

CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK NAME: Hovey-Cole House
OWNERS: Sally P. and Ernest O. Ross, Jr.
APPLICANTS: Sally P. and Ernest O. Ross, Jr.
LOCATION: 2222 Inwood Drive – River Oaks
30-DAY HEARING NOTICE: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: II.b
HPO FILE NO.: 08L196
DATE ACCEPTED: Jan-28-08
HAHC HEARING: Feb-21-08
PC HEARING: Mar-13-08

SITE INFORMATION

Lot 17, Block 46, River Oaks Section 1, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site includes a historic two-story residence.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Hovey-Cole House at 2222 Inwood Drive was designed and built by Bernelle W. Holtz as a speculative home in 1933 in one of the earliest sections of River Oaks. The first resident of the house was Dana W. Hovey, a veteran of World War I. Hovey was active in the local oil business for much of his life, and was at one time the president of the Independent Refining Association. Hovey was also active in many organizations including St. Martin's Episcopal Church and the Masons. The home's subsequent owner, Dr. William Frank Cole, was a family practice doctor who served as president of the Harris County Family Practitioners Society. Cole was a member of the Harris County Medical Society, the American Academy of Family Practice, the Texas Medical Association, American Medical Association, and the Ninth District Medical Society.

The two-story brick Hovey-Cole House is a good example of the Tudor Revival style. The house qualifies for Landmark Designation under Criteria 1, 4, and 5.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hovey-Cole House at 2222 Inwood Drive was built by Bernelle W. Holtz in 1933 as a speculative home. On May 11, 1933, the Houston Press reported the following:

“Home in River Oaks Bought for \$15,000 – D.W. Hovey has purchased from W.B. Holtz a residence on Inwood Drive between Shepherd and Chilton Drives for \$15,000. The purchase includes a cash payment of \$3,000.”

In August 1933, the River Oaks Corporation Magazine “Home for All Times” said:

“Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Hovey have purchased the English home at 2222 Inwood Drive. The house was designed and built by B.W. Holtz. Mr. Hovey is a Vice President and General Manager of the Republic Oil Refining Company. He came to Houston from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.”

Dana W. Hovey, the first owner of 2222 Inwood Drive, was born on November 6, 1891, in Olean, New York. He served in World War I and came to Houston from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, around the age of 42. At the time of the purchase of the home, he worked with Republic Oil Refining Company. He would stay in the oil industry his entire career and his obituary described him as “very active in the oil

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business.” During his career, he served as president of the Independent Refining Association and worked with Danaho Oil and Refinery Company. He died at the age of 90 and his obituary lists membership in St. Martin's Episcopal Church, the Masonic Caddo Lodge of Shreveport, and the Republican National Committee. Dana Hovey owned the house through early 1938. On February 13, 1938, the Houston Post reported that Hovey had purchased another River Oaks home at 3395 Del Monte for \$41,000, which was almost triple the cost of 2222 Inwood.

The house passed briefly to Arthur J. Hooks, a cotton “classer” at Anderson Clayton and Company, and Charles L. Samuelson, a naval architect. In 1949, the house was purchased from the Samuelsons by Dr. William F. and Lora Cole, who would own it until the late 1960s.

Dr. William Frank Cole was born in Matador, Motley County, Texas, on September 29, 1898, according to census records. His obituary states that he was as a native of Blooming Grove, Texas, a community near Dallas-Fort Worth. It appears that he was a family practice doctor. Dr. Cole was very involved in the medical community and served as president of the Harris County Family Practitioners Society. He was a member of the Harris County Medical Society, the American Academy of Family Practice, the Texas Medical Association, American Medical Association, and the Ninth District Medical Society. He lived in Houston for approximately 34 years and was a member of West University Baptist Church and served as President of the West University Lions Club. He died in Houston on January 22, 1975.

In 1973, Sally Ross (who was then Sally Porter) purchased the home. Ross was attracted to the graceful style of the home, the wood floors, high ceilings, leaded glass windows, and other architectural details as well as its mature oak tree in the front yard. The landmark application for 2222 Inwood was made in conjunction with the application for 2223 Inwood (the Tuttle House, landmark designation pending). The neighboring owners of the two houses decided to designate their homes together in order to maintain at least a small portion of the historic streetscape.

Bernelle W. Holtz, the designer/builder of the home at 2222 Inwood Drive, was the owner of B.W. Holtz Construction Company. According to the City Directory, he lived at 1318 Sul Ross and was active in construction for about 30 years. He was a native of Ottawa, Kansas, and lived in Houston for approximately 54 years. He was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, a Charter Member and President of A.G.C., and a member of the Houston Camera Club. He died in Houston in 1970 at the age of 75. The River Oaks Corporation booklet published in 1929 shows a very similar Bernelle Holtz home built at 2504 Inwood Drive that has since been torn down. The same booklet shows him as the builder of 2504 Pelham (extant) with Charles Oliver serving as architect. The River Oaks card file shows that he also built the home at 2145 Brentwood (extant) with Dieman serving as architect. According to the Houston Architectural Guide, Holtz was also the builder (with H.M. Stanford) of a vintage strip shopping center called the Patio Shops at 5302-5314 Alameda Road.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY:

The Hovey-Cole House was designed in the Tudor Revival style. The Tudor Revival style, which was popular in Houston and across the country during the 1920s and 1930s, was intended to interpret the historic architecture of the bucolic English countryside. The style is characterized by its use of steeply pitched gable roofs, patterned brick, and simulated half timbering.

The house is two stories in height with a steeply pitched intersecting gable roof. The house is symmetrically arranged and features a shallow two story “ell” wing to either side of the main entry. The forward projecting ells are two stories in height and each features a gable roof that intersects with the main roof ridge at a 90 degree angle. The projecting ells also frame a central entry, which is

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recessed within the main body of the house. The main entry is located on a small masonry porch featuring a wood colonnade with two columns and two pilasters with decorative scroll capitals. Above the colonnaded entry is located a second story sunroom that exhibits heavy use of herringbone pattern brick inset within the panels of the simulated half timbering. The exterior is clad in a medium red brick with window trim, door trim, and entry columns executed in painted wood. Windows used throughout the main façade are primarily of the 1/1 lite wood sash variety. An exception to this are in the windows used in the two first floor window bays, which feature single fixed leaded paned windows with stained glass inserts.

Based on historic 1930s era photographs of the building, the house has experienced only minor alterations, the most noticeable of which is the addition of an iron hand rail at the entry. A sun porch was added to the rear by a previous owner, but is not visible from a public right of way. The current owners completed a major renovation of the third floor and moved an interior wall to expand the master bath.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Houston Press, "Home in River Oaks," May 11, 1933.
- "Homes for All Times" by River Oaks Corporation, August 1933.
- Houston Chronicle, Obituary of Dr. William Cole, January 24, 1975.
- Houston Chronicle, Obituary of Bernelle Holtz, August 23, 1970.
- Houston Post, Obituary of Dana V. Hovey, December 28, 1982.
- River Oaks Property Owners Card File.

APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

The HAHC and the Planning 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	NA - not applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(1);		
<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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(2);		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(3);		
<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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(4);		

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- (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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(5);
- (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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(6);
- (7) Whether specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present (Sec. 33-224(a)(7);
- (8) Whether the building, structure, object or site has value as a significant element of community sentiment or public pride (Sec. 33-224(a)(8).
- (9) If less than 50 years old, or proposed historic district containing a majority of buildings, structures, or objects that are less than 50 years old, whether the building, structure, object, site, or area is of extraordinary importance to the city, state or nation for reasons not based on age (Sec. 33-224(b).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommend to the Houston Planning Commission the Landmark Designation of the Hovey-Cole House at 2222 Inwood Drive.

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SITE LOCATION MAP
HOVEY-COLE HOUSE
2222 INWOOD DRIVE
NOT TO SCALE

