

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1159

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Lung House  
Other name/site number:  
Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of East Austin (1986)

2. Location

Street & number: 1605 Canterbury Street  
City or town: Austin State: Texas County: Travis  
Not for publication:  Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:  
 national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer Date 12/5/13  
Signature of certifying official / Title  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register  
 other, explain:

Joe Edson H. Beall Date of Action 2.5.14  
Signature of the Keeper

Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions:** DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Wood

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-8)

Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Ethnic Heritage: Asian

**Period of Significance:** 1916-1960

**Significant Dates:** 1916

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked):

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked):

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-13)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 9-14)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission, Austin)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property:** less than one acre

**Coordinates**

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 30.256317 Longitude: -97.729044

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Lot 3 and the west 17 feet of block 4, outlot 47, Division O, Riverside Addition, in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas. Identified in the Travis County Appraisal District records with Property ID #188929.

**Boundary Justification:** Nomination includes all property historically associated with the resource.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title: Yuanjing Du (with Carlyn Hammons, THC Historian, July 2013)  
Organization: School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin  
Address: 104 E. 37th Street  
City or Town: Austin State: Texas Zip Code: 78705  
Email: Yuanjing1228@hotmail.com  
Telephone: 512-693-1620  
Date: November 2011

**Additional Documentation**

**Maps** (see continuation sheet Map-15 through Map-20)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets Figure-21 through Figure-29)

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## Photographs

Name of Property: Lung House  
City or Vicinity: Austin  
County, State: Travis County, Texas  
Photographer: Carlyn Hammons  
Date Photographed: August 2013  
Number of Photos: 4

TX\_Travis County\_Lung House\_0001

North (primary) elevation. Camera facing approximately southeast.

TX\_Travis County\_Lung House\_0002

Northeast oblique. Camera facing approximately southwest.

TX\_Travis County\_Lung House\_0003

Rear (south) elevation. Camera facing approximately north-northwest.

TX\_Travis County\_Lung House\_0004

Noncontributing shed. Camera facing approximately southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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## Narrative Description<sup>1</sup>

The Lung House is located at 1605 Canterbury Street in the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood in Austin, Texas. The exact construction date is unknown, but likely was erected in 1906 according to the earliest existing record. From 1917 to 1960, the building housed the Lung family, one of the earliest Chinese families in Austin. It is a hipped roof, rectangular, two-story vernacular residence with Colonial Revival characteristics. An accented entry extends forward, with a flat crown supported by slender columns to form the entry porch. Windows are tall and rectangular in shape with double-hung sashes symmetrically placed beside the entry door. The exterior clapboard walls are aligned horizontally. The house sits in a small yard, typical for homes in the neighborhood. A large, open shed (noncontributing) stands near the rear property line.

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## # General Setting

The nominated property is located at 1605 Canterbury Street, in East Austin, roughly 6 blocks east of Interstate 35 and 5 blocks north of Lady Bird Lake (Colorado River). Though currently the area is considered as part of the greater East Cesar Chavez neighborhood, historically the neighborhood was platted as Riverside Addition, one of the early residential subdivisions of East Austin around the turn of the century. On average, lots in the neighborhood measure approximately 65 feet wide and 150 feet deep. Houses front on streets 60 feet wide, and they back to service alleys measuring 20 feet wide. The residences share fairly uniform setbacks and side yards. Unlike the nominated property, however, virtually all of the other residences in the immediate neighborhood are modest, single-story, wood frame cottages—the most widely distributed residential building form found throughout East Austin.

Informally landscaped with a variety of native plants and large shade trees, the total area of the lot is just under one-quarter acre. A zigzagged narrow stone path, which was added by the current owner in 2004, links the street and the house through the small front yard. A partially paved driveway forms the east boundary of the front yard. Bamboo is growing vigorously along the east boundary in the backyard. The west boundary is lined by a brown bamboo fence 10 feet in height with an additional 3 feet of metal chicken wire at the top. Chain link fencing separates the front and back yards. Early Sanborn maps indicate a garage extended from the driveway to the end of the south fence, and the cars parked by following each other in the long garage; it is gone now.

A large shed (noncontributing) is placed at the south side of the backyard. Construction is basic. A shed roof slopes southward toward the alley and sits atop a simple wood post frame. The southeast corner is enclosed for storage. Otherwise, the shed is open. The date of construction is unknown, but it almost certainly does not date from the period of significance.

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<sup>1</sup> For a detailed overview of East Austin's historic development and its evolution through the period of significance, refer to the Historic Resources of East Austin Multiple Resources cover documentation (1986), on file with the National Park Service.

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## Exterior

The house is characterized by its blocky rectangular massing, its symmetrical north (primary) façade, and accentuated front entry. A squared crown extends from the middle level of the wall above the door, supported by two squared slender columns, and serves as an entry porch. The crown was replaced by the present owners of the house in 2004. The porch floor is limestone, and is level with the interior first floor. An old photo (date unknown) indicates the crown used to be quite different from its present appearance. It used to be a shallow, hipped crown supported by brackets extending from the exterior wall over the door. The whole building rests on a concrete foundation.

The rectangular, double hung sash windows are balanced on both sides of the entry, with two-over-two glass lights on both the first and second stories. The second-story window directly above the entry is slightly smaller than the others, but is of the same style and materials. The simple window frames and surroundings are finished with dark green paint, to complement the exterior clapboard walls which have been painted light green. A photo from the historic period shows that all the windows used to have shutters at the front façade, but it is unclear when the shutters were removed.

The east elevation has paired, two-over-two wood sash windows that correspond to each of the two bedrooms upstairs; a smaller sash window between them corresponds to the bathroom. The same paired windows are placed at the downstairs bedroom; two smaller aluminum sash windows indicate the location of the kitchen and bathroom. The west elevation bears paired, two-over-two, wood sash windows at each first floor room and the front upstairs room. The rear upstairs room features a grouping of four two-over-two, wood sash windows. The wood sills and frames of all windows are simply designed.

The rear of the house features a projecting, two-story mass which extends not quite the length of the house. Approximately nine feet deep, it is about ten feet shorter than the width of the rest of the house, creating a single, long room on each floor. All of the south-facing windows are replacements, installed by the current owner. Paired windows flank the single entry door on the first floor, and paired windows are centered above the door on the second floor. The east and west facing windows are single, aluminum sash windows on each floor. Siding on the rear of the house is horizontal wood, but much wider than that used on the rest of the house.

## Interior

The Lung House is two stories. The first floor is accessed at the ground level by the main entry on the north elevation. The second floor is connected by a stairway in the central hall. Each floor of the main block contains four large rooms organized around the central hallway. The total living area of the house, including both floors, is 2768.2 square feet. On the first floor, the hallway divides the living room and dining room at the west side and bedroom and kitchen at the east side. A bathroom is located between the kitchen and bedroom. An enclosed sunroom runs along the back of the house and opens off the hallway. A stairway in the front hallway leads to the second floor. A landing above the central hallway is flanked by two bedrooms on each side. There is a bathroom between the bedrooms on the east side. A study runs along the back of the house and opens off the hallway.

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The floor in the living room, dining room, and bedroom is the original oak floor and is still in good condition. The stairway is also oak and finished with dark brown paint and white on railings, retaining the original appearance. The floor in the bedrooms upstairs is longleaf pine. All of the doors and windows retain the original configuration. The fire place at the south wall of the dining room maintains its original shape, with yellowish stones decorated on the bottom level and surrounds, as well as white ornamentation. There were originally two window openings at the south wall, but they were covered by the clapboard when the sun room was added. The door knobs and hardware of the bathroom closet door have kept their original appearance. Air conditioning has been installed as window units in each room so as not to destroy the historic fabric of the building. The kitchen has undergone the most changes. The floor is a squared quartzite with a rough surface. A kitchen pantry was added at the west side of the kitchen door, which forms a narrow corridor with the dining room wall.

Despite the loss of shutters on the primary elevation, the reconfigured porch entry, and interior renovations, the Lung House retains a good degree of integrity from its period of significance. Original location, setting, feeling, workmanship, and most materials are intact and evident, as is the design and association with the Lung family's occupancy.

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## Statement of Significance<sup>2</sup>

The Lung House is located at 1605 Canterbury Street, Austin, Texas. The house was the residence of Joe Lung's family from 1917 to 1960. The Lungs were one of the first Chinese families settled in Austin, and they established and successfully maintained a thriving restaurant business in the city for more than 60 years. The Lung family's experience is representative of the Chinese experience in general in Austin during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their home on Canterbury Street holds a significant association with this family, an association that lasted more than fifty years. The house clearly illustrates the level of success and respect this minority family achieved during a time period in which the community was not always welcoming to outsiders. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of ethnic history.

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## # The Chinese Population of Texas<sup>3</sup>

The Chinese were the first of the Asian immigrants to come to Texas. Though there were undoubtedly at least a few Chinese immigrants prior to 1870, the first large wave did not arrive until January of that year. The Houston & Texas Central, whose railhead was then at Calvert (Robertson County), contracted with 250 Chinese laborers previously based in California. When their employment with the railroad was terminated a year later, most of them left the state, though a few remained in Calvert. The seventy-two Chinese living in Robertson County in 1880 comprised 53 percent of the total Chinese population living in Texas.

The railroad was responsible for the second wave of Chinese immigration to Texas, as well. In 1881, the Southern Pacific hired 2,600 Chinese laborers from California. Again, most left Texas when their work was complete a few years later, but some did stay. In 1900, there were 836 Chinese living in Texas; one-third of them resided in El Paso County. From that point, the Chinese population declined throughout the state as a delayed reaction to the congressional enactment in 1882 of the Chinese exclusion law, which for the next six decades barred practically all further immigration from China. Men were not allowed to bring their wives or children with them, and interracial marriages were quite rare in these early years, making Chinese family units rare, as well. Once the law was repealed in 1943 and immigration laws relaxed, the Chinese population in Texas boomed. The number grew from approximately 1,000 Chinese residents in 1940 to more than 25,000 in 1980. The concentration of the population shifted from El Paso to San Antonio in the 1920s, and then to Houston in the 1950s. With the exception of the earliest immigrants that settled in or near Calvert, the Chinese Texans have always been overwhelmingly an urban population.

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, only a small number of Chinese called Travis County home. They numbered only ten in 1880, a number which had only doubled two decades later. The number fell

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<sup>2</sup> For a detailed overview of East Austin's historic development and its evolution through the period of significance, refer to the *Historic Resources of East Austin* Multiple Resources cover documentation (1986), on file with the National Park Service.

<sup>3</sup> This section is adapted from the following: Edward J. M. Rhoads, "CHINESE," *Handbook of Texas Online* <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pjc01>, accessed July 02, 2013, Published by the Texas State Historical Association; and Edward J. M. Rhoads, "The Chinese in Texas," vol. 81, no. 1 *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (July 1977): 1-36.

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to just fourteen in 1910, but by 1930 it had risen again to twenty-nine. Though an extremely small percentage of the population, the Chinese in Austin were characteristic of the Chinese living elsewhere in Texas. The earliest immigrants (almost exclusively males) were originally of the peasant class and came to the United States initially as unskilled and largely uneducated contract laborers, such as railroad workers. Historian Edward J. M. Rhoades, who conducted some of the earliest and most comprehensive studies of Chinese Texans, found that once these immigrants found themselves in Texas, they tended to establish niches for themselves in the service and commercial sectors of the urban economy, most frequently in the laundry and restaurant businesses. He further found that the descendants of these older immigrants, though upwardly mobile, usually stayed in the business world, often in the very same line of business as their fathers. In fact, Rhoades notes the importance of the patriarchal family in Chinese culture and states that it was not unusual for three generations to be under one roof.

Joe Lung, patriarch of Austin's Lung family, arrived in Texas from China (via California) in approximately 1874 as a ten-year-old boy. His family's story is illustrative of the Chinese experience in early Austin, Texas.

#### **The Lung Family in Texas<sup>4</sup>**

Chou Lung was born in Hoi Ping, Canton, China, on August 7, 1864. He came to America in 1874 with his older brother, Fong. He signed his immigration papers with the name of "Joe" Lung instead of his Chinese name at the port of entry in San Francisco. (According to Chinese tradition, Chou is his family name, and Lung is his first name.) Joe Lung worked on the Houston & Texas Central Railway with his brother. When their work was complete, both brothers stayed in Texas. They still followed the Chinese ancient traditional life custom by keeping their long hair braided, wore blue denim pants with a jacket, and heavy, coarse shoes. They made their living with jobs in the laundry and restaurant businesses.

In 1889, Joe married Dora Wong, a beautiful Chinese girl from California. They were married in Calvert, Robertson County, Texas. Dora lived with a Jewish woman, "Miss Hannah", who taught her to cook, sew, and read. Dora did not understand very much Chinese and Joe knew little English at first, but they communicated with each other quite well by signs and other methods. Joe and Dora Lung eventually had 6 sons and 3 daughters together.

Joe's brother Fong moved to Austin and started a restaurant at 6th and San Jacinto Street in 1897. Joe and Dora and their children may have lived for a while in Waco, but they eventually moved to Austin, where Joe and his sons worked in Fong's restaurant. By 1906, the family lived in Austin on E. 1st Street, according to the city directory. The 1906 directory also includes a listing for Joe Lung Café, located at 204 Congress Avenue. It is unclear if this is the same business Fong had started several years before, but in any case, Fong returned to China in 1909. City directories for the next few years indicate that the Joe Lung Café moved several times to locations along Congress Avenue and E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, all very near each other. At the same time, the family's residence, which they were renting, remained on E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, just two blocks east of Congress Avenue.

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<sup>4</sup> This section is based largely on the Austin History Center's 2010 exhibition *Pioneers from the East: First Chinese Families in Austin*, as well as the Lung Family clippings file at the Austin History Center. Additional details obtained from city directories and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.

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Joe Lung Café was one of several restaurants run by Chinese proprietors in the first decades of the twentieth century, though Lung's seemed to operate most consistently while others opened and closed frequently. For the most part, however, none of these restaurants served traditional Chinese cuisine. Instead, they served food desired by their American clientele. Joe Lung was regarded as an honest and intelligent man who managed his business with kindness and efficiency. He served fresh and delicious food with a reasonable price that catered to his customer's needs. Though the restaurant occasionally offered special dinner treats of a fish loaf or an oyster loaf, the main menu was composed mainly of American dining staples like steak, baked chicken, vegetables, and corn bread dressing. Lung must have been an astute business man, because he soon was able to purchase his first home, and he paid with cash.

In 1917, at 53 years of age, Joe Lung purchased the house at 1605 Canterbury from William J. Morris, who was then serving as the city's Chief of Police and Marshall. Presumably Morris had constructed the house in approximately 1905; the 1906 city directory is the first to show this address as occupied. This neighborhood and East Austin in general, was a popular residential area for those who owned small downtown businesses as it was conveniently located with ample transportation options. Sometime within the first decade or so of purchasing the house, the Lungs added additional living space to the house.

Limited records make it difficult to determine exactly how and when the Lung house achieved its current configuration. The first Sanborn map to provide coverage of the house is the 1921 edition, prepared four years after the Lungs purchased the house. That map shows a two-story house, but in a front-facing L configuration with a two-story front porch, a one-story rear porch, and a one-story rear addition. The house's current configuration—a rectangular block with a two-story rear addition—is depicted in the 1935 Sanborn map. This suggests that the Lung's removed both front and rear porches and the one-story rear addition, and filled in the L, creating the rectangular, two-story block.

Certainly the Lung family could appreciate the extra space. The 1920 census enumerated eleven people living in the Lung household on Canterbury Street—Joe, Dora, eight children ranging in age from 10 to 26, and a young grandson. With the exception of the infant grandson, the census notes that all members of the household were able to read, write, and speak English. The census taker noted that Joe owned his home outright (it was not mortgaged) and that he owned his restaurant. Four of his children worked for wages at the restaurant as waiters and cashiers. Dora is listed as a homemaker, and her children remember her taking in sewing work to supplement the family's income.

In the early 20th century, the Chinese community in Austin was extremely small and most worked in the restaurant or laundry businesses. The Joe Sing family (who owned a laundry) lived on Willow Street, just two blocks from the Lungs, but the few other Chinese families were scattered throughout the city. Though geographically dispersed, the Chinese families had close relationships with each other. The men of the families often met for tea and talked about their families, their hometowns in China, and their businesses. Chinese families remained a close-knit community and supported each other and their businesses even if they were not concentrated in a particular area of town.

Joe Lung provided financial support to minority members of the community, as well, since discrimination prevented them from obtaining loans from most financial institutions. He provided support to local Chinese, but

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also offered loans to local African Americans and Hispanics who were struggling to maintain their livelihoods; the maximum loan was up to \$1000. Lung's financial support helped the community find stability, forged new networks, and allowed for minority business growth in Austin.

Joe Lung passed away in 1926, but Dora and their children continued to operate the Joe Lung Café and their home at 1605 Canterbury continued to serve as their primary residence. The 1930 census enumerates Dora living there, along with seven of her adult children, a daughter-in-law, and grandson. All of the children held jobs in the restaurant. The census indicates that Jesse was the owner/manager and that all the other children work for wages, but city directories suggest that managerial responsibilities were shared amongst the male Lung children, primarily Jesse and Sam. During this time period, the café continued to operate very much as it had in the past, serving primarily American dishes to white American patrons. The location, however, changed slightly, moving a short distance from the E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street location to a new home at 507 San Jacinto. By the 1940 census, all but three of Joe and Dora's children had moved away from the house on Canterbury, though several continued to help run the family business.

Jesse Lung (Joe and Dora's eldest son) died in 1945. That same year marks an important transition in the Lung family business. Under Sam Lung's guidance, the family transformed the Joe Lung Café to Lung's Chinese Kitchen, which featured more authentic Chinese cuisine, the first restaurant in Austin to do so. It operated out of a building that displayed Chinese-influenced architecture and décor at 1128 Red River Street, not far from the previous location. No doubt this transition was made possible by the change in attitudes towards the Chinese living in America. Anti-Chinese sentiment, which had begun with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, ramped up considerably with the Asian Exclusion Act (part of the Immigration Act of 1924). The hostile sentiments began to relax once the laws were repealed in 1943. In addition, Americans returning from service in World War II brought with them more cosmopolitan culinary tastes.

Lung's Chinese Kitchen was the first in Austin to serve authentic Chinese cuisine and it quickly became popular. Sam Lung enjoyed talking to patrons about Chinese customs and food. Teachers brought elementary school classes to the restaurant for field trip lunches and Sam taught them to use chop sticks. High school students came to learn the skills, too, capturing the experience in yearbook photos. Sam also enjoyed making Chinese kites and entering kite tournaments. He donated a collection of his hand-carved bamboo kite frames to the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, so that children could study their construction. Sam was an active member of Austin's Exchange Club, an organization dedicated to helping its members develop leadership, networking, and organizational skills that contribute to success in business, family, and personal endeavors. The Exchange Club's premiere annual event was the city kite tournament.<sup>5</sup>

Lung's Chinese Kitchen closed in 1974, and Sam Lung died a few years later. The Lung family's legacy in the restaurant business continued with Lung's Cocina del Sur, an extremely popular Mexican food restaurant founded by Joe and Dora's grandson, Jimmie Joe.

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<sup>5</sup> First held in 1929, what's now known as the Zilker Kite Festival is now the longest continuously running kite festival in the United States.

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### **The Lung Family House at 1605 Canterbury**

The house at 1605 Canterbury Street is the historic resource most closely associated with the Lung family. The family's patriarch was a Chinese immigrant whose story is illustrative of the Chinese experience in early twentieth-century Austin. Like virtually all of the earliest Chinese immigrants to Texas, he arrived prior to the strict immigration laws aimed at excluding the Chinese, immigrated from the Canton region of China, was single, and found work in the railroad industry. He initially settled in the Robertson County area, which at that time was the nucleus of Chinese population in Texas.

Rather than return to China, Joe Lung began a family and made a living in laundries and cafes, which was characteristic of other Chinese across the state. Though there had been previous men who settled and opened businesses in Austin, Joe Lung was among the very first to settle with a family in town. His business venture's ultimate success was due, in part, to his family's large size. His children worked as waiters, cooks, and cashiers. When it came time to buy their first home in 1917, they were able to do so outright. This could have been the only option available to them. Though no record exists to prove it, it is likely that no bank would finance a loan to a Chinese immigrant.

Because the number of Chinese Americans in Austin was so small, there was no concentration of Chinese residences or businesses. Therefore, the Lungs purchased a home located amongst other middle-class families in the suburbs of East Austin. At the time they purchased the home on Canterbury Street, in 1917, East Austin was a racially diverse community, but was on the cusp of demographic transformation driven by white flight and city planning efforts which placed facilities for African Americans and Mexican Americans exclusively in East Austin. By the 1930s, there were distinguishable African American and Mexican American neighborhoods clustered throughout East Austin. Chinese American families were still dispersed throughout the city. The neighborhood immediately surrounding the Lung's house continued to be populated predominantly by whites through the 1950s, though Mexican American families began moving in beginning in the 1940s and eventually became the dominant population.

The style of the Lung House is quite unusual for the area and is likely the result of two factors. First, the large number of Lung family members necessitated more space than afforded by the small, single story homes typical of the area. Following in the Chinese tradition, several generations lived under one roof, and adult children remained at home well into adulthood, sometimes even after they had married. The Colonial Revival detailing is also quite rare in the area and may be a reflection of the Lung family's desire to project a traditionally "American" image during a time period in which anti-Chinese sentiment ran high. The Lungs created for themselves a house which accommodated their needs as successful business owners and as members of an unusually small minority group.

The Lung House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic History. The period of significance begins in 1917, which is when Joe Lung purchased the property, to 1960, when the last Lung family members moved out of the house.

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## Bibliography

Biography Files. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, TX.

Hernández, Raul Aguallo. Interviewed by Yuanjing Du. Austin, TX. December 2011.

*Historic Resources of East Austin*. Austin, Travis County, Texas. Multiple Resource Area Cover Document. National Register of Historic Places, 1986.

Kier, Heather. Interviewed by Yuanjing Du. Austin, TX. December 2011.

Lung, Joe Jr. Interviewed by Yuanjing Du. Austin, TX. November 2011.

Newman, Meiling Lung. Interviewed by Yuanjing Du. Austin, TX. November 2011.

*Pioneers from the East: First Chinese Families in Austin*. Austin History Center exhibition, 2010.

Rhoads, Edward J. M. "Chinese," *Handbook of Texas Online*. Published by the Texas State Historical Association. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pjc01> (accessed July 02, 2013).

Rhoads, Edward J. M. "The Chinese in Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* vol. 81, no. 1 (July 1977): 1-36.

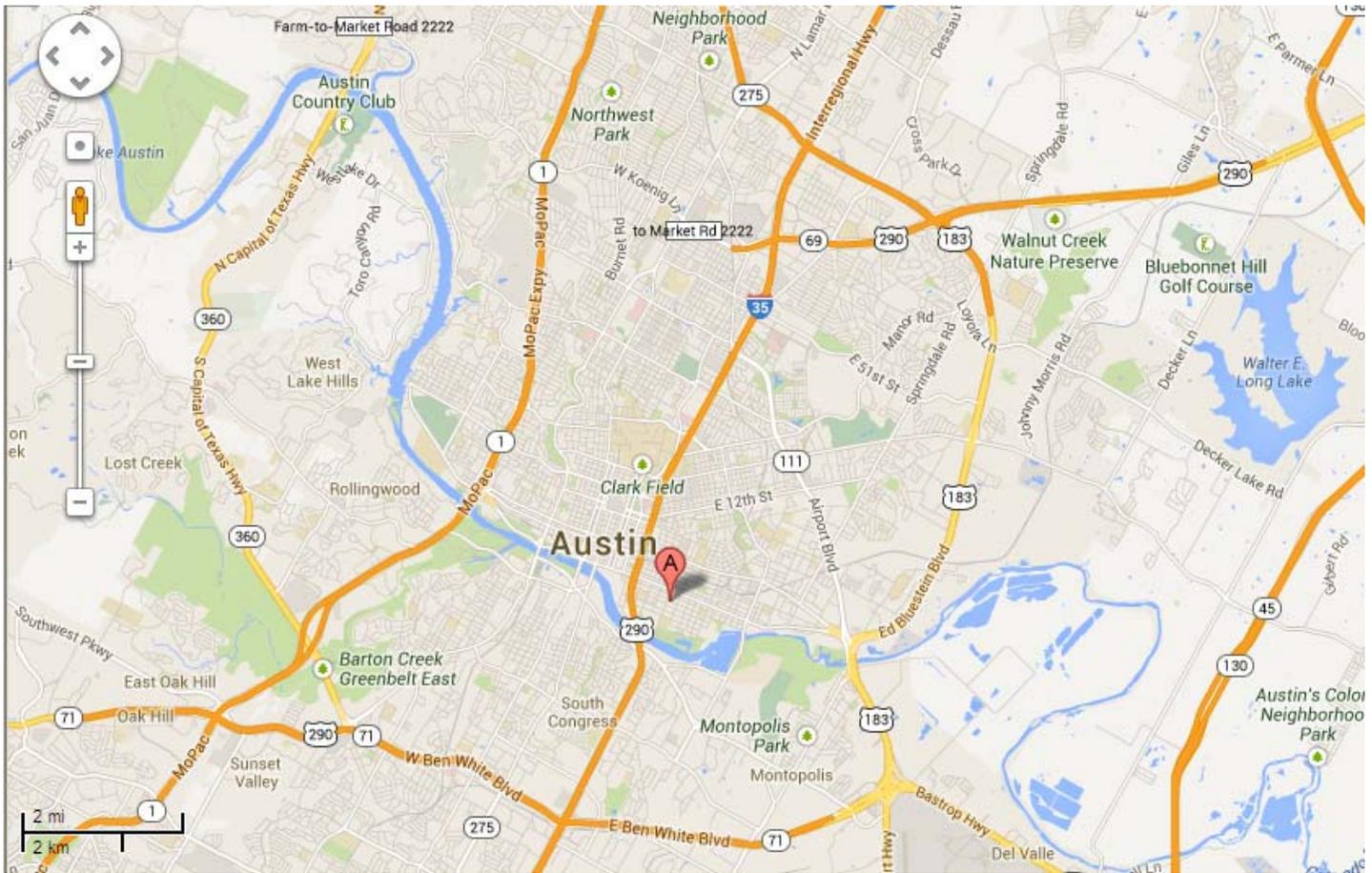
Subject Files. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, TX.

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Map 1: Travis County is located in central Texas.

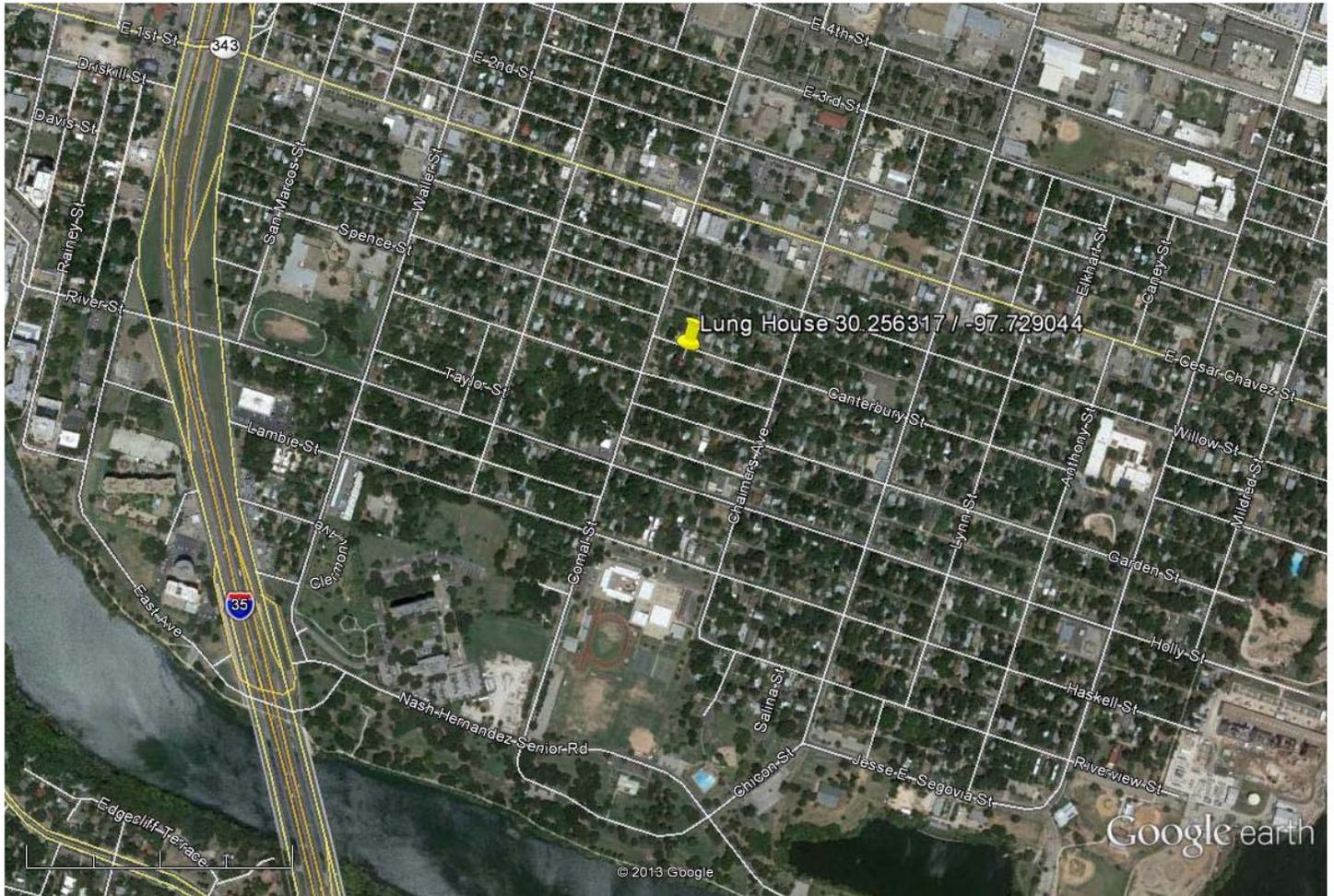


Map 2: The nominated property (Pin A) is located in East Austin, less than 1 mile from the city's historic business district. Top edge of map is north. (Google Maps, July 2013.)



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Map 3: Scaled Google Earth map depicts locational coordinates for the nominated property. (Google Earth, July 2013.)

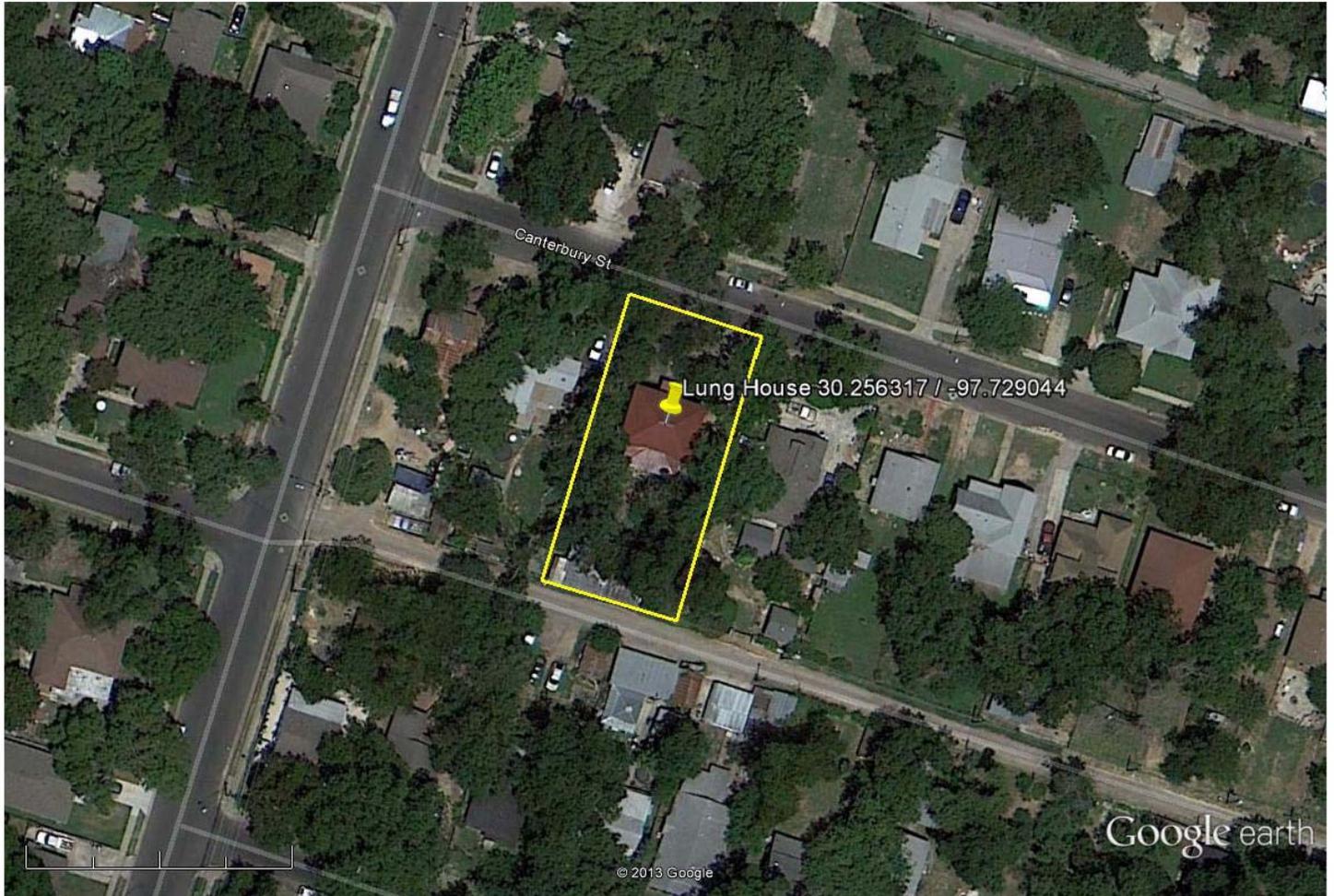


Google earth



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Map 4: Google Earth map with coordinates and boundary of the nominated property. (Google Earth, July 2013.)

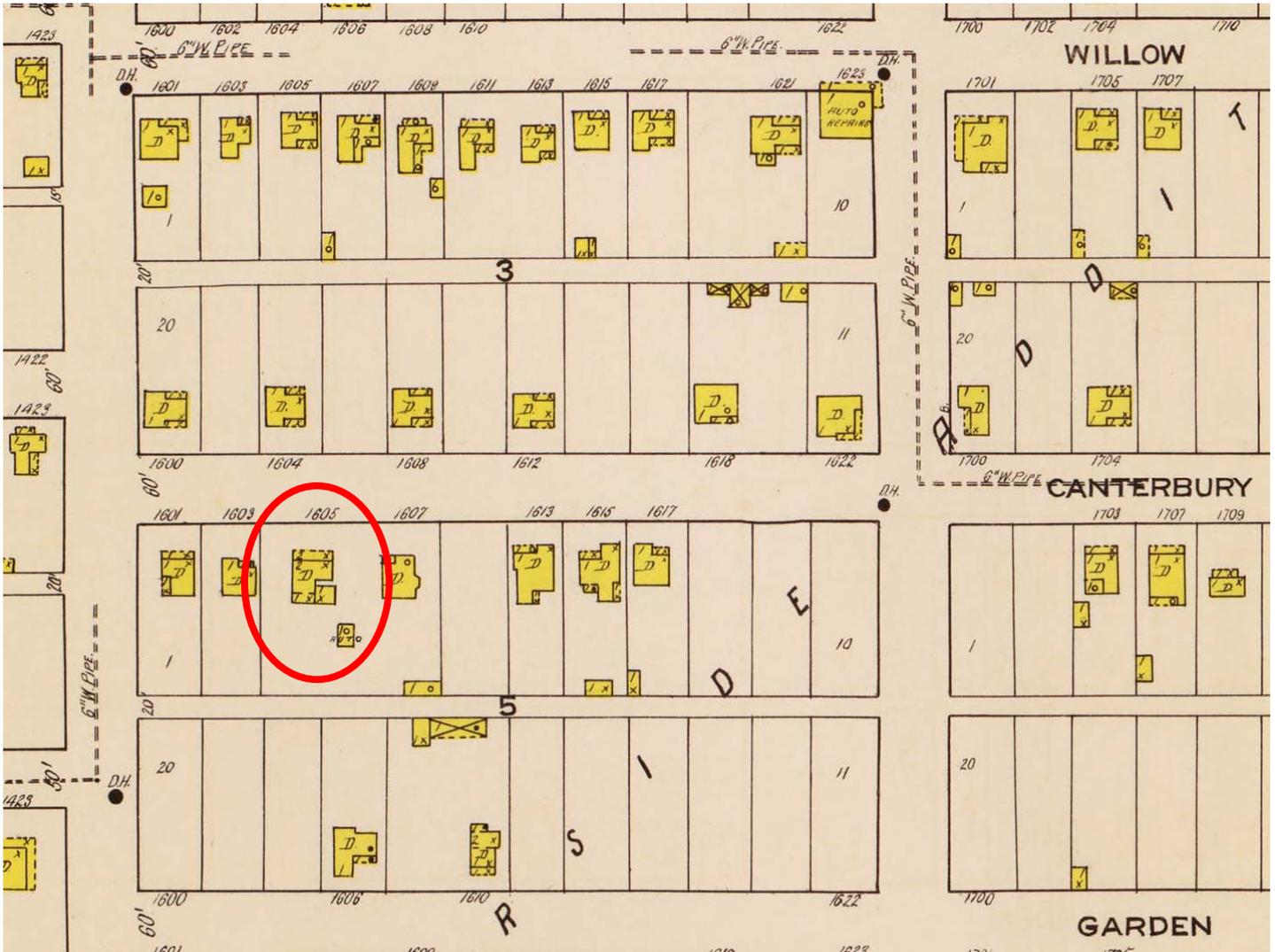


Google earth



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

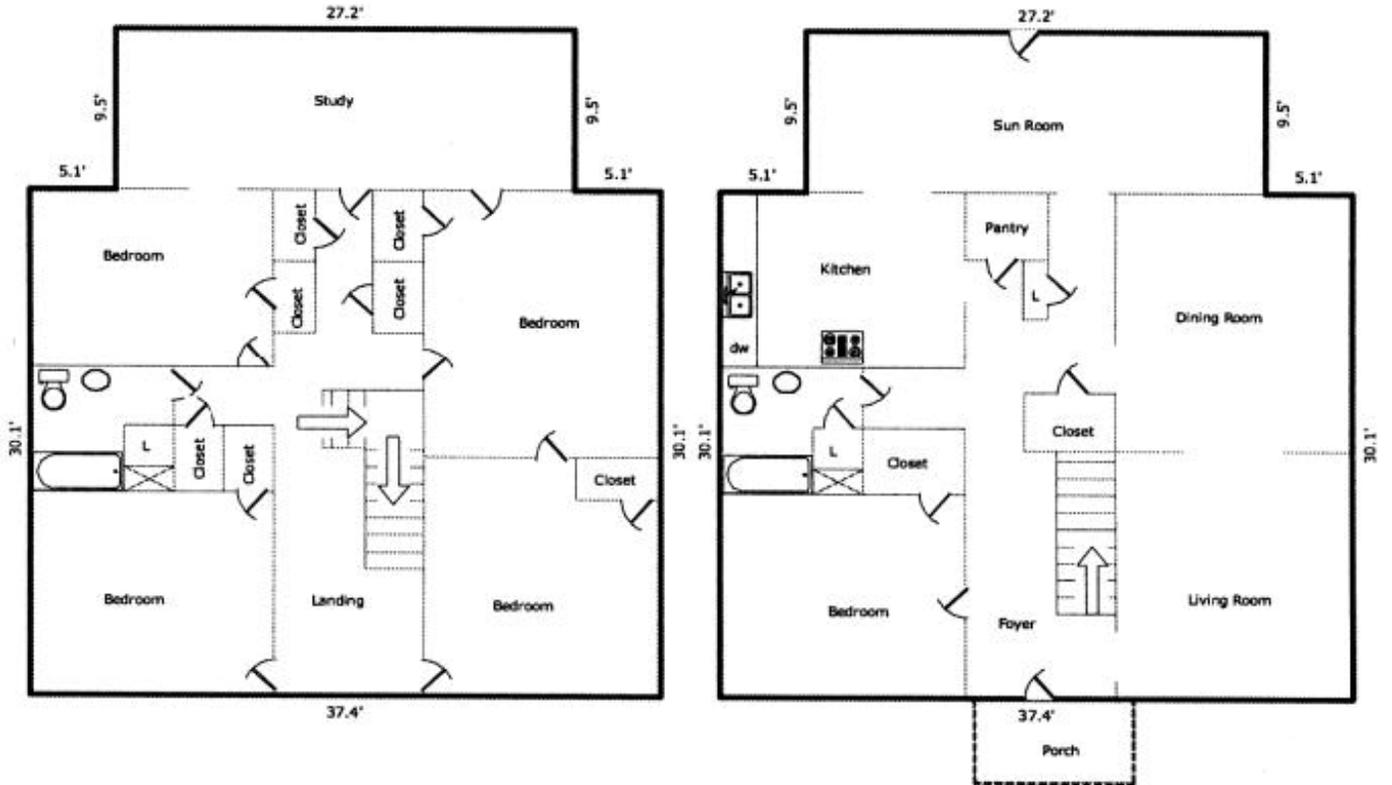
Map 4: The 1921 edition of the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps is the first to provide coverage of the neighborhood. The Lung House is circled.





Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Map 6: current floor plan of the nominated property. Second floor on left, first floor on right.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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Figure 1: An undated historic photo of the Lung House at 1605 Canterbury Street.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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Figure 2: Joe and Dora Lung. Date unknown.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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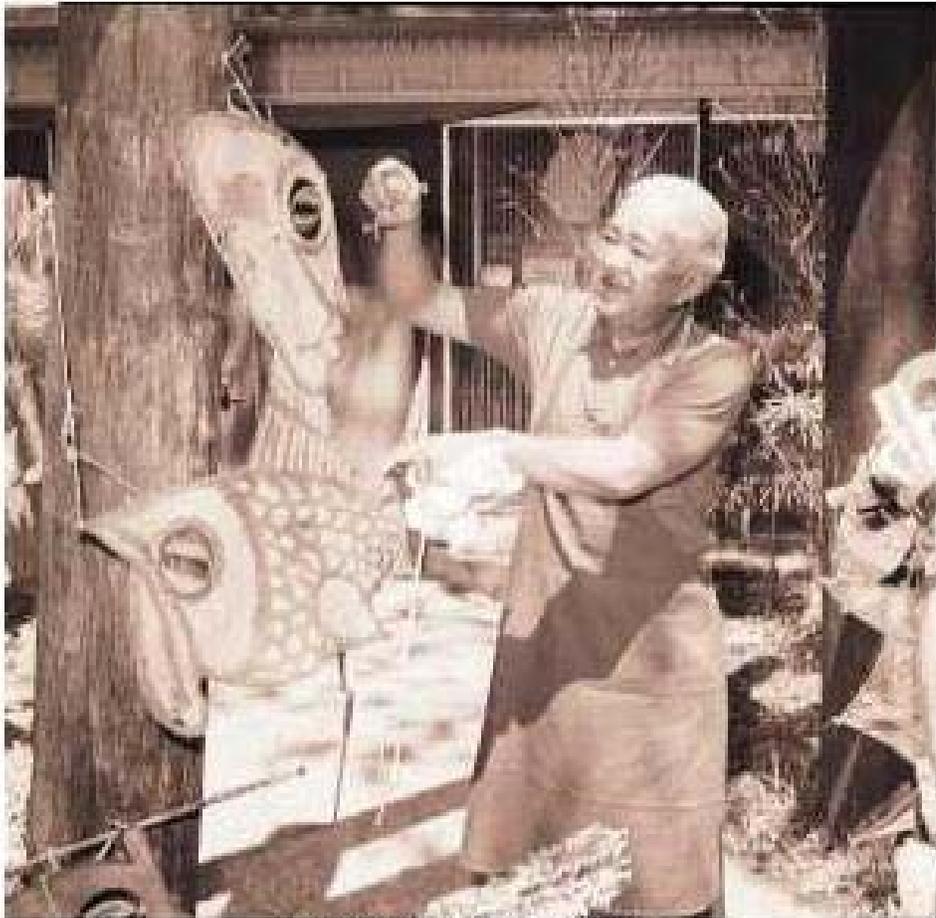
Figure 3: Joe Lung and his sons. Date unknown.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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Figure 4: Sam Lung (Joe Lung's son) in 1974.

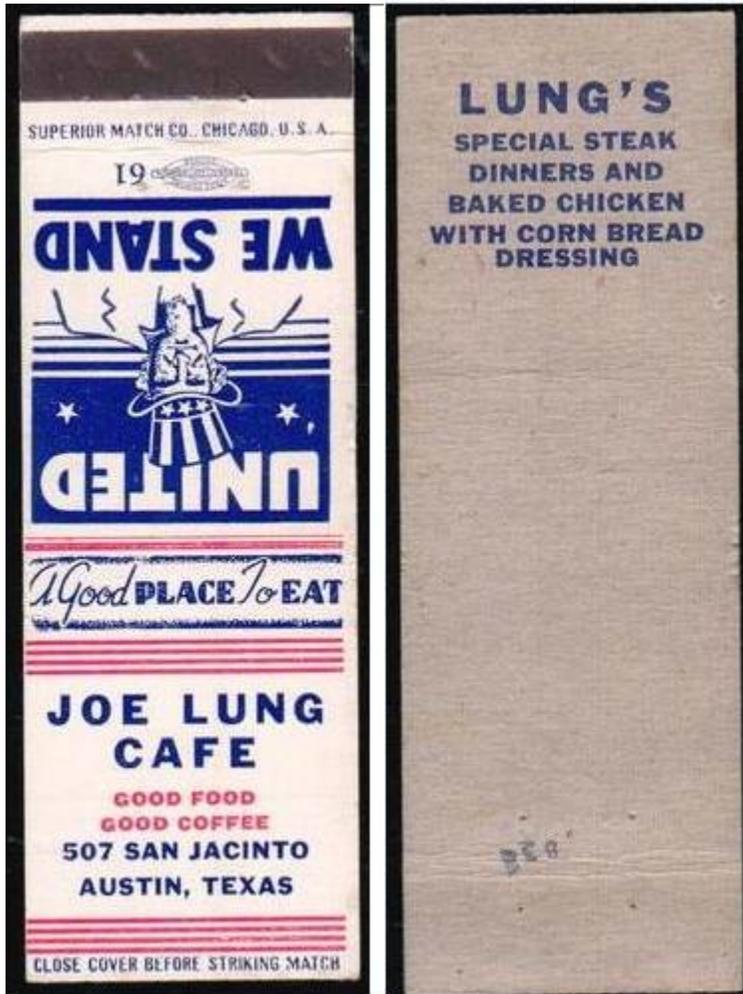


**Sam Lung with Kite Frame  
April 9, 1974, AR.Z.025 (PARD-74-106-10)  
Austin (Tex.) Parks and Recreation Department Records**

Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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Figure 5: Matchbook cover advertising Joe Lung Café, exterior (left) and interior (right), likely from early 1940s. Images pulled from Ebay.com.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 6: Another match book cover advertising Joe Lung Café, c. 1930s. This building is no longer extant. Image pulled from Ebay.com

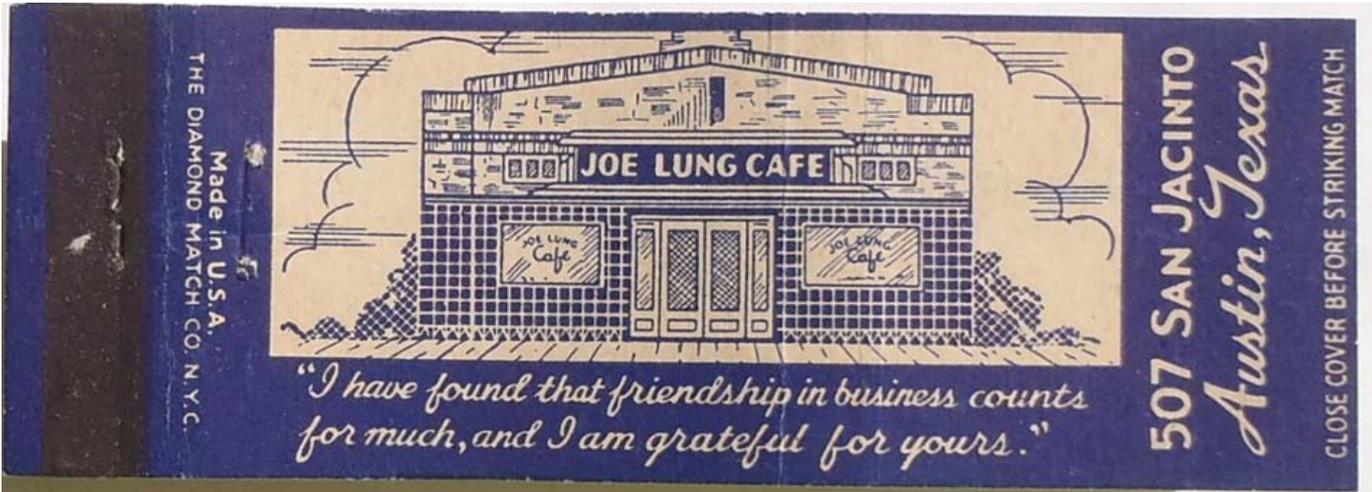
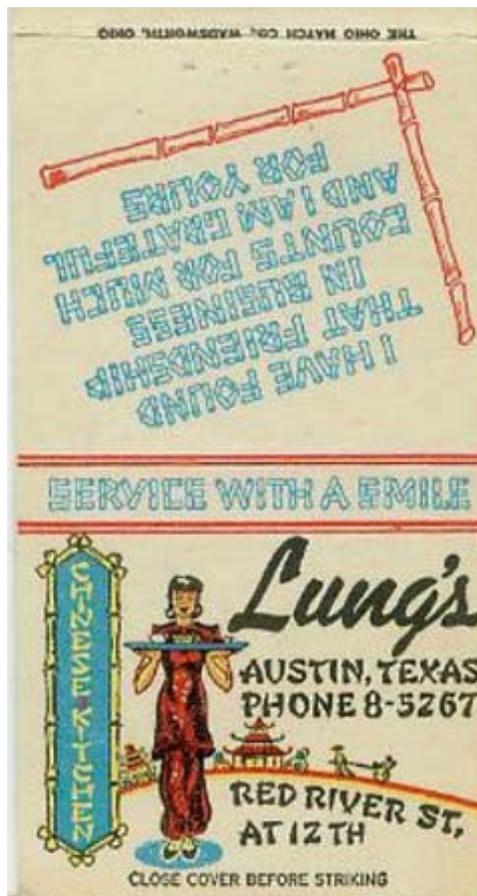


Figure 7: A later matchbook cover, likely early 1950s, advertises Lung's Chinese Kitchen. Image pulled from Ebay.com.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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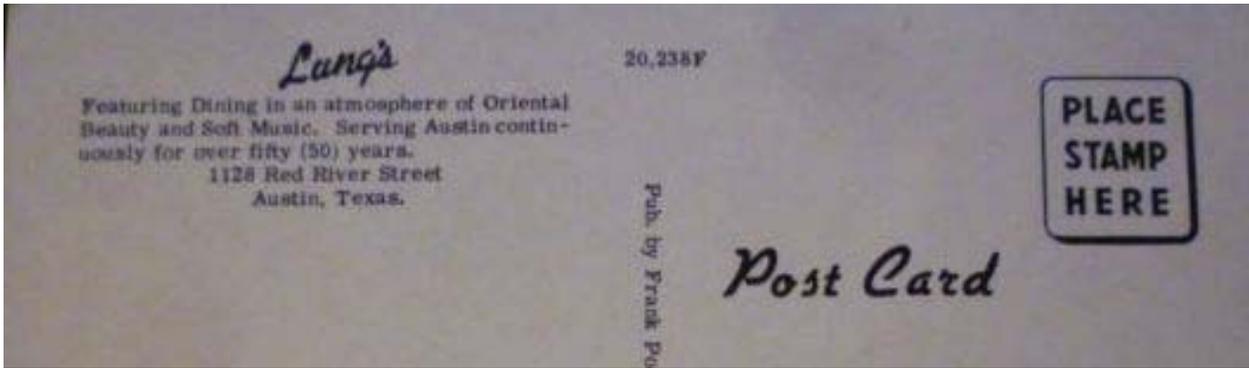
Figure 8: Lung's Chinese kitchen at the corner of Red River and 12<sup>th</sup>, c. 1946. This building is no longer extant. From the Austin History Center collections.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

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Figure 9: This postcard, perhaps from the 1960s advertised dining in an atmosphere of Oriental beauty and soft music at Lung's Chinese Kitchen. Rear, detail only (top), front (bottom). Images pulled from Ebay.com.



Lung House, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 10: From the *Confederate*, the Johnston High School yearbook, 1961.



Ronnie Angell, Pat Smith, and Auggie Garza learn to use chopsticks at Lung's Chinese Kitchen

**Lung's**  
**Chinese Kitchen**  
1128 Red River









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lung House

MULTIPLE NAME: East Austin MRA

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Travis

DATE RECEIVED: 12/20/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/14      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001159

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2.5.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*



TO: Edson Beall  
 National Park Service  
 National Register of Historic Places  
 1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
 Washington, DC 20005

FROM: *ch* Carlyn Hammons  
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: New Submission, National Register Nomination  
 Lung House, Travis County, TX

DATE: December 5, 2013

The following materials are submitted:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form and electronic locational data (in .kmz format) on CD. <i>ch</i> The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the <u>Lung House</u> to the National Register of Historic Places.
	Resubmitted nomination.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk.
	Resubmitted form.
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CD with four (4) TIFF photograph files.
	Correspondence

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do ) (do not ) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

