

## LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

**LANDMARK NAME:** Dr. Everett Seale House

**OWNERS:** Christina A. Bryan and James H. Peacock, III

**APPLICANTS:** Same as Owners

**LOCATION:** 3408 Ella Lee Lane – River Oaks

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

**AGENDA ITEM:** V.b

**HPO FILE NO.:** 08L199

**DATE ACCEPTED:** Feb-29-08

**HAHC HEARING:** Apr-03-08

**PC HEARING:** Apr-24-08

### SITE INFORMATION

Lot 11 and Tract 12A, Block 60, River Oaks Section 7, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a two-story residence.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Landmark Designation

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Dr. Everett Seale House at 3408 Ella Lee Lane was the home of prominent Houston dermatologist, Dr. Everett Seale. The two-story Colonial Revival house was designed in 1941 by Houston architects, Hiram A. Salisbury and T. George McHale. The substantial body of work created by these architects includes many homes in River Oaks and Southampton, as well as St. John's School and St. John's Chapel (designed in association with Mackie and Kamrath Architects), and St Stephen's Episcopal Church. The Dr. Everett Seale House qualifies for Landmark Designation under Criteria 1, 3, and 6.

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Houston architects, Hiram A. Salisbury and T. G. McHale, designed the house at 3408 Ella Lee Lane in 1941. On January 25, 1942, the Houston Post published the following article:

*“Residence Bought by Dr. E.R. Seale – Dr. and Mrs. Everett R. Seale have purchased a lovely 2-story brick veneer colonial residence at 3408 Ella Lee Lane in River Oaks from Sam Houston Attwell for \$22,000 cash... The residence, occupying an 80 by 150 foot site, contains three bedrooms, screened porch and two baths upstairs and powder room, open porch and library downstairs.”*

At the time of the purchase of the home, the Seale family was renting a house at 3444 Wickersham. It is unknown whether the residence at 3408 Ella Lee Lane was constructed as a speculative home or as a custom home for Sam Houston Attwell, an attorney. It is clear, however, that the Seales were the first residents of the home.

Dr. Everett Richardson Seale was born on August 3, 1902, in Nacogdoches, Texas. He graduated Salutatorian of his high school class, attended the University of Texas, and obtained his medical degree in 1925. He completed his internship at John Seeley Hospital in Galveston and his residency at the Bernard Skin and Cancer Hospital in St. Louis. Dr. Seale practiced dermatology in Houston for over 50 years. In 1941, at the time of the purchase of 3408 Ella Lee, Dr. Seale's listing in the City Directory shows him as a “Physician and Surgeon specializing in Diseases of the Skin and Radius Therapy” with offices at 1017 Medical Arts Building.

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Dr. Seale's career in Houston was notable. He served as chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Baylor College of Medicine, and as president of the Texas Dermatological Society, the Dermatology Section of the Southern Medical Association, and the American Academy of Dermatology. He was a member of the Harris County Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the American Dermatological Association, River Oaks Country Club, the Bayou Club, and the Eagle Lake Rod and Gun Club. During World War II, Dr. Seale served in the Medical Corps of the Air Force, achieving a rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He lived a long and active life, dying in 1999 at the age of 97.

Dr. and Mrs. Seale lived in the house on Ella Lee Lane for over 30 years. After Mrs. Seale's death in 1972, Dr. Seale sold the home to Don Chapoton, an attorney with Baker Botts who specialized in income tax matters. From 1986 to 1989, Chapoton served at the U.S. Treasury Department as the Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy under Secretary James A. Baker. Markley Crosswell bought the house in 1986, and later owners include Carrol Hochner (1990) and George W. Fink (1996). The current owners, James Peacock and Christina Bryan, purchased the home in 2007.

According to architectural historian Stephen Fox, Hiram A. Salisbury (1892-1973), the architect of the Dr. Seale House, was born in Omaha, Nebraska. Salisbury studied architecture under a fellowship from the American Institute of Architects and graduated from the School of Architecture at New York's Columbia University (1913-1914). He worked as a draftsman for Thomas R. Kimball from 1910-1923 and George B. Prinz from 1923-1926. Salisbury established his own architectural firm in Houston in 1926, and he is first listed in the 1927 Houston City Directory with his office in the Post-Dispatch (subsequently Shell) Building, where he had his office until 1937. Salisbury served as the president of the American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter, in 1954.

Beginning in 1928, Salisbury collaborated on many projects with fellow architect, T. George McHale. Thomas George McHale (1903-1975) was also born in Omaha, Nebraska, and attended school at the University of Notre Dame. After receiving his architectural degree, McHale became a draftsman for John Latenzer & Sons, where he worked from 1919 until 1923. In 1924, he worked for James A. Allen and Leo A. Daly. Starting in 1925, he worked for George B. Prinz for a few years.

Salisbury and McHale's projects included residential, commercial, and church buildings. Among their more notable projects are St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 1805 W. Alabama (1941); St. John's School at 2401 Claremont (1945-49); and many of the homes located in River Oaks, Southampton, and other affluent Houston neighborhoods. Salisbury and McHale relocated their offices to the River Oaks Community Center at 2017 W. Gray in 1938-39, and moved again to 3501 Allen Parkway in 1945.

Beginning in 1930, Hiram A. Salisbury and his wife lived at 3412 Yupon between Hawthorne and Harold. By 1953, the Salisburys were living at 610 Saddlewood Lane. Salisbury continued his practice in Houston until approximately 1962, when he retired to Medford, Oregon. McHale was married to Inez P. McHale, a celebrated Houston interior decorator. The McHales lived at 1106 Palm Avenue before moving to 2 Courtlandt Place.

A list of identified works of Salisbury (HAS) in association with McHale (TGMcH) and others, which was researched and provided by Stephen Fox, includes: Masonic Temple, 118 N. 11th St., McAllen TX (1926); Southampton Home Sensible, 2218 Dunstan Rd (1927); W. L. Pearson House, Corpus Christi TX (1927); Ironcraft Studio Building (altered), 3901-07 Main St. (1927); H. Q. Rickman House, 2223 Stanmore (1927) (American Architect 5 Jan 1928); Nelms Building (H. S. Tucker & Co. Oakland-Pontiac dealership) (demolished), 2310 Main St. (1927); E. E. Johnson House, 949 S. Ohio Ave., Mercedes, TX (1927); Emergency Clinic and Hospital Unit 2 (demolished), 1316 75th St. (1928); Mrs. H. F. Lawson Building (demolished), 1010 Holman Ave. (1929); Robert H. Pentz House,

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2159 Inwood Dr. (1930); Speculative House (Paul Weaver House), 3443 Inwood Dr. (1930); Benson-Hall Construction Co. House (A. E. Kerr, Jr., House), 2005 Bellmeade Rd. (1931); Frank L. Webb House, 2935 Chevy Chase Dr. (1931); W. E. Sampson House (demolished), 984 Kirby Drive (1932), with Cameron Fairchild; Charles A. Perlitz House (demolished 2005), 1005 Sul Ross Ave. (c. 1932); Stewart P. Coleman House, 6 Shadowlawn Circle (1933); W. E. Montieth House, 5 Shadowlawn Circle (1934); James Anderson House, 5216 Dunlavy St. (1934); C. Milby Dow Bay House "Raven Moor", near Baytown (1935); Henry A. Sauer House, 2229 Inwood Dr. (1935), HAS & TGMcH; Damon Wells House, 1659 North Blvd. (1935), HAS; Larry J. Langdon House, 2131 Troon Rd. (c. 1936); Elwood Fouts House (altered), 3470 Inwood Dr. (1936), HAS & TGMcH; Francis G. Coates House, 3417 Del Monte Dr. (1936), HAS & TGMcH; J. E. Cooper House, 2247 Dryden Rd. (1936), HAS with H. Edward Maddox, and Claude E. Hooton; Pfeiffer House, River Oaks Boulevard (demolished May 2004); George B. Corless House, 1936 Larchmont Rd. (1936), HAS & TGMcH; H. F. Junker House, 2226 Shakespeare Rd. (1936), HAS & TGMcH; St. James Episcopal Church, 1500 N. Thompson St., Conroe (1936-37), HAS & TGMcH; J. Sayles Leach House (demolished), 2207 River Oaks Blvd. (1937), HAS & TGMcH (House & Garden); Royston H. Patterson House, 7370 Sims Dr. (1937), HAS & TGMcH; John S. Bonner House, 1705 North Blvd. (1938), HAS & TGMcH; Lucien L. Powell House, 2111 Pine Valley Dr. (1938), HAS & TGMcH; Wheeler Nazro House, 3400 Piping Rock Lane (1938), HAS & TGMcH; P. L. Williams House, 3612 Rio Vista Dr. (1938), HAS & TGMcH; Katrina Byram House, 2135 University Blvd. (1939), HAS & TGMcH; Ned Gill House, 949 Kirby Dr. (c. 1940); Harry J. Kuhn House (demolished), 22 N. West Oaks (1940), HAS & TGMcH; William S. Bonner House, 1412 North Blvd. (1940), HAS & TGMcH; E. H. Lorehn House (altered), 2198 Troon Rd. (1940), HAS & TGMcH; W. Leland Anderson House, 1519 South Blvd. (1940), HAS & TGMcH; George C. Schmidt House (demolished), 21 Westlane Place (1940), HAS & TGMcH; Dr. Paul Ledbetter House, 3508 Inwood Dr. (1941), HAS & TGMcH; Thomas D. Anderson House (attribution but not proven), 3929 Del Monte Dr. (1941); Chapel, St. John The Divine Episcopal Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. (1941), HAS & TGMcH and MacKie & Kamrath, Birdsall P. Briscoe, consulting architects; St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama Ave. (1941), HAS & TGMcH; Jack Roach Building, 6000 Block of Harrisburg Blvd. (1941), HAS & TGMcH; Adolph Pfeffer House, 2109 River Oaks Blvd. (1930s), HAS & TGMcH; W. E. Parry House, 2407 Pelham Dr. (1930s), HAS & TGMcH; Russell L. Jolley House, 2527 Pelham Dr. (1930s), HAS & TGMcH; Jack Roach House, 3001 Del Monte Dr. (1939), HAS & TGMcH; Donald Kolp House, 3434 Wickersham Lane (1940s), HAS & TGMcH; Parish House, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd., (1946-49), HAS & TGMcH; St. John's School, 2401 Claremont Lane (1945-49), HAS & TGMcH and MacKie & Kamrath; St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, 6720 Bertner Ave., Texas Medical Center (1946-54), Staub & Rather and HAS; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 7843 Park Place Blvd. (1946-48), HAS & TGMcH; North Side State Bank Building, 2010 N. Main St. (1947-48), HAS & TGMcH; Wyatt Metal & Boiler Works Building addition, 6100 Kansas (1948), HAS & TGMcH; Dr. Blume House, Houston, (1948), HAS & TGMcH; Condit Elementary School addition, 7000 S. Third St., Bellaire TX (1949), HAS & TGMcH; Trinity Presbyterian Church, 7000 Lawndale Ave. (1949), HAS & TGMcH; St. John's Episcopal Church, 514 Carter St., Marlin TX (1949), HAS & TGMcH; Blue Triangle YWCA Building, 3005 Mc Gowen Ave. (1951), HAS and Birdsall P. Briscoe; St. George's Episcopal Church (demolished), 510 13th Ave. N., Texas City TX (1950), HAS & TGMcH; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1208 5th St., Rosenberg TX (1950), HAS & TGMcH; St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 207 Bob-O-Link Lane, Wharton TX (1951), HAS & TGMcH; Wheeler Nazro House "Doe Run Farm," Washington-on-the-Brazos TX vicinity (1951), HAS & TGMcH; St. John The Divine Episcopal Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd. (1952-54), MacKie & Kamrath and HAS; Retreat House (1952-53), TGMcH; St. John's Lutheran Church, 3920 Ave. L, Galveston TX (1953-54), HAS & TGMcH; St. Michael's Episcopal

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Church, 1601 Lake Rd., La Marque TX (1953), HAS & TGMcH; Parish buildings, St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 1801 Sage Rd. (1955), TGMcH; and the Walter Shult House, 500 Hillcrest Dr., Richmond TX (1957), HAS & TGMcH.

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY:**

The Dr. Everett Seale House was designed in the Colonial Revival style. The house is two stories in height and is clad in a combination of brick and shingle veneer. The asymmetrical house is four bays in width with a prominent “L” shaped bay which extends forward from the main body of the house. The “L” shaped projecting wing features a bay window located on the first floor and two double-hung, 6/6 lite, wood-sash windows on the second floor. The main entry features a recessed doorway and leaded glass sidelights. Surrounding the doorway are two pilasters topped by a fanlight panel with scalloped moldings. The decorative trim molding on the bay window repeats the scalloped pattern detail found above the front door.

The house retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is currently in very good condition. Recent work completed by the current homeowners includes the replacement of deteriorated shingle cladding on the façade of the home. Prior alterations to the building, which all occurred to either the rear or interior of the building, include:

- Enclosure of the screened and unscreened rear porches to create a large family room.
- Constructing a long gallery hallway at the rear of the house which connects the kitchen and library to the family room.
- Interior kitchen remodeling.
- Addition of a master bath and closet above the family room.

*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:**

Fox, Stephen, personal notes and research about Hiram A. Salisbury and T. George McHale, August, 2006.

Fox, Stephen, Houston Architectural Guide, American Institute of Architects, 1999.

Houston Chronicle, Obituary of Dr. Everett Richardson Seale, November 29, 1999.

Houston Post, “Residence bought by Dr. E.R. Seale”, January 25, 1942.

Houston City Directories.

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## 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:

<b>S</b>	<b>NA</b>		<b>S - satisfies</b>	<b>NA - not applicable</b>
<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 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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(3);		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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);		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(5);		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(6);		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(7) Whether specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present (Sec. 33-224(a)(7);		
<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 (Sec. 33-224(a)(8).		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(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 Planning Commission accept the recommendation of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and recommend to City Council the Landmark Designation of the Dr. Everett Seale House at 3408 Ella Lee Lane.

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SITE LOCATION MAP  
DR. EVERETT SEALE HOUSE  
3408 ELLA LEE LANE  
NOT TO SCALE

