HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

October 16, 2013 Agenda Item No: 17

HDRC CASE NO: ADDRESS: LEGAL DESCRIPTION:	2013-283 408 E. Houston NCB 416 BLK 23 LOT 22 (SAT HOUSTON SUBD)
ZONING:	D H HS RIO-3
CITY COUNCIL DIST.:	1
DISTRICT:	Alamo Plaza Historic District
LANDMARK:	Yes - Alterman's and United Cigar Building
APPLICANT:	Nick Naik
OWNER:	SA Hou Alamo LLC
TYPE OF WORK:	Revisions to previously-approved scope
REQUEST:	

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of the following revisions to the hotel design at 408 E Houston:

1.Construct front (north) façade to include a 1'-9" setback beyond the adjacent Maverick Building;

- 2.Reduce the building height;
- 3. Change pillars and canopy at rooftop terrace area; and

4.Implement minor changes to the fenestrations.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 4, Guidelines for New Construction

1. Building and Entrance Orientation

A. FAÇADE ORIENTATION

i. *Setbacks*—Align front facades of new buildings with front facades of adjacent buildings where a consistent setback has been established along the street frontage. Use the median setback of buildings along the street frontage where a variety of setbacks exist. Refer to UDC Article 3, Division 2. Base Zoning Districts for applicable setback requirements. ii. *Orientation*—Orient the front façade of new buildings to be consistent with the predominant orientation of historic buildings along the street frontage.

B. ENTRANCES

i. *Orientation*—Orient primary building entrances, porches, and landings to be consistent with those historically found along the street

A. SCALE AND MASS

i. *Similar height and scale*—Design new construction so that its height and overall scale are consistent with nearby historic buildings. In residential districts, the height and scale of new construction should not exceed that of the majority of historic buildings by more than one-story. In commercial districts, building height shall conform to the established pattern. If there is no more than a 50% variation in the scale of buildings on the adjacent block faces, then the height of the new building shall not exceed the tallest building on the adjacent block face by more than 10%.

ii. *Transitions*—Utilize step-downs in building height, wall-plane offsets, and other variations in building massing to provide a visual transition when the height of new construction exceeds that of adjacent historic buildings by more than one-half story.

iii. *Foundation and floor heights*—Align foundation and floor-to-floor heights (including porches and balconies) within one foot of floor-to-floor heights on adjacent historic structures.

B. ROOF FORM

i. *Similar roof forms*—Incorporate roof forms—pitch, overhangs, and orientation—that are consistent with those predominantly found on the block. Roof forms on residential building types are typically sloped, while roof forms on non-residential building types are more typically flat and screened by an ornamental parapet wall.

C. RELATIONSHIP OF SOLIDS TO VOIDS

i. *Window and door openings*—Incorporate window and door openings with a similar proportion of wall to window space as typical with nearby historic facades. Windows, doors, porches, entryways, dormers, bays, and pediments shall be considered similar if they are no larger than 25% in size and vary no more than 10% in height to width ratio from adjacent historic facades.

ii. *Façade configuration*— The primary façade of new commercial buildings should be in keeping with established patterns. Maintaining horizontal elements within adjacent cap, middle, and base precedents will establish a consistent street wall through the alignment of horizontal parts. Avoid blank walls, particularly on elevations visible from the street. No new façade should exceed 40 linear feet without being penetrated by windows, entryways, or other defined bays.

3. Materials and Textures

A. NEW MATERIALS

i. *Complementary materials*—Use materials that complement the type, color, and texture of materials traditionally found in the district. Materials should not be so dissimilar as to distract from the historic interpretation of the district. For example, corrugated metal siding would not be appropriate for a new structure in a district comprised of homes with wood siding.

B. REUSE OF HISTORIC MATERIALS

Salvaged materials—Incorporate salvaged historic materials where possible within the context of the overall design of the new structure.

6. Mechanical Equipment and Roof Appurtenances

B. SCREENING

iii. Roof-mounted equipment—Screen and set back devices mounted on the roof to avoid view from public right-of-way.

FINDINGS:

- a. A Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of the hotel was approved on October 15, 2013, with the stipulation that the vehicular entry off of Houston Street be reduced to a single lane. The current proposal meets this requirement. Other revisions have been made to the design and have been submitted to HDRC review.
- b. These requests were reviewed by the Design Review Committee on November 13, 2014. The applicant noted that while the design of the building footprint has not been altered, it was previously unknown that the proposed hotel would extend slightly beyond the Maverick Building. The Maverick building is not aligned with the property line, resulting in the offset condition. The hotel will follow the property line and align with the building immediately to the east which is also located at the property line. The applicant clarified that the cornice of the Maverick Building, which extends over the property line, will terminate into the new building. The committee noted that the cornice of the Maverick was damaged at this corner and that the proposed offset was acceptable. The other changes were noted to not have any significant impacts.
- c. According to the Guidelines for New Construction 1.A.i., the front facades of new buildings should be aligned with the front facades of the adjacent buildings where there is a consistent setback. Staff finds that there is a consistent setback at this location, and generally along Houston Street. A survey by staff indicates that only the Vouge Building at Houston and Navarro extends beyond an adjacent building. The currently requested design indicates that the front façade will project approximately 1'-9" beyond the adjacent Maverick Building. This is not consistent with the Guidelines. However, given the irregularity of the buildings at this location, staff finds the offset to be acceptable.
- d. The reduction in building height has minimal impact to the approved design and the overall height remains consistent with the Guidelines for New Construction 1.A.i.

- e. The proposed changes to the rooftop terrace design also has minimal impact to the approved design and continues to provide an articulated "cap" consistent with the Guidelines for New Construction 1.C.ii.
- f. The changes to the fenestrations maintain traditional window alignment patterns consistent with the Guidelines for New Construction 1.C.i.

RECOMMENDATION:

1-4.Staff recommends approval as submitted based on findings b through f.

CASE COMMENTS:

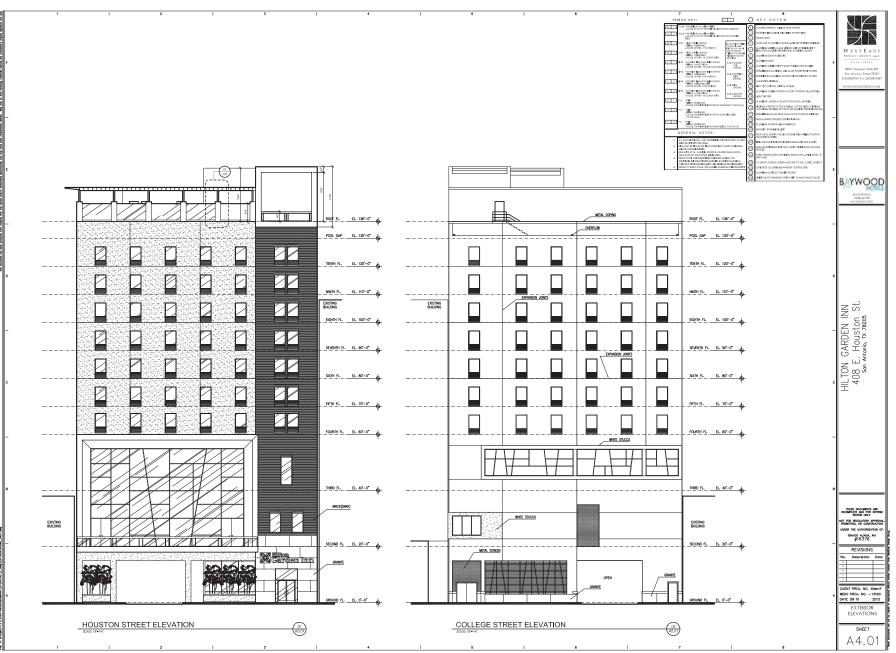
The applicant shall complete all requirements for archaeology in accordance with a 2008 plat approval.

CASE MANAGER:

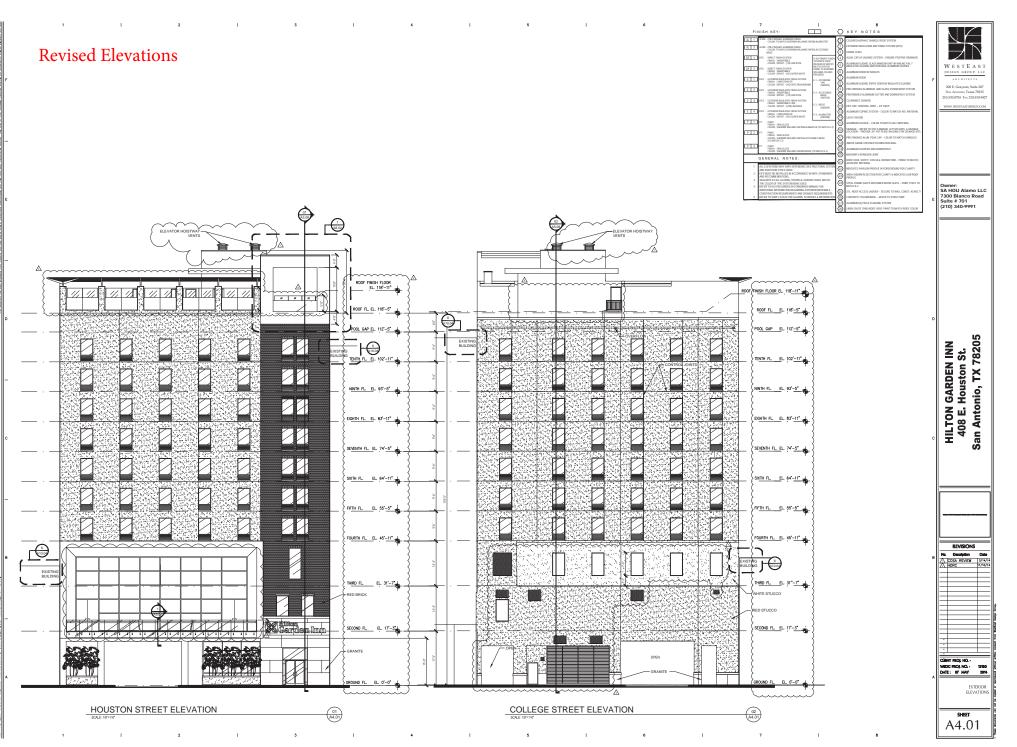
Adriana Ziga

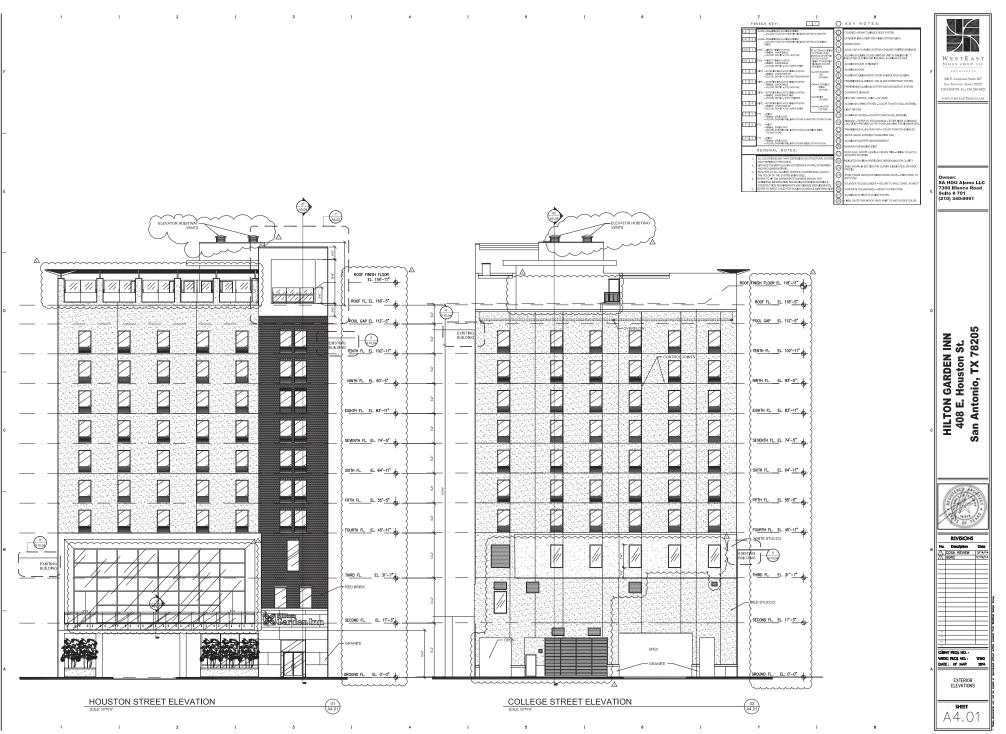


Original Elevations

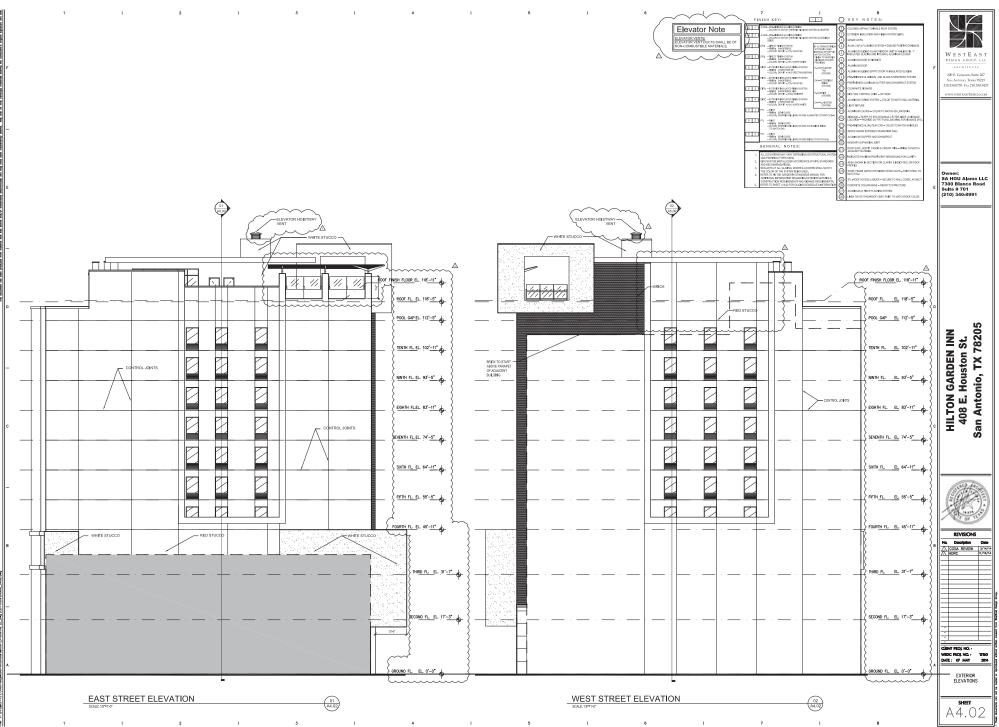


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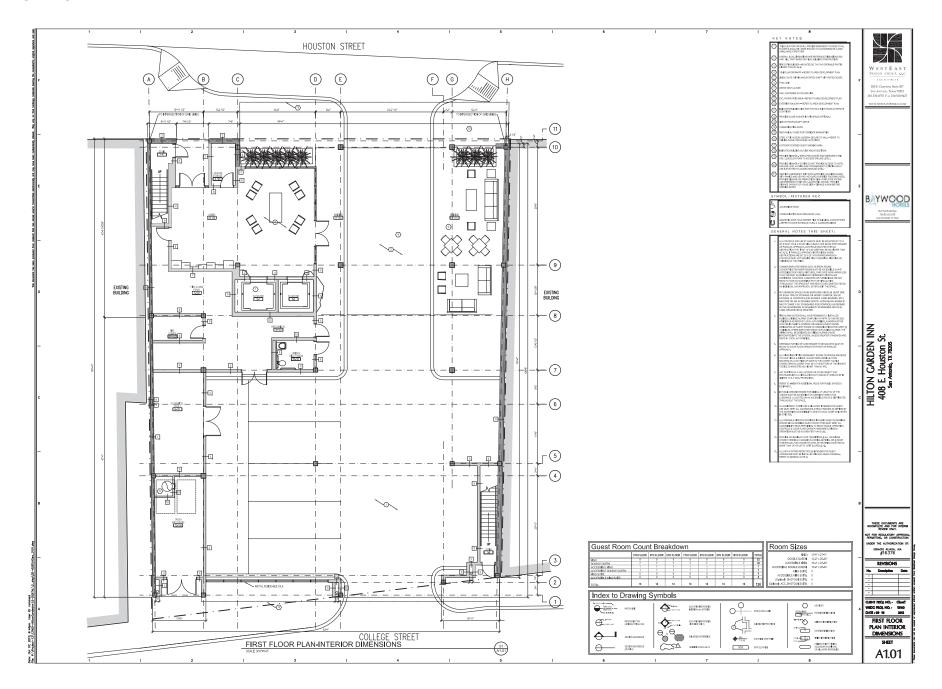


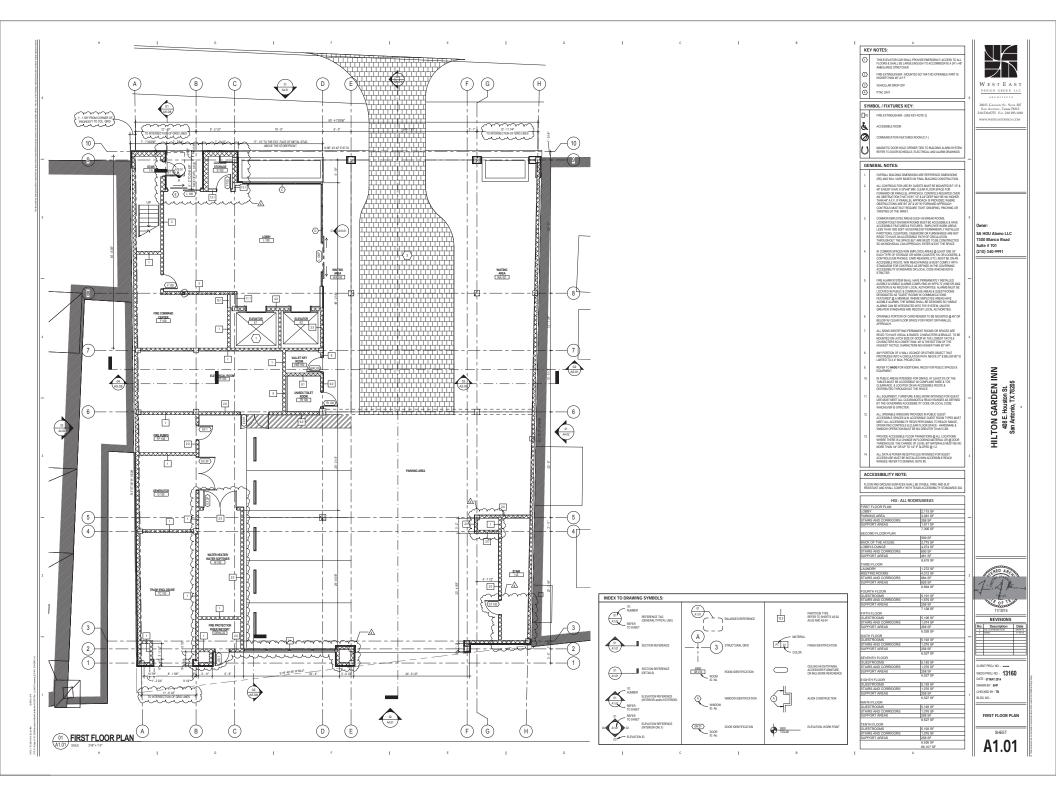
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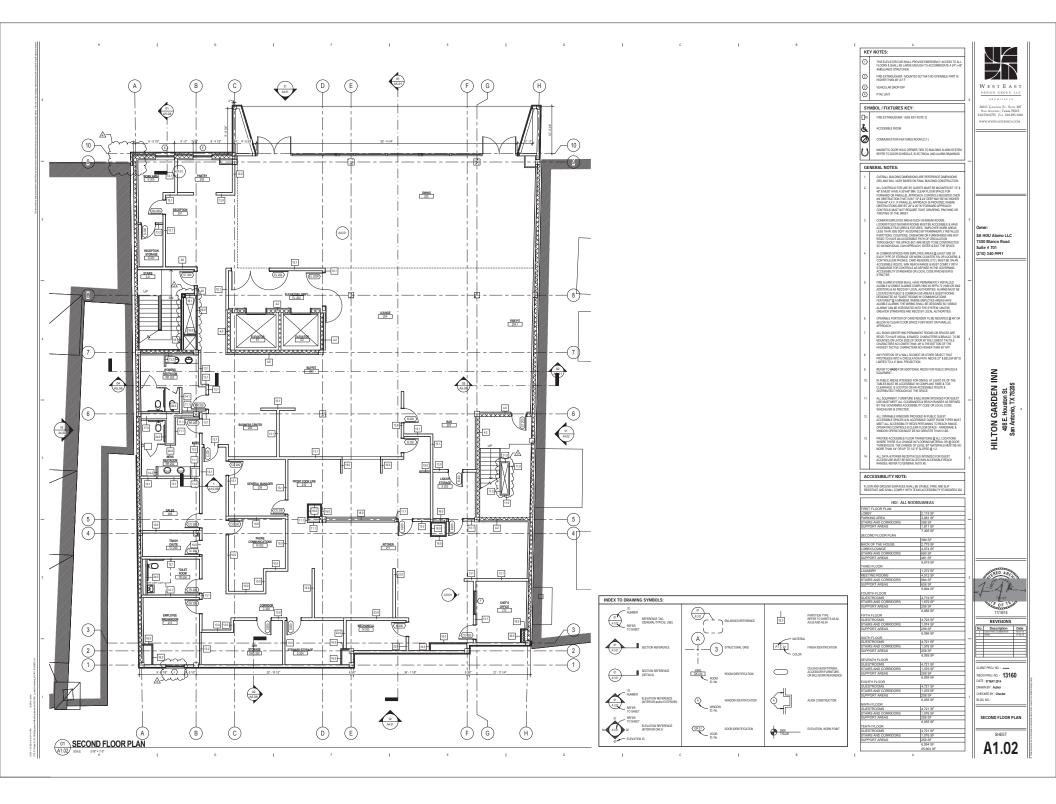


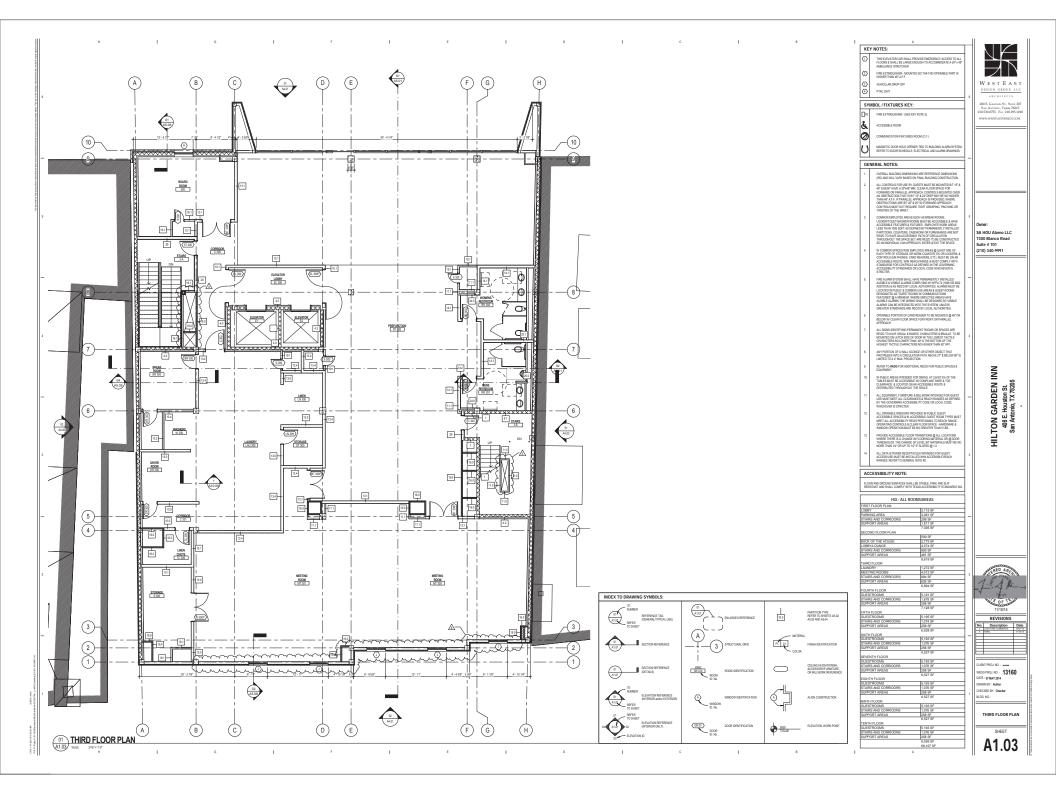
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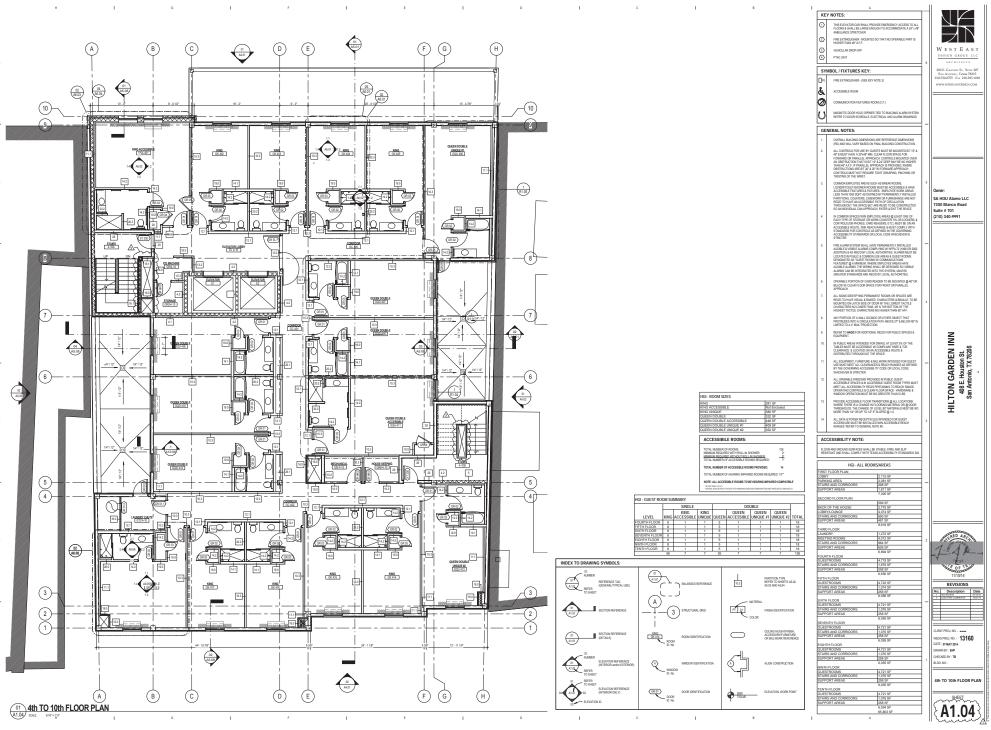
Original ground floor approved with stipulations

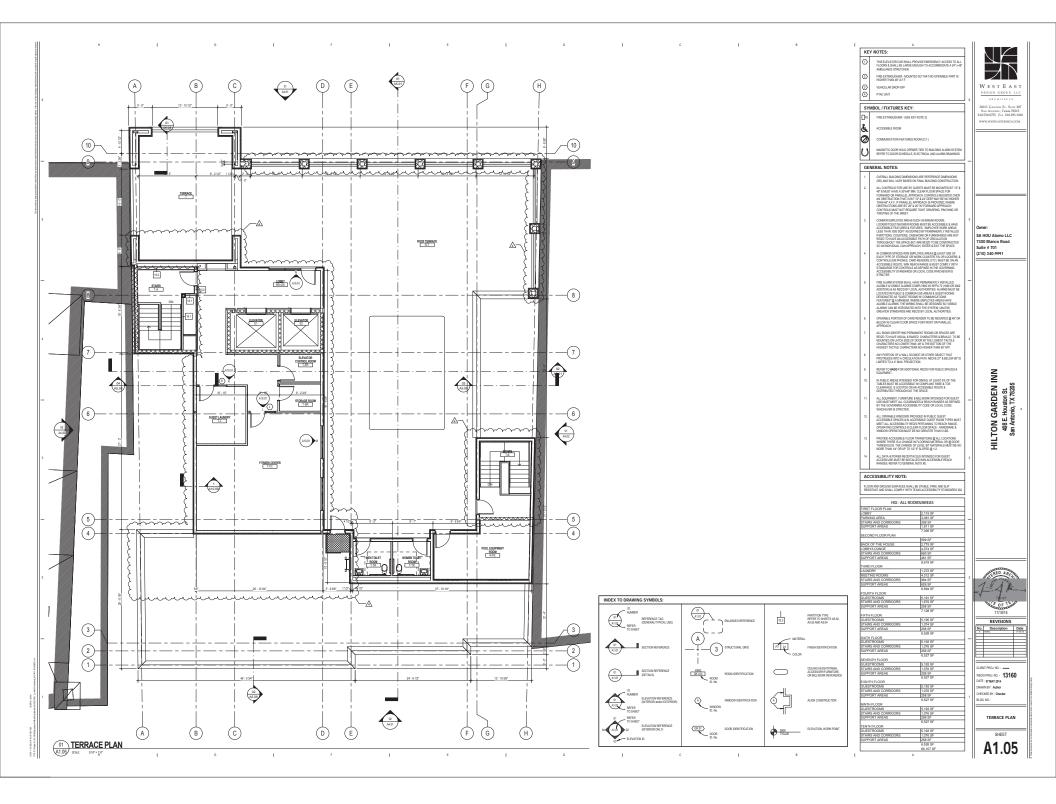














CITY OF SAN ANTONIO OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION COMMISSION ACTION This is not a Certificate of Appropriateness and cannot be used to acquire permits.

October 16, 2013

HDRC CASE NO:	2013-283
ADDRESS:	408 E. Houston
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:	NCB 416 BLK 23 LOT 22 (SAT HOUSTON SUBD)
HISTORIC DISTRICT:	Alamo Plaza Historic District
LANDMARK DISTRICT:	Yes - Alterman's and United Cigar Building
APPLICANT:	Nick Naik 7300 Blanco Rd. Ste. 701
OWNER:	SA Hou Alamo LLC
TYPE OF WORK:	Demolition of three individual landmarks and construction of new hotel

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for final approval to:

1. Demolish three individual landmarks.

2. Construct a new 10 story hotel. The proposed hotel will be clad in brick and stucco and will have a rooftop pool.

FINDINGS:

a. A demolition application for the three buildings at 408-416 East Houston was approved by HDRC on October 17, 2007. At that time it was determined that the buildings had lost their significance and that the original storefronts, believed to have been in place behind the false fronts at the time of designation, are no longer extant and most of the original material has been replaced. The proposed replacement building received approval from HDRC on November 5, 2008. The approved 14 story hotel design was never built and the applicant is returning to receive HDRC approval on a different design.

b. The project was reviewed by the Design Review Committee on August 13, 2013. At that time, there was concern regarding windows facing the Maverick building to the west and the interruption of the pedestrian sidewalk by the driveway. The applicant was encouraged to study the possibility of vehicular access through College Street, articulation on the lower floors facing College Street and provide more indication of mechanical systems.

c. The project received conceptual approval on September 4, 2013, which included the following stipulations: exploring the possibility of vehicular access through College Street, align the fenestration pattern on the west side of the front façade as close as possible to the adjacent Maverick building, use window proportions that follow nearby historic facades, more articulation is incorporated on the east and south elevations to avoid large expanses of blank walls, and information on location of mechanical systems is submitted during final approval.

d. The project was reviewed by the Design Review Committee on October 8, 2013. At that time, concern was expressed regarding narrowing the sidewalk and that incorporating a curbless drive might be more appropriate. It was also recommended to center the driveway in order to increase the distance between the curb and an existing tree.

e. The design was revised to include changes to the fenestration pattern, window proportions that follow nearby historic facades and more articulation on the south façade. In addition, a vehicular circulation diagram studying the feasibility of accessing the site through College Street was presented.

f. Although as proposed, the driveway transparency and finishes will enhance the pedestrian experience, careful consideration should be taken to not detract or cause adverse effect with the interruption of the sidewalk and the introduction of a driveway. Although this condition is found on other hotels downtown, the effect of the vehicular access on the pedestrian circulation should be minimized. If access through Houston Street is necessary, a one car entrance that then flares out into two lanes should be used instead of a double drive entrance. In addition, the introduction of a driveway and a queuing area at this location will severely impact the pedestrian circulation along Houston Street and significantly reduce the sidewalk width. If queuing vehicles obstructing the street is a concern, vehicles should either be pulled in all the way into the driveway and parking area or be directed to go around the block until the driveway is accessible. No reduction of the sidewalk should exist at any point.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval based on the findings above with the following stipulations:

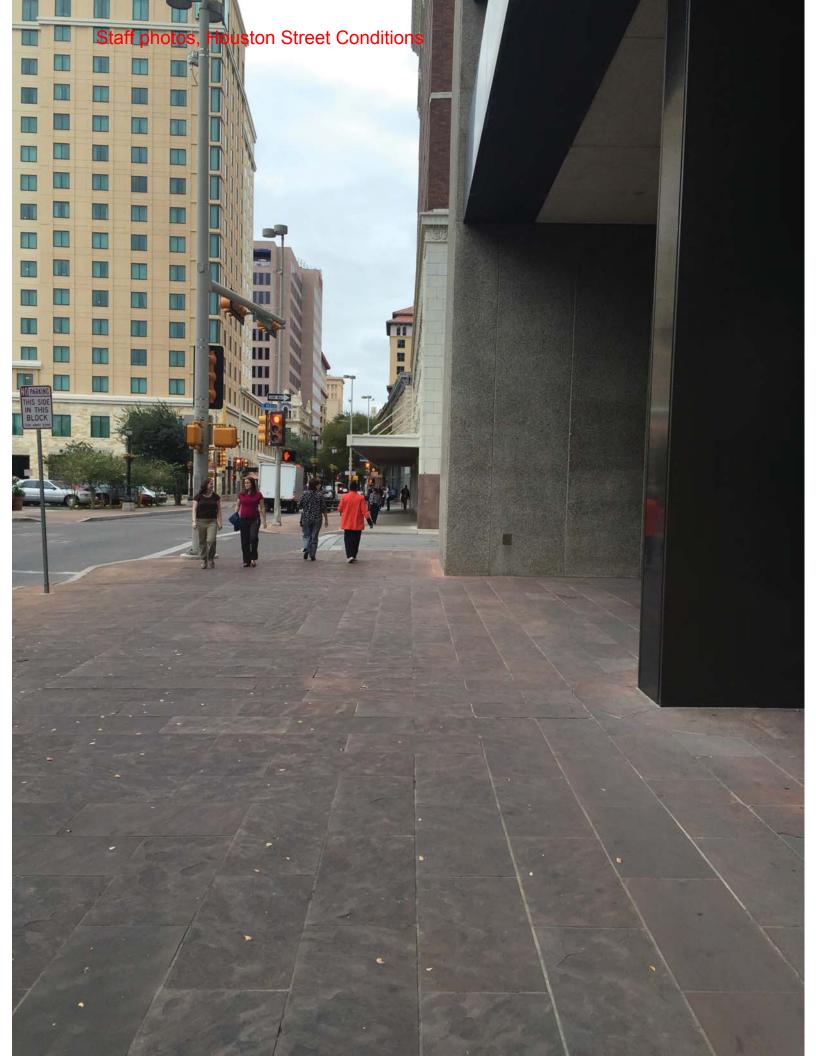
1. Center the driveway between the two columns to provide better pedestrian circulation.

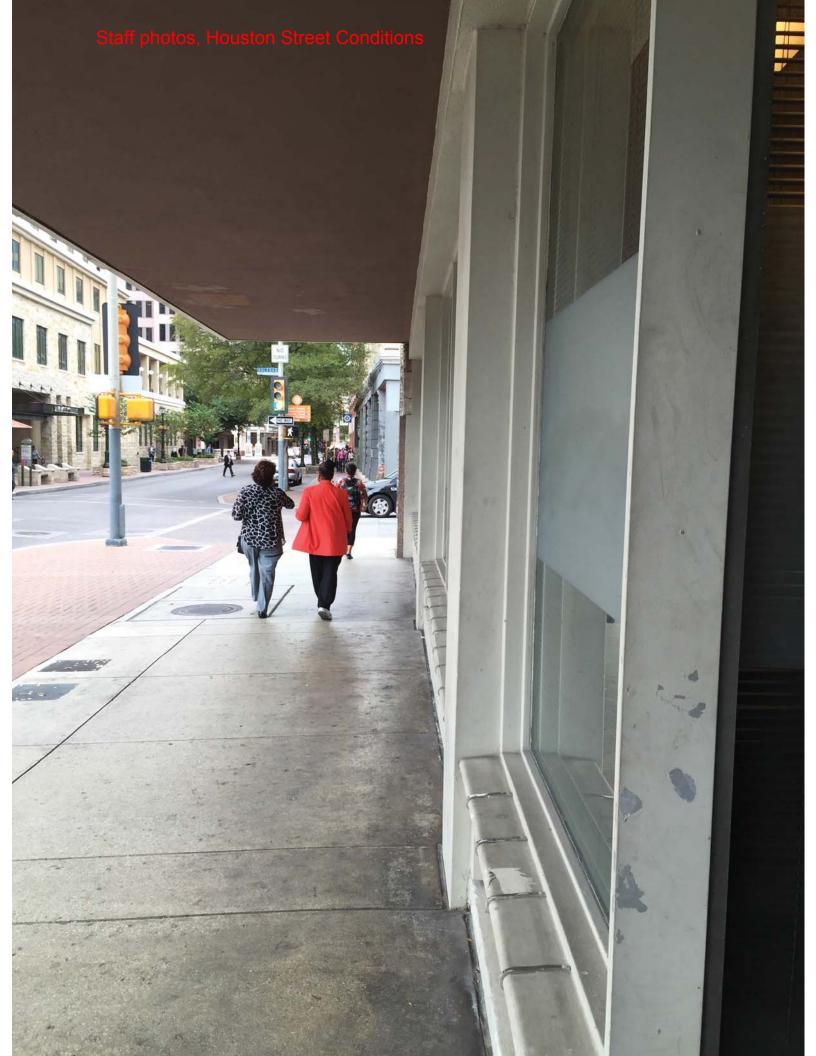
2. Remove the queuing area on the street in order to avoid reducing the sidewalk width and maintain the pedestrian space.

COMMISSION ACTION:

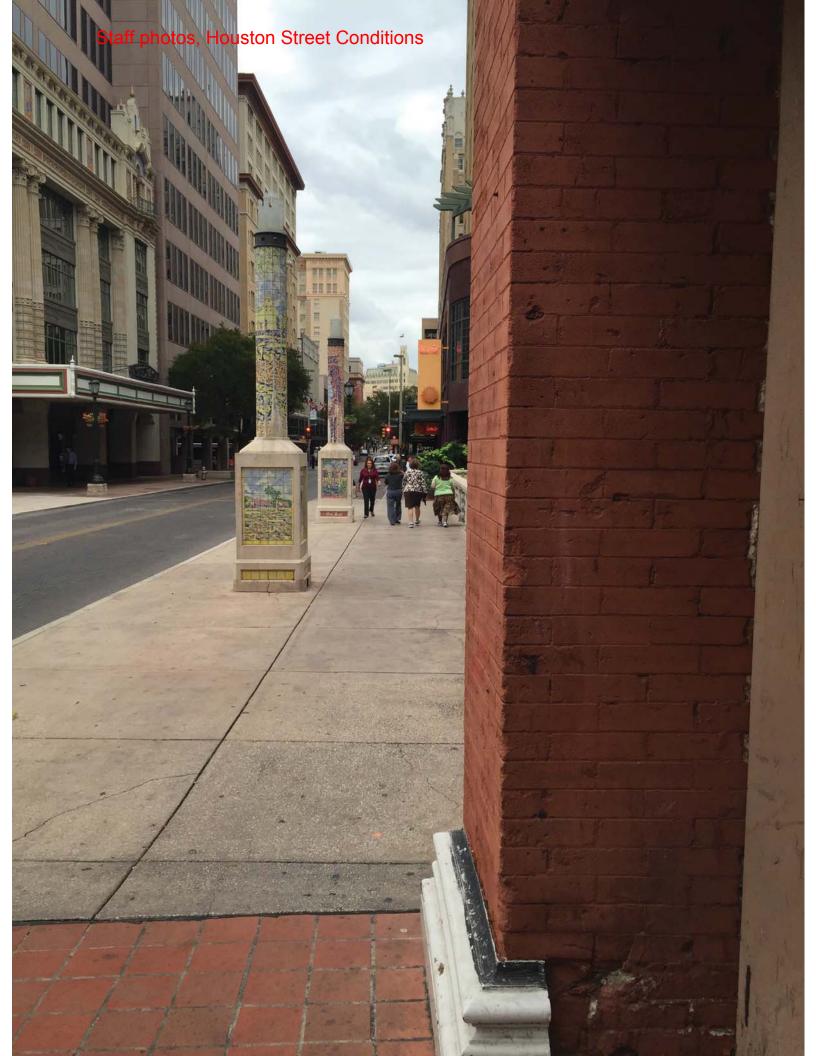
Approval of a single entrance with staff's recommendations.

5/2 Shanon Shea Miller Historic Preservation Officer

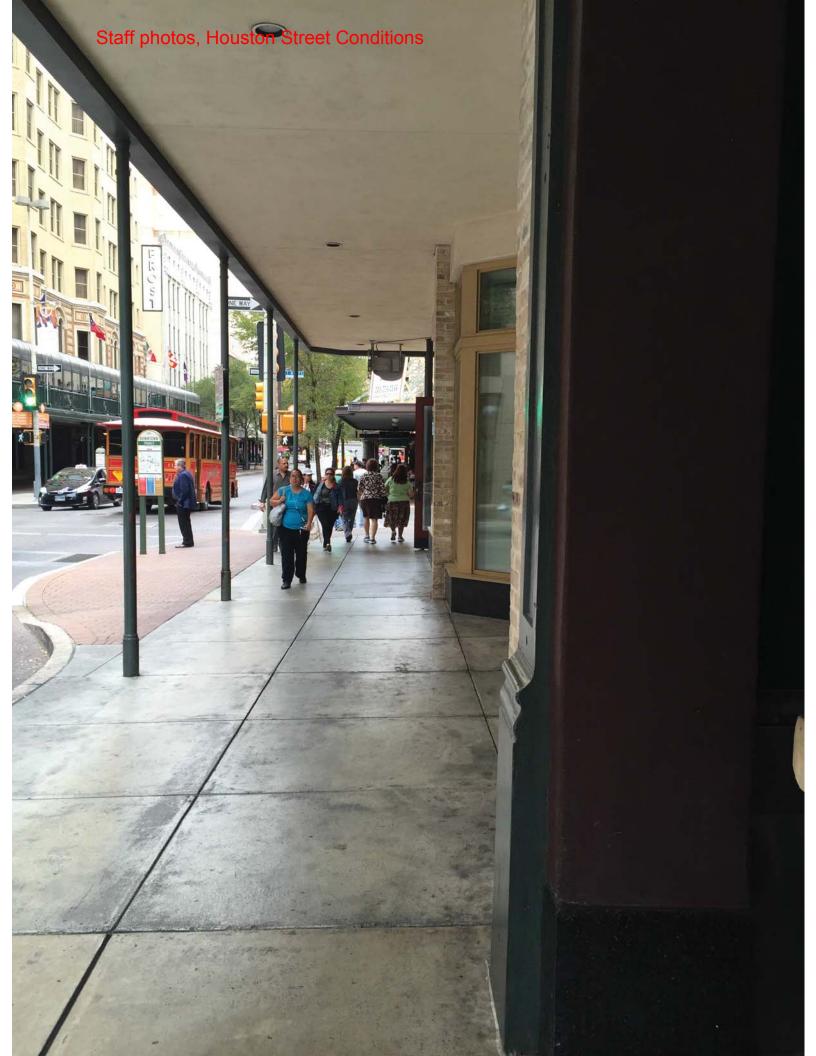




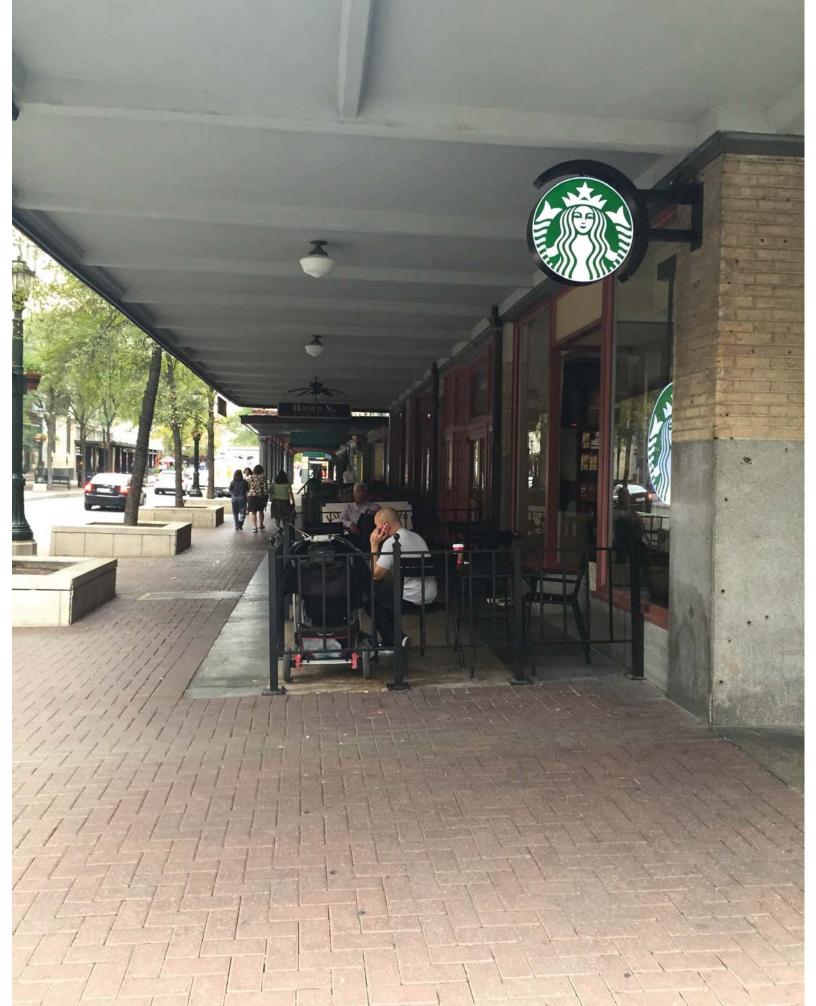
























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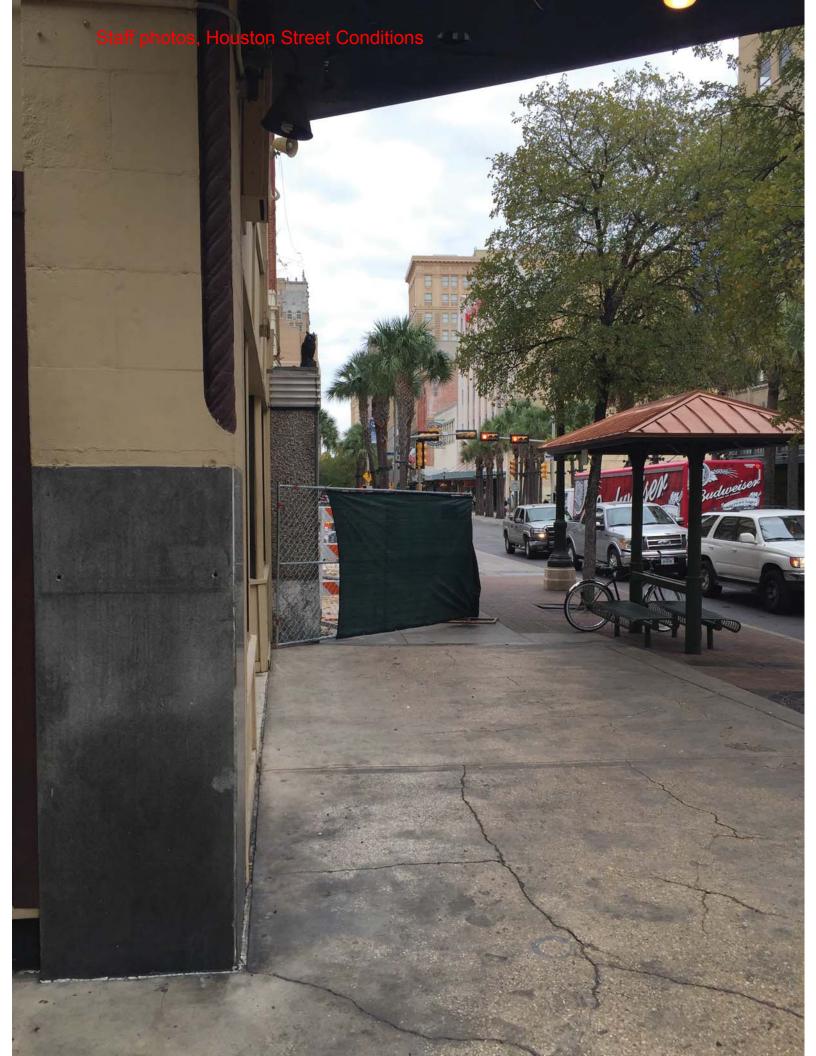


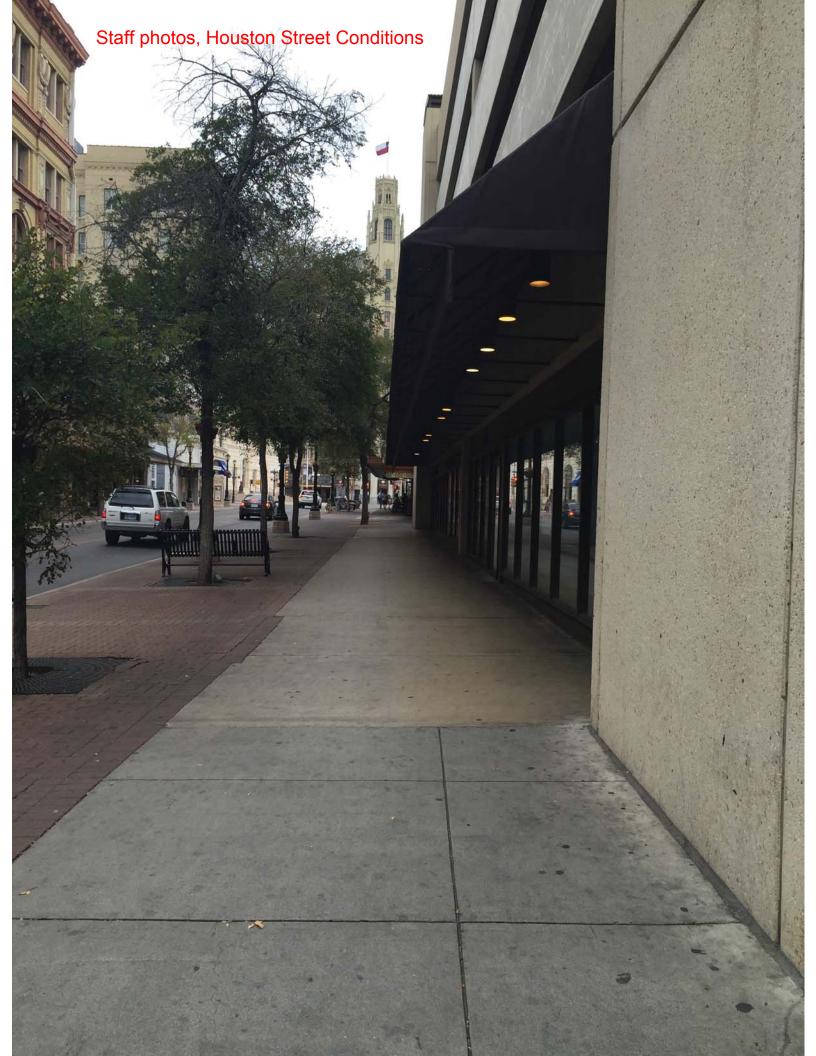




Houston Street Conditions × B B FALL Property line marker

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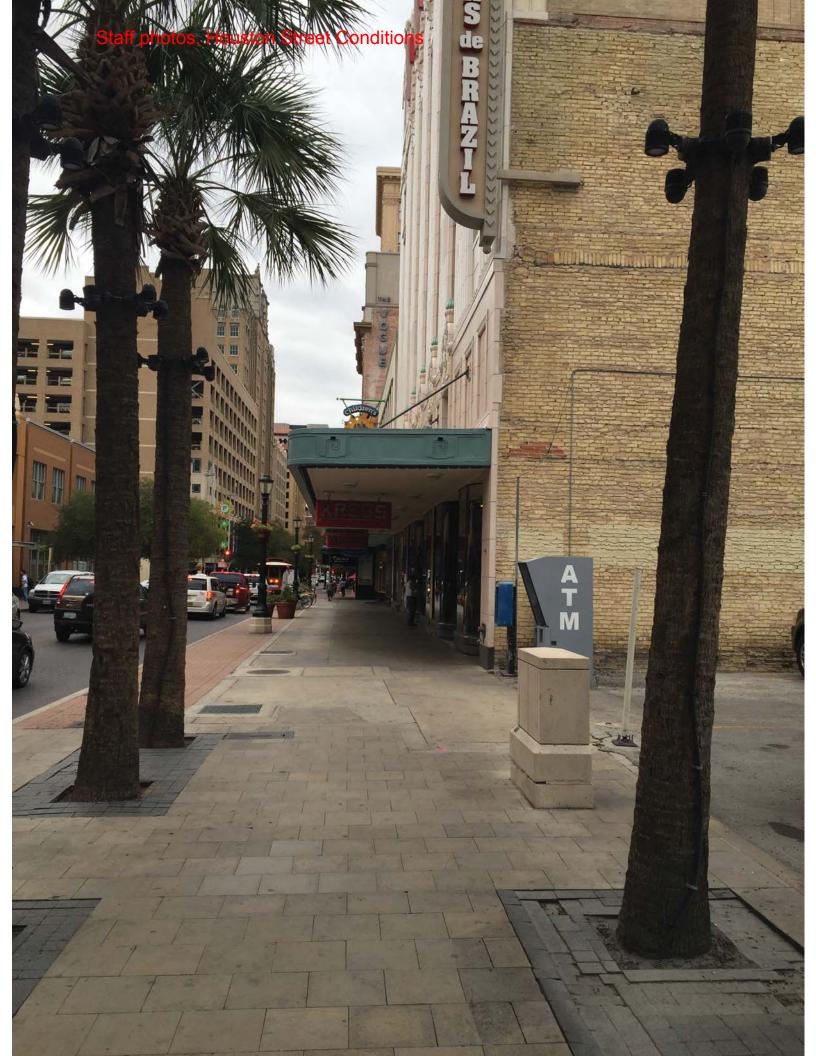
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Staff photos, Houston Street Conditi

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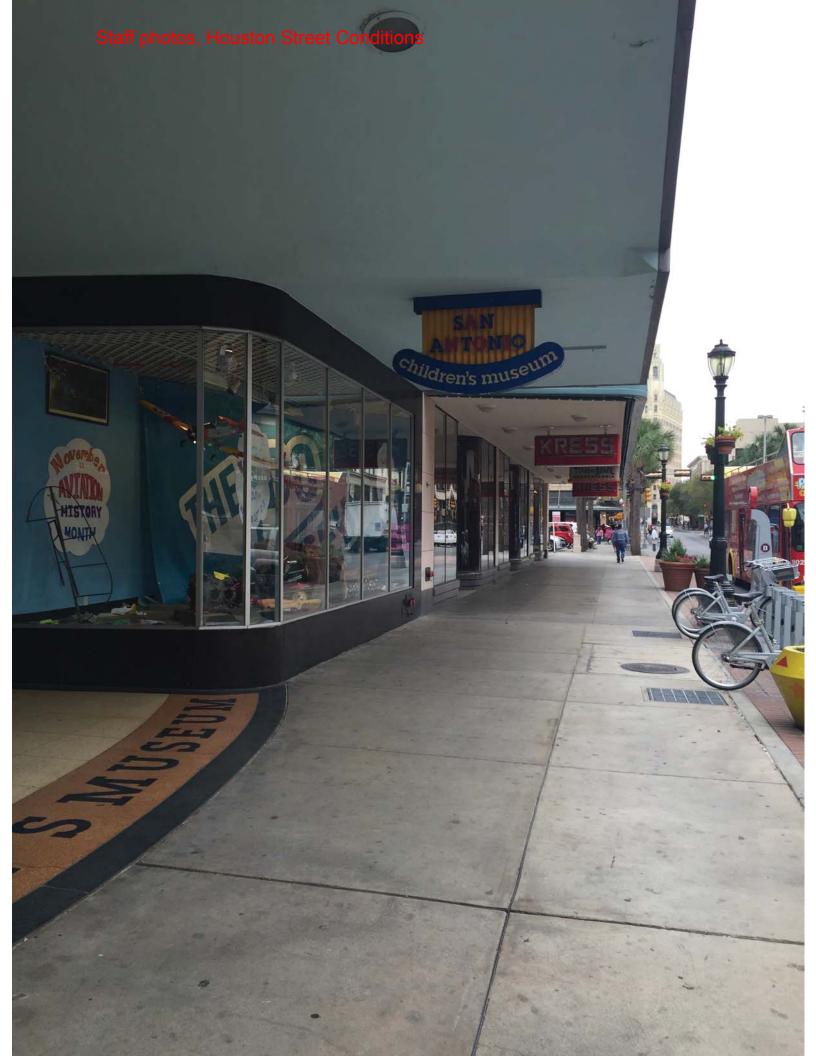
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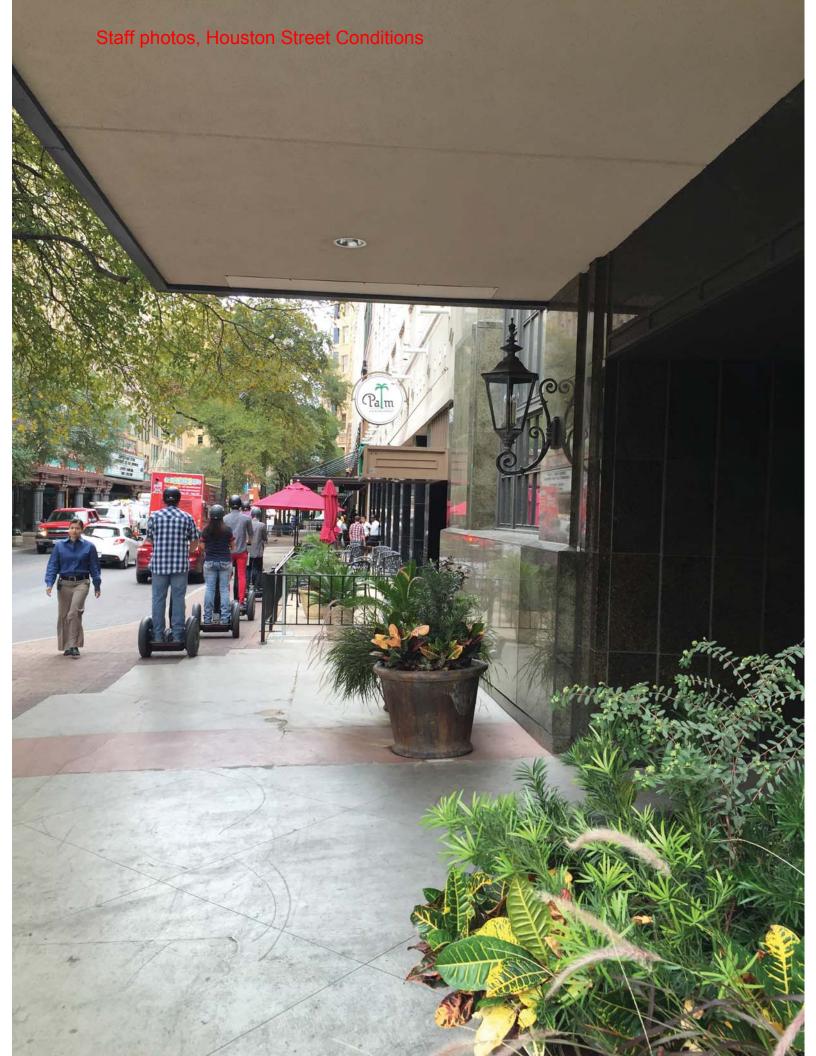


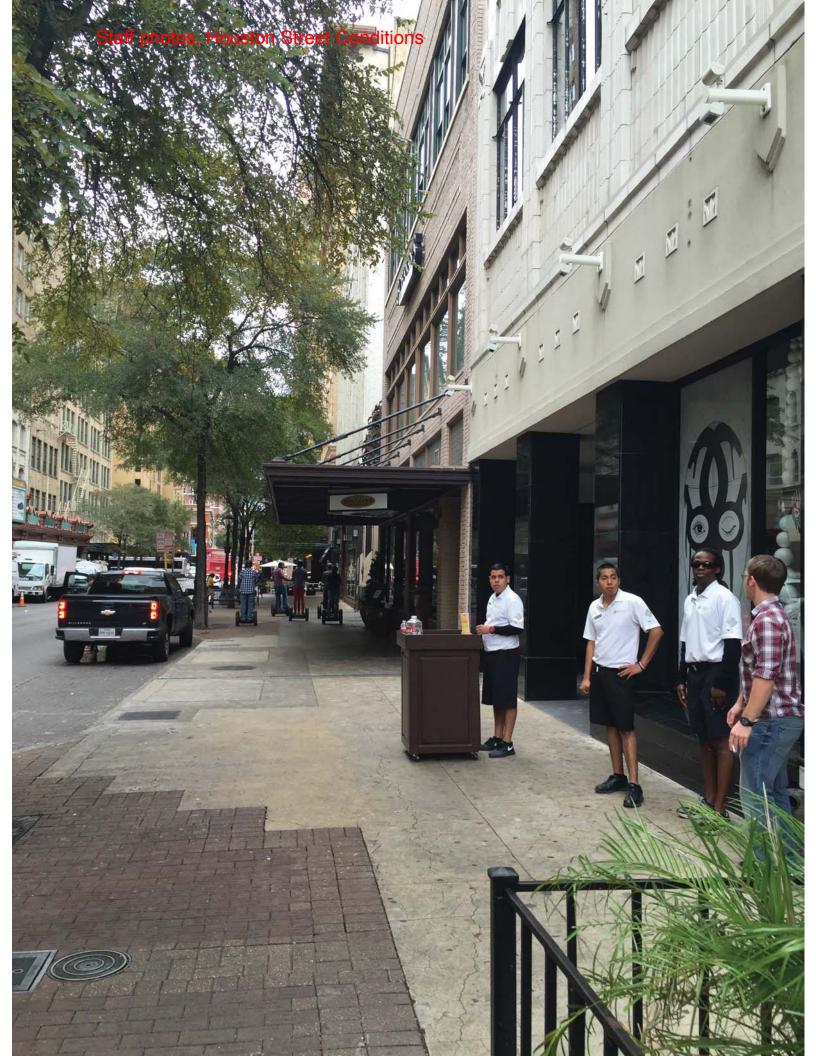


Staff photos, Houston Street Condition

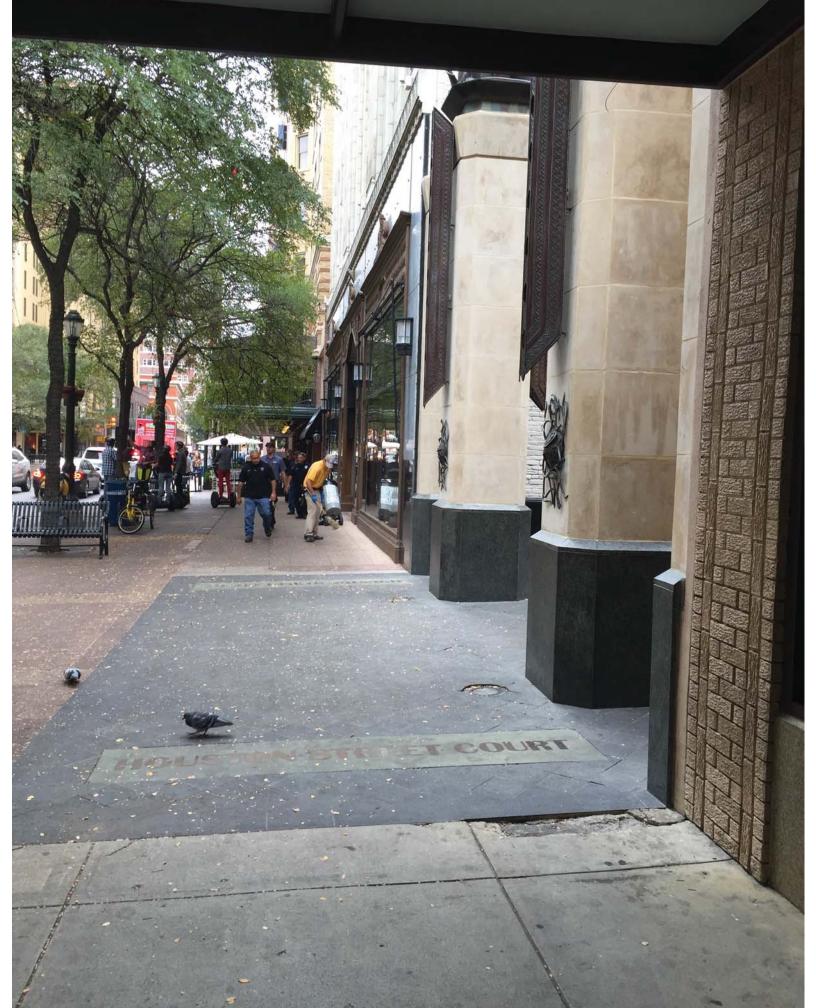
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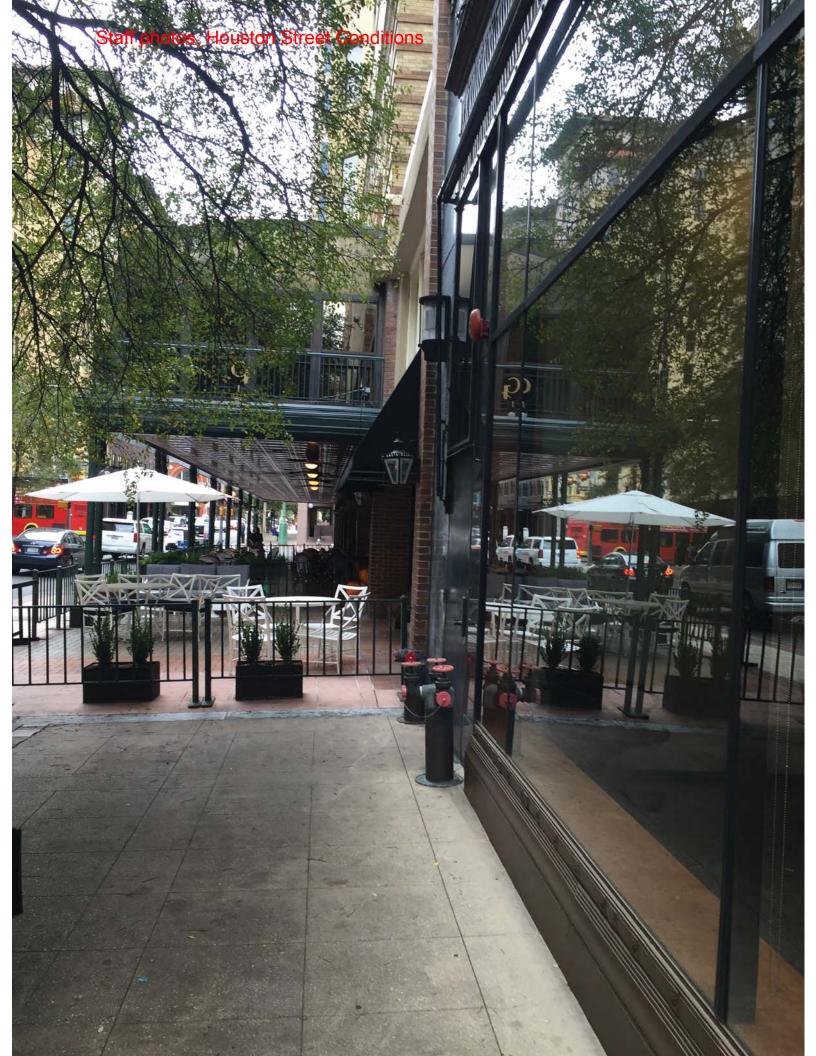


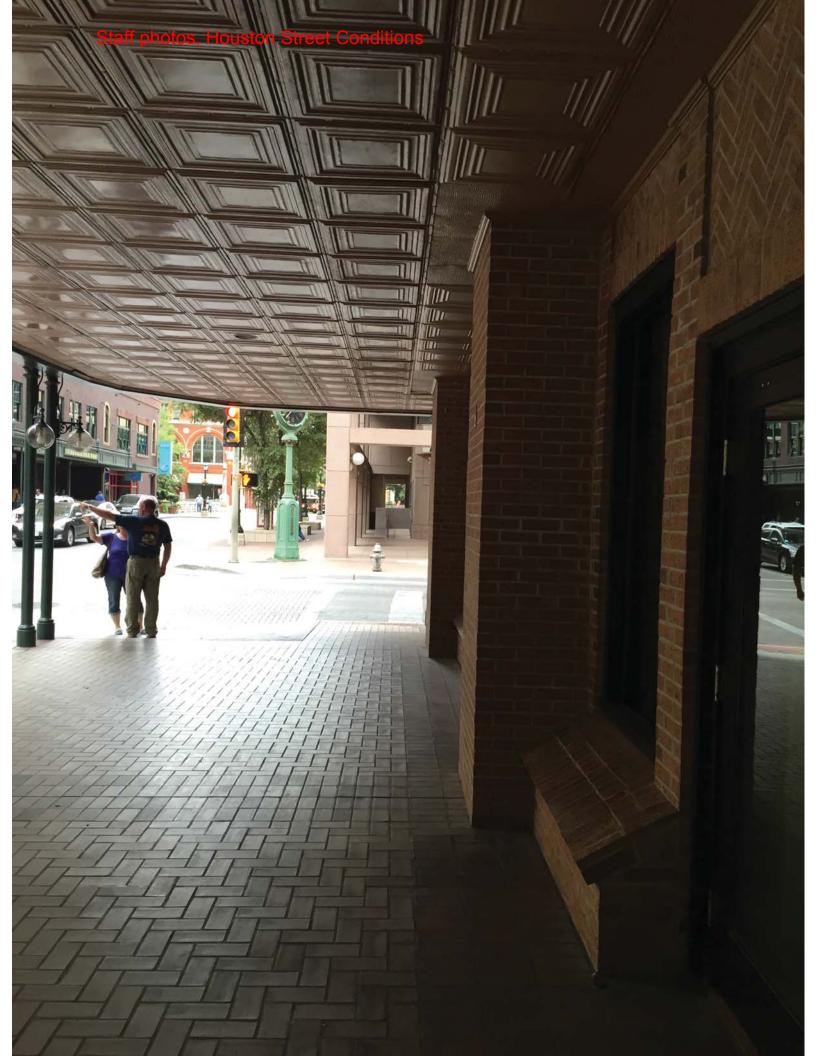




Staff photos, Houston Street Conditions









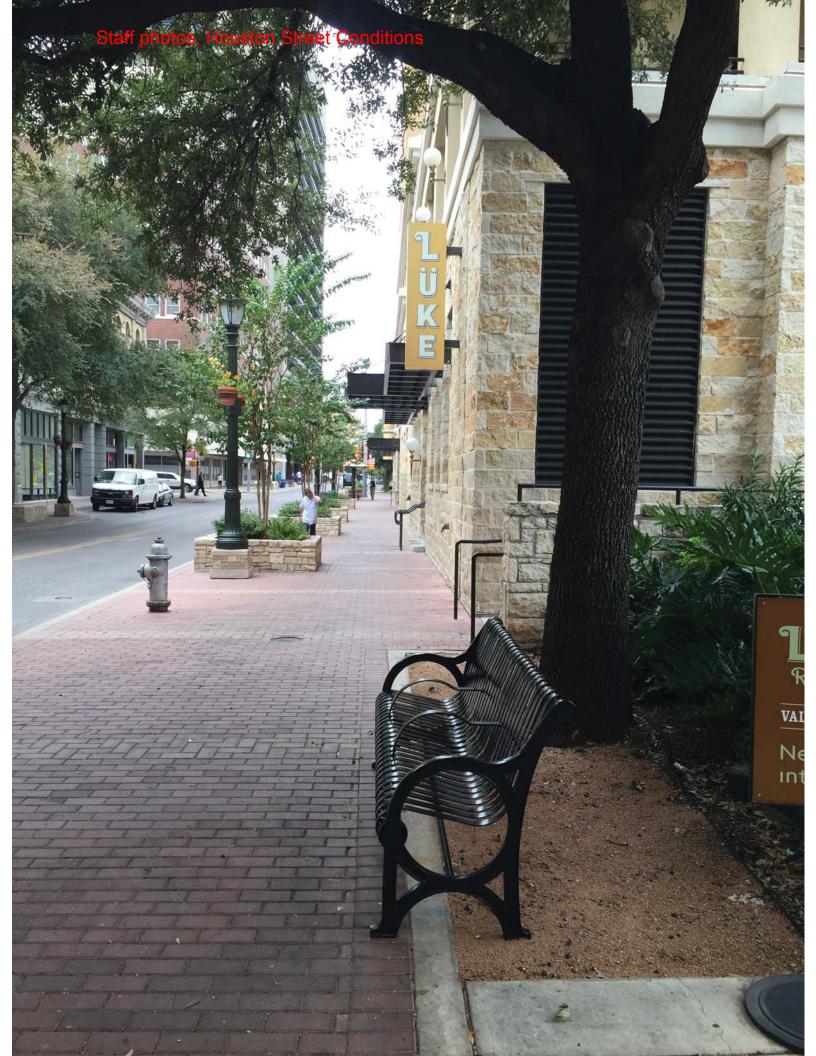
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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION	Historic and Design Review Commission Design Review Committee Report & Recommendation
DATE: 11-13-14	HDRC Case#
ADDRESS: 408 E Hast	Meeting Location: Lonestar
APPLICANT: Nick Naik	
DRC Members present: Michael Guarma, Belly Feldman	
Staff present: Com Edwards	
Others present:	
REQUEST: Revisions to scope of Hotel design (construction	
COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Building will extend past mannick. Will	
be flock with building on other site. Previous buildings did not	
align. Comice has been Jamaged. Cornice is proposed to terminate	
into new building. Mh- Pelatonship at corner is biggest issue. Doesn't see a conflict so with solution. Has no issue with changes.	
see a conflict the with solution. Has no issue with changes.	
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE [] DISAPPROVE [] APPROVE WITH COMMENTS/STIPULATIONS:	
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Committee Chair Signature (or representative)