

August 29, 2025
TJ Grossi
Executive Director
Schumann Consulting
236 Summer HL
New Braunfels, TX 78132

Re: *Recorded Texas Historic Landmark project review, Faust Hotel, 240 S. Seguin Street, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas (RTHL, NRHP)*

Dear Mr. Grossi,

It has come to our attention that the City of New Braunfels requests additional information regarding correspondence submitted to you in May of 2023. We understand the request involves the property at 240 South Seguin Street in New Braunfels known as the Faust Hotel, which is designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1984) and listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1985). This letter of clarification represents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The Faust Hotel (originally named the Travelers Hotel) was designed and constructed within the City of New Braunfels to represent the wealth and way of life in the city. It was the intent for the hotel to be a first-class experience and was placed within one of the primary thoroughfares in New Braunfels. In the National Register nomination, written in 1985—a year after the RTHL designation—the writer of the nomination notes that the Faust Hotel is one of the few medium-rise hotels still functioning as a hotel. They go on to describe in architectural detail that the building displays design elements unique in Spanish Renaissance Revival detail and specifically states, “the exterior is unlike that of any other hotel of its class in Texas.”

The Texas Historical Commission Division of Architecture Review Staff, led by Alexander Shane, functions as a regulatory review entity, providing guidance through recommendations based off the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Chapter 21.11. Within that Chapter the Code states that the Texas Historical Commission Staff will provide written comments. Our comments will be recommendations in nature.

Our office is aware of the sign originally proposed in the scope of work in 2023 has been painted on the masonry along the rear elevation of the building. Our letter, dated May 3, 2023, stated that a stand-alone sign would be the better alternative than painting directly on the masonry. Again, for clarification purposes, painting directly on the masonry is inappropriate and not a treatment the Texas Historical Commission would approve. Our office recommends cleaning off the paint with the gentlest of methods following cleaning standards in National Park Service *Preservation Brief #1: Assessing Cleaning and*

Water-Repellent Treatment for Historic Masonry Buildings. We still recommend a stand-alone sign with the same proportions, fastened into the mortar joints along the height of the rear elevation.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your interest in the cultural heritage of Texas, and for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project in accordance with Recorded Texas Historic Landmark legislation. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Alexander Shane at 512.463.8952.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexander Shane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Alexander Shane, Program Coordinator, Federal & State Review, Division of Architecture

For: Joseph Bell, Executive Director

Cc: Katie Totman, *Historic Preservation Officer, City of New Braunfels, via email*

Cindy Coers, *Comal County Historical Commission Chair, via email*

Andy Duettra, *Owner, Faust Hotel, via email*

JB/AS