

PROTECTED LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK NAME: Whitaker-Graliano-Brown House
OWNER: Estate of Michael K. Brown
APPLICANT: Randy Pace
LOCATION: 400 Cordell Street – Brooke Smith Addition

AGENDA ITEM: III
HPO FILE NO: 13PL117
DATE ACCEPTED: 09/05/2013
HAHC HEARING: 09/12/2013

SITE INFORMATION

Lot 6, Block 26, Brooke Smith Addition, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a historic one-story, wood frame, bungalow style, single family residence.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark and Protected Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Whitaker-Graliano-Brown House is located at 400 Cordell Street in the Brooke Smith Addition. It was built in 1918 in the bungalow style but features unusual neo-classical elements. It was built for Lee Roy Whitaker, who was part of the working class attracted to the affordable and desirable location of the newly developed neighborhood. The house was subsequently owned for three decades by the Graliano family who were Italian immigrants to the United States. Michael K. Brown, the collection curator for Bayou Bend, the former home of Miss Ima Hogg, also owned the home for over 30 years.

Brooke Smith Addition was platted in 1905 and expanded with a second phase that was platted in 1906 by Brooke Smith of Brownwood, Texas. Smith was a pioneer Brownwood merchant and banker, and mayor, whose investments included land, oil and mining throughout Texas. In 2004 a historical marker was erected by the Texas Historical Commission to honor Brooke Smith in Brownwood, Texas.

The Whitaker-Graliano-Brown House meets criteria 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 for Landmark and Protected Landmark Designation.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

First Owners of Unimproved Lots in Brooke Smith Addition

Soon after platting Brooke Smith Addition in 1905, Brooke Smith of Brown County, Texas, sold Lots 5 and 6, Block 26 to Mrs. Nora Clark of Houston, Harris County, Texas on October 16, 1905 (Recorded Harris County October 19). The total amount of the note was \$390 at 5% per annum with payments of \$10 a month. After purchasing the lots in Brooke Smith Addition, the Clarks also purchased Lots 12, 13 and 14, Block 83, Houston Heights Subdivision, for their own home. They never developed the lots in Brooke Smith Addition. At the time of the sale of the lots to Marguerite Eaton on February 4, 1916 (Recorded February 9), Nora and her husband, William A. Clark were living at 526 W. 21st Street in Houston Heights. In the Houston city directories, Mrs. Nora Clark is listed as a midwife and nurse, and her husband, William, was listed as a clerk for The Texas Company. Before moving to Houston Heights, William A. Clark had lived in 1912 on the west side of Archer, between Heslep and Fenwick, Brooke Smith Addition. At the time of the sale by the

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Clarks, the lots in both Brooke Smith and Houston Heights were still mortgaged, and Marguerite Eaton assumed that note then still held by W. G. Love and R. J. Channell dated September 4, 1911 in the amount of \$2,000. Eaton purchased both Lots 5 and 6, Block 26, Brooke Smith Addition, as well as the Clark home at 526 W. 21st in Houston Heights. William Graston Love (1869-1926), who had been the first Mayor of Houston Heights (1896-1899), purchased the Clark property at 526 W. 21st Street from Marguerite Eaton on February 1, 1916 as an investment property. Brooke Smith had released the Vendor's Lien to Mrs. Nora Clark on September 6, 1911. By 1919, the Clarks were living at 210 Clifton in Houston's East End after they had moved from Houston Heights.

Marguerite Eaton, who had purchased the lots in Brooke Smith Addition as well as the ones in Houston Heights Subdivisions as investments, was listed in the deed records of Harris County as "spinster" of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois when she sold Lots 5 and 6, Block 26, Brooke Smith Addition. She sold the lots only a few days after purchasing them to T. H. Pace of Harris County on February 15, 1916 (Recorded March 7). Pace, who was a real estate investor, had purchased the lots also as an investment assuming the mortgage obligation to R. J. Channell.

Thomas Henry Pace had come to Houston about 1909 from Beaver Dam, Hanover County, Virginia. He was one of eleven children born to John W. Pace (1806-1894) and wife, Martha Bell, in Clarke County, Alabama, in 1851. His ancestry goes all the way back to the immigrant, Richard Pace, who came to Jamestown, Virginia from London, England about 1616. His claim to fame is that Pace warned the Jamestown settlers about the planned 1622 Massacre and thus, many lives were saved that would otherwise have been lost.

In 1885 Thomas Henry Pace was married in Virginia to Lelia W. Wood (born 1864 in Virginia), daughter of Edmund Pendleton Wood and wife, Mary Jane Carpenter. Two children were born to Thomas H. Pace and wife in Virginia: Henry H. Pace (born August 1888) and Hugh P. Pace (born April 23, 1894). After arriving in Houston, according to city directories, Pace was involved in real estate speculation as well as several different other occupations, including: state agent, Cary Safe Company, residing at 1112 Leeland (1910); traveling salesman, rooming at 1208 Bell Avenue (1911); and salesman for Western Land Corporation, residing on the south side of Wrightwood Avenue, 1 block east of Houston Avenue. His son, Henry H Pace was a salesman for F. J. Roney, and his other son, Hugh was a student in 1912. T. H. Pace was later the manager at Texas Land and Colony Company, residing at 8 McAshan Apartments at 1315-19 Main (1915).

T. H. Pace and wife, Lelia, sold Lots 5 and 6, Block 26, Brooke Smith Addition, Houston to L. R. Whitaker on March 6, 1916 (Recorded March 9). Whitaker paid \$815 in cash for the unimproved lots. At the time Whitaker purchased the lots, he was residing on the north side of Link Road, 10 blocks east of Air Line (Airline) Road or 1/4 mile east of Sunset Heights.

Lee Roy Whitaker

L. R. Whitaker (Lee Roy Whitaker) purchased Lots 5 and 6, Block 26, Brooke Smith Addition, Houston, Texas from T. H. Pace (Thomas Henry Pace) and wife, Lelia Pace, of Harris County, Texas, on March 6, 1916 (Recorded March 9). Whitaker paid \$815 in cash for the unimproved lots at 400 Cordell Street at W. Melwood Street.

Lee Roy Whitaker was also known as Lee, LeRoy, L. Roy, and L. R. Whitaker. He was one of four children, born on June 21, 1874, in Mason County, Illinois, to Robert D. Whitaker (1842 -1919) and

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Matilda Marie Wagoner (1848-1924). They had married in Mason County on December 15, 1870. After their marriage, they relocated to Greene County, Illinois where Robert D. Whitaker farmed.

Lee Roy Whitaker left Illinois and relocated to Miller County, Missouri, where he was married on January 11, 1905 in Eldon, Missouri, to Zettie Temple Manley. She had been born on March 28, 1885 in Miller County to John Lewis Manley (1843-1906) and wife, Sarah Hannah Hovery (1844-1907). Lee Whitaker and his wife relocated to Houston about 1907. Their daughter, Thelma M. Whitaker was born in Houston on March 28, 1908, and their son, Robert Lee Whitaker, was born in Houston in 1910. The Whitaker family was living in Houston in Justice Precinct No. 1 in the 1910 Census. Another son, Clarence Marion Whitaker was born to Lee and Zettie Whitaker on December 21, 1912, also in Houston.

Lee Whitaker began investing in real estate in Harris County as early as 1911. On January 6, 1911 he purchased for cash seven acres in the O. P. Kelton Survey from Charles T. Bertrand. On November 7, 1912 he purchased acreage in the Sharman Tract from Sara A. Davis. On August 19, 1913 Lee Whitaker was issued a Release of Lien on part of 9 acres, Sharman Tract, by Emil Lipper.

The parents of Lee Roy Whitaker were still living in Greene County, Illinois in the 1910 Census. His parents, Robert D. Whitaker and wife, Matilda were living with their daughter, Beulah C. "Bessie" Whitaker Lang and her husband, John Simon Lang in Carrollton Ward No. 1. Also living with them were the following Lang children: Edward (born 1902); Evelyn (born 1903) and Ralph Lang (born 1908). Beulah Whitaker and John Simon had married in Greene County, Illinois on October 31, 1900.

Robert D. Whitaker and wife, Matilda moved to Houston about 1916 to be near their son, Lee Roy Whitaker.

In 1916, at the time Whitaker purchased the lots at 400 Cordell Street, he was residing on the north side of Link Road, 10 blocks east of Air Line (Airline) Road. The home of L. R. Whitaker at 400 Cordell Street does not appear in the Houston city directories until 1919. Therefore, it is likely that the historic home was built in 1918 for Whitaker. His occupation was listed as "huckster." A huckster was a person who sold small articles, either door-to-door or from a stall or small store, like a certain type of peddler, pedlar or hawker. Whitaker also paid cash for the construction of the home by a local builder as there are no mechanic's liens or mortgages for same filed in the Harris County records. While living in Houston, Matilda Marie Wagoner Whitaker's husband, Robert D. Whitaker, died there. She applied for widow's pension and was approved on February 24, 1919 for his Civil War service (1861-1865) in Company A, Twenty-eighth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Matilda was living with her son, Lee Roy Whitaker in Houston in 1920 at 400 Cordell Street (1920 Census). According to the census information, Lee Whitaker owned his home at 400 Cordell mortgage free.

In Cause No. 93913 in Eleventh District Court, Harris County, Texas a judgment was entered granting a divorce to the defendant, Lee Roy Whitaker from his former spouse, Zettie Manley Whitaker. The court appointed W.W. Thomas, H.A. Arnold, Jr. and H.G. Lidstone as commissioners to make partition of the property which was approved on July 10, 1922. Zettie Manley Whitaker was awarded seven acres in the O.P. Kelton Survey, Harris County, as well as \$250 worth of Liberty Bonds in the divorce settlement. She was also awarded \$594.28 cash and one note payable to Whitaker in the amount of \$1,050 signed by Mr. McMicken, who had contracted to purchase two acres of land which Whitaker had purchased from S.A. Davis. Lee Whitaker was

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awarded Lots 5 and 6, Block 26, Brooke Smith Addition with improvements, being 400 Cordell Street, one cow and \$509.88 in cash. In the 1922 City Directory, Mrs. Zettie Whitaker was living alone at 400 Cordell Street. Her former husband, Lee Whitaker as well as his mother, Matilda Whitaker (widow of Robert D.) were rooming at 205 Cordell, the Brooke Smith home of Edward C. Reynolds. Reynolds and his wife, Lula, apparently rented part of their home for extra income as he was shown in the city directory as a janitor, at The Texas Company, located at 714-20 San Jacinto.

On August 19, 1922, Zettie Manley Whitaker married her second husband, Jeremiah Odell, in Houston, and she moved to his home at 2514 Fletcher Street. Odell operated Odell Cleaning and Pressing Shop at the same address. On May 18, 1923 Zettie Whitaker Odell deeded for \$1.00, as part of the divorce settlement, the property at 400 Cordell to her former husband, Lee Whitaker. Whitaker's occupation was shown as peddler in the 1923-24 Houston City Directory. By that time, Matilda Whitaker, his mother, had moved back to Illinois where another son, Harry C. Whitaker, lived. She died in Carrollton, Greene County, Illinois, on December 27, 1924 and was buried in Carrollton City Cemetery. Lee Whitaker and his daughter, Thelma, continued to live at 400 Cordell until 1926 when they moved to Pasadena, Texas.

The home at 400 Cordell was shown as vacant in the 1927 Houston City Directory. The Harris County Building Tax Assessment for January 19, 1928 for the 28 X 42 foot long, wood frame building with 1,176 square feet was valued at \$875 (rate of seventy-five cents per square foot). By 1928, Lee Whitaker had leased the home to Nancy and Christian Iden, who was a calculator, Gulf Production Company. Also living there was Mary B. and Dr. James M. Ringo, a physician, and their son, Thomas F. Ringo, a welder. In 1929, Roy Whitaker was living at 130 N. Everton. In 1930 Whitaker had begun leasing the home at 400 Cordell to Beatrice and William Haldine Traynham, who was assistant cashier at Union National Bank, 218-220 Main at the corner of Congress. According to the 1930-31 Houston City Directory, Lee Whitaker was still living in Pasadena and was a farmer. By the 1930 Census Whitaker's sister, Bessie Whitaker Lang, and her husband, John S. Lang, had also come to Pasadena from Greene County, Illinois and were living in the household of Lee Roy Whitaker. They are found also in the 1930-31 Houston City Directory in Pasadena, and John S. Lang is a barber working at 1729 N. 75th Street.

On February 20, 1930 the Harris County "county value" for the property at 400 Cordell was a total value of \$780, and the "owner's value" was \$590. By 1930 Whitaker was leasing 400 Cordell to the family of Loren Oldacre and his wife, M. Ione Oldacre. They had formerly been living at 305 Cordell which was just a block away. According to the 1932-33 Houston City Directory, Lee Whitaker was still living in Pasadena, Texas, but his occupation was huckster. His daughter, Thelma M. Whitaker was residing in South Houston, Texas, with the Marvin and Thelma Hutchinson family in the 1930 Census, and she was a teacher at Harrisburg Elementary School. The Harris County Building Assessment for 1935-1937 describes the residential improvements as 1400 square feet, 20 square feet for outbuildings for a total of 1,400 square feet but calculated and taxed at 854 square feet at two dollars and thirty-five cents per square foot for a total tax valuation of \$2000. By 1940 Lee Whitaker owned a home at 113 South Spooner (demolished) in Pasadena, Texas. He had married for a second time by 1936, and his wife, Mary L. Whitaker, who was born about 1893 in Texas, was living there too. His occupation was shown as truck farmer. Bessie Whitaker Lang and her husband, John S. Lang, were now living in Houston in the 1940 Census at 8213 Dahlia. Whitaker's daughter, Thelma M Whitaker, had married by 1939 as she and her husband, Henry H. Field (born 1897 TX) were living in Houston at 1309 West Gray in the 1940

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Census. She was still employed as a public school teacher. Whitaker's son, Clarence M. Whitaker had also married by 1934. He owned a home in Houston and was living with his wife, Florence Elizabeth Strait Whitaker (born October 2, 1919 TX) and their son, Robert Earl Whitaker, who was born August 30, 1935. The family was living in their home in the 800 Block of Witter in Pasadena, Texas.

Beginning in 1940, Whitaker rented the 400 Cordell to the family of Joseph E. Sanders. Sanders' wife, Opal R. Hull Sanders, and her brother, Woodrow Wilson Hull, lived with him. Joe Sanders was the manager of Allright Auto Park with offices at 802 McKinney. They owned parking lots at fifteen locations on Fannin, Louisiana, McKinney, Rusk, San Jacinto and Texas Avenues. Woodrow W. Hull was also employed there as an attendant. They moved from 400 Cordell as the Houston City Directory shows the home was "vacant" in 1942. The home was next rented beginning in 1943-44 to Lucille and Ernest F. Harlan, who was a crane operator. Lee Roy Whitaker sold his home at 400 Cordell on May 1, 1944 to Peter Graliano and wife, Anna Dorothy Graliano for \$3,200.

Lee Roy Whitaker died on May 19, 1949 in Pasadena, Texas. His will dated July 11, 1945 was filed in the Harris County Probate Court on May 26, 1949. The will left War Savings Bonds to his wife, Mary L. Whitaker and to his sister, Beulah "Bessie" Whitaker Lang. The balance of the estate was to be divided as follows: 1/6 to wife, Mary L. Whitaker; 1/6 to sister, Mrs. Bessie Lang; 1/3 to his son, Clarence M. Whitaker and 1/3 to his daughter, Mrs. Thelma M. Whitaker Field. He named his wife Mary and son, Clarence Whitaker as co-executors. According to the Whitaker Estate settlement and inventory, Graliano still owed Whitaker \$1,876.46 on the note for 400 Cordell, which Whitaker had personally financed when he sold the home to the Graliano family in 1944.

According to the obituary of Lee Roy Whitaker in the "Houston Post," he was 76 years old when he died, and he had died at 11:25 pm on Thursday, May 19, 1949 at his home at 311 South Spooner, Pasadena, Texas. He was survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Whitaker and son, Clarence Whitaker of Pasadena. Other survivors included his sister, Mrs. Bessie Lang also of Pasadena; his daughter, Mrs. H. H. Field and four grandchildren. Services were to be held at 2pm on Saturday, May 21 at the First Baptist Church, at 1020 Lamar, Houston, Texas with the Rev. L. D. Morgan officiating. Boulevard Funeral Home was handling the burial at South Park Cemetery, 1310 N. Main Street, Pearland, Texas. He was buried in Memory Lawn, Section M, Lot 249, Space 11. The North half of Lot 249, Section M, Memory Lawn, had originally been purchased by John Simon Lang, 308 S. Randall, Pasadena, Texas. He was Whitaker's brother-in-law and was also the husband of Beulah "Bessie" Whitaker Lang. Markers have been placed on the burial plot for the following individuals: L. R. Whitaker "Father" June 21, 1874 - May 19, 1949; C. M. Whitaker "Son" Dec. 21, 1912 - Dec. 26, 1982; Bessie W. Lang "Mother" 1878 - 1965; and John Simon Lang "Husband" Feb. 28, 1869 - Dec. 9, 1944. Also buried there is Edward C. Lang, son of Bessie and John Lang, but there is no headstone for him.

Zettie Manley Whitaker Odell died on February 6, 1970 in Houston. Her second husband, Jeremiah "Jerry" Odell was born on October 20 1880 in Austin, Travis County, Texas. He also died in Houston on March 15, 1971. He had married as his first wife, Virgie May Taylor (1883 KY - 1920 TX) on February 20, 1901 in Texas, and they had the following children, born in Texas: Thelma May (1902-1938); Mildred (1905-1910); Leona A. (born 1908); Nettie (born 1910); Jeremiah J. (1911-1967); Dorothy (born 1914) and John Odell (born 1917). Zettie and Jerry Odell are buried in

Hollywood Cemetery, located at 3506 N. Main Street, Houston, and there are headstones that have been erected to mark their graves.

Peter and Anna Graliano

After owning the property for almost 28 years, Lee Roy Whitaker sold his income-producing home at 400 Cordell in Brooke Smith Addition on May 1, 1944 to Anna Roccaforte Graliano and husband, Peter Graliano.

Peter Bernard "Pete" Graliano was born Pietro Bernard Gragliano. He was born on April 10, 1890 in Chiusa, Sclafani, Province of Palermo, Sicily. His last name has been spelled several ways in the various records found, including Galiano, Galiana, Graliano, Gralino, Gragliano, Gagliano (second "G" is silent), etc. According to ship passenger lists, Bernardo (Bernard) Gragliano, father of Peter B. Graliano, first came to the United States on November 14, 1892. He was a son of Concetta Schifano and Nicholas Graliano. In 1892 Bernard Graliano arrived on a ship named Montebello which had departed from Genoa, Italy. He had also returned to Italy, and then came back to the United States again in 1894. Once again he returned to Italy again sailed to America from Palermo, Italy on September 22, 1898 on the S. S. Victoria, with J. G. Bridges, as master. Bernard Gragliano arrived at the Port of New York on October 22, 1898. His original place of origin was Chiusa, Sclafani, Sicily. He was 52 years of age (born 1846 in Italy), and he was married. He planned to travel next to New Orleans, but his final destination was to join his wife, Antonina Margiotta Gragliano in New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana. She had come to America originally in 1892 with Bernard, her husband and stayed. Accompanying him in 1898 was his son, Nicolo (Nicholas) Gragliano, who was 25 years old (born 1873 in Italy), who was single. He had not been to America before 1898. Also traveling with them was another son Guiseppe (Joseph) Gragliano, who had accompanied Bernard Gragliano previously to America in 1892 (age 17) and also in 1894. According to the ship passenger list in 1898, he was 23 years old (born 1875 in Italy) and was also single. All were farmers by trade. Bernard Gragliano returned once again to Italy to bring more family members back to America. He arrived in New Orleans on October 20, 1902 on the S. S. Algeria. The ship had embarked from Palermo. He arrived with his youngest son, Peter (age 12), and daughters, Concetta (Katie); Giuseppa (Josephine); Rosa; and Vincenza (Jennie). Their designation was New Iberia where his wife Antonina was already residing with his older sons. Peter's brother, Nicholas Graliano, according to his 1918 World War I Draft application, was born on June 12, 1873 in Italy. He was living in New Iberia, Louisiana at the time and was a self employed merchant and farmer at 501 W. Main, New Iberia. His wife was named Frances. Joseph Gralino, another brother who was born in 1875 in Palermo, Italy, married Lucy Celeste. They had two children: Bernard and Lena, who married Charles Dolce. Joseph Graliano died in New Iberia, Louisiana in 1915.

Peter B. Graliano (Gralino) married Anna Dorothy Roccaforte on October 24, 1917 in New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana. She had been born on April 20, 1897 in Menfi, Sicily. She was a daughter of Nicholas Joseph Roccaforte (1848-1939) and wife, Antoinette Russo (1857-1929). According to Peter's World War I Draft application dated June 5, 1917, on which he entered his name as Peter Galiana, he described himself as medium height and build with brown eyes and dark brown hair. He also stated in 1917 that he was living in Bayou Goula. He further stated that he was married, and his occupation was farm hand. According to his application also, Peter Graliano was employed by Charles Galiana, perhaps a relative. Peter Graliano later moved to Bayou Teche where his family

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operated a sugar cane plantation, but they lost it during the Depression. His first child, Antoinette (Lena) Marie Grialiano, was born in Louisiana on August 19, 1918. A second daughter, Frances Anna Grialiano was born in New Iberia, Louisiana on May 10, 1921. Peter Grialiano and his family relocated to Jefferson County, Texas where his third daughter, Rita Katthea Grialiano was born in 1923. Lucy, the widow of Joseph Gralino, who had died in 1915 in New Iberia, Louisiana, relocated to Beaumont, Texas and is found there in the 1921 City Directory. Peter Grialiano was living in Port Arthur, Texas at 631 San Antonio Avenue according to the 1925 city directory. He was employed by The Texas Company. Also living at 632 San Antonio Avenue in 1925 was Bernard Gralino, who was the father of Peter Grialiano. Lucy Gralino, widow of Joseph Gralino (1875-1915) was living at 948 16th Street with her son, Bernard. He was a waiter at the Port Arthur Cafe, and a nephew of Peter Grialiano. The younger Bernard Gralino continued to live in Port Arthur as he is found there in the 1930 Census. He died in Jefferson County, Texas in 1971.

According to the World War I Draft application of Charles Gagliano, who had been the employer of Peter Grialiano in 1917, he had been born on February 11, 1881 in Italy, was naturalized, and owned his own general merchandise business. His home address was 224 N. Carrollton Avenue in New Orleans. Charles Grialiano (Gagliano) was living with his wife, Laura and children in Ward 4, New Orleans, Louisiana according to the 1920 Census. In the 1924 City Directory of New Orleans, Charles Galiano was living at 3121 Floridas Street. Charles Galiano died in New Orleans, Louisiana in June, 1968.

By 1929 Peter Grialiano and other members of his family had relocated to Houston, Texas. His brother, Nicholas "Nick" Gralino also moved to Houston and in 1929 was living at 1718 Washington Avenue, operating a retail meat shop. In the 1930 City Directory Peter Grialiano is found living at 3028 Liberty, Houston. His occupation is listed as grocer. Nick Grialiano had relocated to 1718 Liberty Road and was a grocer too. According to the 1930 Census of Houston, Harris County, Peter's wife's name was shown as Roxana Gralino. However, the family relates that there was an error in the census and that she was always named Anna. Also living with them was his father, Bernard Gralino, age 84 (born 1846 in Italy). The census stated that Bernard had immigrated to the United States in 1894. According to Gralino (Gragliano) family history posted on the internet, Bernardo had been born actually in 1846 in Chiusa, Scalafani, Sicily. His wife was Antonina Margiotta (1850-1920). According to the 1932 City Directory Nicholas Grialiano lived at 1810 Johnson in Houston, and his occupation was huckster. Samuel Grialiano is living there too. Peter Gralino still lived at 3023 Liberty Road and was a grocer. According to the 1935 City Directory, Nick Grialiano and a son, Nick, were living at 1618 Summer. Samuel Grialiano also lived there too and was a bookkeeper for Bob Huff Letter Shop. Peter Grialiano had moved to 4128 DeGeorge. According to Texas Death Records, Bernard Gragliano died in Houston, Texas on February 2, 1938. According to the 1940 Census Peter Grialiano and family are still living on DeGeorge, and his occupation was listed as caretaker. Also living in Peter's household was his daughters Lena Grialiano and Rita K. Grialiano Leggio, who had been married since 1932. Also living in the household was Rita's husband, Roy A. Leggio, Sr. and their two-year old daughter, Jennie Ann Leggio.

While renting the home at 4128 DeGeorge, Peter Grialiano and wife, Anna Dorothy Grialiano purchased their first home at 400 Cordell Street, Brooke Smith Addition on May 1, 1944 (Recorded May 11). They purchased it from Lee Roy Whitaker who had built the home in 1918, and who had owned it for 28 years, and had used it also as rental income for the last 15 years. Whitaker sold the

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home to Peter Graliano and wife, Anna Dorothy Graliano for \$3,200. Graliano had made a down payment while Whitaker had personally financed the balance at 6% interest per annum. J.C. Thomas, Jr. was trustee for the note.

Lee Roy Whitaker died on May 19, 1949, in Pasadena. His will dated July 11, 1945 was filed in the Harris County Probate Court on May 26, 1949. According to the will of Lee Roy Whitaker, the estate was to be divided as follows: 1/6 to wife, Mary L. Whitaker; 1/6 to sister, Mrs. Bessie Lang; 1/3 to his son, Clarence M. Whitaker and 1/3 to his daughter, Thelma M. Whitaker Field. He named his wife Mary and son Clarence as co-executors. According to the Whitaker Estate settlement and inventory, Graliano, who had been making payments of \$35 per month since 1944, still owed Whitaker \$1,876.46 on the note for 400 Cordell in 1949. The note owed by Peter Graliano was then owned by the heirs of Lee Roy Whitaker, and Graliano continued to make payments to them after Whitaker's death.

At the time he purchased his home, Peter Graliano was a laborer and pipe fitter with the Houston City Water Department, 27 Artesia Street. They chose to buy a home in Brooke Smith Addition since Anna's brother, Baldassaro "Bud" Ned Roccaforte, Sr., had lived there at 401 Cordell since 1920 with his wife, Anna Mannina Roccaforte. Baldassaro Roccaforte was likely the one who informed his brother-in-law, Peter Graliano, about the availability of the home for sale in 1944 at 400 Cordell, which was located directly across the street from Roccaforte's own home. Roccaforte was a barber with K. D. Wright. Like his brother, Vincenzo Roccaforte (1881-1930), who was also a barber, Baldassero Roccaforte had resided with Vincenzo at 1415 Crockett since 1917, before moving to Brooke Smith Addition. According to the obituary of Vincenzo Roccaforte, who died in Houston on May 14, 1930, he was survived by his wife, Anna; one daughter, Miss Lena Roccaforte; two sons, Nicholas and Vincenzo Roccaforte, Jr.; a brother, B. N. Roccaforte; three sisters: Mrs. Frank Scanlin, Mrs. Tony Marchese and Mrs. Pete Graliano; and his father, Nicholas Roccaforte.

Today, neighbors on Cordell Street in Brooke Smith Heights still remember the two ladies, Anna Mannina Roccaforte and her sister-in-law, Anna Roccaforte Graliano, taking great pride in their yards and gardens. They also shared plants often with one another, including palms and other "exotic" trees which may have been brought directly from Italy and planted there. The Graliano descendants still own the little trowel with which Anna Graliano used to work the soil in her flower beds. According to the Graliano family, Peter also maintained a large vegetable garden on their vacant lot (Lot 5) next to their home (Lot 6). The garden was located behind the garage and along the rear alley. He especially liked to grow strawberries. He retired in 1956 and loved woodworking and upholstering and refinishing furniture. He also stripped the paint from the doors, woodwork, colonnade between the living room and dining room as well as the long window seat under the dining room windows in the interior of the home, and he refinished them and stained the wood which remains in beautiful condition even today.

According to the obituary which appeared in the Houston Post on Monday, February 27, 1967, Peter Graliano died on Sunday, February 26, age 76, at his home at 400 Cordell. It said he was a long-time resident of Houston and a member of Holy Name Society as well as the Knights of Columbus. He was survived by his wife, Anna Graliano and daughters Lena (Roy A.) Leggio; Rita Somano; and Frances Haldas, all of Houston. He was also survived by his sister, Rose deJohn of Port Arthur, Texas, as well as seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. It was announced that Earthman Funeral Homes handled the arrangements of his burial and a Knights of Columbus Rosary would be held at 7 pm on Monday, February 27 and funeral services would follow on

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Tuesday, February 28, 1967 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 4419 N. Main, Houston, Texas. He was to be buried at Garden of Gethsemane. Pallbearers for the funeral included: Johnny Palasota, Mike Leggio, Samuel Roccaforte, B. N. Roccaforte, Ben Giammaiva, and Joe Sazera.

Anna Dorothy Roccaforte Graliano left her home at 400 Cordell a few years before she died and was living with her daughter, Frances Anna Graliano Haldas. She lived with her daughter's family until she died on Friday, November 10, 1978. The family said she would not sell her home on Cordell even though she was living with her daughter. According to Anna's obituary which appeared in the Houston Post on Sunday, November 12, 1978, she was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church. She was survived by her daughters and sons-in-law: Antoinette (Lena) Marie and Roy A. Leggio, Sr; Frances Anna and Joseph E. Haldas; and Rita Katthea Somano (originally Somoano), widow of Alfred Somano, Jr. Anna Graliano was also survived by her sister, Mary Marchese and sister-in-law, Anna Roccaforte, all of Houston. She was also survived by seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. It was announced that a Rosary would be held on Sunday, November 12 at 7:30 pm at Earthman's Fannin Street Chapel at 2420 Fannin. Funeral services would be held on Monday, November 13 at 10 am at Christ the King Church, 4419 N. Main, Houston, Texas. Monsignor Bernard Roemer officiated. Pallbearers for the funeral included: Roy A. Leggio, Jr; John Palasota; James Dennis; Michael LaRacco; Alfred Somano III and Samuel Roccaforte.

Anna Roccaforte Graliano and her husband, Peter Graliano, were buried in the Garden of Gethsemane, a Catholic section of Forest Park Cemetery, located at 6900 Lawndale in Houston. They had purchased the plot on April 17, 1944 just a few days before they purchased their home at 400 Cordell. They had purchased the Northwest 1/2 and Southwest 13' 4" of Lot 45, Section 50, Garden of Gethsemane, with right to sepulture. Buried on their plot is Peter Graliano "Beloved Husband and Father" Apr. 10, 1891 (s/b 1890) - Feb. 26, 1967; Anna D. Graliano "Beloved Wife and Mother" Apr. 20, 1900 (s/b 1897) - Nov. 10, 1978; Alfred Somano "Beloved Husband and Father" Mar. 31, 1926 - Aug. 11, 1967; Rita G. Somano "Beloved Wife and Mother" Feb. 28, 1923 - Feb. 10, 1990; Roy A. Leggio, Sr. "Beloved Husband and Father" Sept. 27, 1913 - Nov. 5, 1993; Lena M. Leggio "Beloved Wife and Mother" Aug. 19, 1918 - Jun. 21, 2012; and Christina F. Leggio "Mother:" Nov. 8, 1900 - Feb. 6, 1984.

The ownership of the Graliano home was transferred to their heirs at the death of Mrs. Anna Graliano. The disposition of the property was handled by Kenneth E. Rolston, Chairman of the Board and President of Houston United Bank, located at 4600 Gulf Freeway (U S Interstate 45). The bank sold the property to real estate investors, Kathleen R. Crump Robbins and husband, Robert Paul Robbins, Jr. who immediately sold the property to the current owner, Michael K. Brown, on December 5, 1980 (Recorded 174-95-0960).

Michael K. Brown

Michael K. Brown was the third owner of 400 Cordell Street, located in Brooke Smith Addition, Houston, Texas, since the historic home was built on the site in 1918. He owned, cared for and preserved the historic home for 33 years. He originally purchased the home for use as his own personal residence from real estate investors, Kathleen R. Crump Robbins and husband, Robert Paul Robbins, Jr. on December 5, 1980 (Recorded 174-95-0960). They had just recently acquired the property as an investment from Kenneth E. Rolston, Chairman of the Board and President of Houston United Bank, located at 4600 Gulf Freeway (U S Interstate 45). The bank had been

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successor to the title for the Estate of Mrs. Anna Graliano, widow of Peter Graliano, the second owners of 400 Cordell Street since its construction. They had owned, cared for and preserved the historic home for the previous 36 years.

Michael K. Brown, a native of New York, received his A. A. degree with honors from Lowville Academy and Central School, Lowville, New York in 1971. He began his long, distinguished career first as Guide and Cataloguer, Constable Hall Association, New York from 1970-1975. He was a Research Assistant and Cataloguer (volunteer), Lewis County Historical Society, Lowville, New York from 1970-1971. From 1971 to 1973 he was Education Department Assistant, Jefferson County Historical Society, Watertown, New York. He served as Gallery Assistant, Tyler Art Gallery, State University of New York College, Oswego, New York from 1973-1975. While attending school there, he received his B. A. cum laude, American Studies and History, in 1975. That same year, he was Intern at the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, Springfield, Massachusetts. From 1975 to 1977 he served as an Intern and Guide, The Henry Francis Du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware. Under their Program, he obtained his M. A. in 1977 in Early American Culture from the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware. He was hired as Curatorial Assistant, Department of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts in 1977 and left that post in 1980 to come to Bayou Bend, Houston, Texas.

Michael K. Brown was the curator of the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, The Museum of Fine Arts (MFAH), 1987-2013. He had served as Associate Curator since 1980. According to their website "Bayou Bend, the MFAH house museum for American decorative arts and paintings, features objects dating from 1620 through 1870. Not only are these works fine examples of American design and craftsmanship, but they also reflect the tastes, values, and aspirations of ordinary Americans. Today, the collection fulfills Miss Ima Hogg's dream that 'Bayou Bend may serve as a bridge to bring us closer to the heart of an American heritage which unites us.'" "Established in 1900, the MFAH is the largest cultural institution in the southwest region. The museum's main campus is located in the heart of Houston's Museum District, and comprises the Audrey Jones Beck Building, the Caroline Wiess Law Building, the Glassell School of Art, and the Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden. Nearby, two remarkable house museums—Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, and Rienzi—present collections of American and European decorative arts. Resources that can be found throughout the MFAH include a repertory cinema, two significant research libraries, public archives, and a state-of-the-art conservation and storage facility."

Since 1966 Bayou Bend has been affiliated with the MFAH as a house museum for American decorative arts. It was designed and built by popular Houston architect John Staub in 1927. "The house was commissioned as a family home by Ima Hogg and her two brothers, Will and Mike, among Houston's most influential residents at the time." Not only did the Hogg brothers plat the subdivision of River Oaks, but they also platted the North and East Norhill Subdivisions, which today have been designated as one of the largest historic districts in the City of Houston, Norhill Historic District. According to the Bayou Bend website "Miss Hogg and her brothers wanted its design to be representative of the history, culture, and climate of the Gulf Coast. They worked closely with Staub, whose design reflected 18th-century Georgian architecture combined with the Spanish Creole style of New Orleans. Miss Hogg later coined the term 'Latin Colonial' to describe the blend of styles. Eventually the sole occupant of Bayou Bend, Miss Hogg donated her house to

the MFAH in 1957, but she continued to live there until 1965 while overseeing its transformation into a museum."

The website continues to say "Miss Hogg devoted her life to the pursuit of collecting American decorative arts as a means to convey American history to the citizens of Texas. Bayou Bend is now among the world's greatest collections of American paintings, furniture, and decorative arts. Programs and educational outreach—both passions of Miss Hogg—expanded over the decades. In 2010, a long-planned visitor center was completed and opened to the public, situated on a four-acre site adjacent to a bird sanctuary and the home's grounds. The modern, metal-clad structure houses visitor orientation spaces, meeting rooms, and a library. Designed by Houston architect Leslie K. Elkins, and granted a LEED-Silver rating for its environmental efficiencies, the Lora Jean Kilroy Visitor and Education Center is a contemporary gateway to the historic house museum." Bayou Bend is located in River Oaks Subdivision at 6300 Memorial Drive (One Westcott Drive), Houston, Texas, and the historic home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 6, 1979.

Michael Brown contributed over twenty-five articles to numerous publications, including "American Decorative Arts in the Bayou Bend Collection;" "Marks of Achievement: Four Centuries of American Presentation Silver;" "A Decade of Collecting American Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston;" "Piecing Together the Past: Recent Research on the American China Manufactory, 1769-1772;" and "Paul Revere and the Late Reverend Mr. Prince's 'Church Cupp': The Study of a Commission." In 2007 Brown authored "America's Treasures at Bayou Bend: Celebrating Fifty Years" which was published by Bayou Bend.

Mr. Brown received a "Youthgrant," National Endowment for the Humanities, Jefferson County Historical Society, Watertown, New York in 1972. That same year, he received a Fellowship to Phi Theta Kappa, National Junior College Scholastic Society, Jefferson Community College, also located in Watertown. He also won a Fellowship to the Northeast Museums Conference, Buffalo, New York in 1974. Brown was named the Sir George Trevelyan Scholar at the Attingham Summer School, Attingham Park, Shropshire, England in 1979. That same year, he was the Recipient of the Virginia L. Radley Outstanding Senior Award, State University of New York College, Oswego, New York. In addition, he served as a Louise du Pont Crowninshield Fellow at the Winterthur Museum in 1987. He received a Research Grant, Scottish Society for Art History in 2009. Most recently, Mr. Brown, along with Peter M. Kenny, curator of American decorative arts and administrator of the American wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET), organized "Duncan Phyfe, Master Cabinetmaker in New York," which premiered at the MET in 2011, before traveling to Houston in 2012. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Kenny authored the exhibition's catalogue, which won the prestigious Henry Allen Moe Prize for Catalogues of Distinction in the Arts, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York in 2012. Brown's Board memberships include: Trustee of the Regional Conference of Historical Agencies, Manilus, New York (1974-1975); Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (1990-1994); Bering Community Service Foundation, Houston, Texas (1997-1999); Greater Houston Preservation Alliance (1996 - present); City Hall Preservation Committee, Houston, Texas (1999 - present); Editorial Board, Victorian Society in America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2001 - present); and The Heritage Society, Houston, Texas (2006 - present). Michael Brown died in Houston on September 8, 2013.

Brooke Smith Addition

Brooke Smith Addition was platted in 1905 and expanded with a second phase that was platted in 1906 by Brooke Smith of Brownwood, Texas. Soon after platting the two Brooke Smith Additions, Smith sold Lots 5 and 6, Block 26, to Mrs. Nora Clark of Houston on October 16, 1905 (Recorded October 19). The site today is the location where 400 Cordell Street was built eventually by L. R. Whitaker on Lot 6 in 1918.

On November 14, 1887, Brooke Smith purchased several tracts of land in Harris County as investments, including a 320 acre tract (G. W. Patrick/H. W. Raglin patent), a 200 acre tract (part of J. L. Stanley survey), and a 110 acre tract out of the John Austin two leagues just northwest of Houston from F. W. Henderson of Mason County, Texas. The 110 acres was described as being 2/3 of a one hundred and seventy acre tract out of a five hundred acre tract sold by W. T. Austin to James Scott. It is further described as being located on the north prong of Little White Oak Bayou and said land being known as the "Milner Place located about 3 miles from the Harris County Courthouse in the City of Houston and in a northern or north easterly direction and adjoining the city limits being the same land purchased by J. F. White at sheriff's sale as the property of Milner, and being the same property recovered in District Court of Harris County by James W. Henderson in a suit entitled J. W. Henderson vs. J. C. C. Winch, Q. Hemp and J. S. Whitfield which judgment and decree of partition as well as the older deeds in chain of title are referred to." (Recorded December 8, 1887 and January 2, 1888 Harris County, Texas). Brooke Smith originally leased the same land in April 1889 to James Williams and wife, Louisa of Harris County. Smith as well as his agents, including J. B. McCutchen and Hutcheson and Buans, extended the lease in subsequent years up to July 25, 1898 (Recorded July 27). The land was further described in the lease as being: "land fenced by Brooke Smith in February 1891 out of the Northwest survey of 500 acres known as the Scott survey which is part of the Germantown Tract or NE 1/4 of 2 leagues, originally granted to John Austin and the land herein conveyed known as the Smith survey is situated on the west bank of the Little White Oak Bayou about 2 1/2 miles northwestwardly of the Court House in the City of Houston, Texas, described as follows: Beginning at a point in the middle of Little White Oak Bayou, the same being the NE corner of Hollywood Cemetery" and also located on the East side of 'graded' Montgomery Road" (North Main) and also bounded by lands of Burrell, Koertge, George Steer and John Latretes.

The same 110 acre tract was leased later to Silas Parks on September 20, 1898, by Brooke Smith's Houston agent, R. (Rufus) L. Archer. The lease was again extended to Parks by Brooke Smith of Brown County, Texas from August 27, 1900 to August 27, 1902, and again, on December 3, 1901 for three years with R. L. Archer acting as Smith's agent once again. The land was described as being 2 1/2 miles in a "northwesterly direction from the Court House in Houston and just north of Woodland Heights Addition, and lying east of the Half and Newbauen Addition and bounded on the east by Little White Oak Bayou," including "a small frame house in which tenant Parks resides." The Brooke Smith tract was "bounded on the west by West Montgomery (North Main) or Beauchamp Springs Road and is under fence and logs on both sides of road." In the lease Parks "shall use land but if Smith sells any part, Parks agrees to vacate before lease expires, but must keep fences up, not cut timber."

Brooke Smith did not renew any leases on his 110 acre tract further as he began platting the land for residential lots for sale. He filed the plat for Brooke Smith Addition in Harris County, Texas in Volume 1A, page 129. The plat was filed on September 8, 1905 (Recorded September 11) and

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included 35 Blocks with 421 residential lots. Also platted and filed was Brooke Smith Second Addition by Brooke Smith, President of Brooke Smith Realty Company, Houston, Texas on August 30, 1906 (Recorded September 11) in Volume 2, page 11 and included 115 Blocks with 892 residential lots. H. B. Hardeman of Brown County, Texas was the Civil Engineer on the plat. Brooke Smith filed a Domestic Charter as Brooke Smith Realty Company, Brownwood, Texas, with the Texas Secretary of State on October 16, 1906 with a capital stock of \$50,000.

It was critical to the sale of lots in Brooke Smith Addition that there was available public transportation to the working classes who would be purchasers of lots there. North Montgomery Road dissected Brooke Smith Addition diagonally from southeast to northwest in the west half of the addition. Enid Avenue, which ran north and south through the center of Brooke Smith Addition and continued north through Brooke Smith Second Addition, began at Montgomery Road and ran north. Enid was the street that was designated for the street car line. According to *The Railroad Gazette* on March 15, 1907, Brooke Smith was about to purchase a gasoline motor car for use on the branch of the Houston Electric Railway to Brooke Smith Addition. That same year, Houston Electric Company reported that they had acquired a motorcar line of the Brooke, Smith & Company and would extend it. Brooke Smith Second Addition was located directly west of Little White Oak Bayou and east of Brooke Smith Addition as well as extending north from Brooke Smith Addition. Today, the old streetcar route on Enid is now the modern route for Houston city busses - METRO Route No. 24 which runs from Downtown up N. Main, turns north on Enid and then west on Cavalcade to its northernmost route and returns to Downtown the same way.

"The Key to the City of Houston" in 1908 in describing the Brooke Smith Addition said "This pleasant suburb lies about two and one-half miles northeast of the city of Houston, and one-half mile due north of Woodland Heights. This addition owes its origin to Mr. Brooke Smith, a capitalist of Brownwood, and was opened for the inspection of the public about three years ago. Blocks and streets were laid out, and streets graded. Brick sidewalks were laid, leading in all directions. Tracks were laid over certain streets in the addition, and to a certain point connecting with the Houston street car system. On this track a motor car is operated, which is a great convenience to the residents. A great many pretty cottage homes have been built in Brooke Smith and are occupied by a thrifty class of Houston's working men. Mr. George V. Archer, who is one of Mr. Brooke Smith's local agents, has a beautiful two-story home on one of the prettiest streets. There are two churches accessible, Baptist and Presbyterian. Children attend school at Beauchamp Springs, and, in the near future, there is to be erected a fine and commodious building to accommodate the increasing numbers in this school district. Lots are sold on the easy payment plan, and are reasonable. This is slowly and surely growing, as are the many other residence additions to Houston."

Brooke Smith, who lived in Brownwood, had to hire a series of real estate agents to handle the business of selling the lots and handling the finances of the Brooke Smith Realty Company in Houston. His first agent, George V. Archer, handled the real estate business for Brooke Smith. George V. Archer was born in 1876 in Arkansas. His real estate and notary public office was located at 507 Kiam Building at Main and Preston in Houston. He resided on the southwest corner of Bethje at Pine in the Brunner Addition with his wife, Jessie W. Bell Archer. Archer had been involved in real estate and was the Assistant Postmaster of Brunner in 1903. His father, Rufus L. Archer, owned the Brunner Land Office, and he was also the Brunner, Texas postmaster. The elder Archer had been the real estate agent who had handled the leasing of the Smith lands before Smith platted the acreage into the Brooke Smith Addition. He lived at the northeast corner of Butt and

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Roy, in Brunner, Texas. He died on January 19, 1903. Archer Street in the new Brooke Smith Addition was named after him. Because of his close association with the elder Archer, Brooke Smith likely hired Rufus' son for the Brooke Smith Realty Company office. George V. Archer purchased Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 26 from Brooke Smith for \$800 on October 9, 1905 (Recorded October 31). Archer built the large, Colonial Revival style home with neo-classical detailing now located at 403 Archer in 1906 in the Brooke Smith Addition. Several relatives lived with him, his wife and three children, including his mother, Mattie G. Archer as well as Rosalie Archer, who was the widow of W. V. Archer. (The historic home is featured in "Houston Architectural Guide by Stephen Fox) George V. Archer partnered in his real estate office with Gardner Thomas (Archer & Thomas) in 1906, and they also managed Brooke Smith Realty Company. Their offices were then located at 212 Main. Archer and Thomas built two of the earliest homes in Brooke Smith Addition, and both are still standing today. Gardner Thomas was the son-in-law of Brooke Smith. Gardner Thomas had married Lola Doswell Smith in 1902. Gardner Thomas purchased Lots 11 and 12, Block 22, Brooke Smith Addition from Brooke Smith on February 13, 1906 (Recorded February 17). He built a home there on the southwest corner of Cordell at Melwood which today is known as 311 Cordell. It is located very near 403 Archer (described earlier as the northwest corner of Archer at Melwood), as well as 400 Cordell Street at Melwood. Melwood Street was originally spelled Mellwood. Gardner Street in the new Brooke Smith Addition was named after Gardner Thomas. Brooke Smith's other daughter, Norma Smith had married T. Glenn Heslep (1875-1919), and one of the streets in the new Brooke Smith Addition was named after him. Brooke Smith also built a home in Brownwood, Texas which was located on Melwood and Chandler, and he likely named W. Melwood in the new Brooke Smith Addition after that street. Temple Street in the new Brooke Smith Addition was named after Brooke Smith's daughter, Flora Temple Smith, who was born and died in the same year in 1881. She had been named after her uncle, Temple D. Smith, who was a brother of Brooke Smith.

However, Smith filed a lawsuit against George V. Archer who apparently had not been handling Smith's business interests in the manner that pleased Smith. The notice of the suit appeared in the Brownwood Texas Daily Bulletin on December 15, 1909. Archer was not employed at that time with Brooke Smith Realty Company and by 1910, he was the manager of Standard Land and Building Company, located at 1002 Scanlan Building. He was still living at 403 Archer. By 1911 he had moved from 403 Archer and was residing at 615 Olive in Brunner, Texas (Houston).

After George V. Archer left the Brooke Smith Realty Company, it came under the sole management of Gardner Thomas in 1909, and he had his offices at 309-310 Chronicle Building, located at Travis and Texas Avenue. He was also the Secretary of League City Orange Company. The Brooke Smith Addition first appeared in the criss-cross section (by street) in the City Directory in 1910 and was described as: "east of Houston Avenue, one mile north of San Jacinto Park (now Woodland Park), with streets running east and west being Cottage, Temple, Melwood (formerly spelled Mellwood), Florence (now E. Fugate) , Gardner, Heslep, Fenwick (now partly called Patton), Jewett, Janssen (now Coronado), Pittman, Mathis, Pettit, Rilling (now W Cavalcade) and Tarver Avenues; Streets running north and south being Moss, Norwood (now Northwood), Taber, Walton, Enid, Cordell, Archer, and Vincent" and the following streets located to the far east were lost to I-45 expansion, including: Henley, Dever, Curtis, Karnes and Trimble. A few owners and their homes in Brooke Smith Addition that have been identified, include: Lula A. Pace (widow of Jesse C) residing on the west side of Enid, first house south of Gardner (1911); William A. Clark (Clark & Talley), residing on the west side of Archer, between Heslep and Fenwick (1912); W. W. Faught - 216 Archer.

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Perhaps Gardner Thomas who was managing the Brooke Smith Realty Company office was not in good health as he ended his business association there in 1912 and died soon thereafter in 1918. In 1912 Brooke Smith had engaged George S. Durant and Hoyt Wood (Durant and Wood) to manage the affairs of the Brooke Smith Realty Company, and their offices were located also at 310 Chronicle Building. Durant lived at 836 Cortlandt, and Wood lived at 523 Harvard in Houston Heights. They too were no longer associated with Brooke Smith Realty Company as George S. Durant was a salesman for the Houston Heights Real estate office, and Hoyt Wood was a cashier for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in 1913.

Brooke Smith finally divested himself of all of his interests in the Brooke Smith Second Addition when he sold the remaining unsold lots and property to Charles W. Lindsay and David E. Smith (no relation) on August 20, 1914 (Recorded August 25). Brooke Smith financed the sale of the lots to Smith and Lindsay himself in the amount of \$133,700 at the rate of 5% per annum. There were 72 notes that would come due with the first group maturing on August 20, 1924. D. E. Smith and C. W. Lindsay owned the Smith-Lindsay Land Company, real estate and loans, and were located at 414 Scanlan Building. D. E. Smith resided on the west side of Archer, first road north of Cottage Avenue in Brooke Smith Addition. Charles W. Lindsay lived at 312 Pecore. Apparently Brooke Smith had borrowed funds previously from the City of Brownwood to finance another business venture. As President of Brooke Smith Realty Company, he was authorized by a Resolution of the Board of Directors and Brooke Smith & Company (Unincorporated) Bankers to assign a portion of the mortgage he held on Smith and Lindsay. Brooke Smith assigned a portion of that promissory note to the City of Brownwood to pay a debt to them which he owed in the amount of \$55,018. Brooke Smith & Company Bankers was a co-partnership composed of Brooke Smith, Sr., his son, Brooke Smith, Jr. and his daughter, Lola D. Smith Thomas Lester, who had married Elisha Lester after the death of her first husband, Gardner Thomas.

In 1914 David E. Smith was listed in the city directory as owner, Brooke Smith Addition whose offices were at 306-7 Settegast Building, located at 1016 Preston. He was also owner and manager of the Woodland Apartments, 3600 N. Main (or Houston Avenue) and resided there as well. His advertisement appeared in the city directory on page 829 as "D. E. Smith - Real City Lots - \$5.00 cash, \$5.00 monthly - select your lot - I will build on rental payments." In 1915 D. E. Smith produced a large fold-out mailer advertising his lots for sale as well as the amenities of Brooke Smith Second Addition. His offices were now located at 303-304-305 Settegast Building. Harry W. Thrower was his sales manager. He lived at 1546 Railroad (now Nicholson) in Houston Heights. The Brooke Smith Addition brochure promoted the "beautiful shade trees" with over 600 homesites (50' X 100') available with prices from \$350 to \$575 and with terms \$5.00 to \$7.50 per month or \$1.25 to \$2.00 per week. It also stated that "we have built over 60 new homes in the last six months." It also promoted Houston Avenue as brick paved to North Main within three blocks, and Houston Avenue and North Main graveled street through Brooke Smith to 20th Avenue, Houston Heights. According to the 1915-1917 city directories, there was a great deal of building activity in Brooke Smith Second Addition. A few owners and their homes in Brooke Smith Second Addition at this time period that have been identified, including: 219 Archer - Frank C. Fares; James Goodson - east side of Cordell; 6 homes north of Cottage Avenue; John Lang, east side of Moss; 407 Dever; 510 Vincent; 802 and 810 Enid; 902, 908 and 910 Walton; 1100 Taber; 1106 and 1108 N. Main; and 1208 Norwood. In 1917 listed in the Street Index were 46 houses on Cordell; 8 on Cottage; 15 on Dever; 2 on Fenwick; 6 on Florence; 2 on Gardner; 15 on Henley; 4 on Heslep; 4 on Janssen; 1 on Jewett; 1 on Mathis; 7 on Moss; 22 on Norwood; 1 on Pittman; 28 on Taber; 1 on Tarver; 3 on

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Temple; 21 on Vincent and 30 on Walton. In addition, 400 Cordell Street was built in 1918 by Lee Roy Whitaker.

In 1919 D. E. Smith had moved his Brooke Smith Addition real estate offices to 1004 Union National Bank Building at 220 Main. In the 1923 City Directory David E. Smith and wife, Blanche were living at 1 Woodland Apartments. In 1923 David E. Smith not only owned the Woodland Apartments but also the Ojede Apartments at 3611 N. Main, and he had moved to a residence at 606 Dell Court in Woodland Court Addition. In 1926 he had moved his real estate offices to larger offices at 3628 N. Main. Again in 1929 he had moved his real estate offices once again to 3710 N. Main. His son, David E. Smith, Jr. who was an attorney, had his office there too. By 1940 David E. Smith had sold all the lots in Brooke Smith Second Addition and was no longer in the real estate business. In that year he was operating Jordan's Food Shop, a grocery store, at 6817 Lyons Avenue, and he was living above the store. He retired in 1941 and relocated to Freeport, Texas where he lived at 223 North Front Street. He died on Wednesday, November 19, 1958 in Freeport and services were held at the Freeport Church of Christ, officiated by Pastor Leon Meek. Burial was conducted at Hollywood Cemetery, Houston, Texas.

Woodland Court Addition, where Dell Court (now known as Dell Street) was located and where David E. Smith lived in 1922-23, was platted and located adjacent to the southeast corner of Brooke Smith Addition. It is situated just south of Brooke Smith Second Addition, just east of Brooke Smith Addition, and just east of North Main. However, there are only a few historic homes remaining on the north side of the 500 Block of Dell Court today.

The most significant change to Brooke Smith Second Addition as well as Germantown came when Interstate 45 was built as the first freeway in Texas. It opened in stages beginning on October 1, 1948. Full completion to Galveston was finished in 1952, as part of U. S. Highway 75. At the north (Houston) end, it was connected to the North Freeway via the short Pierce Elevated through Downtown Houston, which was completed in 1967. Germantown was split in half by the construction of I-45. The western half of Germantown today, which is adjacent to and located just to the east of Woodland Heights, which has been designated as an Historic District of the City of Houston, has been designated also as Germantown Historic District of the City of Houston. All of the historic homes in the path of I-45 were demolished while few were moved. Approximately 269 lots with historic homes located on the far eastern edge of Brooke Smith Second Addition, being located east of Cordell southward to Pettit, east of Archer southward to Gardner and east of Henley (now North Freeway Feeder Road) southward to Cottage, were demolished for construction of I-45. However, a huge concentration of historic homes remains west of I-45, north of North Main, south of Tarver Street and east of Northwood. Northwood (formerly Norwood) fronts historic Montie Beach Park as well as historic Robert Browning Elementary School. Browning Elementary School is part of the Houston Independent School District (HISD) and was built in 1927 to serve the area. Montie Beach Park was named for Mrs. Montie (Rice) Beach (1880-1964). She was born in 1880 in Cleveland, Trinity County, Texas. She was the second wife of Ira Monta Beach (1861-1918) whom she married in 1897 just a year before they came to Houston from Dallas, Texas to open one of the most successful and famous Schools of Dance in Texas. Mrs. Montie Beach was an active member of the Houston Parks Board, and she was honored with the naming of Montie Beach Park. Today, the mission of the Montie Beach Civic Club, named after Montie Beach Park, which has members in Brooke Smith Addition, Oakdale Place and Lizzieton Terrace Subdivisions, is to build a better community through publishing a monthly newsletter, holding monthly meetings with speakers, an

Annual Community Clean Up Day, Summer Family Fun Day in the Park, National Night Out events and neighborhood socials.

Brooke Smith

Brooke Smith was born in Beaver Dam, Hanover County, Virginia, on March 13, 1853 in the old ancestral plantation known as "Westfield" about forty miles northwest of Richmond, Virginia. He was one of ten children born to Paulina Thilman (Doswell) Smith (1822-1883) and John Snelson Smith, Jr. (1817-1901). He was home schooled with his brothers and sisters. The Smith family moved to Marion County, Indiana in the fall of 1860 where the family farmed, near Howdy, Indiana. In Indianapolis, he joined the Sons of Liberty, which was a southern sympathizer group during the Civil War. He attended secret meetings in the attic of the home of his father, John Snelson Smith. The Smith family relocated to McLennan County, Texas. in December 1870 and purchased a farm near Waco. Brooke helped the family on the farm while attending night school at Burleson College. He took a commercial course at 25 cents per lesson from Professor Boggess. Brooke made trips to Waco to purchase items for the family and farm and became acquainted with the store owner, Mr. Lyons, who owned the large wholesale and retail house called Lyons, Cohn & Co. Lyons was in need of a bookkeeper and hired Brooke Smith, who was initially paid only for his board and keep. He was hired on a trial basis but finally hired for \$75 a month. He decided to move west to Brownwood, arriving there on February 8, 1876. The population of the town was 120 inhabitants. He found Brownwood promising and returned to Waco and suggested to Lyons that he should open a store in Brownwood. Partnering with Sol Lyons and Otto Steffens, he opened a general store in Brownwood, then a Texas frontier town. With no banks in the town, Smith and Steffens placed a large safe in their store where they kept their own funds, as well as financial deposits entrusted to them by area ranchers and farmers, keeping up to \$50,000 in currency in the safe at times. They cashed checks and sent drafts. They decided to open a private banking department within their general store. On July 1, 1876, Brooke Smith opened the bank in the back of their store. It was located on the southwest corner of the square. In 1877 the partnership with Lyons, Cohn & Co. was dissolved, and the store name was changed to "Smith and Steffens." The bank was called The Pecan Valley Bank. They moved to another building at 114 E. Baker Street in 1884, which is still standing. The bank closed in 1921. The year Brooke opened the bank, he was also one of the principle stockholders in the Brown County Milling Company.

Smith married Juliet Logan Sparks (1862-1938) on March 2, 1880 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. They returned to Brownwood to live and built a large, Victorian-era home on the corner of Melwood and Chandler Street (demolished). Brooke Smith continued in the banking business and in 1883, opened two stores - one in Belle Plain and another in Buffalo Gap, Texas. They opened the First National Bank of Brownwood, with a capital of \$75,000 as well as a First National Bank in Abilene with a paid capital of \$50,000. Both Smith and Steffens sold their Brownwood store to relatives in 1883. Brooke was elected Brownwood mayor in 1886. During his tenure, the city built its first water system of which Smith personally managed for the first years, doing all the collecting of water bills and managing the business of the department. In the 1880s Brooke also served as an Alderman and was a city School Trustee for many years.

On November 14, 1887, Brooke Smith of Brown County, Texas, had purchased several tracts of land in Harris County, Texas as investments, including a 320 acre tract (G. W. Patrick/H. W. Raglin patent), a 200 acre tract (part of J. L. Stanley survey), and a 110 acre tract out of the John Austin

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two leagues just northwest of Houston from F. W. Henderson of Mason County, Texas. He leased the 110 acres for several years. In 1898, Brooke Smith, John G. Lee and J. S. Shepard incorporated the Brownwood Ice and Light Company with a capital stock of \$90,000 to supply "lights, electric motive power and to manufacture ice." In 1889 the Presbyterians built Daniel Baker College and the Baptists built Howard Payne College. Brooke Smith contributed generously to both colleges and helped with fundraising too. Brooke was instrumental in establishing the Gulf, Colorado, Santa Fe and Frisco Railroads being built. In 1892 the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railroad elected Brooke Smith as director, to which he served for forty years. On August 4, 1894, Smith had a survey completed for a huge dam and an irrigation system at the site of the Brownwood water plant to plan for future water needs of the city. The dam was to be 80 feet high and 1,800 feet long and would impound water to cover four thousand acres. However, it was not until 1924 that the dam was built and Lake Brownwood was created to serve their water needs.

Brooke Smith, who had operated a private bank early in his banking career, did not like the modern banking regulations, which required examinations, had paternalistic control as well as other restrictions and limitations. In 1894, he left First National Bank of Brownwood, borrowed the money, mortgaged his 100 acres in Harris County (the future Brooke Smith Addition), and paid off what he owed to First National Bank. Then he opened a private bank, which he named Brownwood Bank.

Brooke Smith undertook a huge land development on some of his investment land near Houston, which he platted and sold as residential lots. He filed the plat for Brooke Smith Addition in Harris County, Texas, in Volume 1A, page 129. The plat was filed on September 8, 1905 (Recorded September 11). He also platted and filed Brooke Smith Second Addition as Brooke Smith, President of Brooke Smith Realty Company, Houston, Texas on August 30, 1906 (Recorded September 11) in Volume 2, page 11. H. B. Hardeman of Brown County, Texas was the Civil Engineer on the plat. Brooke Smith filed a Domestic Charter as Brooke Smith Realty Company, Brownwood, Texas, with the Texas Secretary of State on October 16, 1906 with a capital stock of \$50,000. Brooke Smith also was investing in the drilling of oil wells. According to a Houston Daily Post advertisement in March 1907, Brooke Smith had just struck a very high grade of oil at Brownwood and was seeking contractors to drill wells.

Brooke Smith, who lived in Brownwood, Texas, had to hire a series of real estate agents to handle the business of selling the lots and handling the finances of the Brooke Smith Realty Company in Houston. His first agent, George V. Archer, handled the real estate business for Brooke Smith. His real estate and notary public office was located at 507 Kiam Building at Main and Preston, Houston. He resided on the southwest corner of Bethje at Pine in the Brunner Addition. Archer had been the Assistant Postmaster of Brunner in 1903, and his father, Rufus L. Archer, owned the Brunner Land Office and also had been postmaster. The elder Archer had been the real estate agent who had handled the leasing of the Smith lands before Smith platted the acreage into the Brooke Smith Addition. George V. Archer built the large, Colonial Revival style home at 403 Archer in 1906. Joining Archer in the Brooke Smith Realty Company office in 1906 was Gardner Thomas, who was the son-in-law of Brooke Smith. Thomas had married Lola Doswell Smith in 1902. Their offices were then located at 212 Main. Gardner resided in the Brooke Smith Addition as well, and lived on the southwest corner of Cordell at Melwood, which was very near 403 Archer. However, Smith filed a lawsuit against George V. Archer who apparently had not been handling Smith's business interests in the manner that pleased Smith. The notice of the suit appeared in the

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Brownwood Texas Daily Bulletin on December 15, 1909. The Brooke Smith Realty Company came under the sole management of Gardner Thomas whose offices were located at 309-310 Chronicle Building, located at Travis and Texas Avenue. Perhaps Gardner Thomas was not in good health as he ended his business association in the Brooke Smith Realty Company in 1912 and died soon thereafter in 1918. In 1912 Smith had engaged George S. Durant and Hoyt Wood (Durant and Wood) to manage the affairs of the Brooke Smith Realty Company, and their offices were located also at 310 Chronicle Building.

Brooke Smith finally divested himself of all of his interests in the Brooke Smith Second Addition when he sold the remaining unsold lots and property to C. W. Lindsay and David E. Smith (no relation) on August 20, 1914. Smith financed the sale to Smith and Lindsay of the lots himself at the rate of 5% per annum on a portion of the note which was to mature on August 20, 1924. Apparently Smith had borrowed funds previously from the City of Brownwood to finance another business venture. As President of Brooke Smith Realty Company, he was authorized by a Resolution of the Board of Directors and Brooke Smith & Company (Unincorporated) Bankers to assign a portion of the mortgage he held on Smith and Lindsay. Brooke Smith assigned a portion of that promissory note to the City of Brownwood to pay a debt to them which he owed in the amount of \$55,018. Brooke Smith & Company Bankers was a co-partnership composed of Brooke Smith, Sr., his son, Brooke Smith, Jr. and his daughter, Lola D. Smith Thomas Lester, who had married Elisha Lester after the death of her first husband, Gardner Thomas.

Brooke Smith not only had interests in real estate and oil well drilling, but he also had been the main promoter and president of the Brownwood North and South Railway Company which was "chartered on January 29, 1910, by the citizens of Brown County to build a road eighteen miles from Brownwood, the county seat, north to May. Smith and other Brownwood businessmen hoped to extend the line eventually to Cisco, to link the cotton-producing regions of northern Brown County and southern Eastland counties. The capital was \$30,000, and the business office was located in Brownwood. Members of the first board of directors included Smith, J. A. Walker, Y. C. Yantis, A. L. Self, G. N. Harrison, R. B. Rogers, Will H. Mays, Henry Ford and J. J. Timmins, all of Brownwood. The company made an agreement to use the tracks of the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railway Company from a half mile east of Pecan Bayou into Brownwood. Work began on the construction of the road but was stopped when some of the subscribers to its stock failed to pay. At that time B. L. Winchell, then president of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company (Frisco), agreed to complete the line and was given all of the Brownwood North and South assets and liabilities. The eighteen miles to May was placed in operation in November 1911. The line went into receivership along with the other Frisco properties in 1913." The road never was a financial success and was abandoned by 1927.

Brooke Smith and Company served as the City Treasurer of Brownwood in 1918. He served on the Board of Trustees of both Howard Payne and Daniel Baker Colleges, and signed every diploma from the latter college's beginning until 1933. In 1933 Brooke Smith wrote "Memoirs of Brooke Smith" which was subsequently published in 2002. Smith was a charter member at St. John's Episcopal Church. When they built their first church building in 1891, they still owned \$4,000. They could not always afford a preacher so the Bishop asked Brooke Smith to conduct church services. He agreed to preach for one year without pay, so the congregation saved \$1,000 in salary to a minister. That amount was matched by a New York donor and was used to pay down their debt.

Brooke Smith again preached free for one year receiving the same matching grant which eventually paid all debt owed by the church.

Brooke Smith, Jr., son of Brooke Smith, married Kathie "Katie" Clare Blackburn (1889-1977) in Brownwood, Texas on April 6, 1909. He became a cashier at the Brooke Smith Bank of Brownwood, Texas. Later he moved to Houston, and in 1930 was working to develop a subdivision in Brownwood with his father. Brooke Smith, Jr., while on a business trip to San Antonio, was struck by tragedy. According to the San Antonio Express on Tuesday, July 22, 1930, Smith was blown halfway through a window of his hotel and sustained severe burns as his clothes were completely burned from his body. Apparently a lighted match in the gas filled room at the Grande Courts Hotel, 755 East Mulberry Street, had caused a terrific explosion at 3:30 am on Monday, July 21, 1930. The exact cause of the explosion had not been determined that night. According to the hotel manager, Louis Piper, Smith had registered at the hotel at 9 p.m. Sunday, July 20, insisting on a second floor room. He was told that there was a room on the west side of the building but it would not be as cool as an available room on the first floor. Several guests of the hotel said they had smelled gas on the second floor at 11 p.m. A half hour later the explosion shook the entire building. A gas jet near the floor was still open when the room was broken into, according to San Antonio City Detectives, J. F. Leonard and C. W. Lee, who investigated the case. They also stated that the door to the room had been locked and all windows had been closed.

The hotel staff found Smith still conscious when picked up, but he lost consciousness shortly after reaching the Medical and Surgical Hospital. His wife upon being notified of the incident, rushed to San Antonio via a taxi from Houston as no trains were immediately available. Brooke Smith, Jr. died Monday morning, July 21, 1930, at the hospital. Fortunately the fire that had been started by the explosion at the hotel was extinguished by the fire department before spreading, and damage was estimated at only \$350. Smith's wife had taken her husband's body back to Houston, and according to the Houston Post-Dispatch on Tuesday, July 22, a funeral was to be held at 4 p.m. at the Smith residence at 2206 Quenby. Brooke Smith, Jr. and his wife are both buried in Forest Park Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale Street, Houston, Texas.

Brooke Smith, Sr. died in Brownwood, Texas on April 17, 1940. Flags in the City of Brownwood were flown at half-staff. He was buried in Greenleaf Cemetery in Brownwood. His headstone reads: "All that I gave, I have - All that I kept, I lost." His wife and three daughters are buried at Greenleaf Cemetery also. He and his wife had four children: Flora Temple Smith (1881-1881); Lola Doswell Smith Thomas Lester (1882-1932); Norma Brooke Smith Heslep (1885-1910) and Brooke Smith, Jr. (1887-1930).

Brookesmith, Texas, located "between Clear Creek and Spring Branch in southwestern Brown County, was named by David Smith in 1902, in honor of Brooke Smith. A post office was established at Brookesmith in 1903. The community's early settlers included David Smith and Brooke and Aaron Lee. The town had three cotton gins and several other businesses until cotton farming declined in the 1950s. In the 1980s Brookesmith had the post office, a store, a gas station, and a twelve-grade school. In 1980, 1990, and 2000 the community reported a population of sixty-one." According to James C. White, author of "The Promised Land," Brooke Smith arrived in Brownwood, Texas, on February 8, 1876, and "The intervening 64 years of his life was never paralleled by any Texan, and certainly by none who lived in this section of the state. So many 'firsts' are associated with his life and work here." Travis C. Smith, Jr., in his book, "From the Memories of Men" stated: "I would like to mention the debt Brownwood and Brown County owes to the late

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Brooke Smith. He did everything humanly possible to help develop our part of the world and he should be remembered by our future generations." On August 7, 2003, Carnegie Avenue, a major Brownwood thoroughfare, was designated by the City of Brownwood as the "Brooke Smith Memorial Boulevard" to honor this pioneer leader. Furthermore, a historical subject marker was erected in 2004 in Brownwood to honor Brooke Smith. It was placed at The Brownwood Historic Depot Plaza, 600A E. Depot Street, Brownwood, Texas.

David Elijah Smith, Sr.

David Elijah Smith was born on November 11, 1878 in Brazos County, Texas. He was a son of David Elijah Smith, Sr. and Mattie Pugh. When he was two years old, he was living with his uncle, James Powers and his family in Brazos County, Texas. David E. Smith married Blanche Hickman (1882-1964) on March 24, 1901 in Brazos County, Texas. She was a daughter of John Maston Hickman and Ada Bryon Hood. (David E. Smith and his wife relocated to Houston, Harris County, Texas about 1902 where David is found living in the 1903 City Directory. He opened a real estate firm called, Flintzer & Smith, which was located at 8 Perry Building, 1915 1/2 Congress. His partner was Anton D. Flintzer. Smith was boarding at the Mansion House hotel located at Congress and Milam.

In 1905, David E. Smith expanded his real estate acumen by working as a bookkeeper for Standard Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and he had moved to the west side of Houston Avenue, 3/4 mile north of Highland Park. While living in Houston, the following children were born to David and Blanche Smith: Pauline O'Dell Smith, born 1905; David E. Smith, Jr., born 1907; and Jewel B. Smith, born 1910. His father-in-law, John Maston Hickman (1860-1926) and his family also relocated to Houston from Brazos County and were living in Brooke Smith Addition in the 1910 Census. David E. Smith, his wife, and three children also lived with Hickman on the west side of Archer, first residence north of Cottage Avenue.

Smith was still involved in real estate and in 1911 opened the Smith-Lindsay Land Company, real estate and loans with partner, Charles W. Lindsay. His partner, Charles W. Lindsay lived at 312 Pecore. Smith was also operating a bowling alley at 3500 Houston Avenue. In the 1911 City Directory, Smith's brother-in-law, Albert J. Hickman, was listed as manager. In 1912 Smith had expanded his business to include a saloon and pool room and had relocated his businesses to 3700 Houston Avenue. He was residing at 3800 Houston Avenue at that time. Also living with him were his sisters-in-law, Miss Cecille and Elsie Hickman, who were students as well as Miss Marie Hickman. By 1913 Smith had moved his residence back to the west side of Archer, first residence north of Cottage Street in Brooke Smith Addition, where his father-in-law lived. At that time, Albert J. Hickman and wife, Alma were living at 1317 Crockett, and Hickman was a driver for Texas Bread Company. His father, James M. Hickman was a clerk at Joseph Rendl, and was living on the south side of Pecore at Norwood (Northwood).

While working in real estate and living in Brooke Smith Addition, David E. Smith (no relation to Brooke Smith) came into contact with the intentions of Brooke Smith to sell his development. Seeing the opportunity and having the expertise in the real estate business, he and his partner Charles W. Lindsay purchased the Brooke Smith Second Addition when Brooke Smith finally divested himself of all of his interests in the remaining unsold lots and property on August 20, 1914 (Recorded August 25). Brooke Smith financed the sale of the lots to Smith and Lindsay himself in the amount of \$133,700 at the rate of 5% per annum. There were 72 notes that would come due with

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the first group maturing on August 20, 1924. D. E. Smith and C. W. Lindsay owned the Smith-Lindsay Land Company, real estate and loans, and were located at 414 Scanlan Building.

In 1914 David E. Smith was listed in the city directory as owner, Brooke Smith Addition whose offices were at 306-7 Settegast Building, located at 1016 Preston. He was also owner and manager of the Woodland Apartments, 3600 N. Main (or Houston Avenue) and resided there as well. His advertisement appeared in the city directory on page 829 as "D. E. Smith - Real City Lots - \$5.00 cash, \$5.00 monthly - select your lot - I will build on rental payments." In 1915 D. E. Smith produced a large fold-out mailer advertising his lots for sale as well as the amenities of Brooke Smith Second Addition. His offices were now located at 303-304-305 Settegast Building. Harry W. Thrower was his sales manager. He lived at 1546 Railroad (now Nicholson) in Houston Heights. The Brooke Smith Addition brochure also promoted the "beautiful shade trees" with over 600 homesites (50' X 100') available with prices from \$350 to \$575 and with terms \$5.00 to \$7.50 per month or \$1.25 to \$2.00 per week. It also stated that "we have built over 60 new homes in the last six months." It also promoted Houston Avenue as brick paved to North Main within three blocks, and Houston Avenue and North Main graveled street through Brooke Smith to 20th Avenue, Houston Heights. Smith's father-in-law, John M. Hickman, in 1914 had opened J. M. Hickman & Son, and Albert J. Hickman was working then for his father. Albert Hickman was living at that time on Archer Street, northwest corner of Cottage. His father, who was listed as James M. Hickman in city directories from that time forward, was living with Smith and his wife, who had moved to 3717 N. Main. They all continued to live there until 1919.

According to the 1915-1917 Houston city directories, there was a great deal of building activity in Brooke Smith Second Addition. A few owners and their homes in Brooke Smith Second Addition at this time period that have been identified, including: 219 Archer - Frank C. Fares; James Goodson - east side of Cordell; 6 homes north of Cottage Avenue; John Lang, east side of Moss; 407 Dever; 510 Vincent; 802 and 810 Enid; 902, 908 and 910 Walton; 1100 Taber; 1106 and 1108 N. Main; and 1208 Norwood. In 1917 listed in the Street Index were 46 houses on Cordell; 8 on Cottage; 15 on Dever; 2 on Fenwick; 6 on Florence; 2 on Gardner; 15 on Henley; 4 on Heslep; 4 on Janssen; 1 on Jewett; 1 on Mathis; 7 on Moss; 22 on Norwood; 1 on Pittman; 28 on Taber; 1 on Tarver; 3 on Temple; 21 on Vincent and 30 on Walton. In addition, 400 Cordell Street was built in 1918 by Lee Roy Whitaker.

In 1919 D. E. Smith had moved his Brooke Smith Addition real estate offices to 1004 Union National Bank Building at 220 Main. In 1920 Smith and his family were living at 3 Woodland Apartments. In the 1923 City Directory David E. Smith and wife, Blanche were living at 1 Woodland Apartments. In 1923 David E. Smith not only owned the Woodland Apartments but also the Ojeda Apartments at 3611 N. Main, and he had moved to a residence at 606 Dell Court in Woodland Court Addition. His father-in-law continued to live at 3716 N. Main until he died on June 26, 1926. He and his wife were buried in Hollywood Cemetery.

Woodland Court Addition, where Dell Court was located and where David E. Smith lived in 1922-23, was platted and located adjacent to the southeast corner of Brooke Smith Addition. It is situated just south of Brooke Smith Second Addition, just east of Brooke Smith Addition, and just east of North Main. However, today there are only a few historic homes remaining on the north side of the 500 Block of Dell Court (now known as Dell Street).

In 1926 Smith had moved his real estate offices to larger offices at 3628 N. Main. Again in 1929 he had moved his real estate offices once again to 3710 N. Main. His son, David E. Smith, Jr. who was an attorney, had his office there too. In the 1940 census Smith was renting a home on Glen Brook Drive. By 1940 David E. Smith had sold all the lots in Brooke Smith Second Addition and was no longer in the real estate business. Later that year he was operating Jordan's Food Shop, a grocery store, at 6817 Lyons Avenue, and he was living above the store. He retired in 1941 and relocated to Freeport, Texas where he lived at 223 North Front Street.

His obituary appeared in the Houston Post on Wednesday, November 19, 1958. He died on Tuesday, at 2:40 am on November 18, 1958 in Freeport, Brazoria County, Texas. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. D. E. Smith (Blanche) of Freeport; daughters: Mrs. Ernest C. Coker (Pauline O'dell); Mrs. G. R. Bell, Jr (Jewel B.) of Houston; and one son, D. E. Smith, Jr. of Midland, Texas, who was the husband of Almeda Cotterell Smith. Services were to be held at 10 am on Thursday, November 20 at Freeport Church of Christ, officiated by Pastor Leon Meek. Graveside services were to be held at 2 pm at Hollywood Cemetery, located at 3506 N. Main Street, Houston. He was buried there in the Sunset Lawn Section, Lot 24, Grave 4. His wife is buried there as well. Perhaps his family chose to have his burial at Hollywood Cemetery since it was adjacent to and just on the other side of Little White Oak Bayou from Brooke Smith Second Addition, where he had worked for almost 30 years in selling lots and building homes, and where he first had lived when he came to Houston in 1902.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY

The home at 400 Cordell Street features 1,130 square feet sited facing west on a 5,000 square foot lot. The home is designed in the Bungalow style with neo-classical elements. The home is faced with wood, clapboard horizontal siding and is one story tall. The home features wood-sash, double-hung windows with 1/1 lights. A gable roof with the ridge running east and west is covered with asphalt shingles. The home is built on a raised brick, pier and beam foundation. The home features decorative wood knee braces under the wide eave overhang.

On the west elevation the front porch is the same width as the home being 28 feet wide. It is located under the main gable roof. The porch is support by four classical, wood Doric columns. The two columns located at each of the outer edges of the porch are larger in circumference than the two columns on either side of the entry opening at the front steps. Just above the columns and at the bottom edge of the massive gable front is a decorative entablature that features a motif with a slight point. Wood knee braces are located at either end as well as located under the center gable under the wide eave overhang. The front steps are poured concrete which curve outwardly toward the sidewalk. A low cheek wall of poured concrete is located on either side of the steps and slopes gently and outwardly toward the sidewalk. The porch features a wood, stick balustrade, and wood tongue and grove floor decking. The front door is off-set from the centered, porch entry. It is a wood, cottage type door that features a large wood panel below an upper glass light. Below the glass light is an exaggerated, decorative wood trim element. There are two oversized, wood windows on either side of the door. The gable front of the home is clad with fish scale wood shingles. Centered in the gable front is an attic vent featuring wood louvers on either side of a small centered, vertical glass light.

On the north elevation is a projecting box bay that features multiple, double-hung wood sash windows. This bay is the location of the dining room, and built into the bay on the interior is a wood window seat the length of the bay.

On the southeast elevation there is a sun room measuring 12 feet wide and 9 feet deep. It is clad with the same wood siding as the home below continuous rows of multi-light wood windows. This room was not original to the home. It was likely built in the ell of the southeast corner of the home about 1935 when the addition was placed under the main gable roof which was extended east at the same pitch and profile as the original roof over the sun room.

The home is in good condition. It has not been altered from its original construction since 1918 other than the addition of the sun room located at the southeast corner. On the interior the home features a decorative wood colonnade built between the living room and dining room. Bookshelves with glass light doors face the living room in the colonnade which features decorative wood, single tapered half columns above bookcases located on either side of the opening. The interior woodwork and doors are stained wood, and the floors are stained pine.

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Planning and Development Department

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CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

- The property is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a “contributing structure” in an historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Sec. 33-229(a)(3));

OR

- The property is recognized by the State of Texas as a Recorded State Historical Landmark (Sec. 33-229(a)(4)).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommend to City Council the Landmark and Protected Landmark Designation of the Whitaker-Graliano-Brown House at 400 Cordell Street.

HAHC ACTION

Recommended to City Council the Landmark and Protected Landmark Designation of the Whitaker-Graliano-Brown House at 400 Cordell Street.

EXHIBIT A
PHOTOGRAPH
WHITAKER-GRALIANO-BROWN HOUSE
400 CORDELL STREET



EXHIBIT B
SITE LOCATION MAP
WHITAKER-GRALIANO-BROWN HOUSE
400 CORDELL STREET

