

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
JUNE 7, 2023
C14H-2017-0112; HR-2023-061497
DRISKILL HOTEL
604 BRAZOS STREET

PROPOSAL

Add safety guards to 12 balconies.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Attach new stainless steel mesh and guardrail extensions to interior of existing railings. Proposed guards are reversible and do not penetrate the existing balcony waterproofing.

ARCHITECTURE

The building's 2017 landmark designation form describes it in detail:

The Driskill Hotel reflects the defining characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style. It is a very heavy-appearing composition, with pressed brick walls trimmed with white limestone. Its principal entries are deeply recessed and trimmed in rusticated limestone in round arches. The windows are grouped singly, in pairs, or in triple sets, with a combination of round-arched and segmental-arched openings. The south (6th Street) and east (Brazos Street) elevations each contain a central, prominent gable with extensive ornamentation....Historic windows in the building exhibit a variety of configurations, including a multi-light round-arched transom, 2:2, and plate glass in the other round-arched openings on the ground floor. The south and east elevations also feature a two-story portico, each with a pressed stone railing on the second and third stories, and supported by plain round columns, with combination of stylized capitals, including those on the corners of the portico with stylized leaf designs, another defining characteristic of the Romanesque Revival style...¹

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) 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 or obscure historic railing materials.

6. Porches

6.5 Preserve the historic railing style. Do not replace an open railing with a solid wall unless one historically existed.

6.6 If a railing must be made higher for life safety purposes, retain the historic railing and add a visually light element at the required height that minimizes its appearance (e.g., glass or a narrow higher railing).

The proposed project preserves the historic railing style. The proposed safety barriers, installed inside the existing stone railings, appear visually light, and are removable.

Summary

The project meets the applicable standards.

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

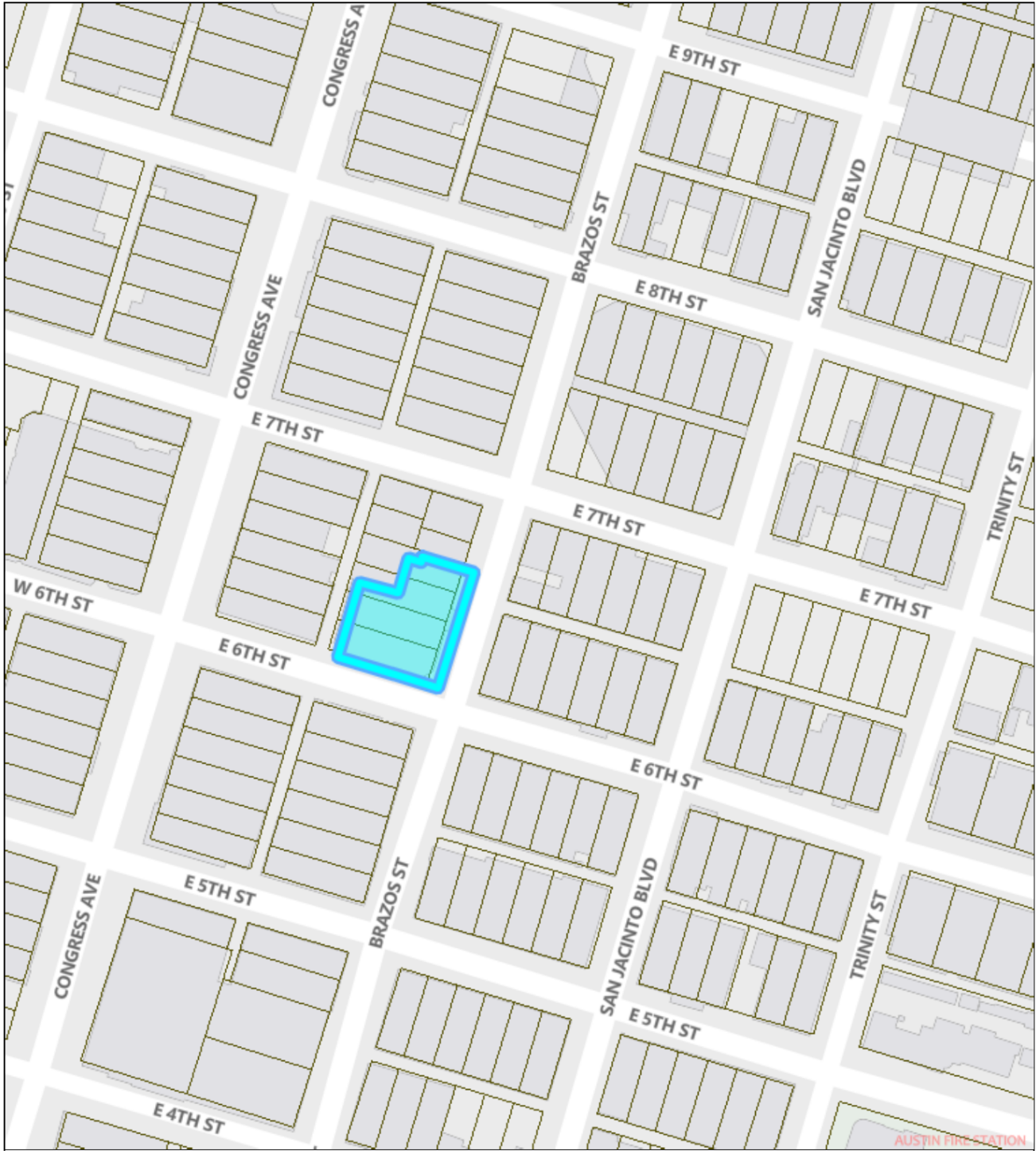
None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the application.

¹ Sadowsky, Steve. "Zoning Change Review Sheet: Driskill Hotel, C14H-2017-0112." 2017.

LOCATION MAP



1: 2400

Lot Lines
Lot Line



HR 23-061497
604 BRAZOS STREET



5/19/2023

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