LANDMARK NAME: Tarlton Morrow-Jones House

OWNERS: Ann and Arthur Jones

APPLICATIONS: Courtney Tardy – GHPA

LOCATION: 3453 Inwood Drive – River Oaks

AGENDA ITEM: III.B

HPO FILE NO: 11PL105

DATE ACCEPTED: Mar-11-2011

HAHC HEARING DATE: Jun-16-2011

SITE INFORMATION
Lot 2, Block 5, River Oaks Country Club Estates, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a historic two-story, wood frame and brick veneer residence.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Protected Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY
The Tarlton Morrow-Jones House was constructed in 1938 and designed in the English Picturesque style by Houston architects, Hiram A. Salisbury and T. George McHale. The body of work created by these architects is substantial and includes many of the iconic homes in River Oaks and Southampton, as well as St. Johns School and the St. John’s Chapel, designed in association with Mackie and Kamrath Architects.

The home was originally built for John and Harriet Tarlton Morrow; Tarlton Morrow was a prominent attorney with Vinson, Elkins, Weems and Francis. In 1966, the house was purchased by Dan and Ann McNamara. Dr. McNamara established the first Pediatric Cardiology Clinic in Texas, the first Pediatric Cardiology Department at Texas Children’s Hospital. At the time of his death in 1998, Dr. McNamara was Emeritus Chief of Pediatric Cardiology at Texas Children’s Hospital. Mrs. McNamara’s second husband, Arthur Evan Jones, was the lead designer of the architectural firm, Hermon Lloyd and W. B. Morgan. In 2010, Jones received the prestigious American Institute Design Award for his lifetime contributions to the Houston architectural community.

The Morrow-Jones House meets Criteria 1, 3, 4, and 6, for Landmark and Protected Landmark designation.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE
The initial move-in to 3453 Inwood Drive was chronicled in the River Oaks Corporation magazine, “Homes for All Times,” in January 1939:

“Mr. and Mrs. Tarlton Morrow and their two children, Tarlton, Jr. and Julia, are in their handsome new residence at 3453 Inwood Drive. Their residence, early American in influence, is a rambling white painted brick home set in a beautiful grove of trees. The entrance feature, classic in its simplicity, is further distinguished by its lovely little brassbound lanterns of unusual craftsmanship, and prim boxwood trees on either side of the doorway.”

On January 29, 1939, the following appeared in the Houston Chronicle with a photograph of the newly constructed house:

“This home was recently completed at 3453 Inwood Drive in River Oaks for Mr. and Mrs. Tarlton Morrow. It cost around $20,000...It has a large living room, library, dining room, kitchen, and big
screened porch downstairs while upstairs are four bedrooms, three baths, a screened porch, and two dressing rooms... Mr. Morrow is an attorney with Vinson, Elkins, Weems and Francis.”

John and Harriet Tarlton Morrow

John Tarlton Morrow was born in Hillsboro, Texas on May 3, 1886, the eldest son of Wright C. Morrow and Fannietta Tarlton. Wright Morrow was a successful lawyer and judge in North Texas. The University of Texas, Tarlton Law Library is named for his maternal uncle, Benjamin Dudley Tarlton. Tarlton Morrow’s wife, Harriet Bowman was born in Whitney, Texas on August 31, 1886. She was the daughter of Oliver Green Bowman, a banker and teacher, and Julia Mae Johnson, an immigrant from Norway.

John Tarlton Morrow would follow his father’s footsteps and pursue a career in law. He graduated from the University of Texas Law School in 1908 and practiced law in Hillsboro and Wichita Falls. In 1916, he married Harriet Bowman. He was a member of Weeks, Morrow and Francis, a firm in North Texas, which was dissolved in 1934. His partner, Charlie Francis, moved to Houston to join Vinson, Elkins, Weems and Francis. Morrow appears to have followed Francis to the practice as City Directories show him coming to Houston around 1937-38. Once in Houston, he would practice with Vinson, Elkins, Weems and Francis, later Vinson & Elkins, for many years. Internet searches show him serving clients including Halliburton, an oilfield technologies company and John Hancock, an insurance and financial services company.

John Tarlton Morrow died at the age of 84 on July 2, 1969. He was buried in his hometown of Hillsboro, TX

Ann and Dan McNamara, M.D.

In 1966, Ann Wier McNamara and Dan Goodrich McNamara, M.D. purchased the house. Ann signed the contract for the house while in Hermann Hospital after the birth of their fifth child. Ann, a native Houstonian, grew up on North Boulevard in a Birdsall Briscoe house. She is the daughter of Mary Norwood and Robert Withrow Wier. Her parents were from Louisiana. Robert W. Wier was a lumberman who established Wier Long Leaf Lumber Company in Wierge, Texas. Wierge was a company town approximately 70 miles northeast of Beaumont. The mill was capable of cutting 200,000 board feet every ten hours. The town had a peak population of 2,500 and had a commissary, drugstore, barbershop, ice plant, depot, movie theater, two schools and other amenities. The Texas Handbook Online quotes one resident as calling it “a little world unto itself” in a “beautiful setting.” Wier also built a 15 mile railroad connecting Wierge to the main railroad in Newton, Texas. In 1943, the mill was closed and sold to a smaller company. R. W. Wier died in 1946.

Ann Wier and Dan Goodrich McNamara, M.D. were married in 1949. Dr. McNamara was affiliated with Baylor Medical School and established the first Pediatric Cardiology Department at Texas Children’s Hospital. According to Ann Jones, this was the first Pediatric Cardiology Clinic in Texas. At the time of his death in 1998, Dr. McNamara was Emeritus Chief of Pediatric Cardiology at Texas Children’s Hospital.

After the McNamaras divorced in 1988, Ann W. McNamara continued living at 3453 Inwood Drive. In December 1995, Ann married Arthur Evan Jones, F.A.I.A. Arthur Evan Jones graduated from Rice Institute (now Rice University) and joined the architectural firm of Hermon Lloyd and W. B. Morgan. It became Lloyd Morgan Jones and later Lloyd Jones and was Lloyd Jones Fillpot at its closing.
Arthur Evan Jones was the lead designer of the firm. Some of their projects include the American General Center, The Greenway Plaza, the Astrodome, Allen Center (including the Enron Building), Smith Tower in the Medical Center, the 70,000 seat Rice Stadium, Sewell Hall and several other building at Rice University, and other buildings in Houston and elsewhere.

In 2010, Jones was selected to receive the American Institute Design Award for his lifetime contributions to the Houston architectural community. This award is in collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. This is the latest in a series of awards he and his firm have received over the years.

Salisbury and McHale

Hiram A. Salisbury and Thomas G. McHale gained their reputation for designing fine houses in River Oaks, Southampton Place, Broadacres and Boulevard Oaks.

Hiram A. Salisbury (1892-1973), was born in Omaha, Nebraska. Salisbury studied architecture under a fellowship from the American Institute of Architects and later graduated from the School of Architecture at New York’s Columbia University (1913-1914). He worked as a draftsman for Thomas R. Kimball from 1910-1923 and George B. Prinz from 1923-1926. Salisbury established his own architectural firm in Houston in 1926, and he is first listed in the 1927 Houston City Directory with an office in the Post-Dispatch Building (later, the Shell Building) until 1937. Salisbury served as president of the American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter in 1954. Beginning in 1930, Salisbury and his wife lived at 3412 Yupon between Hawthorne and Harold, in Houston. By 1953, the Salisburys were living at 610 Saddlewood Lane. Salisbury continued his practice in Houston until approximately 1962, when he retired and moved to Medford, Oregon.

Thomas George McHale (1903-1975) was also born in Omaha, Nebraska, and attended school at the University of Notre Dame. After receiving his architecture degree, McHale became a draftsman for John Latenzer & Sons, where he worked from 1919 until 1923. In 1924, he worked for James A. Allen and Leo A. Daly. Starting in 1925, he worked for George B. Prinz for several years before joining Salisbury. They both left that firm to form their own firm in 1927. McHale was married to Inez P. McHale, a celebrated Houston interior decorator. The McHales lived at 1106 Palm Avenue before moving to 2 Courtlandt Place.

Beginning in 1928, Salisbury and McHale collaborated on many projects together. Salisbury and McHale's projects included residential, commercial, and church buildings. Among their more notable projects are St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 1805 W. Alabama (1941); St. John’s School at 2401 Claremont (1945-49); and many of the houses located in River Oaks, Southampton, and other affluent Houston neighborhoods. Salisbury and McHale relocated their offices to the River Oaks Community Center at 2017 W. Gray in 1938-39, and moved to 3501 Allen Parkway in 1945.

A list of identified works of Salisbury (HAS) in association with McHale (TGMcH) and others, which was researched and provided by Stephen Fox, includes:

- Masonic Temple, 118 N. 11th St., Mc Allen TX, 1926;
- Nelms Building (H. S. Tucker & Co. Oakland-Pontiac dealership) (demolished), 2310 Main St., 1927;
- Frank L. Webb House, 2935 Chevy Chase Dr., 1931;
- W. E. Sampson House (demolished), 984 Kirby Drive, 1932, with Cameron Fairchild;
River Oaks

When Will C. Hogg, Mike Hogg, and Hugh Potter began the development of River Oaks in 1923, they intended to create a neighborhood following the highest standards of modern community planning, a role model for the rest of Houston to follow. Will Hogg’s ambitiousness and Hugh Potter’s skillful management of River Oaks during its first thirty years made the community known nation-wide as a symbol of Houston. Since its creation, River Oaks has been published in national news, real estate, and design media, and has been the focus of scholarly analysis, in recognition of its significant contributions to the history of Houston and twentieth-century American elite suburban community development.

The creation of this type of subdivision was unique for Houston in many respects. The subdivision was laid out at what was then the far western edge of Houston. Prior to 1923, the majority of Houston’s residential developments had occurred in a tight girdle around the downtown business district, such as Westmoreland (1902), Avondale (1907), Montrose (1911), Audubon Place (1906), Cherryhurst (1908), Binz, Southmore (1914), and Courtland Place (1906). River Oaks, however, was situated at the western city limits far away from other developments.

In addition, the developers broke with convention by laying out an organic pattern of roadways which lent a sense of spaciousness to the neighborhood, which was very different from the traditional Houston
neighborhoods that followed a more rigid approach to development. These traditional neighborhoods used street grids which carved the land up into predictable square or rectangular blocks.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY

The house at 3453 Inwood Drive is designed in an English Picturesque style. Picturesque Architecture originated in England as a reaction to the formal classical ideals in art and architecture that had been fashionable for about two hundred years. Though interest in the design and composition of the landscape was paramount, its influence on architecture was significant. As the structure itself was viewed as a minor component in the total scheme, it was allowed to display a more eclectic style than previously accepted. The Picturesque building was seen only in relation to its surroundings, rather than as an isolated object. The landscape itself would be rough and natural rather than artificial and controlled and the ensuing vistas were of primary importance. The style is loosely based on a variety of late Medieval English prototypes, ranging from thatch-roofed folk cottages to grand manor houses. These houses are usually characterized by steeply-pitched, side-gabled roof; dominate cross gables on façade; and tall, narrow windows.

This two-story house is constructed of wood frame with painted brick veneer. From the photograph in the Houston Chronicle in 1939, the façade has undergone almost no change in the house’s 71 year history. The house was designed with minimal detailing although some detailing is added in the wall dormers above the second floor windows and in the front room which protrudes from the mass of the house and is clad on the second story with horizontal wood siding. The main feature of the house is a recessed doorway that is surrounded by carved, square pilasters and accentuated by a broken pediment with pineapple finial. The doorway retains its original louvered screen door. A seven light transom is above the door. The house retains its original wood sash windows on both the upstairs and downstairs. The windows vary from 12-over-12 windows on the first story and 8-over-8 windows on the second story.

In 1998, a change was added to the front façade by Arthur Evan Jones, F.A.I.A. with the addition of a one-story room with a shed roof. This addition is stepped back from the front building line of the house and the roof is clad in standing seam metal. There are three metal casement windows plus a wooden double hung window on this addition.

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Alcalde, October 1969.
Fox, Stephen, personal notes and research about Hiram A. Salisbury and T. George McHale, August, 2006.
Home for All Times, January 1939.
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Sanborn Fire Insurance map for Houston, 1924-February 1951, volume 11, sheet 1127.

McNamara, Ann Jones. Written input, Houston, March 11, 2011.


River Oaks Property Owners, card file.


Wooster, Robert, "Wiergate, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

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

**APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR PROTECTED LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

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

(a) The HAHC and the commission, in making recommendations with respect to designation, and the city council, in making a designation, shall consider three or more of the following criteria, as appropriate for the Protected Landmark designation. If the HAHC reviews an application for designation of a Protected Landmark initiated after the designation of the Landmark, the HAHC shall review the basis for its initial recommendation for designation and may recommend designation of the landmark as a protected landmark unless the property owner elects to designate and if the landmark has met at least (3) three of the criteria of Section 33-224 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance (HPO) at the time of its designation or, based upon additional information considered by the HAHC, the landmark then meets at least (3) three of criteria of Section 33-224 of the HPO, as follows:

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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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|   | (2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event; |

| 3 | ✗           | □                    | □                   |
|   | (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; |

| 4 | ✗           | □                    | □                   |
|   | (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 | □           | ✗                    | □                   |
|   | (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)).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommend to City Council the Protected Landmark Designation of the Tarlton Morrow-Jones House at 3453 Inwood Drive.
EXHIBIT A
TARLTON MORROW-JONES HOUSE
3453 INWOOD DRIVE
EXHIBIT B
SITE LOCATION MAP
TARLTON MORROW-JONES HOUSE
3453 INWOOD DRIVE
NOT TO SCALE