

**Statement of Significance for 3203 S. Presa (Fire Station no. 13)
San Antonio, Texas**

The fire station located at 3203 S. Presa was constructed in 1920 at a cost of \$25,804.94 to replace a previous firehouse located at 2901 S. Presa at Hicks.¹ Its design embodies the eclecticism of the early 20th century and combines a number of stylistic influences, including Mission Revival and Spanish Eclectic. It is similar to other revivalist style fire stations in San Antonio of the time period. It was built of fireproof construction with concrete front with brick and tile curtain walls, brick and concrete ornamentation and wood on the sides.²

Fire stations became more prevalent in San Antonio as local laws regarding fire prevention were codified. Between 1870 and 1930 numerous fire stations were built within the original 36-square mile boundary of the city. Many of these fire stations still exist and are in active use as fire stations, including station #13.³

Fire station #13 meets the following criteria for local landmark designation:

Its value as a visible or archaeological reminder of the cultural heritage of the community, or national event [35-607(b)1] as a significant early 20th century fire station reflecting San Antonio's history of fire fighting and its continued operation as a functioning fire station;

Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials [35-607(b)5] as a significant example of an early 20th century fire station reflecting Mission Revival and Spanish Eclectic influences;

Its historical, architectural or cultural character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, bridges, acequias, gas stations, transportation shelters, or other commercial structures [35-607(b)6] as an early 20th century fire station;

Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature [35-607(b)7] its prominent corner location within an established residential neighborhood;

Its historical, architectural, or cultural integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship [35-607(b)8];

It is distinctive in character, interest or value; strongly exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, ethnic or historical heritage of San Antonio, Texas or the United States [35-607(b)11];

It is an important example of a particular architectural type or specimen [35-607(b)12];

¹ "San Antonio, Texas Historic Fire Stations" by Gloria Lamoureaux.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

May 15, 2013

2013199

HDRC CASE NO: 2013-128

ADDRESS: 3203 S. Presa

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 2978 BLK 3 LOT C6 & S IRR 66.98 FT OF N 189.66 FT OF E IRR 242 FT OF A6

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Yes

APPLICANT: Office of Historic Preservation 1901 S Alamo

OWNER: City of San Antonio

TYPE OF WORK: Finding of Historic Significance

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Finding of Historic Significance for Fire Station #13 at 3203 S. Presa.

FINDINGS:

- a. Fire Station #13 was constructed in 1920. It is eclectic in its style, incorporating Mission Revival and Spanish Eclectic influences, with brick and tile exterior as well as concrete ornamentation and wood. The structure continues to function as a working fire station.
- b. Fire Station #13 meets more than the three required criteria for landmark designation, as per the UDC Section 35-607, reference above.
- c. Staff finds that this building represents a fine example of an early 20th century fire station and its prominent location on a corner within a residential neighborhood gives it high visibility within the area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval as submitted based on these findings.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Approved as submitted based on findings a through c.

Shanon Shea Miller
Historic Preservation Officer