

Res. Info → Office

3-11-98

CITY OF HOUSTON

Planning and Development Department

Archaeological & Historical Commission

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK/SITE NAME: Perry - Swilley House
OWNER: Glenn H. Devlin, John F. Phillips, David Williams
APPLICANT: HAHC
LOCATION: 1101 Heights Blvd. - Houston Heights
30-DAY HAHC HEARING NOTICE: Aug-10-97

AGENDA ITEM: Ig
PC MEETING DATE: Oct-02-97
HPO FILE NO.: 97LD29
DATE ACCEPTED: Jul-15-97
HAHC HEARING DATE: 9-11-97

SITE INFORMATION

Lots 11 and 12, the South 3/4 of Lot 10 (Tract 10), Block 201, Houston Heights Subdivision, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a one and one-half story, raised wood frame residence.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

The house at 1101 Heights Boulevard is contained within the boundaries of Houston Heights, which was designated a Multiple Resource Area (MRA) by the National Register Program on June 22, 1983. The Perry - Swilley House was built in 1901. It was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 22, 1983 (Reference No. 83004477).

Houston Heights was designated a MRA because it was at one time an independent municipality. Within its original boundaries are numerous buildings individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Houston Heights was developed by the Omaha and South Texas Land Company in 1891. It was incorporated later as a city in 1896 and at that time, was the earliest and largest totally planned community in Texas. It flourished as a distinct municipality until the residents voted to be annexed by the City of Houston in 1918.

Today, the area still maintains the feeling of a distinctive, self-contained "small town" with its predominantly small 19th-century, one-story and two-story Victorian-era homes, and numerous early 20th-century bungalow style buildings. It also boasts a thriving business district on 19th Street (now predominantly antique shops and restaurants) and a large industrial district west of the business section. The neighborhood also contains the original city hall of Houston Heights (also the firestation and jail). Also located there are a number of historic churches, theatres, cornerstores, private and public parks and schools.

At the public hearing of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (HAHC) held on March 13, 1997, the HAHC discussed the matter regarding the expiration of the two-year temporary designation of all landmarks that City Council had previously designated when the Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted on March 1, 1995. Since the designation had expired, the HAHC requested that the planning staff contact the owners of these landmarks to determine their interest in the HAHC initiating an application for permanent designation. On June 3, 1997 a letter was sent to the owner who subsequently confirmed interest in the initiation of the application by the HAHC. The HAHC had advised the planning staff previously that if any landmark had been designated either by the National Register program, as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, a State Archaeological Site or a temporary landmark of the City of Houston, then the application would be considered by them for permanent landmark designation on that merit alone. Therefore, regarding the preparation of the application, HAHC agreed to consider the application with minimal information provided.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planning Commission accepts the recommendation of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and forward it to City Council for designation of the Perry-Swilley House as a Landmark of the City of Houston.

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SITE LOCATION MAP
THE PERRY-SWILLEY HOUSE
1101 HEIGHTS BLVD.
NOT TO SCALE

