

Audubon Place
2010
Walking Tour



Saturday, April 10th, 2010
1:30pm

*W*e are in Montrose, one of the 2009 ten greatest neighborhoods in the USA according to the American Planning Association. The award is based on a happy mixture of residential and commercial land use, livability, art museums and historic preservation.

Montrose Addition was developed by John Wiley Link The Houston Land Corporation, formed in 1910 by Link, acquired 165 acres of dairy farm land from the R.S. Sterling Company for \$500,000. The land was part of a 3370-acre grant deeded to Mrs. Obedience Smith by Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, in Austin on February 3, 1845. A portion of the acquisition was approved as a residential development for sale to the public in 1911 and called Montrose. The addition was named after a seaport town in Scotland immortalized in the writings of Sir Walter Scott. Four major boulevards were laid out through the T-shaped tract; Lovett, Montrose, Audubon and Yoakum Boulevards.

The area covered by our association is bounded by Hawthorne to the North, Alabama to the South, Montrose to the West, and Audubon to the East.

Link and his associates personified the spirit of their times, "while they were obviously real estate developers they also returned to the community neighborhoods replete with a multitude of affordable, sensible and appropriately planned houses built on abundantly landscaped streets".



3419 Audubon Place, 1915

Neo-classical 2-story, white columns

The large yellow 2-story with the tall white columns is Neo-Classical in style.

Notice how much taller it is than the bungalows on either side; its dimensions

are really closer to Victorian in scale. It was built for \$4,000 in 1914 by James & Katharine Dore. He was sales manager for the Houston Car Wheel & Machine Company, suppliers to the railroad industry. Although 3419 has the proportions of a Victorian home, its architecture is generally defined as Neo-classical because of the entrance with its classical Ionic columns and the Greek "dentals" above the doorway. But it has the 6-over 1 and 9-over 1 windows characteristic of Prairie and Craftsman style homes. And the interior exhibits Craftsman features—the fireplace, a built-in bookcase in the foyer, and exposed beams in the dining room. So 3419 is really a hybrid—Victorian proportions, Neo-classical trimmings, and a bit of the "modern" Craftsman.

3503 Audubon Place, 1920

Craftsman; 1 1/2 story airplane bungalow

We have a classic example of the "aeroplane style" bungalow. It is so called because the long low roof lines resembled the biplanes and aero planes of the day. Notice how the front porch roof even extends over to the right to provide a porte cochere or carport. It was built in 1920, and banker Roy Huffington was the first resident. This house has a large, beautiful French-curve arch between the living room and dining room.



3415 Audubon Place, 1920

Craftsman

This is a classic Arts & Crafts style brick bungalow, built about 1920. It has unusual swan-like brackets and a decorative gable window.



3407 Audubon Place, 1918

"Four-square" with Mediterranean influences

The large off-white house is classic Prairie style, with its long front porch, hip roof, window mounting designs, broad eaves and brackets. It was built for Oscar P. Jackson, who owned one of the largest garden seed companies in the Southwest. Justice of the Peace Wallace & Enid Ragan lived here for many years. It was beautifully restored in 1996.

3416 Audubon Place, 1923

Prairie; large 2-story brick

This huge 2-story Prairie-style brick duplex was built in 1923 for C. Louis Kerr, who was the District Sales Manager for Gulf Refining Company. It is an "over & under" duplex with the entrances on two different streets.



3506 Audubon Place, 1928

Georgian: 2-story red brick with dormers

This Georgian house was built in 1928 for Edna W. Saunders, the most celebrated promoter and impresaria of her day. Mrs. Saunders brought numerous performing artists to Houston in her 40-year career.

607 Kipling, 1919

Prairie; 1 1/2-story stucco, built on three city lots.

This house, purchased in 1922 by George Cohen, president of Foley Brothers department store, began modestly enough. But in the late '30s Cohen and his wife embarked on a series of alterations and additions, carried out by Watkin and his associate Nolan Barrick, which transformed it into a mini-mansion, replete with Art Deco room that simulates a ship's interior.

3601 Audubon Place, 1913

Prairie; 2-story, stucco porch

In 1913, this Prairie style home was built and owned by Thomas Tellepsen, who arrived in Houston in 1904 as a 16-year old sailor with \$12 in his pocket, and went on to own one of the largest construction firms in the South.



3602 Audubon Place, 1913

Craftsman

This large 2-story Craftsman-style house was built in 1913 for \$4,450 by Theo C. Bering for his daughter Leonora and her new husband Albert Armand. Only two months after the

wedding, burglars cut the phone lines, broke in and stole over \$1,200 in wedding presents and silver. When Mrs. Armand passed away 4 years later at only age 28, Houston's most renowned clergyman, Dr. William States Jacobs, conducted her funeral here at the residence



3608 Audubon Place, 1917

Prairie; large 2-story brick

This large brick house was built in 1917 but if you were standing here in 1940, the house wasn't here. However, if you looked down Audubon

Place you would see it coming straight toward you being moved by several huge trucks from its former location at the corner of Audubon Place and W. Alabama. When Dr. Philo Howard wanted to build the 1-story strip shopping center at the corner, his wife Nancy would only give permission if he could find another lot to put their house on. Mrs. Howard continued to live here until the early 1970's.

3611 Audubon Place, 1920

Craftsman bungalow

This classic Craftsman style bungalow has one of Montrose's largest and most beautiful Live Oaks in front of it. The tree is registered with a span of 108' in the Harris County Tree Registry [Index 263].



3702 Audubon Place, 1923

Craftsman (California style); large 1 1/2 story stucco bungalow

This unusual California-style bungalow was built in 1922 by Ewart

& Lillian Ligtfoot. He was superintendent of construction for the George T. Broun Construction Company. The home's design shows influences of Frank Lloyd Wright's creative adoption of Japanese architecture and the Mission style found in both California and Texas.

607 Marshall, circa 1922

Mediterranean style 2-story stucco

Another notable tree—A huge date palm further amplifies the Mediterranean character of this property.

Built by Ray C. Sewall, of the law office of Sewall & Morris, circa 1922



612 Marshall, 1919

2-story Eclectic stucco

This fancy house was built in 1919 for insurance man Percy Nelson and his wife Amelia. It was then occupied by Chas. D. Wolk [Wolf], Secretary of The Star Cash Stores, and Edward Lipper, Vice President of the Lipper Motor Car Co. Edward Lipper's sister Mabel Levy, wife of

businessman Ben M. Levy, lived at 800 Sul Ross just across W. Alabama.

615 Marshall, 1917

Craftsman; 2-story stucco

The house is built in traditional craftsman style with exposed rafters and brackets.

Until 1985 it was used as a duplex. A second entrance was present on the Western side, leading into the stairwell. The house was lovingly restored in 1990 by James and Linda Hine. A large 20 foot stained glass window was installed where the entrance to the upstairs apartment once stood. Downstairs the house still has the original hardwood floors with cherry wood trim.

705 Marshall 1917

Prairie

This was originally built in Prairie style in 1917 for cotton broker Edward Forbes. It was also the longtime home of Leonard & Anna Attwell - he was the comptroller for Humble Oil & Refining Company. This house suffered a bad fire a number of years ago, and was rebuilt in 1982 without using original materials. In 2006~~7~~ further remodeling jobs attempted to bring the house more in style with the neighborhood.

707 Marshall, 1918

Craftsman; 1 -story stucco airplane bungalow

This unusual "airplane" bungalow was built about 1918. In 1921 railroad freight agent McDade Wilburn bought the house, and it was in the same family until 1988.



709 Marshall, 1913

Prairie

This lovely Prairie style home was built in 1913 by Fred J. Marrett for Chambers Peirce. Marrett was a French-Canadian born architect, carpenter and builder.

For many years this house was the home of Houston's most noted music teacher and choirmaster, Hu T. Huffmaster.



711 Marshall, 1916

Prairie; 2-story tan frame

This 2-story Prairie-style house was built in 1916 for William Smedes, the manager of the National Biscuit Company [NABISCO] plant downtown. Houston Chronicle columnist Leon Hale wrote a story about living

here in the 1940's, when he rented the room in the upper left corner of the second floor.

814 Marshall, 1915

Prairie

Homebuilder Henry Yates completed this beautiful Prairie-style stucco house in 1915 and sold it to Walter & Ida Ennis. Originally from Memphis, Ennis owned the Packard Auto Livery Company, which today would be known as a rental car agency. At age 65 he was also one of the oldest train conductors on the Houston-New Orleans Flyer until he lost his life in a derailment near Baton Rouge in 1917. Tragically, his son had been killed in a car wreck about a year earlier on the Galveston-Houston road. Ida Ennis and her daughter continued to live here for many years.



902 Marshall,

1915

Colonial Revival

This large house was built by the Houston Land Corporation in 1913 and sold to Fred Horton, the owner of the contracting firm of F.D. Horton & Son. His son drew the plat

for the Montrose subdivision and their firm did a lot of the original construction work in laying out the subdivision.

907 Marshall, 1915

Prairie with eclectic cottage bungalow influences

This site has a fiery past, as the first house built here by Texas Company clerk Navarez Ware in 1913, a colonial-style cottage, was destroyed by fire on March 9, 1914. Front page news at the time, Mr. Ware barely managed to carry his father out of the burning building in time. He immediately rebuilt this house on the same site.



912 Kipling, 1910

Eclectic Colonial Revival with Prairie influences

Built by G. W. Price, President and Treasurer of A.D. Price Co., Contractors and Builders of Shell Roofing, Sanitary Flooring, Excavating and Heavy Hauling. The A.D. Price company was established in 1893.

905 Kipling, 1917

Craftsman with Tudor influences

The large 2-story stucco house was built in 1915 by real estate broker J. William Yeagley. He sold it in 1917 to Arthur G. Whittington, the General Manager of the International and Great Northern Railway. It remained in the Whittington family for nearly 40 years. Craftsman in style, it also has strong Tudor influences in the half-timbered gables and the parapet-like addition on the second floor.

902 Kipling, 1913

Eclectic

The house on the far corner was built in 1913 by the Houston Land Corporation and sold to Captain Dwight Horton - civil engineer, partner in the contracting firm of F.D. Horton & Son and the surveyor of the Montrose subdivision. Notice the broad decorative brackets under the eaves and the decorative paneled frieze along the top of the walls.



816 Kipling.

1913

Eclectic Mediterranean Revival with
Prairie influences

This unique house was designed and built for \$3,000 in 1913 by Frederick Crosswell, listed in the City Directory that year as a "plasterer". He sold it to a widow, Mrs. Velma Austin, who moved here from the Westmoreland ad-

dition. It is perhaps the first house built in Houston of "fire-proof hollow tile. Note all the unusual porches and angles and the unique porch column design.

814 Kipling, 1915

Colonial Revival

This large 2-story house was built in 1915 by speculative homebuilder and lumber company owner Elias Spinner. He sold it to TW. House Jr., the son of the distinguished Houston banker and Houston Postmaster. While living here TW Jr. worked with his brother, James H.B. House, in real estate, insurance and cattle. Members of the House family also settled adjoining neighborhood First Montrose Commons.

809 Harold, 1913

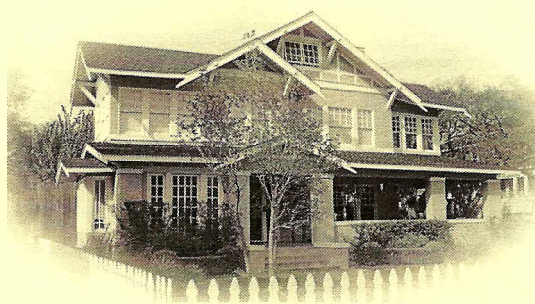
Craftsman bungalow with cobblestone porch

Built in 1913 by the Houston Land Corporation, this classic Craftsman-style bungalow was purchased by car dealer John Lewis for \$6,500. It was later the home of Swiss-born Dr. Bernard Bunnemeyer, who was in charge of the Houston Weather Office for many years, and his son-in-law, Lucius Talmadge, the financial editor for the Houston Chronicle. This house has beautiful inlaid floors, built-in nooks, window seats, cabinets, and beamed ceilings in the living room and dining room, all of quarter-sawn oak. Notice the stick-style columns and brackets, and especially the front porch and chimney which are made of milky quartz.

808 Harold, 1919

Craftsman; 1-story raised stucco bungalow

John Cooke, the Vice President and General Manager of Southland Lumber Company bought this raised stucco bungalow from the Houston Land Corporation in 1919 for \$8,500. This is one of the few houses in the area with a full basement.



804 Harold, 1915

Craftsman with Prairie influences

This house is the only one individually listed so far on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also on the list of Protected Landmarks of the City

of Houston. It was built in 1915 by E.L. Crain & Company, noted master builder and founder of Crain Ready-Cut House Company, for Joseph & Mary Stevenson, and is an exceptional example of Arts & Crafts architecture, also containing elements of Prairie and Tudor style. It was designed by Joseph Stevenson, and was built with money from Mary's inheritance. Joseph Stevenson was a carriage maker by trade and in 1903 began a long and successful partnership with a blacksmith named C. Jim Stewart. In addition to building and repairing wagons and buggies, they operated the largest horseshoeing parlor in Texas. Changing with the times to provide auto body and engine services, the firm they founded now provides engineering services and power systems worldwide. In 1991, Stewart & Stevenson was named to the Fortune 500 List of Industrial Companies. The Stevensons lived here until moving to River Oaks in 1945.



617 Harold, 1918

Queen Anne Victorian; 2-story brick, decorative verge boards on gables

This unusually decorated house was built in 1918 for Thomas Howell, who listed these professions in the City Directory: real estate, loans, investments, stock raiser, planter, notary, old coins & paper currency, dealer in lumber and owner of the Howell

1,335 acre farm in Howell, Texas. This house is an interesting mixture of styles - the shingle treatment on the second floor is similar to a type of Queen Anne Victorian known as shingle style, the gables are Arts & Crafts, the enclosed eaves show Prairie influences. Old photographs show the verge boards to be even fancier originally, with a sunburst pattern up at the top. There are several other houses in this neighborhood with similar decorations; probably the work of a particular architect, who as yet remains unknown. This house was once a duplex but has luckily been rescued back to single family.

612 Harold, 1918

Prairie

This lovely Prairie-style stucco house was built about 1918. Notice the unusual peaks on the front porch roof and the splayed dormer on the roof. It was owned by Abraham Schulman, president of the Lone Star Jewelry Manufacturing Company.



609 Harold, 1914

Shingle

Built in 1914 by contractor and homebuilder Herman and Alice Vogt, this beautiful frame and shingle home was sold to John & Louise Brown. Brown was a printer by trade with Gummig & Sons. Note the unusual wraparound shingled porch with its broad arched bays. In 2001 the house

was extensively remodeled on the inside by John Hathcote and Jack Butcher. They did an outstanding job and were nominated for the "Good Brick Award" by the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance.

200 Westmoreland, Circa 1905

Colonial Revival

This house uses the design of older houses with its side hall and main rooms lined up on the side of the house to catch southeasterly breezes. The house was first occupied by Brian Brewster Gillmer, president of Southern Drug Company.

201 Westmoreland, 1886, 1903-05

Italianate

Built by railroad magnate Jedediah P. Waldo in the Italianate style with Victorian interiors for his wife and children. In 1905 the house was moved here from the corner of Rusk and Caroline, when Caroline was one of the fanciest residential streets in Houston. Son Willmer Waldo, a Princeton civil engineering graduate, supervised the dismantling and reconstruction. He replaced its original two-story Victorian porches with a one-story brick loggia and removed a three-story cupola tower. In the early 1900s the Waldo daughters conducted a select school for young ladies here. The house strongly retains the feeling of a Victorian house inside because the original interior details were all reincorporated. A historic marker gives more information.



215 Westmoreland, 1907

Colonial Greek Revival

The Nash house is a Colonial Greek Revival that resembles the Connecticut State Building designed for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

Once feature of the Colonial Revival Style

found here is the monumentally-scaled entrance. The front porch is covered by a second-floor porch supported by fluted Corinthian columns and a pedimented portico on the third floor. The large plate glass windows without mullions in the ground floor exhibit a style of late 19th-century Victorian houses less common after 1900 as architects turned to older historical examples, including the smaller paned windows seen on the 2nd floor of this house. Note the elaborate beveled glass double entrance doors, sidelights, and transom, and the fine ornamental details above the windows in the porch and gables and in the dentriculated frieze. Its ornamental date palm was characteristic of expensive homes of the time, since these trees were not native to Houston and symbolized resort locales. The house was built as a town house by rancher William Nash of Brazoria County. The Nashes divided their time between this house and their ranch until Nash died in 1931. Frank Cullinan, president of Producer Oil Co. [later Texaco], rented the

house in 1917. William P. Hobby, Texas governor 1917-1921, rented the house in 1926. Judge Roy Hofheinz, developer of the Astrodome, later owned the house.

428 Westmoreland, 1904

Colonial Revival

The Crawford house was one of the first homes built in Westmoreland. It was sold to Elbert C. Crawford in 1906. Crawford and his brother founded Texas Coffee, Tea, and Spice Company in 1878. Notice the giant Corinthian columns, the graceful Palladian window, and the small cantilevered second-floor balcony. Currently Mayor Annise Parker's home.

Notes

Notes



www.AudubonPlace.net