

## LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

**LANDMARK NAME:** William B. Ferguson House  
**OWNERS:** Richard and Amanda Johnson  
**APPLICANTS:** Same  
**LOCATION:** 3003 Chevy Chase Drive – River Oaks

**AGENDA ITEM:** II.e  
**HPO FILE NO:** 13L278  
**DATE ACCEPTED:** 03/26/2013  
**HAHC HEARING:** 04/18/2013

### SITE INFORMATION

Lot 5, Block 29, River Oaks Section 5, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a historic two-story, brick single family residence.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation**

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The William B. Ferguson House was designed by Salisbury & McHale for the Ferguson family in 1935. It was constructed by builder E.B. Crawford. William Ferguson was the financial advisor to the Hogg family, and he was active with the Hogg Brothers operation from the 1920s through the 1970s.

Hiram A. Salisbury and T. George McHale, doing business as Salisbury & McHale, created a substantial body of work that includes many of the iconic homes in River Oaks and Southampton, as well as St. John's School and the St. John's Chapel (in association with Mackie and Kamrath Architects). The Ferguson House was designed in the Colonial Revival Style.

The William B. Ferguson House meets Criteria 1, 4, and 6 for Landmark Designation.

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

#### *William and Gladys Ferguson*

William Booker Ferguson was born in Texas on November 7, 1894. By 1924, he was working for the Hogg Brothers as the Treasurer of Varner Realty. He held similar positions with their other operations as well. By working for Varner, Ferguson was most familiar with the development of River Oaks. But, it was not until 1935 that he moved his family to the neighborhood.

The 1940 City Directory lists William Ferguson as the "Sec, treas. Hogg Oil Company, Varner Co. & Ingleside Land Co., Acct., Hogg Brothers". In 1953, he was described as the General Manager of Hogg Brothers when he attended a UT Board of Regents meeting as a guest of Ima Hogg. He is described in the Varner Hogg Plantation Interpretive Guide as an attorney for the Hogg Brothers. Ferguson died in December 1984. The Fergusons lived in the house until 1945, when they moved to the Warwick Hotel.

## *Previous Owners*

The house was purchased in 1946 by William and Ellen Bowers. Mr. Bowers was a real estate investor and an investment man. He died in 1958, and Mrs. Bowers stayed in the home until her death in 1966.

The house was then sold to Marvin T. Launius, Jr, in 1967. Dorman and Shirley Shockley purchased the house in 1988. Mr. Shockley was a geologist. The Shockley's stayed in the house until Mr. Shockley's death in 1999. The house then sold to Christine M. Wilson. The present owners purchased it in 2012.

## *Salisbury & McHale*

According to Stephen Fox, architectural historian, Hiram A. Salisbury (1892-1973) was born in Omaha, Nebraska. Salisbury studied architecture under a fellowship from the American Institute of Architects and later graduated from the School of Architecture at New York's Columbia University (1913-1914). He worked as a draftsman for Thomas R. Kimball from 1910-1923 and George B. Prinz from 1923-1926. Salisbury established his own architectural firm in Houston in 1926, and he is first listed in the 1927 Houston City Directory with his office in the Post-Dispatch (subsequently Shell) Building, where it was located until 1937.

Beginning in 1928, according to Fox, Salisbury collaborated on many projects with fellow architect, T. George McHale. Their projects included residential, commercial, and churches. Among their more notable projects are the St. John's School located at 2401 Claremont, St. Stephens Episcopal Church located at 1805 W. Alabama, and numerous homes located in River Oaks, Southampton and other upscale Houston neighborhoods. In 1938-39, Hiram A. Salisbury and T. George McHale relocated their office to the River Oaks Community Center, located at 2017 W. Gray. Salisbury and McHale later moved their offices to 3501 Allen Parkway in 1945.

Per Stephen Fox, T[homas] George McHale (1903-1975) was also born in Omaha, Nebraska, and attended school at the University of Notre Dame. Following the receipt of his architectural degree, McHale became a draftsman for John Latenzer & Sons, where he worked from 1919 until 1923. In 1924 he worked for James A. Allen and Leo A. Daly. In 1925 he began working for George B. Prinz, where he joined Salisbury. They both left that firm to form their own firm in 1927. The wife of T. George McHale was Inez P. McHale, who was a celebrated Houston interior decorator. They lived first at 1106 Palm Avenue and then moved to No. 2 Courtlandt Place.

Beginning in 1930, Hiram A. Salisbury and his wife lived at 3412 Yupon (between Hawthorne and Harold). By 1953, they were living at 610 Saddlewood Lane. Salisbury continued his practice in Houston until approximately 1962, when he retired to Medford, Oregon. He had served as the President of The American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter in 1954.

A list of identified works of Salisbury (HAS) in association with McHale (TGMcH) and others, which was researched and provided by Stephen Fox, includes:

- Masonic Temple, 118 N. 11th St., Mc Allen TX, 1926;
- Southampton Home Sensible, 2218 Dunstan Rd, 1927;
- W. L. Pearson House, Corpus Christi TX, 1927;
- Ironcraft Studio Building (altered), 3901-07 Main St., 1927;

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- H. Q. Rickman House, 2223 Stanmore, 1927 (American Architect 5 Jan 1928);
- Nelms Building (H. S. Tucker & Co. Oakland-Pontiac dealership) (demolished), 2310 Main St., 1927;
- E. E. Johnson House, 949 S. Ohio Ave., Mercedes TX, 1927;
- Emergency Clinic and Hospital Unit 2 (demolished), 1316 75th St., 1928;
- Mrs. H. F. Lawson Building (demolished), 1010 Holman Ave., 1929;
- Robert H. Pentz House, 2159 Inwood Dr., 1930;
- Speculative House (Paul Weaver House), 3443 Inwood Dr., 1930;
- Benson-Hall Construction Co. House (A. E. Kerr, Jr., House), 2005 Bellmeade Rd., 1931;
- Frank L. Webb House, 2935 Chevy Chase Dr., 1931;
- W. E. Sampson House (demolished), 984 Kirby Drive, 1932, with Cameron Fairchild;
- Charles A. Perlitz House (demolished 2005), 1005 Sul Ross Ave., c. 1932;
- Stewart P. Coleman House, 6 Shadowlawn Circle, 1933;
- Wilson Saville Home, 3217 Groveland, 1933;
- W. E. Montieth House, 5 Shadowlawn Circle, 1934;
- James Anderson House, 5216 Dunlavy St., 1934;
- C. Milby Dow Bay House "Raven Moor", near Baytown, 1935;
- Henry A. Sauer House, 2229 Inwood Dr., 1935, HAS & TGMcH;
- Damon Wells House, 1659 North Blvd., 1935, HAS;
- Larry J. Langdon House, 2131 Troon Rd., c. 1936;
- Elwood Fouts House (altered), 3470 Inwood Dr., 1936, HAS & TGMcH;
- Francis G. Coates House, 3417 Del Monte Dr., 1936, HAS & TGMcH;
- J. E. Cooper House, 2247 Dryden Rd., 1936, HAS with
- H. Edward Maddox, and Claude E. Hooton;
- Pfeiffer House, River Oaks Boulevard (demolished May 2004);
- George B. Corless House, 1936 Larchmont Rd., 1936, HAS & TGMcH;
- H. F. Junker House, 2226 Shakespeare Rd., 1936, HAS & TGMcH;
- St. James Episcopal Church, 1500 N. Thompson St., Conroe TX, 1936-37, HAS & TGMcH;
- J. Sayles Leach House (demolished), 2207 River Oaks Blvd., 1937, HAS & TGMcH (House & Garden);
- Royston H. Patterson House, 7370 Sims Dr., 1937, HAS & TGMcH;
- John S. Bonner House, 1705 North Blvd., 1938, HAS & TGMcH;
- Lucien L. Powell House, 2111 Pine Valley Dr., 1938, HAS & TGMcH;
- Wheeler Nazro House, 3400 Piping Rock Lane, 1938, HAS & TGMcH;
- P. L. Williams House, 3612 Rio Vista Dr., 1938, HAS & TGMcH;
- Katrina Byram House, 2135 University Blvd., 1939, HAS & TGMcH;
- Ned Gill House, 949 Kirby Dr., c. 1940;
- Harry J. Kuhn House (demolished), 22 N. West Oaks, 1940, HAS & TGMcH;
- William S. Bonner House, 1412 North Blvd., 1940, HAS & TGMcH;
- E. H. Lorehn House (altered), 2198 Troon Rd., 1940, HAS & TGMcH;
- W. Leland Anderson House, 1519 South Blvd., 1940, HAS & TGMcH;
- George C. Schmidt House (demolished), 21 Westlane Place, 1940, HAS & TGMcH;
- Dr. Paul Ledbetter House, 3508 Inwood Dr., 1941, HAS & TGMcH;
- Thomas D. Anderson House (attribution but not proven), 3929 Del Monte Dr., 1941;
- Chapel, St. John The Divine Episcopal Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd., 1941, HAS & TGMcH and MacKie & Kamrath, Birdsall P. Briscoe, consulting architects;
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama Ave., 1941, HAS & TGMcH;
- Jack Roach Building, 6000 Block of Harrisburg Blvd., 1941, HAS & TGMcH;
- Adolph Pfeffer House, 2109 River Oaks Blvd., 1930s, HAS & TGMcH;

- W. E. Parry House, 2407 Pelham Dr., 1930s, HAS & TGMcH;
- Russell L. Jolley House, 2527 Pelham Dr., 1930s, HAS & TGMcH;
- Jack Roach House, 3001 Del Monte Dr., 1939, HAS & TGMcH; Donald Kolp House, 3434 Wickersham Lane, 1940s, HAS & TGMcH;
- Parish House, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd., 1946-49, HAS & TGMcH;
- St. John's School, 2401 Claremont Lane, 1945-49, HAS & TGMcH and MacKie & Kamrath;
- St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, 6720 Bertner Ave., Texas Medical Center, 1946-54, Staub & Rather and HAS;
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 7843 Park Place Blvd., 1946-48, HAS & TGMcH;
- North Side State Bank Building, 2010 N. Main St., 1947-48, HAS & TGMcH;
- Wyatt Metal & Boiler Works Building addition, 6100 Kansas, 1948, HAS & TGMcH;
- Dr. Blume House, Houston, 1948, HAS & TGMcH;
- Condit Elementary School addition, 7000 S. Third St., Bellaire TX, 1949, HAS & TGMcH;
- Trinity Presbyterian Church, 7000 Lawndale Ave., 1949, HAS & TGMcH;
- St. John's Episcopal Church, 514 Carter St., Marlin TX, 1949, HAS & TGMcH;
- Blue Triangle YWCA Building, 3005 Mc Gowen Ave., 1951, HAS and Birdsall P. Briscoe;
- St. George's Episcopal Church (demolished), 510 13th Ave. N., Texas City TX, 1950, HAS & TGMcH;
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1208 5th St., Rosenberg TX, 1950, HAS & TGMcH;
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 207 Bob-O-Link Lane, Wharton TX, 1951, HAS & TGMcH;
- Wheeler Nazro House "Doe Run Farm," Washington-on-the-Brazos TX vicinity, 1951, HAS & TGMcH;
- St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd., 1952-54, MacKie & Kamrath and HAS;
- Retreat House, 1952-53, TGMcH;
- St. John's Lutheran Church, 3920 Ave. L, Galveston TX, 1953-54, HAS & TGMcH;
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1601 Lake Rd., La Marque TX, 1953, HAS & TGMcH;
- Parish buildings, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 1801 Sage Rd., 1955, TGMcH;
- Walter Shult House, 500 Hillcrest Dr., Richmond TX, 1957, HAS & TGMcH.

### **RESTORATION HISTORY AND CONDITION**

3003 Chevy Chase is 3,230 square feet in size, located on a 12,130 square foot lot in the 3000 block of Chevy Chase. The front faces north towards Elliott Park.

3003 Chevy Chase is designed in the Colonial Revival style that Salisbury & McHale regularly employed. The house features a central entry with asymmetrical architectural features flanking the entry. The entire structure is faced with brick under an intersecting gabled roof.

The central bay of the house is located under the front facing gable. This bay includes a large and prominent oversized chimney on the eastern end of the central bay, which tapers as it rises and ends above the roofline. The wood and glass door is surrounded by wood molding and capped with a five arch wood and glass transom window. A portico capped with a standing seam metal roof is supported by slender Tuscan columns.

Directly above the portico is a six-over-six wood sash window. Above this window, on the attic story of the front facing gable, is a wood ocular window. The window is surrounded by a circle of bricks.

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To the east of the front entry is an 8-over-12 wood sash window, and above it on the second story façade is a 6-over-6 wood sash window. To the west of the front entry is a large vertically centered 6-over-9 wood sash window and a small 4-over-4 wood window.

To the east of the central bay is an 8-over-12 wood sash window on the first story façade and a 6-over-6 wood sash window above it on the second story façade. A band of wide wood trim runs under the roofline of this section of the house but does not continue to either the central bay or the western bay of the front façade. This east portion is lower in height than the rest of the structure.

To the west of the central bay is an 8-over-12 wood sash window on the first story façade, and a 6-over-6 wood sash window on the second story façade.

All windows have brick sills and brick lintels, except for easternmost and westernmost second-story windows, which do not include lintels. All windows feature wood shutters, but the shutters are not operable.

The current owners have owned the house since 2012, and they plan to remodel the home.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

City Directories.

T.G.C.A. Monthly Bulletin, April 1936.

*The information and sources provided by the applicant for this application have been reviewed, verified, edited and supplemented with additional research and sources by Erin Glennon and Matthew Kriegl Planning and Development Department, City of Houston.*



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## EXHIBIT A

### PHOTO

William B. Ferguson House  
3003 Chevy Chase Drive



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**EXHIBIT B**  
**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
William B. Ferguson House  
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