

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
MARCH 6, 2024  
DA-2024-001855; GF-2024-018662  
507 WALSH STREET**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1903 house.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story pyramidal hipped-roof National Folk house with horizontal siding, replacement windows at the front elevation and 2:2 wood windows at the secondary elevation, dual covered entries, and a seamed metal roof.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house at 507 Walsh Street, originally addressed as 507 Blanco Street, was built around 1903. Like many similar rentals in the area, its occupants often included train operators who worked at the nearby railyards and workers at the nearby telephone company. Its first owners were Frank Vasquez, a train conductor, and his three daughters, who also rented part of the house to fellow conductor Albert Escamilla and his mother, Sarah Escamilla. From 1914 to around 1920, the house was owned and occupied by Frances and Emil Wilke, who also had three daughters; Emil Wilke worked as a carpenter and all three Wilke daughters worked at the Southwestern Telephone and Telegraph Company. They sold the home to Edward Sponberg, a postal clerk, and his wife, Hattie. Other short-term occupants included more railway workers, drivers, and salesmen. By the late 1940s, Benjamin and Ada Stramler had purchased the home. Stramler first worked for the railroad, then the E. M. Scarbrough Company, then the City maintenance shop until his death in the early 1950s.

## **PROPERTY EVALUATION**

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### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

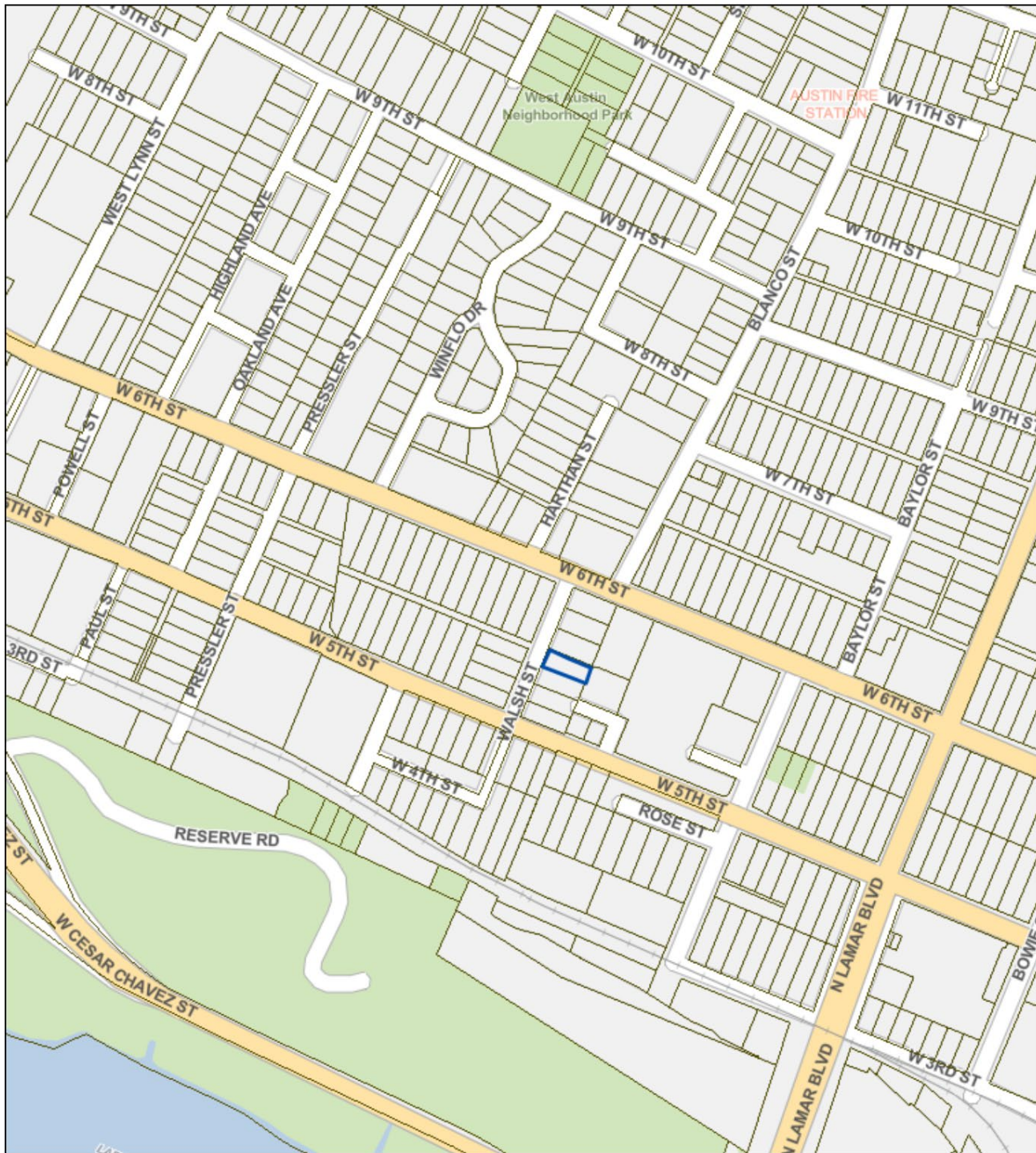
- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity. Windows have been replaced and entryways altered.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it does not meet two criteria for landmark designation:
  - a. Architecture. The building does not appear to be architecturally significant, as its National Folk features have been modified over the years.
  - b. Historical association. The property does not appear to have significant historical associations.
  - 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 convey 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.
  - e. Landscape feature. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, then relocation over demolition, but release the demolition permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package.

## LOCATION MAP



### Lot Lines

Lot Line



1: 4800

**GF 24-018662**

507 WALSH STREET



2/20/2024

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*









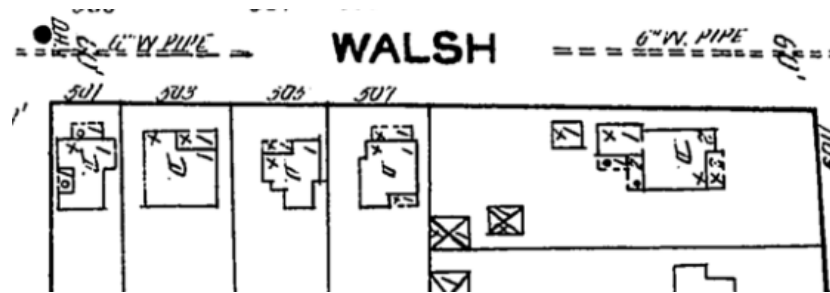
### *Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, February 2024

- 1959      Mrs. Ada Stramler, owner – widow of Benjamin Stramler  
             A: Mrs. Annie Randle, renter
- 1955      Ada V. Stramler, owner  
             A: Jay and Joyce Elson, renters – salesman

- 1952 Benjamin and Ada Stramler, owners  
Bill G. Stramler, renter – examiner, Texas Insurance Checking Office  
A: Aubrey G. Townsend, renter
- 1949 Benjamin and Ada Stramler, owners
- 1944 Mrs. Verta L. Swenson, renter  
Howard Smith, renter – driver, Travis County Oil Co.
- 1941 John S. and Edna Harris, renters – representative, Austin Transit Co.  
Edward Jourdan, renter  
Victor and Eva Peterson, renters – Driver, Cash Lumber Co.
- 1939 L. H. Lynch, renter
- 1935 J. M. Niven, renter
- 1932 W. H. Jenkins
- 1929 Edward T. and Hattie Sponberg, owners – clerk, post office  
Leslie and Reon Jenkins, renters
- 1927 E. T. Sponberg, owner
- 1924 Address listed as 507 Blanco Street  
Edward T. and Hattie Sponberg, owners – clerk, post office
- 1920 Emil and Frances Wilke, owners – carpenter
- 1918 Emil and Frances Wilke, owners – carpenter  
Miss Eda Wilke, renter – telephone operator  
Miss Henrietta Wilke, renter – telephone operator  
Miss Mamie Wilke, renter – clerk, telephone company
- 1916 Emil and Frances Wilke, owners – carpenter  
Miss Henrietta Wilke, renter – telephone operator
- 1912 William Allen
- 1909 Frank Vasquez, owner – conductor, Austin El. Railway Co.  
Miss Amelia Vasquez, renter – seamstress, Condit & Davis  
Miss Crecenia Vasquez, renter – packer, T. B. Walker Manufacturing Co.  
Miss Josefa Vasquez, renter – packer, T. B. Walker Manufacturing Co.  
Albert Escamilla, renter – conductor, Austin El. Railway Co.  
Mrs. Sarah Escamilla, renter – widow of Frank Escamilla
- 1906 Not listed

### *Historical Information*



*1922 Sanborn map*



# Wants

## FOR RENT.

FOR RENT BY HERMAN PRESSLER & CO., 819 CONGRESS AVE.:  
 5-room cottage, 305 East Ave...\$11.00  
 8-room, 2-story, 1109 W. 6th.... 25.00  
 6-room, 2-story, 2708 Nueces St. 25.00  
 5-room cottage, with barn, 1209 W. 5th St..... 10.50  
 8-room cottage and barn, 510 Rio Grande St..... 20.00  
 5-room cottage, 507 Walsh St.... 15.00

## For Rent by Herman Pressler & Co., 819 Congress Ave.

11 r., No. 1510 Congress.....\$50  
 9 r., No. 2508 University Ave.....\$45  
 9 r., No. 103 W. 17th St.....\$35  
 6 r., No. 311 W. 21st.....\$30  
 7 r., No. 304 E. 14th.....\$25  
 6 r., No. 2507 Rio Grande.....\$20  
 5 r., No. 700 Henderson.....\$20  
 6 r., No. 701 E. 7th.....\$18  
 5 r., No. 901 E. 7th, newly papered..\$18  
 5 r., W. 27th, cor. Speedway.....\$20  
 7 r., cor. 19th and San Antonio..\$22.50  
 5 r., No. 509 W. 12th.....\$15  
 5 r., No. 507 Blanco.....\$12.50  
 5 r., No. 3300 East Ave.....\$15

*The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 17 Feb 1907: 6.*

*The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Austin, Tex.. 18 Dec 1910: 10.*

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surance that no soldier will be overlooked or disappointed, especially in regard to Christmas mail. Such Christmas packages are so limited, these letters will be all the more welcomed—and necessary. Into the letters will go Christmas cards and small suitable articles mentioned at the meeting. Those who were absent from the meeting, but who desire information in regard to same, please ring phone 1585 and such will gladly be given.  
 MRS. L. L. LACEY,  
 Chairman.

### Roster of Austin Motor Truck Members.

Anderson, Carl, Sweeden.  
 Anglin, Frank W., Eagle Lake, Tex.  
 Anglin, Joe, Eagle Lake, Texas.  
 Badger, Walter H., 4113 Speedway, Austin.

Weeks, R. F., Georgetown, Texas.  
 Wendlandt, Henry, 707 Congress Ave., Austin.  
 White, Martin J. Wingdale, N. Y., box 102.  
 Wilke, Frank, 507 Walsh St., Austin.  
 Williams, E. L., R. F. D., Cedar Creek, Texas.  
 Wilson, R. M., 76 East Ave., Austin.

*The Statesman (1916-1921); Austin, Tex.. 27 Oct 1918: A2.*

**COBB.**—Services for Charles Robert Cobb Jr., 4-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cobb, were held from the family residence, 507 Walsh street, Wednesday at 3 p. m. The Rev. E. E. Wheelless, pastor of the Westside Baptist church, officiated and interment was in Oakwood cemetery.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 26 Feb 1930: 14.*

# On Postoffice Bill Is Made Public

## Hunter Awaits Arrival Of Investigators From U. S. Senate

The Austin postoffice row, in which 53 employes are complaining that they are being worked "too arduously," marked time Saturday while two investigators for the United States senate committee were supposed to be on their way here.

Postmaster J. Lynn Hunter, whose renomination was contested by the complaint, had nothing to say. A list of the signers of the complaint, and its text, was made public Saturday.

The complaint filed with the committee said:

"We, the undersigned, employes at the post office at Austin, Tex., respectfully request an impartial, thorough investigation of existing conditions in the post office of this city; that the economical record of the present postmaster with the department has been accomplished by ruthlessly overworking the men, with insufficient employes and by threatening them with insubordination; that on account of the additional territory added to the city and the additional population it is our opinion that the number of routes and carriers should be increased."

Signers of the petition were:

H. F. Harper, 1000 Elm street, rural carrier

city carrier.

A. M. Farquhar, 908 Ruiz street, city carrier.

W. L. Hamilton, 1006 Taylor street, city carrier.

O. F. Banner, 4511 Avenue C, city carrier.

A. W. Snodgrass, 3905 Avenue B, substitute city carrier.

E. H. Spillman, Rural Route No. 6, Austin, city carrier.

Albert Hornsby, Dam Boulevard, Route 4, city carrier.

G. A. Langham, Dam Boulevard, Route 4, city carrier.

S. W. Danielson, 2203 West 23rd street, city carrier.

E. K. Smith, 1406 Sabine street, city carrier.

Rudolph Huber, 215 Leland street, substitute city carrier.

R. C. Walder, 2108 Neches street, clerk.

W. L. Ray, 806 West Lynn, substitute carrier.

R. E. Ford, city carrier.

C. N. Rogers, 4200 Avenue B, substitute city carrier.

A. F. Baker, substitute city carrier.

O. C. Hanson, 1403 Kenwood, substitute city carrier.

F. G. Resneshek, 2107 South Congress avenue, clerk.

E. T. Sponberg, 507 Walsh street, clerk.

J. C. Campbell, 309 West Sixth street, clerk.

E. L. Hawkins, 507 Bowie street, clerk.

A. H. Bankston, 2106 Longfellow street, city carrier.

A. F. Hunt, 4607 Depew avenue, city carrier.

*The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 18 May 1930: 6A.*





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM ALBERT STAUSS

## ***Stauss-Stramler Nuptials Are Read in San Antonio***

Miss Aloma Alene Stramler and William Albert Stauss were married Sept. 6 in the Denver Heights Methodist Church of San Antonio in a double-ring ceremony read by the Rev. Paul Terry.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Alvin Stramler, 507 Walsh Street. She was graduated from Austin High School and studied costume design at the University of Texas. She was employed during the past summer at the library at the University.

Mr. Stauss is the son of Mrs. Mattie Stauss, 727 Hammond Avenue, San Antonio. He was graduated from Brackenridge High School in San Antonio and attended Southwestern Louisiana Institute during his three years' of service in the Marines. He spent one year of his Marine duty in Hawaii. After his release from military service he attended the University of Texas and will continue his engineering studies in San Antonio.

After a short wedding trip the couple will be at home at 1210 South Givens Street, San Antonio.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 22 Sep 1947: 5.*

### **BEN STRAMLER**

Ben Stramler, a resident of Austin for 30 years, died at his home, 507 Walsh Street, early Wednesday after a long illness.

When he moved to Austin he was employed by the MK&T Railroad but later was associated with E. M. Scarbrough and Sons for eight years. Until recently he was an employe of the City Maintenance Shops.

He had been a member of various

Austin Baptist Churches for 30 years.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Ada Stramler; two sons, Bill Stramler and Alvin Stramler of Austin; a daughter, Mrs. W. A. Staum of Fort Worth; his mother, Mrs. O. L. Stramler of Abilene; a sister, Lucille Stramler of Abilene; three brothers, J. W. Stramler of Houston, W. T. Stramler of Lubbock, and Monroe Stramler of Corpus Christi; and three grandchildren.

The body is at the Cook Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon from the West Austin Baptist Church.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 21 Oct 1953: 14*

*Permits*

Ben Stramler	507 Walsh Street
102-A	17
-	-
-	-

Demolish and rebuild garage

31303 8-27-46

\$50.00

Owner