

4753



NPS Form 10-900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Central Fire Station
Other name/site number: New Braunfels Fire Museum; New Braunfels Fire Department Station 1
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 169 Hill Avenue
City or town: New Braunfels State: Texas County: Comal
Not for publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 10/25/19
Signature of certifying official / Title Date
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other, explain: _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

12/3/2019
Date of Action

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Government: Fire Station

Current Functions: Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival;
 Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements: Prairie School

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, Cast Stone

Narrative Description (see pages 8-11)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Politics/Government, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1918-1969

Significant Dates: 1918

Significant Person (only if criterion B is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Dielmann, Leo M. J., Architect; Moeller, Adolph F., Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance (see pages 12-19)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see pages 20-21)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: *Sophienburg Museum & Archives*

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: Approximately 0.1594 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 29.700801°N Longitude: -98.125811°W

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated boundary includes the westernmost portion of the legal parcel defined as City Block 1003, Lot 200A and part of Lot 122, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas (Property ID 45). The boundary includes the 1918 Central Fire Station and excludes the 1987 Fire Station No. 1, the three-story fire training structure, and a metal canopy to the east (Maps 2 & 5).

Boundary Justification: The nominated boundary reflects the historic property boundary as shown on the 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the earliest available representation (Map 4).

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Katherine Duffield Hill/Architectural Historian (with contributions by David Moore/Historian)
Organization: HHM & Associates
Street & number: 3500 Jefferson Street, Suite 330
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78731
Email: khill@hhminc.com
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Date: February 28, 2019

Additional Documentation

Maps (see Additional Documentation - pages 22-26)

Additional items (see Additional Documentation - pages 27-37)

Photographs (see Additional Documentation - pages 6-7, 38-50)

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This project was funded in part through a Certified Local Government Grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, as administered by the Texas Historical Commission.

The contents and opinions, however, do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Central Fire Station
City or Vicinity: New Braunfels, Comal County
State: Texas
Number of Photographs: 14
Photographers: Katherine Duffield Hill, Shonda Mace
Dates photographed: August 18, 2017, January 18, 2019 and January 23, 2019

Photo No. 1 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0001.tif)
View of south elevation of historic 1918 Central Fire Station, camera facing northeast.
Date: August 18, 2017

Photo No. 2 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0002.tif)
Oblique view of the Central Fire Station, camera facing north.
Date: January 18, 2019

Photo No. 3 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0003.tif)
Contextual view of the Central Fire Station, including the 1987 New Braunfels Fire Station No. 1. Camera facing west.
Date: January 23, 2019

Photo No. 4 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0004.tif)
View of the Central Fire Station, view facing southwest. The remnants of an awning, added sometime before 1980 and since removed, are evident on this façade below the second story windows.
Date: January 23, 2019

Photo No. 5 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0005.tif)
Oblique view of the 1918 Central Fire Station, camera facing south.
Date: January 18, 2019

Photo No. 6 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0006.tif)
Oblique view of the Central Fire Station, camera facing east.
Date: January 23, 2019

Photo No. 7 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0007.tif)
Detail view of decorative brackets on the west (side) façade, camera facing southwest.
Date: January 23, 2019

Photo No. 8 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0008.tif)
Detail view of the door to the original Fire Marshal's office and window, both with brick arches. View facing southwest.
Date: January 23, 2019

Photo No. 9 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0009.tif)
Detail view of "New Braunfels Fire Museum" sign, wrought iron balcony on the primary (south) façade, and the horizontal brickwork detailing indicative of the Prairie School style. Camera facing north.
Date: January 18, 2019

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

Photo No. 10 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0010.tif)

Detail view of 1918 corner stone, featuring the name of the builder, architect, and other important members of the community at the time of the building's commissioning and completion. Camera facing east.

Date: January 24, 2019

Photo No. 11 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0011.tif)

Photo of the 1931 American LaFrance Ladder Truck, parked in the apparatus room in the middle bay. Behind the ladder truck, the garage door opening to the rear (northern) elevation and the pressed tin roof are visible.

Date: January 18, 2019

Photo No. 12 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0012.tif)

Interior view of the Central Fire Station within the equipment room, including the 1931 American LaFrance Ladder Truck and the equipment room's pressed tin roof.

Date: January 18, 2019

Photo No. 13 (TX_ComalCounty_CentralFireStation_0014.tif)

Interior view of the Central Fire Station within the equipment room, view facing east. In the foreground, the 1923 American LaFrance pumper is on display. In the background, the firepole can be seen descending through the pressed tin ceiling. The fire pole was moved from its original location during renovations.

Date: January 18, 2019

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Central Fire Station, now serving as the New Braunfels Fire Department Museum, is a two-story city-owned building at 169 Hill Avenue in downtown New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas. Designed by San Antonio architect Leo M. J. Dielmann, it was constructed in 1918 by local contractor Adolph F. Moeller. The building, which rests on a concrete-slab foundation, features a square-shaped footprint and load-bearing brick construction. It displays physical features and ornamentation characteristic of the Prairie School and Mission Revival movements, architectural expressions that enjoyed popularity in Texas during the early twentieth century. As its name suggests, the fire station lies within New Braunfels' central business district. Most of the surrounding land is used for commercial and retail activities. The nominated boundary excludes the non-historic 1987 Fire Station No. 1, three-story fire training structure, and metal canopy located directly to the east of the historic fire station. The property retains its historic integrity to an exceptional degree and has been subject to only a few modifications since its original construction over 101 years ago.

Location and Setting

The Central Fire Station is in downtown New Braunfels – Comal County's seat of government, its largest city, and its hub of trade and commerce. Comal County is situated along the Balcones Escarpment, which generally runs through the county in a northeast–southwest direction. The western part of Comal County lies within the Texas Hill Country, which is known for its rugged landscape and shallow soils. Land to the east of the escarpment contains rolling grasslands that are part of the fertile Blackland Prairie Belt. The city of New Braunfels developed near the confluence of the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers and is approximately 32 miles from downtown San Antonio.¹ The Central Fire Station is situated in the south end of the historic downtown and fronts onto Hill Avenue. The property is northeast of the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad, between West San Antonio and West Coll Streets. The Central Fire Station boundary includes 0.1594 acres at the westernmost portion of the legal parcel defined as City Block 1003, Lot 200A and part of Lot 122, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas (Property ID 45). Land immediately surrounding the Central Fire Station is paved and used for parking and the egress of fire equipment. The boundary excludes the adjacent non-historic 1987 Fire Station No. 1, the metal canopy, and the three-story fire training structure located to the east (Maps 2 & 5).

Physical Description – Central Fire Station

The Central Fire Station is a two-story building of load-bearing masonry (brick) construction that was built on a concrete-slab foundation. An example of an architect-designed public building, the fire station displays carefully chosen ornamentation that reflects a growing sense of civic pride among the townspeople at the time of its construction and their greater awareness and appreciation of more academic architectural movements and expressions. The building exhibits elements of the Prairie School and Mission Revival styles, including a free-standing, brick and cast-stone Mission-styled parapet on the front (south) façade. This parapet has a large rectangular panel with raised letters (“19 N.B.F.D. 18”) that note the building's construction date and original use. Elements indicative of the Prairie School include the building's overall horizontal emphasis, an effect achieved by the low-pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, and raised brick string courses between the first and second floors of the primary (south) façade. Other distinctive physical features on the front include the large paired wood brackets at each end of the front and the small balcony and metal on the second floor. According to Dielmann's original blueprints, the building had a metal shingle roof, brick window sills, and wooden brackets. A dedication stone at the southwest corner of the building identifies the key public officials who held office at the time of its construction, along with the architect, contractor, fire chief, and city marshal.

¹ Daniel P. Greene, "NEW BRAUNFELS, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed February 9, 2019, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/HEN02>.

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The primary (south) façade has a large recessed opening on the first floor with three large garage bays that are designed to accommodate the oversized fire trucks kept at the station. Each garage bay has masonry columns and rounded concrete extensions at the base called wheel guards in architect Dielmann's drawings (fig. 10). Above this opening, a metal beam bears the words "New Braunfels Fire Museum" – new signage installed after the fire department moved next door to a replacement facility in 1987. The original garage doors, replaced at an unknown date, consisted of four individual wood panels topped by five pairs of rectangular glass lights (figs. 2, 3, 10). The garage doors currently in place contain a row of fixed windows in the mid-section of each door. The main pedestrian entrance into the building is a single-entry wood door. A metal awning, added sometime after 1930, partially obscures this doorway and the transom window above it. The second floor presents a symmetrical five-bay configuration with a centrally located doorway. Although the door is currently covered and inoperable, the opening has a small balcony with decorative metal railing and oversized supports underneath that are anchored to the exterior wall (fig. 5). The outer bays on the second floor contain double-hung, wood-sash windows with six-over-one lights. Four horizontal bands of contrasting courses of brick and masonry work separate the two levels.

The first floor of the east façade contains double-hung wood-sash windows with four-over-four lights within segmental-arched brick openings; the second floor has three similarly detailed window openings. A metal fire escape leads to a single-door opening on the second floor. The door is set within a segmental-archway and includes a transom window.

The windows and doors on the west façade are set within segmental-arched openings. The ground floor had two separate single-door entrances with transoms. The window on the south end is a double-hung wood-sash unit with four-over-four lights; its size and proportions are similar to most of the other window openings in the building. The west façade has a window near the door on the north side of the west wall that is small relative to other windows and contains wood sashes with two-over-two lights. The second level contains four sets of double-hung, wood-sash windows with four-over-four lights.

Brick pilasters divide the rear façade into four distinct bays. The two westernmost bays are identical on both floors, and each has a double-hung, wood-sash window with four-over-four lights; all are set within a segmental-arched opening. A rear service-bay entry with a large garage door pierces the ground floor. This opening is capped by a wide cast-stone lintel. The window directly above this garage door opening is identical to those on the façade's west side. The only other opening on the rear is a small window on the east side of the second floor. The easternmost bay on the ground floor has no window openings and is used to mount a variety of electrical equipment and exterior plumbing. A thin line of horizontal brick coursing protrudes from the sill of each second-story window and continues across the rear façade, further emphasizing the building's horizontal nature.

Interior Office and Museum Space

Historically, the first floor of the central fire station had a floor plan consisting of five smaller rooms or offices along the western wall, while the apparatus room took up the majority of the space. The Fire Marshall's office, located in the front southwestern corner of the building, had an exterior entrance through the main façade, a single window, and a doorway into an interior passage way. This interior passage connected to the apparatus room, a private consult room, a stairway to the second floor, and an exterior entrance. The Fire Marshall's office was converted into a dispatch room. Its walls were covered with wood paneling (fig. 8).

The Apparatus Room, where fire-fighting equipment was stored, had three bay doors that opened through the front façade of the building, each separated by a concrete column. Two concrete pillars support the ceiling between the first and second bays, and each bay has a pressed tin ceiling, segmented by two concrete beams supporting the second story. Pressed tin molding runs along each bay (photo no. 13). Two non-original garage

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doors have been installed on the rear façade. Florescent lighting and wiring conduit have been added along the walls and the ceiling in the apparatus room.

Along the southwestern wall of the apparatus room, doors opened onto the locker room and the pipe line equipment storage room. The Water Works superintendent's office originally only had an exterior entrance on the southwestern façade, but two doorways connecting it to the apparatus room and the pipe line storage room were added at a later date.

Interior Residential Area

The second story originally consisted of two guard rooms, a single bathroom and a large hall, where firemen could recreate. This hall had ten windows across three exterior walls, as well as the doorway onto the second-floor balcony on the front façade, closed at an unknown date.

A renovation and reorganization of this area converted it into a space for training and administrative uses (fig. 12). In this new space, a hallway runs along the northern exterior wall, where the sliding pole was relocated. The majority of the space is used as a classroom, and two storage rooms, a rear projection room, and a kitchen and dining area connect to this space. Two restrooms were constructed in the northeastern corner, while in the southeastern corner a training office connects to a passageway. In this passageway, a door connecting to an exterior fire escape was added.

Physical Evolution

The footprint of the 1918 Central Fire Station has remained unaltered and retains its original 55-feet by 55-feet dimensions. Though the building has not undergone any major exterior modifications, minor alterations have been made to its porches, porticos, and openings. Sometime following 1922, a shed-roof awning was added to the rear elevation below the level of the second story windows for equipment storage, though it has since been removed (fig. 6). Other minor changes include the installation of electrical lights and associated wiring on the exterior, signage, a two-story fire escape, electrical panels and meters, and some exterior drainage pipes. The second-floor door at the center of the primary façade has been boarded, and the original garage doors replaced. Many of the alterations to the original building reflect the evolving practice of modern firefighting that improved the operations of the department and its primary mission. When originally completed in 1918, Central Fire Station served only three full-time and paid fire fighters; however, the fire department grew over the years. This growth led to several changes to interior spaces including the conversion of the original fire marshal's office into a dispatch office (fig. 8), and the reconfiguration of the second floor to support a larger training space and the installation of a small kitchen (fig. 12).

In 1987, the City of New Braunfels constructed a new facility to replace the 1918 fire station that would be better suited to house and maintain modern firefighting vehicles and equipment. Immediately east is a free-standing three-story structure used for fire-training purposes and an open metal-roofed canopy. These resources are excluded from the nominated boundary because they were added outside the period of significance and are considered non-historic.

Integrity

The Central Fire Station retains its integrity, and alterations to its exterior façades have been minimal and reversible. Its character-defining features, including wooden brackets, brick and cast-stone parapet, wide, overhanging eaves, and brick courses continue to illustrate its Mission Revival and Prairie School stylistic influences. Though the original garage doors have been replaced, signage and awning added, and doors replaced, the overall impact of the building as designed by Dielmann remains intact.

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Some changes have occurred to the exterior over time, including the addition and removal of a rear awning. The evidence of this awning can still be seen on the building, but its addition and removal did not impact the overall integrity or impression of the building. The “New Braunfels Central Fire Station” sign, added during the historic period, has been replaced with a modern sign in a similar style, marking the building as the New Braunfels Fire Museum. The museum now houses several of the historic firefighting apparatuses that served New Braunfels since the department was established in 1886.² The Central Fire Station continues to be an excellent example of public architecture and the building retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, workmanship, design, and materials to an exceptional degree.

² Many of these trucks were in use through the end of the historic period and participated in decades of parades through New Braunfels. These resources retain a significant amount of their integrity and add exceptional value to the new role of the building as a fire department museum. Noteworthy items within the collection include the following: 1886 Hose Cart, 1925 Reo Speed Wagon, 1950 Ford Truck, 1931 Ladder Truck, and a 1923 Pumper.

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Statement of Significance

The Central Fire Station, now the New Braunfels Fire Museum, represents an important development not only in municipal fire prevention and fire fighting, but also a trend of investment in New Braunfels' urban infrastructure. As the city's first modern fire station, it was home to a longstanding volunteer organization as well as the first paid fire fighters in New Braunfels. The 1918 building was designed by celebrated San Antonio architect Leo M. J. Dielmann and constructed by local builder Adolph F. Moeller. It is an excellent and intact example of a municipal fire station, showcasing hallmarks of both the Prairie School and Mission Revival styles of architecture, which were popular at the time. For these reasons, the New Braunfels Central Fire Station is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government and Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level. The station functioned as an active fire station serving the municipality of New Braunfels until the new building was completed next door in 1987. Thus, the building's period of significance spans from its construction in 1918 to 1969, marking the age threshold normally used for National Register listing.

CRITERION A – Politics/Government

Early Firefighting in New Braunfels

Following its founding in 1845, New Braunfels prospered with the continuing influx of German immigrants who settled in what quickly developed into the hub of the colony established by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels. For the burgeoning city, fire prevention was an important issue. Embers and ashes from fireplaces that were used for heat and cooking posed a particular concern because they could set fire to rooftops and other flammable materials. In 1857, a city ordinance prohibited fires from within 30 feet of any building for this reason.³ It was followed in 1866 by an ordinance restricting the use of straw or hay to cover roofs.

When fires did break out, they could quickly spread from one structure to another, causing widespread destruction. Blazes were battled by teams of volunteers with buckets of water or sand, and in 1867, the city placed fire hooks and ladders at three houses and across the Comal River at the Comal Town school.⁴

The first organized fire brigade was established in April 1871 when the Gymnastic Society held a meeting inviting those interested in joining such a volunteer group. Upon its formation, Herman Seele was elected as the president. The Gymnastic Society Fire Brigade reorganized as a separate organization in 1874, and it became known as the Turner Company. Even with this organized team of volunteers, the city's poor water access continued to limit the company's effectiveness in battling a blaze.

The Sanborn Map and Publishing Company published its first maps of New Braunfels in 1877. In addition to providing information about the types of buildings and their materials, the company also included an assessment of the capabilities of the local fire department, an important concern for businesses offering fire insurance. While noting the town's population to be 1,800, the Sanborn maps stated that the city had no steam engine, one hand engine, no independent hose carts, poor water facilities, and one hook and ladder truck.⁵ When the City of New

³ John B. Coers et al., *New Braunfels First Fire Station 1918*.

⁴ Ibid.; Oscar Haas, "Comal Town, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed February 24, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvc68>.

⁵ Coers et al., *New Braunfels First Fire Station 1918*; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company, "New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas, 1877," [map], courtesy of the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

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Braunfels purchased two fire engine pumps from the City of Galveston, the Turner Company's ability to fight blazes improved, but they continued to rely on water from rivers, wells, and cisterns located throughout the city.

The work of battling fires throughout much of the nation relied on similar organized brigades of volunteers until the middle of the nineteenth century, when many municipalities began to use bonds and taxes to fund the purchase of fire hoses, engines, and the construction of fire stations.⁶ This was also a time when cities were actively seeking to encourage economic growth, including by investing in municipal services like water, fire, and electricity. By 1900, New Braunfels was a town with a growing population and an expanding interest in urban services and infrastructure investments. Fire insurance companies, through the use of key rates, further incentivized American cities to reduce risk and construct infrastructure advancements.

Municipal Infrastructure and The Need for a Central Fire Station: A Shift in the Role of Local Government

On March 3, 1884, the New Braunfels City Water Works committee recommended that "it is to the best interest of any city or town contemplating the construction of water works that the city itself and no individuals or private corporation should own or have control of its water-works."⁷ In June of the following year, their final report states that an agreement had been reached with a private enterprise to install a turbine on the Comal River and to provide the city with water.⁸ Like many mid-nineteenth-century water systems, this was a rudimentary system that offered little in the way of sanitation, but was an improvement over wells that could easily be contaminated.

The addition of the water works system and the wooden water mains was a significant leap forward in the ability to fight fires in the city. The initial system included 20 fire hydrants and a pump, and following the installation of these features, the city endeavored to acquire additional hoses and other fire-fighting equipment. In the event of a fire, a bell alarm would sound from the fire bell tower near the county courthouse. If one of the 30 water hydrants that existed in 1891 was not close enough to the fire, the firefighters would have to dig under the street to access the wooden mains and drill an opening. Once the fire was out, the firefighters would plug the hole, rebury the main and mark the street in case the same main needed to be accessed again.⁹

The 1896 set of Sanborn maps included the following summary of the local fire department and its equipment and capabilities:

Volunteer Company, 45 men, none paid. 1 Hook and Ladder Truck drawn by hand. 1500 feet of 1.5 inch cotton hose in good condition. The Water Works is a stand pipe system, capacity 210,000 gallons. Located ¾ mile S.W. of courthouse and 60 feet above the level of the square. Water pumped from Comal river by 1 Worthington duplex pump with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. Located on Dam .5 mile north of the city, run by water power. Direct Pressure in case of fire. 5 miles of mains. 30 double hydrants and 24 single hydrants.¹⁰

Despite all these advancements, the New Braunfels volunteer fire company continued to rely heavily on water buckets, hand-drawn hose reels, and hook-and-ladder equipment until 1912, when the firefighters acquired their first motorized equipment. After local businessman Harry Landa's "locomobile" caught fire, he sold the vehicle's

⁶ Michele Maver Dagenais, *Municipal Services and Employees in the Modern City: New Historic Approaches*, (Routledge, 2016).

⁷ Oscar Haas, *History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas 1844-1946*, wherein he quotes New Braunfels City Minutes, Vol. 9.5, (published by Oscar Haas, Lithography by Hart Graphics, Inc.: Austin, Texas), 205.

⁸ Coers et al., *New Braunfels First Fire Station 1918*.

⁹ Examples of wooden water mains can be examined at the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

¹⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company "New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas, 1877," [map], Perry-Castañeda Map Collection, UT Austin.

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surviving chassis at a minimal cost, and the city's first chemical and hose firetruck was built atop it. This truck, which served the city until 1925, allowed firefighters to arrive more quickly and fight fires more effectively. However, even this advancement left much to be desired. Though the 1912 Sanborn maps noted the improved water supply, the volunteer firefighter brigade still relied on outdated hand-drawn hose carts, and no fire or steam engine.

The national transition from volunteer firefighting organizations began in the mid-nineteenth century, pressed forward by the fire insurance industry.¹¹ The nearly contemporaneous introduction of steam-powered fire engines allowed municipal governments and insurance companies alike to make a compelling argument for the new, massive and powerful tool to be handled only by a team of "sober, reliable, controllable and paid men."¹² Paid firemen were expected to have training and skill in the operation of the steam fire engines. Hosemen and laddermen needed comparably less training, and many remained volunteers for this reason.

Interest in the construction of a fire station in New Braunfels began to gain momentum in 1915. Adolf Seidemann, secretary of the New Braunfels Citizens League, wrote to the State Fire Insurance Commission regarding the current key rate of the City of New Braunfels. The key rate of a city was determined based on the adequacy of its fire protection, and was used to determine fire insurance rates.¹³ The response sent by A. R. Andrews, secretary of the State Fire Insurance Commission, detailed several ways in which the construction of a new central fire station and the implementation of other measures would contribute to a lower key rate for the City of New Braunfels. These recommendations included the "installation of a standard horse drawn or automobile hook and ladder" and the employment of "at least five full paid firemen."¹⁴ Though the city had invested in fire-fighting equipment, it did not employ any professional firemen and had instead continued to rely upon its volunteer fire brigades. Andrews also wrote that:

By the installation of a fire alarm system, installed in strict accordance with the rules and requirements of the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the general requirements of the Commission, the present charge of 5c now appearing in Key Rate will be eliminated. With reference to the fire alarm headquarters in central fire station, we beg to advise that it will be necessary that the headquarters be in fire proof building to receive full credit for a fire alarm system.¹⁵

In 1917, according to the *New Braunfels Herald*, the Water Works Committee, Fire Committee, and Fire Chief met together to discuss using a bond issue for the erection of a stand-pipe and a fire station.¹⁶ In a subsequent council meeting, the cost of constructing the fire station was estimated to be \$7,000, while the construction of the stand-pipe was \$17,000. The city council adopted this recommendation by unanimous vote and called upon the mayor to schedule elections seeking approval of both bond measures.¹⁷

Voters approved the issuance of the bonds on September 11, 1917, and on November 30, the *New Braunfels Herald* reported that \$10,000 worth of New Braunfels fire station bonds had been purchased by a variety of local investors, including Mrs. Ad Henne, \$200; J. R. Fuchs, \$500; W. H. Gerlich, \$200; New Braunfels State Bank,

¹¹ Bruce Hensler, *Crucible of Fire: Nineteenth-century Urban Fires and the Making of the Modern Fire Service* (Washington, D.C.: Potomac Books, 2011); Dagenais, *Municipal Services and Employees*.

¹² Hensler, *Crucible of Fire*, 183, Kindle eBook.

¹³ Texas State Fire Marshal, *Department of Insurance State Fire Marshall Key Rate City Files 1893, 1904-1999*, Undated, Texas State Archives, accessed January 18, 2019, <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/tslac/20162/tsl-20162.html>.

¹⁴ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Fire Alarm and Insurance Rate," September 3, 1915.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Notes on City Council Proceedings; Special Meeting May 25th," June 1, 1917.

¹⁷ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Notes on City Council Proceedings; Regular Session June 4th," June 8, 1917.

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\$4,900; Carl Trauboth, \$400; Harry Goldenbagen, \$1,000; and Comal County, \$2,800. The bonds were to bear 5-percent interest per annum.¹⁸ In addition, a tax increase generated the revenue to pay the principle and interest on the bonds, which provided the funds needed to construct the new fire station as well as to support street-paving efforts taking place at the same time.¹⁹ Architect Leo M. J. Dielmann of San Antonio was chosen to draw up the design and plans for the new fire house, which was originally intended to be 55-feet wide and 75-feet deep, to ensure enough space for offices and administrative space. With the project funded by bonds, a November 30, 1917 notice called for bids from contractors regarding the construction of the fire station building designed by Dielmann.²⁰

Despite hopes to the contrary, all received construction bids exceeded the \$10,000 bond limit. Dielmann subsequently drew up new plans that reduced the building's size. After a second round of bids, local and well-known contractor Adolph F. Moeller was selected to construct the new fire station with a low bid of \$8,995. Moeller's bid was limited to the construction of the building itself and excluded additional items such as wiring, plumbing, or the purchasing of equipment and furnishings. The electric wiring and plumbing for the building was completed by subcontractors Martin Wright Electric Company of San Antonio and the Louis Henne Company.²¹

Not included in the \$10,000 bond initiative was the cost for purchasing land for the fire station. Seven different sites were considered for the construction of the new station while officials considered the project. As early as May 1917, a representative of the New Braunfels Fire Department appeared before the County Commissioners' Court seeking a site on the courthouse lot for the new fire station, as the bell had long been positioned there. However, the commissioners' court found it impractical to give up any land at that location.²² Instead, a site on Hill Street owned by Ernest S. and Jesse J. Sippel was offered to the city. According to John B. Coers and fellow researchers of the fire station's history, a close reading of the Sippels' offer reveals that while the deed shows the city paid \$4,000 for the land, the money used to purchase the land came from donations given to the city, especially by "fire boys" and citizens who were supportive of the proposed station.²³

Dielmann announced at a city council meeting on May 15, 1918 that Moeller's work was nearing completion. Although Dielmann's revisions reduced the amount of square footage, the Central Fire Station still had sufficient space for separate offices for the city fire marshal and water works superintendent, as well as a large apparatus room on the ground floor and a large hall area for the firefighters to sleep, recreate, and conduct training.

The recommendations given by the state fire insurance commission called for the City of New Braunfels to hire paid firefighters, instead of continuing to rely only on volunteer brigades. Following the completion of the Central Fire Station, the city initially hired two firefighters and a "chauffer," as the position was described in the job posting, who was responsible for driving the fire engine. Adolf Henne was hired as the city's first fire station chief, and Walter Staatz served as his second in command. The fire station itself represented a significant leap forward in the modernization of New Braunfels' firefighting capabilities. In July 1918, only shortly after the station's opening, the fire committee authorized the sale of two of the city's fire bell towers and bells, which were "of no further use to the fire department after the completion of the new Central Fire Station."²⁴ At the same city council meeting, the committee also reported that the fire insurance key rate would be reduced from 28 cents to 25 cents, due to the city's new capabilities in fire prevention and control.

¹⁸ *New Braunfels Herald*, Untitled article, November 30, 1917, 5.

¹⁹ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Notice on City Council Proceedings," December 7, 1917, 1.

²⁰ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Notice to Contractors," November 30, 1917, 8.

²¹ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Notes on City Council Proceedings," February 1, 1918, 1.

²² *New Braunfels Herald*, "Commissioner's Court Proceedings; Regular May Term 1917," May 25, 1917, 1.

²³ Coers et al., *New Braunfels First Fire Station 1918*.

²⁴ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Notes on City Council Proceedings," July 5, 1918, 1.

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When the Sanborn Map Company published a new set of insurance maps in 1922, the company described the significant advances that city had made. It listed: “3 paid men & chief, 60 volunteers, 2 stations.” The fire station, according to the maps, was equipped with the “American LaFrance type 12 combination auto with 750 gallon per minute pump and 1,200 feet of 2.5 inch hose, a Brockway combination auto with 1,000 feet of hose, a 40 gallon chemical truck with 100 feet of 1 inch rubber hose, and a loco-mobile with 600 feet of 2.5 inch hose.” The chief had a Ford.²⁵

The New Braunfels fire fighters often worked with neighboring fire departments from nearby cities or competed with one another to get to reported fires, particularly in outlying rural areas where grass fires were common. For example, the *New Braunfels Herald* published the following account of a fire fought collaboratively with personnel from New Braunfels and Seguin:

At about 6 o'clock PM the New Braunfels Fire Department received a call for aid, and immediately our big fire truck, manned by four firemen sped to Seguin and made the run in 25 minutes, fire chief Ad. Henne, leading in his fire car. The prompt and efficient aid rendered by the New Braunfels firemen, although sufficient water pressure was lacking, soon brought the fire under control and prevented it from spreading to other large buildings and establishments situated nearby. Nor did Seguin fail to properly appreciate the prompt assistance given. Seguin has no up to date fire truck as yet, and to rush to her assistance in cases of emergency is undoubtedly a service New Braunfels will at any time be eager to render.²⁶

The New Braunfels Fire Department suffered its first firefighter casualty during a blaze on March 2, 1947. A fire began at the Eiband and Fischer Mercantile store when a motor overheated and caught fire in the basement of the building.²⁷ Several fire departments from the communities surrounding New Braunfels came to help, but firefighter Ernest Alves was mortally injured by a collapsing awning. Two other firefighters suffered injuries.²⁸

Role in the Community and Firefighting Culture

The Central Fire Station became the cultural center for the city's firefighters, both paid and volunteer. Shortly after its opening, the city had to contend with the question of whether or not the members of the fire department could continue to have beer served to them on Sunday evenings, as had been the tradition in the old fireman's hall.²⁹ Tara V. Kohlenberg, who wrote for the Sophienburg Museum about her childhood in New Braunfels, recalled the station as it was during her childhood. She described the way that the bay doors were “almost always open” to reveal the trucks in the three engine bays, and that the firemen “would often sit on the metal benches out front.”³⁰ Staatz was promoted to the position of fire chief in April 1925 and held the position until May 1958. Staatz was a constant and vocal advocate for a modern and up-to-date fire department that ranked among the best in the state of Texas. On July 12, 1946, the New Braunfels Fire Department celebrated its 60th anniversary and boasted the third lowest fire insurance rate in Texas.³¹

²⁵ Sanborn Map Company, “New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas, 1922,” [map], Perry-Castañeda Map Collection, UT Austin.

²⁶ *New Braunfels Herald*, “A Destructive Fire at Seguin,” September 29, 1916.

²⁷ Comal County Government, “Eiband & Fischer Store,” 2015, accessed February 4, 2019,

http://www.co.comal.tx.us/Historical/Properties/Eiband_Fisher_Store.htm.

²⁸ Found in the *Central Fire Station Fire Record Call Book*, 1947.

²⁹ *New Braunfels Herald*, “Notes on City Council Proceedings,” May 10, 1918, 1.

³⁰ Tara V. Kohlenberg, “Heroes and History,” (Sophienburg Museum and Archives, August 19, 2018), accessed February 1, 2019, <https://sophienburg.com/heroes-and-history/>.

³¹ *New Braunfels Herald*, “New Braunfels Volunteer Fire Department moves into 60th year with finest record of fire prevention,” July 12, 1946.

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In addition to their excellent firefighting, the firefighters of New Braunfels were called upon to help in other types of emergencies. According to the call log book—kept as a record of alarms, responses, and resources used by the fire department—the trucks were called out to assist in cleaning and disposing of dangerous waste and pumping out flooded basements. On some occasions the fire department was called upon to assist city police, as on May 7, 1932, when a fight broke out during a dance. In other situations, the firefighters were called upon to provide medical care. A special record was kept in the call log book of the firefighters' use of their H & H Inhalator, which was used to help resuscitating people in respiratory distress. On July 26, 1932, the New Braunfels Fire Department responded from the Central Fire Station to a call for an inhalator after a motor boat capsized on the Lake Dunlap reservoir southwest of New Braunfels. The firefighters searched the waters for four hours and used their inhalator to no result, and two women who had been visiting from Austin drowned.

For the holiday season in 1932, the fire department partnered with the local Lion's Club to collect "dolls that have suffered minor casualties" and other outgrown or otherwise unused toys and worked to repair them. Citizens brought the toys down to the Central Fire Station, where the *New Braunfels Herald* reported that the firemen were "working hard on the toys already donated."³²

Expansion of the Fire Department and Construction of an Additional Station

In November 1930, the *New Braunfels Herald* called for bids for the construction of the second fire station, designed this time by local New Braunfels architect Jeremiah Schmidt. The station would provide additional protection for the growing population of New Braunfels, and allow the city to maintain its low fire key rate, for which it had "been highly praised all over the state."³³ The new fire station was designed so that the families of the two firemen might live there, and the American LaFrance combination pumper and chemical truck were moved there from the Central Fire Station, now called Fire Station No. 1. The newspaper reported in April 1931 that the vacancy at the first fire station would be filled by a new hook and ladder truck.³⁴

Replacement and New Role as a Museum

The New Braunfels Central Fire Station, renamed as Fire Station No. 1 following the construction of the second fire station in 1930, served as the primary fire station until April of 1987 when the city constructed a replacement facility next door. In 1995, the old station was repurposed and renamed as the New Braunfels Fire Department Museum. In its new role as a museum, the building showcases the history of the fire department but also implicitly acknowledges the growth and development of New Braunfels and the more prominent role local government played in the everyday lives of residents. The museum also depicts the evolution of the practice of firefighting and emergency medical services. The structure stands as a monument to a different era, when firefighting as a profession began to transform from brigades of volunteers to employed professionals.

CRITERION C – Architecture

Leo M. J. Dielmann

Architect Leo Maria Joseph Dielmann, who designed the fire station, was a prominent San Antonio-based architect who practiced from 1902 until 1957. Dielmann was the son of a German immigrant, who worked as a stonemason in his adopted city of San Antonio. After college, Dielmann was trained in architecture and

³² *New Braunfels Herald*, "Santa Wants Help!" November 25, 1932.

³³ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Bids Called for New Fire Station," November 21, 1930, 1.

³⁴ *New Braunfels Herald*, "Firemen Appointed for New Station," April 3, 1931, 1.

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engineering in Germany before returning to Texas and worked with his father in the building materials industry. Dielmann was appointed the San Antonio City Building Inspector in 1909, before establishing his own architecture practice.

Dielmann's most known and celebrated work were churches in and around San Antonio.³⁵ He constructed more than 100 church buildings, primarily across South Texas, including landmarks like the Fort Sam Houston Post Chapel, the Conventual Chapel, the Science Hall, and other buildings at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredericksburg.³⁶ Many of the buildings he designed are listed in the National Register, including:

- The Fairmount Hotel – 401 S. Alamo, San Antonio (1906), listed in 1988
- La Borde House, Store and Hotel – 601 E. Main St., Rio Grande City (1917), listed in 1980
- Monastery of Our Lady of Charity – 1900 Montana, San Antonio (1899), listed in 1999
- Nativity of Mary, Blessed Virgin Catholic Church – FM 2672, High Hill (1906), listed in 1983
- Our Lady of Lourdes Church – 105 N. William St., Victoria (1923), listed in 1986
- Park Hotel, known as the Plaza Hotel since 1919 – 217 S. River St., Seguin (1917), listed in 1980
- Post Chapel (Fort Sam Houston) – Bldg. 2200, Wilson St., San Antonio (1909), listed in 1974
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church – 1633 S. Eighth St., Abilene (1893), listed in 1979
- St. Mary's Catholic Church – 306 W. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg (1906), listed in 1983
- St. Mary's Catholic Church – 701 Church St., Brenham (1935), listed in 1990

Though Dielmann's churches are his most prolific and most known work, he also was responsible for the design of municipal and commercial buildings throughout Central Texas, including the previously National Register-listed Park and Fairmont Hotels. The Park Hotel is notable in that Dielmann designed it only one year prior to receiving a commission for the New Braunfels Central Fire Station, and the hotel was one of Dielmann's early efforts into constructing fireproof, skeleton-frame buildings as made popular by the architects of the Chicago School movement. As the requirements for the fire station were that it be a fireproof structure, Dielmann's understanding of modern building technology and fireproofing lent him to the task. Further, as fire stations were important examples of public architecture, they were often architect designed and bear clear hallmarks of distinct architectural styles and ornamentation, even when understated. The Central Fire Station exemplifies Dielmann's work for municipal governments.

Adolph F. Moeller

The builder, Adolph F. Moeller, was also the descendant of German immigrants in Texas. Moeller was himself a member of the volunteer fire fighting association for Hose Company Number 4. He served as the Hose Company's delegate to the Fireman's Convention in San Angelo alongside then Assistant Fire Chief Walter Staatz in 1917.³⁷ Moeller also served as an Alderman in 1914 at the city council representing Ward No. 5.³⁸

Moeller was responsible for the construction of many other structures in New Braunfels that exhibited elements consistent with the Prairie Style, like the New Braunfels High School, constructed in 1913. He advertised his

³⁵ Bernice Strong, "Dielmann, Leo Maria Joseph," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed January 21, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fdi25>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ *New Braunfels Herald*, Untitled Article, May 11, 1917, 8.

³⁸ *New Braunfels Herald*, Untitled Article, May 19, 1915, 4.

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services especially in the realm of cement and concrete work, including culverts, ditches, bridges, building blocks, and “cistern and well blocks of any size.”³⁹

Summary

The 1918 Central Fire Station was constructed as the first modern fire station in New Braunfels. It represents the development and increased role that municipal governments played in fire prevention during the early part of the twentieth century. New Braunfels, like many other comparably sized Texas cities, sought to take a more aggressive and active role in preventing and battling fires. Such effort was not only important to public safety and the lives and well-being of citizens; it also helped to reduce fire insurance rates through an investment in infrastructure. The building’s role in the community changed over the course of its use, as the capabilities and responsibilities of the fire department shifted, new equipment was acquired, and new stations were constructed. Even though the building no longer functions as an active fire station, it stands proudly as a virtually unaltered historic building that is more than 100 years old. Designed by prolific architect Leo M. J. Dielmann and constructed by local builder Adolph F. Moeller, the building also serves as an excellent intact example of a municipal fire station that features influences of both the Prairie School and Mission Revival styles of architecture. The Central Fire Station is significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government and Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. Since the building functioned in this capacity until 1987, the period of significance spans from 1918 to 1969.

³⁹ *New Braunfels Herald*, Advertisement, October 8, 1909, 2.

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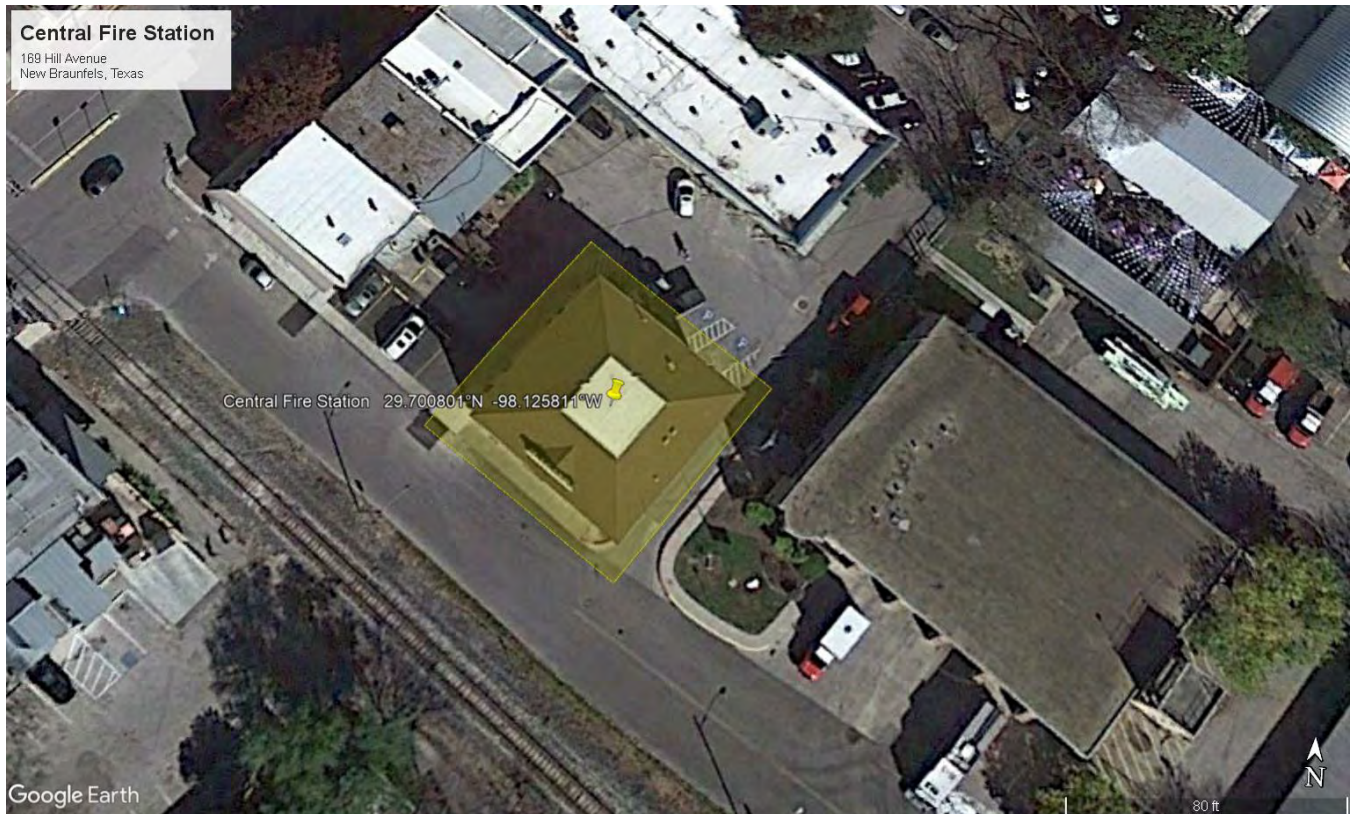
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Maps



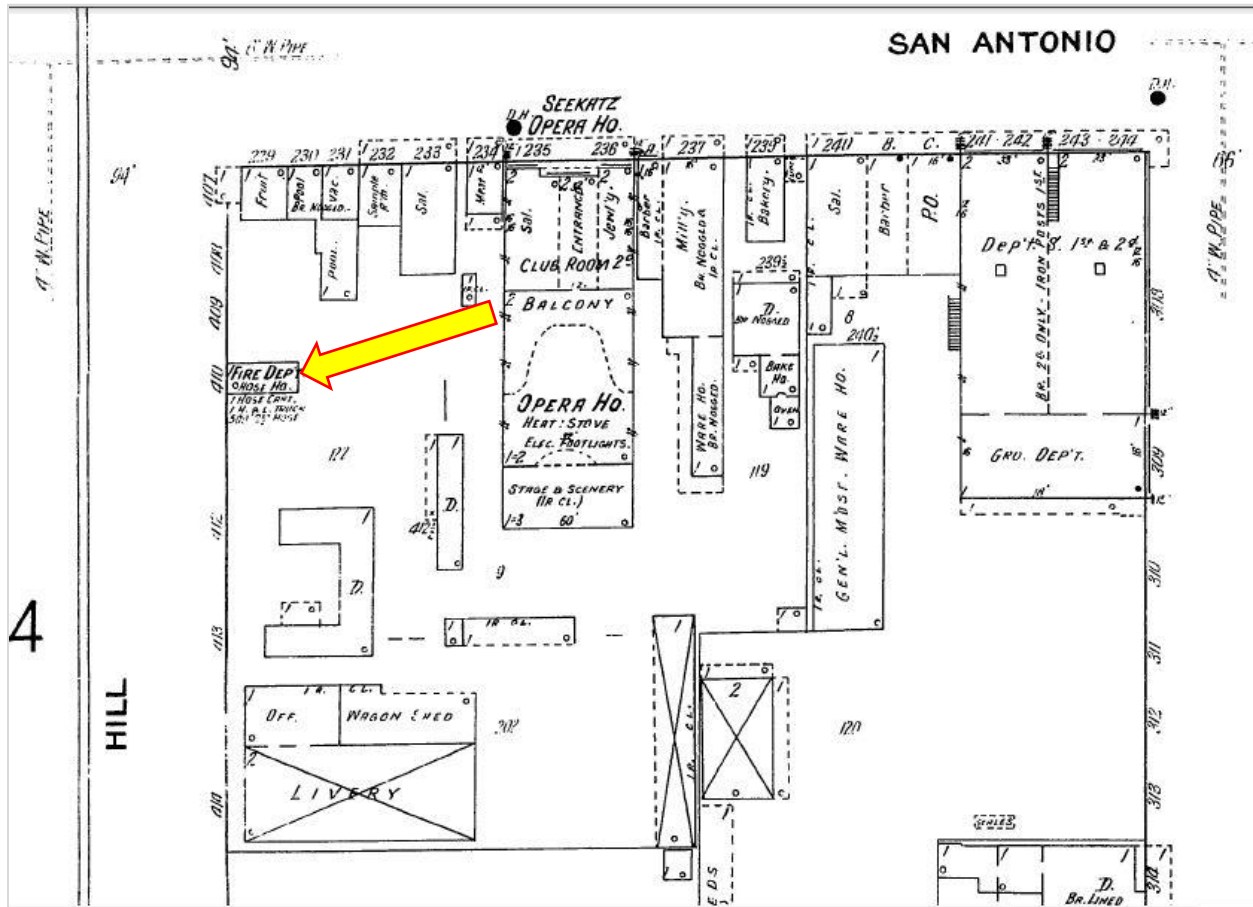
Map 1. Comal County, Texas – highlighted in red.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



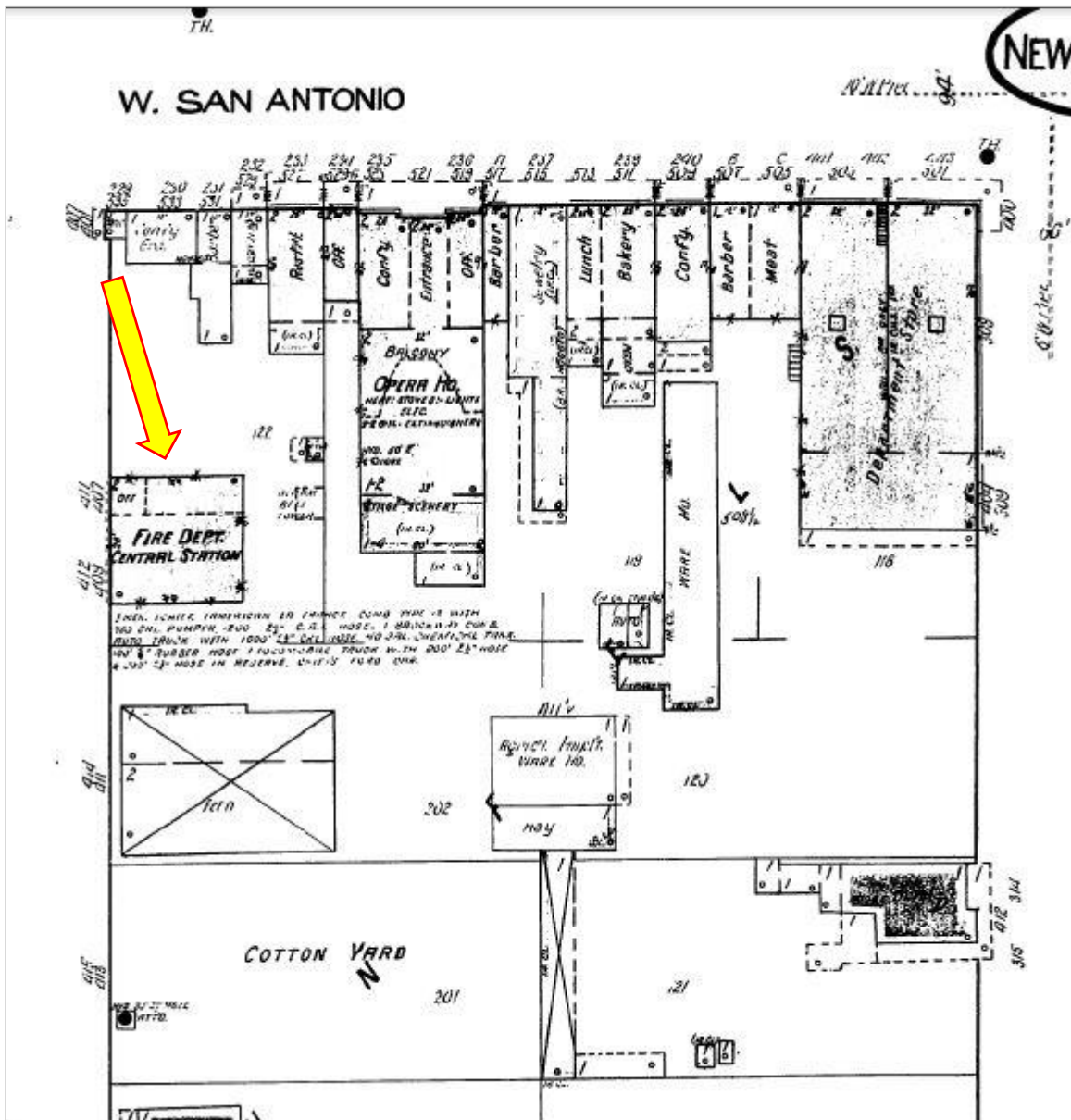
Map 2. Google Earth Map showing nominated property boundary. Accessed May 31, 2019.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



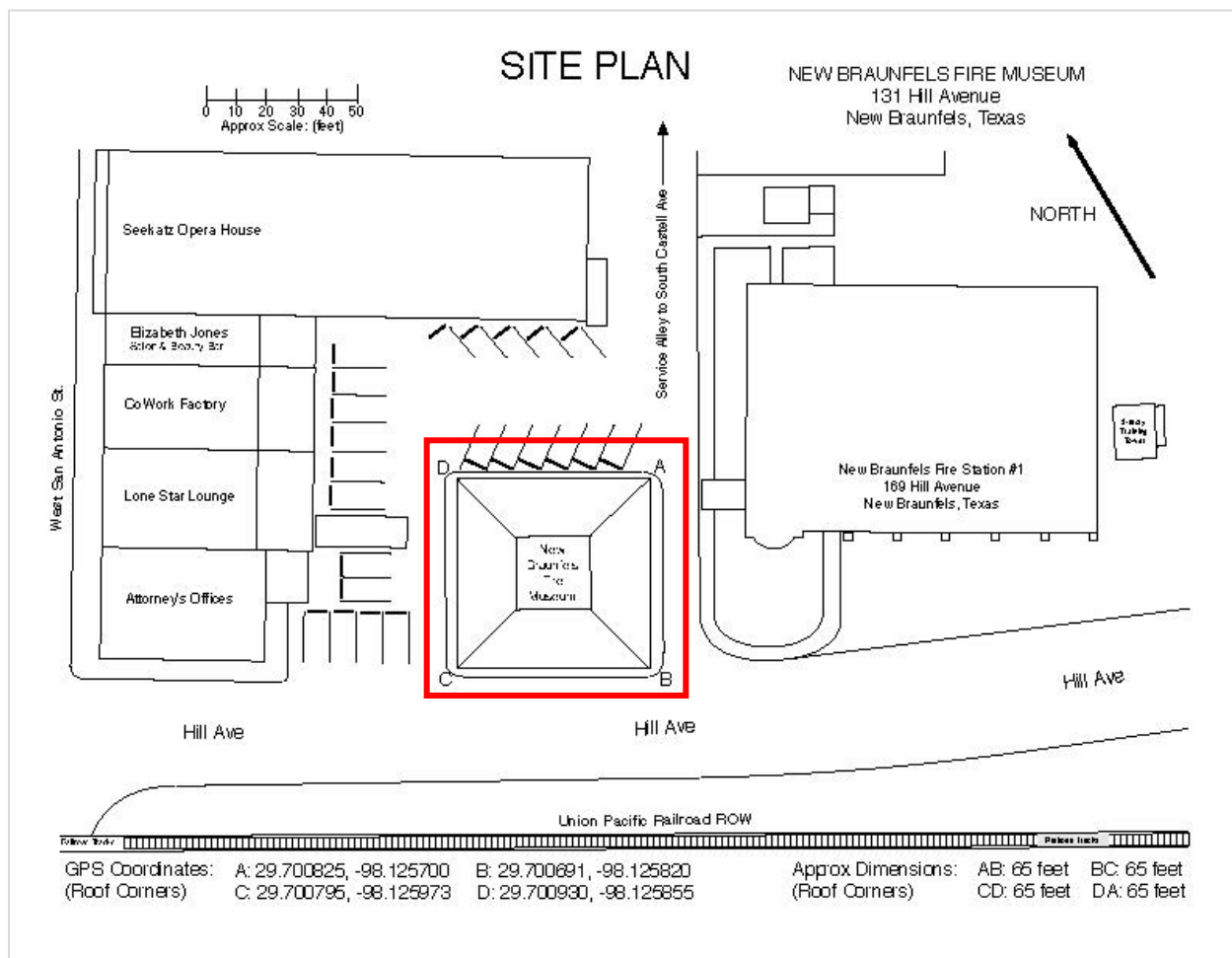
Map 3. 1912 New Braunfels Sanborn Map, sheet 5. Arrow points to future location of Central Fire Station. Prior to its construction, a “Hose House” was located at the site.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Map 4. 1922 New Braunfels Sanborn Map, sheet 5, following the construction of the Central Fire Station in 1918. Arrow points to Central Fire Station.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Map 5. Site Plan.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

Figures



Figure 1. The New Braunfels Volunteer Fire Department as of June 1927, prior to several historic-period changes to the building, including the addition of a metal beam and “New Braunfels Central Fire Station” sign above the garage bays. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Figure 2. Photograph of New Braunfels Fire Department pumper race team in front of the Central Fire Station building, date unknown. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.



Figure 3. Four firefighters pose with a pumper truck in front of the Central Fire Station in December 1929. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Figure 4. Four fire fighters pose in front of the 1918 Central Fire Station. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Figure 5. Historic photograph showing four people standing on the second-floor balcony of the Central Fire Station, after the metal beam and “New Braunfels Central Fire Station” sign was added at an unknown date. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Figure 6. Photograph showing the rear façade of the Central Fire Station and its awning, which was added during the historic period. The back of the photograph bears the inscription: "Unit # Old 104, Unit #105, #107, #121, #131." Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Figure 7. The New Braunfels Fire Department ambulance, including fire fighters Roger Brinkkoeter and John Williams outside of the New Braunfels Central Fire Station. Photo dated January 10, 1973. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

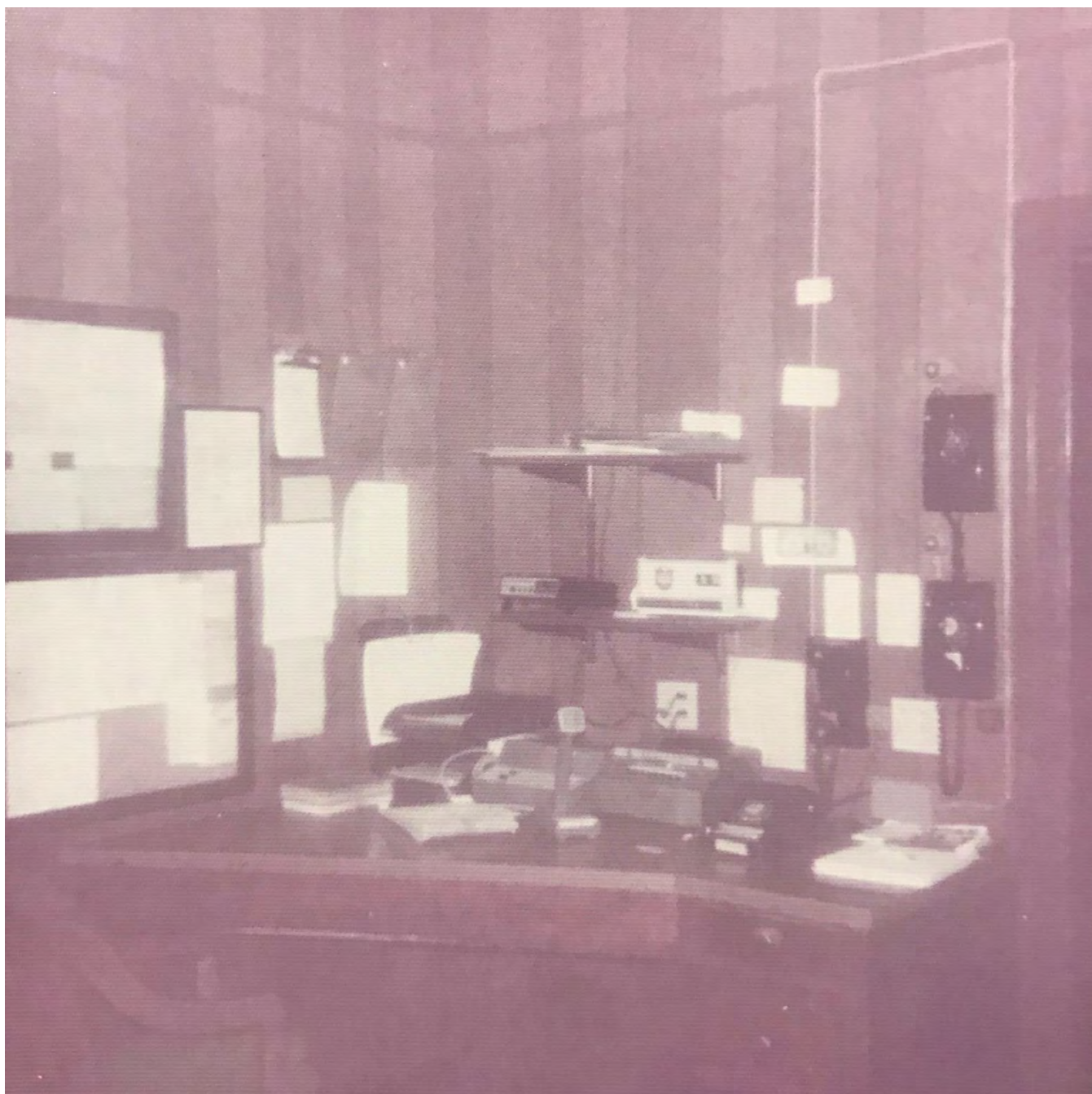


Figure 8. Ca. 1973 photograph of the fire marshal's office, now serving as the dispatch room, as inscribed on the back of the photograph. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Figure 9. Ca. 1973 photograph of the interior second floor of the first station. Handwritten on the back of the photograph are the words: "Fire Pole Upstairs Central Fire Station." Dielmann's original plans have the fire pole in the far northern portion of the apparatus room, though it was moved to this located during interior renovations. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Figure 10. Original front and rear elevations from the San Antonio office of Leo M. J. Dielmann. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

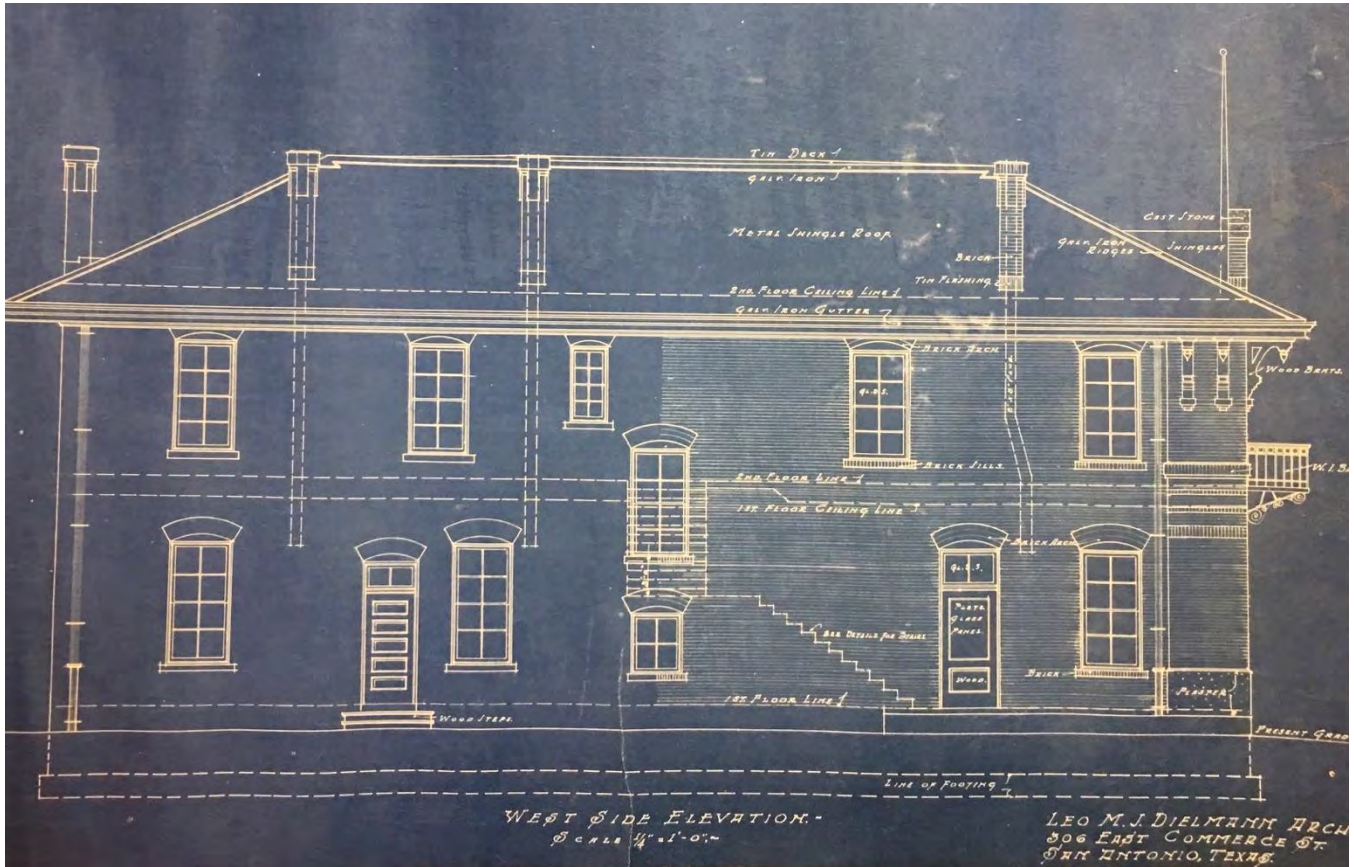


Figure 11. Original west elevation from the San Antonio office of Leo M. J. Dielmann, including chimneys that were not built and a different arrangement of windows. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

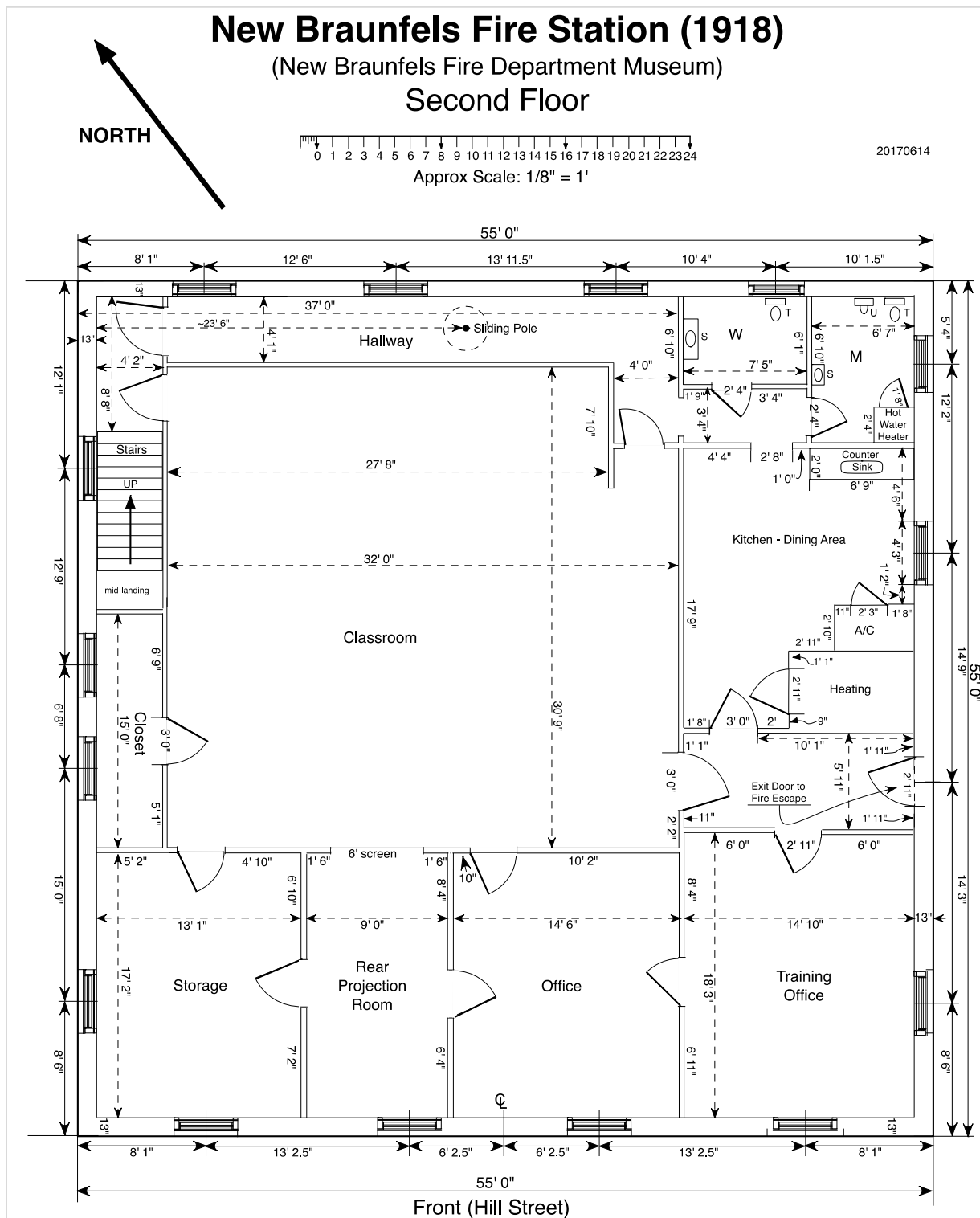


Figure 12. Blueprint of the second-floor configuration of the New Braunfels Central Fire Station, after renovations to expand the training and classroom space. Courtesy of the New Braunfels Fire Museum.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

Photographs



Photo No. 1. View of south elevation of historic 1918 Central Fire Station, camera facing northeast.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 2. Oblique view of the Central Fire Station, camera facing north.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 3. Contextual view of the Central Fire Station, including the New Braunfels Fire Station No. 1, built in 1987 to replace it. Camera facing west.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 4. View of the Central Fire Station, view facing southwest. The remnants of an awning, added sometime before 1980 and since removed, are evident on this façade below the second story windows.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 5. Oblique view of the 1918 Central Fire Station, camera facing south.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 6. Oblique view of the Central Fire Station, camera facing east.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 7. Detail view of decorative brackets on the west (side) façade. Camera facing southwest.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 8. Detail view of the door to the original fire marshal's office, and window, both with brick arches. View facing southwest.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 9. Detail view of "New Braunfels Fire Museum" sign, wrought iron balcony on the primary (south) façade, and the horizontal brickwork detailing indicative of the Prairie School style. Camera facing north.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 10. Detail view of 1918 corner stone, featuring the name of the builder, architect, and other important members of the community at the time of the building's commissioning and completion. Camera facing east.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 11. Photo of the 1931 American LaFrance Ladder Truck, parked in the apparatus room in the middle bay. Behind the ladder truck, the garage door opening to the rear (northern) elevation and the pressed tin roof are visible.

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Photo No. 12. Interior view of the Central Fire Station within the equipment room, including the 1931 American LaFrance Ladder Truck and the equipment room's pressed tin roof.

Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas



Photo No. 13. Interior view of the Central Fire Station within the equipment room, view facing east. In the foreground, the 1923 American LaFrance pumper is on display. In the background, the firepole can be seen descending through the pressed tin ceiling. The fire pole was moved from its original location during renovations.



19 N.B.F.D. 18

NEW BRAUNFELS FIRE MUSEUM





N.B.F.D.

NEW BRAUNFELS FIRE MUSEUM

NO PARKING 1/2 HR. LATE



NEW BRAUNFELS

169

NEW BRAUNFELS FIRE STATION

NO PARKING

STOP



NO PARKING
FIRE EQUIPMENT
ONLY

RESERVED
PARKING

RESERVED
PARKING

NO PARKING

NO PARKING

Jeep

ONT-5691

967-4854





19 NEW B. 18

NEW BRAUNFELS FIRE MUSEUM





NEW BRAUNFELS FIRE MUSEUM



1918
FIRE STATION
ADOLF HENNE
CHIEF
ED. MOELLER
CITY MARSHAL
JOHN R. FUCHS
CITY ATTY.
LEO. M. J. DIELMANN
ARCHITECT
AD. F. MOELLER
CONTRACTOR

1918
CHAS. ALVES MAYOR
HUGO STRATEMANN
R. G. BLUMBERG
JOHN MARBACH
CURT LINNARTZ
JULIUS MEHLITZ
EDWIN ORTH
WALTER CLEMENS
PETER NOWOTNY JR.
R. H. WAGENFUEHR
ALDERMEN
HILMAR FISCHER
CITY CLERK





No. 1



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National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Central Fire Station, New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

DATE: October 25, 2019

The following materials are submitted:

Table with 2 columns: checkbox and description. Rows include: Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk, Resubmitted nomination, Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO, Multiple Property Documentation form on disk, Resubmitted form, Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO, CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF, Correspondence.

COMMENTS:

- ___ SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
___ The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
___ Other:

