



28 May 2015

Dear friends,

What a great opportunity for El Paso to at last inventory its downtown buildings with an architectural survey! Visitors constantly comment on our downtown buildings, walking around and looking up to get a sense of our historical past.

When friends are invited into our homes, we delight in being able to tell them something about ourselves through the things they see. How ridiculous it would be if they asked about an interesting person in a photograph and we couldn't tell them, or where a painting came from and we didn't have a clue. In our own home? It would be obvious we didn't know anything about where we lived and not much about who we are.

The same is true of our historic downtown buildings, each with a story of its own. How enriching to learn something about the architect who designed it, the materials he used, how the building served the community, and who worked and dined there. An architectural survey is the first step to all of this wonderful history, something we cannot afford to lose.

Being nominated for the National Registry is also an exciting prospect, with the possibility of having downtown named a National Historic District. One of the reasons El Paso may be so little known, is that we have not shared ourselves – especially our historic architecture - with others.

Now is the time to change that, with no penalties or tied hands for the buildings' owners, only benefits. Positive opportunities for growth will occur, allowing us and our children to know where we live and who we are.

Most Sincerely,

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