

## LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

**LANDMARK NAME:** Glen and Judy Woodson House

**OWNERS:** Philip and Sarah Sampson

**APPLICANTS:** Same as Owners

**LOCATION:** 2023 Claremont Lane – River Oaks

**AGENDA ITEM:** II.A

**HPO FILE NO.:** 13L286

**DATE ACCEPTED:** Aug-20-2013

**HAHC HEARING DATE:** Sept-12-2013

### SITE INFORMATION

Lot 3, Block 57, River Oaks Section 7, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a historic two-story, brick veneer single family residence.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Landmark Designation

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Glen and Judy Woodson House was designed by architects Paul H. Wolf and Richard Hoyt circa 1939, possibly as a speculative home for C.N. Peck, who was active in the home savings and loan business. The home was first occupied by Glen Woodson and his family in 1940. Woodson was the manager of the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in Houston. His father owned numerous bottling plants in Texas. Paul H. Wolf and Richard Hoyt were two architects who worked together and independently to design numerous homes in River Oaks during the 1930s-1940s. The red brick Woodson House is Neo-Georgian in design.

The Glen and Judy Woodson House meets criteria 1, 4, and 6 for Landmark Designation.

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The River Oaks Property Owners records suggest that the first occupant of the home was a C.N. Peck. In checking this information against the Houston City Directories of the period, the only C.N. Peck in Houston was Charles Northrop Peck, who operated a home savings and loan business. He lived in Southampton throughout the 1930s and moved to River Oaks in the 1940s, settling on West Lane. One can find no record of him at 2023 Claremont. 2023 Claremont first appears in the City Directories in 1939. It is possible that the home was built as a speculative home, and first owned or leased by the Woodsons. Given the short time period that the Woodsons lived in Houston, this seems a plausible explanation.

#### *Glen and Judy Woodson*

Glen Dennis Woodson was born in Virginia, and his wife Judy Harvin, was born in Texas. His father, Sam Woodson, a traveling shoe salesman, heard from relatives about the opportunity to start up Coca-Cola bottling plants in Texas to support the expansion of Coca-Cola, a new drink. He jumped at the chance and moved to Temple in 1915, opening a bottle plant there. Eventually, he expanded operations all over Texas, and he and his sons ran the plants. Glen was educated at Austin College and Virginia Military Institute. Glen spent time at the Galveston bottling plant prior to coming to Houston in 1939. He and his family first lived in Southampton before moving to River Oaks in 1940.

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The Woodsons only stayed in Houston until 1945, when Glen moved to Fort Worth to become Vice President of the bottling plant there. He died in 1959, at the early age of 48.

## *Fred and Byrd Sultan*

The house was purchased in 1945 by Fred and Byrd Sultan. Fred William Sultan, Jr. was a manager at Ingersoll-Rand, a large industrial tools company. He was born in Missouri, the son of the owner of a pharmacy company. The family moved to Houston in the 1930s, settling first in Riverside Terrace before moving to River Oaks. He died in 1979.

The Sultan family owned the home until 1993. Byrd Wagner Sultan was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 28, 1902. She was a member of St. Luke's Methodist Church, River Oaks Country Club and the Junior League of Houston. She died on August 26, 1994.

## *Paul H. Wolf and Richard C. Hoyt*

Paul Hunter Wolf was born in Palacios, Texas, on August 2, 1909. He graduated from the Rice University School of Architecture in 1932. He started his own architectural firm in 1936, but became a home builder. He was one of the first home builders in Tanglewood. He was honored as the Houston Builder of the Year in 1955, and at the time of his death was the President of the Houston Home Builders' Association. He was President of Paul H. Wolf Construction Company and part owner of Machine Ice Company. He died on August 10, 1970 in Houston.

Richard Campbell Hoyt was born in Buffalo, New York, on September 29, 1903. He graduated with a degree in Architecture from the University of Michigan College of Architecture. His first position out of school was working as a draftsman to Albert Kahn. Hoyt moved to Houston in 1936, and began designing homes for William Farrington. He shared an architectural business with Paul H. Wolf, and they designed homes under the name of Wolf & Hoyt. They appear to have worked both together and on their own until 1948, when Hoyt organized Irvine & Hoyt. Irvine & Hoyt mainly designed car dealerships, but also designed the notable On Leong Chinese Merchants Association Building at 801-811 Chartres Street, just east of downtown Houston (demolished 2011). Hoyt lived and kept an office in the Memorial area, and died March 26, 1957, at the young age of 53. He was a member of the AIA and St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Numerous homes in River Oaks were designed by Wolf, Hoyt, Wolf & Hoyt or Irvine & Hoyt, including:

- 2511 Del Monte, Hoyt for Farrington
- 3623 Ella Lee Lane, Wolf & Hoyt, *demolished 2012*
- 3708 Inwood, Wolf
- 3732 Inwood, Irvine & Hoyt
- 3622 Knollwood, Wolf, *demolished*
- 3625 Meadow Lake, Wolf & Hoyt
- 3744 Olympia, Richard Hoyt designed for Paul Wolf
- 3868 Olympia, Irvine & Hoyt, *demolished*
- 3635 Overbrook, Wolf & Hoyt, *demolished*
- 2443 Pelham, Wolf & Hoyt
- 3602 Piping Rock, Wolf & Hoyt
- 1821 Sharp Place, Hoyt for Farrington and the River Oaks Corporation, *Demolished*
- 1913 Sharp Place, Hoyt for Farrington and Carl Knapp
- 1917 Sharp Place, Hoyt for Farrington and Carl Knapp

- 1222 S. Shepherd, Wolf
- 2151 Stanmore, Wolf & Hoyt, *demolished*
- 2245 Stanmore, Wolf & Hoyt
- 2217 Stanmore, Wolf & Hoyt
- 2231 Stanmore, Wolf & Hoyt
- 55 Tiel Way, Wolf, *demolished*
- 2354 Timber Lane, Wolf & Hoyt
- 2187 Troon, Hoyt for Farrington, *City Landmark*
- 2145 Troon, Wolf & Hoyt
- 3911 Willowick, Irvine & Hoyt, *demolished*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY

2023 Claremont is a 3,396 square foot house sited facing west on a 16,200 square foot lot on Claremont Lane, one of the north-south streets in River Oaks. The home is sited on the center of the lot. The house is faced in red brick and is of a Neo-Georgian design. The house reads in three parts – an entrance wing, an adjoining recessed wing and the attached garage, sited to the rear of the home on the North end.

The central entrance wing features a wood paneled door surrounded by an elaborate, over-scaled broken pediment. Two small, rectangular windows frame the entry. To the left of the entry is a three part, wood window with an arched top. The panes of the central window are 9-over-19, and the panes of the side windows are 3-over-3. A decorative brick course runs between the two levels of the house. Above the three part window is a 6-over-6 wood sash window, with another 6-over-6 wood sash window above the entryway. An exterior chimney is located at the north of this wing.

To the south of the central entrance wing is a slightly recessed wing. On the first story is a large, bay window topped with a metal roof. The central window in the bay contains a 15-over-15 window pane configuration, while the side windows are 6-over-6. A decorative brick course runs between the two levels of the house. On the second story façade are two 6-over-6 wood sash windows. Currently, there are no shutters on the home, but visible evidence seems to suggest that the windows had shutters, at least on the second story. An exterior chimney is located at the south of this wing.

To the north of the central entrance wing is a deeply recessed wing that contain the garage, with entrance gained through doors on the north side (not visible from the right of way). The garage wing, which is one story, contains one centered wood window with an arched top. The window configuration is a 6-over-6 wood sash window. The garage wing has a front gabled roof, and is tied into the main house through a small passage fronted with a large, arched, divided lite, fixed pane window.

The current owners have owned the home since 2004. The house is in excellent condition.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Byrd Wagner Sultan”, *Houston Chronicle*, August 29, 1994.

City Directories.

Various Resources from Ancestry.com

“Wolf Rites Held; Home Builders’ Head,” *Houston Chronicle*, August 11, 1970.

1956 AIA Historical Directory

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**Archaeological & Historical Commission**

**Planning and Development Department**

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

- | <b>S</b>                            | <b>NA</b>                           | <b>S - satisfies</b> | <b>D - does not satisfy</b> | <b>NA - not applicable</b> |
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- 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 Glen and Judy Woodson House at 2023 Claremont Lane.

### **HAHC ACTION**

Staff recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommend to City Council the Landmark Designation of the Glen and Judy Woodson House at 2023 Claremont Lane.

**EXHIBIT A**  
**PHOTO**  
GLEN AND JUDY WOODSON HOUSE  
2023 CLAREMONT LANE



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Archaeological & Historical Commission

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**EXHIBIT B**  
**SITE MAP**  
GLEN AND JUDY WOODSON HOUSE  
2023 CLAREMONT LANE

