

56

COUNTY _____ BLOCK _____ 276
CITY QUAD LOT _____ 3-4

NAME: Isbell House COUNTY: Harris
ADDRESS: 639 Heights CITY: Houston

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: _____ UTM: _____
OWNER: John S. Gregory DATE: 1907-08 PERIOD: _____

639 Heights Blvd. Houston, TX 77007 STYLE: _____
THEME: _____

DESCRIPTION: Eclectic, frame, 2-story, forward portion is high-peaked gable, inset porch wraps to side, 2 single front doors with transoms, brick chimney.

BUILDING MATERIAL: wall: _____ roof: _____
PHYSICAL CONDITION: excellent - significant SITE: original or moved _____ date _____

ALTERATIONS: _____
SIGNIFICANCE: House itself is very unusual design, but principal significance is as home of Robert Isbell, the fourth mayor of the Heights (1913-14). He was an organizer of the South Texas Oilmen's Assoc., an officer in the Fidelity Cotton Oil and Fertilizer Co.; (con)

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: _____ LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: _____
DESIGNATION: NR NHL RTHL HABS HAER HESI HSI OTHER: _____

ORIGINAL USE: residence PRESENT USE: residence
RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS: yard heavily-landscaped, with modern iron fence

ACREAGE/BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: _____

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA: Sandborn map
SEE INFO/CORRESPONDENCE FILES: _____

RECORDED BY: KLL INFORMANT: _____
DATE: 4-1-80 PHOTO DATA: 1 - 35mm

(rev. 6-79)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 4, 7, 8, 10 Page 56

Site No. 56

NAME Isbell House COUNTY Harris BLOCK 276
ADDRESS 639 Heights Boulevard Blvd. CITY Houston LOT 3-4
ARCHITECT/BUILDER unknown UTM Zone 15 E 268,190 N 3,296,900
OWNER Robert H. Thomas DATE 1907-08 PERIOD 1900--
639 Heights, Houston, Texas 77007 STYLE Bungalow influence
THEME

DESCRIPTION Two-story eclectic frame house; gabled roof with high-peaked, separate gable on front with pair of double windows on second floor of gable end; inset porch wraps to side; two single front doors with transoms; brick chimney; large second-floor finished room originally used for public meetings.

Building material: wall clapboard and* roof composition
Physical condition excellent-significant site: original X or moved date
Alterations enclosed swimming pool added to south of house

SIGNIFICANCE House itself is of an unusual design for this area, but principal significance is as home of Robert Isbell, the fourth mayor of the Heights (1913-14). He was an organizer of the South Texas Oilmen's Association, an officer in the Fidelity Cotton Oil and Fertilizer Company, and in 1914 he moved to Taft, Texas, as the manager of Taft Industries. His family returned to this house after his death in 1920.

Area of significance architecture,** Level of significance local

DESIGNATION: NR NHL RTHL HABS HAER HESI HSI OTHER

ORIGINAL USE residence PRESENT USE residence

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS Yard heavily landscaped, with modern iron fence; residential neighborhood

ACREAGE/BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION less than one acre

BIBLIOGRAPHY Sandborn map; Sister M. Agatha (1956: 122, 123)

RECORDED BY K. L. London INFORMANT

DATE April 1, 1980 PHOTO DATA 1 - 35 mm., Tex. Hist. Commission

*shingles

**commerce, politics/government

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Houston Heights Multiple Resource Area
State Texas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 61. Houston Heights Woman's Club **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____
- 62. Houston Public Library *(HEIGHTS BRANCH)* **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth Grosvenor 5/14/84
Attest _____
- 63. Immanuel Lutheran Church **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____
- 64. Isbell House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____
- 65. Jones House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____
- 66. Kleinhaus House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____
- 67. Knittel House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____
- 68. Kronenberger House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____
- 69. Love House **Substantive Review** **DOE/OWNER OBJECTION** **Determined Eligible** Keeper Eligible - Beth Grosvenor 6/22/84
Attest _____
- 70. Lund House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Melona Byers 6/22/83
Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Isbell House (Houston Heights MRA)
Harris County
TEXAS

Working No. MAY 9 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 6/9/83-6/23/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/22/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Entered in the National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition:		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
_____ completeness
_____ clarity
_____ applicable criteria
_____ justification of areas checked
_____ relating significance to the resource *
_____ context
_____ relationship of integrity to significance
_____ justification of exception
_____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
_____ Photographs
_____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



639 Heights Blvd.

Houston Heights

Site No. 56, Isbell House, 639 Heights
Boulevard

Houston, Texas 77007

Photo: K.L. London, April 1, 1980

On file, Texas Historical Commission
Front facade, looking west

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56
639 Heights Blvd.
Houston Heights

Site No. 56, Isbell House, 639 Heights
Boulevard

Houston, Texas 77007

Photot: Paul Carr, 1982

Negative on file, Houston Heights Assn.

Front facade, looking west

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Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000847