

# HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

August 02, 2023

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2023-251  
**ADDRESS:** 300 SAN FERNANDO ST  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 306 BLK 10 LOT 23 LA TRINIDAD UNITED METH CH  
**ZONING:** I-1, H  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 5  
**APPLICANT:** Robert Belden JR/Accu-Rite Roofing and Construction Services  
**OWNER:** LA TRINIDAD METHODIST CHURCH  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Signage  
**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** July 20, 2023  
**60-DAY REVIEW:** August 14, 2023  
**CASE MANAGER:** Claudia Espinosa

## REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to install a nine-foot-tall monument sign at the northeast corner of the property.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

*Historic Design Guidelines, Chapter 6, Guidelines for Signage*

### 1. General

#### A. GENERAL

- i. *Number and size*—Each building will be allowed one major and two minor signs. Total requested signage should not exceed 50 square feet.
- ii. *New signs*—Select the type of sign to be used based on evidence of historic signs or sign attachment parts along the building storefront where possible. Design signs to respect and respond to the character and/or period of the area in which they are being placed. Signs should identify the tenant without creating visual clutter or distracting from building features and historic districts.
- iii. *Scale*—Design signage to be in proportion to the facade, respecting the building's size, scale and mass, height, and rhythms and sizes of window and door openings. Scale signage (in terms of its height and width) to be subordinate to the overall building composition.

#### B. HISTORIC SIGNS

- i. *Preservation*—Preserve historic signs, such as ghost signs or other signs characteristic of the building's or district's period of significance, whenever possible.
- ii. *Maintenance*—Repair historic signs and replace historic parts in-kind when deteriorated beyond repair.

#### C. PLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION

- i. *Location*—Place signs where historically located and reuse sign attachment parts where they exist. Do not erect signs above the cornice line or uppermost portion of a facade wall, or where they will disfigure or conceal architectural details, window openings, doors, or other significant details.
- ii. *Obstruction of historic features*—Avoid obscuring historic building features such as cornices, gables, porches, balconies, or other decorative elements with new signs.
- iii. *Damage*—Avoid irreversible damage caused by installing a sign. For example, mount a sign to the mortar rather than the historic masonry.
- iv. *Pedestrian orientation*—Orient signs toward the sidewalk to maintain the pedestrian oriented nature of the historic districts.

#### D. DESIGN

- i. *Inappropriate materials*—Do not use plastic, fiberglass, highly reflective materials that will be difficult to read, or other synthetic materials not historically used in the district.
- ii. *Appropriate materials*—Construct signs of durable materials used for signs during the period of the building's construction, such as wood, wrought iron, steel, aluminum, and metal grill work.
- iii. *Color*—Limit the number of colors used on a sign to three. Select a dark background with light lettering to make signs more legible.

iv. *Typefaces*—Select letter styles and sizes that complement the overall character of the building façade. Avoid hard-to-read or overly intricate styles.

#### E. LIGHTING

i. *Lighting sources*—Use only indirect or bare-bulb sources that do not produce glare to illuminate signs. All illumination shall be steady and stationary. Internal illumination should not be used.

ii. *Neon lighting*—Incorporate neon lighting as an integral architectural element or artwork appropriate to the site, if used.

#### F. PROHIBITED SIGNS

i. An abbreviated list of the types of signs prohibited within San Antonio's historic districts and on historic landmarks is provided below. Refer to UDC Section 35-612(j) and Chapter 28 of the Municipal Code for more detailed information on prohibited signs.

Billboards, junior billboards, portable signs, and advertising benches.

Pole signs.

Revolving signs or signs with a kinetic component.

Roof mounted signs, except in the case of a contributing sign.

Digital and/or LED lighted signs, not to include LED light sources that do not meet the definition of a sign.

Moored balloons or other floating signs that are tethered to the ground or to a structure.

Any sign which does not identify a business or service within the historic district or historic landmark.

Any non-contributing sign which is abandoned or damaged beyond 50 percent of its replacement value, including parts of old or unused signs.

Notwithstanding the above, signs designated as a contributing sign or structure by the historic preservation officer shall not be prohibited unless or until such designation is revoked.

#### G. MULTI-TENANT PROPERTIES

i. *Signage Plan*—Develop a master signage plan or signage guidelines for the total building or property.

ii. *Directory signs*—Group required signage in a single directory sign to minimize visual color and promote a unified appearance

### 4. Freestanding Signs

#### A. GENERAL

i. *Appropriate usage*—Freestanding signs are most appropriate in locations where building forms are set back from the street, such as in areas where historic residences have been adapted for office or retail uses, or in commercial districts where they may be used to identify parking areas or other accessory uses.

ii. *Placement*—Place freestanding signs near the public right-of-way where they are clearly visible to passing pedestrians and motorists, a minimum of five feet from the street right-of-way and ten feet from all interior side lot lines. No freestanding sign should be placed in a manner that obstructs the pedestrian walkway.

iii. *Number*—Limit the number of freestanding signs per platted lot to one, unless the lot fronts more than one street, in which case, one sign is allowed on each street on which the lot has frontage.

iv. *Monument signs*—Do not use —suburban-style monument signs or electronic messaging signs not historically found in San Antonio's historic districts.

#### B. DESIGN

i. *Height*—Limit the height of freestanding signs to no more than six feet.

ii. *Area*—The size of new signs should be appropriate within the historic context, and should not exceed 25 square feet on either side, for a total of 50 square feet. Appropriate size shall be determined by considering historic precedent, sign patterns within historic districts, and conditions specific to individual properties.

iii. *Structural supports*—Use subtle structural elements (in terms of their scale and mass) with historically compatible materials to support a freestanding sign.

### FINDINGS:

- a. The primary structure located at 300 San Fernando is a multi-level structure commonly known as the Trinidad United Methodist Church, which was established circa 1876. The structure was constructed circa 1900, and first appears on the 1904 Sanborn maps. The structure features stucco cladding, a standing seam metal roof, and one-over-one sashed wood windows. The property is designated as an individual landmark.
- b. MONUMENT SIGN – The applicant has proposed to install a monument sign at the intersection of La Trinidad and San Fernando, on the northeast corner of the property. The proposed sign will feature an overall height of nine (9) feet, an overall width of three (3) feet, and will feature a total square footage of 54 square feet. The proposed sign will feature stucco, brick, and a stone flower bed. The marquee will be

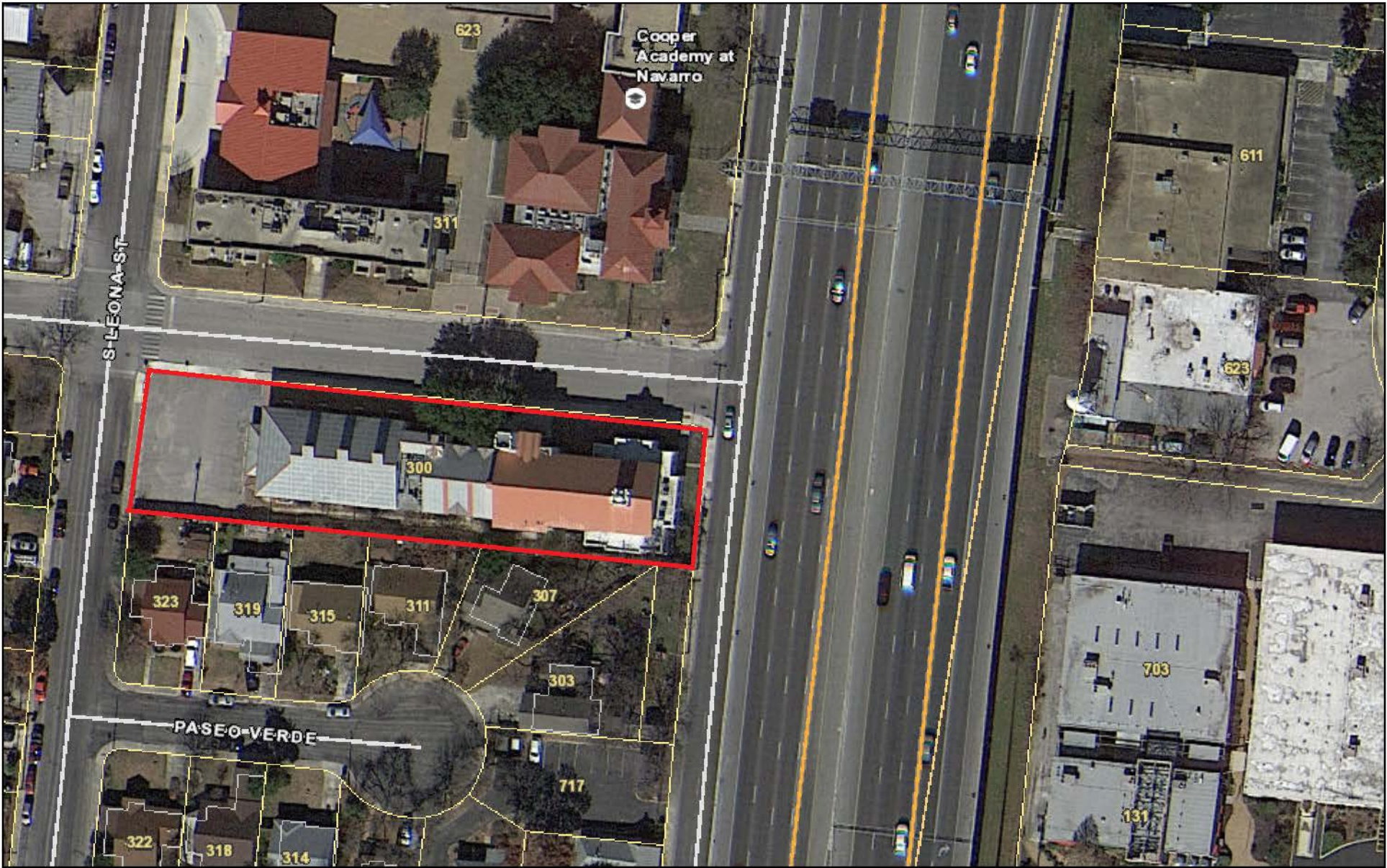
externally lit. The Guidelines for Signage 4.B.i states that applicants should limit the height of freestanding signs to no more than six feet. Staff finds the installation of the monument sign to be appropriate; however, staff finds that the applicant should reduce the size of the proposed monument sign to be consistent with the Guidelines for Signage.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

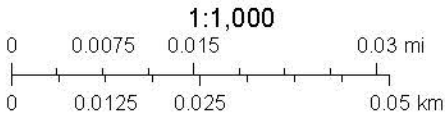
Staff recommends the approval of the installation of a monument sign based on findings a through b, with the following stipulation:

- i. That the applicant reduces the proposed monument sign to six (6) feet in height to be consistent with the Guidelines for Signage based on finding b. Updated signage specifications must be submitted to staff for review and approval prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

City of San Antonio One Stop



July 12, 2023

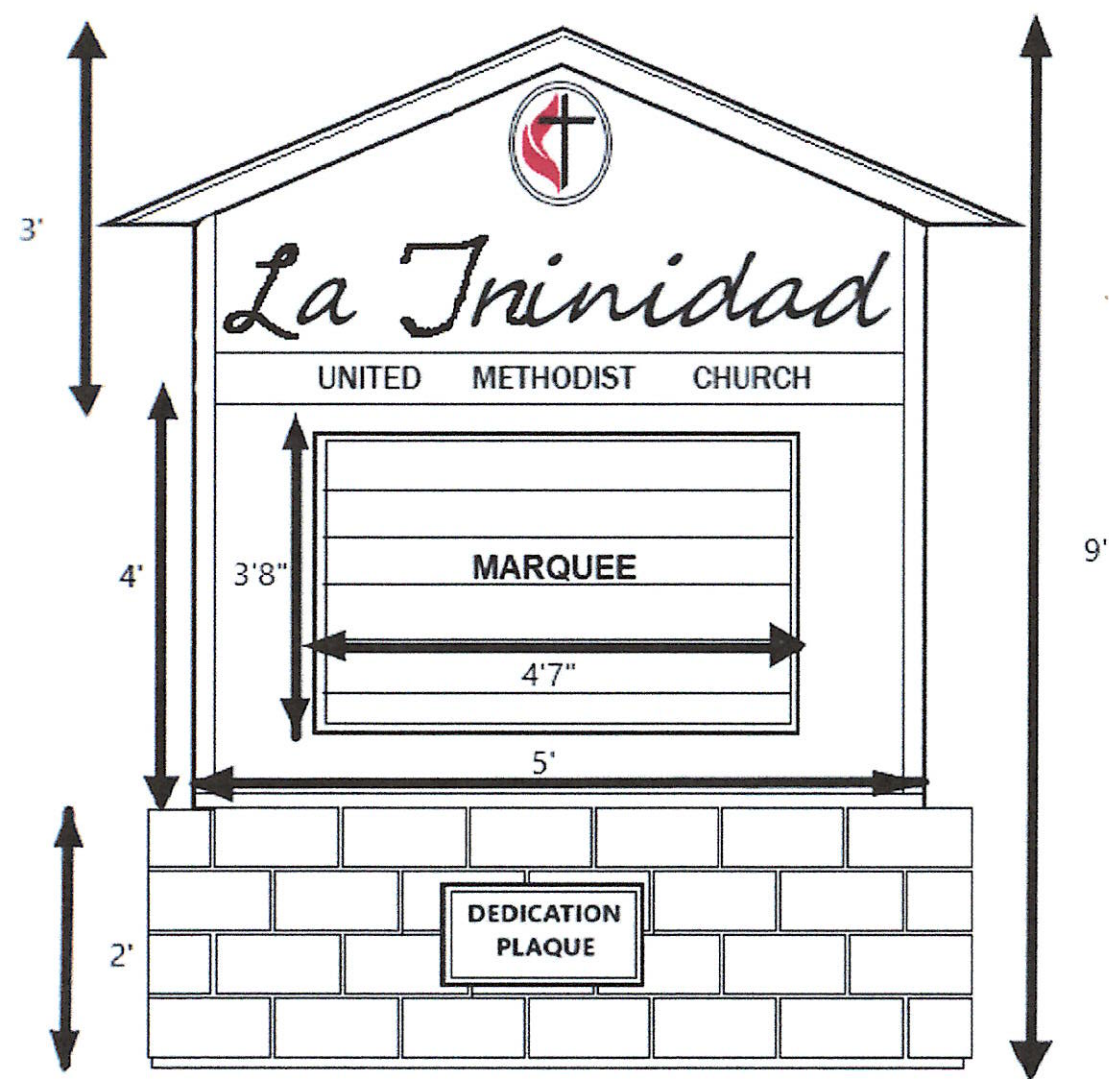




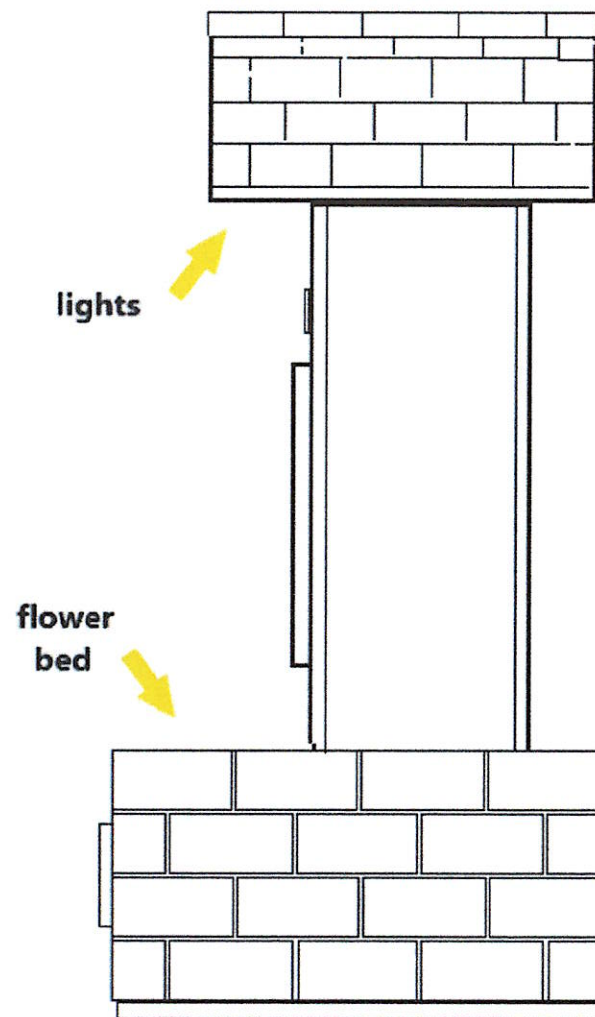


4709 Roosevelt Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 227-6807  
accurite@sbcglobal.net

La Trinidad United Methodist Church  
300 San Fernando St.  
San Antonio, TX 78207



front view



side view



June 23, 2023

La Trinidad United Methodist Church  
300 San Fernando  
San Antonio, Texas 78207

**SPECIFICATIONS OF MATERIAL TO BE USED**

1. DTM primed for metal frame.
2. DTM semi-gloss paint for frame.
3. Marque pre-finished galvalume metal white backing.
4. Lettering black metal.
5. 12" x 6" terracotta tile glazed at lower flower bed.
6. Ready mix concrete to set and back fill.
7. Cylinder lighting LED 60 watt.

**Accu-Rite Roofing and Construction Services**

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**Please visit our website at: [www.accuriteroof.com](http://www.accuriteroof.com)**





NORTH ELEVATION







EAST ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION





ACTUAL PRIOR SITE



WEST VIEW



SOUTH VIEW



EAST VIEW





North View



