

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

LANDMARK/SITE NAME: Houston Negro Hospital Building
OWNER: Riverside General Hospital
APPLICANT: Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission
LOCATION: 2900 Elgin Street (3204 Ennis)
30-DAY HEARING NOTICE: April-20-98

AGENDA ITEM: Iq
PC MEETING DATE: June-25-98
HPO FILE NO.: 98L063
DATE ACCEPTED: Mar-26-98
HAHC HEARING DATE: May-21-98

SITE INFORMATION

Lots 1-16, Block 2 & 3, Tracts 17-19, Holmon Outlot 32, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a three-story, reinforced concrete structure, with tile block infill and stucco finish. The building has a tile roof with wide eaves overhang.

TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED: Landmark Designation

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

The Houston Negro Hospital Building is contained within the boundaries of the Holman Outlot 32. The Houston Negro Hospital Building was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 27, 1982 (Reference No. 82004856). The structure was built in 1926 and is classified as Mediterranean style.

The hospital is located within Houston's Third Ward. This area of Houston is primarily residential and consists of small and moderate - sized houses and apartments. There are also many small commercial buildings and churches in the area.

The Houston Negro Hospital Building is significant to both the African-American community and medical community of Houston. The hospital was the first non-profit hospital for African-American patients in Houston. Efforts by all Houstonians made the hospital possible. The idea was developed by I.M. Terrell, who would also become the hospital's first administrator. The mayor recommended the city donate the land and J. S. Cullinan, a wealthy oilman, built the hospital in memory of his son, John Halm Cullinan. The dedication of the hospital was scheduled for June 19th, 1926, a Texas holiday known as Juneteenth, celebrating the day emancipation was put into effect in Texas. The hospital was "dedicated to the American Negro to promote self-help, to inspire good citizenship, and for the relief of suffering, sickness and disease among them."

Maurice J. Sullivan was the architect who designed the hospital. He was a well known architect who specialized in institutional buildings. One of his most significant accomplishments was the Villa De Matel. He also designed St. Anne's Catholic Church and School and the Holy Rosary Church in Houston.

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. Letter were sent to the owners who confirmed that the HAHC could initiate designation. The HAHC had instructed 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 for permanent landmark designation

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on that merit alone. Therefore, regarding the preparation of the application, HAHC agreed to consider the application with minimal information provided to them.

APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

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

(a) The HAHC and the commission, 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 D NA

S - satisfies D - does not satisfy NA - not applicable

- (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;
- Houston Negro Hospital Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion "C" which includes **"distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction."**
- (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.

HAHC RECOMMENDATION:

At a public hearing on May 21, 1998, the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission determined that the application complied with criteria found in the Houston Preservation Ordinance, and recommended that the Planning Commission accepts the recommendation of the HAHC and forward it to City Council for the designation of the Houston Negro Hospital Building as a Landmark of the City of Houston.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommends designation of Houston Negro Hospital Building as a landmark to the Planning Commission since the application complies with the criteria of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

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SITE LOCATION MAP
HOUSTON NEGRO HOSPITAL BUILDING
2900 ELGIN STREET
NOT TO SCALE