

# CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

## LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

**LANDMARK/SITE NAME:** The Beazley-Telschow House  
**OWNER:** Ms. Larissa Lindsay  
**APPLICANT:** Ms. Larissa Lindsay  
**LOCATION:** 1816 Kane Street - Old Sixth Ward Historic District  
**30-DAY HEARING NOTICE:** Feb-11-97

**AGENDA ITEM:** Vb  
**MEETING DATE:** Mar-13-97  
**HPO FILE NO.:** 97L018  
**DATE ACCEPTED:** Jan-16-97  
**HEARING DATE:** Mar-13-97

### SITE INFORMATION

Lot 3, Block 443 of the W. R. Baker Addition, NSBB, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas, being a 50' X 100' parcel, consisting of 5,000 square feet. The building on the site is a one-story, wood frame residence with a porch in the ell of the building.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Landmark Designation

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

The property is contained within the boundary of the Old Sixth Ward Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Originally part of the First Ward until 1876, the district today has the largest concentration of Victorian-era buildings in Houston. The area maintains the feeling of a modest, self-contained neighborhood with its predominantly small 19th-century, one-story cottages, two-story Victorian-era homes, and some early 20th-century bungalow style buildings. The neighborhood also contains fire stations, churches, corner stores, and a school. The original boundaries of the Old Sixth Ward extended further south to Buffalo Bayou and streets including Nelson, Richmond, and Bow were platted for houses which were destroyed or moved when Memorial Drive was constructed.

The building at 1816 Kane Street is a one-story, wood frame cottage. The style of the building is a vernacular Queen Anne cottage. The most prominent feature of the house is the projecting box bay with open-gable end roof that intersects with a side-gable roof. The louver vent in the gable front exhibits a Gothic influence. The roof is still clad with pattern tin shingles. The porch features classical, round columns and the main entry door on the porch features transom and sidelights.

On March 20, 1883, Mrs. Ellen E. Beazley, who apparently was a widow, purchased Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 443 from Jacob S. Moore. Moore was a timekeeper with the H. & T. C. Railway. He had purchased these lots as well as others from Thomas B. and Laura Hicks on July 15, 1882. The Beazleys had lived at 137 Washington Avenue and later on Decatur Street prior to moving to 1816 Kane Street. The male members of the Beazley family, Herbert W., Charles S. and William Paxton Beazley were employed as machinists at several railroads including the H. & T. C. Railway and Southern Pacific, as were many of the residents of the Sixth Ward. Herbert Lee Beazley was a musician, music teacher and organist for Annunciation Church. Mrs. Beazley lived in the house until 1907 while many of her children lived in adjacent houses at 1814 Kane and 1811 Kane. Mrs. Beazley sold the property to Christian Telschow and moved to her daughter's house to live. She lived there until she died in 1924 at the age of 74.

Christian Telschow and four of his children came to Houston from White Oak, Texas, originally living at 2309 Capitol. Originally they were immigrants from Germany. Christian's wife had died in Germany before the family

# CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

came to Texas. According to family lore, Christian married Carolina, who was much younger than he, after meeting her on the boat trip from Germany. Their union was blessed with twelve children. Christian died shortly after purchasing the property and was buried in Washington Cemetery on September 15, 1908. One son, Carl (Charles) lived in the neighborhood, arriving prior to his family and living at 1916 Kane. Sons Henry T. and Gustav F. Telschow worked primarily as bottlers, in breweries, one being the Magnolia Brewery on Buffalo Bayou at Milam Street. Harold G. Telschow was an office boy in the accounting department at the Southern Pacific Railway. Most of the daughters married laborers, with the exception of Lena, who married William E. Leopold of the Leopold and Price clothier. The family was active in a variety of activities in the German community in Houston, including being members of Evangelical Lutheran Church and later Trinity Lutheran Church, the Spring Branch and White Oak Gun Clubs, the Houston Saengerbund singing group, and the Edelweiss Society. Mrs. Carolina Telschow sold the property to J. L. and Laura Barbato on February 4, 1927 and lived with her daughter until her death in 1928. Mr. Barbato's family used the house as rental property for almost sixty years until purchased by the applicant.

## RESTORATION HISTORY/CURRENT CONDITION:

There have been several structural changes and modifications since the original construction. It is possible that the original house may have been a center hall cottage built circa 1888. Shortly after purchasing the house in 1907, the Telschows may have enlarged the house and added the front facing box bay. The house was converted to a duplex in 1953-1954 by the Barbato family and a second entry door and porch replaced a window on the front facing box bay. They also added a room and bath to the rear. The applicant plans to restore the house and remove the secondary entrance and porch and restore the window in the box bay. The applicant also plans to remove the existing balustrade (later alteration) on the main porch and replace it with a stick balustrade like the original one as well as remove the awning overhang at the main entry (later alteration). It was the applicant's desire to seek permanent landmark designation prior to restoration work in order to take advantage of educational opportunities and advice about the proper approach to restoration, and seek a certificate of appropriateness from the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission, a requirement of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

## APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION.....:

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

(a) The HAHC and the commission, in making recommendations with respect to designation, and the city council, in making a designation, shall consider one or more of the following criteria, as appropriate for the type of designation:

- | S                                   | D                        | NA                                  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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; |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event;  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (3) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is identified with a person who, or group or event that, contributed significantly to the cultural or historical development of the city, state, or nation; |

# CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

- (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;
- (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;
- (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;
- (7) Whether specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present;
- (8) Whether the building, structure, object or site has value as a significant element of community sentiment or public pride.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommends designation of the Beazley-Telschow House as a landmark to the Planning Commission since the application complies with the criteria in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

# CITY OF HOUSTON

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THE BEAZLEY-TELSCHOW HOUSE  
SITE LOCATION MAP  
1816 KANE STREET  
NOT TO SCALE

