

Oak Lawn Fire Station



City of Dallas

Landmark Identification & Evaluation

Landmark name: Oak Lanw Fire Station

Date: March 9, 1978

Location: Cedar Springs at Regan St.

Nomination source: Landmark Committee

City of Dallas

Architectural history:

The Oak Lawn Fire Station, Cedar Springs Road at Reagan, was constructed in 1909. The station reflects the influence of the American Prairie Style as created and perfected by Frank Lloyd Wright in suburban Chicago at the turn of the century era. Influence of this style is evident in public and residential architecture throughout Dallas. Homes along South Blvd. and Swiss Avenue share architectural characteristics with the Oak Lawn Station—such as window treatment, material application, level of detail, etc. The station exhibits a unique quality during this period in fine public architecture of Dallas and is one of only few prototypical stations remaining.

The building form is very basic and unpretentious yet excels in its level of detail and applied ornament. A low pitched hip roof with deep overhanging eaves caps a square floor plan adding balance to the overall building form. The most embellished element of the structure is a Mission Styled gable with fine stone coping and sculpture. This element balances the public facades and creates a pleasing symmetry. In the buildings facade design large window and door openings are symmetrically situated in a balanced, horizontal and vertical expression. The use of multipaned windows, characteristic of the style, are grouped to visually sub-divide the large window openings. Brick relief in the form of horizontally and vertically arranged compositions are punctuated with fine ornamental stonework which further textures the public oriented facade.

Cultural history:

Dallas, at the turn of the century, experienced large scale suburban development. Along with these developments came the need for increased city services and protection. Oak Lawn/Cedar Springs was a highly attractive area and developed rapidly requiring Dallas first "suburban" fire station. The Oak Lawn Station solidly attests to the physical presence of the City of Dallas with its attendant services and advantages. This was important historically and continues to exert influence to the present.

The Oak Lawn Fire Station, since its 1909 inception, has been the focal point of the Oak Lawn Community as well as the Cedar Springs streetscape. The station's strong and massive design has represented stability and security throughout its sixty-eight year history. This strong and massive design combines with adjoining lowrise commercial frontage to project a pleasing architectural expression to the Cedar Springs streetscape. The station has easily become the accepted visual landmark of the area. As the Oak Lawn area continues to experience a new pattern of development and a new image begins to surface, the station's importance as a vital element in maintaining an identity with the past becomes more apparent.

cultural/ architectural significance

Fire Station Number 11, Cedar Springs at Reagan, in the Oak Lawn Community, was constructed in 1909. Parallels in both history and design can be drawn between this facility and the previously designated City of Dallas landmark, The Old Tige Fire Museum. As the "Old Tige" Fire Station valiantly served the City of Dallas and the Fair Park/East Dallas area, so the Cedar Springs Fire Station served the Oak Lawn Community as the "local" emergency facility. Both the "Old Tige" and the Cedar Springs Fire Station built one year later, exhibit a particular era in the exciting history of the Dallas Fire Department. Dallas, at the turn of the century, experienced large scale suburban development. Along with these developments came the need for increased city services and protection. Oak Lawn/Cedar Springs was a highly attractive area and developed rapidly requiring Dallas first "suburban" fire station. The Cedar Springs Station solidly attests to the physical presence of the City of Dallas with its attendant services and advantages. This was important historically and continues to exert influence to the present.

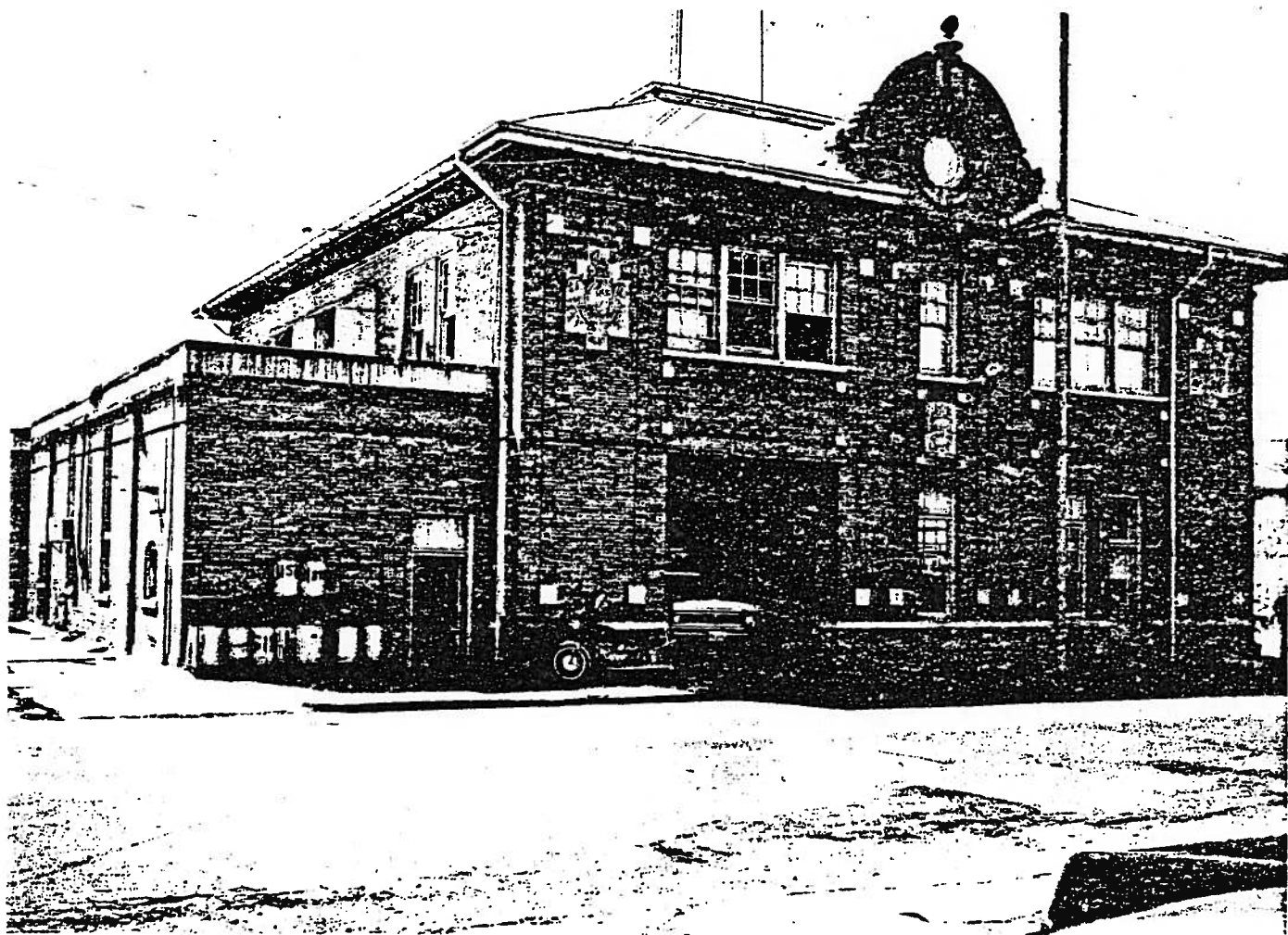
Though the floor plans and frontal massing of the Cedar Springs Station and the "Old Tige" are similar, the Cedar Springs station exhibits finer detailing and excels in overall building form. The station is very basic and unpretentious, reflecting influences from the American Prairie Style, yet displaying excellent ornamental stonework integrated into fine brickwork. The most embellished element of the structure is a Mission Style frontal gable, with fine stone coping, rising above and accenting the central bay. This element balances the facade and creates a pleasing symmetry. A low-pitched hip roof, a departure from Old Tige, caps the square plan and adds balance to the overall building form. Other characteristics shared by both stations are the window treatments, embellished cornices, and strong horizontal treatment in the facade. The station exhibits a unique quality experienced during this period in public architecture of Dallas. It is one of only two prototypical fire stations and appears to be an excellent choice for retention.

The Cedar Springs Station, since its 1909 inception, has been the focal point of the Oak Lawn Community as well as the Cedar Springs streetscape. The station's strong and massive design has represented stability and security throughout its sixty-eight year history. This strong and massive design combines with adjoining lowrise commercial frontage to project a pleasing architectural expression to the Cedar Springs streetscape. The station has easily become the accepted visual landmark of the area. As the Oak Lawn area continues to experience a new pattern of development and a new image begins to surface, the station's importance as a vital element in maintaining an identity with the past becomes more apparent. Retention of the facility in a plan that provided for a new, modern fire station on Reagan with sufficient space for parking, recreation and living needs for the firefighters, would be the most desirable alternative. As the focal point of the Oak Lawn/Cedar Springs neighborhood, the new station coupled with the old facility would provide a strong physical and symbolic link with the city's past and present.

In summary, as the facility shares many common features with the previously designated Old Tige Fire Station, and as the site is a readily familiar landmark structure to the Oak Lawn area as well as its obvious value as a link with the

Fire Department's gallant history, efforts should be directed at saving the structure for useful and imaginative recycling.

The Cedar Springs Fire Station, No. 11 Hook and Ladder, merits historic landmark consideration as defined by the City of Dallas landmark ordinance. The task force assigned and staff recommends local designation.



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Designation Merit

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| <p>A. Character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Dallas, State of Texas, or the United States. <u> X </u></p> | <p>H. Embodiments of elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural innovation. <u> </u></p> |
| <p>B. Location as the site of a significant historical event. <u> </u></p> | <p>I. Relationship to other distinctive buildings, sites, or areas which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on historic, cultural, or architectural motif. <u> </u></p> |
| <p>C. Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city. <u> </u></p> | <p>J. Unique location of singular physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the city. <u> </u> <u> X </u></p> |
| <p>D. Exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historical heritage of the city. <u> </u></p> | <p>K. Archeological value in that it has produced or can be expected to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric value. <u> </u></p> |
| <p>E. Portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style. <u> </u></p> | <p>L. Value as an aspect of community sentiment or public pride. <u> </u></p> |
| <p>F. Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen. <u> </u> <u> X </u></p> | |
| <p>G. Identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city. <u> </u></p> | |

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Recommendation

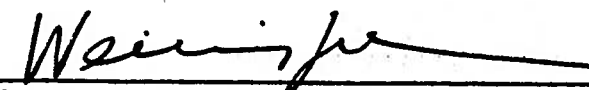
The Landmark Survey Task Force requests the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee to deem this proposed landmark meritorious of historic recognition as outlined in city ordinance 19-A.

Date:

Further, this task force endorses the preservation criteria, policy recommendations, and landmark boundary as presented by the Dept. of Urban Planning staff.



 Chairman, Landmark Survey Task Force



 Urban Design Program Manager
 Department of Urban Planning

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Modifications · Deletions · Addenda

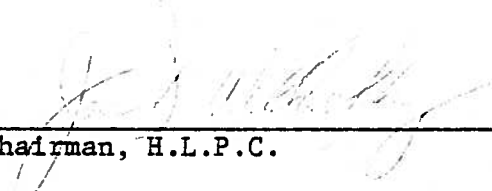
OFFICIAL ACTIONS

Historic Landmark Preservation Committee

The Historic Landmark Preservation Committee requests the City Plan Commission to deem this proposed landmark meritorious of historic recognition as outlined in city ordinance 19-A.

Date: February 14, 1978

Further, this committee endorses the preservation criteria, policy recommendations, and landmark boundary as presented by the Dept. of Urban Planning staff.



Chairman, H.L.P.C.

City Plan Commission

The City Plan Commission, having called a public hearing and given due consideration to this designation request, recommends approval

Date: March 16, 1978

subject to attached modifications of the designation and requests the City Council to deem this proposed landmark meritorious of historic recognition as outlined in city ordinance 19-A.



Chairman, City Plan Commission

City Council

The City Council, having called a public hearing and given due consideration to this designation request, hereby grants General Retail Historic District/8 subject to the attached modifications

Date: April 19, 1978

to the request and designates the submittal an Historic Landmark.


City Secretary, City of Dallas

16165
ordinance no.