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December 10, 2017

Ms. Mary Jo Galindo and Historic Landmark Commissioners
City of Austin
Post Office Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767-8865
Sent via E-mail

Re: Driskill Hotel 604 Brazos Street

Dear Chair Galindo and Commissioners:

Preservation Austin supports the owner initiated local historic designation of the Driskill Hotel located at 604 Brazos. The Driskill, an Austin icon, is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

This handsome Romanesque Revival building was designed in 1885 by Jasper Preston and Son of Austin for Captain Jesse Driskill. The hotel was to be the premiere destination in Austin, catering to travelers and the lovely ballrooms were the sites of governors' inaugurals, weddings, and other state and local functions.

As you may know, Preservation Austin (at the time the Heritage Society of Austin) was instrumental in saving the Driskill from the wrecking ball in the late 1960s by bringing together civic leaders to form the Driskill Hotel Corporation. The building is now owned by the Hyatt Hotels Corporation and they have been working to maintain this symbol of Austin.

For 64 years, Preservation Austin has been the leading protector of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. As such, we believe that preservation of this unique resource celebrates our past, enhances livability and a sense of identity for our city.

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson

President, Preservation Austin