

APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

Request:

The office of Historic Preservation requests a change of zoning to add "HL" Historic Landmark designation to 905 W Agarita Ave and to waive all related fees. *OHP staff recommends approval*.

Case Comments:

On September 7, 2022, the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) agreed with the applicant's request for a Finding of Historic Significance and supported the designation of the property as a local landmark.

Case History:

November 17, 2022 Zoning Commission hearing

September 7, 2022 Historic & Design Review Commission (HDRC) hearing

April 13, 2022 Application for Historic Landmark Designation submitted to OHP

Applicable Citations:

Unified Development Code Sec. 35-606. - Designation Process for Historic Landmarks.

- a. Authority. Requests for landmark designation may only be made by or with the concurrence of the property owner. In instances where a property owner does not consent to the landmark designation, the historic preservation officer shall request a resolution from city council to proceed with the designation process prior to any zoning commission hearing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a request for landmark designation may be made and approved by the city council. To the extent that this subsection conflicts with any other provisions of this chapter, this paragraph shall control except for buildings, objects, sites, structures, or clusters heretofore designated as local landmarks or districts, National Register landmarks or districts, state historic landmarks or sites, or state archaeological landmarks or sites. Additionally, requests for designation shall be made on a form obtained from the city historic preservation officer through the office of historic preservation. Completed request forms shall be returned to the office of historic preservation for processing. All buildings, objects, sites, structures, or clusters heretofore designated by the city council as historic landmarks under any pre-existing ordinance of the City of San Antonio shall be accorded the protection of properties designated historic landmarks under this chapter and shall continue to bear the words "historic, exceptional" (HE) or "historic, significant" (HS) in their zoning designation.
- **b.** Designation of Historic Landmarks.
 - 1. **Initiation**. Any person, the historic and design review commission, zoning commission, the historic preservation officer, or the city council may initiate a historic landmark designation by filing an application with the historic preservation

- officer. Requests for designation shall be made on a form obtained from the city historic preservation officer. Completed request forms shall be returned to the office of historic preservation for processing. Owner consent for historic landmark designation shall be required unless a city council resolution to proceed with the designation has been approved. Additionally, owners may submit with the application a written description and photographs or other visual material of any buildings or structures that they wish to be considered for designation as non-contributing to the historic landmark.
- 2. **Decision.** The historic preservation officer shall refer a completed application for historic landmark designation to the historic and design review commission. Property owners of proposed historic landmarks shall be notified of the historic and design review commission hearing by the historic preservation officer by mail prior to a historic and design review commission hearing for historic landmark designation. Notice to property owners shall state the place, date, time and purpose of the historic and design review commission hearing. The historic preservation officer shall also send notice of the meeting to any registered neighborhood associations located within the proposed district boundary. The historic and design review commission shall make and forward its recommendation to the zoning commission within forty-five (45) days from the date of submittal of the designation request by the historic preservation officer. Upon submittal of the historic and design review commission's recommendation, the proposed historic district or landmark designation shall be submitted to the zoning commission for its review recommendations along with its finding of historic significance. The zoning commission and the city council shall process the application as prescribed in section 35-421 of this chapter and this section. The zoning commission shall schedule a hearing on the historic and design review commission recommendation to be held within sixty (60) days of receipt of such recommendation and shall forward its recommendation to city council which shall schedule a hearing to be held within sixty (60) days of council's receipt of such recommendation. Upon passage of any ordinance designating a historic landmark, or removing or upgrading the designation of historic, the city clerk shall send notice of the fact by mail to the owner or owners of affected property.

Unified Development Code Sec. 35-607. – *Designation Criteria for Historic Districts and Landmarks.*

a. Process for Considering Designation of Historic Districts and Landmarks. Historic districts and landmarks shall be evaluated for designation using the criteria listed in subsection (b) and the criteria applied to evaluate properties for inclusion in the National Register. In order to be eligible for historic landmark designation, properties shall meet at least three (3) of the criteria listed. Historic districts shall consist of at least two (2) or more structures within a legally defined boundary that meet at least three (3) of the criteria. Additionally, all designated landmarks and districts shall demonstrate clear delineation of the legal boundaries of such designated resources.

Criteria for Evaluation.

- 3. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation;
- 5. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials;
- 7. Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature;
- 13. It bears an important and significant relationship to other distinctive structures, sites, or areas, either as an important collection of properties or architectural style or craftsmanship with few intrusions, or by contributing to the overall character of the area according to the plan based on architectural, historic or cultural motif;

Findings:

- a. The request for landmark designation was initiated by the property owners.
- b. HISTORIC CONTEXT: The property at 905 W Agarita Ave is a two-story Prairie style residence with carport, two-story front porch and balcony and a side porch, built c.1920. It is located in the Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD-5) of City Council District 1. Shortly after the areas was platted in 1908, property in Beacon Hill was advertised as sound financial investment. Lots 46, 47, and 48, Block 20, NCB 1792 changed hands three times before it was purchased by Tuleta Chittim Wright in 1920. The property was owned by Mrs. Wright separate from her husband Gilbert Greer Wright who sold real estate. They were the first residents at 905 W Agarita Ave along with their four children and two servants. Gilbert Wright was active with the Order of the Alamo and was a Freemason. His daughters participated in the Order of the Alamo coronation. After her husband's passing, Tuleta Wright went to live with her daughter Dela White where she remained active in community philanthropy.

In 1942, the Wrights sold 905 W. Agarita Ave to Benny J. Cantu and his wife Audrey. Cantu was the owner operator of Audrey's Café a popular Mexican Food Restaurant. He also operated Benny's Ice House and the Burkeshire Taco Village for a brief time. Mr. Cantu was active with the San Antonio Mexican Chamber of Commerce of which her served as president three times in the 1960. He also served as president of the Fiesta Commission in 1965. Cantu promoted better relations between the U.S., Mexico and El Salvador through his work with *Sembradores de* Amistad (Sowers of Friendship) for which he served as president. He was also appointed to the Small Business Administration San Antonio District Advisory Council in 1971. In 1976, he



- and his wife were part of the U.S. delegation attending the opening of President Echeverria's Institute for the Research of Third World Problems.
- c. SITE CONTEXT: The south-facing house is on a block bound to the north by W. Summit Ave, the east by Blanco Rd., the south by W. Mulberry Ave., and to the west by Grant Ave. Located at the corner of Blanco and W Agarita Ave, this two-story home anchors the block. The block includes Folk Victorian, Craftsman, and Spanish Eclectic architecture. Divorced sidewalks run through large front yards; driveways appear as either full-width concrete or ribbon drives. The house is on a large lot and has an inground pool on the northeast side of the parcel. The backyard is enclosed with a wooden privacy fence with a gate across the carport.
- d. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: The two-story residence incorporates elements of Prairie style with front and side gables, wide boxed eaves, an emphasis on horizontal lines, and large square porch supports. The home is wood clad, and the roof has composition shingles. The two-story front porch features square masonry columns. The front door is flanked by sidelites on each side. There is a port cochere on the west side of the building with an enclosed second story. On the east side there is an enclosed porch. The house features one-over-one wood windows, many are paired. There are also windows in the east, south, and west facing gables.
- e. EVALUATION: In order to be eligible for historic landmark designation, properties shall meet at least three (3) of the 16 criteria listed. The applicant submitted that the property meets the following criteria, consistent with UDC sec. 35-607(b):
 - 3. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation; The home at 905 W Agarita is associated with two families that have made significant contributions to San Antonio, the Wrights and the Cantus. Tuleta Wright and her daughter Dela were known for the charitable giving and support of social causes. Benny J. Cantu was a prominent small business owner who represented the Hispanic business community through his work with local, national and international organizations.
 - 5. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials; This Prairie style home retains the footprint shown on the 1924 Sanborn Map. Character defining features include massive square porch columns, a two-story front gabled mass in contrast to the flanking lower porte cochere and infilled porch, wide eave overhang, and horizontal emphasis in both siding and ribbon windows.
 - 7. Its unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature; The structure is prominently located on the corner of Blanco and Agarita and has been a visual fixture of the neighborhood since c. 1920.



- 13. It bears an important and significant relationship to other distinctive structures, sites, or areas, either as an important collection of properties or architectural style or craftsmanship with few intrusions, or by contributing to the overall character of the area according to the plan based on architectural, historic or cultural motif; 905 W Agarita is located in the Beacon Hill Area neighborhood conservation district (NCD-5), which staff has identified as an eligible local historic district. Should the neighborhood choose to designate, the property would be listed as contributing.
- f. The City offers a tax incentive for the substantial rehabilitation of historic properties because historic landmarks possess cultural and historical value and contribute to the overall quality and character of the City and its neighborhoods. If historic designation is approved, rehabilitation and restoration work may be eligible for this incentive. State and Federal tax incentives are also available for properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places and provide substantial relief for rehabilitation projects.
- g. If the HDRC approves the Finding of Historic Significance, then the recommendation for designation is submitted to the Zoning Commission. The Zoning Commission will schedule a hearing and then forward its recommendation to the City Council. City Council has the ultimate authority to approve the historic designation zoning overlay.
- h. Per UDC Sec. 35-453, once the Commission makes a recommendation for designation, property owners must receive a written approval (a Certificate of Appropriateness) for any exterior work until the City Council makes their final decision.

Attachments

HDRC recommendation HDRC published exhibits

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

COMMISSION ACTION

This is not a Certificate of Appropriateness and cannot be used to acquire permits

September 7, 2022

HDRC CASE NO: 2022-445

ADDRESS: 905 W AGARITA AVE

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 1792 BLK 20 LOT 45, 46, 47 & 48

APPLICANT: Alyssa Cedillo - 905 W Agarita

OWNER: Pablo Gonzalez - 905 W Agarita

REQUEST:

The applicant is requets a Finding of Historic Significance for 905 W. Agarita Ave.

FINDINGS:

a. The request for landmark designation was initiated by the property owners.

b. HISTORIC CONTEXT: The property at 905 W Agarita Ave is a two-story Prairie style residence with carport, two-story front porch and balcony and a side porch, built c.1920. It is located in the Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD-5) of City Council District 1. Shortly after the areas was platted in 1908, property in Beacon Hill was advertised as sound financial investment. Lots 46, 47, and 48, Block 20, NCB 1792 changed hands three times before it was purchased by Tuleta Chittim Wright in 1920. The property was owned by Mrs. Wright separate from her husband Gilbert Greer Wright who sold real estate. They were the first residents at 905 W Agarita Ave along with their four children and two servants. Gilbert Wright was active with the Order of the Alamo and was a Freemason. His daughters participated in the Order of the Alamo coronation. After her husband's passing, Tuleta Wright went to live with her daughter Dela White where she remained active in community philanthropy.

In 1942, the Wrights sold 905 W. Agarita Ave to Benny J. Cantu and his wife Audrey. Cantu was the owner operator of Audrey's Café a popular Mexican Food Restaurant. He also operated Benny's Ice House and the Burkeshire Taco Village for a brief time. Mr. Cantu was active with the San Antonio Mexican Chamber of Commerce of which her served as president three times in the 1960. He also served as president of the Fiesta Commission in 1965. Cantu promoted better relations between the U.S., Mexico and El Salvador through his work with Sembradores de Amistad (Sowers of Friendship) for which he served as president. He was also appointed to the Small Business Administration San Antonio District Advisory Council in 1971. In 1976, he and his wife were part of the U.S. delegation attending the opening of President Echeverria's Institute for the Research of Third World Problems.

- c. SITE CONTEXT: The south-facing house is on a block bound to the north by W. Summit Ave, the east by Blanco Rd., the south by W. Mulberry Ave., and to the west by Grant Ave. Located at the corner of Blanco and W Agarita Ave, this two-story home anchors the block. The block includes Folk Victorian, Craftsman, and Spanish Eclectic architecture. Divorced sidewalks run through large front yards; driveways appear as either full-width concrete or ribbon drives. The house is on a large lot and has an inground pool on the northeast side of the parcel. The backyard is enclosed with a wooden privacy fence with a gate across the carport.
- d. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: The two-story residence incorporates elements of Prairie style with front and side gables, wide boxed eaves, an emphasis on horizontal lines, and large square porch supports. The home is wood clad, and the roof has composition shingles. The two-story front porch features square masonry columns. The front door is flanked by sidelites on each side. There is a port cochere on the west side of the building with an enclosed second story. On the east side there is an enclosed porch. The house features one-over-one wood windows, many are paired. There are also windows in the east, south, and west facing gables.
- e. EVALUATION: In order to be eligible for historic landmark designation, properties shall meet at least three (3) of the 16 criteria listed. The applicant submitted that the property meets the following criteria, consistent with UDC sec. 35-607(b):

- 3. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation; The home at 905 W Agarita is associated with two families that have made significant contributions to San Antonio, the Wrights and the Cantus. Tuleta Wright and her daughter Dela were known for the charitable giving and support of social causes. Benny J. Cantu was a prominent small business owner who represented the Hispanic business community through his work with local, national and international organizations.
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RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of a Finding of Historic Significance and that the Historic and Design Review Commission should recommend approval for the landmark designation of 905 W Agarita Ave to the Zoning Commission and to the City Council based on findings a through e.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Approved as submitted.

Shanon Shea Miller

Historic Preservation Officer

Bexar CAD

Property Search > 120703 GONZALEZ PABLO I & for Year 2022

Tax Year: 2022

Legal Description: NCB 1792 BLK 20 LOT 45, 46, 47 & 48

R-6 NCD-5

3225715

Property

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Property ID: 120703

Geographic ID: 01792-020-0450

Type: Real

Property Use Code: 001
Property Use Description: Single Family

Protest

Protest Status: Informal Date: Formal Date:

Location

Address: 905 W AGARITA AVE

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

Neighborhood: BEACON HILL

Neighborhood CD: 57023

Owner

Name: GONZALEZ PABLO I &

Mailing Address: CEDILLO ALYSSA MARIE

905 W AGARITA AVE

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201-5602

Zoning:

Mapsco:

Map ID:

Owner ID:

% Ownership:

Agent Code:

3172146

582C8

100.0000000000%

Exemptions: HS

Values

(+) Improvement Homesite Value: + \$433,080 (+) Improvement Non-Homesite Value: + \$0

(+) Land Homesite Value: + \$124,920

(+) Land Non-Homesite Value: + \$0 Ag / Timber Use Value (+) Agricultural Market Valuation: + \$0 \$0

(+) Timber Market Valuation: + \$0 \$0

(=) Market Value: = \$558,000

(–) Ag or Timber Use Value Reduction: – \$0

(=) Appraised Value: = \$558,000

(–) HS Cap: – \$2,500

(=) Assessed Value: = \$555,500

Taxing Jurisdiction

Owner: GONZALEZ PABLO I & % Ownership: 100.0000000000%

Total Value: \$558,000

Entity	Description	Tax Rate	Appraised Value	Taxable Value	Estimated Tax	
06	BEXAR CO RD & FLOOD	0.023668	\$558,000	\$441,400	\$104.48	
08	SA RIVER AUTH	0.018360	\$558,000	\$533,280	\$97.91	
09	ALAMO COM COLLEGE	0.149150	\$558,000	\$555,500	\$828.53	
10	UNIV HEALTH SYSTEM	0.276235	\$558,000	\$555,500	\$1,534.48	
11	BEXAR COUNTY	0.276331	\$558,000	\$444,400	\$1,228.01	
21	CITY OF SAN ANTONIO	0.541610	\$558,000	\$499,950	\$2,707.77	
57	SAN ANTONIO ISD	1.424200	\$558,000	\$510,500	\$7,270.54	
CAD	BEXAR APPRAISAL DISTRICT	0.000000	\$558,000	\$555,500	\$0.00	
	Total Tax Rate:	2.709554				
				Taxes w/Current Exemptions:	\$13,771.72	
				Taxes w/o Exemptions:	\$15,119.31	

Improvement / Building

Туре	Description	Class CD	Exterior Wall	Year Built	SQFT
LA	Living Area	G - WS		1915	1064.0
CP	Att Carport	G - NO		1915	208.0

Improvement #1: Residential State Code: A1 Living Area: 2586.0 sqft Value: \$414,841

LA1 Additional Living Area G - WS 1915 165.0 OP Attached Open Porch 96.0 G - NO 1915 LA2 Living Area 2nd Level G-WS 1915 931.0 PA Terrace (patio slab) 96.0 G - NO 1915 DCK2 Attached 2nd story deck G - NO 96.0 1915 LA1 G - WS 78.0 Additional Living Area 1915 LA2 Living Area 2nd Level G-WS 2016 348.0

Improvement #2: Residential State Code: A1 Living Area: sqft Value: \$18,239

Type	Description	Class CD	Exterior Wall	Year Built	SQFT
RSW	Swimming Pool	F - NO		1915	250.0

Land

#	Туре	Description	Acres	Sqft	Eff Front	Eff Depth	Market Value	Prod. Value	
1	RES	R/1 Family not Farm Single	0.2870	12500.00	100.00	125.00	\$124,920		\$0

Roll Value History

Year	Improvements	Land Market	Ag Valuation	Appraised	HS Cap	Assessed
2023	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2022	\$433,080	\$124,920	0	558,000	\$2,500	\$555,500
2021	\$401,530	\$103,470	0	505,000	\$0	\$505,000
2020	\$385,120	\$89,880	0	475,000	\$0	\$475,000
2019	\$422,500	\$62,000	0	484,500	\$0	\$484,500

2023 data current as of Sep 29 2022 1:13AM.
2022 and prior year data current as of Sep 2 2022 7:34AM
For property information, contact (210) 242-2432 or (210) 224-8511 or email.

For website information, contact (210) 242-2500.

Website version: 1.2.2.33 Database last updated on: 9/29/2022 1:13 AM © N. Harris Computer Corporation



Statement of Significance – 905 W Agarita Ave

The property at 905 W Agarita Ave is a two-story Prairie style residence with carport, two-story front porch and balcony and a side porch, built c.1920. It is located in the Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD-5) of City Council District 1.

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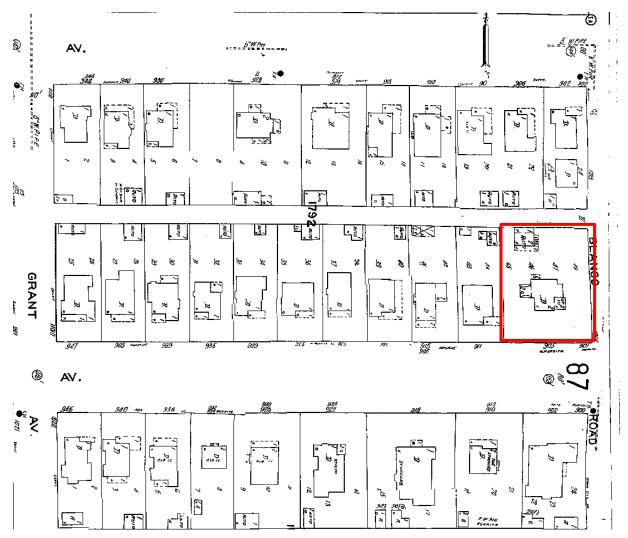
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Photos provided by the applicant



South Elevation



East Elevation





North – Northwest Elevation





North Elevation





Accessory Building



Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Association

A NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Association is a non-profit (501c) (4) Organization dedicated to neighborhood unity and revitalization*

905 W. Agarita Landmark Designation

Case manager: Amy Fulkerson amy.fulkerson@sanantonio.gov

August 24, 2022

Dear HDRC Members:

Beacon Hill not only approves for the Landmark Designation for 905 W Agarita, we encourage such designations. We are proud and grateful to Alyssa and Pablo Cedillo for protecting Beacon Hill's unique history and architecture that is disappearing quickly.

Respectfully,

Daniel Hubbeling President Chair of the Zoning and Urban Design (ZUD) Committee Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Association