

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013
NRD-2013-0064
501 Congress Avenue
Congress Avenue

PROPOSAL

Remove the existing architectural panels from the facades of the building and re-design the existing façade.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes to remove the existing black metal “fin” panels that currently cover the fenestrated façade of the building, and refurbish the existing façade. The ground floor will have a new retail-size window system and glazed brick over the existing concrete columns and a corrugated metal spandrel over the windows; a new steel canopy will be erected over the ground-floor windows and entries; corrugated metal panels will be installed in the existing spandrels; new ribbon window systems will be installed in the upper stories.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The building is not contributing to the Congress Avenue Historic District because its construction date is beyond the period of significance for the district. There are no applicable design guidelines that specifically relate to this type of project and building; however, general design guideline principles stress compatibility with the historic character of the district in terms of materials, height, scale, and fenestration patterns.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Release the permit after completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package consisting of photographs of existing conditions, for archiving at the Austin History Center. Despite the status of the building as non-contributing to the historic district, it has been a fixture on a prominent corner downtown and should be recorded before the proposed modification to the façade.