



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

June 1, 2015

Jessica Herrera, Redevelopment Manager
City of El Paso
801 Texas Avenue
El Paso, TX 79901

Re: National Register Listing for Downtown El Paso

Ms. Herrera,

As Historic Preservation Officer for the City of San Antonio, I am writing to express my support for your efforts to create a National Register District for Downtown El Paso.

Historic preservation is a key component to urban revitalization, especially here in San Antonio. As our city center is revived, we are able to maintain the character and the sense of place that defines our City. Our historic downtown has contributed greatly to the heritage tourism industry that supports our local economy. Historic sites are top destinations in Downtown San Antonio. The income generated by visitors has an overall economic impact of more than \$12 billion and employment generated by the tourism industry tops 112,000 jobs. Most of those visitors are staying, eating and shopping Downtown.

With the recent creation of a State Historic Tax Credit for rehabilitation projects, there is no better time to invest in a historic building in Texas. If listed under a national register designation, buildings in the downtown area will qualify for both state and federal tax incentives. In San Antonio, the state credit is proving to be an imperative economic development tool, and we are starting to see numerous projects in our downtown move forward through the use of the credit.

In San Antonio, local developers, downtown property owners, and City leadership have recognized the potential for revitalization through the use of the tax credits and have begun to study the expansion of our own National Register Districts to include more downtown properties. The proposed district for El Paso is not only necessary to ensure that the charm and character of your downtown is preserved for future generations, but it will also yield a valuable economic development tool for the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shanon Shea Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shanon Shea Miller
Historic Preservation Officer
City of San Antonio