



# SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

December 19, 2018

## STATEMENT:

TO: Michael Guarino, Chair, and Members

Historic and Design Review Commission, City of San Antonio

RE: **Agenda Items #22 –219 N. San Marcos, #23 - 428 S. San Augustine, #24 - 430 S. San Augustine**

The San Antonio Conservation Society supports the finding of the Office of Historic Preservation that the properties located at 219 N. St. Marcos, 428 S. San Augustine, and 430 S. San Augustine in San Antonio meet the criteria set forth in the Uniform Development Code for designation as San Antonio landmarks.

219 N. San Marcos was listed as a grocery store for more than half a century beginning in 1899. It also served as a residence. The building hosted several important community institutions, including Valencia Grocery and Compadres Place. Valencia Grocery was owned by Antonio Tarin Valencia who sponsored many sports teams playing in the Mexican American soccer, baseball and basketball leagues. Rosalio Camarillo owned the bar Compadres Place for almost 20 years in the 1960s and 70s. The building meets criteria 1, 3, 7, 8 and 15.

428 S. San Augustine is a vernacular 1936 shotgun house typical of San Antonio and particularly the West Side. It retains sufficient architectural integrity to convey its history, and its location next to the important building at 430 S. San Augustine reinforces a specific neighborhood character while also providing a physical reminder of key moments in neighborhood history more than 50 years ago. It thus meets criteria 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 13.

430 S. San Augustine was the location of several key community agencies during the rise of the Latino Civil Rights movement from the 1940s through the 1960s. Archbishop Robert E. Lucey founded the Bishop's Committee for the Spanish-Speaking in 1945. By 1961, it was located in the commercial building at 430 S. San Augustine. This office created leadership opportunities and training for the local Mexican-American community. The office later housed several other important social service agencies in the 1960s, including Action for Community Development, West Side Education Opportunities Center and San Antonio Neighborhood Youth Center. This property thus meets criteria 1, 3, 7, 9, 11 and 13 for designation as a San Antonio landmark.

Respectfully submitted,

SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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.

