



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 19, 2023

TITLE:

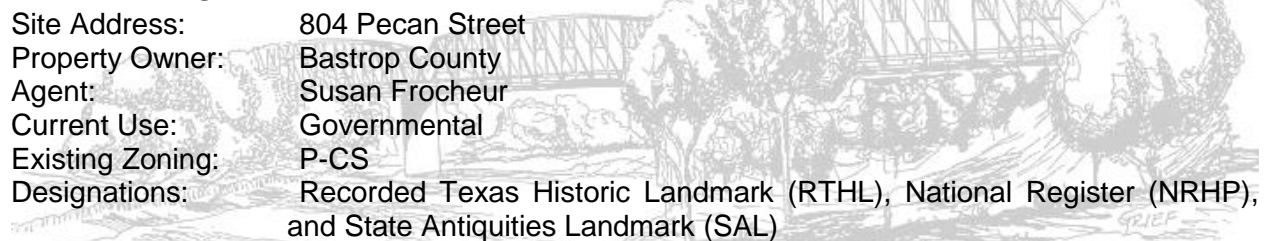
Public Hearing and consider action on a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior repairs to the Bastrop County Courthouse Clocktower, located at 804 Pecan Street, being 2.546 acres out of Building Block 7 East of Water Street, within the City Limits of Bastrop, Texas.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:

Kennedy Higgins, Planner, Development Services Department

ITEM DETAILS:

Site Address: 804 Pecan Street
Property Owner: Bastrop County
Agent: Susan Frocheur
Current Use: Governmental
Existing Zoning: P-CS
Designations: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), National Register (NRHP), and State Antiquities Landmark (SAL)



BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The County Court House occupying 804 Pecan Street, is proposing repairs and restorations to the exterior façade of the building. Including repair and replacement of rough carpentry, they will be replacing the rotted and deteriorating wood sheathing, salvaging what possible. Repair of salvageable metal cladding and replacement of sheet metal roofing and cladding that is beyond repair. Removal/replacement of existing spiked bird deterrent system at horizontal and sloped surfaces (each cornice ledge). Restore and upgrade lightning protection system to meet current code. Restore clockworks and clock faces- restoration of clock faces, hands and dials – color to match the 1920's paint scheme, and exterior painting (cement parge coat).

The front clock tower as it exists is shown below:



POLICY EXPLANATION:

When a Certificate of Appropriateness is required, no work can begin before the Historic Preservation Officer, or the Commission has first issued a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Certificate of Appropriateness shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any permits required (i.e., building, sign, alcohol, etc.). The Building Official cannot approve any application for a sign or building permit to a structure and/or site that requires but does not have a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Section 9.3.006 Criteria of Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)

- (1) In considering an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, the commission shall be guided by any locally adopted design standards, and where applicable, the following from the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings*. Any adopted design standards and *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* shall be made to the property owners of historic landmarks.
 - (A) Every reasonable effort shall be made to adapt the property in a manner which requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, object, or site and its environment.
 - (B) The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, object, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.**
 - (C) All buildings, structures, objects, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier or later appearance shall be discouraged.
 - (D) Changes that may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, object, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.
 - (E) Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize, a building, structure, object, or site shall be kept to the greatest extent practical.**
 - (F) Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should reflect the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historical, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other building or structures.**
 - (G) The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.**
 - (H) Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by, or adjacent to, any project.

- (I) Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural, or cultural material, and such design is compatible with the size, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
- (J) **Wherever possible, new additions or alterations to buildings, structures, objects, or sites shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the building, structure, object, or site would be unimpaired.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior repairs to the Bastrop County Courthouse Clocktower, located at 804 Pecan Street, being 2.546 acres out of Building Block 7 East of Water Street, within the City Limits of Bastrop, Texas.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Project Description
- Attachment 2: SOI standards
- Attachment 3: Plans
- Attachment 4: Photos
- Attachment 5: City Manager Directive
- Attachment 6: Location Map

