

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK NAME: Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Myers House
OWNER: Nina Andrews
APPLICANT: Kristin Schuster
LOCATION: 3404 Piping Rock Lane - River Oaks

AGENDA ITEM: III.c
HPO FILE NO: 13L283
DATE ACCEPTED: 07/02/2013
HAHC HEARING: 07/17/2013

SITE INFORMATION

Lot 10, Block 59, River Oaks Sec. 7, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a historic two-story, single family residence.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Myers House at 3404 Piping Rock Lane was designed by Houston architects Harvin C. Moore & Hermon Lloyd and constructed in 1941. Dr. Myers was a physician for Memorial Hospital in Houston. The house is significant for its Greek Revival style. Located next door and across the street from two contemporary but classically designed Moore & Lloyd City of Houston Landmarks, the Myers House shows both the versatility and the popularity of the firm during this period. The Edward H. Andrews Family has owned the home since 1977.

The Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Myers House at 3404 Piping Rock Lane meets criteria 1, 3, and 6 for Landmark Designation.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Leonard A. Myers

The property was originally designed for Dr. Leonard A. Myers and his family. Dr. Myers was born in Kansas on August 9, 1896, and grew up in Oklahoma. His father S.N. Myers was a physician in Saline, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Dr. Leonard Myers studied at the University of Oklahoma, and moved to Houston circa 1930. He was the head of the X-Ray department at Memorial Hospital, and is listed as a pathologist and roentgenologist (radiologist) in the city directories. Throughout the 1930s the Myers family lived in the Southampton area of Houston and the 1940 U.S. Census finds family living at the physician and nurses' quarters at Memorial Hospital downtown until the Piping Rock Lane house was completed in 1941.

Dr. Myers died on November 29, 1946 at the age of 50. He left behind his wife Olive, daughter Betty Sue and sons Leo and Samuel. He was a member of the Harris County Medical Society.

Olive Corbett Myers was born in Kansas in October 1897. Like Myers, she grew up in Saline, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. The 1940 U.S. Census shows her occupation as a pathologist.

Subsequent Owners

Mrs. Myers remained in the house for approximately one year after the passing of her husband. Records show that she sold the home to Dr. Robert C. L. and Marjorie Robertson in 1947. Dr. Robertson is listed as a brain surgeon in the 1940 U.S. Census. The Robertson family did not

occupy the house for long; they had moved to Tanglewood by 1952. In 1952, the Robertsons sold the property to Victor and Katherine Jacomini. Jacomini was a vice president of Hudson Engineering Corporation. The Jacomini family lived in the home until 1976.

Edward H. Andrews and Linda Kay Andrews

Edward H. Andrews Jr. and Linda Kay Andrews purchased the home in 1977. Edward H. Andrews Jr. was born November 22, 1924 in Houston to Edward H. and Gladys M. Andrews. Mr. Andrews's father worked as banker in Houston. His obituary, following his death on April 11, 2011, details his long, active life.

He attended Poe Elementary, Lanier Junior High School, two years at Lamar High School (beginning the year in which the school opened) and two years at the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, graduating in 1941. He then entered Yale College in the fall of 1941, graduating in three years, at age 19, to join the U.S. Navy in 1944. He served as a Lieutenant (junior grade) in the Pacific Theatre.

Following his return to civilian life, Mr. Andrews spent two years in graduate Latin American studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Returning to Houston, he joined the Hughes Tool Company, where he produced economic feasibility studies for various international projects. In the mid-1950s, Mr. Andrews started TIFCO Inter-America Corporation, facilitating exports to the Latin American market. Fluent in Spanish, French, and Portuguese, he was active in the World Trade Society and other international organizations in Houston in the 1950s and 60s.

A fifth-generation Texan and grandson of Andrews & Kurth founder, Frank Andrews, he was a lifelong member of The Church of St. John the Divine. Mr. Andrews was an active member of Allegro, the Houston Country Club, River Oaks Country Club, Bayou Club, The Argyle in San Antonio, and The Galveston Artillery Club.

He was a founding member of the Garwood Hunting Lease, The San Antonio-Houston Golf Association, The South Texas Chapter of the Confrie des Chevaliers du Tastevin and the Accademia Della Cucina Italiana. A horseracing enthusiast, Mr. Andrews was a founding member of the Texas Racing Association. Every June found him at Royal Ascot in England, and every August he returned to the races at Saratoga Springs, NY, where he was a member of The Reading Room.

His philanthropic activities included Planned Parenthood, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Bayou Bend, and Ducks Unlimited.

Linda Kay Andrews

Linda Kay Andrews was born in Houston on November 23, 1928 to Orlean and Cameron Milton Kay. Her father was a prominent Houston attorney. She graduated from San Jacinto High School, studied at the Sorbonne and Vanderbilt University, and graduated from Baylor University in 1953. She was an avid traveler, founding Travel Unlimited in Tulsa with her sister Dr. Nina W. Kay. Her obituary following her death on February 10, 2011 describes her active life.

In 1957, after a short stint working for an oil and gas company in Houston, she married Edward House Andrews, Jr., in New York City. The couple raised their

fraternal twins Nina and Edward and their daughter Louise in Houston and in Gstaad, Switzerland in the late 1960's. Linda loved the ski scene.

Tennis and golf games at River Oaks and Houston Country Clubs, a weekly bridge game with the Ladies, dancing with husband Eduardo, Chevaliers du Tastevin Burgundy wine dinners, and hunting trips to South Texas were among Linda's favorite activities. International travel, food, and wine - champagne in particular - were her passions. Her volunteer activities included the Bluebird Circle, Planned Parenthood and the Institute of International Education (IIE).

An automobile aficionado, Linda loved her original 1957 Thunderbird convertible, a hardtop with portholes. Her only car, she drove it for 40 years.

Moore & Lloyd

Harvin C. Moore and Hermon Lloyd designed the original Baldwin house at 3963 Del Monte Drive. Moore's architectural papers are kept in the Houston Public Library, where the original plans for the home remain.

Harvin Moore was born in Carmona, Texas in 1905. As a child, the family relocated to Houston and lived in a two story frame house at 1314 Fairview. He graduated from Central High School in 1923 and began college at Rice Institute. He graduated "with distinction" and intended to go to medical school. After a brief stint in medical school, Moore reentered Rice to study architecture and received his Bachelors of Science in Architecture in 1930. Upon graduation, construction was slow due to the depression and Moore teamed up with Hermon Lloyd (1909-1989), another undergraduate in the Rice architecture program, to design party decorations and sets. The two worked well together, and in 1934, they formed the firm of Moore & Lloyd. They were first located in the Citizen's State Bank Building downtown. Several years later, they designed a building at 2006 West Alabama that became the first architectural office in Houston with central air conditioning. According to Moore's son Barry, "Moore and Lloyd were soon very popular and very busy. The reputation of the firm rested largely on their works in River Oaks."

Hermon Lloyd was born in Houston on October 9, 1909. His father, a notary public and a manager at an insurance firm, died in 1919, and his mother became a clerk. Hermon was brought up in a house with his mother, sister and grandmother. He attended Rice Institute and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture in 1931.

The firm's work continually increased during the 1930's. The commercial work was often for the same clients as their residential designs. The residences were usually traditional in style and the commercial buildings were more "Moderne." Barry Moore attributes this dichotomy to the fact that clients wished to appear "progressive in business and traditional in family values."

During their partnership, Moore and Lloyd designed many commercial, civic, military buildings, and over 84 homes in River Oaks. By the end of the 1930s, Moore and Lloyd began to move in different directions and, by the entry of the U.S. into World War II, the firm had dissolved. The catalogue of Moore and Lloyd works put together by Michael Wilson for the Houston Public Library is extensive.

A selection of their River Oaks homes includes the following:

- 2228 Del Monte Drive (demolished) (1934)
- 3310 Del Monte Drive (1934)
- 1927 Bellmeade Road (demolished) (1935)
- 2125 Bellmeade Road (1935)
- 2404 Brentwood Drive (1935)
- 2940 Chevy Chase Drive (1935)
- 3257 Ella Lee Lane (demolished) (1935)
- 1558 Kirby Drive (1935)
- 1839 Kirby Drive (demolished) (1935)
- 2117 Looscan Lane (demolished) (1935)
- 2148 Looscan Lane (1935)
- 2133 Pine Valley Drive (1935)
- 1112 Shepherd Drive (1935)
- 2022 Chilton Road (demolished) (1936)
- 2036 Chilton Road (demolished) (1936)
- 2137 Chilton Road (demolished) (1936)
- 2216 Chilton Road (demolished) (1936)
- 1537 Kirby Drive (1936)
- 3239 Locke Lane (1936)
- 2129 Looscan Lane (1936)
- 2136 Pelham Drive (1936)
- 2132 Troon Road (1936)
- 2404 Brentwood Drive (1936)
- 5 Briarwood Court (1937)
- 3215 Ella Lee Lane (1937)
- 3324 Ella Lee Lane (demolished) (1937)
- 1801 Sharp Place (1937)
- 3068 Reba Drive (1937)
- 3379 Inwood Drive (1937)
- 2440 Inwood Drive (1937)
- 7 Briarwood Court (1938)
- 2327 Claremont Lane (demolished) (1938)
- 3208 Chevy Chase Drive (1938)
- 3417 Ella Lee Lane (1938)
- 1910 Kirby Drive (demolished) (1938)
- 3412 Piping Rock Lane (1938)
- 2057 Claremont Lane (1939)
- 3689 Del Monte Drive (demolished) (1939)
- 1909 Olympia Drive (1939)
- 3413 Piping Rock Lane (1939)
- 3666 Chevy Chase Drive (demolished) (1940)
- 2033 Claremont Lane (1940)
- 3610 Meadow Lake Lane (demolished) (1940)
- 3225 Reba Drive (1940)
- 1665 Willowick (demolished) (1940)
- 3405 Piping Rock Lane (1941)

River Oaks

The Myers house is located in the River Oaks neighborhood of Houston. River Oaks was established in 1920 when three local businessmen, Thomas Ball, Kenneth Womack, and William Stamps Farish went searching for some land to construct a private golf club. They purchased 180 acres of wooded land west of Montrose and developed River Oaks Country Club Estates. Parcels of land for house construction subsequently began to be sold and in 1923 Will C. Hogg, Mike Hogg, and Hugh Potter began the development of River Oaks. It was their intention of making this area into a modern community of the highest standards. The ambitious Will Hogg and the skillful management of Hugh Potter enabled River Oaks during its first thirty years to become a community known nation-wide as a symbol of Houston. The community of River Oaks has been the focus of published scholarly analysis and has appeared in the national news, real estate, and design media in recognition of its important contributions to the history of Houston and twentieth-century suburban community development.

The creation of this type of community was unique for Houston. Prior to 1923, the majority of Houston's residential developments had been focused 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), while River Oaks was located on the far western edge of the city.

In addition, the streets of River Oaks were laid out in an organic pattern which provided a sense of spaciousness to the neighborhood, while traditional Houston neighborhoods, like many other large cities, were formed using the efficient street grid system with square or rectangular block patterns.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY

The house at 3404 Piping Rock Lane is a two-story, 4,660 square foot residence sited in the center of a 15, 420 square foot corner lot. The two story dwelling faces south and is located on the corner of Piping Rock Lane and Claremont Lane. The dwelling is faced in painted brick, and features a gable on hip roof.

The residence is built in the Greek Revival style with full height portico, central entrance, and three-part plan. The house features Modernistic detailing.

A thin brick course runs between the first and second stories. A wide wooden entablature runs under the roofline around the house.

The residence features a full height entry porch. The porch features a triangular pediment on the front gable roof and features unfluted square doric columns and pilasters. The central entrance features a large central wood paneled entry door with a decorative surround. The entrance is modernistic as the door is a heavily paneled wooden door and the surround is flat and plain. Above the door is an iron balconet with a large three part window with center 6 lite fixed wood window flanked by two 4 lite side windows.

The first floor features two 6 lite windows on the central bay flanking the entrance. The windows feature simple pediment window surrounds. The east bay features a three part window with three single lite windows and the west bay features a three part window with a center 2-over-2 window and two 1-over-1 windows. The second story of the central bay features four 2-over-2 wood sash windows with working shutters. The east and west bays feature three part windows with a center 2-over-1 window and 1-over-1 side windows.

The east elevation facing Claremont Lane features a 6 lite window on the first and second floors. The first floor features a small hipped roof wing with three full height single lite windows. The second story above the wing features three 2-over-2 wood sash windows. The rear of the east elevation features a flat roof and full height single lite sliding doors and fixed windows.

The Myers House is located next door to 3412 Piping Rock, designed in a Louisiana-Texas style by Moore and Lloyd. That home was built in 1938. It is across the street from 3405 Piping Rock, designed by Hermon Lloyd in an English style. That house was also built in 1941. The three homes together show the stylistic diversity present in the architecture of Harvin Moore and Hermon Lloyd, as well as the designer's popularity during this period.

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Texas General Contractors' Association Bulletin

The information and sources provided by the applicant for this application have been reviewed, verified, edited and supplemented with additional research and sources by Erin Glennon, 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:

- | S | NA | S - satisfies | D - does not satisfy | NA - not applicable |
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- (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;
- (2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event;
- (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) 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;

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- (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 Landmark Designation of the Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Myers House at 3404 Piping Rock Lane.

HAHC ACTION

The Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommends to City Council the Landmark Designation of the Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Myers House at 3404 Piping Rock Lane.

EXHIBIT A

PHOTO

Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Myers House
3404 Piping Rock Lane



EXHIBIT B
SITE LOCATION MAP
Dr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Myers House
3404 Piping Rock Lane

