

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK/SITE NAME: Houston Heights City Hall and Fire Station (aka Fire Station No. 14, City of Houston)

AGENDA ITEM: IV

OWNER: City of Houston, Texas

P.C. MEETING DATE:

APPLICANT: Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission

HPO FILE NO.: 01L93

LOCATION: 107 W. 12th Street (Avenue) - Houston Heights

DATE ACCEPTED: Mar-15-01

30-DAY HEARING NOTICE: April 19-2001

HAHC HEARING DATE: 05-24-01

SITE INFORMATION

Lots 13, 14 and 15, Tract 36, Block 186, Houston Heights Subdivision, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a two-story, brick veneer institutional building.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

The City Hall and Fire Station of the City of Houston Heights, Texas at 107 W. 12th Street was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 22, 1983. 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 1914 in the Jacobethan Revival style. It was designed by Houston architect, Alonzo C. Pigg. Pigg is also known for his design of the 1911 Beaconsfield Apartments, 1700 Main Street, Houston, Texas (N.R., RTHL, City of Houston Landmark).

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. At that time, the Houston Heights City Hall and Fire Station became known as Fire Station No. 14, City of Houston. It ceased being used as fire station and is currently leased and maintained by the Houston Heights Association as a community center.

Today, the area still maintains the feeling of a distinctive, self-contained "small town" with its predominantly small 19th-century, one-story and two-story Victorian-era homes, and numerous early 20th-century bungalow style buildings. It also boasts a thriving business district on 19th Street (now predominantly antique shops and restaurants) and a large industrial district west of the business section. Also located in the neighborhood are a number of historic churches, theatres, corner stores, private and public parks, municipal facilities, schools and the City Hall and Fire Station building.

At the March 13, 1997 public hearing of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (HAHC), the HAHC discussed 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. At the request of the

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Planning and Development Department

Houston Heights Association, a letter was submitted on February 21, 2001 by Chris Connealy, City of Houston Fire Chief, requesting that the HAHC initiate application for the designation of the City Hall and Fire Station as a Landmark of the City of Houston. The HAHC instructed the planning staff previously that if any landmark had been designated either by the National Register program (N.R.), as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), a State Archaeological Site (SAL), or a temporary landmark of the City of Houston, then the application would be considered for permanent landmark designation on that merit alone because all of the required information has been filed to obtain status. Therefore, regarding the preparation of the application, HAHC agreed to consider the application with minimal information provided to them.

RESTORATION HISTORY/CURRENT CONDITION:

The building was restored by the Houston Heights Association in 1997 and is used as a community center today. The only alteration remaining are the metal overhead garage doors that replaced the wood bi-folding doors with upper glass lights.

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	NA	S - satisfies	D - does not satisfy	NA - not applicable
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the HAHC recommends landmark designation of the Houston Heights City Hall and Fire Station to the Houston Planning Commission.