

Texas Historical Commission staff (CRB), 7/13/2012, rev (BB) 7/25/12, 7/26/12  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker without post on masonry  
Harris County (Job #12HR03) Subject (Atlas ) UTM;  
Location: Houston, 2411 River Oaks Blvd.

### **GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**

HOUSTON ARCHITECT ERNEST L. SHULT DESIGNED THIS MID-CENTURY MODERN HOUSE FOR HIS OWN RESIDENCE IN 1959. THE HOME, SITED ON A TRIANGULAR LOT IN THE RIVER OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD, IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTEMPORARY STYLE POPULAR IN THE POST-WAR YEARS. THE HOUSE HAS HAD ALTERATIONS OVER THE YEARS INCLUDING A TWO-STORY ADDITION ON THE NORTH SIDE. PROMINENT FEATURES OF THE HOUSE INCLUDE ITS ASYMMETRICAL FAÇADE, WHITE STUCCO AND UNORNAMENTED EXTERIOR WALL, MULTIPLE ROOF SECTIONS, PORTIONS OF THE FRONT FAÇADE EXTENDING FORWARD AND VARYING IN HEIGHT, AND A LARGE EXPANSE OF WINDOWLESS WALLS. JOHN CONNALLY, JR. (1917-1993) AND HIS WIFE, IDANELL "NELLIE" CONNALLY (1919-2006), MOVED HERE IN JANUARY 1969 AFTER HE SERVED THREE TERMS AS GOVERNOR OF TEXAS. DURING HIS RESIDENCE AT THIS LOCATION, CONNALLY WAS U.S. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND CAMPAIGNED FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENCY IN 1980. THE COUPLE SOLD THE HOUSE IN 1984.

JOHN CONNALLY, JR. IS KNOWN FOR HIS EXTENSIVE CAREER IN POLITICS. HE WAS SECRETARY TO CONGRESSMAN LYNDON B. JOHNSON IN 1939, SERVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AS JOHNSON'S AIDE, WAS SECRETARY OF THE NAVY UNDER PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN 1961, AND WAS ELECTED GOVERNOR OF TEXAS IN 1962. WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED IN DALLAS ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, CONNALLY, A PASSENGER IN THE CAR, WAS SHOT AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. AMONG HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS GOVERNOR WERE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT REFORM, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND THE STATE'S TOURISM INDUSTRY. HE JOINED HOUSTON LAW FIRM VINSON, ELKINS, SEARLS AND CONNALLY IN FEBRUARY 1969 AND BECAME PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON'S SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY IN 1971. GOVERNOR AND MRS. CONNALLY ARE BURIED AT THE TEXAS STATE CEMETERY IN AUSTIN.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2012

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS: 2012 Official Texas Historical Marker Sponsorship Application Form

Valid September 1, 2011 to November 15, 2011 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) requests only for buildings or structures. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

**Proposed marker topic** (THC will determine official title):  
Governor John B. Connally, Jr. House

**County:** Harris

**Town** (nearest county town on current state highway map): **Houston, Texas**

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:**  
**2411 River Oaks Blvd., Houston, TX 77019**

**Marker Coordinates:**

**If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:**

UTM Zone          Easting          Northing  
Lat: 29.7434 Long: 95.4260 (deg, min, sec or decimal degrees)

**Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here** (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek): 3 miles from central business district

**NOTE: RTHL markers must be placed at the structure being marked.**

### RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

**Definition:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to buildings and structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic building or structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated properties must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

### Criteria:

1. **Age:** Properties eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a property for RTHL designation. It must have a significant historical association, which can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.
3. **Architectural significance:** Properties deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR RTHL DOCUMENTATION:

#### National Register properties

Properties individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR) under either Criterion A or B **and** Criterion C (Architecture) may not require additional documentation of the building's history or architecture. In such cases, only an RTHL application needs to be submitted. The THC has sole discretion to determine whether such documentation is satisfactory and correct or if documentation needs to be updated.

Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NR.      Year listed:

#### Courthouses

Historic county courthouses with documented master plans accepted through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) may not require additional documentation of the building's history or architecture. In such cases, only an RTHL application needs to be submitted. The THC has sole discretion to determine whether such documentation is satisfactory and correct or if documentation needs to be updated.

Check this box if the property is a courthouse with a master plan accepted through the THC's THCPP.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements can be accepted or processed by the THC (for RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; legal description; site plan; floor plan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure—please resize digital photographs to 1-2 MB, or approximately 1024 x 768 pixels).

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed. Paper copies of applications, whether mailed or delivered, cannot be accepted in lieu of the electronic version.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than November 15, 2011. THC email accepts mail no larger than 10 MB.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview and significance.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. Please send payment with the invoice which THC provides.

## **APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application, throughout the review and production processes, will be by direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC contact is notifying the THC that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC, and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

### **As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:**

- Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

**CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:**

**Name of CHC contact** (chair or marker chair): Paul Scott

**Mailing address:**2103 Knollbrook Lane **City, Zip:** Spring, TX 77373

**Daytime phone:**713-368-0039 **Email address:** paul.scott@itc.hctx.net

## **PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

**Property owner:** Stephen and Kaye Horn

**Address:**2411 River Oaks Blvd. **City, state, zip:**Houston, TX 77019

**Phone:**713-851-7364 **Email address:** kaye.horn@gmail.com

**Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.):  
TR 32, Blk 23, River Oaks, Section 4

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

**NOTE:** The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. All procedural correspondence (notice of receipt, request for additional information, inscription, shipping notice, etc.) will be sent by email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary.

## **SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment relates to sponsorship of the marker in partnership with the THC, which provides the match for program costs.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

**Marker sponsor** (may be individual or organization): Stephen & Kaye Horn

**Contact person** (if applicable): Kaye Horn

**Mailing address:**2411 River Oaks Blvd. **City, zip:** Houston, TX 77019

**Phone:** 713-851-7364

**Email address** (required):kaye.horn@gmail.com

### **SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to facilitate marker delivery, residence addresses, post office box numbers and rural route numbers are not permitted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**Name:** Kaye Horn

**Street address:**2411 River Oaks Blvd. **City, zip:** Houston, TX 77019

**Daytime phone** (required): 713-851-7364 **Email** (required): kaye.horn@gmail.com

### **TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS**

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- 27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)
- 27" X 42" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1500)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1000)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post\* (\$750)

\*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry
- metal
- other (specify)

### **SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)**

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC by email at the following address:

[markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us).

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):

- This application form
- The narrative history (including documentation)
- Legal description of the property
- Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure
- Detailed site plan of the property
- At least one historic photograph
- Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure

**RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC:** The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madmark.html>)

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Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276  
Phone 512/463-5853  
[history@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:history@thc.state.tx.us)



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

Application for a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker for the  
**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
**2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019**

Adapted by Kaye M. Horn, Owner, from  
City of Houston Landmark Designation Report<sup>1</sup>  
for review by the Harris County Historical Commission

## **I. CONTEXT**

The modern John B. Connally Jr. House was built in 1959 by Houston architect Ernest L. Shult as his own residence. The 1961 Houston City Directory showed Ernest Shult residing at 2411 River Oaks Blvd. Shult was born in Wharton County in 1901 and graduated from Rice University in 1923. By 1930, he was practicing as an architect in Houston, and during the 1940s and 50s, had his own architectural office on Fannin Street. Shult was also a longtime associate of Alfred C. Finn, a major Houston architect.

Texas Governor John Connally Jr. and Nellie Connally moved into 2411 River Oaks Boulevard in January 1969 as their first private home after living in the Governor's Mansion in Austin.<sup>2</sup> Connally rose from humble farm boy roots to become a major figure in business, politics and government for half a century, during which time he served four U. S. Presidents. He was a lifelong friend and public servant with President Lyndon B. Johnson. He won the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit after service in the U.S. Navy during WWII, where he rose in rank from ensign to lieutenant commander. From 1952 until 1960, he was attorney and General Counsel for Texas millionaire Sid W. Richardson and his nephew, Perry R. Bass in Fort Worth, and acted as co-executor for the Sid Richardson estate after the oil man's death.<sup>3</sup> Connally was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and resigned that post for a successful run for governor of Texas in 1962. Connally was a passenger in the car when President Kennedy was assassinated, and was himself seriously wounded during the attack. Connally went on to serve three consecutive terms as Texas governor before leaving office in 1969.

Connally joined the law firm of Vinson, Elkins, Searls and Connally as senior partner in February 1969. While living in the home at 2411 River Oaks Boulevard, John Connally was appointed and served as Secretary of the Treasury in the Nixon Administration from February 1971 until June 1972, during which time they lived in Washington. After serving as Treasury Secretary, Connally rejoined his Houston law firm as a full partner, at which time it was renamed



Vinson, Elkins, Searls, Connally & Smith as of July 1, 1972. While living in the residence at 2411 River Oaks Blvd., Connally's reputation soared as a result of the regard of President Richard Nixon. It was rumored that President Nixon would select Connally as his Vice Presidential running mate in the 1972 election.<sup>4</sup> Connally returned to private life in Texas in June 1972 but continued to make political speeches and lobby for conservative Republican causes, the party he had switched to after the death of President Lyndon Johnson.<sup>5</sup> He was a conservative Republican who believed in active government, which was typical for the political era when he was particularly influential. He was in full measure on the Political Trail, "without a map but charged up for the trip wherever it turns."<sup>6</sup> By then, The Watergate Special Prosecution force had dropped all the remaining criminal charges against former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally, who was acquitted of bribery after a highly publicized three week long trial.<sup>7</sup>

Connally hinted very publicly that he might run as Favorite Son candidate in Texas for the Republican Nomination in 1976.<sup>8</sup> Although he did not seek the Presidency in 1976, he made a very strong run for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination. It was at this time on March 31, 1979, that the *Houston Post* reporter interviewed Nellie Connally in the residence for her thoughts of the real likelihood of her being the next First Lady of the United States. In this article, "At home: Nellie Connally," the article has a photo of Mrs. Connally sitting in the living room of 2411 River Oaks Blvd. and states: "Of her present home, where they have lived for nine years, she says:

"As you can see, our house is just kind of a hodgepodge of things we pick up everywhere and buy in antique shops. We both love to go to auctions and it doesn't matter if I buy it or John buys it, it goes somewhere. We just enjoy doing it and enjoy the mixture but it makes it very hard to work with decorators."

By September 10, 1979, G.O.P. candidate John Connally had made the cover of *Time* magazine with a four-page article dedicated to the fact that Connally was "Hot on the Trail" to become President in the 1980 election. By March 10, 1980, Connally had "quit the presidential race."<sup>9</sup>, conceding that Ronald Reagan had the political strength to trounce him in South Carolina, the state Connally had chosen for a showdown. John and Nellie Connally sold 2411 River Oaks Boulevard to the Litak Company, NV on January 2, 1984, and on September 26, 1989, they moved into the Huntingdon, an exclusive 34-floor high-rise. Prior to that time, the

family had leased the property before it was included in the bankruptcy, when the title was cleared. Connally bought the condo despite financial woes.<sup>10</sup>

## **II. OVERVIEW**

### **Ernest L. Shult**

Ernest L. Shult was born in El Campo in Wharton County in 1901 to Oscar and Anna Shult, the children of Swedish immigrants. Ernest Shult graduated from El Campo High School in 1919 and from Rice University in 1923. In 1925, he married his wife, Cathrine. In the 1930 Census, Ernest and Cathrine were living near Rice University with their two-year old daughter Anna. Ernest was listed as an architect, and had an architecture office at 5009 Fannin for awhile in the 1940s and early 50s. According to the Handbook of Texas, Shult was also a longtime associate of prominent Houston architect, Alfred C. Finn.

Shult presumably designed the modern house at 2411 River Oaks Boulevard for himself, as he and Cathrine were the original residents and lived there through the 1960s. Found in the River Oaks Property Owners files for the property is a letter of recommendation of the plans and design by Karl Kamrath, of MacKie and Kamrath Architects. Although the original house plans have not been found, a letter addressed to Mr. Ernest L. Shult, dated July 9, 1959, in the property file located at River Oaks Property Owners, Inc., management office states: "...the plans submitted by you for your proposed residence ... are approved provided the following conditions are complied with." Those conditions were "All walls must not exceed a height of six feet above the ground," and "the exterior of the second floor portion should be shingled, preferably using shake type hand split type."<sup>11</sup> A 1974 photo shows the shingles on the exterior of the second floor.<sup>12</sup>

The house at 2411 River Oaks Boulevard was sold to John and Nellie Connally in 1969, and the Shults were later listed as living at 2004 Persa Street. Cathrine died on April 17, 1981 and Ernest died on March 16, 1992. The memorial service for Ernest L. Shult took place at St John the Divine Episcopal Church at 2450 River Oaks Boulevard, located just one block away from his former home.

## **John B. Connally, Jr.**

John Bowden Connally, Jr., thirty-eighth governor of the state of Texas, was born on a farm near Floresville, Texas, on February 27, 1917, one of eight children of John Bowden Connally, Sr. and Lela (Wright) Connally. John Connally, Sr. had been a cowboy, a barber, and a grocer before turning to dairy farming and finally tenant farming. The family's circumstances were always quite modest; there often were debts and struggles to pay them.

John Connally, Jr. attended Harlandale High School in San Antonio, graduated from Floresville High School, and entered the University of Texas in 1933. In college he was interested in campus politics, oratory and acting, and was elected president of the UT Students Association for 1938–39. He received his law degree from the UT law school in 1941. Connally met Idanell (Nellie) Brill of Austin at UT and they were married on December 21, 1940. They had four children. Connally developed a desire to amass land and money, and never return to the poverty he knew as a boy.

Connally began his career in government and politics in 1939 as secretary (legislative assistant) to Representative Lyndon B. Johnson, Connally's "mentor, friend and benefactor." Connally met Lyndon Johnson when Johnson was a young Congressman from Texas in the late 1930s, and Connally was a campaign worker for him.<sup>13</sup> It was the beginning of a close personal relationship that lasted until Johnson's death in 1973.

Connally was commissioned in the United States Naval Reserve in 1941. As a flight director aboard aircraft carriers, he went through nine major air-sea battles in the Pacific Theater for which he won the Bronze Star for valor. Aboard the *USS Essex* he endured fifty-two consecutive hours of Japanese kamikaze attacks in April 1945. He attained the rank of lieutenant commander and came home a hero. After returning to civilian life, Connally headed an investors' group of war veterans that owned and operated Austin radio station KVET (1946–49). He also joined an influential Austin law firm and during this period served as campaign manager in Lyndon Johnson's 1946 reelection to Congress and successful 1948 Senate race. He then served as LBJ's aide until 1951. Connally also managed Johnson's unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960, and the election to the presidency in 1964. Connally earned a reputation both as "Lyndon's boy" and as a "political mastermind" and expert strategist. His political credo was "Fight hard and rough, but when the battle is over, forget and dismiss."<sup>14</sup>

In the early 1950s, Connally had become a lawyer for millionaire Texas oilman Sid Richardson, who ultimately put him in charge of running his business ventures in Texas and Jamaica. During this period of time, he and his family lived in Ft. Worth, Texas. The association proved most lucrative to Connally, who eventually became one of the executors of Richardson's estate.

Connally served as Secretary of the Navy in 1961 in the Cabinet of Democrat President John F. Kennedy. He won his first political race as a candidate for governor the next year. Connally was also well-schooled in politics and government and had profited from his experience as Sid Richardson's legal counsel. Connally entered the race against a large field of candidates, including Governor Price Daniel, Sr., who was seeking a fourth term. A poll showed that Connally had only 4 percent of the votes at the outset. But in addition to wealthy backers and friends of the late oilman Richardson, he had a strong grass-roots network of politically astute supporters. Connally won a 1962 runoff by 26,000 votes. He was reelected by a 3-to-1 vote margin in 1964 and won a third term in 1966 with 72 percent of the vote.

On November 22, 1963, while serving his first term as Governor, Connally was riding in Kennedy's open-topped limousine through the streets of Dallas and was wounded when Kennedy was shot and killed. A bullet passed through his body, leaving Connally with scars on his back, chest, wrist and thigh. Later, he would recall drifting in and out of consciousness for four days. He said the first sustained consciousness he had was of watching television coverage of Kennedy's body being carried to Arlington National Cemetery.

Connally also said he thought that the shot that killed the President had been meant for him. He said this was because the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, had written a letter asking Connally, as Navy Secretary, to upgrade his undesirable discharge from the Marines, and that no action had been taken on the request.<sup>15</sup>

After leaving the Governor's office in 1969, Connally joined Vinson and Elkins, a large law firm in Houston named for William Ashton Vinson and James A. Elkins, both early principals in the firm. The same year, he was named a member of President Richard M. Nixon's foreign-intelligence advisory board and assumed a favored position among Nixon's advisors; it was said in Nixon's memoirs that "If Connally is not for a matter, the President won't do it.". In 1971, he became Nixon's Secretary of the Treasury and earned a reputation as "a tough American statesman." He sought to address the nation's growing trade deficit and inflation by such

mechanisms as currency devaluation and a price freeze. As Secretary until 1972, Mr. Connally was largely responsible for the federal guarantee of some \$250 million in loans to the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, then the nation's largest major military contractor but near collapse because of major cutbacks in military spending and other setbacks in its civilian projects. In 1972, he spearheaded a Democrats for Nixon organization that helped the Republican president carry Texas.<sup>16</sup>

Part of Connally's success as a politician derived from his impressive appearance. In 1970, after he was named Treasury Secretary, he was described in an article in *The New York Times*: "Mr. Connally is tall, gray-haired, handsome, personable and articulate, and his manners and bearing recall those of President Johnson. Yet he is suave and has a touch of the Eastern establishment."

Connally had grown up on his family's South Texas cotton farm in the hard-scrabble status of "a barefoot boy of mule-plowed furrows." His accomplishments as governor "epitomized the big man of Texas" and "personified the Texas establishment as the Texas establishment wanted to see itself." He considered himself "a conservative who believed in active government." He had a vision of moving Texas into a dynamic era and entered the governorship saying that his administration should emphasize one of three crucial issues of the day: education, race relations, or poverty. He chose to be "an education governor" both because he believed that the most enduring way to address social problems was through education and because he "had a farm boy's dream to become the governor of the intellectuals and of the cultivated." Connally effectively used his political skills to increase taxes substantially in order to finance higher teachers' salaries, better libraries, research, and new doctoral programs. He considered this the crowning achievement of his administration. He promoted programs to reshape and reform state government, to develop the state's tourism industry (including his endorsement of liquor by the drink and pari-mutuel betting), to establish the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Historical Commission, and to establish the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, which was initiated as part of HemisFair '68, a state-supported World's Fair at San Antonio.

Connally switched parties from Democrat to Republican in 1973, three months after LBJ's death. He said that party was his "true philosophical home" because it "it best expressed

the broad view of most Americans, whatever their party affiliation.” He felt certain that “Democrats were not going to nominate a Texas conservative in my time.”<sup>17</sup>

In the wake of the bribery-related resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew in October 1973, Nixon passed word that he would name Connally to fill the vacancy.<sup>18</sup> This would have put Connally in a strong position to run for president in 1976. Nixon and Connally had privately mused about starting a new Whig-type party in the tradition of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. But Democrats and Republicans alike in the Senate erupted in a “firestorm of protest.” Warnings went up that if Nixon pursued the appointment, some powerful Senate Democrats “would be determined to destroy Connally.” This was during the height of the Watergate scandal, which ultimately forced Nixon to resign.

In 1974, Connally was indicted by a Federal grand jury on charges of perjury and conspiracy to obstruct justice. Prosecutors said he had taken \$10,000 from the American Milk Producers Inc. after persuading President Nixon to back a controversial increase in price supports for milk in 1971. Connally was exonerated by a Federal jury in Washington in 1975. He continued to be active in politics even after this incident. In the late 1970s, he unsuccessfully opposed Ronald Reagan’s drive to control the Republican Party, and in 1980 he made a costly but losing campaign for the Republican Presidential nomination.

In February 1982, Connally, now a man of some wealth, took mandatory retirement from Vinson and Elkins. In 1981, he went into the business of real estate development with his political protégé, former Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes. After that, he abandoned whatever aspirations he had for public office and concentrated on making money, which led to a partnership with Barnes. In the partnership Connally was the “intimidating Olympian eminence,” and Barnes was the “sometimes overpowering salesman and legman.” Both had superb business and political contacts in the state and nation “and saw no reason why the values of their political life could not work equally well in their business life.” The partners “conducted business,” however, “as if they were campaigning for higher office.” They signed personal notes on loans bearing short-term interest at 18 percent and by June 1983 had sixteen major projects under way totaling \$231 million. It was a boom time in the Texas petroleum industry, with world oil prices ranging up to thirty-seven dollars a barrel. When the oil price collapsed, the state’s economy collapsed. Connally and Barnes were out on a limb that broke and took them with it, along with many other wealthy Texans and most of the state’s major financial institutions. The fiasco led

Connally to acknowledge that “we were moving too far too fast and paying dearly for it.” But in 1988, Connally declared bankruptcy, placing the blame for his \$93 million personal debt mostly on bad real estate, oil and gas investments he made in Texas as the state’s economy began to worsen. He was forced to sell most of his 2,674-acre ranch near Floresville, along with his horses, Chippendale and Louis XIV furniture, fine china, rifle collection and ceremonial saddles inlaid with his initials in gold in a globally publicized auction. Left with his ranch house and a mere 200 acres, Mr. Connally said, “I know what it is to be poor.” To the surprise of nobody who knew him, he emerged from bankruptcy within a year.<sup>19</sup>

The positions Connally held in law and business had taken him to the high echelons of corporate America. He was a director of the Coastal Corporation, Kaiser Tech, Kaiser Aluminum, Methodist Hospital of Houston, and Maxxam, Incorporated. He had earlier served on the boards of the New York Central Railroad, U.S. Trust, Pan American Airways, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Greyhound Corporation, Ford Motor Company, Signal Companies, First City Bank Corporation, Superior Oil Company, Falkenbridge Nickel, and American General Insurance. He was a member of the State Bar of Texas, and the American, Houston, and District of Columbia Bar associations. Connally died on June 15, 1993, at the Methodist Hospital of Houston, where he was being treated for pulmonary fibrosis. He was 76. He was buried in the State Cemetery in Austin. He was survived by his wife, a daughter, Sharon C. Ammann, and two sons, John Bowden III and Mark.<sup>20</sup>

Robert S. Strauss, the former Democratic national chairman, who was one of Connally’s oldest friends, described him as “one of the ablest men I ever knew, a man who had an uncanny ability to forget the transitory stuff and retain all the vital information in his head, year after year...He was a pioneer,” Mr. Strauss said. “He was a different kind of governor than Texas had ever had. He spent a lot of money on mental health and education and other things that were verboten at the time. One time he even put a liberal rabbi on the Board of Regents at the University of Texas, with all those businessmen...But after the assassination, he moved right and kind of lost his way.”

In his 1989 book, *Nixon: The Triumph of a Politician*, Stephen E. Ambrose wrote that Nixon's “admiration for Connally grew to the point of adulation after Mr. Connally advised him to go ahead with the bombing of Hanoi and the mining of Haiphong.” By 1972, Nixon says in his

memoirs, he believed that Connally “was the only man in either party who clearly had the potential to be a great President.”

### **Architectural Description and Renovation History**<sup>21</sup>

The John B. Connally House was designed in the Contemporary style, a variation of the modern styles which became popular in the post-war years. The Contemporary style completely eschews traditional form and detail, and was particularly favored in architect-designed houses for the 1950-1970 period. These homes have taken on the category of “mid-century modern” as a recognized descriptive term. These homes generally have wide eave overhangs and either flat roof or low-pitched roofs with broad, low, front-facing gables. Exposed supporting beams and other structural members are common. Contrasting wall materials and textures, and unusual window shapes and placement are also typical features.

The Contemporary style occurs in two distinctive subtypes based on roof shapes: flat or gabled. The flat-roofed subtype is a derivation of the earlier International Style and houses of this subtype are sometimes referred to as American International. The most prominent Contemporary features on the John B. Connally Jr. House include:

- Asymmetrical façade
- Stark white stucco exterior wall (post-1974)
- Smooth, unornamented exterior wall surface
- Multiple roof sections
- Portions of the front façade extend forward and vary in height
- Large expanse of windowless walls

The John B. Connally Jr. House is sited on a triangular shaped lot, and faces west on River Oaks Boulevard. The house is situated on a corner but is surrounded on the south by a tall stucco wall, obscuring the house from Locke Lane. This tall wall appears to have been built about 1982.<sup>22</sup>

The house has a flat roof and is clad in white stucco, which is believed to be a later alteration. There is minimal applied decoration on the house. A cornice runs around the first and second stories of the façade.

The main façade is three bays wide. The first bay projects forward the farthest and features a centered wood paneled entry door on the first story surrounded by a plain band of



stucco which projects slightly from the facade. Above the door are two sets of paired 6-light fixed pane windows surrounded by bands of stucco which project slightly from the facade.

The second and central bay is set back from the north bay and features a fixed light metal bay window on the first story. There are no windows above on the second story.

To the south of this projects a front entry bay. This bay contains an elaborate main entry door composed of glass and metal which is a recent alteration. On the north wall of this bay is another fixed light metal bay window on the first story. A flat roof projects three feet from the entryway creating a covered entry. A one-story stucco wall runs at a curve around the front façade of the house to the south façade.

The River Oaks Property Owners files for the property include a letter of recommendation of the plans and design by Karl Kamrath, of MacKie and Kamrath Architects. The letter indicates that the exterior walls of the house were to be clad in brick with wood shingles or redwood siding, as seen in the May 1974 photo. It is unknown when the façade of the house was changed to stucco.

The house has had some other alterations over the years, including a two-story addition on the north side where a garage used to stand, but it is unknown when they occurred or under whose ownership. The River Oaks Property Owners files contain a copy of a letter to John B. Connally dated August 12, 1977, stating “Re: Additions L. 32, Blk. 23, Sec. 4, River Oaks Addition. ... Examination of plans submitted for the captioned construction reveals no violation of applicable restrictions, and the same are hereby approved.” The plans for these additions have been lost.

When the current owners purchased the house in 2010, it had been vacant since the previous owner died in 2007, and had suffered roof damage in Hurricane Ike in 2008. The current owners did a substantial amount of repair work to the house, including replacing the roof, all exterior doors and some rotted windows.

### **III. SIGNIFICANCE**

John B. Connally, Jr. was a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law and was elected University of Texas Student Assembly President in 1938. He served as General Counsel and Co-Executor of the estate of oilman Sid Richardson during the 1950s. It was in the capacity

of attorney that he moved to 2411 River Oaks Boulevard to join the law firm, Vinson & Elkins, in which he was named as a partner when he became a private citizen.

He was a close friend of President Lyndon B. Johnson from the summer of 1939, when he was hired to be Johnson's congressional secretary. Connally managed the political campaigns of President Lyndon Johnson during his election to the US Senate in 1948 and his campaigns as U.S. Vice President and U.S. President.

John B. Connally, Jr., moved to 2411 River Oaks Blvd. in Houston, Texas, in January 1969, after serving three terms as Governor of the state of Texas. As Governor, Connally was a passenger in the car and seriously injured when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas. Prior to being Governor, Connally had served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and as Secretary of the Navy during the administration of President John F. Kennedy.

Connally's influence and great service to Texas and our nation as a private citizen, while living in this residence included serving as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury during the administration of President Richard Nixon. During the 1976 and 1980 primary seasons before the general U.S. election in November of those years, Connally conducted very aggressive campaigns for the Presidency of the United States and was very nearly selected as the Republican nominee for United States President.

John and Nellie Connally sold 2411 River Oaks Boulevard in 1984, and moved into the Huntingdon high-rise in 1989.

Besides its historical association, 2411 River Oaks Blvd. is architecturally significant as it is representative of the Contemporary style popular after World War II for architect designed houses. The first resident, and presumed designer, was Ernest L. Shult, an important Houston architect who is better known as an associate of Alfred C. Finn. The home includes several features characteristic of the Contemporary style, among them being an asymmetrical façade, multiple roof sections, and a large expanse of windowless walls.

Such a home as 2411 River Oaks was well suited to be the private residence of Former Governor and Mrs. John B. Connally, a man well suited to be President of the United States.

I respectfully submit this application to honor Governor Connally's service to Texas and our nation.

#### IV. DOCUMENTATION

<sup>1</sup> City of Houston Landmark Designation Report for Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally Jr. House, 2411 River Oaks Boulevard, HPO File No: 11L248, 10 pages, prepared by City of Houston Planning and Development Department and presented to Houston Archaeological & Historical Commission hearing on July 14, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> *Houston Chronicle*, 1/21/1969.

<sup>3</sup> John Connally with Mickey Herskowitz, *In History's Shadow: An American Odyssey*, (New York: Hyperion, 1993), p. 149.

<sup>4</sup> *Houston Post*, May 17, 1972.

<sup>5</sup> *Houston Chronicle*, May 2, 1973.

<sup>6</sup> *New York Times*, July 7, 1975, p. 17. "Connally Returns to Political Trail Ready to Follow Many Paths," by Christopher Lydon. *New York Times* (1923-Current file), ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2007).

<sup>7</sup> *New York Times*, April 18, 1975, p. 1. "Connally Acquitted of Bribery Charge; Hints He May Resume Political Career: Jury Is Out 5 Hours," by James M. Naughton. *New York Times* (1923-Current file), ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2007).

<sup>8</sup> *Houston Chronicle*, October 13, 1975.

<sup>9</sup> *Houston Chronicle*, March 10, 1980.

<sup>10</sup> *Houston Post*, December 17, 1990.

<sup>11</sup> River Oaks Property Owners, Inc., 3923 San Felipe Road, Houston, TX 77027, W. M. Ferguson, Manager, July 9, 1959.

<sup>12</sup> Photo from Harris County Appraiser's Office, marked "2411 River Oaks, ac# 60-148-23-32, dated 5-15-1974, stamped L305371FG", now in Harris County Archives.

<sup>13</sup> *In History's Shadow*, p. 51.

<sup>14</sup> James Reston, Jr., *The Lone Star: The Life of John Connally* (New York: Harper and Row, 1989)

<sup>15</sup> *The Lone Star*, p. 18.

<sup>16</sup> Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, John Connally, Wikipedia.org, accessed 8/21/2010.

<sup>17</sup> *The Lone Star*, p. 346.

<sup>18</sup> *Houston Post*, August 21, 1973.

<sup>19</sup> *Houston Chronicle*, December 17, 1990.

<sup>20</sup> *Houston Post*, June 18, 1993.

<sup>21</sup> Architectural description from City of Houston Landmark Designation Report and its supporting documents.

<sup>22</sup> Letter from John Connally to River Oaks Property Owners Inc., dated February 9, 1982, in support of a subsequent owner's request for a wall height variance.

CON. SLAB  
 BR. VEN. Y  
 SHAKES  
 T. + G. ROOF  
 SHEETROCK  
 + WOOD PANEL  
 TERRAZ. +  
 OAK FLOOR  
 3 BATHS  
 A/C. + E/H.

DWELLING

STORAGE

O. PORCHES

A.  
 1665'  
 180'  
 336'  
 46'  
 378'  
 273'  
 24'  
2902'  
 333  
3235

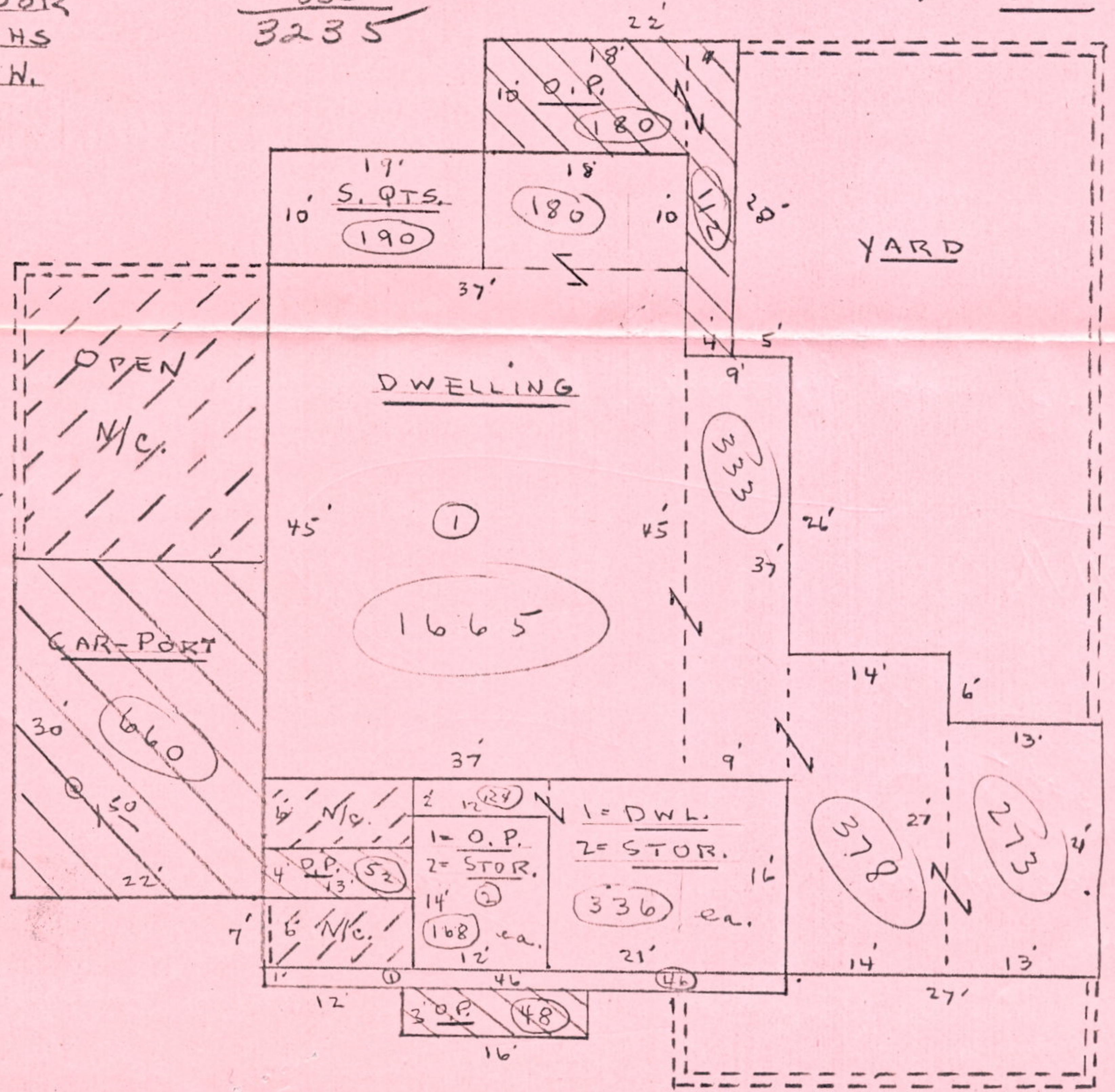
B.  
 336'  
 24'  
 168'  
528'

D.  
 168'  
 52'  
 48'  
 180'  
112'  
 560'

C.  
190'  
S. QTS.

CAR-PORT

E. 660'



Class # X 560  
 Base 565  
 X-Bath 30  
 C Heat 25  
 Air Cond. 25  
6.45  
6.45

JUN 15 19...  
 ...attached permit for reap

# HARRIS COUNTY BUILDING ASSESSMENT

(RESIDENTIAL)

CITY ACCOUNT No.			
VOL.	PG.	SUB.	ITEM

DATE 5/16 1974

COUNTY ACCOUNT No.				
SEQUENCE NO.	VOL.	PG.	SUB.	ITEM
	60	148	23	52

OWNER: Cannally John B.

STREET ADDRESS: 2411 River Oaks Blvd

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEY OR ADDITION: River Oaks #4 ABST: \_\_\_\_\_

LOT OR TRACT: 32 lots E.H.A. tract BLOCK: 23

NO. OF ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMIT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

PERMIT VALUE \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR BUILT \_\_\_\_\_

INSPECTOR: [Signature]

**POSTED** ✓

BLOCK BOOK ✓

INVENTORY ✓

3820

Revalued

1974 NEW TOTAL VALUE 15,790

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NEW OWNER \_\_\_\_\_

**LAND IMPROVEMENTS**

**STREETS:**

CONCRETE  ASPHALT \_\_\_\_\_ IRON ORE \_\_\_\_\_ SHELL \_\_\_\_\_

DIRT \_\_\_\_\_ CURBS AND GUTTERS \_\_\_\_\_ OPEN DITCHES \_\_\_\_\_

**UTILITIES:**

WATER \_\_\_\_\_ LIGHTS \_\_\_\_\_ GAS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

STORM AND SANITARY SEWER \_\_\_\_\_ SEPTIC TANK \_\_\_\_\_

FOUNDATION:	No.			ROOF:	No.			WALLS:	No.			PLUMBING:	No.			GARAGE:	No.		
	1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3		1	2	3
CONCRETE SLAB	✓			COMPOSITION				SHEETROCK	✓			TILE BATH W/TUB	3			FRAME			
BLOCKS				WOOD				PANEL	✓			TILE BATH W/SHR				BRICK VENEER			
BEAMS				TAR AND GRAVEL	✓			PAPER				1/2 BATHS				CONC. BLOCK			
PIERS				CORRUGATED IRON				SHIPLAP				WATER ONLY				CONC. FLOOR			
				ASBESTOS				PLASTER								SHELL FLOOR			
				SLATE				PLYWOOD								DIRT FLOOR			
<b>EXTERIOR:</b>				TILE				CELOTEX				EX. KITCHENS				WALLS CEILED			
FRAME				ALUMINUM				PAINTED	✓							CEILING CEILED			
BATS & BOARDS				INSULATED	✓			INSULATED	✓							INT. PAINTED			
ALUMINUM				<b>FLOORS:</b>								BLT. IN. FEAT.:				ELECTRICITY			
ASBESTOS				CEMENT	✓			<b>CLIMATIZERS:</b>				RANGE				PLUMBING			
COMPOSITION	✓			HARDWOOD	✓			GAS STOVES				OVEN				OVERHEAD DOORS			
CEDAR SHAKES	✓			PINE				ATTIC FAN				HOOD				BOXED CORNICE			
CORRUGATED IRON	✓			DIRT				WALL FURNACE				DISPOSAL							
BRICK VENEER	✓							CENTRAL HEAT	✓			DISHWASHER							
BRICK MASONRY				<b>FLOOR COVERING:</b>				2 TON A. C.											
CONCRETE BLOCK				PLYWOOD				3 TON A. C.	✓			INTERCOM				<b>CONDITION:</b>			
HOLLOW TILE				CARPET	✓			5 TON A. C.	✓							NEW			
CUT STONE				CERAMIC TILE				1 ST. FIREPLACE				DRIVE & WALKS:				GOOD			
STUCCO				VINYL OR OTHER TILE	✓			1 1/2 ST. FIREPLACE				CONCRETE				FAIR			
				FLAGSTONE	✓			2 ST. FIREPLACE	✓			SHELL				POOR			
				TERRAZIO								DIRT				OBSOLETE			

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### Authorization for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation

Date of RTHL designation: January 27, 2012

Property Name: Governor John B. Connally, Jr. Home  
 Physical Address: 2411 River Oaks Blvd.  
 City: Houston County: Harris Zip: 77019  
 Property reference number (Appraisal District/Tax Office property number, etc.): 0601480230032  
 Legal Description (Lot and block, metes and bounds, etc.): TR 32, BIK 23, River Oaks Section 4  
 Additional description ("property encompassing the bridge and abutments," "the 1936 portion of the County Consolidated High School building," "the historic homestead, including the main house, barn, windmill, smokehouse and water well," etc.):

The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation is awarded to historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. Authorized by the Texas Legislature under Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, RTHL is the highest honor the state can bestow on historic structures in Texas. Designated properties are afforded a measure of legal protection and become part of the recorded history of the state's built environment.

#### Benefits of the RTHL designation:

- Recognition that a property is of local, regional or state significance.
- Protection for up to 90 days from exterior alterations, including demolition or relocation.
- Ad valorem tax exemptions, where granted by local taxing authorities.
- Inclusion in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas.
- Technical preservation assistance through the THC.

#### Responsibility of the property owner under the RTHL provision, as noted in Texas Government Code, Chapter 442.006 (f):

*A person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving the notice, the commission may waive the waiting period or, if the commission determines that a longer period will enhance the chance for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not longer than 30 days. On the expiration of the time limits imposed by this section, the person may proceed, but must proceed not later than the 180th day after the date on which notice was given or the notice is considered to have expired.*

#### Additionally:

- The designation requires the public display of the RTHL marker. The marker is the property of the State of Texas and may not be removed or relocated without the prior permission of the Texas Historical Commission.
- RTHL status is a permanent designation which is retained with the property even upon transfer of ownership. Only the Texas Historical Commission may remove the designation.
- Structures designated as RTHLs do not have to be open to the public, but the marker must be accessible to the public.
- RTHL designation does not imply eligibility for federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.

I, the property owner or legal administrator of the property noted herein, signify below that I have read the information regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks and that I voluntarily seek the designation for the property. I further promise to comply with the provision noted in the Texas Government Code.

Name (print): Kaye Horn  
 Mailing address: 2411 River Oaks Blvd  
 City, state, zip: Houston, TX 77019  
 Signature: Kaye M. Horn  
 Phone: 713-851-7364 Date: 2/1/2012



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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Official Texas Historical Markers  
Sponsorship Fee Receipt

RE: Governor John B. Connally, Jr. Home County: Harris Marker Number:  
12HR03 Marker Size: 27" x 42" Total Due: \$1500

The commissioners of the Texas Historical Commission have reviewed and approved your application. Payment for sponsorship of the marker is now due and must be postmarked by March 16, 2012.

Please Note:

- Inscriptions will be written in the order that payments are received.
- In some cases, THC commissioners approved marker applications for a smaller size than requested due to their assessment of the materials provided. Their decision is final and is reflected in the price noted above. If you feel, however, that a larger size is warranted, you may cancel your application at this point and reapply in the next round with additional information.
- If payment is not received by the due date stated above, the application will be cancelled but can be resubmitted for the 2013 round (beginning late 2012).

Billing Information (must be completed even if paying by check):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed (make check payable to the Texas Historical Commission)

OR

Bill to credit card:  Visa  Master Card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the form, print it, sign it if billing to a credit card and return via postal mail only to the address noted below. Do not return this form via email. Please only send one check - multiple checks will NOT be accepted.

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276  
Phone 512/463-5853  
www.thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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# CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

## LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

**LANDMARK NAME:** Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally Jr. House

**AGENDA ITEM:** III.b

**OWNERS:** Stephen and Kaye Horn

**HPO FILE NO:** 11L248

**APPLICANTS:** Same

**DATE ACCEPTED:** Dec-22-2010

**LOCATION:** 2411 River Oak Boulevard - River Oaks

**HAHC HEARING:** Jul-14-2011

**SITE INFORMATION:** Tract 32, Block 23, River Oaks Section Four, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site includes a two-story, stucco clad single family residence.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Landmark Designation

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The modern Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally Jr. House was built in 1959 by Houston architect Ernest L. Shult as his own residence. Shult was born in Wharton County in 1901 and graduated from Rice University in 1923. By 1930, he was practicing as an architect in Houston, and during the 1940s and 50s, had his own architectural office on Fannin Street. Shult was also a longtime associate of Alfred C. Finn, a major Houston architect.

Texas Governor John Connally Jr. and Nellie Connally moved into 2411 River Oaks Boulevard in January 1969 as their first private home after living in the Governor's Mansion in Austin. Connally rose from humble farm boy roots to become a major figure in business, politics and government for half a century, during which time he served four U. S. Presidents. He was a lifelong friend and public servant with President Lyndon B. Johnson. He won the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit after service in the U.S. Navy during WWII, where he rose in rank from ensign to lieutenant commander. From 1952 until 1960, he was attorney for Texas millionaire Sid W. Richardson and his nephew, Perry R. Bass in Fort Worth, and acted as executor for the Sid Richardson estate after the oil man's death. Connally was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and resigned that post for a successful run for governor of Texas in 1963. Connally was a passenger in the car when President Kennedy was assassinated, and was himself seriously wounded during the attack. Connally went on to serve three consecutive terms as Texas governor before leaving office in 1969.

Connally joined the law firm of Vinson, Elkins, Searls and Connally as senior partner in February 1969. While living in the home at 2411 River Oaks Boulevard, John Connally was appointed and served as Secretary of the Treasury in the Nixon Administration from February 1971 until June 1972 and was a major contender for the Republican Presidential nomination in the 1980 election. He and Mrs. Connally moved to the Huntingdon High Rise in about 1981. Connally died in 1993.

The Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally Jr. House meets Criteria 1 and 3 for Landmark designation.



## HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

### *Ernest L Shult*

Ernest L. Shult was born in El Campo in Wharton County in 1901 to Oscar and Anna Shult, the children of Swedish immigrants. Ernest Shult graduated from El Campo High School in 1919 and from Rice University in 1923. In 1925, he married his wife, Cathrine. In the 1930 Census, Ernest and Cathrine were living near Rice University with their two-year old daughter Anna. Ernest was listed as an architect, and had an architecture office at 5009 Fannin for awhile in the 1940s and early 50s. According to the Handbook of Texas, Shult was also a longtime associate of prominent Houston architect, Alfred C. Finn. Shult presumably designed the modern house at 2411 River Oaks Boulevard for himself, as he and Cathrine were the original residents and lived there through the 1960s. Found in the River Oaks Property Owners files for the property is a letter of recommendation of the plans and design by Karl Kamrath, of MacKie and Kamrath Architects.

The house at 2411 River Oaks Boulevard was sold to John and Nellie Connally in 1969, and the Shults were later listed as living at 2004 Persa Street. Cathrine died on April 17, 1981 and Ernest died on March 16, 1992. The memorial service for Ernest L. Shult took place at St John the Divine Episcopal Church at 2450 River Oaks Boulevard, located just one block away from his former home.

### *John B. Connally, Jr.*

John Bowden Connally, Jr., thirty-eighth governor of the state of Texas, was born on a farm near Floresville, Texas, on February 27, 1917, one of eight children of John Bowden and Lela (Wright) Connally, Sr. Connally, Sr., had been a cowboy, a barber and a grocer before turning to dairy farming and finally tenant farming. The family's circumstances were always quite modest; there often were debts and struggles to pay them.

Connally, Jr., attended Harlandale High School in San Antonio, graduated from Floresville High School, and entered the University of Texas in 1933. In college he was interested in campus politics, oratory and acting, and was elected president of the UT Students Association for 1938–39. He received his law degree from the UT law school in 1941. Connally met Idanell (Nellie) Brill of Austin at UT and they were married on December 21, 1940. They had four children. Connally developed a desire to amass land and money, and never return to the poverty he knew as a boy.

Connally began his career in government and politics in 1939 as secretary (legislative assistant) to Representative Lyndon B. Johnson, Connally's "mentor, friend and benefactor." Connally met Lyndon Johnson when Johnson was a young Congressman from Texas in the late 1930s, and Connally was a campaign worker for him. It was the beginning of a close personal relationship that lasted until Johnson's death in 1973.

Connally was commissioned in the United States Naval Reserve in 1941. As a fighter director aboard aircraft carriers, he went through nine major air-sea battles in the Pacific Theater for which he won the Bronze Star for valor. Aboard the USS *Essex* he endured fifty-two consecutive hours of Japanese kamikaze attacks in April 1945. He attained the rank of lieutenant commander and came home a hero. After returning to civilian life, Connally headed an investors' group of war veterans that owned and operated Austin radio station KVET (1946–49). He also joined an influential Austin law firm and during this period served as campaign manager in Lyndon Johnson's 1946 reelection

# CITY OF HOUSTON

to Congress and successful 1948 Senate race. He then served as LBJ's aide until 1951. Connally also managed Johnson's unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960, and the election to the presidency in 1964. Connally earned a reputation both as "Lyndon's boy" and as a "political mastermind" and expert strategist. His political credo was "Fight hard and rough, but when the battle is over, forget and dismiss."

In the early 1950s, Connally had become a lawyer for millionaire Texas oilman Sid Richardson, who ultimately put him in charge of running his business ventures in Texas and Jamaica. The association proved most lucrative to Connally, who eventually became one of the executors of Richardson's estate.

Connally served as Secretary of the Navy in 1961 in the Cabinet of Democrat President John F. Kennedy. He won his first political race as a candidate for governor the next year. Connally was also well-schooled in politics and government and had profited from his experience as Sid Richardson's legal counsel. Connally entered the race against a large field of candidates, including Governor Price Daniel, Sr., who was seeking a fourth term. A poll showed that Connally had only 4 percent of the votes at the outset. But in addition to wealthy backers such as the oilman Richardson, he had a strong grass-roots network of politically astute supporters. Connally won a 1962 runoff by 26,000 votes. He was reelected by a 3-to-1 vote margin in 1964 and won a third term in 1966 with 72 percent of the vote.

On Nov. 22, 1963, while serving his first term as Governor, Connally was riding in Kennedy's open-topped limousine through the streets of Dallas and was wounded when Kennedy was shot and killed. A bullet passed through his body, leaving Connally with scars on his back, chest, wrist and thigh. Later, he would recall drifting in and out of consciousness for four days. He said the first sustained consciousness he had was of watching television coverage of Kennedy's body being carried to Arlington National Cemetery.

Connally also said he thought that the shot that killed the President had been meant for him. He said this was because the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, had written a letter asking Connally, as Navy Secretary, to upgrade his undesirable discharge from the Marines, and that no action had been taken on the request.

After leaving the Governor's office in 1969, Connally joined Vinson and Elkins, a large law firm in Houston named for William Ashton Vinson and James A. Elkins, both early principals in the firm. The same year, he was named a member of President Richard M. Nixon's foreign-intelligence advisory board and assumed a favored position among Nixon's advisors; it was said that "If Connally is not for a matter, the President won't do it". In 1971, he became Nixon's Secretary of the Treasury and earned a reputation as "a tough American statesman." He sought to address the nation's growing trade deficit and inflation by such mechanisms as currency devaluation and a price freeze. As Secretary until 1972, Mr. Connally was largely responsible for the federal guarantee of some \$250 million in loans to the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, then the nation's largest major military contractor but near collapse because of major cutbacks in military spending and other setbacks in its civilian projects. In 1972, he spearheaded a *Democrats for Nixon* organization that helped the Republican president carry Texas.

Part of Connally's success as a politician derived from his impressive appearance. In 1970, after he was named Treasury Secretary, he was described in an article in The New York Times: "Mr.

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Connally is tall, gray-haired, handsome, personable and articulate, and his manners and bearing recall those of President Johnson. Yet he is suave and has a touch of the Eastern establishment."

Connally had grown up on his family's South Texas cotton farm in the hard-scrabble status of "a barefoot boy of mule-plowed furrows." His accomplishments as governor "epitomized the big man of Texas" and "personified the Texas establishment as the Texas establishment wanted to see itself." He considered himself "a conservative who believed in active government." He had a vision of moving Texas into a dynamic era and entered the governorship saying that his administration should emphasize one of three crucial issues of the day: education, race relations, or poverty. He chose to be "an education governor" both because he believed that the most enduring way to address social problems was through education and because he "had a farm boy's dream to become the governor of the intellectuals and of the cultivated." Connally effectively used his political skills to increase taxes substantially in order to finance higher teachers' salaries, better libraries, research, and new doctoral programs. He considered this the crowning achievement of his administration. He promoted programs to reshape and reform state government, to develop the state's tourism industry (including his endorsement of liquor by the drink and pari-mutuel betting), to establish the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Historical Commission, and to establish the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, which was initiated as part of HemisFair '68, a state-supported World's Fair at San Antonio.

Connally switched parties from Democrat to Republican in 1973, three months after LBJ's death. He said that party was his "true philosophical home" because it "it best expressed the broad view of most Americans, whatever their party affiliation."

In the wake of the bribery-related resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew in October 1973, Nixon passed word that he would name Connally to fill the vacancy. This would have put Connally in a strong position to run for president in 1976. Nixon and Connally had privately mused about starting a new Whig-type party in the tradition of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. But Democrats and Republicans alike in the Senate erupted in a "firestorm of protest." Warnings went up that if Nixon pursued the appointment, some powerful Senate Democrats "would be determined to destroy Connally." This was during the height of the Watergate scandal, which ultimately forced Nixon to resign.

In 1974, Connally was indicted by a Federal grand jury on charges of perjury and conspiracy to obstruct justice. Prosecutors said he had taken \$10,000 from the American Milk Producers Inc. after persuading President Nixon to back a controversial increase in price supports for milk in 1971. Connally was exonerated by a Federal jury in Washington in 1975. He continued to be active in politics even after this incident. In the late 1970s, he unsuccessfully opposed Ronald Reagan's drive to control the Republican Party, and in 1980 he made a costly but losing campaign for the Republican Presidential nomination.

In February 1982, Connally, now a man of some wealth, took mandatory retirement from Vinson and Elkins. In 1981 he went into the business of real estate development with his political protégé, former Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes. After that, he abandoned whatever aspirations he had for public office and concentrated on making money, which led to a partnership with Barnes. In the partnership Connally was the "intimidating Olympian eminence," and Barnes was the "sometimes overpowering salesman and legman." Both had superb business and political contacts in the state and nation "and saw no reason why the values of their political life could not work equally well in

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their business life." The partners "conducted business," however, "as if they were campaigning for higher office." They signed personal notes on loans bearing short-term interest at 18 percent and by June 1983 had sixteen major projects under way totaling \$231 million. It was a boom time in the Texas petroleum industry, with world oil prices ranging up to thirty-seven dollars a barrel. When the oil price collapsed, the state's economy collapsed. Connally and Barnes were out on a limb that broke and took them with it, along with many other wealthy Texans and most of the state's major financial institutions. The fiasco led Connally to acknowledge that "we were moving too far too fast and paying dearly for it." But in 1988, Connally declared bankruptcy, placing the blame for his \$93 million personal debt mostly on bad real estate, oil and gas investments he made in Texas as the state's economy began to worsen. He was forced to sell most of his 2,674-acre ranch near Floresville, along with his horses, Chippendale and Louis XIV furniture, fine china, rifle collection and ceremonial saddles inlaid with his initials in gold in a globally publicized auction. Left with his ranch house and a mere 200 acres, Mr. Connally said, "I know what it is to be poor." To the surprise of nobody who knew him, he emerged from bankruptcy within a year.

The positions Connally held in law and business had taken him to the high echelons of corporate America. He was a director of the Coastal Corporation, Kaiser Tech, Kaiser Aluminum, Methodist Hospital of Houston, and Maxxam, Incorporated. He had earlier served on the boards of the New York Central Railroad, U.S. Trust, Pan American Airways, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Greyhound Corporation, Ford Motor Company, Signal Companies, First City Bank Corporation, Superior Oil Company, Falkenbridge Nickel, and American General Insurance. He was a member of the State Bar of Texas, and the American, Houston, and District of Columbia Bar associations. Connally died on June 15, 1993, at the Methodist Hospital of Houston, where he was being treated for pulmonary fibrosis. He was 76. He was buried in the State Cemetery in Austin. He was survived by his wife, a daughter, Sharon C. Ammann, and two sons, John Bowden III and Mark.

Robert S. Strauss, the former Democratic national chairman, who was one of Connally's oldest friends, described him as "one of the ablest men I ever knew, a man who had an uncanny ability to forget the transitory stuff and retain all the vital information in his head, year after year...He was a pioneer," Mr. Strauss said. "He was a different kind of governor than Texas had ever had. He spent a lot of money on mental health and education and other things that were verboten at the time. One time he even put a liberal rabbi on the Board of Regents at the University of Texas, with all those businessmen...But after the assassination, he moved right and kind of lost his way."

In his 1989 book "Nixon: The Triumph of a Politician," Stephen E. Ambrose wrote that Nixon's "admiration for Connally grew to the point of adulation after Mr. Connally advised him to go ahead with the bombing of Hanoi and the mining of Haiphong." By 1972, Nixon says in his memoirs, he believed that Connally "was the only man in either party who clearly had the potential to be a great President."

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND RESTORATION HISTORY**

The Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally House was designed in the Contemporary style, a variation of the modern styles which became popular in the post-war years. The Contemporary style completely eschews traditional form and detail, and was particularly favored in architect-designed houses for the 1950-1970 period. These homes generally have wide eave overhangs and either flat roof or low-pitched roofs with broad, low, front-facing gables. Exposed supporting beams and other structural

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members are common. Contrasting wall materials and textures, and unusual window shapes and placement are also typical features.

The Contemporary style occurs in two distinctive subtypes based on roof shapes: flat or gabled. The flat-roofed subtype is a derivation of the earlier International Style and houses of this subtype are sometimes referred to as American International.

The most prominent Contemporary features on the Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally Jr. House include:

- Asymmetrical façade
- Stark white stucco exterior walls
- Smooth, unornamented exterior wall surface
- Multiple roof sections
- Portions of the front façade extend forward and vary in height
- Large expanse of windowless walls.

The Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally Jr. House is sited on a triangular shaped lot, and faces west on River Oaks Boulevard. The house is situated on a corner but is surrounded on the south by a tall stucco wall, obscuring the house from Locke Lane.

The house has a flat roof and is clad in white stucco, which is believed to be a later alteration. There is minimal applied decoration on the house. A cornice runs around the first and second stories of the façade.

The main façade is three bays wide. The first bay projects forward the farthest and features a centered wood paneled entry door on the first story surrounded by a plain band of stucco which projects slightly from the facade. Above the door are two sets of paired 6-light fixed pane windows surrounded by bands of stucco which project slightly from the facade.

The second and central bay is set back from the north bay and features a fixed light metal bay window on the first story. There are no windows above on the second story.

To the south of this projects a front entry bay. This bay contains an elaborate main entry door composed of glass and metal which is a recent alteration. On the north wall of this bay is another fixed light metal bay window on the first story. A flat roof projects three feet from the entryway creating a covered entry. A one-story stucco wall runs at a curve around the front façade of the house to the south façade.

Found in the River Oaks Property Owners files for the property is a letter of recommendation of the plans and design by Karl Kamrath, of MacKie and Kamrath Architects. The letter indicates that the exterior walls of the house were to be clad in brick with wood shingles or redwood siding. It is unknown when the façade of the house was changed to stucco. The house has had some other alterations, including a two-story addition on the north side where a garage used to stand, over the years but it is unknown when they occurred or under whose ownership. When the current owners purchased the house in 2010, it had been vacant since the previous owner died in 2007, and had suffered roof damage in Hurricane Ike in 2008. The current owners did a substantial amount of repair work to the house, including replacing all exterior doors and some rotted windows.

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Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

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<http://www.nytimes.com/1993/06/16/us/john-connally-of-texas-a-power-in-2-political-parties-dies-at-76.html?pagewanted=2> John Connally of Texas, a Power In 2 Political Parties, Dies at 76, by Richard Severo, published: June 16, 1993

*The information and sources provided by the applicant for this application have been reviewed, verified, edited and supplemented with additional research and sources by Courtney Spillane, Planning and Development Department, City of Houston.*

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## APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

### Sec. 33-224. Criteria for designation

(a) The HAHC, 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:

- | <b>S</b>                            | <b>NA</b>                           | <b>S - satisfies</b>   | <b>D - does not satisfy</b> | <b>NA - not applicable</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (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;                    |                             |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event;   |                             |                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | (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;                    |                             |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (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;  |                             |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (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;   |                             |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (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; |                             |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (7) Whether specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present;   |                             |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (8) Whether the building, structure, object or site has value as a significant element of community sentiment or public pride.   |                             |                            |

### AND

- |                          |                                     |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (9) If less than 50 years old, or proposed historic district containing a majority of buildings, structures, or objects that are less than 50 years old, whether the building, structure, object, site, or area is of extraordinary importance to the city, state or nation for reasons not based on age (Sec. 33-224(b)). |  |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommend to City Council the Landmark Designation of Ernest L. Shult-John B. Connally Jr. House at 2411 River Oak Boulevard.

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Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

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## EXHIBIT A

ERNEST L. SHULT-JOHN B. CONNALLY JR. HOUSE  
2411 RIVER OAK BOULEVARD



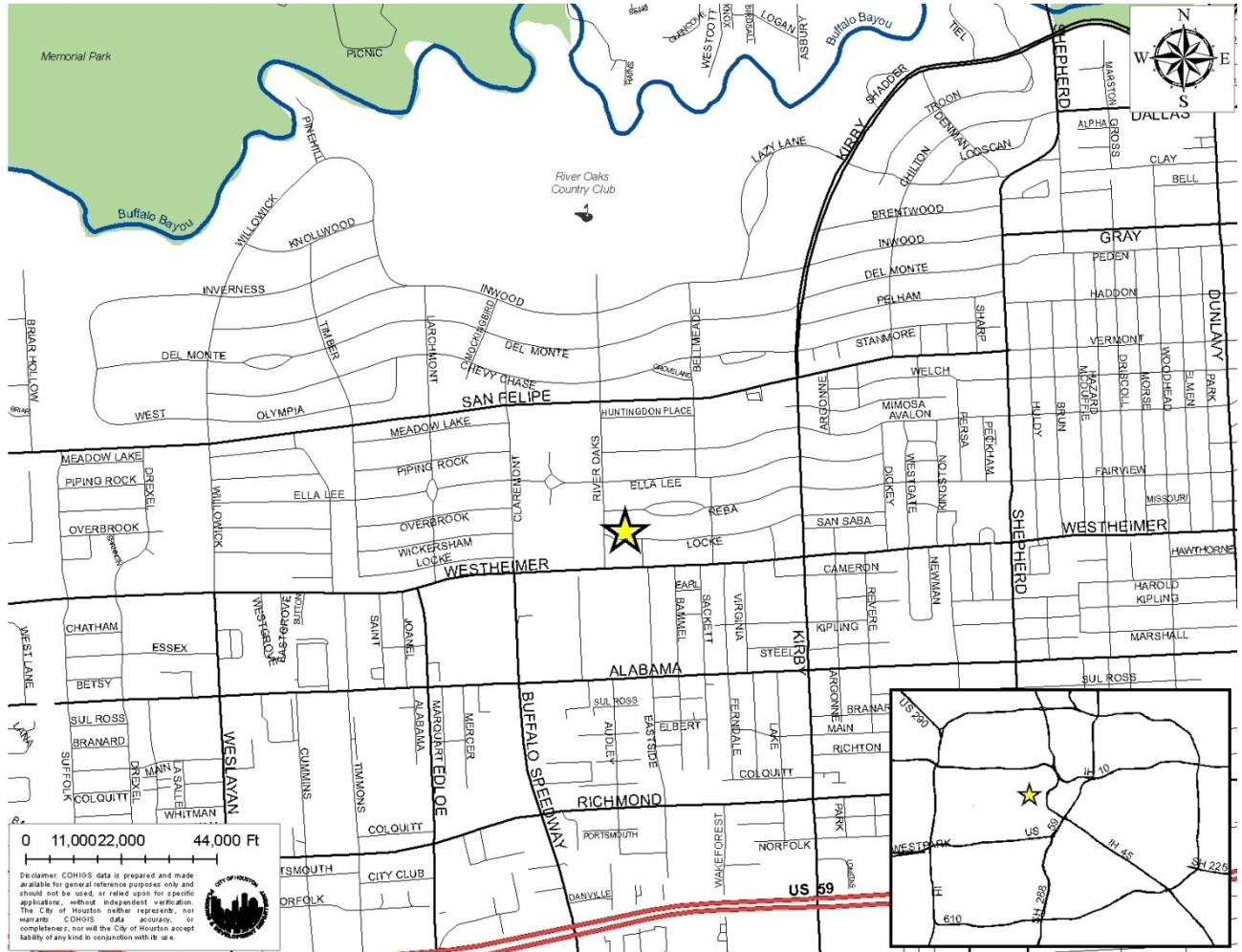


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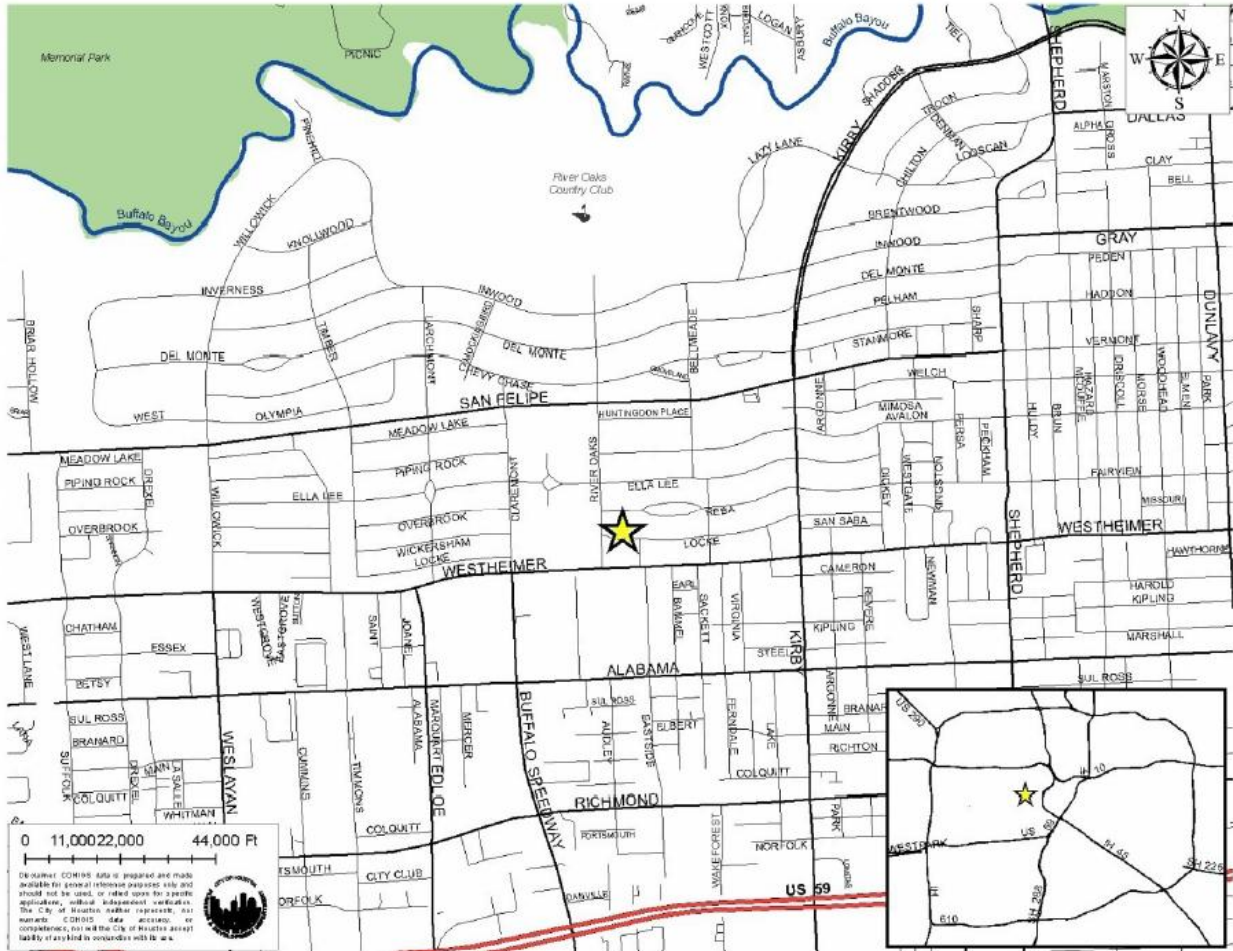
Planning and Development Department

**EXHIBIT B**  
**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
**JOHN B. CONNALLY HOUSE**  
**2411 RIVER OAK BOULEVARD**  
**NOT TO SCALE**



# GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE 2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019

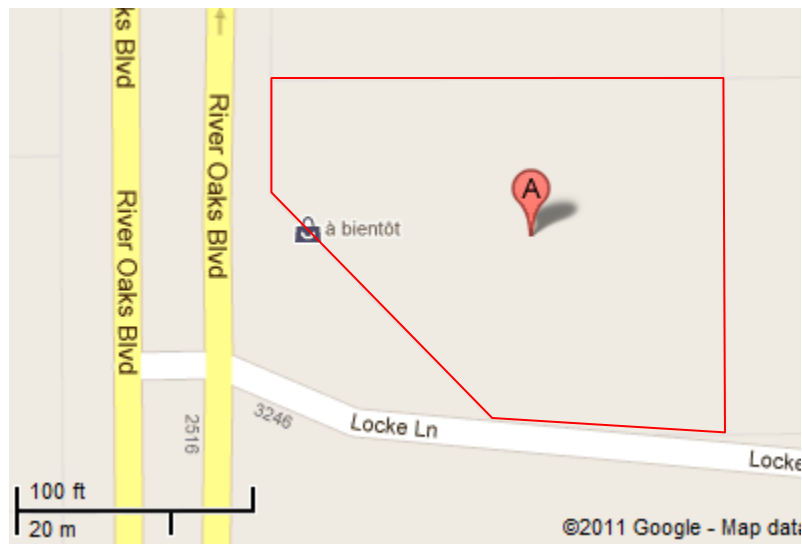
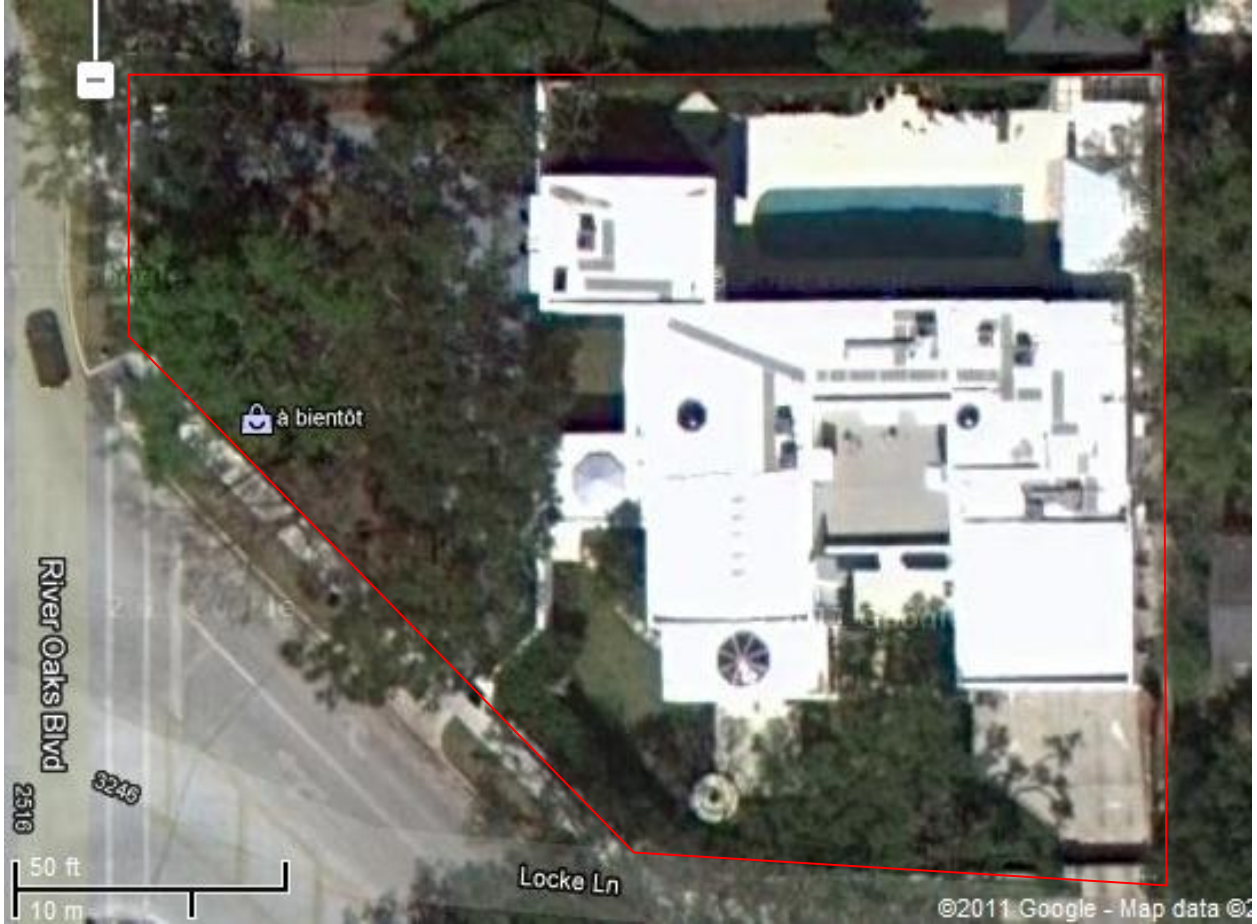
## AREA MAP



City of Houston Landmark Designation Report, File No: 11L248

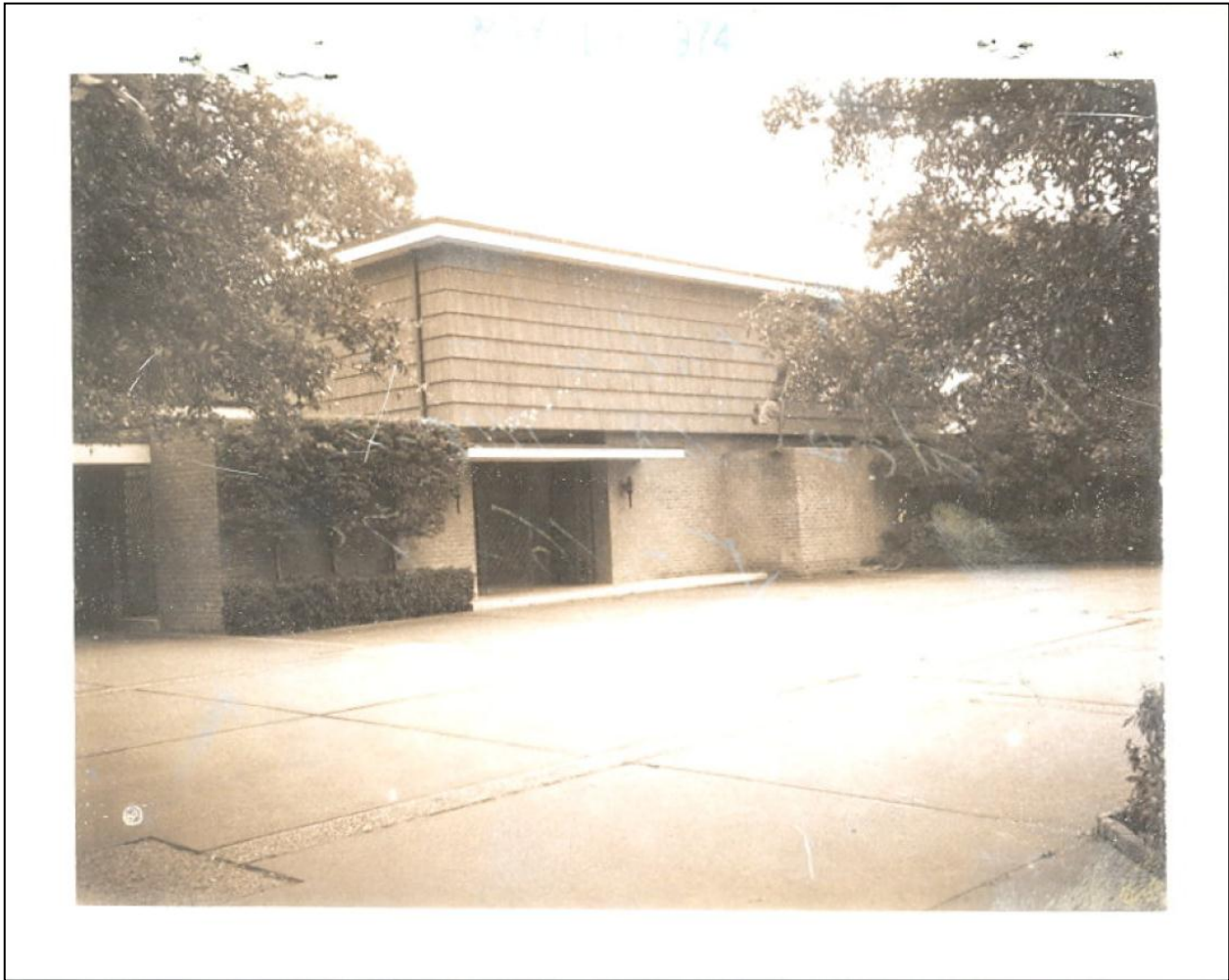
**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
**2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019**

**SITE PLAN**



**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019

**HISTORIC PHOTO (1974)**



2411 River Oaks  
2632' long 852.5', front  
852.5' long Blk 23  
River Oaks # 4  
dca# 60-148-23-32  
5-16-74

L 3 0 5 3 7 1 F G

GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE  
2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019

DOCUMENTATION WITH HISTORIC PHOTO (1974)

1974 VALUATION INVESTIGATION

OWNER John B. Connally DATE 5/16/74

PROP. ADDRESS 2411 River Oaks Blvd SUB River Oaks #1

LOT 37 less E 57.5' front, E 57.5' rear BLOCK 23

APPRX. AGE 74 CONDITION: GOOD  FAIR  POOR  OBS

ADDITIONAL REMARKS Condition of house does not warrant  
40% depreciation. Revalued to bring more  
nearly into line with market value.

PURCHASE PRICE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPRECIATION \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT ASSESSED VALUE 11470 OWNERS VALUE 12410 APPRAISERS VALUE 15,290

APPRAISER: [Signature]

Photo from Harris County Appraiser's Office, marked "2411 River Oaks, ac# 60-148-23-32, dated 5-15-1974, stamped L305371FG", now in Harris County Archives.

**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
**2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019**



**CURRENT PHOTO (2010)**



City of Houston Landmark Designation Report, File No: 11L248

**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
**2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019**

**CURRENT PHOTOS (2011) - All 2011 photos by owner**

	<p><b>Photo Key</b></p>
	<p><b>1- Front of house (west side, looking southeast)</b></p>

**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
**2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019**

**CURRENT PHOTOS (2011) - All 2011 photos by owner**



**2- South Yard  
(looking north)**



**3- South Yard  
(looking  
northeast)**



**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019

**CURRENT PHOTOS (2011) - All 2011 photos by owner**



**4- North Yard and Pool (looking southwest)**

**This area estimated by recent contractor to be about 35 years old (so ca. 1977)**



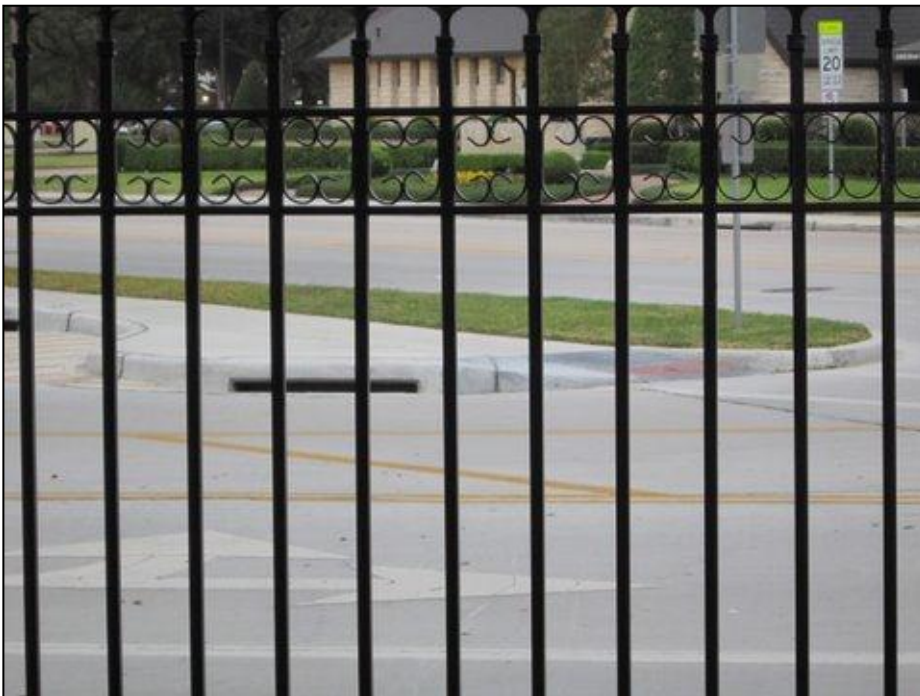
**5- North Yard and Pool (looking southeast)**

**GOVERNOR JOHN B. CONNALLY, JR. HOUSE**  
**2411 RIVER OAKS BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019**

**CURRENT PHOTOS (2011) - All 2011 photos by owner**



**6 - Back of house  
(east side,  
looking south)**



**7 - Matching Cs  
from fence in front,  
installed by the  
Connallys**  
  
(looking southwest  
across River Oaks  
Blvd. to the  
Church of St. John  
the Divine)