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October 30, 2023

RE: Green & White Grocery Historic Landmark Designation

Dear Chair Heimsath, Vice Chair Featherston, and Members of the Historic Landmark Commission,

[Preservation Austin](#) exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation. We write to you today in support of historic zoning for Green & White Grocery, a landmark of East Austin's Mexican American heritage, for its Architecture, Historic Associations, and Community Value.

Founded in 1930s by Norverto and Susie Lopez, Green & White Grocery has been a family-owned business for three generations and an East Austin institution for nearly a century. Originally a general store with food and goods imported from Mexico, the shop became well-known for its tamales in the 1960s. The famous delicacy attracted hundreds of customers, especially around Christmastime, until they stopped producing tamales in the 1990s. John Cazares Sr., Lopez's son-in-law, took over the store when Lopez died. Cazares Sr. was a supportive and active member of the community, giving credit to customers who could not always afford to pay and arranging grocery deliveries for his elderly customers. In 1993, Cazares Sr. retired and passed the store to his son, John Cazares, Jr., who transformed the grocery into a botanica in 1996. The building is a great example of a Craftsman-style commercial building and features the Lopez's original grocery store signage. Now specializing in items that promote a healthy lifestyle including spiritual goods, votive candles, perfumes, and herbal supplements, Green & White Grocery continues to be a staple in the East Austin community.

In recent years, our organization has had the privilege of working with Mr. Cazares on two initiatives. In 2022, Green & White Grocery was featured in our [East Austin Barrio Landmarks Project](#), which honors the historic and cultural significance of East Austin's Mexican American community. In addition to documenting 25 sites associated with this heritage, our initiative also resulted in a successful State of Texas subject marker for Green & White. In 2023, Green & White was featured as a participating business in our first-ever [Legacy Business Month](#) passport, which guided Austinites through our city's iconic local businesses, encouraging them to celebrate and support the institutions that define so much of Austin's culture. We are proud to partner with Mr. Cazares in this work and look forward to continuing our fruitful partnership in the many years to come.

Preservation Austin wholeheartedly supports the designation of Green & White Grocery as a City of Austin Landmark and look forward to celebrating this significant preservation milestone for our city. Thank you for your consideration and your service to the City of Austin.

Sincerely,

Melissa Barry, President