

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS
MAY 3, 2023
HR-2023-034969
HANNIG BUILDING
204-206 EAST SIXTH STREET

PROPOSAL

Restore main doors, remove non-historic awning, and add new signage. Paint a “ghost sign” on the secondary façade.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1) Remove existing awning & existing clock signage and replace with new blade sign. Add gold foil lettering on transom windows.
- 2) Refinish existing oak doors, refinish brass handles, add brass kick plates to match existing handles
- 3) Paint masonry signage at west façade.

ARCHITECTURE

The Hannig Building’s ornate Renaissance Revival façade is one of the most recognizable on Sixth Street, with ornate pilasters, an extravagant cornice, and rhythmic fenestration.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin’s [Historic Design Standards](#) are based on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects at historic landmarks. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repair and alterations

1. General standards

The proposed project does not remove historic material at the main façade. It repairs and restores the existing doors.

1.4 Do not attempt to re-create an architectural detail or element without proof that it existed on the building historically. Documentation can be physical (traces on the building), written (such as building plans), or photographic.

The proposed ghost sign was not originally extant on the building’s corner façade. Creating a sign where no sign existed historically promotes an inappropriate sense of false historicism.

4. Exterior walls and trim

4.7 Obtain historic approval before changing exterior paint colors or painting unpainted masonry.

The proposed location of the painted sign appears previously unpainted; adding paint to historic masonry is not appropriate.

11. Commercial storefronts

11.7 Do not add canopies or awnings to the front of a historic landmark unless physical, photographic, or plan evidence exists that they were historically present.

The proposed project removes non-historic awnings with no replacement proposed, which meets the standards.

Guidelines for Signs in Historic Districts or at a City Historic Landmark

Number of Signs: The Commission allows one sign per building, unless the building has multiple tenants.

The proposed project mostly meets the standard, and does not add more signage to the main façade than is currently present.

Sign Types: The Commission may allow window signs, awning signs, projecting signs, and flush mounted signs for most commercial buildings.

The proposed blade and window signs meet the standards.

Sign Size: The maximum size for signs depends on the sign type. Projecting (blade) signs: 6 square feet

The proposed blade sign is appropriate in size, mirroring existing signage.

Sign Design, Coloring and Materials: Use simple shapes, such as rectangular or oval signs. The Commission recommends painted wood or metal signs with matte finishes for all signs; plastic, reflective materials, and unfinished surfaces are not allowed. Limit the colors used in a sign to no more than three. For sites with multiple signs, all signs should have corresponding or matching designs, coloring and materials. Signs should match or complement the existing color scheme

of the building to the maximum extent feasible. Lettering: No more than two typefaces are allowed. Avoid lettering which appears too contemporary in the sign.

The proposed designs of the blade and window signs are appropriate.

Sign Placement: Flush-mounted and projecting signs should be positioned near the business entrance immediately above the principal entry to the business. Single-tenant signs are not allowed over doorways serving multiple tenants. As required by the city land development code, the bottom of the sign shall be a minimum of nine (9) feet above the sidewalk. When feasible, place signs to align with others in the block. Signs should not obscure or cover architectural elements, such as windows, decorative banding, or other ornamentation.

Proposed placement of the blade and window signs is appropriate. The proposed faux-historical sign at the secondary façade obscures previously unpainted masonry.

Sign Mounting: New signs should utilize existing mounting apparatus whenever possible. If new bolt holes or brackets are necessary for sign installation, care should be taken to ensure that installation does not damage historic building materials in any way.

The proposed blade and window signs appear appropriately mounted. The proposed painted sign may damage the historic building materials beneath.

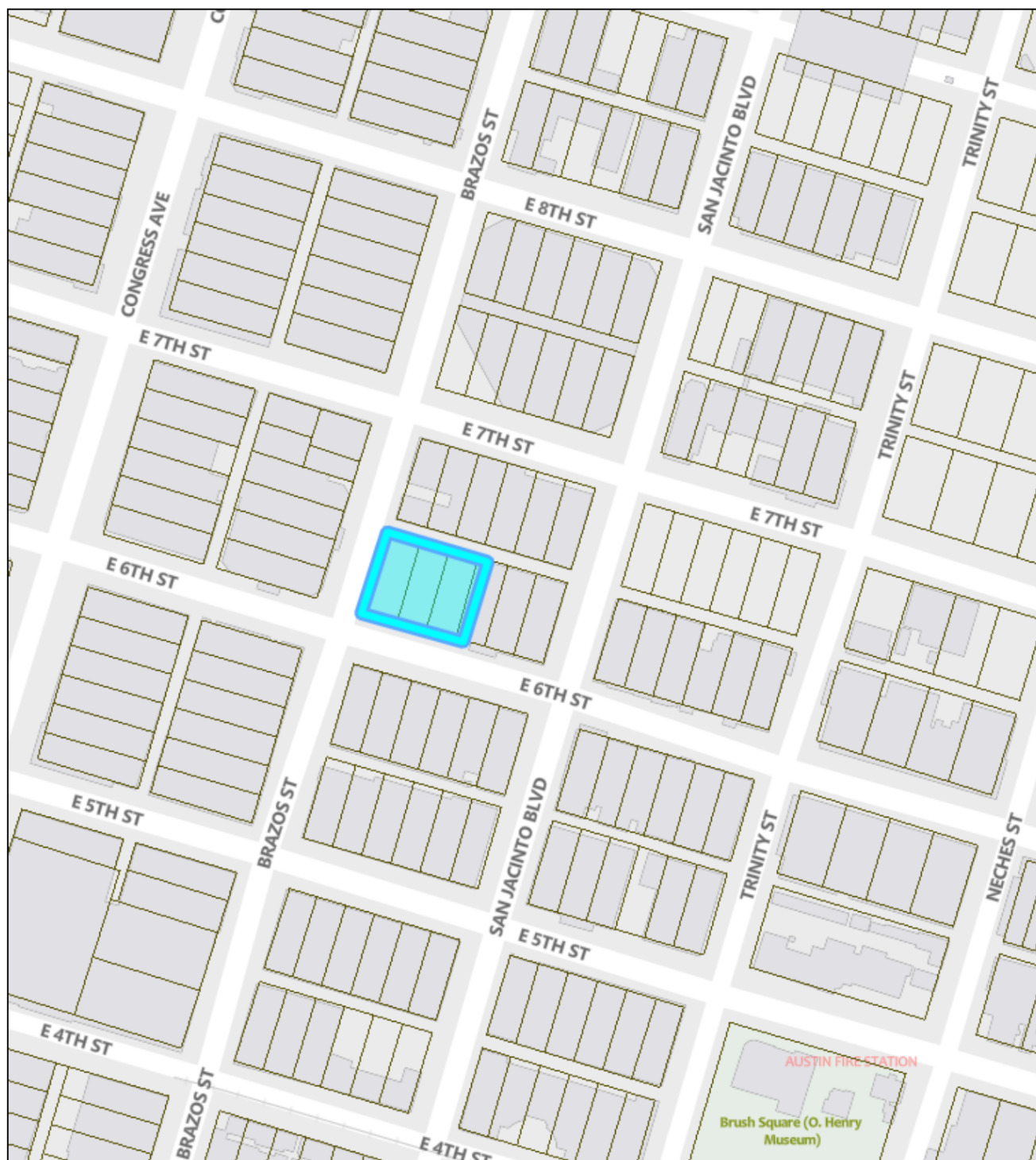
Summary

All elements of the project meet the applicable standards, save for the faux ghost sign.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the awning removal, door restoration, blade sign, and foil window sign. Do not approve application of paint to historic masonry.

LOCATION MAP



Lot Lines

Lot Line



1: 2400

4/14/2023

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204 E 6TH STREET



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