



December 7, 2017

City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission
PO Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Mueller Control Tower

Dear Commissioners,

Mid Tex Mod, the nonprofit voice for preserving Central Texas' mid-century heritage, respectfully and enthusiastically supports historic zoning for the Mueller Control Tower. This iconic civic landmark is one of the most prominent works of high-style modernism in Austin. The building is the last, but no less distinctive, component of Fehr & Granger's nationally-recognized design for the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport. Our organization supports historic zoning as a means to honor the tower's place in Austin's history and preserve it for generations to come.

The Mueller Control Tower was the centerpiece of Fehr & Granger's Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, completed in 1961. Arthur Fehr (1904–1969) and Charles Granger (1913-1966) were pioneers in Central Texas modernism. Both Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, their award-winning work garnered national attention and helped put Austin on the map for modern design. *Architectural Record* and *Progressive Architecture* regularly featured their works. This includes the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, which *Progressive Architecture* recognized in 1959 and 1961. Other important landmarks include the Granger House and Perch (City of Austin Landmark – 2007; National Register of Historic Places – 2006); Darnall House (City of Austin Landmark – 2017); St. Stephen's Episcopal Chapel and School; and O. Henry Middle School. This year the Austin History Center and AIA Austin celebrated Fehr & Granger's legacy with an extensive photography exhibition. The Robert Mueller Municipal Airport is widely regarded as Fehr & Granger's most important civic work, ushering countless travelers to and from the city for a generation.

The Mueller Control Tower's graceful design and historical prominence make it one of Austin's most memorable landmarks. It survives as a beloved symbol of the new Mueller development, firmly rooting this new community to our past. Historic zoning will ensure that the tower will be preserved and properly maintained as it should be. Mid Tex Mod is further excited that the building could be returned to public use, so that we can all experience the building and its history as never before.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Derrington
President, Mid Tex Mod

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December 9, 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: Robert Mueller Airport Control Tower, Berkman Drive

Dear Chair Galindo and Commissioners:

Preservation Austin supports the initiation of local historic designation for the Robert Mueller Airport Control Tower located on Berkman Drive. The Control Tower is the last physical vestige of the Mueller Airport and retains a high degree of integrity. We are pleased that the City of Austin is taking the steps to protect this icon structure. Preservation Austin hopes the City will continue to designate more of their historic places, parks and structures.

The Tower and airport were designed by notable local architects, Fehr and Granger, and constructed between 1960 and 1961. The airport received a design award in 1959 from *Progressive Architecture* magazine. The Jury noted that the building was “an excellent solution in planning as well as design expression.” The Control Tower still maintains its integrity and is a reminder of Mueller Airport and the growth and development of aviation in 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