

Location: 1610 Buena Vista

Significance: The two story Queen Anne house on 1610 Buena Vista is both significant for its historic architectural style and its service to the Prospect Hill community. The Boyds who built the house in 1907 were prominent members of society. The wife, Francis Boyd, in particular was very active in local women's groups and even served as chairman for the Self Culture Club and used the house to hold meetings and plan charity events (San Antonio Light Archives). The Boyds moved away in the early 40s but in more recent years it has been incorporated into the campus of Advocates Social Services. Many children have been helped through this program. Among other things the program utilizes boxing to train kids, instill discipline and positive values, and build character. The program has served over 1,200 boys and girls and received national recognition through the ABC show "Secret Millionaire" in 2011.

Description: The building is a simple two story Queen Anne home. From appearances all doors, windows, siding, and roof material are intact. The only obvious alteration to the exterior of the house is the replacement pillar on the street side of the porch and the second front door that was probably added recently after being subdivided into apartments. Most of the architectural elements are typical of the Queen Anne style that can be seen throughout many of San Antonio's historic neighborhoods, however several details make this particular home noteworthy; these being the oval window below the gable, the gable on the porch above the steps, and the use of textured shingles on the top floor.

Recommendation:

The property is recommended for local landmark designation. The property represents an architecturally significant building type that exemplifies cultural and architectural trends in San Antonio's Prospect Hill Neighborhood. The building is a significant historic resource with high architectural integrity and meets the following, UDC Section 35-607(b) – Designation Criteria for local landmark designation:

Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials [35-607 (b) 5]; The house embodies a typical Queen Anne Cottage architectural form. It is also part of a neighborhood of similar looking houses constructed during the same period of development.

It is distinctive in character, interest or value; strongly exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, ethnic or historical heritage of San Antonio, Texas or the United States[35-607(b)11]; The residence is distinctive in value and culture to the community of Prospect Hill.

Its historical, architectural, or cultural integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship[35-607(b)8]; The structure has high architectural integrity. The character-defining features on the home are mostly still intact.

History:

1906-1941: Lindon L & Francis Boyd

1941-1948: Said Harfoush

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1948-1959: Rev. Chas. L Neal

1959-1965: Eli Corniego

1965-1970: Vacant

Sources:

City of San Antonio Directories

Deed records available from the Bexar County Clerk website

Newspaper Archives

Written By:

City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation Staff & Applicant