Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM Tr 8-7

TEXAS

COUNTY

STATE:

Travis

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 169.11.42.00 13 1. NAME COMMON: Driskill Hotel AND/OR HISTORIC 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 117 East 7th Street CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE 42 453 Texas Travis 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY ACCESSIBLE OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC ☐ District K Building Public Public Acquisition: Yes. Occupied X Restricted X Private ☐ In Process Site Structure X Unoccupied Unrestricted □ Both X Being Considered Object Preservation work ☐ No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural Government Park Comments Transportation not in Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Educational Military Religious use Museum Entertainment Scientific OWNER OF PROPERTY 4. OWNER'S NAME: Brown Securities STREET AND NUMBER: Brown Building CITY OR TOWN: STATE. CODE Austin 42 Texas 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: COUNTY Travis County Court House STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE 42 Austin Texas 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: ENTRY NUMBER None FOR NPS USE DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County ☐ Local DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: STREET AND NUMBER: ONLY CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

CONDITION				(Check One)		
	X Excellent	Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed
		(Check On	1e)		(Che	eck One)
	X Alter	red	☐ Unaltered		Moved	Original Site

Hotel in 1885. 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, imposts, capitols, keys, carbels, dragoons, 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 thirtyfive feet wide which intersects at the rotunda with two thirtyone 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
fdoor.

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 hydralic elevators, twenty foot high sheet iron cerrugated 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 compeletely 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,

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 Applica	ble and Known) 1886		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ 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	

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 acheivement and forcasted 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 And for travelers of the late nineteenth ceninstitution. tury the Driskill offered luxury accomodations at \$2.50 to \$5.00 per night for rooms and a full couse meal for thirtyfive 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

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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FOR NPS USE O	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1.11.42.0013	11/25/69

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(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 semicentennial 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.



Date October 31, 1969

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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 LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES 0 DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES R CORNER LATITUDE LONGITUDE LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes Seconds Minutes Degrees Seconds Degrees Minutes Seconds NW 970 44 ' 28 30° 4 ' 16' 0 NE SE SW 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 CODE COUNTY: STATE: CODE COUNTY: 11. FORM PREPARED BY NAME AND TITLE: M. Wayne Bell, AIA, Project Director Larry J. Kennedy, Historian DATE ORGANIZATION Texas State Historical Survey Committee 10-31-69 STREET AND NUMBER: 108 W. 15th Street CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Austin 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-I hereby certify that this property is included in the tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law National Register. 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 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation level of significance of this nomination is: NOV 25 1969 National ATTEST: Title State Liaison Officer

Date

12/4/129	National Register Inventory-Nomination Forms A 40 1110	NPS Number
RECEIPT	Muskell Stoll	69.11.42.0013
	Date of Receipt 10/30/69. Yes No Number Data Page Photo(s) Photo Description(s) Map(s) Map Description(s) Logged Acknowledged	SIGN CITY
REVIEW		1 John
	Historian Comments	B. L. 11/5/69
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	Federal Register Entry Annual Edition Entry Date 12/2/69	
	FILE FILE	
		WORKING NO.



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

Driskill Hotel, Travis County - 453

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

Latitude 97° 44' 28"

Longitude 30° 16' 04"

Please CHANGE this to correctly read:

Latitude 30° 16' 04" Longitude 97° 44' 28"

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



O Form the 100 is given usin



	Drishill Hotel	
	andred May	
-	117 F. 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)

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3.	PHOTO REFERENCE		-	VII RITIS	7		
	PHOTO CREDIT:	Texas State Historic	al Survey Con	mmittee			
	DATE OF PHOTO:	6/9/69					
	NEGATIVE FILED AT	Texas State Historic					
4.	IDENTIFICATION			. 131			
	DESCRIBE VIEW, D	IRECTION, ETC.					
	side facade at the corner of 6th and Brazos streets showing corner balconies and second and third floor porches above entrance south elevation						



Title: Drishilf Hotel

Loc. 117 E. 7th St.

Caustin, 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)

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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)

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Title: Driskill Hotel 117 E. 7th St. Loc. Custin Tex. PROPERTY OF THE MATTONNI REESTED

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)

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Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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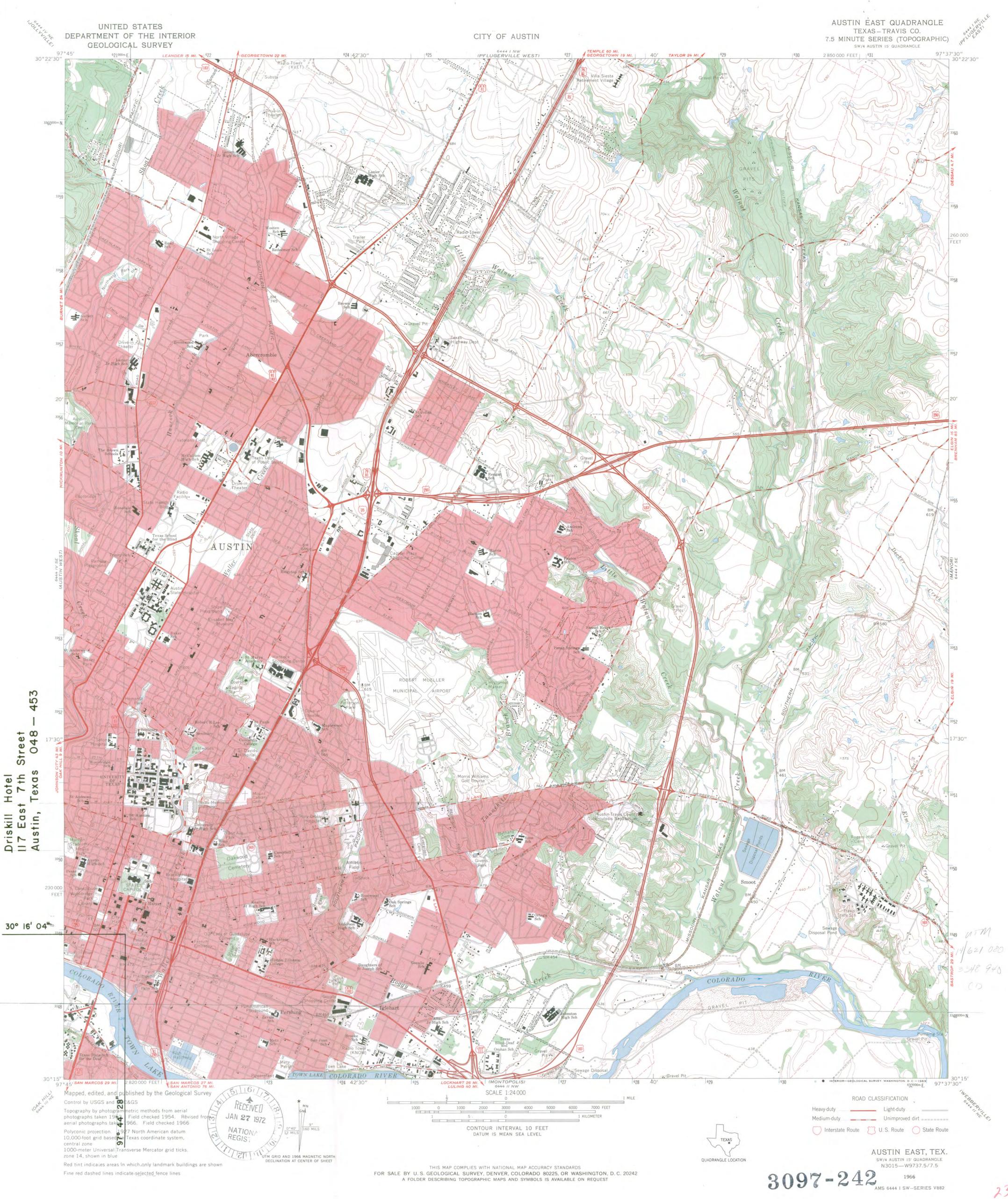
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE		
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COMMON: Driskill Hotel AND/OR HISTORIC: LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 117 East 7th Street CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE: Texas MAP REFERENCE SOURCE: United States Department of the Interior Geological Surveyed Scale: 1:24000 Date: 1954, 1966	1	po dii omilios attach to or	cherose with	69-11-42-	00/3 11/25/69
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CONGRESS

Travis Co., Texas

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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

Entered in National Register

Boo. Bulph V. Yarbanzagh United States Denate Bashington, D. C.

Isor Senator Yazherough!

So ero pleased to inform you that the Idetoric properties listed on the enclosure have been natheted by the officer appointed by the Covernor for the implementation of the Maticall Historic Preservation Progress in Terms and have been entered into the "Noticeal Register of Mictoric Places." Henator John G. Tower and the appropriate Degressatetives hove also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the Notional Register is enclosed.

> Sincerely yours, (Signei)

RGcmble:nm

Ernest Allen Compally Calef, Office of Archeology and Distoric Preservation

Enclosured

cc: Mr. Truett Letimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Condittee, 100 West 19th Street, Austin, Texas 70701

Duplicate litters sent to: Hon. John G. Tower Hom. Wright Patur

Mon. J. Joke Pickle Hon. Homy B. Conzulez

Regional Director, I-Mr. Butterfield

Southweat Region



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

E01 19TH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

IN REPLY REFER TO:

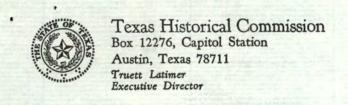
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MOV 25 1060

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)



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 450 angle to further embellish the diagonally cut portions. Pitched roofs behind these gables meet the truncated hipped roof at right angles.