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October 27, 2008

Chair Laurie Limbacher and Commission Members
 Historic Landmark Commission
 City of Austin
 Via e-mail

Dear Chair Limbacher and Commission Members:

The Heritage Society of Austin respectfully requests that you initiate historic zoning of the Tips Iron and Steel Co., Inc. building at Baylor and 4th Streets. We believe that this treasure stands as one of the most significant yet undesignated buildings in our City.



**HERITAGE
 SOCIETY OF
 AUSTIN**

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We are making this request to proactively address the preservation of this building in advance of likely development interest in the area. The Tips Foundry is a rare and essential vestige of our City's history and it could be restored as an asset to the area if properly developed. Establishing historic zoning for the building would avoid ambiguity and an entangled zoning process for a prospective developer.

This structure should be preserved as a reminder of a distinctive company that played a notable role in the development of our city. The Tips Company was founded in Austin in 1899 and moved to this current location in 1909. This family-owned enterprise was instrumental in the construction of some of Austin's most important structures, and manufactured the utility hole covers still seen throughout our city. The company's work remains in the Driskill Hotel, the Travis County Courthouse, the Austin History Center at Ninth and Guadalupe streets, and the former Austin American-Statesman building at Seventh and Colorado streets. Furthermore, the building serves as one of the last remaining examples of a manufacturing site from its era.

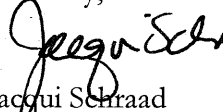
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Specifically, we believe the property meets the criteria of subsection 25-2-352(A)(3)(b)(ii) ("substantially associated with persons . . . of historical significance which contributed to the social . . . history of the City . . .") and subsection (iv) ("possesses value to the community because it significantly represents the . . . economic, social, or historical heritage of the City or an area of the City . . .") of the City of Austin Code of Ordinances.

We urge your instigation of historic designation of the property, and thank you for your many hours of hard work to preserve what is best about Austin for future generations.

Sincerely,


 Jacqui Schraad
 Executive Director

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