

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK NAME: All Saints Catholic Church Rectory
(private residence)

OWNER: John D. Roven

APPLICANT: Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission

LOCATION: 943 ½ Cortlandt Street - Houston Heights MRA

HEARING NOTICE: 08-20-2002

AGENDA ITEM: II

HPO FILE NO: 02L104

DATE ACCEPTED: 08-15-02

HAHC HEARING: 09-12-02

PC HEARING: 10-03-02

SITE INFORMATION

Lot 2, Block 229, Houston Heights Subdivision, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a two-story, wood frame house.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The All Saints Catholic Church Rectory was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 7, 1993. It is included within the boundaries of Houston Heights, which was designated as a Multiple Resource Area (MRA) by the National Register Program on June 22, 1983. The building was constructed in 1912 in the Greek Revival style. In addition to the two-story gallery porch, the house also featured originally a one-story, wraparound, open porch (no roof) which wrapped the house to the right. It is a very unusual example of this type of architecture in Houston Heights.

All Saints Catholic Church had been organized in 1908 when Father G. T. Walsh was commissioned to start the parish in Houston Heights. He was commissioned by the Most Rev. N. A. Gallagher, Bishop of Galveston. The first church, constructed of white brick, was built in 1909 at 1012 Harvard in the Romanesque Revival style. A rectory was constructed in 1912 at 1002 Harvard at 10th Street. Father Walsh left the parish in 1914 to serve Annunciation Church at 1618 Texas Avenue (N. R. 11/03/1975). He was succeeded by Father John Gallagher. As the parish grew in numbers, it was decided to demolish the old church, relocate the rectory, and construct a larger church on the site of both buildings. In 1927 a new church was built at 210 E. 10th Street (N. R. 6/22/1983) in the Romanesque Revival style. Prior to that time, the rectory had been put up for sale to be moved. Patrick Francis Doyle, who lived at 945 Heights Boulevard, had purchased it and moved the house by lowering it onto logs, then pulling the structure with mule teams to its present location at 943 ½ Cortlandt Street. According to his daughter, Agnes Doyle, the move took two days to relocate the house two blocks away. The house was used on Cortlandt as a boarding house and then as rental property for a number of years. The house was purchased in 1988 and restored and has been used as a single family dwelling since that time.

Houston Heights was designated a MRA because it was at one time an independent municipality. Within its original boundaries are numerous buildings, many of which are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Houston Heights was developed by the Omaha and South Texas Land Company in 1891. It was incorporated later as a city in 1896 and, at that time, was the earliest and largest, totally planned community in Texas. It flourished as a distinct municipality until the residents voted to be annexed by the City of Houston in 1918.

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- (2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event;
- (3) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is identified with a person who, or group or event that, contributed significantly to the cultural or historical development of the city, state, or nation;
- (4) Whether the building or structure or the buildings or structures within the area exemplify a particular architectural style or building type important to the city;
- (5) Whether the building or structure or the buildings or structures within the area are the best remaining examples of an architectural style or building type in a neighborhood;
- (6) Whether the building, structure, object or site or the buildings, structures, objects or sites within the area are identified as the work of a person or group whose work has influenced the heritage of the city, state, or nation;
- (7) Whether specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present;
- (8) Whether the building, structure, object or site has value as a significant element of community sentiment or public pride.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommends that the Houston Planning Commission accepts the recommendation of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and recommends to City Council the Landmark designation of the All Saints Catholic Church Rectory at 943 ½ Cortlandt Street.

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SITE LOCATION MAP
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH RECTORY
943 1/2 CORTLANDT STREET
NOT TO SCALE

