

May 28, 2025

Steven Tillotson

Re: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark project review, Juan Francisco Farias Residence, Laredo, Webb County (RTHL)

Dear Mr. Tillotson:

Thank you for sending information regarding proposed project work on your Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. This letter represents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Alexander Shane, has completed its review of the project documentation provided on April 9, 2025, and has the following comments, recommendations, and expectations:

The Juan Francisco Farias Residence or the Webb County Veterans Building, has long been vacant and been in a state of disrepair. Overall, the Texas Historical Commission Division of Architecture Review Staff is aware of the amount of work to clean up and stabilize the building. Our office appreciates the efforts being proposed to protect the existing historic materials while removing materials and repairing features that have deteriorated over time. We understand the scope of work involves exterior demolition which include electrical wiring, conduit, devices, and fasteners while protecting adjacent stucco and masonry. Other demolition includes the removal of the lean-to porch roof cladding, membrane, and salvage of potential structure where possible. Within the lean-to the wood column shafts and terra cotta capitals will be removed for restoration and reuse in the new construction. Along each elevation the fenestration treatment includes removal of infilled doors and windows, stabilizing existing window and door openings during the removal of plywood, which was used for temporary closure treatments. Overall, our office has determined that the project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and the work can proceed.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your interest in the cultural heritage of Texas, and for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project in accordance with Recorded Texas Historic Landmark legislation. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Alexander Shane at 512.463.8952.**

Sincerely,



Alexander Shane, Program Coordinator, Federal & State Project Review
For: Joseph Bell, Executive Director
JB/AS