

State of Texas *

*

County of Comal *

Proclamation

Recognizing West End Park & Dance Hall

Texas Historical Commission Subject Marker

WHEREAS, following his service in World War II, Felipe Delgado and his wife, Elisa Saenz Delgado, in 1947 purchased a lot at Katy Street and Grape Avenue in the West End subdivision to create an entertainment center for the Hispanic community of New Braunfels; and

WHEREAS, Felipe devoted his spare time to working on the park, which eventually included a concrete slab for dances and events lit by lanterns and a hall that became a popular destination for concerts, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and quinceañeras; and

WHEREAS, Lydia Mendoza, one of the best-known Spanish-language singers of the Texas-Mexico border region, performed at the West End Dance Hall to large crowds; at times the concrete platform and dance hall were converted for use as a skating rink or boxing ring; and Elisa made and sold hamburgers for attendees at dances and baseball games; and

WHEREAS, a large outdoor area accommodated carnivals, picnics and celebrations, and a baseball field with a large grandstand encouraged a love of baseball in the community as the West End Cardinals and Lions played against other local and regional teams – as well as teams from Mexico – at the park; and

WHEREAS, one of the largest annual events in the park was the Diez y Seis de Septiembre celebration of Mexico's independence from Spain for which hundreds of residents and guests would gather in the park for music, food and festivities; and

WHEREAS, although the Delgados leased the property in the 1970s, the hall was torn down in the 1980s, and the remains of the buildings and baseball fields are no longer visible, the legacy of West End Park remains in the community; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors of the markers are the Felipe and Elisa Delgado family with daughter Estella Delgado Farias as primary researcher; and

WHEREAS, the West End Park and Dance Hall has been awarded a Texas Historical Commission Marker designating the history of the site in Comal County to be a significant part of Texas history, and a marker dedication will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 24, at the corner of Katy Street and Grape Avenue in New Braunfels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Comal County Commissioners Court, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, and the Comal County Historical Commission wish to commend you on your work towards receiving this marker and your dedication to historical preservation and recording the history of Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 19th day of October, 2017.

Absent

Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1

Scott Haag

Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2

Kevin Webb

Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3

Jen Crownover

Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest:

Bobbie Koepf

Bobbie Koepf, County Clerk

