HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION Permits in National Register Historic Districts March 6, 2024 HR-2024-017546 Sixth Street National Register Historic District 709 East Sixth Street

PROPOSAL

Rehabilitate building, add metal awnings, replace storefront, and repoint brick.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

North Elevation: Add a new metal awning to this building per 1970s photo. Repair and repoint the existing brick wall as needed and maintain the existing lighting on the storefront. Replace the existing storefront.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story masonry commercial building with transom windows above awning, simple detailing at cornice, and a stepped walkway to a basement level at Waller Creek.

RESEARCH

The building at 709 East Sixth Street, addressed throughout the years as 705-709 East Sixth Street, was built around 1906. It first served as the grocery store of Abraham Tannous and his family, lauded as "the best-known Syrian" in Austin in his 1923 obituary. Tannous shared the space with a jeweler, a confectioner, and various private rentals at the rear of the shops. After his retirement, the building housed Mamie and George Hodges' fruit stand and soda fountain, Charles Gregory's jewelry store, and a variety of smaller groceries. By the late 1930s, Abraham Nassour and Namie Jacob had taken up the grocery businesses in the building, though by the mid-forties, Nassour transitioned his business to Abe's Place, a package store. Nassour had previously run a saloon at 721 East Sixth Street alongside his brother, also a grocer. The brothers, born in Beirut, were also part of the larger community of Syrian and Lebanese merchants who helped to establish 6th Street as a bustling business district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's <u>Historic Design Standards</u> (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:

<u>Repair and alterations</u> 1. General standards The proposed project removes mostly non-historic material.

4. Exterior walls and trim The proposal includes repair of historic-age brick.

11. Commercial storefronts

The proposed storefront and awning are appropriate in scale and design for the district.

<u>Summary</u>

The project meets the applicable standards. The applicant has amended the design to reflect Committee feedback.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The property is listed as noncontributing to the Sixth Street National Register district, but the 2022 Sixth Street Snapshot resurvey recommends 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 high integrity, though the storefront has been replaced.
- 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 for landmark designation:

- a. Architecture. The building is a one-part commercial block with limited architectural distinction.
- *b.* Historical association. The property is associated with the Tannous and Nassour families.
- *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.

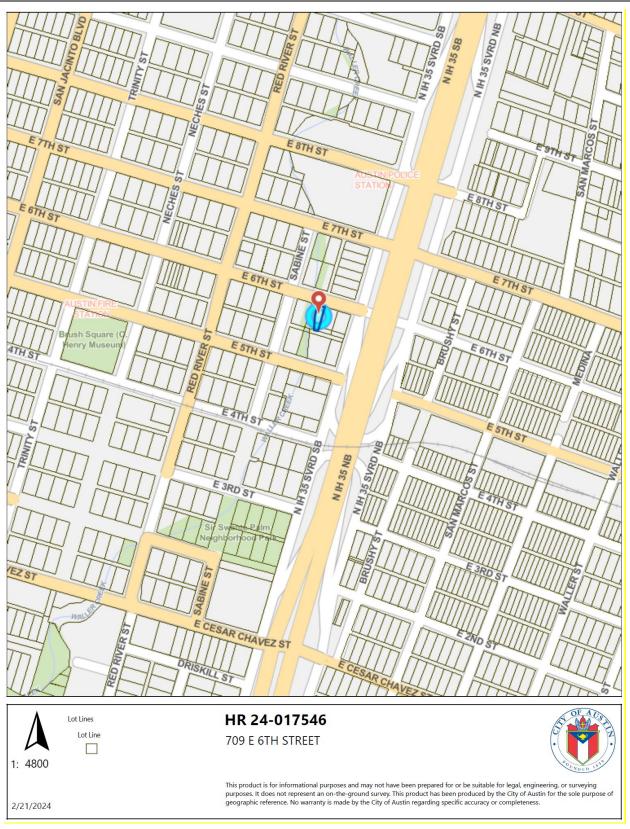
COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

Remove ivy and non-historic sconces.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

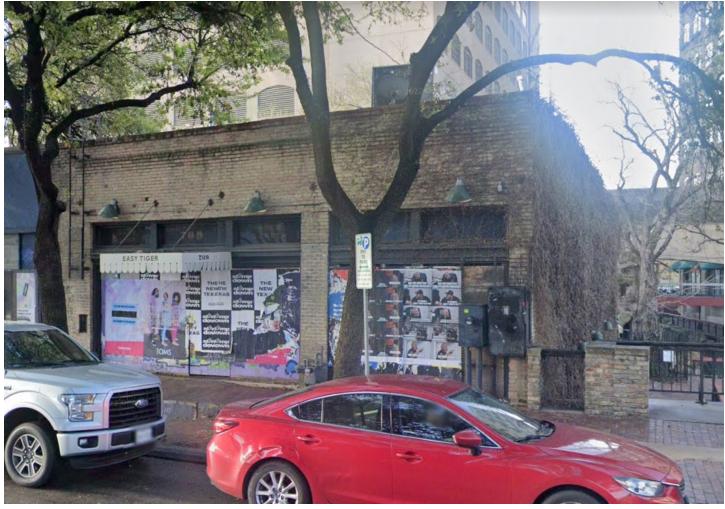
Comment on plans.

LOCATION MAP



PROPERTY INFORMATION





Google Street View, 2022

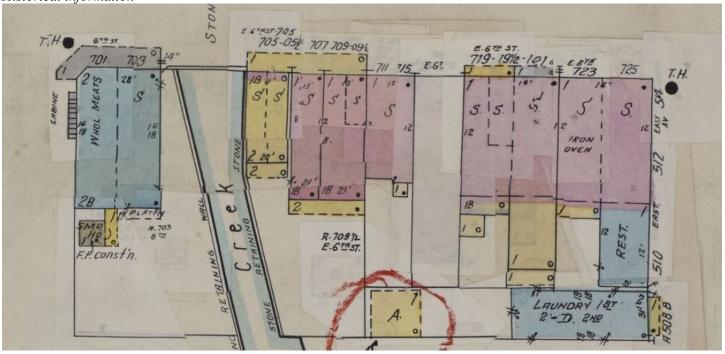
Occupancy History City Directory Research, June 2022

1959	Address listed as 705-709 E 6 th Street 705 E 6 th Street – Vacant 705 ¹ ⁄ ₂ E 6 th Street – Vacant 707 E 6 th Street – Namie Jacob (grocery) 709 E 6 th Street – Austin Bar
1955	 705 E 6th Street – Travis Finance Company 705 ½ E 6th Street – Vacant 707 E 6th Street – Namie Jacob (grocery) 709 E 6th Street – Austin Bar
1952	 705 E 6th Street – Villalpando Barber Shop 705 ½ E 6th Street – Original Café 707 E 6th Street – Namie Jacob (grocery) 709 E 6th Street – Abe's Place (beer)
1947	 705 E 6th Street – Louis G. Cazares Package Store 705 ¹/₂ E 6th Street – Original Café (restaurant) 707 E 6th Street – Namie Jacob (grocery)

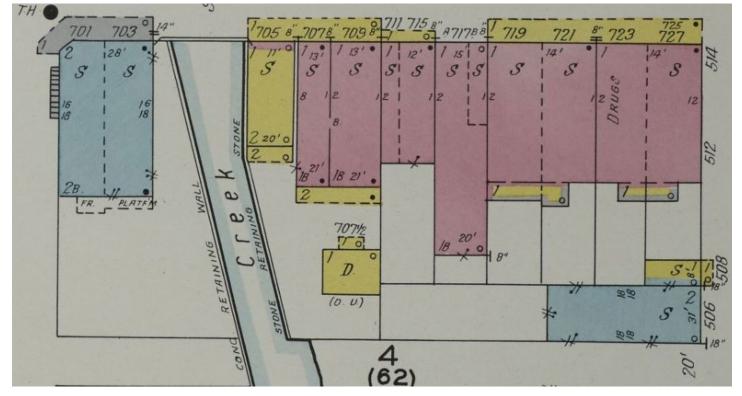
	709 E 6 th Street – Abe's Place (beer) Basement – Frank O. Gustafson
1944	 705 E 6th Street – Louis Barber Shop 705 ¹/₂ E 6th Street – Original Café (restaurant) 707 E 6th Street – Namie Jacob (fish) 709 E 6th Street – Abe's Place (beer) Basement – Frank O. Gustafson Rear – Vacant
1941	 705 E 6th Street – East Side Barber 705 ¹/₂ E 6th Street – Mack Martinez (restaurant) 707 E 6th Street – Namie Jacob (grocery) 709 E 6th Street – Nassour Abr (grocery)
1937	 705 E 6th Street – Eagle Bakery 707 E 6th Street – Namie Jacob (grocery) 709 E 6th Street – Abraham Nassour (grocery)
1932	 705 E 6th Street – J. E. Barker (meats); Mamie Hodges (fruits) 707 E 6th Street – John Mecey (soft drinks) 709 E 6th Street – Hokey-Pokey Grocery
1927	 705 E 6th Street – Alamo Market 707 E 6th Street – John Mecey (soft drinks) 709 E 6th Street – Virgil McPhail (grocery)
1924	705 E 6 th Street – D. G. Hodges (fruits); C. G. Gregory (jeweler) 709 E 6 th Street – Joseph Salem (grocery) Jose Ruis, renter Funinodo Ruis, renter Rafael Cardenas, renter
1920	705 E 6 th Street – Simon Chiappero (confectioner); Mrs. M. Gregory, renter 709 E 6 th Street – George Hodges (soft drinks)
1916	705 E 6 th Street – Charles T. Gregory (jeweler); Simon Chiappero (confectioner) 709 E 6 th Street – Abraham Tannous (grocery) Bonifacio B. Romero, renter
1912	705 E 6 th Street – Charles T. Gregory (jeweler); Simon Chiappero (confectioner) 709 E 6 th Street – Abraham Tannous (grocery); Gregorio Gonzales, renter; Bidala Escajida, renter
1909	705 E 6 th Street – Charles T. Gregory (jeweler); Edwin D. Crawford (installment goods) 709 E 6 th Street – Abraham Tannous (grocery)
1906	Abraham Tannous - (general merchandise) Rear – Lula Jackson, renter; Jesse Carden, renter; Sarah Smith, renter. <i>Note: the directory indicates that Jackson, Carden, and Smith are African American.</i>

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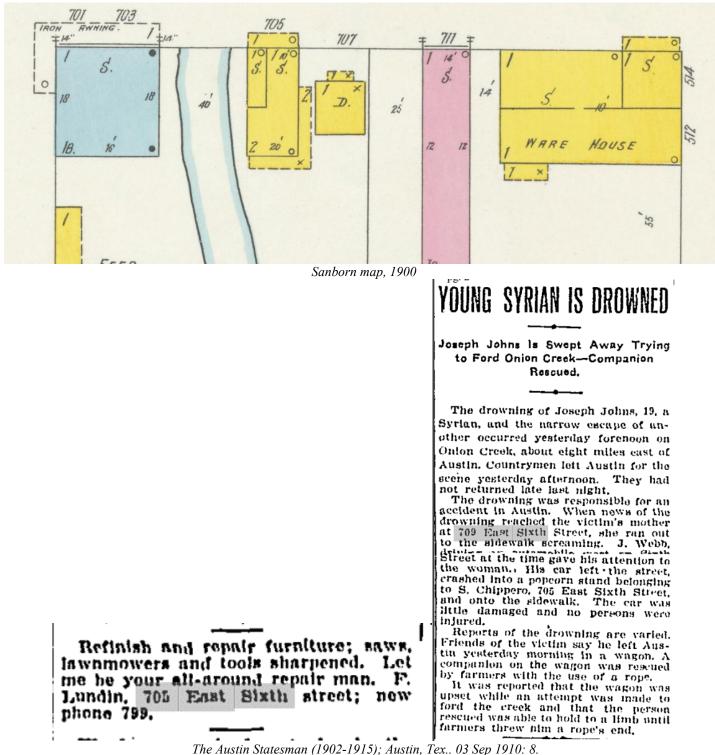
Historical information



Sanborn map, 1962



Sanborn map, 1935



The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 03 Sep 1910: 8. The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 04 Oct 1913: 2. insured: Buildings, \$3285; contents, \$5942, Insurance loss: Buildings \$1895, contents \$2013.

Permits to build were granted to I. Joseph, small wooden buildin, 14x24 feet; H. M. Dnywood, to rebuild litthe shed at 702 East Sixth Street; P. G. Roach, to replace gallery on house in rear of 707 East Sixth Street. Those requesting the permits sold that flood damage had caused the loss of that which they wished to repair or build.

which they wished to repair or build. Appropriation of \$430 to pay damage claim of Clarence Stelfox for damage to property by water from Lake Austin, was made. Transfor of \$500 of upocial appro-



CITY PERMITS.

W. T. Cl food produc	. 11.		_	
Abraham	Tannous,	805	East	Sixth
street, food Mrs. E. J street, food	Peschka,		Na	vasota

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 07 May 1915: 4. The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 05 Aug 1919: 8.

ASSYRIAN MERCHANTS QUARREL; ONE DROPS DEAD IN HIS STORE

Abraham Tannous Succumbs to Excitement; Police Called in to Quell Disturbance.

Abraham Tannous, Assyrian merchant at 805 East Sixth Street, felt dead in his store shortly before noon today. Tannous a few months ago suffered a paralytic stroke that left him enfeebled. He quarreled this morning with Pete Thomas in the alley back of the two store buildings which Mike Thomas, also an Assyrian, father of Pete Thomas, and Tannous owned. The excitement caused a state of high blood pressure, for a few minutes after the quarrel Tannous dropped dead.

According to reports of neighbors the two families had not been on good terms for many years. The two Assyrians operated stores joining each other, and had been in business competition for the last last years.

Police Sergeant Littlepage was called to 805 East Sixth Street immediately after Tannous' death to stop a disturbance growing out of the quarrel and death of Tannous. Detectives W. H. Scott and Police Officer Joe Amstead also were called to the scene of the disturbance. They found parties to the quarrel threatening to start serious trouble. The police officers were able to stop the disturbance and restore peace.

Tannous was a man aged about 55 years. He was married and had several children.

ABRAHAM TANNOUS.

Abraham Tannous, aged 61 years, died at his home, 805 East Sixth Street, Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. Surviving relatives are his wife, one daughter and one son. Mr. Tannous mad been a resident of Austin for thirty years, during which time he had engaged in the mercantile business.

He was possibly the best known Syrian in Travis county, and was well spoken of for his honest and upright dealing with his fellow man. Funeral services will be held from St. Mary's Catholic Church this Friday at 5 p. m. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Comotery.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 04 Oct 1923: 1 The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 05 Oct 1923: 5.

EAST SIXTH ST. MAN SECURES INJUNCTION; SUES FOR DAMAGES

Litigation Results From Affray Recently Between Business

Rivals.

Application for a writ of temporary injunction to restrain Sheehan Joseph and nine co-defendants for Interferring with his business at 807 East Sixth Street was granted Mike Thomas and two other plaintiffs late Tuesday afternoon by Judge George Calhoun of the Fifty-third District Court following the filing of a petition by Thomas seeking the restraining order and damages amounting to \$40,500 growing out of an affray between the Thomas and Joseph factions on the night of Dec. \$, 1923. The plaintiffs in the case are Mike

The plaintiffs in the case are Mike Thomas and his wife, Cecilis Thomas, and his son, Pete Thomas, who have their place of business at 807 East Sixth Street while the defendants mentioned in the petition are Sheehan Joseph, Isaac Tannous, Philip Bashara, Bertha Tannous, Stella Moses, Mrs. Abraham Tannous, Stella Moses, Mrs. Charles Bashara, Salem Joseph, Mrs. Selma Bashara and George Ferris, all of whom are said to live in the place of business owned by Mrs. Abraham Tannous at 805 East Sixth Street adjoining the Joseph store.

store. The petition states that as a result of the affray the three plaintiffs have been confined in a local hospital since the night of the alleged assault, on Dec. 8. Mrs. Thomas had her arm broken in two places and sustained injuries to the face and body; Pete Thomas sustained a split scalp and Mike Thomas sustained bruises on his head, face and body.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 Dec 1923: 3.



The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 13 July 1923: 8 The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 24 Sep 1926: 9.

THE DEAD

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DAYWOOD-Mike Daywood, 72. died at his home, 700 East Eixth street, Sunday. Funeral services will be held from St. Mary's Catholic church Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock with the Rev. Father Wm. Lennartz officiating. Interment will be in Mt. Calvary cemetery. Palibearers will be S. Ferris. J. M. Kouri, Abraham Nassour, Mike Joseph of Taylor, Louis Zegub and Cater Joseph. Mr. Daywood came to Austin 44

Mr. Daywood came to Austin 44 years ago and has been in the grocery business since that time. He is survived by eight children, four daughters. Mrs. Tom Joseph of Moundsville, West Virginia, Mrs. John Samon, Misses Josephine and Stella Daywood of Austin, four sons, Louie, John, Joe and Anthony Daywood, and one brother, W. M. Daywood of Austin.

Couple Are Married In Church Rites Tannous-Joseph Ceremony Is Read Sunday

Miss Rose Joseph, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shikrey Joseph, became the bride of Sam Tannous, son of Mrs. Abraham Tannous, in a ceremony at St. Mary's Catholic church Sunday evening with the Rev. James J. O'Brien officiating.

The altar was decorated with ferns and white dahlias before which stood floor baskets of pink gladioli.

Miss Margaret Joseph, cousin of the bride, sang Schubert's "Ave Marie" accompanied by Miss Harriet Samon at the organ.

The bride was attended by Misses Helen Bashara, Margaret Hodges, Nora Joseph, Bessie' Joseph, Agnes Joseph and Martha Abram as bridesmaids, and Mrs. Wolfred Attal, sister of the bride, as matron of honor. Bridesmalds' Dresses

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 22 Aug 1932: 2. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 23 June 1941: 3.

Friday 13th Brings Good Luck to Austin Parents of Soldier

Friday the 13th was their good news day for Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Nassour of 407 East Seventh street.

They got a letter from their son in the air corps, Martin P. Nassour, telling them he is now statloned in Puerto Rico. Young Nassour, former Austin high and St. Edward's university football player, had been transferred from Sheppard Field and his parents had not heard from him in about four weeks. Nassour received his B.B.A. degree from St. Edward's last May.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 15 Mar 1942: 20

Transfer from the air forces to the mechanized cavairy 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, 1.4. Nassour enlisted in the army air forces and served in Puerto Rico.



NASSOUR

HARWELL

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 Jan 1943: 5. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 29 Apr 1943: 2.

Special Partners

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Liquor Control Act that Star Delivery is making application with the Texas Liquor Control Board for a change of address permit from 705 East-6th- to 709½ East 6th Street in the city of Austin, County of Travis, Texas.

> Star Delivery Louis G. Cazares.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Nassour, 407 East Seventh, have a small army of their own.

Their three sons, Martin, Edward and Ferris, are now in the service.



Lt. Martin P. Nassour enlisted in the army just after the Pearl Harbor attack and is now stationed at Fert Riley, Kansas.

His brother, Edward, enlisted in the Seabces and was called for active duty about a month ago. He is storekeeper, second class petty officer, and is training at Camp Peary, Va. Both brothers played football on the Austin high and St. Edward's university teams, were members of the "E" club and received their BBA degrees from St. Edward's.

Their youngest brother, Ferris, also attended Austin high and was on the football team there. He was in the army reserve at St. Edward's when he was called to active duty.

Rummage Shop Closes This Week

The Thrift and Rummage Shop sponsored by B'Nai B'rith Women of Austin Chapter 716, located at 709 East Sixth Street, is scheduled to end this week unless the chapter decides to extend the sale into the early part of next week.

The shop, which opened Oct. 5, offers a wide variety of articles for men, women and children.

The entire proceeds will be used for the support of the B'nai B'rith projects which include the Leo N. Levi Arithmetic Hospital in Hot Springs, Ark., Old Folks Home and Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., National Tuberculosis Hospital, Denver, Colo., Home for Maladjusted Children in Israel, Anti-Dissemination League, the Hillel Foundations on campuses throughout the US, Veterans Hospitals and soldiers overseas, and many cive activities. All of the article offered for sale were donated by local merchants and members of the B'nai B'rith.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 22 Nov 1949: 7B. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 Oct 1953: 7.

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.

pg. 11 **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. Addle 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.

Officers Clear Woman In **Bar Gun Play**

No charges will be filed against a woman tavern keeper who felled two men with one shot during a Sunday night affray at the Austin Bar, 709 East Sixth Street, Police Lieutenant Merie Wells said Monday following a conference with the district and county attorneys offices.

Wounded in the leg when the shot went wild were Hill Sedillo, 33, and his brother-in-law, Jesse Banda, 36. Police Detective Frank Monk said the two men were not involved in the disturbance.

Susan Duarte, tavern owner, told police five men began throwing bottles at her when she attempted to stop a row at their table. She said she fired one shot as the men began leaving, explaining she became excited as they were still hurling bottles at her. The disturbers had disappeared by the time police arrived.

Sedillo and Banda were released after emergency treatment at Brackenridge Hospital.

NAMIE JACOB

Namie Jacob, 81, 1011 Willow, died in a local hospital Friday. He was a retired grocer and was a member of St. Elias Greek Orthodox Church.

Funeral will be at St. Elias Greek Orthodox Church Sunday at 2 p.m. with Rev. James Rottle officiating. Burial will follow in Assumption Cemetery under direction of Cook Funeral Home, Trisagion services will be at 8 p.m. Saturday.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lattife Jacob of Austin; one daughter, Mrs. Clifford Boultinghouse of San Antonio; two sons, Jack Jacob of Houston and Arthur Jacob of Austin; and five grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Lee Hello Sr., Joe Daywood Jr., Johnny Boultinghouse, Mike Jacob. Jesse Jabour, and Charlie Stevenson.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex., 21 Oct 1958: 17. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex. 05 July 1969: 13.

sign OWNER Private Cellar ADDRESS 709 East 6th
PLAT 9 LOT E 2/3 of F BLK 6
SUBDIVISION Original City
OCCUPANCY Sign Portable Sign
OWNERS BLDG. PERMIT # 198243 DATE 6-27-80 ESTIMATE
CONTRACTOR Communa K Signs NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#
Sign permit, 1980 OWNER George Daniel <u>ADDRESS</u> 709 E. 6.th. St.
PLAT 9 LOT E2/3 of 7 BLK. 62
SUBDIVISIONOriginal_City
OCCUPANCY Install canopy w/ steel frm of existing BLDG. PERMIT # 186611 DATE 10-15-79 OWNERS ESTIMATE 300.00
CONTRACTOR Dismukes Bling & Awning NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#
Install canvas canopy w/ steel frm on existing
l stry mas & wd frm comm bldg.
Building permit, 1979 OWNER Alliance Wagon Yard ADDRESS 709 E. 6th
PLAT 9 LOT E 23' of Lot 7 BLK.
SUBDIVISION Original City
OCCUPANCY sign
BLDG. PERMIT # 162939 DATE 3-17-77 OWNERS ESTIMATE
CONTRACTOR NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC#SEWER TAP REC#
<u>erect sign</u>
Sign permit, 1977 <u>OWNER_Estate of Sophie Joseph ADDRESS_709 East 6th St.</u>
PLAT 9 LOT E 23' of lot 7 BLK
SUBDIVISION Original City
OCCUPANCY storage
OWNERS BLD PERMIT # 114277 DATE 9-2-69 ESTIMATE \$700.00
CONTRACTOR Louis Joseph NO, OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC # 80599 SEWER TAP REC # 8000
remodel & repair comm. bldg. & bring to min stdrs.
4-23-73 135693 Mrs. Robert L. Ogden Repair and remodel bidg. and bring to min. stdrs.
Duilding nammit 1060

Building permit, 1969