

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM** Tr 8-7
A 9-12

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: TEXAS	
COUNTY: Travis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69.11.42.0013	DATE 11/25/69

1. NAME

COMMON:

Driskill Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

117 East 7th Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Austin

STATE

Texas

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Travis

CODE

453

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Private ☐ Both	☐ Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☒ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify)

☒ Comments
not in use

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Brown Securities

STREET AND NUMBER:

Brown Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Austin

STATE:

Texas

CODE

42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Travis County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Austin

STATE

Texas

CODE

42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Joseph N. Preston and Son of Austin designed the Driskill Hotel in 1885. Preston utilized pressed brick dressed with white limestone to build the four story Romanesque Revival hotel. The plinth, course, impost, capitals, keys, carrels, dragons, and tables also are built of limestone. The capping elements at the top of each of the street facades are busts of limestone of Driskill and his two sons which were carved by unknown Italian artisans. The bust of A.W. (Tabe) Driskill caps off the west facade and the bust of J.W. Driskill caps the portico on Brazos Street while the bust of Colonel Driskill is the capping element for the main portico on East 6th Street. Ornate gargoyles also decorate the three street facades.

The main entrance features an arch covered corridor thirty-five feet wide which intersects at the rotunda with two thirty-one foot wide corridors. The original interior walls were plaster with walnut fixtures in the bar and billiard rooms which were located behind the office on the first floor. Gentlemen's and ladies parlors, 60'x30' were also located on the first floor.

Second floor features included four main chambers used primarily as meeting and dining rooms. Two of these rooms had balconies which overlooked the S.W. and S.E. porticos of the city. The tile in the fireplaces as well as most of the plateglass and hardware in the hotel were bought by Driskill and Preston on a trip to the East. Other interior materials and features included hydraulic elevators, twenty foot high sheet iron corrugated ceilings divided by finely carved pine beams which spanned the first floor corridors. The third and fourth floors were mainly hotel rooms and suites.

A twelve story annex built in 1930 and renovations done in 1947 and 1952 almost completely altered the interior of the hotel. The 1947 renovation included lowering the ceilings, installing another elevator, installing air-conditioning, and razing the Nalle Annex and building a five story addition with a penthouse. The twelve story 1930 addition remains on the north side of the old Driskill and serves as the front entrance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1886

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☒ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ losophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jesse Lincoln Driskill (1824-1890), born in Sparta, Tennessee, intended that his hotel become the finest in the South. When Driskill came to Texas in 1849 he entered the merchandising business in Bastrop, San Antonio, San Marcos, and Bryan. By 1857 he switched over to the cattle business where he became a prosperous rancher. During the Civil War he supplied beef for the Confederate Army and was one of the first ranchers to enter the cattle drives to the mid-western markets after the Civil War. The prosperous cattle baron moved to Austin in 1871 where he proposed his hotel scheme to the city fathers in 1884 and offered \$7500 for the lots and building on Bois d'Arc, now 7th Street.

By 1885 construction began on the brick and limestone building which eventually cost Driskill \$400,000. Five days before Christmas in 1886 the famous Driskill opened to the public. A special supplement to the Daily Statesman in Austin on December 17, 1886 bestowed accolades on Driskill's achievement and forecasted rapid progress of Austin because as the paper exclaimed "What a Bonanza Austin possesses in its new caravansary." The ad touted Austin as a vacation center in hopes that the hotel would, of course, be one of the main recipients of the increased tourism.

To most Austinites and many Texans the Driskill was an institution. And for travelers of the late nineteenth century the Driskill offered luxury accommodations at \$2.50 to \$5.00 per night for rooms and a full course meal for thirty-five cents. Austinites mingled with state dignitaries in the luxurious ball rooms when governors had their inaugurals. The first formal affair held at the Driskill was Governor Sul Ross' inaugural ball of 1887. After that state affair the proprietors of the Driskill expected and received the honor of hosting many state functions. For over thirty years the Driskill also was the setting for the annual homecoming ball of the University of Texas. These homecoming balls as well as the Spring "final balls" for the University of Texas were

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE TEXAS	
COUNTY Travis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-11-42-0013	DATE 11/25/69

(Number all entries)

88. (cont'd)

lavish events. Special porters kept fresh flowers cool throughout social functions while students and their guests warmed up on fifty to sixty gallons of whiskey. Such state and university social events took place in the ballrooms of the Driskill. The Crystal Ballroom with its fine crystal chandeliers and the Maxmillian Room with its eight gold leaf framed mirrors which once belonged to Carlotta and Maxmillian of Mexico were the most famous rooms.

Many state legislators annually headquartered at the Driskill up to its closing in September of 1969. President and Mrs. Johnson frequented the Jim Hogg Suite on their stays in Austin and used the Driskill as their election night center in 1964. Certainly during its eighty-three year existence (1886-1969) the Driskill Hotel became an integral part of the cultural and political fabric of the state. The Driskill was "an institution dedicated to the service of Austin and Texas" as its semi-centennial ad proclaimed in 1936.

In 1966 on the Driskill's 75th anniversary the Heritage Society of Austin chose it as one of the twelve most significant landmarks of Austin. That same year the Texas State Historical Survey Committee designated the Driskill Hotel as an historic landmark of Texas. Today the Driskill is endangered by its present owners who plan to raze it completely so that they can build a new hotel.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Statesman, Supplement, December 17, 1886, pp. 17-24
Austin American, February 20, 1952, p. 13
 Anderson, Ronald C., "The Historic Driskill," unpublished manuscript in Austin-Travis County collection of the Austin Public Library, prepared for Architecture course 373 on April 7, 1969 at The University of Texas.
 Austin-Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library, Mrs. James P. Hart, Librarian

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"	97°	44'	28"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"	30°	16'	4"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.84

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: M. Wayne Bell, AIA, Project Director Larry J. Kennedy, Historian		DATE
ORGANIZATION	Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
STREET AND NUMBER:		10-31-69
108 W. 15th Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Austin	Texas	42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 31, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 25 1969

Date

ATTEST:

William J. Muntag
 Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 7 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UTM
 14/621080
 3342940
 CD

12/4/69

NATIONAL REGISTER
Inventory-Nomination Forms

Travis

Texas

NPS Number

69-1142-0013

Driskill Hotel

RECEIPT

SIGN OFF

Date of Receipt 10/30/69 Yes No Number
 Data Page ☒ ☐ ☐
 Photo(s) ☒ ☐ 4
 Photo Description(s) ☒ ☐
 Map(s) ☒ ☐ 2
 Map Description(s) ☒ ☐
 Logged ☒ ☐
 Acknowledged 11/4/69 ☒ ☐ OK

Ref # 69000216

Rb 11/5/69

REVIEW

Historian Comments

ok

Architect Comments

OK

B.L. 11/5/69

Chambers
11/5/69

If checked
ret. to
Clerk

☒ Chief Architect ☒ Chief Archeologist ☐ Chief Historian

Keeper Comments

OK

C. J. 11/7/69

ENTRY

Chief, OAHF Comments

PAC
11-24-69

Date of Entry

Registry Clerk Yes No Date

Assign NPS No. ☐ ☐Acknowledgement Sent ☐ ☐

EDITORIAL PROCESSING

Editor

Date

Federal Register Entry 12/2/69

Annual Edition Entry

FILE

FILE

FILE

WORKING NO.

11.4.69.1



Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

January 4, 1972

Dr. Robert J. Mullen
Chief, Bureau of Registration
National Register
801 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Bob:

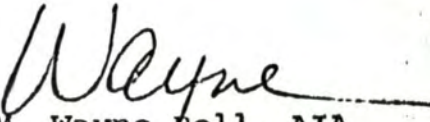
Under separate cover we are forwarding corrections for the National Register submissions which were rechecked here in our office and found to be in error. I trust that this means of correction will not confuse the issue.

There may possibly still be errors but to date these are the only ones we have discovered. If you will notify us of any errors of which you are aware we will be glad to treat the submissions similarly.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer
State Liaison Officer

By:


M. Wayne Bell, AIA
Project Director

TL/MWB/pbs

NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY - TEXAS 048

Driskill Hotel, Travis County - 453

Geographical data, Item 10, Form 10-300 is given as:

Latitude $97^{\circ} 44' 28''$

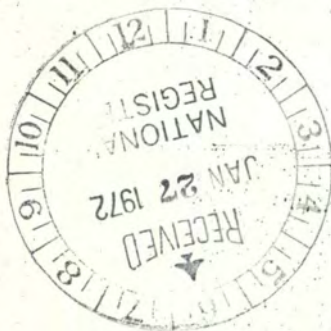
Longitude $30^{\circ} 16' 04''$

Please CHANGE this to correctly read:

Latitude $30^{\circ} 16' 04''$

Longitude $97^{\circ} 44' 28''$

A new, correctly marked map is being enclosed. Please DESTROY the old map and replace it with this one. Thank you.





#1

NPS Number 69.11.42.0013

Title: Driskill Hotel

Loc. 117 E. 7th St.
Austin, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

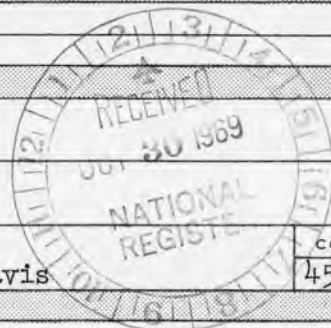
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas #1	
COUNTY Travis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-11-42-0013	DATE 11/25/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Driskill Hotel	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
117 East 7th Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Austin			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Travis	453
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
DATE OF PHOTO: 6/9/69			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee			
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
side facade at the corner of 6th and Brazos streets showing corner balconies and second and third floor porches above entrance -- south elevation			





2

NPS Number 69.11.42.0013

Title: Driskill Hotel

Loc. 117 E. 7th St.

Austin, Tex.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Travis #2	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-11-42-0013	DATE 11/25/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Driskill Hotel	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:		117 East 7th Street	
CITY OR TOWN:		Austin	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Travis	453
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
DATE OF PHOTO:		6/9/69	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
		108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
at corner of 6th and Brazos streets showing second, third, and fourth floor balconies -- southeast elevation			





T

#3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 69.11.42.0013

Title: Driskill Hotel

Loc. 117 E. 7th St.

Austin, Tex.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

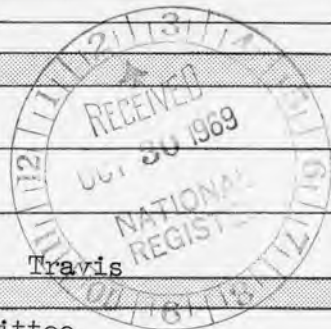
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas #3	
COUNTY Travis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-1142-0013	DATE 11/25/69

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Driskill Hotel	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:		117 East 7th Street	
CITY OR TOWN:		Austin	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Travis	453
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
DATE OF PHOTO:		6/9/69	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
		108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
6th Street facade showing second and third floor porches with unusual corinthian style columns; limestone bust of J. L. Driskill caps classical pediment with gargoyles on each end of architrave-- south elevation			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NPS Number 69.11.42.0013

Title: Driskill Hotel

Loc. 117 E. 7th St.
Austin, Tex.

#4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas #4	
COUNTY Travis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-1142-0013	DATE 11/25/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Driskill Hotel	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:		117 East 7th Street	
CITY OR TOWN:		Austin	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Travis	453
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
DATE OF PHOTO:		6/9/69	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
6th Street facade showing two pilasters supporting an archuated classical pediment; balconies on the corner are cantelevered from reinforced pilasters on three levels -- south elevation			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

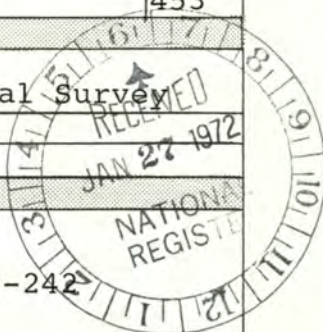
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Travis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-11-42-0013	11/25/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Driskill Hotel	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
117 East 7th Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Austin			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	Travis	453
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1954, 1966			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			
Texas Map Reference #3097-242			
Austin east, Texas			



6444 I NE
JULIENVILLE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CITY OF AUSTIN

AUSTIN EAST QUADRANGLE
TEXAS—TRAVIS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 AUSTIN 15' QUADRANGLE

6444 I NE
JULIENVILLE
EAST 1/4

Driskill Hotel
117 East 7th Street
Austin, Texas 048 — 453

30° 16' 04"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and GCS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1954. Field checked 1954. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route — U.S. Route — State Route

AUSTIN EAST, TEX.
SW 1/4 AUSTIN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3015—W9737.5/7.5

3097-242

1966
AMS 6444 I SW—SERIES V882

CONGRESS

DRISKILL HOTEL

117 E. SEVENTH STREET

AUSTIN, TEXAS

CODE: 42-453 SCALE: 1"-50'

AUSTIN MAP REFERENCE NO. —

8
20603

12 STOREY STRUCTURE
ADDED 1930

CORRIDOR

ORIGINAL STRUCTURE

SEVENTH STREET

N

SIXTH STREET

BRAZOS

Lewis Co.,
Texas

Rogers 11/19
Keune

H30-HR

November 19, 1968

Mr. Richard D. Templin
School of Architecture
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712

Dear Mr. Templin:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the Driskill Hotel. Enclosed you will find a sheet outlining the means by which properties may be added to the National Register. The third one, nomination by a state, is the proper means to use for the Driskill Hotel. We suggest that you make your wishes known, and perhaps offer your services, to the State Liaison Officer for Texas. He is Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

We wish you well in your efforts to preserve this significant building.

Sincerely yours,

Russell V. Keune

Russell V. Keune
Assistant Keeper of the
National Register

Enclosures

cc:
Mr. Truett Latimer

Regional Director, Southwest
HR

JLRogers:jah

BASIC FILE RETAINED

NOV 25 1966

Entered in National Register

H34-RR

NOV 25 1966

BASIC FILE REMAINED IN HR

Hon. Ralph W. Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the "National Register of Historic Places."

11/18/69
Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed)

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 103 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Duplicate letters sent to:

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Wright Patman

Hon. J. Jake Pickle
Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez

cc:

Regional Director, Southwest Region

T-Mr. Butterfield

DAL-Mr. Melvin

Mr. Steen

HR

RGamble:nrm



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
801 19TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34-HR

NOV 25 1969

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Freeman Plantation (Marion County)
French Legation (Travis County)
Driskill Hotel (Travis County)
Ursuline Academy (Bexar County)



Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

September 20, 1974

Ms. Beth Grosvenor
Branch of Publications
National Register of
Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th & C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ms. Grosvenor:

Since the Driskill Hotel was accepted to the National Register in 1969, the Driskill Hotel Corporation has bought the hotel. A renovation of the building was done and presently Braniff International has the managing contract. The first two floors of the original structure are used for shops, restaurants, meeting facilities and offices, while the upper two floors contain hotel rooms. The 1930 high rise addition has also been modernized for room accommodations.

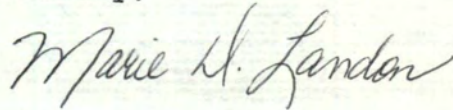
The Driskill Hotel is a four-story Richardsonian Romanesque hotel utilizing pressed brick dressed with rusticated white limestone. The original portion of the Driskill is a square shape with each of the four corners cut to provide diagonal entrances. In 1930 a high rise addition was joined to the north facade of the 1885 portion. A series of varying sized gables along the roofline define the organization of the exterior into bays and pavillions. On each facade there is a large central gable displaying the hotel's name "The Driskill" at the base. Two small crested gables flank the central one, while at each corner gables containing small round windows are at a 45° angle to further embellish the diagonally cut portions. Pitched roofs behind these gables meet the truncated hipped roof at right angles.

September 20, 1974

Another Richardsonian feature is the graduation in size of the arched windows from the large arches of the base which form an arcade to the series of small round arched windows of the top floor.

If you need information for other properties we will be glad to provide you with additional material.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marie D. Landon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Marie D. Landon
Historian

MDL/pbs