



SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

STATEMENT:

December 6, 2017

TO: Michael Guarino, Chair, and Members
Historic and Design Review Commission, City of San Antonio
RE: Item No. 24 – HDRC Case No. 2017-533 / 901 & 905 Nogalitos Street

The San Antonio Conservation Society began surveying San Antonio's historic gas stations in 1983. In 2016 the City of San Antonio proposed the most significant 30 of these resources for designation as landmarks, including 901 S. Nogalitos. This 1930s gas station has significance in terms of its style, integrity, and prominence within the survey of historic gas stations in San Antonio. 901 S. Nogalitos meets at least five of the criteria for landmark designation described in the Unified Development Code.

First, 901 S. Nogalitos meets Criterion 6 as a particularly fine example of a gas station. Second, the station meets Criterion 8 due to its architectural integrity of design and materials. Built in 1934 for the Pure Oil company, 901 S. Nogalitos later became a Bremer station in the 1940s and 50s, a Sinclair service station in the 1960s and then a tire repair facility. Its steeply pitched "rainsplitter" roof and applied half-timber details make it a rare example of Tudor Revival Style among San Antonio gas stations. The "house and canopy" form was detailed in brick with an integral chimney which is still prominent. The original house and canopy form survive intact, with additions to the rear and side of the main structure that do not obscure its historic form.

Third, the station meets Criterion 11 because its distinctive character strongly exemplifies the history of San Antonio. Pure Oil built stations within a comparatively small area of south Texas, according to *A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas* by Dwayne Jones. The unusual style was a hallmark of the smaller, regional Pure Oil company and is generally not found in the larger national chains.

Fourth, the station meets Criterion 12 as it is an important example of a particular architectural type or specimen, namely the house-and-canopy gas station, which appeared in San Antonio in a number of styles over time.

Finally, the station occupies a prominent site where Nogalitos Street angles near San Pedro Creek, giving it a distinctive presence in the streetscape. This fulfills Criterion 15 as a resource that greatly contributes to the character or image of a defined neighborhood or area in San Antonio. It is a local neighborhood landmark that hearkens to the area's early development.

Given its significance as defined by the original survey, its history and architectural integrity, the San Antonio Conservation Society believes that the structure at 901 S. Nogalitos should be preserved as a City of San Antonio landmark.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Beavin, President

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The Purpose of this Society is to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs, relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty, and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values.