

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
MARCH 6, 2024
HR-2024-005147
SIXTH STREET NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
603 RED RIVER STREET

PROPOSAL

Remodel a ca. 1889-1900 building from a bar to a restaurant.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) Repair and repaint the existing brick façade.
- 2) Remove non-historic accretions and connections at secondary elevations. Add a new shade structure and plantings at the north elevation.
- 3) Add brick detail on the west façade.
- 4) Retain the existing openings and replace the storefront. Reopen infilled openings at secondary elevations.
- 5) Replace awning.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story masonry garage building with two bay doors, a metal awning with enlarged brackets, simple cornice detailing, and infilled arched openings at secondary elevations.

RESEARCH

The building at 603 Red River Street, alternately addressed as 601 and 605 Red River Street, was most likely first constructed as a one-bay frame structure with a stovepipe visible on 1889 Sanborn maps. By 1900, the building was reclad, and a masonry addition had been built to add the second (northernmost) bay. It appears to have been built and used as a blacksmith shop until 1920, when it was converted to an auto service station; by 1935 an addition had been constructed. A motorcycle and automobile repair shop shared the building until 1927, when both halves were occupied by Raven's Garage. Raven's stayed in business until at least 1959. Jesse L. Raven, a World War I veteran who enlisted at eighteen, opened the shop upon his return from the war. Raven was also an officer of the American Legion and executive officer of the Texas State Rifle Association; he remained a nationally recognized top marksman for much of the early twentieth century. According to a 2015 staff report by Historic Preservation Officer Steve Sadowsky for the Raven family home in Travis Heights (which was later demolished, despite the staff recommendation for landmark designation), the Raven's Garage legacy continued after its days as a functional garage ended:

Jesse Raven, along with his brother, Louis, grew up in Austin and were auto mechanics from a very early age. They opened Raven's Garage at 605 Red River Street in the early 1920s and were in business at that location until around 1980. The building on Red River Street was then a live music club called Raven's Garage for a couple of years in the 1980s, and later became Emo's, the stalwart of Austin's downtown punk music scene.¹

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

The proposed project appears to remove mostly non-historic accretions at the back and side of the building. The proposed replacement arbor appears appropriate.

The proposed project replaces the existing historic-age awning but appears to use existing attachment points. While the replacement awning appears visually light and does not obscure the historic portion of the building, a more rustic style incorporating existing brackets would likely be more appropriate for this historic blacksmith shop, garage, and punk venue.

The proposed project paints only previously painted brick, which is compatible. However, adding new brick detailing may

¹ Sadowsky, Steve. 2015. *Demolition and Relocation Permits: HDP-2014-1152, 1106 Travis Heights Boulevard*.

give the appearance of false historicism, which is not compatible.

The proposed enlargement of the west elevation bay door opening is not appropriate unless existing non-historic infill can be documented; if infill exists, removing it is appropriate provided that the original masonry is not damaged. The reopening of enclosed windows and doorway at secondary elevations is appropriate, and replacement windows and storefront appear compatible.

Summary

The project mostly meets the applicable standards. The applicant has amended the proposal to reduce masonry alteration at the building's façade.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

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. Its period of significance also extends beyond the 50-year cutoff to 1980, as it may meet the qualification for exceptional importance as defined by National Register Bulletin 22, National Park Service (1996). See 3.d.
- 2) The building appears to retain high to moderate integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it meets criteria:
 - a. Architecture. The building is a good example of early auto-oriented architecture.
 - b. Historical association. The property is associated with the shift in development and settlement patterns around the early twentieth century, as transportation shifted from horses to automobiles. The shift from a blacksmith shop to an auto service center exemplifies this widespread trend.
 - 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 building appears to be eligible under Criterion G for properties of exceptional importance achieving significance within the past 50 years. Its association with Austin's punk scene began ca. 1980, only 6 years shy of the 50-year cutoff for typical landmark designation.
 - e. Landscape feature. The property does not appear to be a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

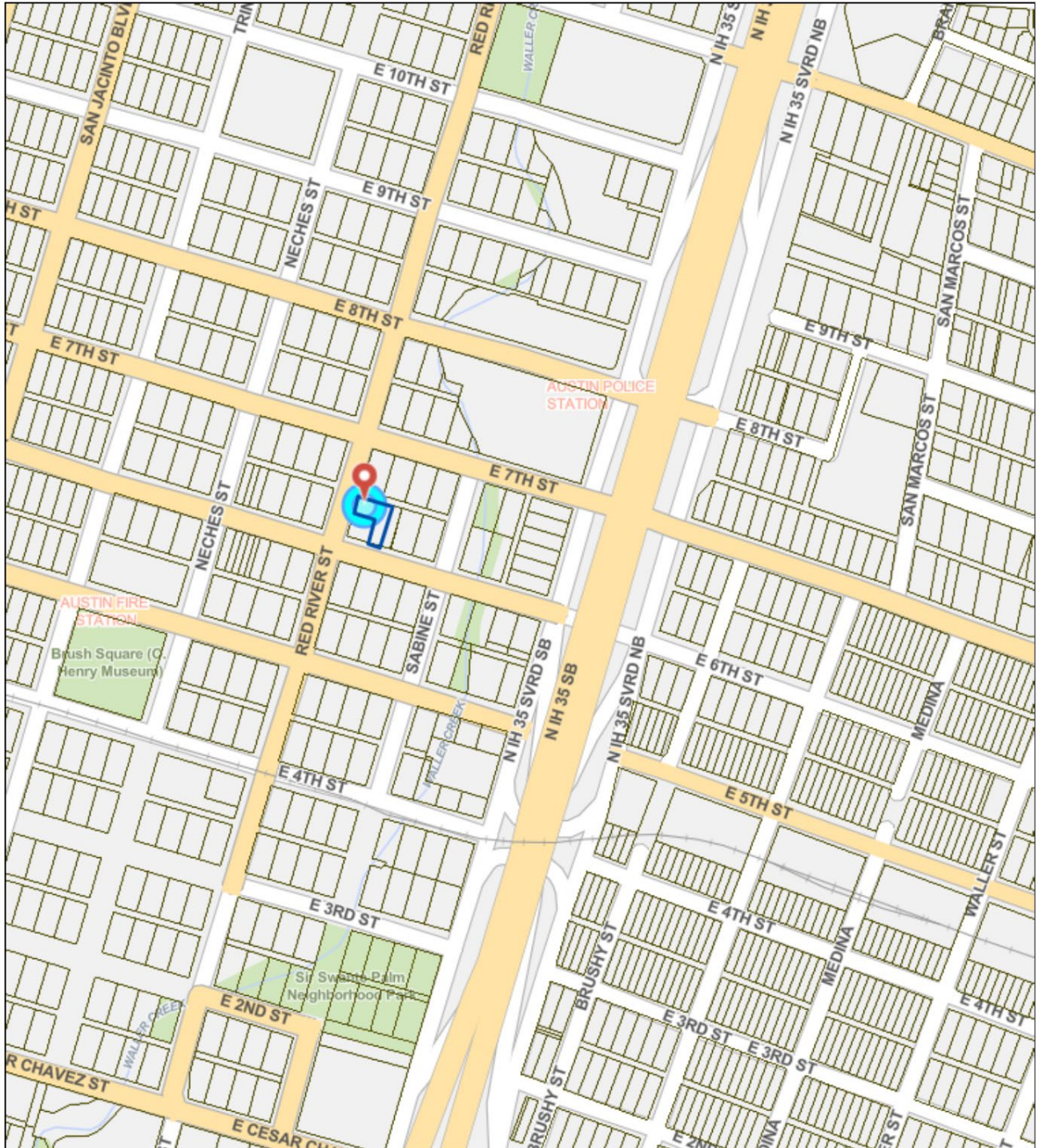
COMMITTEE FEEDBACK


Retain historic awning brackets or show them in renderings. Paint brick only if previously painted and investigate the feasibility of removing existing paint from the brick. Retain auto-oriented business elements to the greatest extent possible. Do not enlarge existing openings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Comment on plans, requesting that the applicant omit door enlargement and new brick detailing at the central bay, as modifications to the building's original masonry may preclude future landmark designation; additionally, request that original awning brackets are stored on-site for later reinstallation.

LOCATION MAP






1: 4800

1/19/2024

HR 24-005147

603 RED RIVER STREET



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



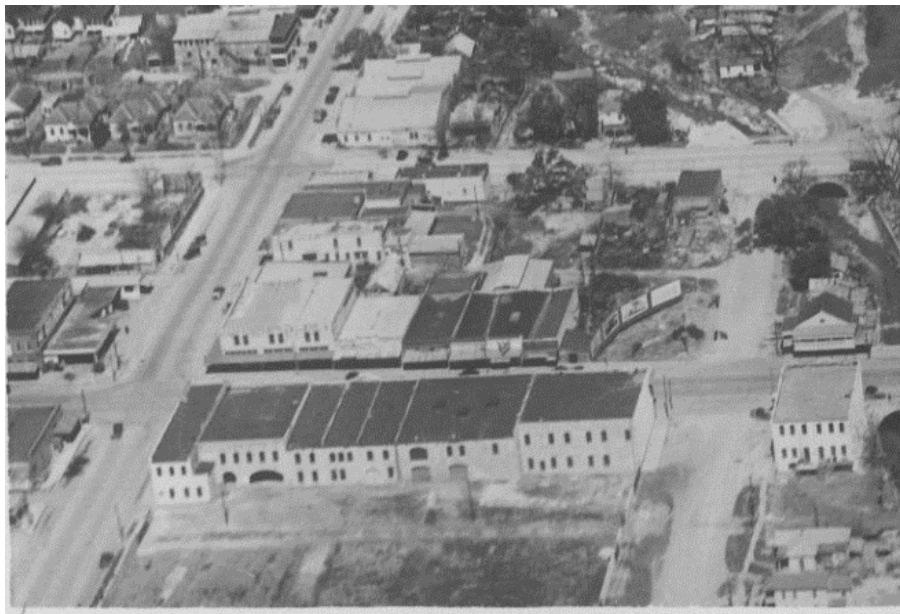
*Texas Historical Commission. [Raven's Garage, (West elevation)], photograph, February 18, 1975;
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph671827/>*



*Texas Historical Commission. [Raven's Garage, (Northwest oblique)], photograph, February 18, 1975;
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph671553/>*



Texas Historical Commission, n.d. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph675462/>



1935. PICA 01339, Austin History Center, courtesy of UNT Portal To Texas History:
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph123916/m1/1/>



1940, 1958, and 1965 aerial images, <https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/home/>



2024 historic review application



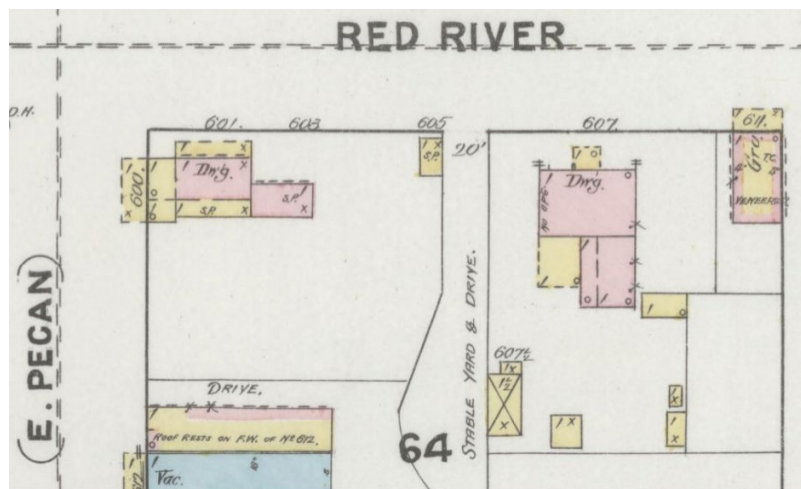


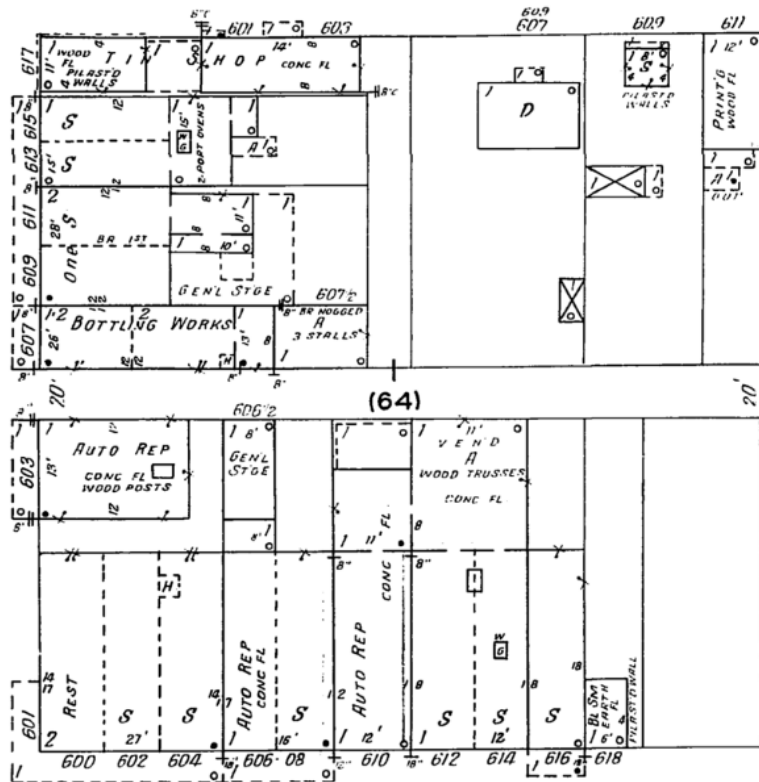
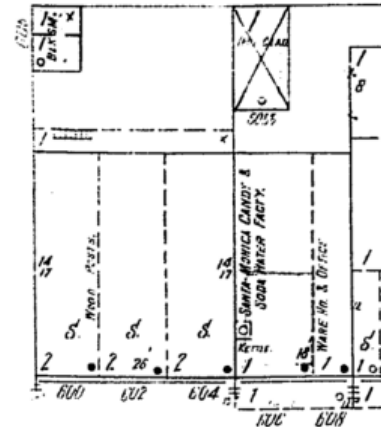
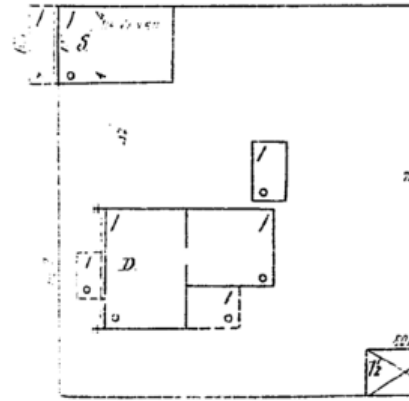
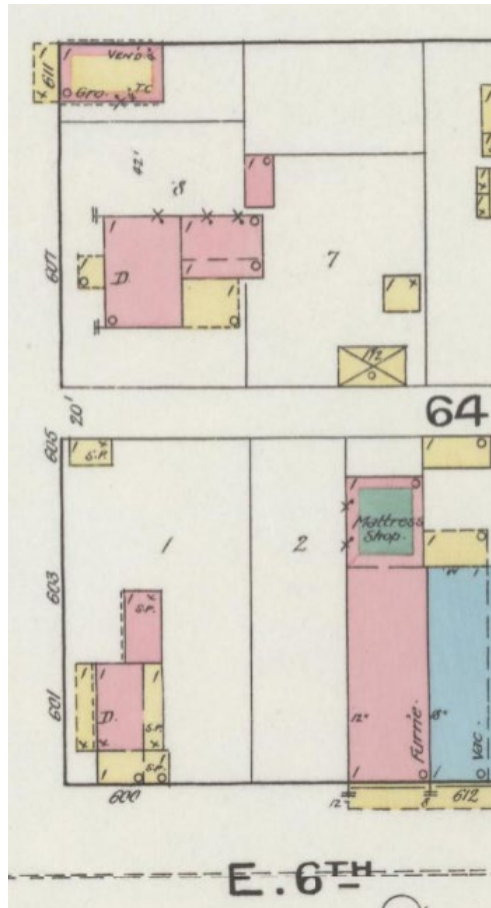
Google Street View/Google Earth, 2022-23

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, August 2023

1959	605 Red River St.	Raven's Garage Auto Repair
1955		Raven's Garage
1952		Raven's Garage
1949		Raven's Garage
1944		Raven's Garage
1941		Raven's Garage
1939		Raven's Garage
1935		Raven's Garage
1932		Raven's Garage
1929		Raven's Garage
1927		Raven's Garage
1924	603	Raven's Garage
		J. B. Smith motorcycle repair
1922	605	Raven and Giese auto repair
1920	603-05	Fred Mask Auto Repair
1918	603-05	G. E. Nenna, blacksmith
1916		
1914		
1912		
1906		
1900	605	Blacksmith shop

Historical Information



1889, 1894, 1900, 1935 Sanborn maps

Jesse L. and Emma E. Raven (ca. 1948 – ca. 1985)

Jesse and Emma Raven appear in the 1940 U.S. Census as the owners of the house at 29 Bierce Street in Austin. Jesse Raven was 41, had been born in Texas, and was an auto mechanic with his own shop. Emma Raven was 42, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, George, 12, who had been born in Texas. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Jesse and Emma Raven at their house at 29 Bierce Street. Jesse Raven was an auto mechanic. Emma Raven's parents had been born in Germany.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Jessie Raven as the 21-year old son of Harmon and Lillie Raven, who owned their home at 1175 San Bernard Street in Austin. Harmon Raven was a Texas-born house carpenter. Both Jesse and his younger brother, Lewis (who was 19 at the time of the census report) were auto mechanics.

Emma Raven

Emma Raven, age 91, of Austin, died Saturday, August 20, 1988.

She was a life time resident of Austin and a member of St. Martin's Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Jesse L. Raven; son and daughter-in-law, George and Glenda Raven; and two grandchildren, Greg and Gina Raven, all of Austin.

Graveside services 10:00 AM, Monday at Capital Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to a church of your choice.

Arrangements by Harrell Funeral Home in Austin. 443-1366.

Obituary of Emma Raven
Austin American-Statesman, August 21, 1988

Jesse L. Raven

Jesse L. Raven, age 93, of Austin died Sunday, September 22, 1991.

Mr. Raven was a member of the Austin Masonic Lodge #12, AF & AM; Ben Hur Shrine; charter member of Austin Rifle Club; Texas State Rifle Association; life member of National Rifle Association; and a veteran of World War I. He was an automobile mechanic with Raven's Garage.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, George and Glenda Raven; two grandchildren, Greg Raven and Gina Raven, all of Austin; two brothers, Louie Raven of Austin and Charlie Raven of Fort Worth.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, September 24, 1991, at Capital Memorial Park, with Reverend Jimmy Pritchard officiating.

Those desiring to do so may make memorial contributions to Congress Avenue Baptist Church Century Fund or your favorite charity.

Arrangements by Harrell Funeral Home in Austin. 443-1366.

Obituary of Jesse L. Raven
Austin American-Statesman, September 24, 1991

RESEARCH

The house was built around 1919; the first owners and occupants were the Rev. Warren and Lula Rader, who lived here for only a short time. Rev. Rader was a Missouri-born minister, who had served at a Methodist church in Missouri before moving to Texas. He is listed in the city directory as a missionary, and had lived in Yoakum, Texas prior to moving to Austin; he later lived in Fredericksburg. The house was rented by Alex and Ira Fitzpatrick in the early 1920s; he was the president and manager of the Home Ice and Cold Storage Company. Leander and Celia Soderberg owned and occupied the house in the mid- to late 1920s; he was a Swedish-born baker who had a gravestone company, National Monument Works, at the time that he and Celia moved into this house. He then went back into baking as his primary activity; he was the owner of the Town Talk Bakery, where his son, Tony, also worked.

Burl and Gladys Bryant rented the house in the early 1930s while he was the superintendent of rural schools for the State Department of Education. Burl Bryant had been the superintendent of the county schools in Wichita Falls, Texas before moving to Austin; he later went back to Wichita Falls and worked as a public school teacher.

During the mid-1930s, the house was rented by Charles and Mamie Franklin; he was a clerk at Fischer Brothers, a grocery store on W. 6th Street. From the late 1930s through the mid-1940s, the house was owned and occupied by Bartley and Barbara Gilliland. Bartley Gilliland was the owner of a typewriter service company in Austin.

The house then became a rental unit until just after World War II, when it was purchased by Jesse and Emma Raven, who lived here until the mid-1980s. Jesse Raven (along with his brother, Louis), grew up in Austin and were auto mechanics from a very early age. They opened Raven's Garage at 605 Red River Street in the early 1920s, and were in business at that location until around 1980. The building on Red River Street was then a live music club called Raven's Garage for a couple of years in the 1980s, and later became Emo's, the stalwart of Austin's downtown punk music scene.

Sadowsky, Steve. Demolition And Relocation Permits: HDP-2014-1152, 1106 Travis Heights Boulevard, February 23, 2015.

Mrs. H. L. Raven, 1175 San Bernard Street, has received word that her son, Private Jesse L. Raven, has arrived safely overseas. Private Raven is with mechanical repair unit 309 of the quartermaster corps. He received

four months' training at Fort Sam Houston and was 19 years of age when he enlisted on May 9, 1918.

The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 04 Oct 1918: 10.

JESSE RAVEN

GARAGE

GENERAL REPAIRS

AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

643 Red River St. Phone 6470

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 June 1921: 12.

Raven Wins First Prize In Rifle Club Contest

**NEW MEMBERS
JOIN DAILY**

**Target Practice
Proves Popular
In Capital City.**

Jesse Raven captured first prize at the contest shot conducted by members of the Austin Rifle Club Tuesday night on the Camp Mabey indoor range. Raven ran a score of 167 on three positions of firing. Five other prizes were offered to members of the club, arranged so that members, other than those running in order from the top would secure them. * * *

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 21 Apr 1926: 8.

John Callan And Jesse Raven

AUSTIN SHOTS GO TO PISTOL MATCHES

State Pistol Shoot Is
Slated for Sunday
and Monday.

A brace of keen and well oiled guns, slung to the hips of a pair of dazzlingly accurate shots, will defend the colors of the Austin Rifle club in the state pistol shoot of the Texas Rifle association to be held in San Antonio Sunday and Monday, next, it was announced last night.

The brace of guns will be U. S. army automatics, and the pair of crack shots will be John Callan and Jesse Raven.

Callan Won Last Year

Callan, an amiable sort of hard-working chap, who takes his shooting even more seriously than a golf bug takes his daily prodding of the pesky white sphere, is rated among the best in the land on the rifle range, and rates no slouch with the pistols.

Last year he captured the grand aggregate combination of rifles and pistols, running an unusually high mark in the rifles and defending this with an excellent count in the pistols.

Raven a Good Shot

Raven is another gentleman with a trigger finger possessed of uncanny accuracy, and on many occasions has captured top honors at the Sunday shoots on Camp Mabry range, a place that is frequented weekly by an aggregation of marksmen which would hold its own with any group in America.

Raven, like Callan, rates highest with the rifle. The reason is, local shooters do not take as much practice with the pistols as they do with the long shooting iron.

Mrs. Jesse L. Raven and son, George, are spending a month's vacation with Mrs. Raven's brother, William Roessler, in St. Louis, while Mr. Raven is attending the national rifle and pistol matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. They expect to return home about Sept. 15.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 25 May 1927: 10.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 30 Aug 1931: 12.

RAVEN SHOTS TOP GUN CARD



Shooting a perfect card in the 50-yard prone tests at Camp Mabry range Tuesday, Jesse Raven led the field in the weekly meet of the Austin Rifle club. Raven shot two strings of 100 for a perfect 200.

Four other riflemen were bunched at second place with 198.

Shooters and their scores of Tuesday were: J. Raven, 100-100—200; M. Kraus, 100-98—198; H.

That rifle team of ours did themselves well in the national shoot. Out of some 50 entrants Travis post team won ninth place. Two of our buddies B. J. Rupert and Jesse Raven walked up and got themselves decorated for their ability to hit the bull's eye. Hope our team can carry on and when the next national shoot takes place, who knows but what they will win first place.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 Apr 1933: 5.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 29 Mar 1934: 8.

There is a tribute to **Jesse Raven** and Texas sharpshooters in the program for the 20th annual matches of the Texas State Rifle association, last of which will be held here Sunday.

"Jess Raven," the program said, "never bought a medal in his life less than solid gold, sterling silver or quality bronze—and he has done the buying for Texas State for many long years. We emphasize that down in Texas these medals are not indifferently bestowed, and the possession of one brands its owner as an accomplished and experienced marksman. The American shooter is coming to demand that his trophies be of greater value than their price and the only way for that to be true is for them to be dearly earned."

• • •

Mr. Raven is executive officer of the association; two other Austin men hold positions in the organization: John F. Callan is secretary and G. L. Peterson is treasurer.

Local Gunmen Win National Rifle Honors

Robert Fehlis, Jr., and T. B. Kellum, members of the Austin Rifle club, have been notified by the National Rifle association that they are the winners of the 200-yard prone match in which marksmen all over the nation competed. Fehlis' score of 196.200 was good for first place and Kellum was winner of second place with a card of 194.

Fehlis will receive a gold medal and Kellum a silver award. Three other Austin marksmen, **Jesse Raven**, Bob Liszal and Buster Krueez, were listed among the nation's highest scorers on the event. Raven was 20th with a score of 178, Liszal was No. 25 with 174 and Krueez was 29th with a mark of 160.


T. B. Kellum and H. H. Hunkey

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 16 June 1940: A6.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 17 July 1935: 6.

JESSE RAVEN

IS SMALLBORE CHAMPION



Competing against some of the state's crack sharpshooters, **Jesse Raven** of Austin won the Austin Rifle club's invitational smallbore shoot at Camp Mabry Sunday with an aggregate score of 589. Following closely were G. B. Scott and W. B. Hopkins with 587 and 586 respectively.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 23 Apr 1934: 7.

Auto Repairmen Vote for Exams

The Auto Repairmen's association, meeting Thursday evening at the Chamber of Commerce, unanimously adopted a measure calling for a monthly examination to be given each mechanic within the organization, the first of such examinations to be administered in June.

The examination will be both technical and practical, oral and written, and will be made up by the examining committee with full cooperation of the educational committee as provided for in the constitution, it was announced.

Mechanics applying for examination must file a petition for the test with the secretary before the first of the month in which the examination is to be given, and upon completing the examination to the satisfaction of the examining committee a certified license will be issued the applicant.

A helper will be classed as such for his first six months in the actual maintenance trade, after which time he will be classed as an apprentice for the following 18 months; after such time he may apply for the mechanics' examination. A small fee required with each application for examination will cover actual examining expenses, license card and certificate, with the examining committee determining such fees.

The examining committee has recommended that Jesse J. Smith, Lural Dement, Jesse Raven, R. A. Nowlin and T. M. Uzzell be appointed by the chairman and approved by the executive council to function for the remainder of the fiscal year.

A resolution embodying provisions for the examination was unanimously adopted; it was drawn up by James Dannelly and Douglas Foster.

Council Still Picking Human Relations Group

The City Council will continue its work in appointing members to the newly created Human Relations Commission and announce all seven appointments at one time.

Mayor Lester Palmer said Friday after the council spent two hours in executive session Thursday afternoon, the council has no announcement to make concerning appointments to the commission.

Members were named to six other city boards, including the hospital board. New Brackenridge directors are Dr. Sam Swearingen, Jack Adams, Jake Evans and William K. Miller. The board was increased from seven to nine members.

Council reappointed members to the Planning Commission, Board of Equalization, Retirement Board and Air Conditioning, Heating and Ventilating Board. New members were named to the Navigation Board, including Sterling Sasser, Dal-

las Holford, Frank McBee and Jesse Raven.

Council also passed a meat inspection ordinance and postponed action on a private detectives ordinance.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 18 May 1934: 2.
The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 15 May 1964: 20.*

Permits

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

No. 21907

Austin, Texas

Received of 605 REP RIVER ST.

INDEXED

Address

Amount

Plumber

Size of Tap 1"

Date of Connection 5-3-45

Size of Tap Made 1"

Size Service Made 3/4"

Size Main Tapped 1 1/2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock

From Prop. Line to Curb Cock

Location of Meter IN ALLEY

Type of Box 18 X 20

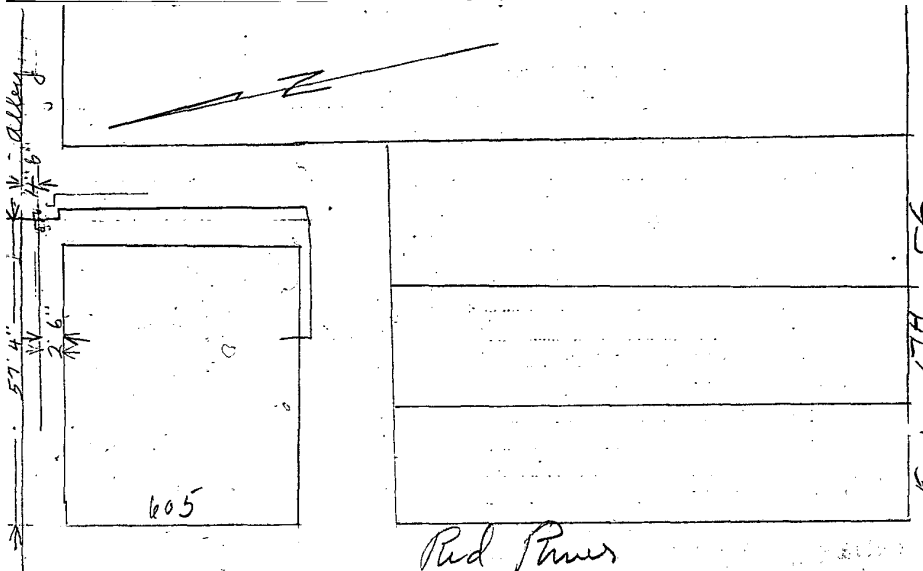
Depth of Main in St. 28"

Depth of Service Line 20"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main

Checked by Engr. Dept. 11-13-45

No. Fittings	Size
1	Curb Cock 5/8"
3	Elbow 3/4"
1	St. Elbow 5/8" X 1/2"
1	Bushing 3/4" X 1/2"
2	Reducer 3/4" X 1/2"
45	Pipe 3/4"
1	Lead Comp. DRAN TILE LID
3	Nipples 1/2"
1	BUSHING 1" X 3/4"
1	Plug CLOSENIP 1/2"
1	Plug CUPPING 1/2"
1	Stop 1"
1	Box 18 X 20
1	Lid 18 X 20
1	Valves NIPPLE 1" X 5"
	Job No. 323-501
	Req. No.



Red River

East 6th St