

<b>LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT</b>
------------------------------------

**LANDMARK/SITE NAME:** John G. Logue House**AGENDA ITEM:** II**OWNER:** Federation of Italian American Organization of Greater Houston, Inc.**P.C. MEETING DATE:** Mar-18-99**APPLICANT:** Federation of Italian American Organization of Greater Houston, Inc.**HPO FILE NO.:** 98LD73**LOCATION:** 1101 Milford Street**DATE ACCEPTED:** Jun-01-98**30-DAY HEARING NOTICE:** Aug-07-98**HAH HEARING DATE:** 09-10-98

**SITE INFORMATION:** Lots 1, 2 and 3, East 1/2 of Lot 11, North 1/2 of Lot 4 and the Northeast 25 feet by 75 feet of Lot 12, Block 24, N. P. Turner Addition, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a two-story, brick veneer residence and a two-story, brick veneer garage-apartment building.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Landmark Designation for the Logue House and Garage/Quarters

**HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:** The John G. Logue house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. The Logue House and its garage/servants quarters (also known as the Milford House) were constructed in 1923. The Logue House is a prominent example of classically detailed, domestic architecture designed by William Ward Watkin, a well-known and prominent Houston architect. It is an example of a classically detailed country house built for an upper middle income Houston family on a town block. Use of high style classical architectural decoration and a mixed blend of dark red, velour-faced brick identifies the Logue House with a trend in Houston domestic architecture evident between 1915 and 1925 that had definite social-historical implications. Its adaptation as the clubhouse of a women's social organization in 1953 bespeaks the effects of mid-20th-century urban growth on town neighborhoods where the land use was not controlled by zoning codes or restrictive covenants. Contextually, the house relates to the statewide context of eclectically styled country house architecture in Texas in the 1910s and 1920s. In a secondary capacity, it relates to *Community and Regional Planning in Texas* as a product of the suburban growth of Houston and the persistence of established forms of elite residential real estate development. The building is also a contributing element to the development of an urban residential neighborhood whose vicissitudes reflect real estate transformations in Houston, the only major city in the United States not to adopt a zoning code during the 20th-century.

William Ward Watkin, who designed the Logue House, also designed most of the large houses built in the Turner Addition between 1919 and 1924 and contributed to the architectural definition of the neighborhood. Watkin coded his houses typologically, materially and decoratively to reflect the influence of a specific Houston house, the Donoghue House in Courtlandt Place (built 1916; NR, 1979) which served as the model for introducing the suburban "country house" to the town neighborhoods of early 20th-century Houston (*N. R. Nomination by Stephen Fox*)

William Ward Watkin (1886-1952), working for Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson of Boston, had moved to Houston to supervise the construction of the Administration Building of Rice Institute (cornerstone being laid March 2, 1911) and was invited to stay by Dr. Lovett, who appointed him instructor in architectural engineering when the institute opened in 1912. Watkin became head of the department in 1922 and served in that capacity until his death in 1952. His most notable buildings in Houston include the Museum of Fine Arts (1924), the Julia Ideson Library (1926; N.R., 1977; City Landmark, 1996), the Edward Albert Palmer Memorial Chapel (1927; N.R.,

# CITY OF HOUSTON

## Archaeological & Historical Commission

## Planning and Development Department

1984) and the Chemistry Building (1925) and Cohen House (1927) at Rice. He designed the Logue House shortly before he designed the J. Virgil Scott House (1122 Bissonnet) and the Edward M. Armstrong House (1128 Bissonnet) -- all being built in 1923 in the N. P. Turner Addition. At the same time, he was designing the street layout and landscape plan of Broadacres (1923; N.R., 1980) which began at the western edge of the N. P. Turner Addition. Earlier he had designed the street layout and landscape plan for Southampton Place (1922). (*Handbook of Texas*);(N.R. Nomination, *Broadacres* by Anne Bohnn and Stephen Fox)

The contractors for the Watkin designed houses too were highly respected in their profession. W. L. Goyen was awarded the contract for the Logue house for \$20,000 in February, 1923. He also constructed other houses in the area as well. (*Texas General Contractors Monthly Bulletin*)

John Gibson Logue (1882-1933) was an attorney and partner in the law firm of Andrews, Streetman, Logue & Mobley, one of the most important corporate law firms in Houston. He lived in the house until his death in 1933 at which time his widow, Kate Holloway, transferred the west half of Block 24 to her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Hooper, who built the house at 1105 Milford. In 1937 Mrs. Logue sold her house to oilman, Cornelius C. Kroll and his wife, Grace, and moved to The Warwick. The Krolls lived in the house until 1951 when they sold it to the Woman's Building of Houston, Inc. From 1951 until 1978, the Logue House served the organization as Milford House, a social club. When the organization was dissolved, it gave the Milford House to Rice University for use by the university's Shepherd School of Music. In 1988, Rice University sold the house to the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Greater Houston, Inc. which operates Milford House as the Italian Cultural and Community Center which provides a variety of educational, social and community activities. (*N. R. Nomination by Stephen Fox*)

### RESTORATION HISTORY/CURRENT CONDITION:

The Logue House retains integrity of location. It also retains integrity of materials, especially its walls of dark red, velour-faced brick, its brick sidewalk and terrace paving, and its cast stone classical decoration. It retains integrity of design, despite the addition of the 1953 rear wing and incompatible alterations to the 1953 terrace and the rear garage-apartment building. It retains integrity of workmanship, visible especially in the house's cast concrete work and wrought iron work.

### 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;

# CITY OF HOUSTON

## Archaeological & Historical Commission

## Planning and Development Department

- (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;
- (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:**

That the Planning Commission accept the recommendation of the HAHC and forward it to City Council that the John G. Logue House be designated as a landmark since the application complies with the criteria of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** one in favor; none opposed

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommends that the Planning Commission accept the recommendation of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission which recommends to City Council that the John G. Logue House be designated as a landmark since the application complies with the criteria of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Archaeological & Historical Commission**

**Planning and Development Department**

---

SITE LOCATION MAP  
JOHN G. LOGUE HOUSE  
1101 MILFORD STREET  
NOT TO SCALE