

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK/SITE NAME: Bayou Bend

OWNER: Museum of Fine Arts

APPLICANT: Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission

LOCATION: 1 Westcott Street

30-DAY HEARING NOTICE: April-20-98

AGENDA ITEM: II

PC MEETING DATE: June-25-98

HPO FILE NO.: 98L058

DATE ACCEPTED: Mar-26-98

HAHC HEARING DATE: May-21-98

SITE INFORMATION

All of Tract C Homewoods Addition, River Oaks, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a two-story, stucco residence. It is currently part of the Museum of Fine Arts and is open to the public.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Bayou Bend was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 6, 1979 (Reference No. 79002954). The house was built in 1928 and is classified as Georgian Revival style. The house was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1973.

Bayou Bend was designed by John F. Staub with Birdsall P. Briscoe. Will and Mike Hogg built the house for their sister Ima. Miss Hogg loved the Creole architecture of New Orleans, which led Staub to design this house in a style that she called "Latin colonial", a mixture of early 19th century American Federal, early 19th century English Regency, and Louisiana Creole. Surfaced with pale pink stucco, green louvered blinds, and a copper roof, it is a tripartite classical country house that sits with assurance and warmth at the end of the entrance drive. Parts of the 14 acre site have been left in their natural condition. The East Terrace Garden was designed by the landscape architect, Ruth London; the Diana Garden, a series of terraces that step down from the north side of the house toward Buffalo Bayou, is the work of Fleming & Sheppard.

Since 1966, the house has contained the decorative art collection of the Museum of Fine Art, acquired and installed under Miss Hogg's guidance. This comprises an important collection of 17th, 18th, and 19th - century American furniture, paintings, silver, and ceramics. (The above was extracted from the *Houston Architectural Guide*, Stephen Fox.)

At the public hearing of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (HAHC) held on March 13, 1997, the HAHC discussed the matter regarding the expiration of the two-year temporary designation of all landmarks that City Council had previously designated when the Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted on March 1, 1995. Since the designation had expired, the HAHC requested that the planning staff contact the owners of these landmarks to determine their interest in the HAHC initiating an application for permanent designation. Letters were sent to the owners who confirmed that the HAHC could initiate designation. The HAHC had instructed the planning staff previously that if any landmark had been designated either by the National Register program, as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, a State Archaeological Site or a temporary landmark of the City of Houston, then the application would be considered for permanent landmark designation on that merit alone. Therefore, regarding the preparation of the application, HAHC agreed to consider the application with minimal information provided to them.

CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

Sec. 33-224. Criteria for designation of a Landmark.

(a) The HAHC and the commission, in making recommendations with respect to designation, and the city council, in making a designation, shall consider one or more of the following criteria, as appropriate for the type of designation:

S D NA **S - satisfies** **D - does not satisfy** **NA - not applicable**

- (1) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area possesses character, interest or value as a visible reminder of the development, heritage, and cultural and ethnic diversity of the city, state, or nation;
- (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;

Bayou Bend was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion “C” which includes “**distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction.**”

- (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.

HAHC RECOMMENDATION:

At a public hearing on May 21, 1998, the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission determined that the application complied with criteria found in the Houston Preservation Ordinance, and recommended that the Planning Commission accepts the recommendation of the HAHC and forward it to City Council for the designation of the Bayou Bend as a Landmark of the City of Houston.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommends designation of the Bayou Bend as a landmark to the Planning Commission since the application complies with the criteria of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

SITE MAP
BAYOU BEND
1 WESTCOTT STREET
NOT TO SCALE