

STAFF REPORT
LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION
Coan-Gray House
October 5, 2022

Staff: Michelle M. McCullough

Applicant: Arthur Jay Everette and Christopher Brian Speas

Owner: Same

LOCATION

Building: Coan-Gray House
Street: 1121 Arbor Road
City: Winston-Salem

Tax Block: 1311A
Tax Lots: 006A

PINs: 6826-34-8264

Acres: 2.29 acres

Designated Portions: The complete exterior and interior of the Coan-Gray House and the complete exterior and interior of the attached garage/apartment, and all of Tax Block 1311A, Lot 006A (PINs 6826-34-8264) that is highlighted on the attached map and described in the Local Historic Landmark Designation Application and Report.

APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF CATAGORIES A. through D. FOR LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

- C. Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/ELEMENTS

Please refer to the information provided with the application.

LOCAL LANDMARK CRITERIA: Per G.S. 160D-945, no property shall be recommended for designation as a historic landmark unless it is deemed and found by the preservation commission to be of special significance in terms of its historical, prehistorical, architectural, or cultural importance and to possess integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and/or association.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Statement of Significance

The Coan-Gray House possesses special local architectural significance due to its refined Georgian Revival-style design rendered by Charles Barton Keen's Philadelphia-based firm. The remarkably intact residence erected by Fogle Brothers Construction Company occupies a sizable prominent corner lot in Reynolda Park, where winding roads, deep setbacks, and dense landscaping create estate like settings for an eclectic mixture of finely detailed dwellings commissioned from nationally recognized architects. Although abodes influenced by those of American and European country estates are plentiful in Winston-Salem, with Tudor, Georgian, and Classical Revival styles being the most typical throughout the city's early- to mid-twentieth-century subdivisions, the Coan-Gray House is distinguished by its scale, sophisticated execution, and setting. The spacious residence encompasses a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay-wide, brick main block; shorter two-story, weatherboarded, T-shaped east and west wings; and a one-story weatherboarded east kitchen wing that butts the one-and-one-half-story brick garage. The exterior displays Georgian Revival stylistic elements often specified by Keen's firm: red brick and white weatherboarded and painted-brick walls, a green Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, molded cornices, gabled dormers, multi-pane double-hug and casement wood windows and French doors, and operable louvered wood shutters. Distinctive classical elements include the pedimented wood primary entrance surround surmounted by a round-arched double-hung multi-pane window embellished with keystone and impost blocks, full-height rear porch supported by square posts, and the west wing's north porch with slender Tuscan columns. On the interior, the formal spaces-reception hall, dining room, and living room-are embellished with classical cornices, door and window surrounds, and mantels. Single-and double-leaf raised panel wood doors and wood framed multi-pane French doors and transoms retain original hardware. Intact finishes include random width quarter-sawn oak floors, smooth plaster walls and ceilings, ornamental plaster cornices, paneled wainscoting, and molded baseboards, chair rails, and cornices. The reception hall stair railing comprises slender turned balusters capped by a molded wood handrail that terminates in a spiral on the bottom step. The period of significance is 1928, the dwelling's construction date.

(Taken from Heather Fearnbach, Coan-Gray House Local Historic Landmark Application 7/29/2022)

The current owners are seeking Local Historic Landmark designation for the complete exterior and interior of the Coan-Gray House and the complete exterior and interior of the attached garage/apartment, and site in order to recognize the property's architectural significance. A list of the character-defining features is found in the application on pages 35-37.

Integrity

The Coan-Gray House possesses the seven qualities of historic integrity: location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship.

Location, Setting, Feeling and Association

The dwelling maintains integrity of location as it stands on its original site. Although the planting and hardscape configuration has evolved, the 2.29-acre property provides

appropriate estate-like surroundings in keeping with the dwelling's Georgian Revival-style character, thus allowing for integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Design, Material, and Workmanship

The Coan-Gray House retains integrity of design, material, and workmanship. The 1928 exterior displays Georgian Revival stylistic elements often specified by Charles Baron Keen's firm: red brick and white weather boarded and painted-brick walls, a green Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, molded cornices, gabled dormers, multi-pane double-hung and casement wood windows and French doors, and operable louvered wood shutters. Distinctive classical elements include the pedimented wood primary entrance surround surmounted by a round-arched double-hung multi-pane window embellished with keystone and impost blocks, full-height rear porch supported by square posts, and the west wing's north porch with slender Tuscan columns.

On the interior, most rooms in the main block east and west two-story wings retain original volumes and finishes. The formal spaces-reception hall, dining room, and living room-are embellished with classical cornices, door and window surrounds, and mantels. Single-and double-leaf raised panel wood doors and wood framed multi-pane French doors and transoms retain original hardware. Intact finishes include random width quarter-sawn oak floors, smooth plaster walls and ceilings, ornamental plaster cornices, paneled wainscoting, and molded baseboards, chair rails, and cornices. The reception hall stair railing comprises slender turned balusters capped by a molded wood handrail that terminates in a spiral on the bottom step. The second-floor bathrooms in the east and west wings retain original medicine cabinets, square white-ceramic-tile wainscoting, hexagonal-green-ceramic floor tile, and white porcelain fixtures, towel bars, shelves, and toothbrush and soap holders. Modification such as the 2011 service wing renovation, carpet installation, and remodeling of two bathrooms in the house as well as the apartment bathroom were sensitively executed.

(Heather Fearnbach, Coan-Gray House Local Historic Landmark Application 7/29/2022)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Local Historic Landmark designation of the complete exterior and interior of the Coan-Gray House and the complete exterior and interior of the attached garage/apartment of the Coan-Gray House; along with the entire tax block and lot upon which it sits. (Tax Block 1311A, Lot 006A, PIN 6826-34-8264).