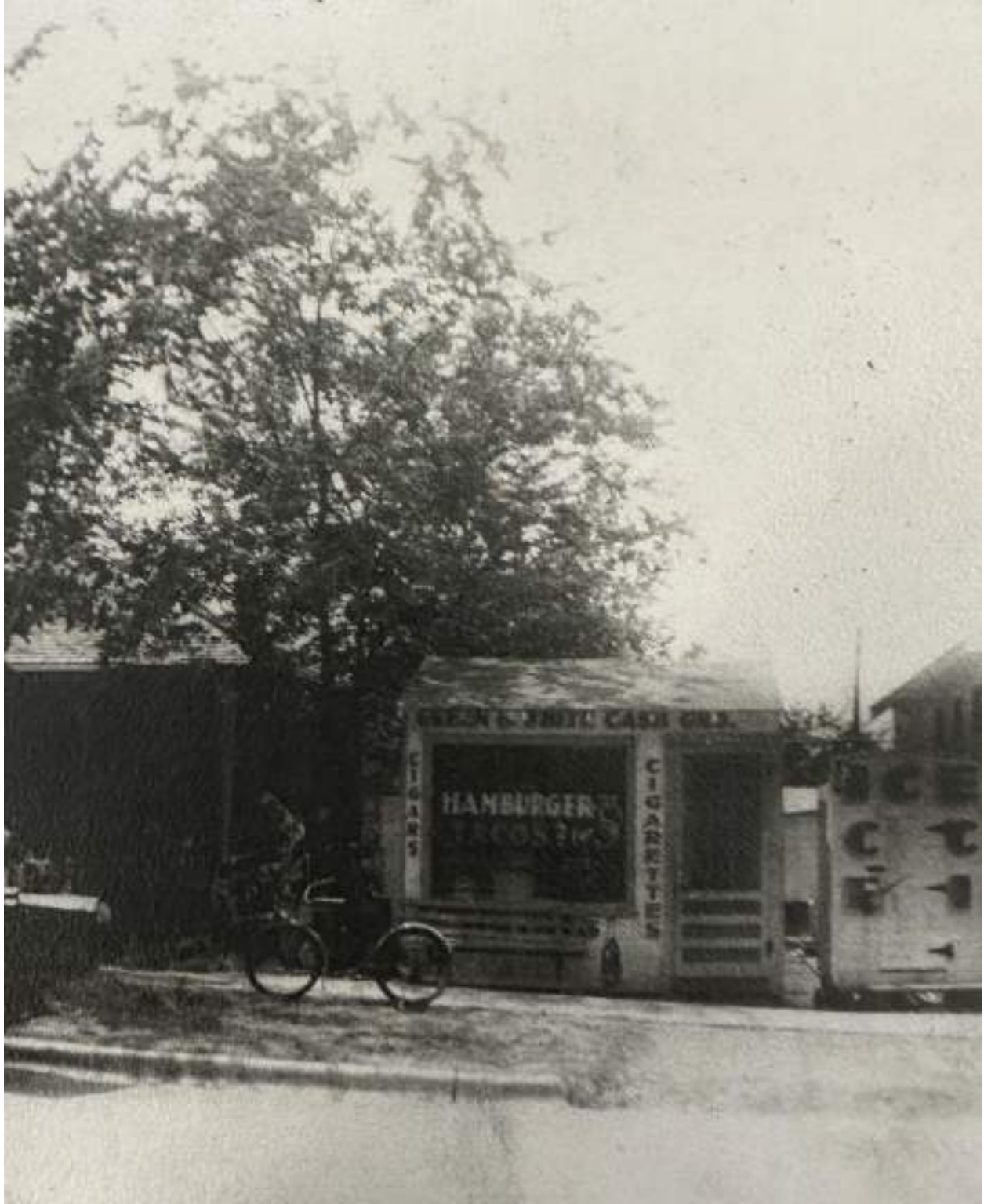
Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1938-1947	Norberto T. Lopez and Maria de Jesus Lopez	Oral History/1940 Census
1955	John Cazares Sr. and Olga Lopez Cazares	
1996	John Cazares Sr., Olga Lopez Cazares, John Cazares Jr.	
2012	Olga Lopez Cazares, John Cazares Jr.	
2020-Present	John Cazares Jr.	

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View of original store, circa 1940s. (*Source: Cazares Family*)

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View of the early stand east of the store. The building contains signage for "Green and White Cash Gro." Circa 1940s. (Source: Cazares Family)

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Family members at the store entrance, date unknown. (Source: Cazares Family)

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The grocery store during expansion, circa 1950s Note early crenelated roofline.
(Source: Cazares Family)



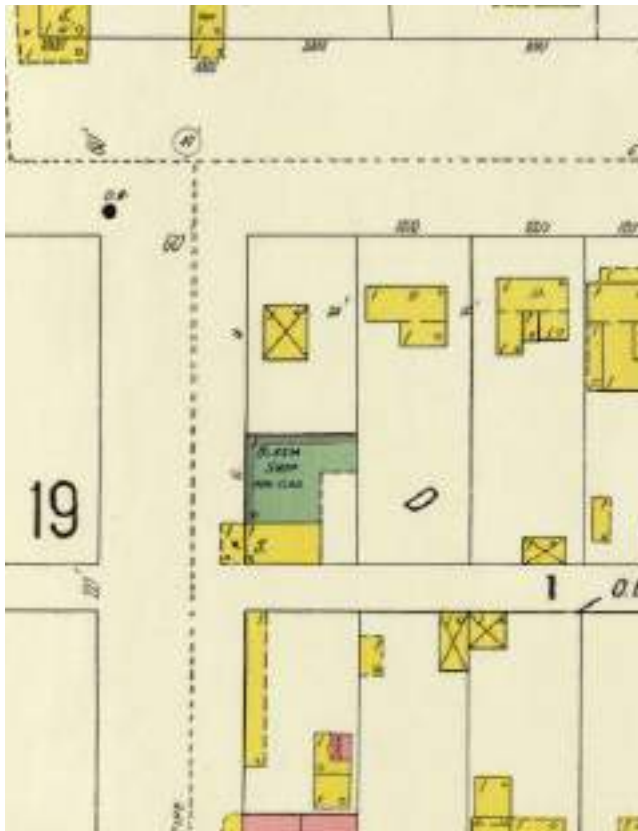
Possible view of south facade of the store (rear entrance), date unknown.
(Source: Cazares Family)

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Photo across E. 7th Street looking south at the Green and White Grocery in 1958. Note the crenelated roofline of the store. (Source: *Portal to Texas History*)

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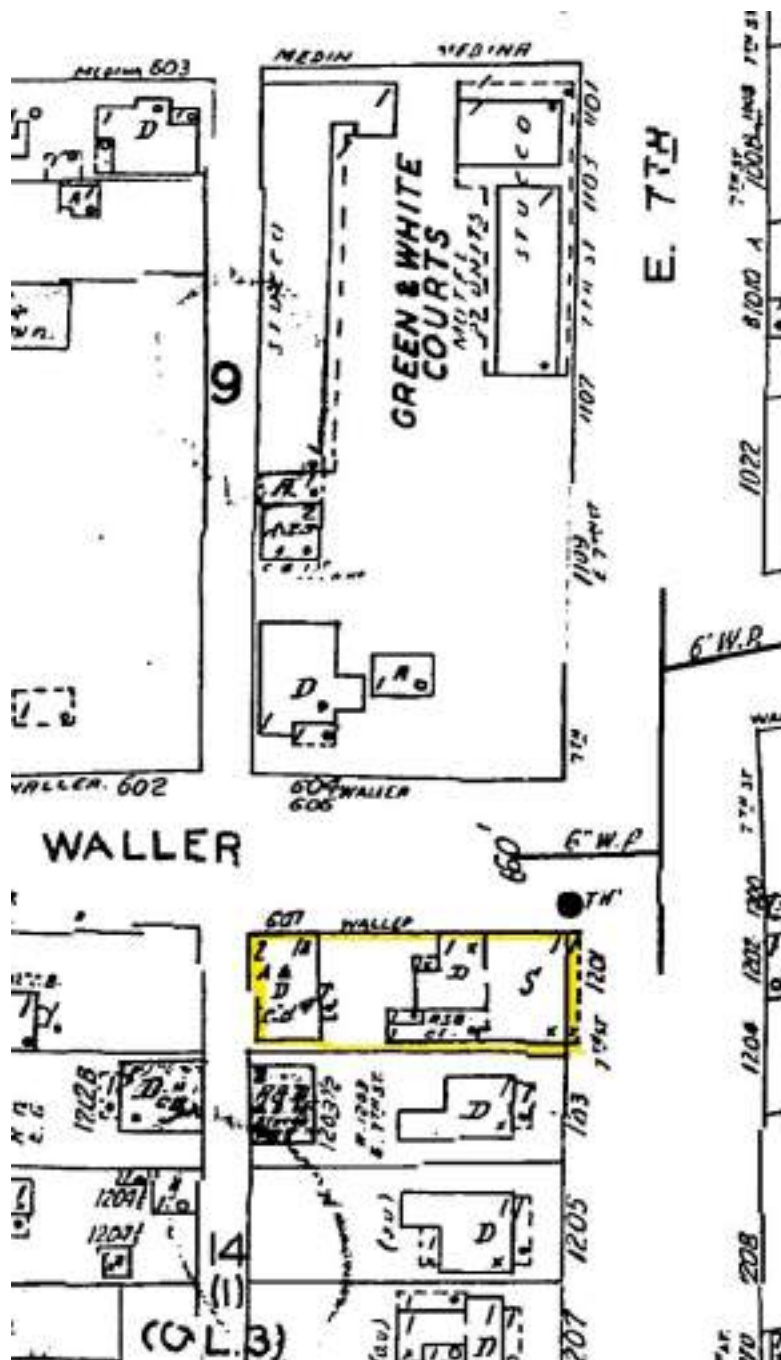


1900 Sanborn Map showing a small wood framed structure with a blacksmith shop and store on the rear of the lot. These structures were later demolished for construction of the store.



1935 Sanborn Map, which shows the lot prior to Norverto Lopez's purchase. Note the house at 1203 was constructed or modified from the structure shown in 1900.

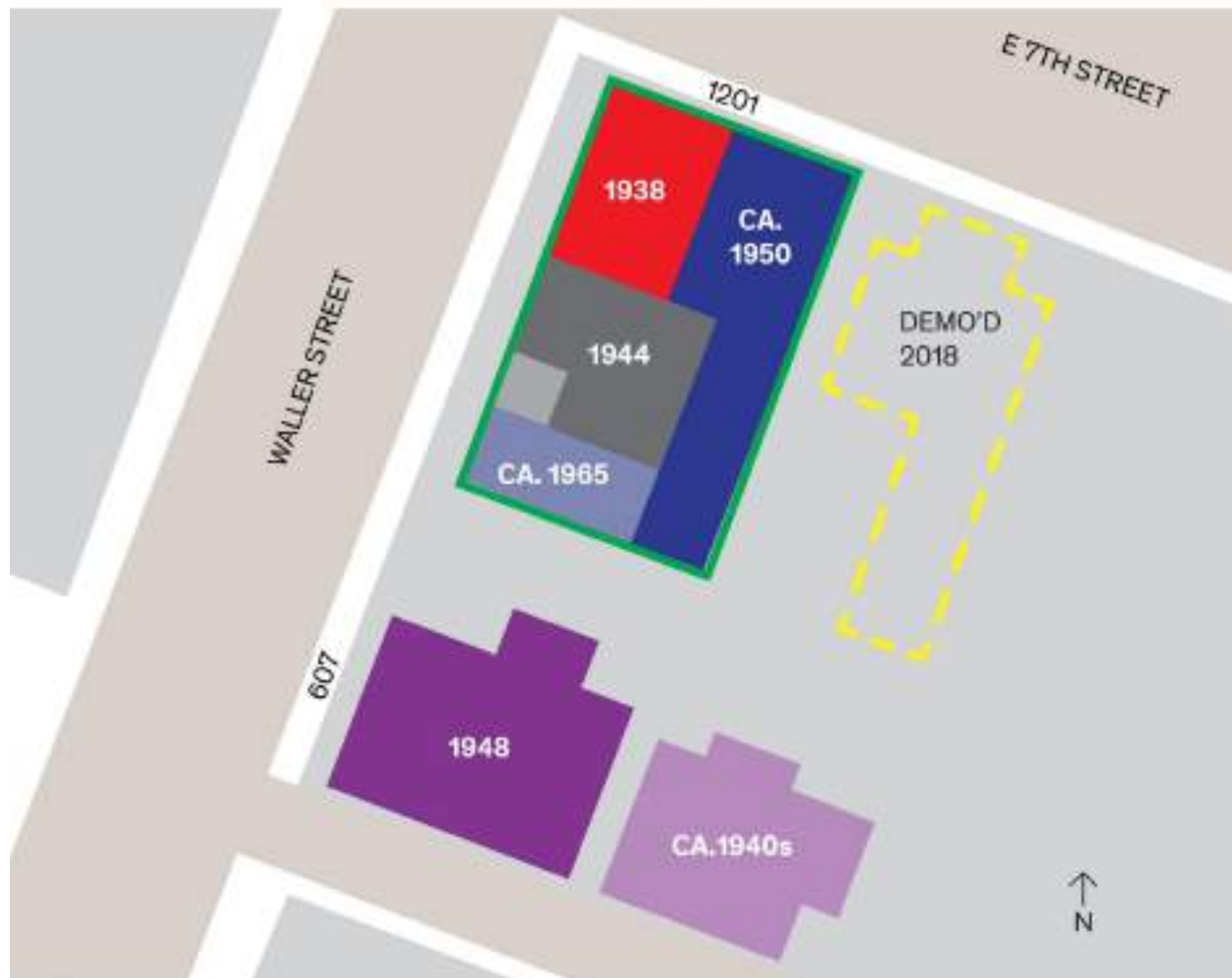
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1965 Sanborn Map. Notice the store/dwelling configuration. Green & White Courts is across Waller St. At this time, the family owned the store, five houses, and the apartment complex.

Green and White Grocery, Conjectural Building and Site Timeline Diagram

1201 E. 7th Street, Austin, Texas



Key:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1938: Conjectural Store Footprint | 1950: Store Addition* (Ref. Building Permit) |
| 1944: Dwelling Footprint* | 1965: Store Addition (Ref. Building Permit) |
| 1948: Residence (Ref. Building Permits) | 2018: Demolished Residence |
| 1940s: Residence | Present Day Store Boundaries |

*1965 Sanborn Map

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Norberto T. Lopez and family (*Source: Cazares Family*)



John A. Cazares and (Maria) Olga Lopez, circa 1950s, (*Source: Cazares Family*)

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Norberto T. Lopez, circa 1950s. (*Source: Cazares Family*)
Note the family house behind the store.



Maria Olga Lopez Cazares (*Source: Cazares Family*)

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Possible photo during construction of the Green & White Courts, 1951.
(Source: Cazares Family)



Cazares family in front of the store, circa 1990s.
(Source: Cazares Family)

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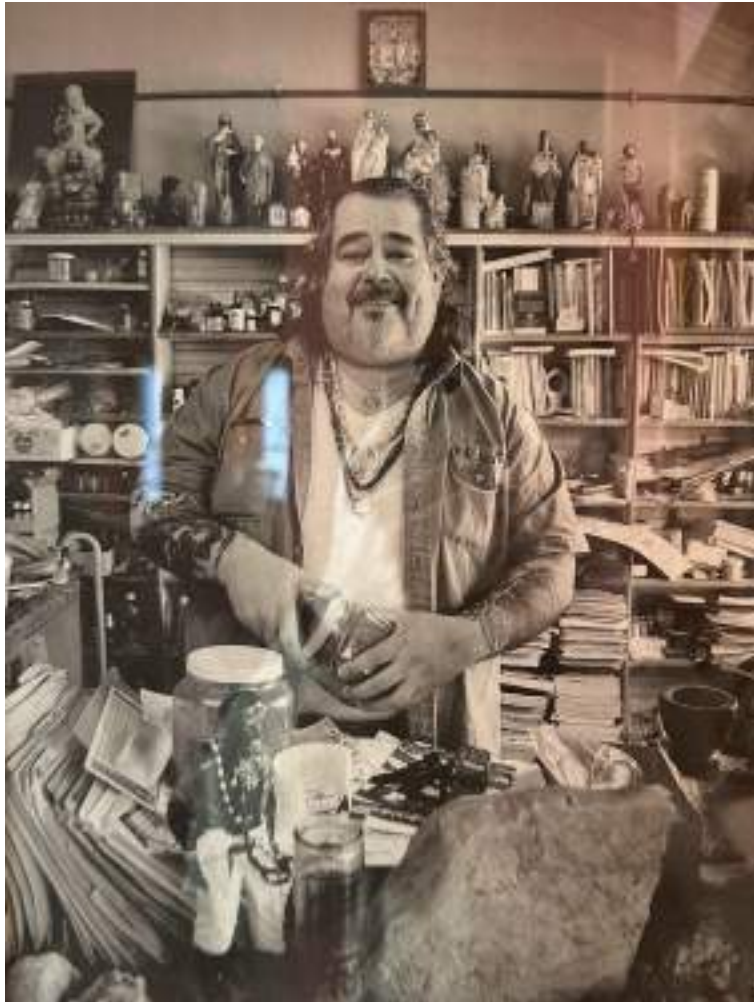


John Cazares Jr. and Maria Olga Lopez Cazares, circa 1990s. (*Source: Cazares Family*)



John Cazares Sr. (*Source: Cazares Family*)

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John Cazares Jr. (Source: Cazares Family)

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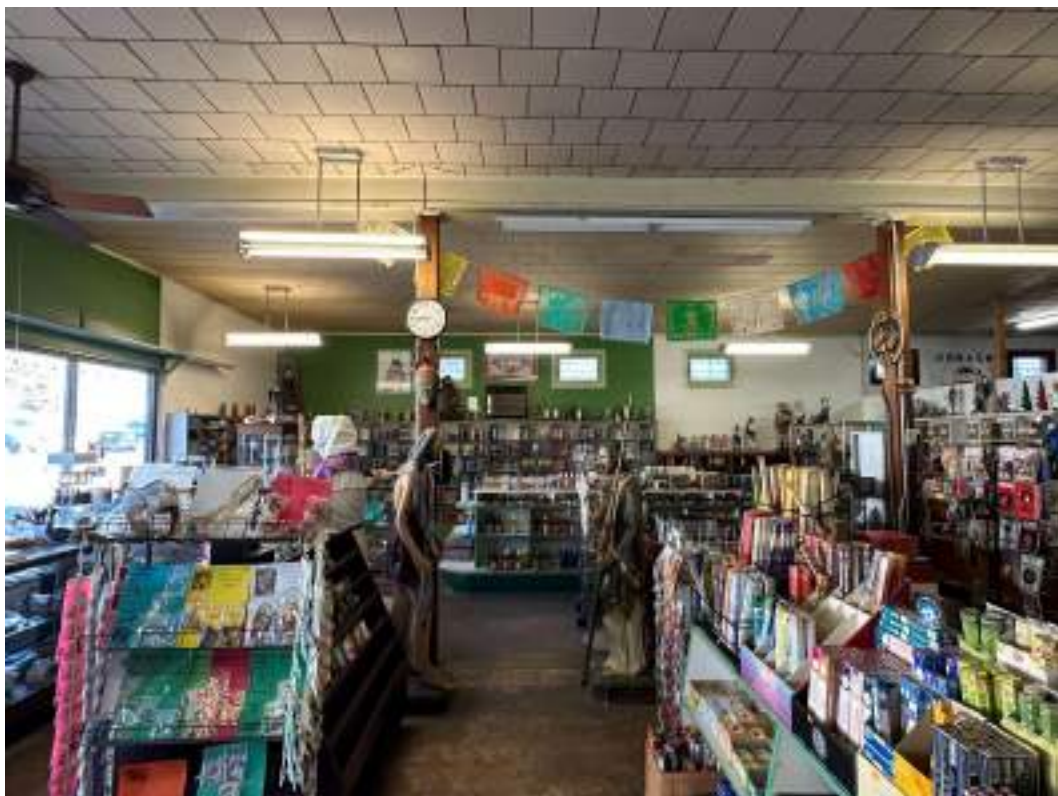
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Taylor Johnson/AA-S photos

The Green & White Grocery at 1201 E. Seventh St. is changing its tradition of selling homemade food and groceries to customers like Ernest Brown, above, who has shopped there for 30 years. The store will sell health items and house a martial arts school.

FAMOUS TAMALES PHASED OUT

Store changes with times, ending its sales of homemade food

By CAROLYN KELLY
American-Statesman Staff

The Green & White Grocery has sold the last of its homemade tamales, the corn-husked delectables that drew out-of-town crowds and hourlong lines each Christmas season.

On a sign in front of the store, the words "tamales," "beer" and "wine" are crossed out with tape. Inside, the old-fashioned Coca-Cola cooler is barren and a jar of pickles is about the only food near the deli case.

The unassuming neighborhood store at 1201 E. Seventh St. has been phasing out its food business to broaden its other offerings, such as vitamins and herbs, said owner John L. Cazares, who took over the family business in 1993.

"I don't look at it as changing our operation. We're eliminating part of what we're doing," Cazares said Thursday. "It's almost like we had two sets of customers. Some people only know us for tamales. We have a lot of seasonal customers who don't know that we've always had herbs."

Eventually, the front half of the store will be a full-fledged Mexican and Amer-

See Store, B3



John Cazares Sr., former owner of the Green & White Grocery, holds 8-week-old Gabriel Guzman while the baby's mother, Marta, pays for her goods.

Thursday, December 14, 1989

Austin-American-Statesman/Neighbor

NEIGHBOR BUSINESS



John L. Casares is the third generation to work at the Green and White Grocery at East Seventh and Walker streets. The grocery store was opened at that location in 1939 and hamburger stand in 1932.

Green and White Grocery serves patrons since 1939

By Diana Glatzer
Neighbor Reporter

Austin is a changeable place that has created many of its landmarks over the past five decades — which makes the green and white building at the intersection of East Seventh and Walker streets a reassuring sight.

"People coming back to town say, 'Seventh street has been changed a lot, but you're still here,'" said John L. Casares, the third generation to work in the Green and White Grocery.

Casares said his grandfather, Norberto Trevino Lopez, also known as N.T., opened a small taco and hamburger stand at that location about 1938.

"He sold food, and he also sold firewood and kerosene," said John A. Casares, John L.'s father. "People still call and ask if we have kerosene."

Lopez built a house with both a store and living quarters for his family — something which gives the grocery a homey look.

N.T. Lopez made his mark on the surrounding area, too, opening the Green and White tourist courts across the street and built houses on several lots. According to John L. Casares, his grandfather painted everything green and white, be-

cause those were his favorite colors.

"He continually expanded the store and added on, until it got to be this size in the '60s," said Casares, who works in the store with his father. The son, who is known as Little John, said his father began working in the Green and White Grocery as a teen-age helper carrying Olga Lopez.

Casares, 33, said all six of the couple's children also worked in the store as teenagers, but he's the only one to stay with it.

"It takes a little getting used to, working with your family," he said with a grin, explaining that although it has its drawbacks, he has found a satisfaction in carrying on the tradition. The store is open seven days a week, and he said "you have to have a real good excuse to get a weekend off."

According to the younger Casares, the family has consciously avoided modernization — except when it could really improve service. For example, a few years ago, they replaced the old cooler from with stainless refrigerator cases. But the majority of the displays are the same.

"We could change things around and add more stuff, but then we'd be like 7-Eleven," Casares said.

Over the years, as supermarket

chains have done much of their customers away, the Green and White expanded its merchandise, adding more non-food items.

Now, many people patronize the store because of its huge selection of religious candles, or for its herbs, charms, pinatas, toys, Mexican needles, greeting cards in Spanish, and folclore, a popular type of Mexican magazine.

From early morning 10:30 p.m., the Green and White does a lively business selling tacos made in their own kitchen.

He said their most famous product is homemade tamales, which they sell by the dozen. Since tamales are a traditional Christmas dish, aficionados have their names on a list, and a long line begins forming early in the morning when it gets close to Christmas.

"It's just crazy around here then," said Casares. "We have customers who pick up their order at Christmas and then say, 'Put us on the list for next year,' and they've been doing that for years."

He said everybody helps out making tamales, but some of the women have been doing it for years.

"These families make them and she worked for my grandfather," he said. "She's been doing that for at least 30 years."

Forest Trail Elementary named exemplary school by state agency

The Texas Education Agency has designated Forest Trail Elementary as an exemplary elementary school.

Forest Trail is one of 22 in the state to be recognized — and the only one selected in the area. Forest Trail will now be competing for national recognition by the U.S. Department of Education.

"This award is a tribute to the staff," Principal James Veltenshneider said. "They're the ones that make it happen every day."

Veltenshneider believes the TEA was impressed by the efforts of the school on behalf of the community. This includes piano lessons, fabric drawers, book fairs and family fun days.

"I think we are one of the very few elementary with a study skills program. We teach organizational techniques. Kids learn to keep a calendar with their assignments and the parents sign off on the children's list of assignments," said the principal.

The work accomplished by the Forest Trail Campus Advisory Committee also impressed the TEA. The committee, appointed by the principal, surveyed parents last year to ask opinions about school policies, practices and procedures.

"Then we made changes requested by the parents," said Veltenshneider. For example, the school is now offering a greater emphasis on geography and has increased the library hours.



Carol D. Barnett

West Lake Hills/Rollingwood

Center recently installed an exhibit of student artwork from Forest Trail Elementary School in its building and then had a reception for the children and their parents.

Nancy Johnson, community coordinator for the branch, located the artwork and managed the installation in the book's community room.

Community groups interested in using the room can contact Johnson at 227-0880. There is no charge to charitable, social and non-profit groups.

"We change our art every few weeks. And we've tried to feature artists from this area. Not having the children is special. It's so colorful and creative," said Gogie Hight, the book's president.

Courtney Spence was impressed with the sight of her work on the book walls. "It sure looks different from when my Dad hangs me stuff in his office," she said.

The art currently on display was created by students of Susan Stephens.

"Having a chance to display their artwork has been a real highlight for the children," said Stephens.

Fourth grader Bobby Little said, "I was really surprised when I found out the book wanted to hang up my art. This would be the place where I'd put a million dollars, if I had it."

Bookmark artists

More than 300 Essex Elementary School students submitted entries for the contest to design a bookmark and create a slogan for National Children's Book Week. Winners received a poster and stickers. They also were able to see their artwork transformed into bookmarks now being distributed by the library.

"The children had so many, many wonderful ideas. The choices were really difficult," said Essex Librarian Lorraine Smith.

First-place winners and their slogans included: David Doty, "Bliss Off with Books"; Evan Bradley, "Show Readers Never Miss a Page"; Holly O'Dell, "Get Chained by a Book"; Brandon Dwyer, "I Never Can Stop Leaving the Library"; Jonathan Kash, "Reading is Awesome"; and Wendy Krieger, "Reading Makes You Grow."

Second-place recognition was given to Bridger Bell, Will Clark, Katie Rhodes, Haley Gossard, Emily Marlette, Megan Mann, Erin Murray, Nick Miller, Kendrick Nelson, Stephen Peterson, Carl Stephens, Laura Thiele, Jennifer Wilson and Fraser Woodward.

To help Carol keep up with activities in West Lake Hills, Rollingwood, and the Emma area, call her at 228-4207.

Forest Trail artwork
The NUNB Westlake Branch

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