PROTECTED LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK NAME: Salzman House
OWNERS: Mehreen Gul & Ashraf Gheni
APPLICANTS: Mehreen Gul & Ashraf Gheni
LOCATION: 3615 N Braeswood Blvd, Houston, TX

AGENDA ITEM: B
HPO FILE NO.: HP2022_0209
DATE ACCEPTED: SEPT- 19-2022
HAHC HEARING: OCT-20-2022

SITE INFORMATION: Lot 4, Block 43, Braes Heights Sec 13, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a 1 story raised, brick veneer 3,472 sq ft single family residence with attached garage built on a 12,670 sq ft (137.72 x 92) interior lot c. 1956. The building was remodeled c. 2020 which included elevating the property estimated 4’ from grade and building a new attached garage in front of the original.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Protected Landmark Designation

Meets Criteria 1,3,4,6,8 of Sec. 33-224 and Criteria 1 of Sec 33-229

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Salzman House at 3615 N Braeswood Boulevard was built c.1956 in the Braes Heights subdivision within Braeswood Place, Houston. Julius and Terry Salzman moved to Houston in the 1940s from Chicago and New York City after they were married. Once the home was built, they lived the rest of their lives in this home designed by Joseph Krakower and Herb Greene. This Mid-Century Modern home is distinctive in form and detail. The design also takes cues from Japanese and International styles of architecture on the interior and exterior. The current condition tells the story of change over time and the need for adapting to the landscape near Brays Bayou. This home reflects the resilient spirit of Houston.

Braes Heights is located west of Buffalo Speedway inside the 610 Loop, in a location which could be considered southwest Houston. This area was developed after World War II and showcased many architect-designed homes as well as ranch homes prevalent in this period. Braes is a Scottish word that means “hillside” and most likely speaks to its position close to the bayou. The Braeswood Place Homeowners Association (BPHA) was created in 1951 and helps to protect Ayrshire, Braes Heights, Braes Manor, Braes Oaks, Braes Terrace, Emerald Forest and Southern Oaks subdivisions. 3615 N Braeswood Boulevard in Braes Heights Section 10 is part of a deed restricted community. Deed restrictions were first created for Braes Heights c.1945 by the Braes Development Company.

“Architect Joseph Krakower, with associate Herb Greene, designed this exceptional house for the Salzman family who owned it until 2014. The house incorporates a number of handsome artistic design elements including the repeated triangular theme, pyramidal volumes over several rooms, the corner placed plate glass windows, and the textured glass elements with graduated divisions. The house was damaged by Hurricane Harvey but has recently been elevated and repaired in a thoughtful manner. It is listed in the AIA Houston Architectural Guide, in which Stephen Fox states, "Herb Greene’s hand is evident in this low-slung house, especially in the vertical slot windows that take the place of corners and the tense profile of the hipped roof." -current owner
HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Julius and Terry Salzman and son, Jerry Salzman

“Julius “Jules” Salzman and his wife Terry commissioned architect Joseph Krakower to design the house in 1956; the Salzman family owned the home until Terry’s death in 2014. Julius Salzman was born in Chicago on April 12, 1913. In 1940, he lived in Chicago and worked as a salesman for the Reliance Picture Frame Company. He relocated to Houston by 1950 in a sales position with the same company. Terry Flaum was born July 3, 1913, in New York City; she married Julius Salzman in New York on November 1, 1948. Their son, Gerald “Jerry” Salzman, was born July 18, 1951, in Houston. The Salzmans were members of Congregation Beth Yeshurun. Julius Salzman died December 17, 2005, at age 92, and Terry Salzman died April 22, 2014, at age 100. Both are interred in Beth Yeshurun Cemetery in Houston.”

-Courtesy Preservation Houston

In speaking with Jerry Salzman on October 13th, 2022, he remembers being about 5 years old when the family moved into the home. He commented that the neighbor at 3611 N Braeswood was designed by the same architects. He did not know how his parents came to select Krakower and Greene as their architects but knew that they were prominent during the period.

His parents met in the Catskills, NY before they married and moved to Houston in the 1940s. His mother, Terry, grew up in New York City where narrow interior corridors were typical. Jerry mentioned that it was a special request of his mother to have wide hallways. Jerry described her as a very Mid-Mod person who gravitated towards clean lines, low profiles, and horizontal expanses.

Jerry explained that the couple liked to entertain which most likely inspired the central common area. Jerry has supplied a few photos of them enjoying the great room, centrally located in the home. His father had a passion for sports, especially golf. This interest may have inspired welcoming the outdoor landscape into the design which is a feature of this style of architecture. His position at the Reliance Framing Company may have also given him an eye and appreciation for design and art.

Architects Joseph Krakower and Herb Greene

“The team designed this exceptional house in 1956 for the Salzman family who owned it until 2014. The house incorporates a number of handsome artistic design elements including the repeated triangular theme, pyramidal volumes over several rooms, the corner-placed plate glass windows, and the textured glass elements with graduated divisions.”- current owner

Their office was located at 505 Avondale Street.

Joseph Krakower (1921-1986)

“Krakower was born in Houston and graduated from Rice Institute in 1943 with a BS in architecture. He then attended USC where he earned a Master of Architecture degree in 1947. He worked for Robert Kerrah and Lenard Gabert before starting his own firm in 1949. Krakower also designed the Barvin House, until recently located at 3506 Glen Arbor.”- current owner
Herb Greene (1929-Present)

Born Herbert Ronald Greenberg in Oneonta, New York, he attended Syracuse University to study architecture, but soon left to study under Bruce Goff at the University of Oklahoma. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1953 (Morris1).

“The curriculum emphasized individual creativity, organic forms, and search for authenticity beyond the influences of the established European modernists. Students were encouraged to develop their own original ideas inspired by everyday personal objects, landscape formations, and the culture of Native American tribes of Oklahoma and the Western plains.” (Belogolovsky 1)

“Green studied architecture under the direction of Bruce Goff (1904–1982), one of the nation’s most original architects and influential architectural educators. During and after school, Greene worked for Goff preparing numerous presentation drawings, which are now part of the Art Institute of Chicago’s collection. Greene also worked for architect John Lautner (1911–1994), who was one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s original apprentices. Following the retirement of Goff in 1957, Greene taught architecture at the University of Oklahoma for six years in order to continue his teacher’s legacy. During this period, Greene also designed and built houses of significant historic interest before moving to Lexington, Kentucky, where he continued to work and teach for eighteen years.

In 1961, Greene designed and built his Prairie House in Norman, Oklahoma. The idiosyncratic and innovative architecture of Greene’s Prairie House caused an international sensation and was published in Life and Look magazines, Progressive Architecture (St. Martin’s Press), and numerous journals throughout Europe and Japan. Greene’s residential work, following Goff’s architectural philosophy, is an expression of the client’s existential qualities (personality and physiognomy), as well as conditions related to site, region, and the nature of materials. In addition to architectural work, Greene makes collage paintings as an exploration of existential philosophy and the power of images on the human psyche.

After his retirement from teaching in 1982, Greene moved to Berkeley, California where he continues to write, paint, and promote his concept for building with artists. In 1981, Greene published the book Building to Last: Architecture as Ongoing Art (Architectural Book Publishing, 1981), which advocates incorporating the work of artists and crafts people into architecture in order to increase perceptual richness and history in an architectural form. Greene’s architectural drawings are in The Art Institute of Chicago’s collection alongside works by Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Bruce Goff, and other works in the “Prairie Tradition.” Greene’s collage paintings are also in The Art Institute of Chicago’s collection, as well as numerous private collections across the United States. Greene’s writing has been widely published, including his books Mind & Image (The University Press of Kentucky, 1976), Painting the Mental Continuum: Perception and Meaning in the Making (Berkeley Hills Books, 2003), and Generations: Six Decades of Collage Art and Architecture Generated with Perspectives from Science (Oro Editions, 2015).” (Direct Quote from: https://herbgreene.org/biography/)
Krakower/Greene buildings identified in AIA Houston Architectural Guide:

- 2201 Caroline: Houston Typewriter Exchange Building
- 3333 Fannin: SW Bell, later Uniroyal Building
- 3611 North Braeswood
- 3615 North Braeswood
- 7 Pine Forest Circle
- 7410 Long Point: Long Point Clinic building (demolished)
- 3605 Meriburr Lane: Lyne House
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY

Architectural Description
The Salzman House is currently a raised one-story St. Joe brick veneer building designed in the mid-century modern style by Joseph Krakower and Herb Greene, built c. 1956. It is located at 3615 N Braeswood Boulevard, a four-lane street divided by a wide, tree-lined median. This lot shares a rear property line with a home located on Glen Arbor Drive, which directly faces Brays Bayou. This location has been a significant influence on the evolution of the home. The 3600 block of North Braeswood Boulevard consists of mostly one-story single family, mid-century ranch style homes from the post WWII era. Due to recent flooding, similar homes have been demolished which has led to development out of scale with the existing historic structures of the neighborhood. Other lots are vacant if not redeveloped where similar homes once existed, even those designed by this same architectural team.

The unique footprint of this home is centered around a great room with a brick fireplace. The kitchen, dining, and bedrooms grow from this central location. 3615 N Braeswood Boulevard historically consisted of 3 bedrooms in the east wing with large kitchen, dining room and secondary living space. This design is maintained today. Originally, the foundation was 4” concrete slab on sand and fill. The glazing of street facing windows was fluted glass for privacy. The original chimney has been slightly revised to a more simplistic form according to Robert Morris.

The original Mahogany doors and woodwork remain on the exterior on the front façade and side. The entry way and detailing around the home reflect a calculated approach to design. Measurements between horizontal woodwork expand gradually from top to bottom. The St. Joe brickwork shows another level of detail on the original portion of the home. Horizontal mortar joints are tooled to be recessed, with vertical mortar joints struck flush to the brick for a subtle degree of horizontal emphasis.
Renovations

Built c. 1956, 3615 N. Braeswood retained consistent ownership and appearance until 2014. An online article states that the roof was redone c. 2008. After new ownership post 2014, changes were made, mostly to the interior. The couple who had purchased the home sold to another who could help prevent further risk and damage to the property. Further changes pursued after the 3rd owner acquired the property. This owner respectfully adapted the home to make the property available for a contemporary use in respect to the landscape and flooding potential at the time. The slab foundation of the home was elevated about 4’ as opposed to the 4” original foundation. The original supplier of St. Joe brick from New Orleans was also used for brick at the raised foundation. Jerry Salzman advised this is the same brick used at Rice University.

The elevation caused some complication with the on-grade garage. The alteration resulted in constructing a new garage more forward to the street than the previously attached. It does not extend beyond the historic portion of the home. Recent documents show that the former garage was converted to a guest bedroom and the new garage construction attempts to reflect the design of the original home. The current owners purchased the home after these updates and moved in during March of 2022. Exterior changes consisted of uncovering the powder room triangular window. Most all updates were on the interior since this time.

Robert Morris, R.A., R.I.D. explains the alterations during this period:

“If you compare the exterior images of the “before raising” with the “after raised” you will notice the corner windows were changed & most of the fluted glazing was changed. Also, the chimney was revised from an Herb Greene form to a more modest plain chimney.

The major interior change was from the original “sliding” glass paneled doors (a method to allow the space to be completely open or sectioned) to a mostly fixed glass paneled partitions with doors only at the corners.”

Bibliography/Works Cited


The information and sources provided by the applicant for this application have been reviewed, verified, edited and supplemented with additional research and sources by Ashraf Gheni, Robert Morris, Preservation Houston and Amanda Coleman, Planning and Development Department, City of Houston.

**APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

**Sec. 33-224. Criteria for designation**

(a) The HAHC, 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:

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<th>S - satisfies</th>
<th>D - does not satisfy</th>
<th>NA - not applicable</th>
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<td>✗</td>
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<td>(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;</td>
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<td>(2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event;</td>
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<td>(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;</td>
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<td>(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;</td>
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(5) Whether the building or structure or the buildings or structures within the area are the best remaining examples of an architectural style or building type in a neighborhood;

(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.

AND

(9) If less than 50 years old, or proposed historic district containing a majority of buildings, structures, or objects that are less than 50 years old, whether the building, structure, object, site, or area is of extraordinary importance to the city, state or nation for reasons not based on age (Sec. 33-224(b)).

Sec. 33-229. Criteria for protected landmark designation

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<td>(1) Meets at least three of the criteria for designation in section 33-224 of this Code;</td>
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<td>(2) Was constructed more than 100 years before application for designation was received by the director;</td>
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<td>(3) Is listed individually or as a contributing structure in an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places; or</td>
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<td>(4) Is recognized by the State of Texas as a Recorded State Historical Landmark.</td>
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Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommend to City Council the Protected Landmark Designation of the Salzman House at 3615 N. Braeswood Blvd.

HAHC Recommendation

The Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommends to City Council the Landmark Designation
Exhibit A - Site Map

SALZMAN HOUSE
3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD

IMAGES COURTESY, GOOGLE MAPS, HCAD
Exhibit A - Site Map, Salzman House, 3615 N Braeswood Blvd

BRAESWOOD PLACE – SECTION 10

Images courtesy Google Maps and Braeswood Place Homeowners Association

http://www.braeswoodplace.org/item_list.asp?subcat=55&subtitle=BPFA+BY+Areas
EXHIBIT B - PHOTO
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
CURRENT PHOTOS
IMAGES COURTESY OWNER

EXHIBIT B - PHOTO

SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
CURRENT PHOTOS

IMAGES COURTESY, OWNER
EXHIBIT C - PHOTO
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAINTREE BLVD
RESTORATION/ELEVATION PHOTOS

IMAGES COURTESY, OWNER
EXHIBIT D - PHOTO
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD

EXISTING -ALTERED GARAGE C.2022

BEGINNING FOOTPRINT OF FORWARD GARAGE C.2021

RENOVATION/ELEVATION WITH GARAGE ELEVATED C. 2020

PRE -RENOVATION/ELEVATION C. 2019
IMAGES COURTESY, OWNER AND GOOGLE MAPS
IT’S A MOD with original features still intact through and through. Attributed to architect Joseph Krakower and Herb Greene, a designer who worked in his office, the well-preserved and well-screened (top) custom mid-fifties property has deep eaves beneath a hipped roof (redone in 2008) and spreads across a quarter-acre Braes Heights lot. The location is on the spit of homes between Brays Bayou and N. Braeswood Blvd. near Edloe St. The home was listing a week ago with an asking price of $518,000.

Image Courtesy:
Original blueprints for the property were on display at a Houston Mod open house for the property held over the weekend. Materials from Houston Mod date the design to 1957, though the listing and HCAD peg the homes birth year as 1954.

*HISTORIC DRAWING SET DATES FINAL DESIGNS C.1956

IMAGE COURTESY:
EXHIBIT E - ONLINE ARTICLE
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
PRE-RESTORATION/ELEVATION PHOTOS c.2014

IMAGE COURTESY:
EXHIBIT F - AIA HOUSTON
HISTORIC PHOTO/ARTICLE
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD

3615 North Braeswood Boulevard (1957) Joseph Krakower

Herb Greene’s hand is evident in this low-slung house, especially in the vertical slot windows that take the place of corners and the tense profile of the hipped roof. Next door, at 3611 North Braeswood, it is the attenuated Japanese-like eaves that point to Greene’s involvement (1957, Joseph Krakower).

EXHIBIT G - ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS
HISTORIC PHOTO
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD

Photo Courtesy Harris County Archives c. 1956
EXHIBIT G - ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS

HISTORIC PHOTO

SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD

Photo & Sketch Courtesy Harris County Archives c. 1976
EXHIBIT H - DRAWING SET
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
ORIGINAL DRAWING SET - ELEVATIONS

Front Elevation (North)

Rear Elevation (South)
EXHIBIT H - DRAWING SET
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
ORIGINAL DRAWING SET - ELEVATIONS

Right Side Elevation (East)

Left Side Elevation (West)
EXHIBIT H - DRAWING SET
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
ORIGINAL DRAWING SET - SITE PLAN
EXHIBIT H - DRAWING SET
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
ORIGINAL DRAWING SET - ELECTRICAL/FRAMING PLAN
ORIGINAL FIRST FLOOR PLAN UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME
EXHIBIT I - POST-ELEVATION/RENOVATION SITE PLAN
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
COH DOCUMENTS

RDED IN VOLUME 47, PAGE 48, HARRIS COUNTY MAP RECORDS.
EXHIBIT I- POST-ELEVATION/RENOVATION SITE PLAN
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
COH DOCUMENTS

3615 NORTH BRAESWOOD BOULEVARD
(100' R.O.W.)
EXHIBIT I - POST-ELEVATION/RENOVATION SITE PLAN
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
COH DOCUMENTS

TOTAL AREA: 700 S.F.

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Grand total: 4

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Grand total: 3

2" FLOOD VENTS- A MINIMUM OF TWO VENTS PER ENCLOSED AREA, AND EACH MUST BE ON AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE EXTERIOR WALLS. THE BOTTOM OF THE FLOOD VENT OPENING MUST NOT BE HIGHER THAN 12 INCHES ABOVE THE ADJACENT GRADE.
EXHIBIT J : SALZMAN FAMILY PHOTOS
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
PHOTOS COURTESY : JERRY SALZMAN

JERRY, TERRY AND JULIUS SALZMAN
EXHIBIT J : SALZMAN FAMILY PHOTOS
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
PHOTOS COURTESY : JERRY SALZMAN
EXHIBIT J: SALZMAN FAMILY PHOTOS
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
PHOTOS COURTESY: JERRY SALZMAN
EXHIBIT J- ARCHITECT PHOTO
SALZMAN HOUSE, 3615 N BRAESWOOD BLVD
PHOTO: HERB GREENE

Photo: Robert Alan Bowlby

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: ELEVATED MID-CENTURY - 5203 CAVERSHAM DR. ELEVATED C. 2020
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: ELEVATED MID-CENTURY
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:  LANDMARKS NEARBY

Site Name  Randolph and Virginia West House
Address  2245 Dryden Rd
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: LANDMARKS NEARBY

Holley-Mengden House, 2240 Glen Haven Blvd

Style in Steel Townhouses, 4156-4160 Meyerwood Dr
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: LANDMARKS NEARBY
4919 Heatherglen, Finger House
Arthur Steinberg, nominated 4/17/19

Also Elevated

EXHIBIT A
PHOTOS
MR. AND MRS. ALAN FINGER HOUSE
4919 HEATHERGLEN DRIVE
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022
Additional information: Site visit photos October 2022: 3611 N. Braeswood, same architects