

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

September 2, 2021

The Hon. Alyssa Cigarroa  
City Council Member  
City of Laredo  
1110 Houston Street  
Laredo, Texas 78040

RE: Evelyn Motor Inn, 2720 San Bernardo Avenue, Laredo, Webb County, Texas

Dear Councilwoman Cigarroa:

We understand that a local zoning proposal may threaten the Evelyn Motor Inn on San Bernardo in Laredo. We are very familiar with this property, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register through the THC's Meridian Highway Survey, conducted in 2016.

The Evelyn Motor Inn was originally known as Dodd's Mo-tel when it was built in 1939 by Ralph H. Dodds. In 1960, Evelyn Mae Triner Bangs, who came to Laredo from Chicago in 1958, purchased the property. Bangs most likely updated the motel in the early 1960s, rechristening it as a "motor inn," adding a large neon sign, breezeblock screens, modernistic patio umbrellas, and upgrading door hardware and interior décor and finishes. The motor inn is one of the best-preserved roadside lodgings of the postwar era in Laredo, and possibly all of South Texas, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

A similar property on San Bernardo (Pan American Courts & Café) is currently being nominated to the National Register by its owner, and we expect it be approved at each stage of the process. Both properties share similar historical and physical contexts, and both would be excellent candidates for substantial state and federal tax credits if rehabilitated for commercial use following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (512) 463-6013 or [greg.smith@thc.texas.gov](mailto:greg.smith@thc.texas.gov). Thank you for your interest in the National Register and in preserving Texas' cultural heritage.

Sincerely,



Gregory Smith  
National Register Coordinator

