

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

56-1378



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House
Other name/site number:
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

2. Location

Street & number: 1119 Pennsylvania Avenue
City or town: Fort Worth State: Texas County: Tarrant
Not for publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 6/1/17
Signature of certifying official / Title Date
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register
 other, explain: _____

for Edson H. Beall 7.24.17
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	1	objects
1	1	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification: LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, Clay Tile, Limestone

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-11)

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
x	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period of Significance: 1916

Significant Dates: 1916

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: William Reed and Sons, architect; Butcher and Sweeney, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-12 through 8-18)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 9-19)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: *Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Fort Worth, TX*

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: Less than one acre

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 32.738167 N Longitude: -97.337213 W

Verbal Boundary Description: College Hill Addition to Fort Worth, Block 1, Lot 1A

Boundary Justification: This is all the property currently associated with the nominated resource.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Susan Allen Kline, Consultant
Organization:
Street & number: 2421 Shirley Avenue
City or Town: Fort Worth State: Texas Zip Code: 76104
Email: sskline@sbcglobal.net
Telephone: 817-921-0127
Date: February 23, 2017

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-20 through Map-23)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-24 through Figure-30)

Photographs (see continuation sheets Photo-5, 31 through Photo-37)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House
City or Vicinity: Fort Worth
County, State: Tarrant County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Allen Kline
Date Photographed: As noted

Photo 1: Façade (north) elevation, looking south, November 27, 2016

Photo 2: Façade and east elevation's sleeping porch/sun room wing, looking southwest, January 19, 2017

Photo 3: Façade and west elevation, looking southeast, November 27, 2016

Photo 4: Porch and front entrance, looking east/southeast, September 15, 2016

Photo 5: West elevation, looking southeast, February 26, 2017

Photo 6: Rear (south) elevation, looking north, September 15, 2016

Photo 7: Rear and east elevations, looking northwest, September 15, 2016

Photo 8: Handicap lift on east side of front porch, looking southwest, September 15, 2016

Photo 9: Living room, looking west, January 19, 2017

Photo 10: Stairs from first floor hall, looking west, January 19, 2017

Photo 11: Dining room, looking south/southwest, September 15, 2016

Photo 12: Transom above window at stair landing, looking west, January 19, 2017

Photo 13: Second floor hall, looking southwest, January 19, 2017

Photo 14: Second floor, South bathroom, looking southeast, October 26, 2016

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House is located at the southeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and South Henderson Street in Fort Worth's medical district, just south of downtown. The two-and-one-half story brick house faces north toward Pennsylvania Avenue. Constructed in 1916 for cattleman Fountain G. Oxsheer and his wife, Mary, the house is a notable example of the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry subtype of Prairie School style residential architecture. The character defining features of the substyle include a low-pitched hipped roof with hipped dormers, broad overhanging eaves, horizontal massing, a symmetrical façade, and full-width front porch supported by massive square brick piers. Stone caps on the piers and the porch balustrade and the stone window sills reinforce the horizontal massing. It retains its original multiple-light double-hung windows and front entrance with beveled glass door and multiple-light sidelights. Inside, the house retains original room configurations, pocket doors, wood floors, wainscoting in the dining room, the butler's pantry, Rookwood Pottery tiles around the fireplace, and built-in bookcases in the library. The house was originally constructed on the east end of an upscale late 19th-early 20th century residential neighborhood known as Quality Hill. The neighborhood has since transitioned to one that is dominated by the medical industry. Few of the historic houses have survived and fewer are in near original condition. The Oxsheer House is among the latter. It now serves as professional offices.

The Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House is located in south Fort Worth less than 1.5 miles south of the heart of the city's Central Business District and approximately four blocks south of Interstate 30. It sits at the southeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and South Henderson Street. The latter is a north/south arterial that connects downtown with the city's north and south sides. When the house was constructed in 1916, the block on which it stood was part of a late 19th-early 20th century residential area. Today, the surrounding neighborhood is dominated by the medical district to the west and Trimble Tech High School to the south. The high school was originally constructed in 1918 on the former site of Fort Worth University and has been significantly expanded over the years. The areas to the east and north of the house are under transition with the continued expansion of the medical district and the construction of multi-story apartment buildings.

Historically, the Oxsheer House was on the eastern end of Fort Worth's Quality Hill neighborhood. This residential area was primarily concentrated on Summit Avenue, a north/south street to the west of the Central Business District; Pennsylvania Avenue, an east/west street south of downtown; and adjacent streets. In this neighborhood Fort Worth's white professional and business classes constructed large residences that reflected their wealth and the popular architectural trends of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Beginning in the 1910s and continuing through the 1930s, Quality Hill fell out of favor as the premier neighborhood as the wealthy moved to new neighborhoods such as Ryan Place, River Crest, Park Hill, and Westover Hills. In the 1920s, some of the Quality Hill houses were converted to other uses. As the Central Business District and the city's medical district began to encroach into the neighborhood in the mid-twentieth century, these grand homes were demolished for new commercial and apartment buildings and medical facilities, or adapted to other uses. Of the houses that previously lined Pennsylvania Avenue, few have survived and none serve as a private residence. The Ambler House, located one block east of the Oxsheer House at 1226 Pennsylvania Avenue, has survived but serves a commercial function. Its original front porch has been replaced and the house has been connected to a florist shop to the east and a large metal-sided warehouse to the rear. The front yard has been paved for parking. The north side of the 1300 block of Pennsylvania Avenue has four houses that date from c. 1903 to c. 1911, three of which were substantially altered after they were acquired by The Woman's Club of Fort Worth. These houses were designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks [RTHL] in 1965 and 1966 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. To the west of The Woman's Club complex at 1509 Pennsylvania Avenue is Thistle Hill, also known as the Wharton-Scott House (NR 1975, RTHL 1977), a large Georgian Revival house sited on a well-manicured estate-size lot. Constructed in 1903-04 and altered in 1911-12, Thistle Hill is Fort Worth's premiere "Cattle Baron"

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mansion and today functions as a house museum. Bookended by the Oxsheer House to the east and Thistle Hill to the west, this section of Pennsylvania Avenue is now dominated by large facilities associated with the medical industry.

It can be argued that the Oxsheer House was the easternmost house on the Pennsylvania Avenue portion of Quality Hill. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps reveal that the houses to the east of it were wood-framed. Prior to the construction of the Oxsheer House, there was a two-story wood-framed house on the site as indicated by the 1898 and 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map. It had a one-story porch on the front that wrapped to the west and east elevations. This house was present when Fountain G. Oxsheer purchased the property in 1895. When Oxsheer had a new house constructed in 1916 on this site, the wood-framed house was moved to the east of it. By 1951, the older home had been converted to apartments and the wrap-around porch had been removed or enclosed. A one-story brick clinic had been constructed to the east of the moved house and a two-story brick clinic had been constructed behind the Oxsheer House, both testaments to the changing make-up of the neighborhood. A one-story brick clinic was constructed on the site of the moved house c. 1957 according to the Tarrant Appraisal District. A third clinic was constructed at the east end of the block. The three buildings are extant.

The Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House is an excellent example of the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry subtype of the Prairie School style. It is described in greater detail below.

Exterior

The Oxsheer House is two-and-one-half stories in height with a full basement beneath it. It was constructed in 1916 of brown iron-flecked brick, a popular building material in Fort Worth during the early decades of the 20th century. There are numerous multiple-light windows at the basement level of the west, south, and east elevations. The structure of the main block of the house is characterized by irregular rectangular massing with a full-width front porch, a truncated two-story sleeping porch and kitchen wing on the south elevation, and a two-story wing on the east elevation that has a sleeping porch on the second floor and a sun room on the first floor. The latter wing is stepped back from the front plane of the house so that the façade retains its symmetrical massing. Hipped roofs sheathed with green clay tile cover the main block of the house, the two wings, and the front porch, as well as the hipped-roof dormers on the north and west elevations. The roof is pierced by two brick chimneys. The wide overhanging eaves emphasize the house's horizontal massing. Beneath the eaves are curved rafter tails instead of the more common boxed eaves. The porch roof is supported by massive square brick piers. The double-hung wood windows feature multiple-lights in the upper sash over an undivided light in the lower sash. The window sills are of limestone. The contrasting color of the sills as well as the stone caps of the porch piers and the porch balustrade also reinforces the house's horizontal massing. The four primary elevations are described below.

North (front) elevation

The façade features a centered hipped-roof dormer with wide over-hanging eaves and exposed decorative rafter tails (these decorative rafter tails are also used on the roof over the body of the house and on the porch roof). The dormer has a tripartite multiple-light window and its walls are covered with green tiles. The second and first floors are divided into three bays. On the second floor, the outer bays each have one large 15/1 double-hung wood window. The center bay has a 10/1 double-hung window flanked by multiple-light casement windows. The outer bays of the first floor also have the large 15/1 double-hung wood windows. The center bay has a wide French door with beveled glass flanked by nearly full-length multiple-light sidelights. A multiple-light transom surmounts the entrance and sidelights. The door and the wood trim of the entrance are finished with a dark stain. Non-original sconces flank the entrance. The porch's roof is hipped with a projecting hipped bay at the center. It is supported by four massive square brick piers with limestone capstones. The piers have narrow blind arches, also of brick, with stone sills. A stone balustrade runs between the piers and across the east and west ends of the porch. Between the center piers are the stairs that lead to the porch. These are flanked by brick wing-walls with stone caps. The porch floor, which partially wraps around to the east elevation, is covered with

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rectangular red tiles. A set of stairs on the east end of the porch has been replaced with a handicapped lift. (Figures 1-2 and Photos 1-4 and 8)

West Elevation

The west elevation faces South Henderson Street. It also has a hipped-roofed dormer at the attic level. The second and first floors have a variety of window sizes that continue the pattern of multiple-light sashes over an undivided lower sash. The windows have limestone sills. Above the interior landing between the first and second floors is a large window opening. It retains its original stained glass transom with stylized depictions of oil derricks. Its geometric patterning is highly representative of the Prairie School style. The original stained glass windows that were below the transom were removed during a period when the house was vacant. They were replaced in the 1970s with stained glass windows of an unknown origin. Below this window opening is an entrance with a two-panel door with multiple-lights. Above the door is a small shed roof sheathed with green tile and supported by wood brackets. An interesting feature of this elevation is the original two-panel wood ice door that is below paired kitchen windows. (Figure 1 and Photos 3 and 5)

South Elevation

The rear (south) elevation is composed of three sections that contribute to the Oxsheer House's irregular rectangular massing. The left section is a projecting wing that corresponds to the kitchen and a second-story bedroom and sleeping porch. It has a hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and shaped rafter tails. A tall narrow brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof. The second story has one large 15/1 double-hung wood window on the left and a large window opening filled with paired 12/1 double hung wood windows (the plans for the house depict three screens in this opening). The first floor has a window opening on the left that is filled with paired 6/1 double-hung wood windows. To the right is a large opening filled with three fixed glass panes. The plan for this elevation indicates that the opening was originally enclosed with screens. On the east elevation of this segment is the rear entrance accessed by a flight of stone stairs flanked by brick wing-walls with stone caps. The opening is filled with a non-original transom over a non-original art glass door. To the right of this entrance is an entrance to the basement that is accessed by a flight of concrete stairs. The center section of the south elevation is recessed behind the plane of the kitchen wing and corresponds to the dining room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second. There is a large 15/1 double-hung wood window on the second floor and two 9/1 double-hung wood windows on the first floor. The right section is set back from the center section and contains the sleeping porch on the second floor and the sun room on the first. Ribbons of three windows with 9/1 configurations are on both floors. (Figure 2 and Photos 6-7)

East Elevation and Sleeping Porch and Sun Room Wing

The east elevation more fully reveals the projecting sleeping porch and sun room wing. As mentioned, it is set back from the front (north) and rear (south) elevations, contributing to the house's irregular rectangular massing. As with the other sections of the house, this wing is covered by a hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and shaped rafter tails. The east facing plane of the roof is pierced by a large brick chimney that is oriented to the north. A ribbon of five 9/1 windows is on the first and second floors of the east elevation. The second floor of the wing's north elevation has three 9/1 double hung wood windows. The first floor has a French door with beveled glass that accesses the east end of the front porch. The door is flanked by nearly full-width sidelights. The south end of the east elevation of the main body of the house has 15/1 multiple-light double hung windows on the first and second floors. The north end has 12/1 double hung windows on the first and second floors. (Figure 3 and Photos 7-8)

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Interior

The Oxsheer House retains exceptional integrity on the interior. In contrast to its dark exterior, an abundance of windows fill the interior with light. Original materials and room configurations are remarkably intact. Prairie School influences include the Rookwood Pottery tile around the fireplace in the living room, paneled pocket doors, wainscoting in the dining room, built-in cabinets and shelves in the first floor library, original balustrade along the stairs from the first to the second floor, and stylized geometric patterning of the stained glass transom over the window above the stairs' landing. Elements of the historic Betcheer intercom system remain in some rooms.

Basement

The Oxsheer House sits on a full basement with concrete and brick walls. The original 1916 furnace remains. The basement retains the original coal bin as well as bins for ashes from the first floor fireplace. Historic and modern ductwork hangs from the ceiling. There is an entrance in the southeast corner that leads to the outside.

First floor

The primary access to the first floor is through the north entrance underneath the front porch's roof. The first room that is encountered is the living room which now serves as a reception room. It measures approximately 24' wide by 15' deep. The floor is oak as it is throughout most of the first floor. Windows and doors are surrounded by a wide wood trim that is stained, not painted. On the south wall is a gas fireplace covered with Rookwood Pottery tiles. Its Arts and Crafts style wood mantel is not original. Within the fire box are historic artificial logs that came from Fort Worth's Leonard Brothers Department Store. On the west wall are paired paneled pocket doors that lead to the library. The library is approximately 11' wide by 15' deep. On the library's west wall are original built-in book shelves and cabinets fronted with glass doors. Going through the entrance to the right of the fireplace, one encounters a hall. On the right side of the hall is the stairs to the second floor. It retains its original simple oak wood balustrade. Next to the stairs is a hall that leads to another entrance to the library (it also has a wood paneled pocket door), a restroom under the stairs, and the west elevation's entrance. On the left (east) side of the main hall is the entrance to the dining room. This room is approximately 15' wide and 22' deep. The Oxsheers were known for their hospitality and this room is the largest in the house. The walls of the dining room are covered with a paneled wood wainscot. A unique feature of the dining room is a buzzer on the floor. Mr. Oxsheer would push this button to alert servants to bring more hot biscuits of which he was most fond. On the south wall is an entrance to the living room. In addition to retaining the original pocket door, it also retains drapery hooks so that the two rooms could be separated by a curtain. To the east of the dining room is the sun room. It measures approximately 11.5' wide and 20' deep. The windows on the north, east, and south walls fill the room with light. The concrete slab floor is covered with red clay tile similar to the tile on the front porch. Access to this room is through a French door with beveled glass from the dining room as well as one from the living room. (Figures 4-5 and Photos 9-11)

The southwest corner of the house contains a breakfast room approximately 9.5' wide by 13' deep. The original built-in bench seating remains on the south wall. This room has a southern and eastern exposure that catches the morning light. There is a swinging paneled wood door on the east wall that leads to the dining room. To the west of the breakfast room is the butler's pantry that is approximately 11' feet wide and 9' deep. It retains original built-in cabinets, including a pie closet, as well as the door for ice delivery on the west wall. South of the butler's pantry is the kitchen measuring approximately 11' wide by 11' deep. On the east wall of the kitchen is a door that leads to the formerly screened-in porch. The screens have been replaced with glass (Figure 5).

An open dogleg stairway leads to the second floor from the hall. At the landing between the first and second floor is the previously mentioned historic art glass transom above stained glass windows of an unknown origin that were installed in

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the 1970s. It is believed the original stained glass windows at this location were removed during the period that the house was unoccupied. (Photo 12)

Second floor

At the top of the stairs on the second floor is a hallway. It provides an overlook for the stairs and the stained glass windows above the landing and also provides access to the four bedrooms. There are also two sleeping porches. One is located next to the bedroom in the southwest corner of the house. The other is on the east end of the house and can be accessed from the southeast and northeast bedrooms. It has a frosted glass window on its west wall that illuminated a closet in the southeast bedroom. There are two bathrooms that contain original fixtures. One is located at the north end of the hall and can be entered from the hall or the northeast bedroom. The other is accessed through the southeast bedroom. An unusual feature of this bathroom is the original bidet. The floors on this level are pine and have been given a warm stain that is similar to the stair's balustrade. Unlike the first floor, doors and wood trim are painted. (Figure 6 and Photos 13-14)

Alterations

The Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House possesses a high degree of integrity as it retains many original character-defining features. The primary exterior alterations consist of the removal of the stairs on the east side of the porch for the installation of a handicapped lift at that location, the loss of the original stained glass windows on the west elevation, replacement of rear porch's screens with fixed glass panes, and the replacement of the rear door. The historic plan for the rear entrance indicates that the door was originally offset to the left with a screened sidelight to the right. This opening is now filled with a centered art glass door with solid panels of wood on either side (see Figure 3 and Photo 7). These alterations occurred at undetermined dates and their impact on the house's exterior integrity is minimal as they are all on secondary elevations. The primary interior alterations consist of the creation of a first floor accessible bathroom in the original changing room and the hall that provided access to the servant stairs to the second floor. The original onyx mantel on the first floor fireplace is no longer present. It was replaced by marble which in turn was replaced by the current Arts and Crafts style mantel. Another alteration consists of the partial removal of a closet wall in the north bedroom on the second floor. Because these are not in public spaces, the impact of these changes is minimal. Many of the rooms have unobtrusive canned lights installed in the ceiling.

Site features

There is a concrete sidewalk that parallels Pennsylvania Avenue and one that runs from the curb to the front steps. Another sidewalk parallels South Henderson Street. With the widening of this street, the yard along the west side of the house has been narrowed. Trees and shrubs planted near the west elevation serve as a buffer to the street's traffic. A concrete driveway runs along the east side of the house to the asphalt parking lot in the rear. A concrete sidewalk runs from the driveway west toward the rear entrance. Landscaping in front of the house includes a large cedar tree at the northeast corner of the front porch. Crepe myrtles flank the front stairs and low shrubs surround the porch. Crepe myrtles and cedar shrubs are also planted near the rear of the house. The parking lot covers the majority of the rear yard. The clapboard-sided servants quarters/garage that appears on the 1951 Sanborn Map was removed more than 30 years ago. A brick wall that ran along the west side of the rear yard was also removed decades ago as was a fence that bordered the alley.¹ Bordering the south edge of the parking lot is a paved alley.

¹ Billy Oxsheer, great-grandson of F. G. and Mary Oxsheer, interview with Susan Allen Kline, October 11, 2016.

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Noncontributing Object

A monument sign identifying the occupant of the building is located near the northwest corner of the property. It is counted as a non-contributing object because it was installed after the period of significance which is defined as the year the house was constructed (1916). (Photo 3)

The Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House retains exceptional historic and architectural integrity. It retains integrity of materials and design as there have been no major alterations to the interior or exterior. The only notable exterior changes are the removal of the stairs on the east side of the porch, the installation of a handicap lift at that location, and the installation of a non-original door at the rear of the house. The original clay tile roof has been replaced which is to be expected in a 100 year-old house in an area subject to severe hail storms. The house retains its historic wood windows, iron-flecked brick walls, and curved exposed rafters under the eaves. The interior retains its original layout, including the kitchen and butler's pantry, with minor alterations made to closets on the first and second floors. Workmanship is still evident in the brickwork and limestone ornamentation on the exterior and the fine wood detail on the interior. The house still very much conveys the feeling of an early 20th century residence. It retains integrity of location as there have been no major changes to the spatial characteristics of the traditional grid pattern of the surrounding streets. The setting has been altered as the neighborhood has transitioned from one that was primarily residential to one that is dominated by the medical industry. The house no longer retains its associated outbuildings and the backyard is devoted to an asphalt parking lot but the driveway along the east side of the house remains. With the widening of South Henderson Street, the yard on the west side has been reduced. The house is no longer associated with the Oxsheer family and no longer functions as a residence. However, its use as professional offices is highly compatible to the house's historic characteristics.

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Statement of Significance

The Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, located at 1119 Pennsylvania Avenue, is an excellent local example of the Prairie School style and a rare survivor in what was once a prosperous residential neighborhood in Fort Worth, Texas. The two-and-one-half-story brick house displays the character-defining features of the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry subtype of the style. These include a horizontal massing reinforced through its low-pitched hipped roof with hipped-roof dormers, wide overhanging eaves, symmetrical façade with a full-width one-story porch supported by massive square piers of brick, and a prominent entrance. Double-hung wood windows with multiple-lights in the upper sash and a single light in the lower sash are another common feature. It retains a high degree of its architectural integrity on the exterior and interior. The Oxsheer House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C based on its architectural merits. The period of significance is 1916, the year the house was constructed.

Fort Worth was established in 1849 as a military outpost on the North Central Texas frontier. Major Ripley Arnold sited the post on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the Clear and West forks of the Trinity River. The army moved further west in 1853 but the community that had grown up around the fort remained. Fort Worth became the seat of government for Tarrant County in 1856. By 1860, it had a population of approximately 450 people. With the advent of the Civil War, Fort Worth and Tarrant County entered a period of decline. Following the war, the town became a center of the cattle trade, first benefitting from its proximity to the Texas frontier to the north through which cattle were driven to railheads in Kansas. The population began to rebound in the 1870s as residents anticipated the arrival of the Texas & Pacific (T & P) Railway. In 1873, Fort Worth was incorporated, its first newspaper was established, and telegraph lines were strung to the city. But the national financial crisis that began that year delayed the arrival of the T & P until 1876. Although other periods of financial instability occurred throughout the remainder of the century, Fort Worth developed into a regional transportation and industrial hub. By 1900, it had a population of 23,000 residents and was served by nine railroad lines.²

Fort Worth's ties to the cattle industry were strengthened with the establishment of the Fort Worth Stock Yards Company in 1893 and the Armour and Swift packing plants in 1902. Prominent West Texas cattlemen came to Fort Worth to conduct sales and purchases of livestock. Many of these transactions occurred at downtown's Metropolitan Hotel and then at the Stock Yards Exchange Building. A number of these cattle barons built or purchased substantial homes in Fort Worth's Quality Hill neighborhood while maintaining residences on their ranches. Among them were Samuel Burk Burnett, W. T. Waggoner and sons, Guy L. and E. Paul Waggoner, James H. Nail, Byron Crandall Rhome, Frank Hays McFarland, Ephraim B. Harrold, William D. Reynolds, George T. Reynolds, Sam Davidson, Emory Thayer Ambler, George E. Cowden, John B. Slaughter, Furd Halsell, Casswell O. Edwards, William T. Scott, and C. A. "Gus" O'Keefe.³

Fountain G. Oxsheer

Fountain Goodlet (F. G.) Oxsheer (1849-1931) was a pioneer West Texas rancher. He was born on November 9, 1849 in Milam County, Texas, the son of William W. and Martha (Kirk) Oxsheer. William W. Oxsheer was a pioneer Milam County farmer who was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1873.⁴

² Carol Roark, *Fort Worth Central Business District: Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey* (Fort Worth, Texas: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, 1991), p. 5.

³ Brenda McClurkin and Historic Fort Worth, Inc., *Fort Worth's Quality Hill* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), pp. 25, 48, 55-58, 61, 66-67, 70, 71-72, 74-75, 80, 85, 102, 104, 117-18, 119, and 122.

⁴ *Handbook of Texas Online*, Benton R. White, "Oxsheer, Fountain Goodlet," accessed November 14, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fox01>.

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Fountain G. Oxsheer engaged in cattle drives to Kansas along the Chisholm Trail after the Civil War. By 1880, he worked as a rancher, businessman, and peace officer in the east central Texas town of Calvert and was credited with establishing law and order in a previously lawless community. He moved further west to Colorado City, Texas in 1884 with his wife, Mary (Beal), whom he married on May 28, 1873. The couple had eight children but only six survived to adulthood and two of them predeceased him.⁵

Oxsheer formed the Jumbo Cattle Company with members of Mary's family and established his own ranches on the Llano Estacado, or Staked Plains. He was among the earliest white settlers in this section of Texas and helped introduce windmills to the region, thus opening it to permanent settlement. This would later prove detrimental to ranchers as much of the open range became filled with farmers. The loss of the open range, increases in the value of land, and corresponding taxes forced many ranchers, including Oxsheer, to divest their holdings.⁶

However, for many years Oxsheer prospered in the livestock industry and his Lazy Diamond brand became associated with excellence in beef cattle. By the 1890s, he owned 30,000 head of cattle across a ranching empire of 1.25 million acres. In 1895 he moved his family to Fort Worth, purchasing property at the southeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and South Henderson Street. Here, he established a home but remained heavily involved in his ranching interests and the buying and selling of livestock. By the late 1890s, Oxsheer and business partner and friend, C. C. Slaughter, had one of the largest herds of registered Hereford cattle in the U.S. which they kept on Oxsheer's ranches. But by the 1900s, Oxsheer had decided to leave the Llano Estacado and began selling portions of his ranches to farmers, small ranching operations, realtors, and a large parcel to Slaughter. Oxsheer looked to Mexico for ranching opportunities and established the Hacienda de Sainapuchic near Chihuahua, Mexico. There, he also introduced the use of windmills and blooded stock.⁷

A cursory look at some of his holdings and sales of ranchland and livestock gives a hint of his ranching empire. In 1906, cereal magnate C. W. Post of Battle Creek, Michigan purchased one of Oxsheer's ranches containing 24,223 acres. In 1909, Oxsheer sold 4,500 head of cattle and horses and leasing privileges on a ranch in Hockley County for \$100,000. Around this same time, he purchased eighty sections, or 51,200 acres, in Pecos County and a herd of "high-grade" Herefords for approximately \$100,000.⁸ In late 1915, Oxsheer sold his 40,000-acre ranch in Pecos County for approximately \$200,000. Newspapers mentioned that the sale included 1,000 full-blooded Hereford cattle. It was also noted that the ranch had become famous for the "wolf-tight fence which was built around it at an enormous cost."⁹ It was around the time of this sale that Oxsheer commissioned William Reed and Sons to design a new house for him at the Pennsylvania Avenue property.

The cyclical nature of the livestock industry meant that Oxsheer juggled between prosperity and decline. During World War I, he invested heavily in feeder cattle. When prices fell after the war, he nearly lost his ranching empire. He made strides in rebuilding his ranches but the advent of the Great Depression brought additional financial hardships. Following the death F. G. Oxsheer, Jr. in early 1931, the son he hoped would succeed him in the family business, the senior Oxsheer died on September 28, 1931 at his home on Pennsylvania Avenue.¹⁰

Oxsheer was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Cattle Kings of Texas at the state's Centennial Exposition in 1936. Beneath his portrait at the exposition was written "In all branches of the livestock industry he was a 'pioneer.' His

⁵ Benton R. White, *The Forgotten Cattle King*, Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University, no. 19 (College Station: Texas A&M University, 1986), pp. 20-21; *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, September 29, 1931.

⁶ White, "Oxsheer, Fountain Goodlet"; White, *The Forgotten Cattle King*, p. 67.

⁷ White, "Oxsheer, Fountain Goodlet"; White, *The Forgotten Cattle King*, pp. 67-68.

⁸ *Dallas Morning News*, November 18, 1906, January 23, 1909, and February 27, 1909.

⁹ *The Houston Post*, November 25, 1915.

¹⁰ White, "Oxsheer, Fountain Goodlet."

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

experiments in the breeding of better range cattle were as numerous as . . . the trails he blazed in West Texas.”¹¹ Despite this acclaim, Oxsheer was rarely mentioned in written histories of the livestock industry and West Texas. His contributions were largely forgotten until the publication of Benton R. White’s book *The Forgotten Cattle King* in 1986. In 2015, he was inducted into the Texas Trail of Fame.¹²

The Oxsheer House

By the mid 1890s, “money panics, droughts, and a changing economy had put an end to Colorado City as a major beef marketing center.”¹³ The Oxsheers, like numerous West Texas ranchers, moved to Fort Worth which had gained prominence as the state’s “Cowtown.” There, cattle barons built large homes that reflected the wealth they had gained in the industry. Many chose to live on Pennsylvania Avenue at the south end of the Quality Hill neighborhood.

The Oxsheers first rented a small house and then moved to a more spacious dwelling at the southeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and South Henderson Street. In 1916, Oxsheer had a substantial brick residence constructed on the site. It was richly furnished with Italian wall paper, velvet drapes, carpets, and ornate furniture. A grand piano was located in the library and rattan furniture placed in the sun room. In the dining room was a large mahogany table that accommodated the large family and frequent guests who would stay for weeks or months at a time. Visitors to the house included prominent local men such as Amon G. Carter and Sid Richardson. In later years, a young Gary Cooper was a guest. Although the children jokingly referred to the house as the “Oxsheer Hotel,” all were welcome. Many of the guest stayed in the old two-story house that had been moved to the lot to the east. To keep the household running, the family typically employed five to six servants, most of whom were black. Servant quarters were provided above a garage at the end of the driveway. Access to the quarters was by stairs on the east end of the clapboard-sided building which was painted reddish-brown. For a time the property also included a barn and Oxsheer was known to keep a couple of milk cows on a vacant lot. Vegetable gardens supplied produce for the family’s consumption.¹⁴

The Oxsheer House was among the last houses constructed in the Quality Hill neighborhood. The earliest homes were constructed when Victorian and Classical Revival styles were in vogue, both strongly rooted in the 19th century although houses in those styles continued to be constructed into the 20th century. The choice of Prairie School style for the Oxsheer House clearly made it a 20th century house. Along with the Oxsheer House’s modern appearance came numerous modern conveniences and design features. It was heated by a coal furnace which eliminated the need for fireplaces. The only fireplace was equipped with a gas igniter and a gas line was provided for the kitchen range. The butler’s pantry was designed with a place for an ice box and had a drain in the floor for it. The first floor hall had a shelf for a telephone and the southeast bedroom on the second floor had a phone hookup. A Betcher intercom system allowed for communication between rooms.

Environmental consideration was given to numerous design features. As the house was constructed prior to the advent of air conditioning, its many windows facilitated air circulation. Elements such as the deep covered porch on the north elevation, the wide overhanging eaves of the roof, and the placement of the sun room and sleeping porches also provided protection from the strong Texas sun.

F. G. Oxsheer died in 1931 and Mary died in 1937. Heirs continued to own the property until it was finally sold in the 1970s. A portion of the property containing the old house was sold. The Oxsheer House was unoccupied for decades but

¹¹ White, *The Forgotten Cattle King*, frontispiece.

¹² Western Heritage from the Texas Trail of Fame, “Fountain Goodlet Oxsheer,” accessed November 13, 2016, <http://texastrailoffame.org/inductees/fountain-goodlet-oxsheer/>.

¹³ White, *The Forgotten Cattle King*, p. 81.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 83; Billy Oxsheer interview, October 11, 2016.

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

remained furnished into the 1970s. Being uninhabited made the house subject to vandalism. However, favored servants continued to live in the quarters in the rear yard until one of the Oxsheers' grandsons had a home constructed for them in 1961. The servant quarters were torn down by family members.¹⁵ After the house passed out of family ownership, it was used as a hair salon. The current owner purchased the property in 2016 and has been an excellent steward of this historic house.

Architectural Significance of the Oxsheer House

The Oxsheer House was designed in the Prairie School style. Noted architectural historian Virginia McAlester wrote that the Prairie style "is one of the few indigenous American styles. It was developed by an unusually creative group of Chicago architects that have come to be known as the Prairie School."¹⁶ The acknowledged master of the style was Frank Lloyd Wright. Applied almost exclusively to residential architecture, Wright and his followers "consciously rejected current popular academic revival styles and sought to create buildings that reflected the rolling Midwestern prairie terrain on which they were to be built."¹⁷ This was reflected through the strong horizontal massing of houses with low-pitched roofs (usually hipped) and wide overhanging eaves. Houses were typically two-stories with one-story porches that also emphasized horizontal massing. The porch roofs were often supported by massive brick piers. Contrasting stone caps on the piers and on porch or balcony railings also reinforced the horizontality of the design. Although the style received critical acclaim, its popularity with the American public was confined to the first two decades of the 20th century. Following World War I, residential architecture largely returned to the revival styles although the bungalow/craftsman style remained popular into the 1930s.

Prairie School designs were brought to Texas both directly and indirectly. At least two architects, Charles Erwin Bargebaugh and George Willis, worked for Wright at his Oak Park Studio before coming to Texas. After arriving in the state, Bargebaugh worked for Lang and Witchell in Dallas and Willis worked with Atlee B. Ayres of San Antonio. Other firms in Texas that experimented with the style included Trost and Trost of El Paso and Sanguinet and Staats of Fort Worth. These firms may have been influenced by *Western Architect* and other journals that published Wrights designs. Pattern books also helped popularize the style, particularly vernacular interpretations.¹⁸

The Prairie School had four principal subtypes. These included the earliest version of the form classified as the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry; the Hipped Roof Symmetrical, No Front Entry; Hipped Roof, Asymmetrical; and the Gabled Roof. The Oxsheer House is an example of the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry subtype, which is also known as the Prairie Box or the American Foursquare. This subtype consists of a rectangular plan, low-pitched hipped roof, and a symmetrical façade. The porch is plainly subordinate to the two-story block and the entrance is a focal point. Although the Oxsheer House has an irregular massing, it has a symmetrical façade. Its centered entrance has flanking sidelights and overhead transoms. The door, sidelights, and transom are all multiple-light with beveled glass, a detail that seems to make these features shimmer. Like many vernacular versions, the Oxsheer House has hipped dormers, a full-width one-story porch roof supported by massive square piers, and double-hung sash windows. The Mission Revival influence shown in the clay tile roof is also common for this subtype.¹⁹ The Oxsheer House's wide overhanging eaves are not boxed as is more common but instead have shaped rafter tails.

¹⁵ Billy Oxsheer interview, October 11, 2016.

¹⁶ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf), p. 440.

¹⁷ John C. Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, Jr., and Nancy B. Schwartz, *What Style is It? A Guide to American Architecture* (Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1983), p. 80.

¹⁸ Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945* (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1993), p. 7.

¹⁹ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, p. 439.

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The design and location of the Oxsheer House is representative of the type of house that was popular with members of Fort Worth's wealthy white business and professional classes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As noted in the book *Fort Worth's Quality Hill*, Summit Avenue, Penn Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, and adjacent streets became the fashionable neighborhood in which one's wealth and social status was prominently displayed. Families whose fortune was derived from "cattle, oil, cotton, banking, railroads, the law, and real estate" lived in houses designed by the likes of Sanguinet and Staats, L. B. Weinman, Howard Messer, Wiley G. Clarkson, and G. Palmer Graves. Along with the grand houses, many of the properties included servants' quarters in separate buildings, often above a detached garage or carriage house that was placed by the alley.²⁰

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer's residence at 1119 Pennsylvania Avenue reflected this trend. In 1895, Oxsheer purchased property at the southeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and what is now known as South Henderson Street. The 1898 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map indicates that there was a large two-story wood-framed residence at this location and a biography of Oxsheer suggests this was a pre-existing home, not one that he had constructed. In 1916, Oxsheer had a large two-and-one-half-story brick Prairie School style house built on the property. This house and possibly its associated servants' quarters/garage were designed by William Reed and Sons and were complementary of the other grand homes further to the west on Pennsylvania Avenue. The house originally on the site was moved to the east edge of the property.²¹

There were several houses on the Pennsylvania Avenue portion of Quality Hill whose design was influenced by the Prairie School style. The Neil and Elizabeth Anderson House at 1251 Pennsylvania Avenue was completed in 1906. It was an example of the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry subtype. The two-and-one-half-story buff brick home had an elongated rectangular massing with a hipped roof and hipped dormers with overhanging boxed eaves. Its full-width porch had a flat or low-pitched hipped roof that accentuated the house's horizontal massing. The porch roof was supported by four massive square brick piers that sat atop a low brick wall that surrounded the porch. In 1922, the house was purchased by the Gause-Ware Funeral Home. The building burned in 1979 and was demolished in 1980. In 1907, cattleman George E. Cowden had a brick, two-and-one-half-story Prairie Style house constructed at 1519 Pennsylvania Avenue that was also an example of the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry subtype. The rectangular massed house had a hipped roof and dormers with wide overhanging eaves. The full-width porch roof also had wide overhanging eaves and was supported by two massive square brick piers. Cowden's son lived next door in a similar but smaller house. Neither house is extant. The Edrington House at 1302 Pennsylvania was originally constructed as a wood-framed two-story house. Its footprint included a beveled entrance that faced southeast toward South Lake Street and a porch that partially wrapped around to the south and east elevations, perhaps suggestive of a Queen Anne or other late Victorian style house. In 1915-16, Butcher and Sweeney, the same contracting firm that constructed the Oxsheer House, undertook an extensive renovation of the house, transforming it to the Hipped Roof, Asymmetrical subtype of the Prairie School. The work included the application of a buff-toned brick veneer and giving the body of the house an L shape with a full-width hipped-roof porch that partially wrapped around to the east elevation. The porch's roof was supported by paired sets of squared brick piers. The house was acquired by The Woman's Club of Fort Worth in 1924. In 1936, the local architecture firm Patterson and Teague radically changed its appearance by removing its Prairie School features and squaring off the front plane of the house. The porch roof was replaced with one that was supported by wrought iron columns, giving the building a much softer appearance.²²

²⁰ Brenda S. McClurkin and Historic Fort Worth, Inc., *Fort Worth's Quality Hill* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), pp. 7-8.

²¹ White, *The Forgotten Cattle King*, p. 82; Billy Oxsheer (great-grandson of Fountain Goodlet Oxsheer), interview with Susan Allen Kline, October 11, 2016.

²² McClurkin and Historic Fort Worth, Inc., *Fort Worth's Quality Hill*, pp. 87-92, and 104; See Susan Allen Kline, "The Woman's Club of Fort Worth," Draft National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2016, Copy on file at the Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

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The Mitchell-Schnoover House is located at 600 Eighth Avenue but faces east towards Pennsylvania Avenue. It was designed by the prominent architecture firm Sanguinet and Staats and built for James E. Mitchell, a jeweler, in 1907. The two-story brick house is an example of the Hipped Roof, Asymmetrical subtype. Its hipped roof and full-width hipped roof porch have wide overhanging eaves. Both have wide overhanging eaves. The porch roof is supported by wide square piers. The front elevation has an eyebrow dormer instead of the typical hipped roof dormer. It is a contributing resource in the Eighth Avenue Historic District (NR 2006). Like the Oxsheer House, the Mitchell-Schnoover House now houses professional offices.²³

William Reed and Sons, Architect

William Reed was born on April 6, 1864 in Lima, Ohio. He came to Fort Worth around 1906. No information has been found on his education or training. His obituary stated he was an architect and contractor although city directories and census records identified him only as an architect. Little is known of his firm's work nor have the "Sons" been identified. The Tarrant County Historic Resources Surveys, mostly conducted in the 1980s, identified only the Oxsheer House as having been designed by the firm. One project which William Reed and Sons served as general contractor was Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church (RTHL 1983; NR 1984) in downtown Fort Worth. Dedicated in 1914, it was designed by William Sidney Pittman, an African American architect who was also the son-in-law of Booker T. Washington. Reed also did stone work on the Fort Worth Club Building (1925-26).²⁴

In addition to his work designing and constructing buildings, Reed was also involved in the petroleum industry. An advertisement for Builders Oil Company that appeared in the January 19, 1919 issue of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* identified him as a "well-known architect and builder of Fort Worth who has had years [of] experience drilling for oil." The ad stated that Reed "will look after the interests of this company while wells are being drilled" in the Wichita Falls area, a hotbed of oil activity at this time.²⁵

Reed died January 2, 1939 at the age of 74. He was buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, now known as Laurel Land Memorial Park, in far south Fort Worth.

Butcher & Sweeney, General Contractors

The Oxsheer House was constructed by the well-known local firm Butcher & Sweeney. This firm was in operation for more than 50 years and was responsible for the construction of many notable buildings in Fort Worth. They include the following works in South Fort Worth: Central Methodist Church, 1519 Lipscomb (1909), Crystal Ice Company Ice Vault (1920), Harris Methodist Hospital, 1300 W. Cannon (1924-1930), Shaw Brothers Milk, Ice Cream, and Ice Plant (1928), Jennings Avenue Underpass (1930-31), and the M-K-T Railroad Freight Station addition, 320 E. Vickery Boulevard (1953). Buildings constructed in the Central Business District include the Monnig Dry Goods Company, Wholesale (1925), Charles E. Nash Elementary School (1927), J. C. Penney Building (attributed, 1929), Fair Building Garage/Service Life Center Parking Garage (1950-51), Civil Courts Building (1957-58), Criminal Courts and Jail Building (1962), the remodel of the Fair Building (1964), and First National Bank/Baker Building renovation (1967). Other Fort Worth projects include the Scott-Bailey House (1918), Traders Oil Mill Office Building (1918), Tandy

²³ McClurkin and Historic Fort Worth, Inc., *Fort Worth's Quality Hill*, p. 126; See Susan Allen Kline, "The Woman's Club of Fort Worth," Draft National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2016, Copy on file at the Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

²⁴ *Fort Worth Press*, January 4, 1939; Roark, *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Fort Worth Central Business District*, pp. 38, 60.

²⁵ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, January 19, 1919.

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Elementary School (1922), Memorial Arch, Texas Christian University (1923), North Side Junior High School (1927), Amon G. Carter Stadium (west side, 1930), Arlington Heights Senior High School (1936-37), and Casa Manana (1958).²⁶

The firm was started by C. M. Butcher (1875-1940) and Robert C. Sweeney (1884-1957) in the early 1900s. Butcher was born in Red Oak, Texas and was an alumnus of Texas A&M College. He moved to Fort Worth in 1904. Sweeney was born in Newborn, Tennessee and moved to Fort Worth around 1908. Although most of the firm's work was commercial, industrial, or transportation-related, it had a few residential projects including one constructed around the time that the Oxsheer House was built. Butcher & Sweeney was responsible for the c. 1915-16 transformation of the W. R. Edrington House at 1302 Pennsylvania, two blocks west of the Oxsheer House. The two-story, wood-framed dwelling became a brick-veneered Prairie School-inspired design. As an example of the Hipped Roof, Asymmetrical subtype, the irregular L-shaped house had wide overhanging eaves and a hipped-roofed porch supported by massive square piers of brick.²⁷ After Butcher's death in 1940, Sweeney continued with the firm until his retirement. The company remained in operation at least until the 1960s.

Conclusion

The Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is an excellent and highly intact example of the Prairie School style and the only remaining example on Pennsylvania Avenue, one of the major streets of the former residential neighborhood of Quality Hill. Few houses from this neighborhood have survived due to the encroachment of the medical district and the expansion of the Central Business District. The Oxsheer House displays characteristics of the Hipped Roof, Symmetrical, with Front Entry subtype. These include the low-pitched hipped roof and hipped dormers, horizontal massing, the symmetrical arrangement of the façade, full-width front porch supported by massive brick piers, and a prominent entrance. The period of significance is 1916, the year the house was constructed.

²⁶ This information was gathered from the Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey for Fort Worth's Southside; Central Business District; Fort Worth, Upper North, Northeast, East, Far South, and Far West; and Fort Worth Near North Side and West Side, Westover Hills and the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. The Crystal Ice Company Ice Vault was built during the brief period when the company was known as Butcher, Sweeney & Friedman. Harry B. Friedman left the partnership and established his own very successful construction firm under his name.

²⁷ This house was acquired by The Woman's Club of Fort Worth in 1924. It was extensively altered in 1936 following the design of the architecture firm Patterson and Teague. The work included removing the Prairie School features and squaring off the front plane of the house. See Kline, "The Woman's Club of Fort Worth."

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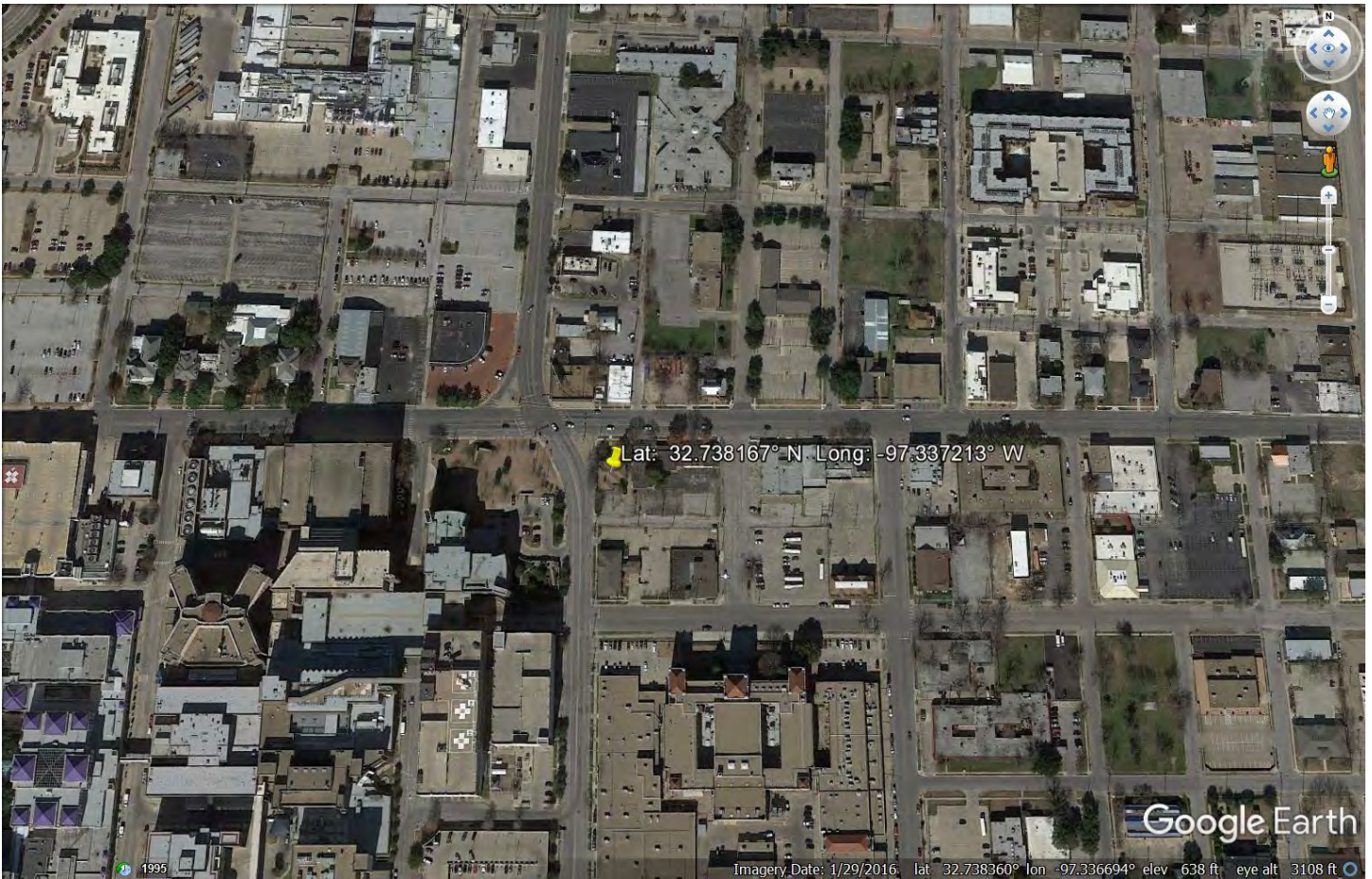
White, Benton. *The Forgotten Cattle King*. College Station: Texas A&M University, 1986.

Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Map 1: Tarrant County, Texas



Map 2: Google Earth Map, accessed March 8, 2017



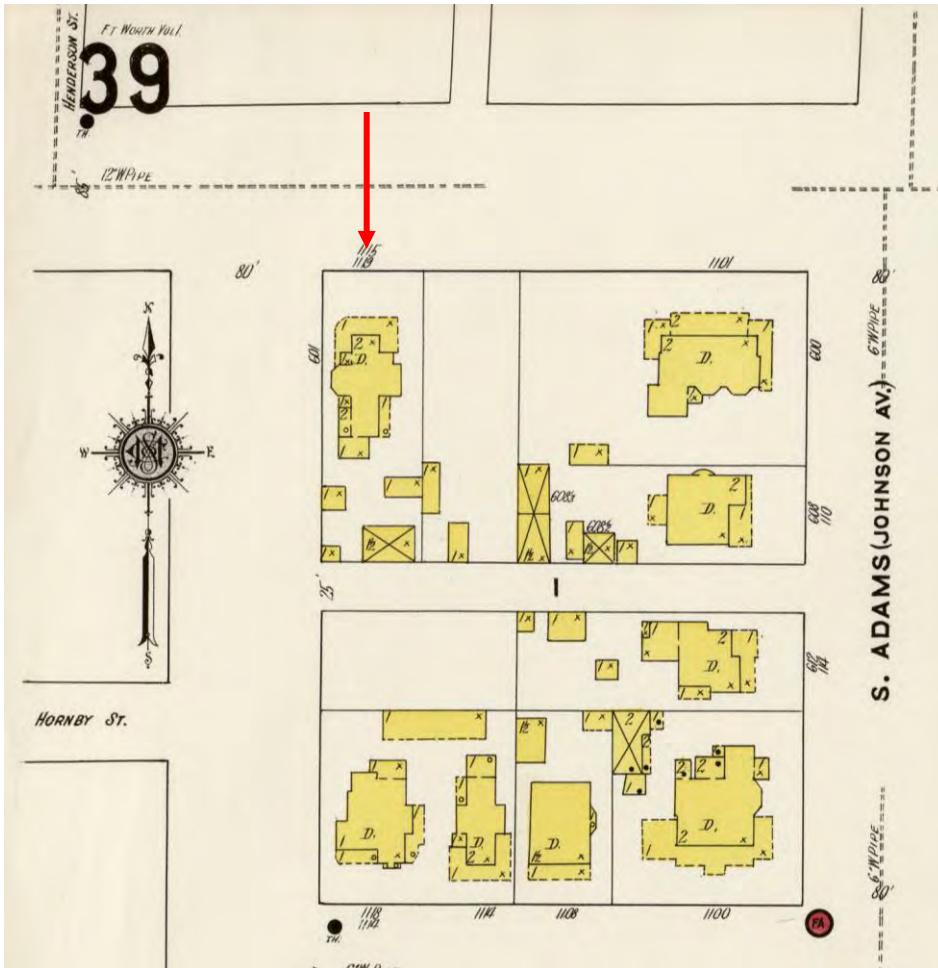
Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Map 3: Tarrant Appraisal District Map, showing current configuration of the lot associated with 1119 Pennsylvania Avenue, College Hill Addition to Fort Worth, Block 1, Lot 1A. N↑



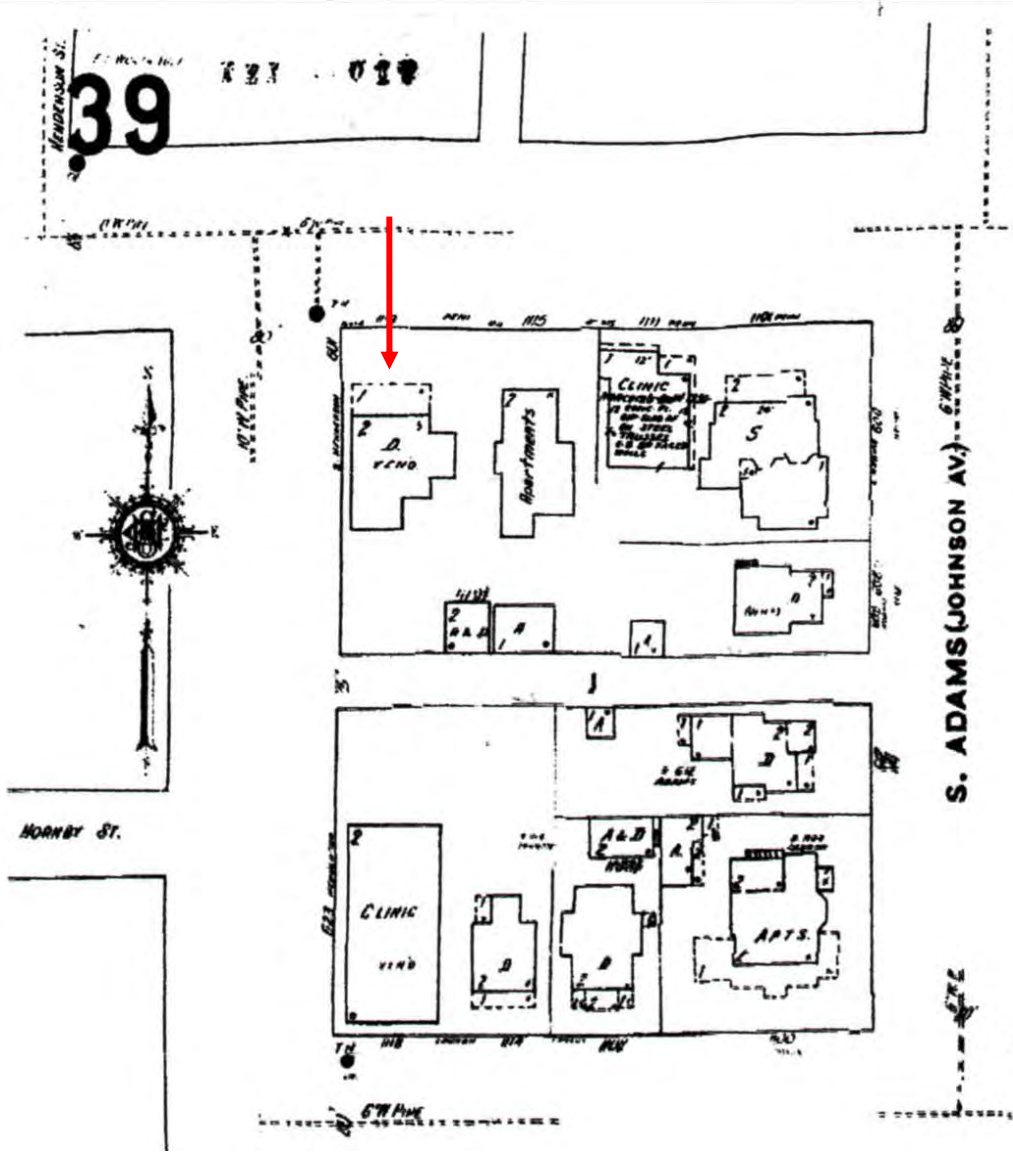
Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Map 4: 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Volume 1, Sheet 39. This map shows the two-story wood-framed house previously on the site of the Oxsheer House. This house was moved to the lot to the east when the Oxsheer House was constructed in 1916.



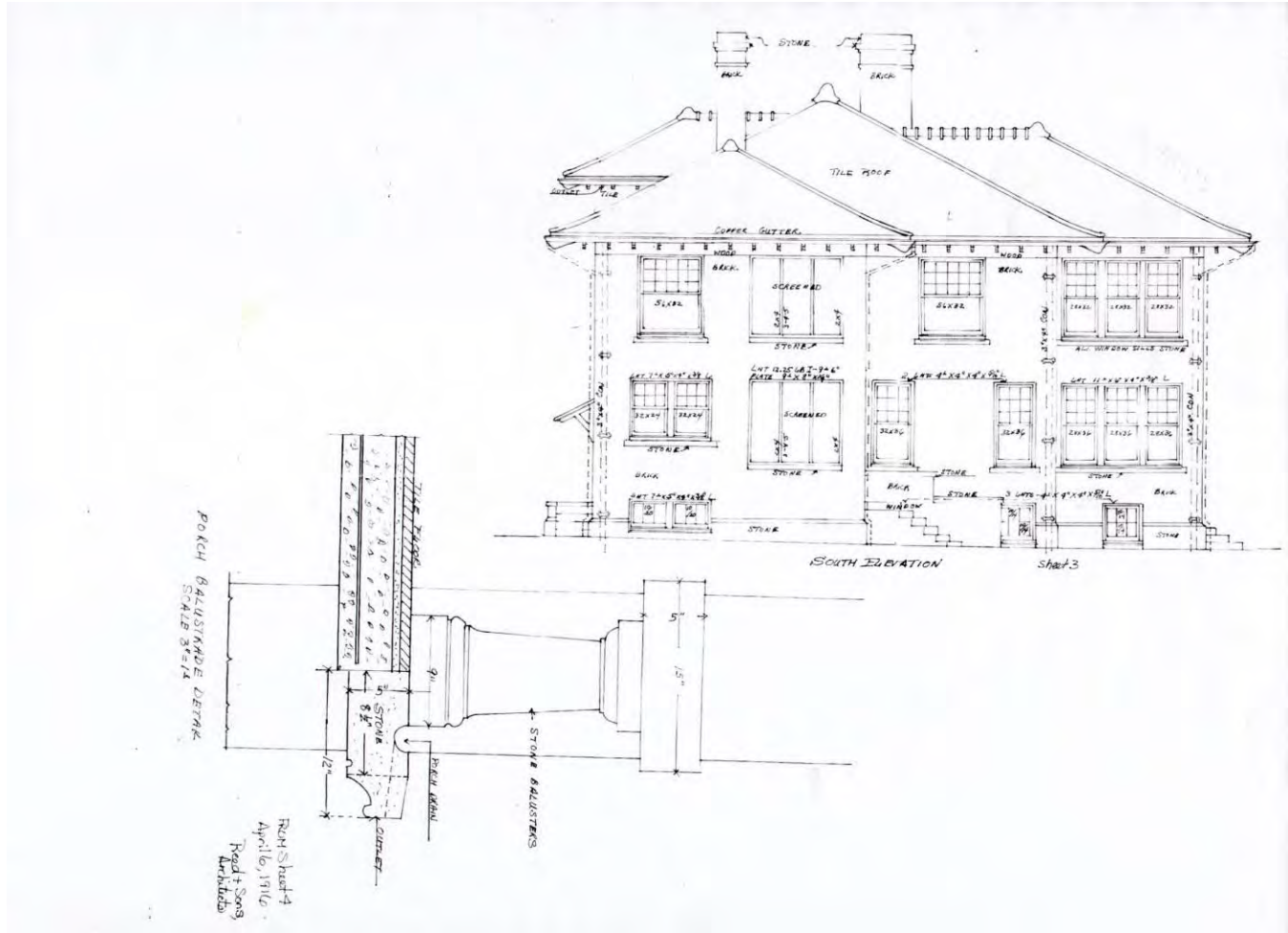
Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Map 5: 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Volume 1, Sheet 39. At that time, the house was still under the ownership of Oxsheer heirs. The house to the right has been converted to apartments. Within a few years it would be replaced by a clinic.



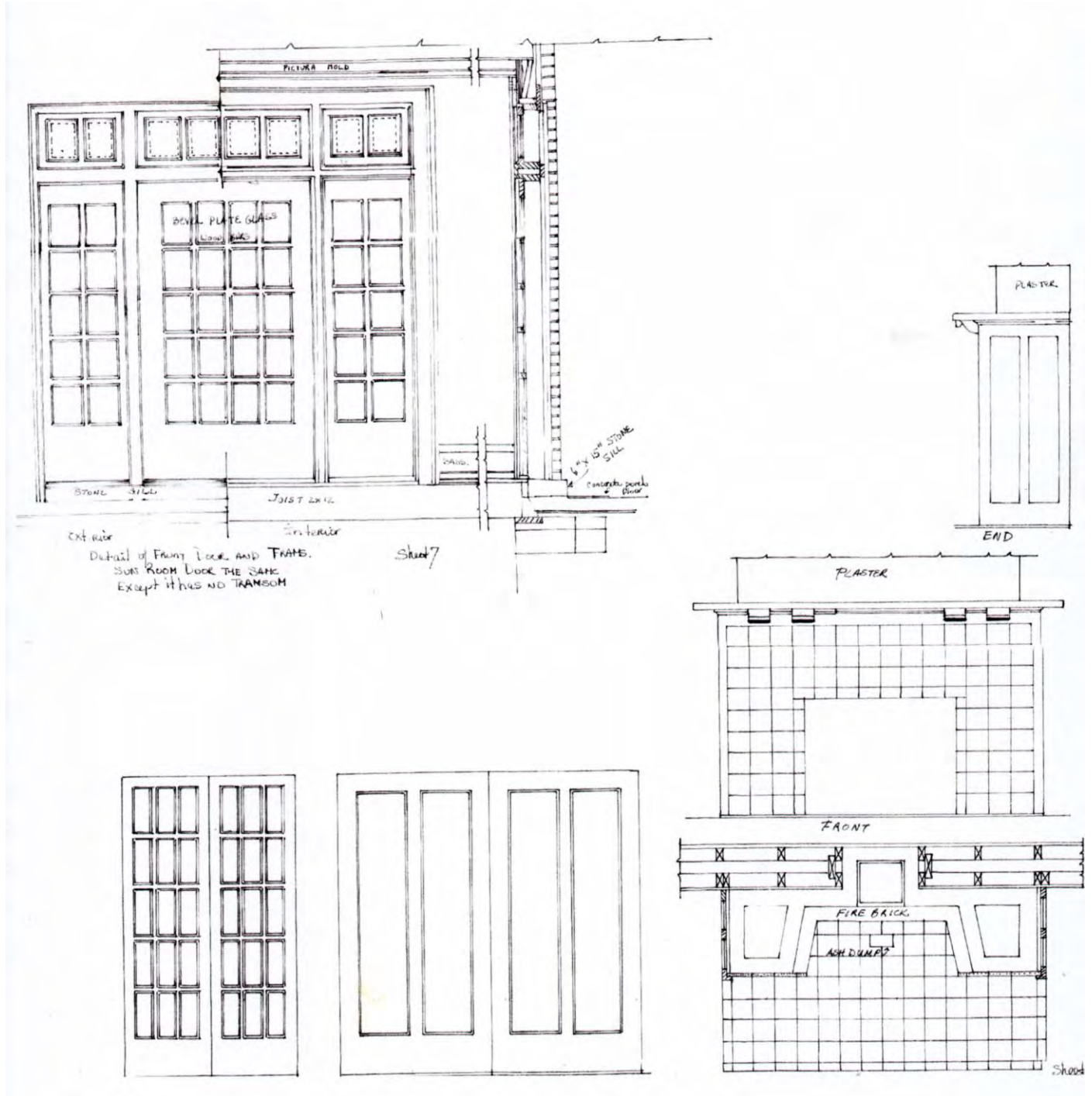
Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Figure 2: South elevation and porch balustrade detail. *Courtesy Historic Fort Worth, Inc.*



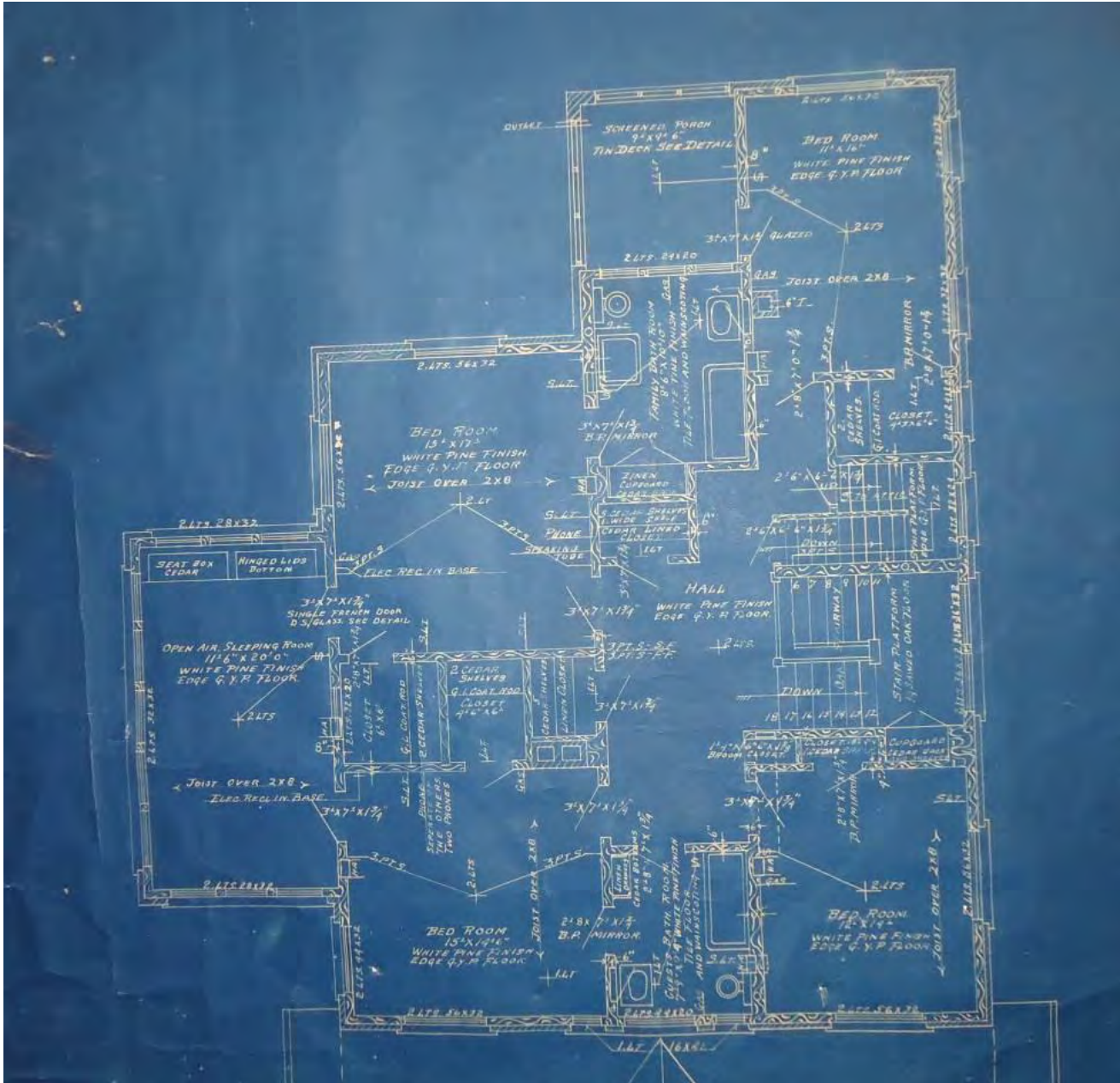
Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Figure 4: Details of front entrance, fireplace, and the sun room, and pocket doors. *Courtesy Historic Fort Worth, Inc.*



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Figure 6: Photograph of original second floor plan. N↓



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Figure 7: Oxsheer House believed to have been taken shortly after it was constructed. *Courtesy Billy Oxsheer.*



Figure 8: F. G. and Mary Oxsheer in front of 1119 Pennsylvania Avenue on their 50th wedding anniversary, May 23, 1923. *Courtesy Billy Oxsheer.*



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 1: Façade (north) elevation, looking south, November 27, 2016,



Photo 2: Façade and east elevation's sleeping porch/sun room wing, looking southwest, January 19, 2017



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 3: Façade and west elevation, looking southeast, November 27, 2016



Photo 4: Porch and front entrance, looking east/southeast, September 15, 2016



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 5: West elevation, looking southeast, February 26, 2017



Photo 6: Rear (south) elevation, looking north, September 15, 2016



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 7: Rear and east elevations, looking northwest, September 15, 2016



Photo 8: Handicap lift on east side of front porch, looking southwest, September 15, 2016



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 9: Living room, looking west, January 19, 2017



Photo 10: Stairs from first floor hall, looking west, January 19, 2017

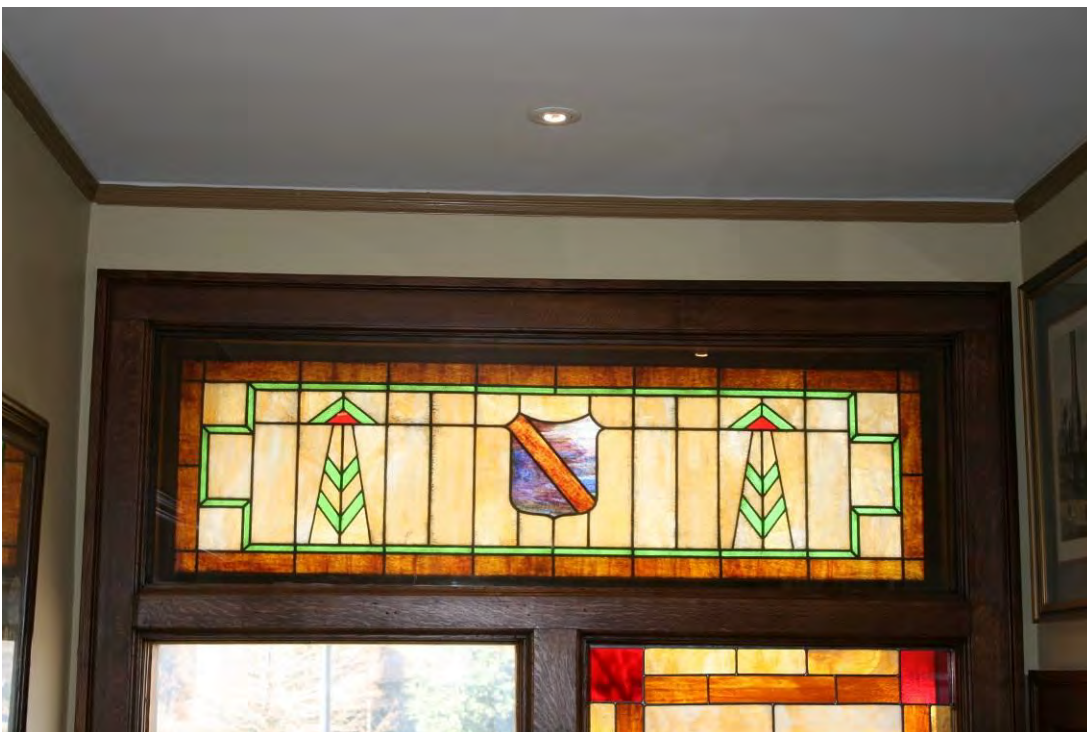


Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 11: Dining room, looking south/southwest, September 15, 2016



Photo 12: Transom above window at stair landing, looking west, January 19, 2017



Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 13: Second floor hall, looking southwest, January 19, 2017



Photo 14: Second floor, South bathroom, looking southeast, October 26, 2016





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/9/2017 Date of Pending List: 7/18/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/2/2017 Date of 45th Day: 7/24/2017 Date of Weekly List: 7/27/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 7/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Edson Beall
 National Register of Historic Places
 Mail Stop 7228
 1849 C St, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

DATE: May 30, 2017

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Fountain G. and Mary Oxsheer House, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
	Resubmitted nomination.
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk.
	Resubmitted form.
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence.

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

