

<b>LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT</b>
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**LANDMARK/SITE NAME:** Dr. J. Willis and Margaret Perkins  
Slaughter House

**AGENDA ITEM:** II

**OWNER:** Robert M. McDannald

**P.C.MEETING DATE:** 06-24-04

**APPLICANT:** Robert M. McDannald

**HPO FILE NO.:** 04L115

**LOCATION:** No. 4 West Eleventh Place – West Eleventh Place  
Historic District

**DATE ACCEPTED:** May-10-04

**30-DAY HEARING NOTICE:** May-15-2004

**HAHC HEARING DATE:**06-17-04

**SITE INFORMATION**

Lot 2, West Eleventh Place Subdivision, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a two-story, brick veneer residence.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Landmark Designation

**HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:**

The home of Dr. J. Willis and Margaret Perkins Slaughter was one of the first houses built in 1920 in the new, planned subdivision of West Eleventh Place. J. W. Northrop Jr., a prominent Houston architect, not only designed the American Colonial style home, but also designed, planned and executed the unique subdivision of West Eleventh Place. At this time Dr. J. Willis Slaughter was in his early forties and had already lived a cultured, international life, particularly in respect to his important work with social and planning issues at the Sociological Society in London and later in Houston as an internationally prominent sociologist and psychologist, he headed the Sociology Department at Rice Institute (1919-1948). He also became involved in civic affairs as Director of the Community Chest, Executive Director of the Houston Foundation, and Secretary of the City Planning Commission during the 1920s. Margaret Perkins Slaughter also made important contributions in the field of gardening, botany and horticulture in Houston. As a renowned gardener of national standing, she made substantial, well-documented contributions to the way domestic gardening developed from the 1920s not only in Houston but also in Texas along the Gulf Coast region. She was recognized and honored nationally by the Garden Club of America when she was awarded a medal for her achievement in the field of botany.

West Eleventh Place and its homes, including No. 4 West Eleventh Place, derive significance from its place in the history of community planning and development in Houston in the 1920s. The origin of the neighborhood was the subject of an illustrated article, "A Texas Residential Development," in the nationally circulated, professional journal, "The Architectural Forum" in August 1921. According to the article, J.W. Northrop, Jr. persuaded three clients, including Dr. and Mrs. J. Willis Slaughter to purchase a block in the N.P. Turner Addition and re-plot it "to accommodate seven dwellings grouped around a private driveway and developed in such a manner as to form a modern residential unit" ("The Architectural Forum": 1921, 73). The application for designation of No. 4 West Eleventh Place as a City of Houston Landmark is under Criterion 1, 3, 4 and 5. The house is "contributing" to the West Eleventh Place Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 14, 1997, as well as the West Eleventh Place Historic District, designated by City Council as an Historic District of the City of Houston on July 23, 1997.

No. 4 West Eleventh Place was designed in 1920 by J.W. Northrop, Jr. for Dr. J. Willis and Margaret Perkins Slaughter, and by 1921 they were living there. At this time Dr. Slaughter was in his early forties and had

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already lived a cultured, international life: he had left London to work in South America and remained there three years. World War I brought him back to the United States where he became a member of the Council of National Defense with headquarters in New York City. After the War, Dr. Slaughter came to Rice Institute in Houston where he remained for the rest of his life. In Houston, he was also very involved in civic affairs as Director of the Community Chest, Director the Houston Foundation and Secretary of the City Planning Commission during the 1920s. Presumably Slaughter and Northrop had met at the Rice Institute while Northrop was still working for Cram as Clerk of Works for the Rice buildings, or possibly they had met at the University Club.

Margaret Perkins Slaughter (c. 1889-1969), a renowned gardener of national standing, made substantial, well-documented contributions to the way domestic gardening developed in Houston from the 1920s well into the 1960s. Margaret Perkins Slaughter was born in Dallas, where she grew up in the colonial-style home of her parents, Judge and Mrs. Elijah B. Perkins. As a girl she grew to love iris and bulbs and she and her sister Lucille Perkins (later Mrs. Edgar Padgitt of Dallas) learned about gardening from their mother.

Mrs. Slaughter had been first married to Wilkie N. Collins from whom she was divorced in Dallas in August 1914. Prior to coming to Houston, the former Mrs. Collins had lived in London with her English husband, where she would have been certainly influenced by English tastes in gardening. According to uncorroborated oral accounts, she was a concert pianist and very prominent in London society. The Dallas City Directory lists Mr. Collins once, in 1913, as a "roomer" at 1421 Gaston Avenue. The 1914 and 1915 directories list Mrs. Collins, as a "widow," at 1421 Gaston Avenue. In these years, the property was also lived in and owned by her father Judge Elijah B. Perkins. Oral accounts indicate that at this time Mrs. Collins met Dr. Slaughter. She was still a concert pianist, but had taken critically ill. Documents show that sometime after August 1915, but before Dr. Slaughter arrived at Rice Institute in 1919, Mrs. Collins married Dr. Slaughter. She was reportedly so ill that a nurse had to accompany them on their honeymoon. In later years, Mrs. Slaughter repeatedly credited him with literally saving her from despair and illness during this time.

During their early marriage, the Slaughters lived in Philadelphia and then on an estate at Fishkill, an old Dutch colonial town on the Hudson River in New York, where Mrs. Slaughter acquired a great deal of knowledge in bulbs, horticulture and gardening. When Dr. Slaughter arrived at Rice Institute in 1919 to start-up and head the Sociological Department, the elegant and beautiful Mrs. Slaughter came with many bulb-filled crates. Locals were skeptical, but within eight years following her move to Houston, Mrs. Slaughter had converted many Houstonians and they were planting numerous varieties of bulbs on a large scale. She was the first person to realize the importance of bulbs in Houston gardening and instrumental in bringing about an interest in bulbs here.

Although not an original founder, Mrs. Slaughter was an esteemed member of the Garden Club of Houston from the 1920s until her departure from Houston for Dallas in the mid-1960s. Oral histories with older members were recorded on video by the Club in 1990: the Garden Club of Houston was organized in 1924 by several young Houstonian "matrons," a number of them English, who were dedicated to horticulture, conservation and civic beautification. It was the first Garden Club in Texas. Mrs. Herbert Roberts, who was President of the Garden Club for the first five years, had a gracious British manner and brought English gardening influences into the gardens of Houston. She was very anxious for the Garden Club of Houston to make application with the Garden Club of America and she provided an entree through her contacts there. Mrs. Harry (Susan Townsend) Hilliard (d. 1967), another founding member, was also English and she was especially fond of box hedges. She used them to arrange her garden like small rooms in the English manner. Mrs. Hilliard's garden survives very much in its original form and the property is still in the Hilliard family. Other influential early members of the Garden Club included Mrs. S.M. McAshan, the second president; Mrs. S. Fred (Lillian) Dixon, who did a lot of work with Bonsai and stimulated interest in this horticultural art; Mrs. Walter Walne, a grand dame of the

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Garden Club and well-remembered by the then young Louise Henderson Wessendorf as a frequent visitor to the Slaughter house in the 20s and 30s arriving by electric car, wearing a cameo held by a black velvet neck ribbon; Mrs. Robert C. (Virginia C.) Meysenburg (d. 1972) was a highly regarded horticulturist, and it is known that she and Mrs. Slaughter were great rivals in the Garden Club. Mrs. Meysenburg, had graduated from the University of Washington, Columbia University and the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago in the 30s, but her passion was gardening. She is much associated with the amaryllis and she was the driving force behind the Fine Arts Museum garden. This was an important Garden Club project, in which another grand dame of the Club, Mrs. W.B. Sharp, had recruited the services of Miss Ruth London, the landscape architect from Boston.

What the older, more experienced gardeners offered to the new, younger members was their knowledge and their generosity. The new members learned a great deal from the older women, who often gave them slips and cuttings from their mature gardens. And Mrs. Slaughter was well known for this: she introduced new things from all over, but first she experimented to see if they would grow in Houston.

In the spring of 1926 Dr. Slaughter had taken temporary leave from Rice Institute in order to accept a lecturing position with the Episcopal Church at Wuchang University in China. Mrs. Slaughter accompanied him and it was there that she encountered Bishop Guilman, President of the University and a prolific gardener. He taught her grafting and together they smuggled into the walled city many fine specimens, cuttings and seeds. She also learned about various new flowers including frangipena, the temple flower, as well as flowering shrubs and endless varieties of lilies. Mrs. Slaughter soon realized that because of comparable climates, most of these plants would grow in Houston. Their route home to Texas took them around the world, and at every place Mrs. Slaughter immersed herself in gardening, and note taking with a special concern for what might grow in Houston.

Upon her return to Houston in late 1926 Mrs. Slaughter incorporated ideas into her grounds at West Eleventh Place from landscaping and varieties that she had seen while she was abroad. She was very influential in the Garden Club of Houston during this period, and her garden was legendary. In 1932 the Garden Club of Houston became the first club in Texas, and in the Southwest, to be admitted to the Garden Club of America. In February 1939 the Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of America was held in Houston -- the first time that it had ever been held west of the Mississippi and this was of enormous importance for Houston. It was at this meeting that Mrs. Slaughter's garden was one of only six from the Garden Club of Houston to be featured on the tour. There were also six gardens on show from the rather newer, River Oaks Garden Club, including the garden of Miss Ima Hogg.

The West Eleventh Place Historic District also derives significance from Mrs. Slaughter's front garden at No. 4 West Eleventh Place, where according to oral interviews with Northrop and Garden Club members, much of it survives in the form that she gave it during the Inter-War period. The 1939 Garden Club of America program described it thus:

This place is called "El Pino" because of the solitary great pine tree. Under its branches nestles the simple Colonial house. In its garden, informal beds, designed and worked out by the owner, are planted mainly to give choice views from the windows of the house. A discriminating choice of plant material, consisting largely of roses, magnolias, azaleas, camellias and gardenias, is the garden's chief claim of interest.

By 1944 Mrs. Slaughter had become President of the Garden Club of Houston. Due to lack of funds during the War, the Garden Club needed money. Together with Mrs. Meysenburg, and Mrs. Hilliard, Mrs. Slaughter founded the "Bulb Mart" in order to raise the money, but more importantly for the opportunity for improved gardening in Houston offered by the Bulb Mart. Today, it remains one of the regional garden events of the year.

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The founding of the Bulb Mart should be understood as one of the turning points in the history of Houston's garden development: many new bulbs and flowering shrubs that had never before been tried here by the general public were subsequently embraced by Houstonians. The founders of the Bulb Mart must be recognized as a nucleus of intelligent women horticulturists and botanists from the Garden Club who had been carrying out extensive research and experimental planting in their own gardens, especially in the field of bulbous plants and new varieties of iris and lilies. They decided that the time had come to pool their experience and offer the gardeners in the Houston region a collection of these newer varieties. In short, these varieties were guaranteed because they had been developed and tested for their performance and adaptability to Gulf Coast climatic conditions by these enterprising women.

The Teas Nursery in Bellaire, Houston was founded in 1906, but unfortunately very little of the Teas archive survives. Close inspection of various correspondence and a few prices lists from the 1920s and 30s sheds little light on the relationship between Teas and Mrs. Slaughter. Oral accounts indicate that Teas collaborated with Mrs. Slaughter and did work in her garden over the years, but it seems that Mrs. Slaughter was influencing Teas rather than the other way around. It was apparently Mrs. Slaughter's experimentation with bulbs that persuaded the Teas Nursery to first stock bulbs in the late 1920s.

In the 1950s Mrs. Slaughter founded the Spuria Iris Society and organized the first Spuria test garden on the grounds of River Oaks Country Club. She also set up the original Amaryllis and Bulb Society. In 1953 she received the Eloise Payne Luquer national medal for achievement in botany given by the Garden Club of America, and she was also awarded a Citation and Honor Award of the Texas Garden Clubs.

In the late 1950s Margaret Perkins Slaughter wrote an extremely valuable and influential booklet entitled *Gulf Coast Gardening*, on behalf of the Garden Club of Houston. The booklet presented detailed directions for successful planting, especially for newcomers who were unfamiliar with "the cultural problems of this low-lying coastal region with its long heated seasons, high humidity, sudden devastating northers and periods of drought broken by excessive rains." Mrs. Slaughter focused on the problems of drainage and flower-bed levels. She listed ways of preparing new beds and use of mulches during the various seasons. She listed directions of how to care for specific types of bulbs and tubers. The publication performed a tremendous public service at the time and, although now out of print, it is still sought after by local horticulturists. In 1959 Mrs. Slaughter was named "Houston's Gardener of the Year" by the readers of the *Houston Press*. The paper published an extensive article based on an interview with her, complete with many photographs of Mrs. Slaughter with her flowers. Unfortunately, Margaret Perkins Slaughter's 1969 obituary in the *Houston Chronicle* did not mention her contributions in botany or gardening, although it praised the accomplishments of her previously deceased husband, Dr. Slaughter.

One of the original houses built immediately to the designs of Northrop in the American Colonial style, the home at No. 4 West Eleventh Place features a gabled roof and symmetrical main facade seven bays wide with set-back bay to right end and attached sleeping porch bay to left end. A 1921 photograph shows the sleeping porch not yet constructed although a concrete slab seems to be in place. Other characteristics include round headed, classically-detailed attic dormers and end-wall chimney to right end. The wood frame construction is faced in painted brick. Original screened sleeping porch bay at the left end has round-arched openings which were glazed by architect Howard Barnstone c. 1970. The mid-1970s extension obliterated the original rear garden. Brick steps rise to central entrance. Single-bay, projecting porch displays a classical style curved portico supported by columns. Pilasters flank the 6-paneled wood door surmounted by fanlight with classically detailed glazing bars, and flanking sidelights. 6/6 double-hung sash windows occur throughout except for a pair of second-floor, 8-light French doors above entrance bay which lead to portico roof. Although the rear extension marks a departure from the historic appearance of the house, its sitting and small-scale do not significantly impact the house's integrity or its status as a Contributing resource to the historic district.

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The front garden retained its integrity from 1921-1960s period when occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Slaughter, the original occupants. Its partially intact, period planting scheme contributes to the historic appearance of the district. Front garden includes: yucca, iris, Japanese red maple tree, southern crab apple, cherry laurel, plum tree; magnolia, camellias, mock orange, agapanthus, gingers, variegated aspidistra, tall Phoenix date palm, pink cannas, dietes, spirea, Chinese crepe myrtles, wandering Jew, and a magnificent black leaf pine, an indigenous tree, which pre dates the development. The original rock garden has been removed.

The West Eleventh Place Historic District is one of the most architecturally consistent and spatially coherent of Houston's early 20th century planned, elite neighborhoods. The community plan, architecture, scale, materials and design of the district reflect trends characteristic of Houston in the decade of the 1920s, when it became the largest city in Texas. The 1920s was a period of economic expansion in Houston based on oil exploration, processing, and marketing, as well as the processing of cotton, timber, and agricultural commodities. It was a period of swift population expansion because of the economic opportunities that Houston offered. This expansive economy created a market for the development of new residential neighborhoods. New neighborhoods for affluent white families in the 1920s were especially marked by an emphasis on community planning and the establishment of new standards of domestic architecture and landscape design. The West Eleventh Place District reflects these attributes to an unusual degree. Houston grew during the decade of the 1920s to become the largest city in Texas. This was because of a sustained period of economic expansion that began during World War I, based on Houston's status as a petroleum processing and exporting center (Houston, A History and Guide: 112-118). Economic expansion was accompanied by urban growth that spread outward from the center of the city at low density. Together with an unusual degree of reliance on the motorcar as the basic means of personal transportation, urban expansion prompted the evolution of what Peter Papademetriou called a "new urban form" in Houston's patterns of real estate development after 1920 (Papademetriou: 51-53).

The West Eleventh Place Historic District (1920), despite its small size and upper-middle-income status, was significant in this sequence of elite neighborhood development. Because of its coordinated community planning and the design of many of its houses by the distinguished Houston architect, Joseph Walter Northrop, Jr. (1886-1968), West Eleventh Place treated community identity as a critical feature for establishing a neighborhood of houses that were substantial but never grand. Northrop used site planning and architectural style to assert neighborhood stability in the midst of an urban condition of real estate unpredictability. But he manipulated spatial scale within the neighborhood to assert variety, rather than uniformity, and intimacy rather than large scale, as the identifying attributes of West Eleventh Place (Fox: 1996).

West Eleventh Place derives significance from its place in the history of community planning and development in Houston. The origin of the neighborhood was the subject of an illustrated article, "A Texas Residential Development," in the nationally circulated professional journal *The Architectural Forum* in August 1921. According to the article, J.W. Northrop, Jr. persuaded three clients, Dr. and Mrs. J. Willis Slaughter (No. 4), Mr. and Mrs. Willard C. Averill, Jr. (No. 6), and Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Henderson (No. 5), to purchase a block in the N.P. Turner Addition in early 1920 and re-plat it "to accommodate seven dwellings grouped around a private driveway and developed in such a manner as to form a modern residential unit" (*The Architectural Forum*: 1921, 73). Northrop's three clients were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Blake (No. 7), who owned a portion of an adjoining block in the Turner Addition. Northrop's clients' block faced West Eleventh Street in the Turner Addition. There was no named developer.

According to the 1921 article in "The Architectural Forum", the project of building these three earliest houses was left entirely to Northrop. Under his supervision, separate contracts were let for the upgrading of the land, curbs and gutters, extension of sewer and water lines etc. The central drive and driveway returns were laid in concrete, and handsome, classical brick and stone piers were erected at the entrance. Separate plans and specifications were made for each of the three new houses, and separate contracts were let for each of the

houses to the lowest reliable bidder. Each owner had complete freedom in creating his own residential property although they had restrictions on supply of light and air and lawn space which gave the whole community a sense of openness.

West Eleventh Street (renamed Bissonnet Avenue in the early 1920s), was a major east-west thoroughfare whose importance increased as the general area was suburbanized during the 1920s. Two cross streets in the Turner Addition -- Sycamore (now Bayard) Street and Chestnut (now Yoakum) Street -- bounded the east and west sides of the two blocks. Both cross streets dead-ended at the property line of the Shadyside subdivision on the south, which the Blake property also abutted. West Eleventh Place derives significance from its name, which is the only place name in current use that recalls the original numbered street names of the Turner Addition.

West Eleventh Place's extremely narrow cul-de-sac design, its low density, and its village-like atmosphere are significant because they appear to be in the English tradition of the architect, planner and visionary Sir Raymond Unwin (1863-1940). Unwin believed that older villages alone retained the set of social and architectural values that could offer useful suggestions for the future. He liked to arrange his cottages firmly and picturesquely grouped on winding roads. In London the cul-de-sac had played an important role in Great Britain's garden suburb development: In 1907 Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker (1867-1947) planned the new 243 acre Hampstead Garden Suburb in north London with cul-de-sac, groups of cottages, a village green, and allotment gardens. Unwin's books and pamphlets were widely published and read in America, so it is likely that someone as well-read as Northrop might have known about his work. Unwin also lectured in America from 1911 onwards. In England, Unwin had played an important role in the preparation of a special Act of Parliament passed in 1906 which allowed him to vary the building line and plan economical closes and short cul-de-sac. Unwin took full advantage of the new act in Hampstead Garden Suburb, where he achieved variety, much like Northrop did later in West Eleventh Place, by setting some houses on the frontage line and others behind it and by placing houses so that they enjoyed views from different angles within the cul-de-sac. Unwin was also involved in the Housing and Planning Act which passed in London in 1910; in that same year there was a highly important, international town planning conference held in London (Creese: 1967).

There is also a more direct connection to this British source via another route: J. Willis Slaughter, Ph.D., Northrop's client at No. 4 West Eleventh Place had spent seven years in London where he had been appointed Secretary of the Sociological Society in 1905 under the Presidency of Viscount James Bryce, who later became U.S. Ambassador. The Sociological Society was founded in 1904 and one of its principal concerns was town planning issues: it was a new, cutting-edge organization developed during the period when town planning was the buzzword in London. At this time, town planning was part of the newly emerging sociology field and Dr. Slaughter was an esteemed social psychologist with an international reputation. The early town planning movement in Britain was a miscellaneous episode; the idea of a separate profession with specific skills did not emerge quickly. The people involved did not even share the same definition of what town planning actually was about: some were social reformers and others talked of "garden cities" and "garden suburbs" (Crawford: 1985 and 1996).

The Sociological Society's Second Annual Report, 1906 lists J.W. Slaughter, Ph.D. as Secretary, and notes the following: " In the summer of 1905, the Council appointed a committee consisting of Sir Edward Brabrook, Mr. J. Martin White and Mr. V.V. Branford to secure a secretary specially trained in the Social Sciences, and familiar with contemporary work in the sociological field in Great Britain and abroad. To find anyone with such a combination of qualities required considerable search, but the committee was fortunate in at length securing the services of Dr. J.W. Slaughter, lecturer in Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Dr. Slaughter commenced his work as Secretary of the Society in the autumn term of 1905, and the Council has every reason to be gratified with the way in which Dr. Slaughter has conducted the Society's affairs, whilst at

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the same time forwarding sociological interests and studies by his courses of lectures in the University of London, and under the Extension system." The above-noted committee member Victor Branford was the founder and early moving spirit of the Sociological Society and a close associate of Patrick Geddes (1854-1932) the Scottish sociologist, planner and polymath on whose ideas many of the principles of town planning were founded. For Geddes there was an art of town planning and a corresponding science of civics. An educational revolutionary, he arrived in London from Edinburgh in 1906, a year after Slaughter arrived there. The Sociological Society and Patrick Geddes were closely involved during this period. Geddes' disciples included Raymond Unwin (Crawford: 1985 and 1996).

A close inspection of annual reports, of the quarterly journal of the Sociological Society and other primary sources from this period (1905-1912) indicates that J. Willis Slaughter, Ph.D., later known as Dr. Slaughter of West Eleventh Place, was rubbing elbows with highly influential people like Raymond Unwin and Patrick Geddes on a regular basis and was living and teaching in London when some of the most important town planning and cul-de-sac issues were being resolved by Parliament. Slaughter was also associated with Lord Avebury and Arthur Balfour in his work, Balfour having been Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1903-1905.

By 1909 the Sociological Society's Annual Report announced that Dr. Slaughter had given up his position as the Secretary of the Society, but mentions that he had been elected to the more honored and elevated position on the Council of the Society. In the List of Members for 1909 Raymond Unwin's name is first shown; by 1910 he and Slaughter are both members of the Council. In 1911 Unwin is still on Council, but there is no mention of Slaughter. After that Slaughter disappears from the record.

The journal of the Sociological Society, *The Sociological Review* was quarterly. Each of the four covers for 1908 list Slaughter as the Secretary of the editorial committee for the Review. In vol. 1 (1908), p. 148-57 there is an article on "Psychological Factors in Social Transmission" by Dr. J Willis Slaughter. In vol. 3 (1910), Slaughter reviews four books but there is no article by him. In January and April 1910 issues only he is also on the editorial committee but by this time has relinquished the post of Secretary. This is no doubt because his teaching commitments were taking up more of his time. For example: a 1910 issue of the journal has the following notice: "A session course of University Extension Lectures on 'The Life of Society,'" by Professor Patrick Geddes and Dr. J.W. Slaughter, has been arranged at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, Tavistock Place, WC, beginning on Oct 14. The session's work is divided into two parts. In the Michaelmas term Professor Geddes gives ten lectures on Evolution in Mind, Morals and Society, and in the Lent term Dr. Slaughter gives fifteen on Social Education. Dr. Slaughter's course will deal generally with the psychological factors involved in social relationships, and describe their development during individual growth."

The formal inauguration of the new department of Sociology at the University of London was on 17 December 1907. It was founded by J. Martin White, Honorary treasurer of the Sociological Society and member of the search committee that had hired Slaughter in 1905. The two first professors in the Sociology Department were Leonard T. Hobhouse and Dr. E. Westermarck. Hobhouse was a key figure in the early history of sociology in Britain, editor of the *Sociological Review*, and generally very important. In the Second Annual Report of the Sociological Society the following is noted: "the course given by Mr. L.T. Hobhouse ("Psychology") in the autumn term of 1905, has been continued in 1906 by Dr. Slaughter." Slaughter later taught in the new Sociology Department, so he clearly had a lot to do with Hobhouse (Crawford: 1996).

The Post Office London Directory lists Slaughter as living at 4 Harcourt Buildings, Middle Temple Lane, EC in 1910, 1911, and 1912. Harcourt Buildings is part of the Inns of Court and 90% of the occupants were barristers. It is almost certainly bachelor chambers, and an obvious place for a single, male, expatriate academic to have lived (Crawford: 1985 and 1996).

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West Eleventh Place also derives significance from its architecture. J.W. Northrop, Jr., made his reputation in Houston in the 1920s as a domestic architect especially known for his Colonial Revival style houses. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1886, the son of the Bridgeport architect Joseph W. Northrop, J.W. Northrop, Jr., was trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After graduation in 1910, he joined the Boston firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, which sent him to Houston in 1911 to serve as Clerk of Works at the Rice Institute in Houston, which Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson designed. Northrop remained associated with the Cram firm until 1919. As early as 1914 he began to design houses independently in Houston. His first Houston house was for three members of the Rice faculty: (later Sir) Julian S. Huxley, Griffith C. Evans, and Arthur L. Hughes. During the 1920s Northrop designed houses for such Rice faculty members as Professor Herbert K. Humphreys, Samuel G. McCann, registrar of the institute, and Professor Joseph H. Pound in the Turner Addition, where he built his own house at 5220 Bayard Lane and Bissonnet, just north of West Eleventh Place, about 1921. In 1925, Northrop was one of three Houston architects hired to work with Ima Hogg to design a series of model houses in various historic American architectural styles to promote the development of her brothers' River Oaks Country Club Estates. Ima Hogg had proposed the notion of unifying architectural style to J.S. Cullinan when he commenced development of Shadyside in 1916. In 1919 Miss Hogg and her brother, Will C. Hogg, anticipated having the Houston architect Birdsall P. Briscoe design all the houses in what became Colby Court in a unifying style. The three Colonial Revival houses that Northrop designed in West Eleventh Place represent the first occasion that architectural coordination was achieved in a Houston subdivision. In the latter 1920s, he designed a series of large Colonial Revival style houses in the 1700 and 1800 blocks of South Boulevard nearby. Northrop also designed the Public Library in Marshall, Texas (1926) in the Colonial Revival style.

The earliest buildings were all designed in Colonial Revival styles, but Northrop was particularly interested in adapting these styles to southern living through the use of larger and more numerous exterior openings, creation of cross drafts, and providing air circulation and protection from exposure with L-shaped wings and careful orientation. Most of the houses had detached garages, some with staff quarters above or adjacent. Often they were a simplified version of the main house and were usually accessed from the rear service streets along the eastern and western perimeters of the sub-division. In order to protect the houses and their inhabitants from traffic and noise on adjacent streets, the houses were arranged to turn their backs to the city thoroughfares and face inward toward the cul-de-sac rather than out toward the main streets: Only garages and servants' quarters faced these parallel service streets.

**Condition and Restoration History:** On May 23, 2002 the HAHC granted the owner a certificate of appropriateness for the following work: to construct a free-standing porte-cochere over an existing driveway toward the rear of the property and behind an existing, enclosed brick porch; porte-cochere will not be attached to the historic home and will be constructed on a concrete slab foundation; porte-cochere will be located 3'-0" from the south property; footprint of the porte-cochere will be 17'-0" in depth and 18'-0" in width and constructed with a 9'-0" head clearance; porte-cochere roof structure including wood entablature and cornice will be representative of the existing front porch of the main house; structure will be supported by eight 9'-0" wood, round classical columns spaced 16'-0" apart; columns to match those of front porch of main house; height of porte-cochere will be 9'-0" plus entablature; columns will be placed in pairs separated by a wood, colonial revival style trellis; construct a metal, standing-seam roof system with slight slope for drainage behind entablature (not visible); fabricate and install a decorative iron railing, 36" in height, about the front porch and skirting the porch balcony above the main entry; the style of the railing to be a colonial revival design in keeping with the original one removed previously.

**Bibliography:** West Eleventh Place National Register Nomination – Marta Galicki who states “contributions of Loise Henderson Wessendorf, Mary Frances Bowles Couper, Thomas W. Blake, Jr., and E.A. Hail have made this portion of the nomination possible. Without them, and the benefit of their memories, the living histories of their mothers, step-mothers, aunts, friends and women neighbors would have been almost invisible and ultimately lost to posterity. Without

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the advice of Stephen Fox and the southern garden historians such as Sadie Gwen Blackburn and Susan Keeton, and the assistance and memories of several members, especially Susan Morris, of the Garden Club of Houston, Mrs. Slaughter would have gone unrecognized. Without the scholarship and insight of Alan Crawford in London, Dr. Slaughter's professional role at the Sociological Society and the importance of his presence in the intellectual milieu of London between 1905 and 1912, would not have been properly understood. The Anchorage Foundation. "Houston's Cradle of Culture and Environs." Architectural Walking Tour brochure of the Museum Area. Houston: Rice Design Alliance, 1985. Annual Meeting, The Garden Club of America, February 28-March 3, 1939. Houston: The Garden Club of Houston and River Oaks Garden Club, 1939. "An Architectural History of the Museum," Bulletin. Houston: Museum of Fine Arts, Winter/Spring 1991. Autry, James L. Papers. University Club File. Woodson Research Center. 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## Archaeological & Historical Commission

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### 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(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;			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event;			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(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;			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(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;			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(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;			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(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;			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(7) Whether specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present;			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(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 Landmark Designation to City Council of the Dr. J. Willis and Margaret Perkins Slaughter House at No. 4 West Eleventh Place.

SITE LOCATION MAP  
DR. J. WILLIS AND MARGARET PERKINS SLAUGHTER HOUSE  
NO. 4 WEST ELEVENTH PLACE  
NOT TO SCALE