



RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION

Historic Preservation Commission

Recommendation Number: (2021-04RR): Recommending that the City Council support the restoration and preservation of the Dunbar School Building, also known as the Dunbar Home Economics Building.

WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan, "Vision San Marcos: A River Runs Through Us," recognizes that the citizens of San Marcos "are conscious of preserving our rich historical past and will pursue future cultural enrichment"; and

WHEREAS, toward that end, the City boasts seven locally designated historic districts, including the Dunbar Historic District, and nine locally designated landmarks, including the Dunbar School Building, the only surviving African American school building in Hays County; and

WHEREAS, the Dunbar School Building is culturally significant to the African American community in San Marcos as it was once a part of the campus of the Dunbar School during the era of segregation and is the only surviving property following the tragic fire of 1986 that destroyed the larger school building, only three years after the school's listing on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Dunbar School Building is representative of the implementation of vocational education in Texas following passage of the Smith-Hughes Act by the 64th Congress in 1917 and encompasses the character defining features of a "cottage" type of home economics building recommended by both federal and state boards of education; and

WHEREAS, the Dunbar School Building was evaluated with a high preservation priority in the "My Historic SMTX Historic Resources Survey" (2019), the preservation of which highlights its cultural significance and enhances the integrity of the Dunbar Historic District; and

WHEREAS, the Dunbar School Building, because of its architectural and historic significance, should be restored according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties under either the Standards for Preservation or the Standards for Restoration; and

WHEREAS, preservation should not be solely viewed through the lens of architecture and preservation matters to all communities and should reflect the diversity of the entire history of San Marcos; and

WHEREAS, to uphold the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and to preserve the City's historical and cultural resources for future generations, the Historic Preservation Commission has explored possible means to enable the restoration and continued maintenance of the Dunbar School

Building, including potential designation on the National Register of Historic Places, and requesting a qualified professional Historic Preservation Architect prepare a Historic Structures Report to include a set of “as-built” drawings, a condition report, needs assessment, as well as recommendations for its preservation, restoration, and possible uses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the San Marcos City Council consider supporting the restoration and preservation of the Dunbar School Building, also known as the Dunbar Home Economic Building.

Date of Approval: July 1, 2021

Record of the vote: 5-0

Attest:



Ryan Patrick Perkins, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission