

## PROTECTED LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

**LANDMARK/SITE NAME:** Andrew J. and Josephine M. Kuhn House

**AGENDA ITEM:** IB

**OWNER:** Charles J. Stava

**APPLICANT:** Charles J. Stava

**HPO FILE NO.:** 05PL02

**LOCATION:** 2214 Kane Street – Old Sixth Ward Historic District

**DATE ACCEPTED:** Aug-18-05

**30-DAY HEARING NOTICE:** N/A

**HAHC HEARING DATE:** 9-14-05

### SITE INFORMATION

Tract 3, Block 396, W. R. Baker Addition, NSBB, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a historic one-story, wood frame residence and a one-and-a-half story contemporary garage.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Protected Landmark Designation

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Andrew J. and Josephine M. Kuhn House has been designated by City Council as a Landmark of the City of Houston and is also a “contributing” structure to the City of Houston Old Sixth Ward Historic District. The home has also been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is also a “contributing” structure to the Old Sixth Ward Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Kuhn House exemplifies a type of house that is both historically and architecturally significant in Houston and is reflective of the culture and social standing of the people who settled in the German neighborhood north of downtown Houston. The Kuhn House is an unusual example of a vernacular, side hall, cross-gable Queen Anne style building. The architectural feature that makes the house type unique and exceptionally significant in Houston is the wraparound porch boasting an unusual flat roof ornamented with a hooded parapet clad in diamond-shaped shingles. The Kuhn House, built in 1883, was originally located at 2309 Center Street in First Ward. The property was owned by Stephen Kuhn, who deeded it, including a house, to his son, Andrew J. Kuhn, upon the occasion of his marriage in 1892. Andrew J. Kuhn, a successful German jewelry merchant, operated his business across the street at 2320 Center Street. Mr. Kuhn was not typical among his fellow German neighbors, the majority of which were railroad workers. He not only operated a successful jewelry business but he also invested in several other real estate ventures in Houston Heights and Hyde Park. As his family grew in number and his business prospered, he was afforded the opportunity to enlarge the original house in 1893. It was at that time that Mr. Kuhn added a rear portion to the home and ornamented the interior with stylish millwork, wainscoting, gas lighting fixtures and stenciled ceilings. In keeping with his business and social prominence, he also embellished the exterior of the house with a large wraparound porch featuring its Eastlake detailing and flat roof. He also enhanced the exterior of the house with walkthrough windows on the porch, multi-light Queen Anne style gable window, decorative shingle cladding, ornamental gable vergeboard with brackets, Eastlake style entry door, and roof finials. The house was relocated to the Sixth Ward on March 5, 1977 by Richard Roeder, and has been restored to its original character by the current owner.

### APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR PROTECTED LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

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

- (a) The HAHC and the commission, in making recommendations with respect to designation, and the city council, in making a designation, shall consider three or more of the following criteria, as



# CITY OF HOUSTON

Planning and Development Department

Archaeological & Historical Commission

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommends to the Houston Planning Commission the Protected Landmark Designation of the Andrew J. and Josephine M. Kuhn House at 2214 Kane Street.

SITE LOCATION MAP  
ANDREW J. AND JOSEPHINE M. KUHN HOUSE  
2214 KANE STREET  
NOT TO SCALE